

CHRISTIAN *Missions* IN MANY LANDS INC.

A Dream of
Adoption
Lived Out in
PERU



Also inside:

Homeschooling
Overseas

Our Evolving Role as
Parents of a Missionary

Building His Church
in Post-Modern Spain





Thinking It Through

MARK KOLCHIN

“Ready”

*“So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.”
Romans 1:15*

Among many of the childhood memories I have, the ones that stand out the most were the races that I had with the other kids in my neighborhood where I grew up. “Ready, set, go!” was the phrase that propelled us from a standstill position to bodies in motion. First, we prepared ourselves by establishing a strong foothold. Then we crouched down, putting all our weight on our toes, eagerly waiting for the command to go. When we heard it, we sprang forward in a sudden burst of energy toward an established finish line some distance away. It was always great to be in the race; better still to win. Getting to the goal was the reward for starting and finishing well as well as maintaining an eye on the goal all along the way. I knew even then in my earliest years the importance of being ready if I was going to do well. Being ready was a key priority. That same process—of being ready and then quickly responding to the Lord’s command is also a key priority in the Christian life. Regardless if we are called to serve the Lord in regions beyond or in our local assembly, the need to be ready and to respond to His direction wherever and whatever it might be is paramount if we are to make any progress in the race that “is set before us,” Hebrews 12:1.

If ever there was a brilliant example of someone who was ready, it was the apostle Paul. To the believers at Rome he was ready to preach the glad tidings of the good news of Christ to anyone at any time under any circumstances despite the personal hardship and dangers it posed to him. It was his heart’s desire and prayer to God that his own people Israel would be saved (Rom. 10:1) despite the verbal and physical abuse he suffered at their hands (2 Cor. 11:23-33). He also had a ministry among the Gentiles having received a

personal commission from the Lord (Gal. 2:11). He truly was “all things to all men” that he might by all means “save some,” 1 Cor. 9:22. He was ready to sound forth the gospel. Are we ready to do the same?

Paul was also ready to suffer for the Lord’s sake. When Agabus warned him of impending danger that awaited him in Jerusalem, Paul retorted, “I am ready not only to be bound but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus,” Acts 21:13. On many occasions, Paul suffered from imprisonment, privation, scourgings and even betrayal from his own associates in ministry—all for his faithful testimony for Christ. He did not count his life dear unto himself; it was part of the process of knowing Him as he entered into the fellowship of His sufferings being made conformable unto His death (Phil. 3:10). It was the principle in his life of the seed falling into the ground and dying that it might bring forth fruit to the glory of God. Paul was ready to suffer for the Lord. Are we?

Paul was also ready to serve. He told the Corinthians that he was “ready to come to them,” (2 Cor. 12:14). Despite having his motives impugned and his character criticized, he knew the value of steadfastness in the work of the Lord; the blessing that it brings to the Body of Christ and the manner by which it declares in a very practical way personal love for Christ. And above it all, he was ready to be offered, knowing his departure was at hand as he awaited with anticipation the crown promised to all that love His appearing (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Ready to save, to suffer, to serve and to see the Savior—all part of running the race that is set before us and key components of our faith in Christ, whether we serve Him here or overseas. Are we ready? ☞



*Who will follow Jesus,
Standing for the right,
Holding up His banner,
In the thickest fight?*

*List’ning for His orders,
Ready to obey,
Who will follow Jesus,
Serving Him today?*

— Hewitt



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FRONT COVER: Morning Star Children’s Home and Strong Tower Christian School in Peru – Carol Clark **BACK COVER:** Speculator, NY – Tom Turner

A Dream of Adoption Lived Out in PERU

by Carol Clark

Our almighty, loving God did not just save us from sin; He also adopted us as His own children. Adoption is such a truly wonderful thing—someone choosing you to be theirs. Maybe that's why, when I was a child, I had a crazy fantasy that I was adopted. I was disappointed that I wasn't adopted and secretly wished there was actually a conspiracy to keep it hush. Maybe because of my wild imagination, I was always keen on the idea of adopting.

In 1996 our family had the privilege of adopting here in Peru. It was then that we became aware of the myriads of children caught in the system and largely forgotten. A few years later the Lord allowed us to go back to that same government children's home from which our first adopted child had come, along with some local believers, and initiate Bible clubs with the 70 children who resided there. As the years went by, we saw that a few hours was not enough. We thought of how great it would be if the children could be influenced continually by warm-hearted believers who could show them the love of Christ. Step by step, the Lord led us to buy a piece of property in the neighboring province of Ferreñafe and we became state certified for a children's home as well as an elementary school. Near the end of 2006, Morning Star Children's Home began with the goal of providing a Christian mother and father to not only raise the children in our custody on biblical principles, but also to show them the proper roles of husbands and wives in the home.

In 2007 Strong Tower Christian School began and today has approximately 100 students from three-years-old to third grade, adding one grade each year. Though most of the children in this area are poor and cannot afford private education, they are able to attend Strong Tower through scholarships if their parents are willing to work at the school to compensate for the child's education. Strong Tower strives to emphasize biblical studies, English as a second language and computer skills. The parents are required to attend monthly meetings where health and family topics are taught and the gospel is always presented in a clear and charismatic way. Folks from the Pueblo Nuevo assembly visit these families and offer to study the Scriptures with them in their home. Strong Tower is not only a wonderful tool for reaching families for Christ and equipping children with the skills they need to be successful in life, but in the future should be able to help support the costs of the children's home and allow for that ministry to grow, Lord willing.

I'd like to share the stories of some of the precious souls the Lord has used to touch our lives.

Annabelle

Rosa was born with severe mental retardation, dwarfism, and physical deformities. At just 14-years-old and truly a child herself, she gave birth to a perfectly normal and healthy baby girl, for whom she would never be able to care. And so, at four years of age, Annabelle came to live at Morning Star Children's Home. She quickly adapted to home life with new siblings and excelled in school, especially in English. All the volunteers who came were enamored with Annabelle and many



"Our almighty, loving God did not just save us from sin; He also adopted us as His own children."

◀ Children, staff and volunteers at Morning Star.

wanted to take her home with them. About a year after her arrival the courts decided that she should be put up for adoption and soon we learned there was an Italian couple coming to take her home. We were thrilled that she was getting a new family, but at the same time heartbroken that little Annabelle, still on the precipice of understanding God's plan of salvation, was going to an unbelieving home so far away. We continue to pray for Annabelle and know that our great God is far more than able to bring her to salvation wherever she resides.

Gracie

Because of the rapport established with the staff of the government home where we held Bible clubs, when a 12-year-old girl in their care became pregnant, they asked us to take the baby. At the time we had to say no because we had no room and already had three in diapers with one set of parents. Soon, however, we felt it the Lord's will, so we received little Gracie from the hospital into our own home. What a blessing as our three daughters learned a bit about motherhood and we all enjoyed this sweet little babe. She inevitably became another member of our family and when we were told a German couple was coming to adopt her—well—our feelings were mixed. The paperwork we received on the new parents did not mention their religion and so it was not until we were all sitting together in Morning Star Children's Home that we learned they were born-again Christians! I could not stop the tears of joy. I was so grateful to the Lord for His goodness and wonderful answer to so many prayers.

Louis

Ten-year-old Louis arrived at Morning Star Children's Home about a year and a half ago. Avidly he listened to the Bible teachings in the home, church and school. Before long he asked Christ to be his Lord and Savior and soon after was baptized. Louis began to evangelize among his schoolmates and led three others to the Lord. He was also faithful in preparing an appropriate verse or two to share at the Lord's Supper, along with his own thoughts, written down beforehand in a notebook. When news came that there was an Italian couple coming to adopt him, he was obviously elated. When they met for the first time it was a beautiful sight—the new mom was exclaiming “Que bellissimo” over and over. Immediately Louis asked if they were Christians and the translator said, “Yes, Catholic.” For a moment I thought he might just say: “No, thank you,” but he didn't and later, speaking with his “Uncle” Tom [Clark], he said: “That's okay, I'll just learn lots of words in their language and then tell them about God.”

Anita

Anita spent much of her childhood in a hospital because she was born with problems in her leg that required multiple surgeries. To make matters worse, some members of her family have Tuberculosis (TB) and during her last surgery the doctors found TB in the bone of her leg and had to amputate above the knee. She spent more time in the hospital learning to use the simple prosthetic she was given. When she was finally ready to be released she had no place to go. Her family loves her but she can never again live at home due to the arduous walking required there and the chance of getting more TB. Anita now resides at Morning Star, attends school on the weekends to catch up and finish high school, and is also studying how to make crutches and other orthopedic supplies in order to assist others with similar challenges. Although Anita will never be up for adoption, she became an adopted daughter of God almost two years ago and is a wonderful help and encouragement to her substitute parents and siblings.

The Other Side of Adoption

As parents who have adopted children, we know what it's like to be head-over-heels aflutter about having a new child come into your family. Now, as I see that process at Morning Star, I see another side of it. It is the side of the children who are not being adopted. These children, usually older, are very aware of the fact that they don't have a permanent family yet. They are aware that they, for whatever reason, are possibly yet again being passed over. And not only are they not the “winners,” but they are losing—losing a close friend, maybe their best friend, or at least someone they considered a sibling. It is a great teaching moment, to remind the kids that they already have a happy home with loving parents, good food, access to education (something these kids actually appreciate), etc.

Jonathon (a boy at Morning Star) and I were speaking of this one day after he commented on the shiny new watch Louis had gotten from his new parents. Focusing on how blessed Jonathon himself was in his present circumstances, it was easy for him to quickly point out cases of schoolmates and others from the neighborhood whom were living in precarious and or deficient situations. And Jonathon, along with many others, remembers what it was like to live in danger. Still however, his face showed the disappointment of knowing that a boy just like him was now headed to an affectionate, permanent home and he wasn't. I realize that no one is coming to adopt all of them. The Lord has a magnificent plan for each one, however, which is far superior to anything

I can fathom. Still, it is heart wrenching to observe these tenderhearted, precious children watch as new parents come to visit and take others home.

Volunteers

This vivacious ministry has grown far beyond what we could possibly handle with the full-time staff we have. The great God of all wisdom and all resources continually sends us amazing volunteers in His perfect timing. For example, just as we needed to travel, a kind-hearted young lady arrived who was perfect to care for one of the young children, little Gracie. Another time an awesome young man from Canada, whom I never had the pleasure of meeting, came and did an amazing, dynamic job of teaching English; the children all fell in love with him. Later a couple arrived from South Africa. She “happened” to be an occupational therapist that could greatly help a young family from the local assembly who has a child with severe cerebral palsy. This man knew just how to build a wheel chair that could support a young boy named Luigi as he specifically needed. More than once Strong Tower has had construction needs and the Lord has sent many talented men to build all that was required. Several times volunteers enjoy helping so much that they extend their stay and some may never leave!

Neither Strong Tower Christian School, nor Morning Star Children’s Home receive funding from the government and are solely dependent on the One who is never lacking and always faithful. As my husband has said: “Hundreds of thousands of children in the world are mal-nourished, unsheltered and uneducated, placing them at risk for disease, exploitation and a very short life. Christ commanded His disciples to communicate to reach all humanity with this vital message. At the fringes of humanity are the children, isolated by their lack of resources and held there by their helplessness, only accessible by those willing to initiate the search, affect the rescue, and provide for their stable future.” This reality has not changed, and certainly it is only logical that believers would be at the forefront of the adoption movement and involved in educating and caring for the helpless and forgotten. What would the Lord have you to do? Only when we fail to heed the call do we miss great opportunity and blessing. 🌿

To learn more about Morning Star Children’s Home, visit:
www.morningstarperu.org



Thomas & Carol Clark were commended to the Lord’s work in Perú by Hiawassa Bible Chapel in Orlando, Florida over 25 years ago. They have six children and two granddaughters.



◀ Student at Strong Tower Christian School.

The 2011 staff of Strong Tower Christian School. Mark DeJager (tallest guy) is the administrator, Audrey DeJager (lady in dark blue) and Hannah Gebers (in white blouse) teach English. ▼



◀ Eddie and his siblings are the newest residents at Morning Star.

▼ Volunteers are inundated with love.



◀ Strong Tower students.



Tom teaching at the Pueblo Nuevo assembly. You can see there are three walls and a roof – for which we are very thankful. ▼





HOMESCHOOLING OVER

A Peruvian Experience

by Sarah Cenepo-Torres

The other morning while in the kitchen cleaning up after breakfast we overheard the following conversation taking place in the living room between two of our kids.

“Will you play with me?”

“Sure, you be the mommy horse and I’ll be the baby horse.”

“No, let’s play that you are the Roman soldier looking for all baby boys to kill and I will hide and you have to try to find me and chase me and tickle me to death.”

We often hear people say that when children play violent games, they are watching too much TV or playing too many video games. So, does the above conversation mean that our kids are reading too much Bible? We believe there is no better way to start homeschooling each morning than in the Word of God...the source of *true* wisdom.

Proverbs 2:6 says: “*For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.*” In Jeremiah 9:23-24 the Lord says: “*Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me...*”

Is homeschooling challenging? Yes, wherever you live. Is homeschooling a blessing? Absolutely...wherever you are! We recognize that it is the Lord who gives us strength and wisdom as we seek to glorify Him through our school. With that we begin sharing our experiences in Peru where we have been serving for eight years and homeschooling for the last three years with our four girls – Abigail (3rd grade), Hannah (1st grade), Gabriela (4-years-old), and Selah (1-year-old).

Homeschooling has challenges and blessings that might vary somewhat, depending on the laws and culture where you live. We’re sure that many missionaries can relate to the experiences we are about to share.

A few years ago, the amount of luggage we were able to bring when returning to Peru dropped from 70 lbs to 50 lbs per bag. Not a big deal for the simple sightseer, but for every missionary we know, it was devastating! On our last trip back to Peru we were allowed 11 bags—550 lbs of luggage...sounds like a lot, right?! Well, it is amazing how quickly it filled up with clothes for our family, gifts for oth-

ers, food items we can’t get in Peru, miscellaneous items we think we can’t live without...and BOOKS!

We love books! We homeschool and we need books! We try to return from the States with all we need for homeschooling, reading material for us and our children and ministry materials too. With the weight restrictions, we have become much pickier. Homeschool texts get priority but when we choose curriculum now, we have to take into account how many books are needed, how reusable they are, and what age spans they match. We opt for e-books when possible. (If you are like us, we love to hear what materials other homeschoolers are using so our basic list is at the end of this article). With fewer well-stocked libraries here than in the U.S., we depend heavily on the Internet for information and research. Our family prefers books, but having Internet access to supplement books is a luxury that not all missionaries have available.

Besides libraries, our “what we miss” list includes items such as homeschool co-ops, support groups, yard sales, thrift stores and used curriculum sales. Of course, these all fall behind family and friends that we aren’t able to see for long stretches of time...often years. We are so thankful that the Lord has provided us with a wonderful extended missionary family here in Trujillo complete with “cousins,” “aunts and uncles” and even two wonderful “grandparents.” God has provided two local missionary families that also homeschool and we are grateful for their support and encouragement. These relationships are such a blessing, and we are so thankful to God for providing them.

Speaking of relationships, Peru has a very social and relational culture which means we are seldom alone for long. Our phone and doorbell ring often during the day (as early as 7 a.m.) and at night (as late as 11 p.m.)—so, no walking around the house in pajamas for us! Our school time is often interrupted. It is challenging to re-engage the kids after taking time to talk to someone at our door that needs counsel, just wants to talk, or needs money for medicine for their dying child. Some mornings this happens multiple times, forcing the school day to be extended or dropped altogether. We confess that we sometimes feel more frustrated than blessed when so many opportunities to minister to the hearts

SEAS



of others literally come knocking on our door. But these events are also golden opportunities for our children to learn compassion, mercy, grace and patience!

Opportunities also walk through our door in the form of mission teams and short-term volunteers that we host regularly from the U.S. We recall how greatly impacted we both were by short-term mission trips we took to Mexico and Jamaica while we were in college. We enjoy exposing others to overseas missions, to another culture and to our family. Whenever possible these groups have stayed in our home. This means that our homeschool area is permanently moved to our bedroom so that we have an extra bedroom available for guests. Although, it may be more accurate to say that our bed is in the school room! When the groups are larger, our whole family camps out in our bedroom which makes homeschooling nearly impossible. We host three to four teams each year, usually June – August. Preparing for a team's arrival, preparing meals for them and spending time with them all take time away from school. For more flexibility, we teach our children year round. Our children learn about hospitality, serving others and sharing their space with others; as a bonus, they get a little taste of non-Peruvian culture during these visits, and the teams often bring a few things for us that we couldn't fit in our limited luggage space!

Visiting teams learn a new culture, and so do our girls! The children are simultaneously exposed to two languages and cultures. They see the sights, smell the smells and taste the foods (Peru has one of the top five cuisines in the world) first-hand. That is one of the greatest gifts of raising and teaching our children in Peru. Even though most of our children were born in the U.S., Peru is their home.

School can be consuming and safety can be an issue here, but we try not to stay at home all the time. We want our children to experience nature (such as seeing a large tarantula being killed by a "Pica Señor," a wasp called "Lord of the Sting" or how some flowers open in daylight and close at dusk), ministry (go to a Bible study at the women's prison or help serve food at a children's club), culture (attend some classes at a local elementary school or visit ancient ruins) and people (visit others in their home or hand out tracts and treats to children in the streets).

Some might be wondering how much our kids interact with other children since they are home for school. They are faithfully involved in Sunday school classes at our church where they have many friends. This year Abigail (eight) and Hannah (six) are taking art and physical education classes at the Colegio Cristiano Elliot (Elliot Christian School). Some afternoons we spend time at nearby parks. We try to teach our children to speak Spanish when we are out of the house so they can interact more with others. One thing about the mission field, at least in Peru, is that some things are more expensive than in the U.S. and others cost less, such as extracurricular activities. Living in a large city provides many options. Abigail, Hannah, and Gabriela have all taken gymnastics classes and some missionary kids we know are involved in soccer, swimming and ballet.

As you can see, amidst the challenges of homeschooling on the mission field, there are many blessings...and for it all, we are thankful to God. Challenges draw us to depend upon Him and blessings fill our hearts with gratitude!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Our basic curriculum list for Math, Language Arts, Science, History and Bible:

- Just recently switched from Math-U-See to **MEP Math** (<http://www.cimt.plymouth.ac.uk/projects/mep/default.htm>) – it all can be found online, no books to bring to Peru
- **Spell to Write and Read** (one set of materials for all children up to grade six)
- **Apologia Science: "Exploring Creation With..."** series by Jeannie Fulbright
- **Story of the World—History**
- **God's Great Covenant** by Claire Larsen



Pablo & Sarah Cenepo-Torres were commended to the work of the Lord in Peru in 2002 by Grace Bible Fellowship in Portland, Oregon. Their work is focused on Bible teaching, evangelism/discipleship, leadership training, couples ministry and a prison ministry.



HOMESCHOOLING OVER

Looking Back

by Carol Bramsen

As the years roll on, homeschooling is becoming a distant memory for me, but the effects of decisions and disciplines of that season of life remain a factor in who our children have become. Scripture tells us that “Whatever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord, and not unto man.” That in itself should push us to excellence in whatever task is before us. Homeschooling is no exception.

WHO SHOULD HOMESCHOOL?

For most missionaries, there are a number of options available to choose from as they consider their children’s education. All options should be brought before the Lord, for it is to Him that we will give account. He delights to show us His will. I have never been one to convince another to homeschool. That conviction must come from the Lord. However, once homeschooling is determined to be the Lord’s will, I am most happy to encourage them. The first step is to ask the Lord what He wants you to do and then go forward heartily and happily, doing His will from your heart. When we left for Senegal, we anticipated living in the capital where there was a school for missionary children. It wasn’t until the Lord moved us to a northern town and that option was no longer available, that we began to consider the homeschool possibility.

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

We are told in Luke 2:52 that “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” No matter the form of education, these same ideals should characterize our

Whether our children are studying in or outside the home, instilling in them the “fear (respect) of God” and His word is a primary goal.

instilling in them this “fear (respect) of God” and His word is a primary goal. The last two characteristics mentioned of

goal for our children. “The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom,” we are told in the Proverbs. Whether our children are studying in or outside the home,

Jesus in his childhood, “favor with God and men” lead us to a point that is often overlooked or minimized in homeschooling.

DISCIPLINE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Whatever the curriculum or method of homeschooling decided upon, the diligence or the lack thereof in following that program makes a statement about how seriously we take this responsibility. If we have honestly before the Lord determined that He wants us to homeschool our children, then we (usually primarily the mother) must give ourselves heartily to that ministry. It will require a great deal of time and energy, but then isn’t that our aim, to obey and do well whatever He has asked us to do?

At the age of 29, I was diagnosed with cancer. In the years that followed, knowing that a reoccurrence was a strong possibility, I determined that I wanted to do all I could to be sure that if something happened to me, my children would be prepared to continue life (including their schooling) without me; and that they would be at the appropriate level of development and learning. While doing the Lord’s will completely and thoroughly should always be our goal in every area of life, cancer certainly had a sanctifying effect on me as a young mother. I wanted to hear the Master’s “well-done,” and I wanted to know in my heart that I had done what I could to prepare my children for life. Discipline in the functioning of the home, in establishing and respecting the schedule of schooling, in the completion of assignments, and in fulfilling responsibilities, are important aspects of our testimony, whether in North America or a distant land. That discipline must not only be embodied in us, but also developed in our children. They learn by example.

Besides striving to encourage a child’s intellectual development, “favor with men” also accentuates the challenge of adapting to the local culture. Isolation and insulation are subtle traps to be avoided. Seeing this world through God’s eyes is a necessary discipline. No matter the form of education used, children need to be taught to appreciate the people and country where they live. Understanding how to be culturally polite and respectful is of utmost importance. Conditions and possibilities vary, but developing a heart atti-

From left: Paul, Andy & Carol in Dakar – 1981; Andy's first day of school – 1984; Nathan (Kindergarten), Corrie (2nd), Andy (4th) – 1989.



tude to love people for Christ's sake, should be a foundational issue we model before our children and seek to instill in them. While cultural differences often remain a factor in relationships, cross-cultural friendships usually enrich our children's lives and can be used to equip them for future cross-cultural work.

As a young woman, it was never my aspiration to be a teacher or to homeschool. However, when the Lord gave me that responsibility, He put in my heart the desire to do it well—for Him. As I look back, I always think on those times with my children as "the best of times." Resources were limited and mail bringing test results and grades were snail-mail slow. But learning to be content with what we did have (and we all had to learn that) made all the difference.

Conditions and possibilities have changed significantly

since we began to homeschool in 1984. E-mail and Internet, DVD instruction, online schools, interactive classes and more are available to most. These developments represent new opportunities, but also additional challenges in the education of our children. Our God has not changed. He never fails to guide and to encourage and give wisdom to those who truly look to Him. ☺



Paul & Carol Bramsen first went to Senegal in 1981. They are commended from Overbook Gospel Chapel in Greenville, South Carolina. They have three grown children: Andy, Corrie, & Nathan (Missionary Prayer Handbook Day 28).

Notebooks graphic pages 6 & 8 - ©iStockPhoto.com/miflippo

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Our Evolving Role as Parents of

by Steve Lucas, father of Holly Lucas, (*Missionary Prayer Handbook Day 9*)

As she exited airport security, beaming with total assurance of the Lord's leading, she waved goodbye for the final time. The lump in my throat became more pronounced as I attempted to choke back the tears that were destined to stream down my cheeks. This moment was the culmination of a process that God had wrought in my daughter's heart and was now coming to fruition. This day should not have come as a surprise to me as Holly's entrance into the world was a miracle in itself. According to man's calculations, she was due to be born in November, but the Lord decided to deliver her to us 13 weeks early. The doctor advised my wife and I that the baby would weigh in around 1.5 pounds. As the staff prepared for the emergency C-section, I prayed, "Lord we need you to grow this child another pound and the time is short." Being the gracious God that He is, Holly Ann was born a hefty 2.9 pounds. As she grew in years, a close brother in the Lord told us one day that he was confident that the Lord had great things in store for her. Little did I know this included her going half way around the world in obedience to His calling.

As parents we wear many hats of responsibility when it comes to raising our children. As Holly headed off to serve with Faith Academy, my wife and I had just put on another one of those hats, parents of a commended worker. We were embarking on a new phase in our relationship with our daughter. We had a taste of "empty nesting" while she attended Bible school in Texas, but still had the luxury of her being in the U.S. Selfishly, I now was concentrating on the logistics of a 12-hour time difference, 8,000 miles of physical separation and a sense of responsibility for her physical and fiscal well-being. At this point, your probably saying, but brother, where's your confidence in the promise that, "my God shall supply all your need," (Phil 4:19) when it comes to your daughter, and rightly so. The Word of God, as it always is, would be the key to unlock all that weighed heavy on my heart and mind. As I re-read Samuel chapter one, Hannah's words rang clear, "for this child I prayed and the Lord hath given me...therefore also I have lent him to the Lord, as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord" (I Sam. 1:27, 28).



a Missionary

Our children's lives are like a book borrowed from God's library. In our case, the due date was July of 2008, so that her life—however long that will be, can be lent to a culture that its ripe for harvesting with that glad good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Much has taken place since that day we saw her off at the airport. During the summer of 2009, my wife and I made our first visit to Manila to see the work first-hand. Experiencing the culture, fellowshiping with Filipino believers, touring the assemblies in the Metro Manila area and spending time encouraging the established commended workers, was spiritually life-changing. Through the technology available (e-mail, Internet phone, Skype and Facebook) we have partnered with the work, and consider ourselves co-laborers from afar. In what is commonly referred to as "the great commission," Jesus instructs us to GO YE and teach all nations (Matt 28:19) and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). Paul, in his epistle to the Romans, presents it to us by writing, "And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?" (Rom 10:14-15).

The Lord continues to fine tune our role, not only as supporting parents, but as vessels of encouragement and prayer



to the greater missionary community in the Philippines. The encouragement can be as simple as providing boxes of "Shake and Bake," to things as practical as reading glasses, or as serious as assisting with medical expenses. The Filipino assembly that is part of our daughter's focus has welcomed us into their spiritual and personal lives. Last summer I had the opportunity to speak at their Family Bible Hour, attend their fellowship luncheon and we were privileged to be invited to eat with them in their homes. Lord willing, we are planning to return this summer and get introduced to translation work.

The Lord has truly opened our eyes, expanded our vision for the work and given us opportunity with eternity's values in view. As God enables, my wife and I have embraced the words of Phil 4:3: "indeed, true companion, I ask you to HELP (Darby translates as ASSIST) these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement, also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life." ☺

Above: Holly, Steve & Paula Lucas (foreground) at Hillcrest Assembly – saying goodbye until next year. **Left top (L-R):** Steve practicing jeepney driving; Steve and Paula with teachers at Lyncrest Christian Academy – Hillcrest Assembly's School Outreach; Visiting Julie Ann and family – a nearby squatter family whose daughter Holly took to Sunday school. **Left bottom (L-R):** Game time at Saturday Kids' Club at Shephard Home; Ladies' Bible study at Shephard Home; A Trip to Baguio – Fellowshiping with saints from other assemblies.

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Three generations of caretakers who served as Host and Hostess of CMML's Missionary Guest Home and property were reunited at CMML in May 2011. On the left are Mert and Jane Wolcott who cared for the building and grounds from 1992 until 2006. Phil and Mary Parsons, in the center, have served in that position since 2006. Phil is also CMML's Office Administrator. On the right are Leonard and Esther Brooks who cared for CMML from 1972 to 1992. The directors and staff enjoyed having them here together and thank the Lord for their untiring efforts in service to Him, to each of us and to our missionaries as they visit.



Building HIS Church in Post-Modern SPAIN

by Les Frey

Our 38 years in Spain have brought us to the conclusion that Europe is one of the neediest, least-evangelized continents of the world. After you recover from reading that shocking statement, here is the next one: Spain, with its 47 million people, is situated in the 10/40 Window and is proportionately the least evangelized country in Europe. The 10/40 Window is an area of the world that contains the largest population of non-Christians in the world. The area extends from 10 degrees to 40 degrees north of the equator, and stretches from North Africa across to China.¹

Over the years any lingering religious practice is due to pure tradition among the 10 to 15% that regularly attend church. Sadly, half of the Spanish population blatantly state that they do not believe in God. Since Spain became a democracy in 1975 after 40 years of dictatorship, we have seen huge changes. In the last decade laws have been passed allowing homosexual marriage and freedom for 16-year-olds to abort without parental consent. Spain seems to have jumped from a “middle ages” mentality to one of “post-modernism.”

Instead of having centuries of reason and science appearing to give answers to seekers, Spaniards jumped right into an era where science no longer is able to give the basic answers to life. So, “how then should we evangelize post-modern Europeans,” when the feeling is, “it doesn’t matter whether or not God exists, you believe what you want and I will try to find out what I believe?”

WHAT SPAIN NEEDS:

1. Evangelism, especially sowing the seed and one-to-one contact.
2. A spiritual awakening amid economical and moral crises.
3. Cooperation of local churches. About half of the assemblies have chosen to work together more.
4. Work among immigrant population (some seven million).
5. Missionaries who will encourage in short-term missions or even better, who will give a larger portion of their lives.
6. Next Christmas Spain will have three national TV evangelistic programs put on by the Billy Graham Association called “Hope.” Please pray!

TEAM WORK

The biblical concept of missionary cooperation was something that we have always tried to practice. We started our ministry as an International Team (IT) in Valencia and then again with IT in Zaragoza with Dick and Connie Clark and

Beverly Boyle (*Missionary Prayer Handbook Day 15*) from 1975 to 1976. We then formed a church-planting team of missionaries working alongside Rick and Vicki Dindinger and Beverly in 1978 to 1990. We also received other short-term and long-term workers from IT and we have teamed up with nationals in our local church context of leadership. We firmly believe that God desires and supports working together. There is such strength when we compliment one another’s area of giftedness. Being flexible and willing to work with others has helped us to keep from “throwing in the towel” over the years.



RESPECTING AND WORKING WITH NATIONALS

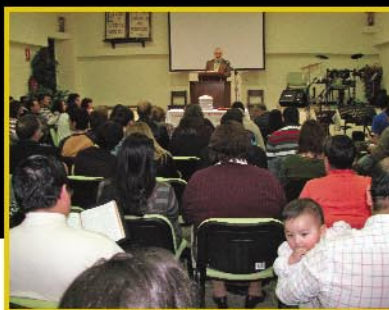
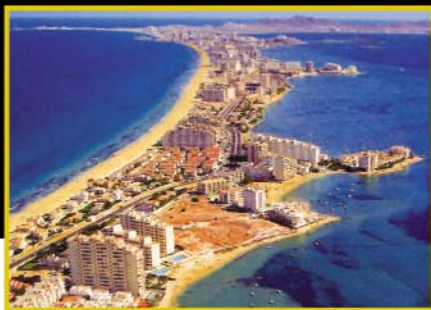
When we first came to the field, it was helpful for us to immediately become members of an existing assembly in Zaragoza and until we began another one, we were actively involved in it, learning both the language and customs. We are still friends with these dear believers and began our work in full harmony and blessing from them. In fact, 20 years ago we started a second church plant with families from both the national assembly and ours. This church has since merged again with our original one.

Another area of cooperation with the national church has been the opportunity for the pastors and elders to meet monthly for prayer and planning of common projects for evangelism. As a result, a spirit of working together with a dozen churches from different evangelical backgrounds in the areas of music with gospel choirs, an urban mission for the poor, religious instruction in public schools, Gideons and Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship was made possible.



One notable joint effort was held in the summer of 2008 with six million visitors coming to Zaragoza to a World Expo on water. Our Christian pavilion was called “Agua Viva,” which means “Living Water,” and was visited

by 330,000 who received literature. Of these, 230,000 saw an audiovisual telling of Christ as the Living Water. Thirty thousand received a DVD of the Jesus film and gave us their



addresses. This kind of massive sowing of the seed is impossible without a close cooperation of the believers. Most of the expense was paid sacrificially by local churches. Many cities in Spain comment on the great unity among the churches in Zaragoza and we were pleased to add to it as Les and another pastor were responsible for the evangelism aspect.

Every January the evangelical community holds a special week of prayer and here in Zaragoza it ends with celebrating the Lord's Supper together. That is what the early "Brethren" desired when they met without denominational distinctive.

Over the last 13 years we have had the privilege of associating with a national effort to help in pre-marital courses, marriage seminars and family matters, called "De Familia a Familia." This is the Spanish counterpart of "Family Life," an arm of "Campus Crusade for Christ." We are allowed to give their seminars and talks using their material, since we took their training program and were approved as speakers. This has been an open door for ministry in this needy field.

About eight years ago some 75 assemblies saw the need for a closer relationship, trying to network in evangelistic summer campaigns, online Bible teaching courses and the publishing of a prayer bulletin every trimester. Conferences are also organized and in the future, Lord willing, leadership seminars will also be held. It has been encouraging to see the enthusiasm shown by those on the board and it was a privilege to be among them in the initial stages. We trust that this will be a useful tool to have better communication among assemblies while respecting the autonomy of each one.

EVANGELISM

In a country where the evangelical population is so low, (one percent now, thanks to immigrant Christians) any form of evangelism is welcome since the seed needs to be sown all over Spain. We have done everything from going door-to-door with surveys offering courses, to outdoor evangelism using children's programs. Other efforts have included mailbox stuffing, street preaching, ladies' coffee hours, children's clubs and summer campaigns. Les and his ventriloquist friend have spoken just about everywhere. Many efforts have been



made in pre-evangelism such as gospel concerts and Christmas events—making use of anything to invite non-Christian friends.

There is a need for those who will sow the seed without always

wanting to see immediate results. Usually the most effective tool is personal evangelism and in this post-modern world, people need to see that we love them and are not just interested in "converting them to our religion." Then they will often give a listening ear. Personal Bible studies have proven to be the most effective method to win people for Christ over time.

We need to be creative and use the methods that are at our disposal to present the gospel effectively. As the apostle Paul said, "Becoming all things to all, that he might save some." People are in all kinds of crises, whether economic, moral, family and marriage break-up, depression...and most without hope.

PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF

We have spent many years in Spain and seen very minimal visible results in our ministry. The number one tool of the enemy is discouragement. Many times we have felt frustrated and a general feeling of failure invades us. But we know where that comes from and we continue to press on.

- We need to keep reminding ourselves that through the team efforts, there are hundreds of believers which otherwise would not be in the kingdom.
- There is a local church which would not exist otherwise.
- There are eight who have become leaders here or in other areas of Spain. Three of these are full-time workers.
- Many have been discipled and are scattered throughout Spain.
- Many have been encouraged through seeing us persevere.

This could not have been accomplished without constant support from our home assemblies: Wallenstein Bible Chapel in Ontario, Canada and Woodside Bible Fellowship plus other contributing and supporting churches and individuals who have been so faithful over these 38 years. God will reward! ❧



Les and Sharon Frey were commended by Wallenstein Bible Chapel, Ontario to Zaragoza Spain in 1975. They work in marriage and family ministry, encouragement and mentoring of leaders and evangelism in general, having been in church planting for 31 years previously. They have four married children, three of whom live in Spain (daughter Elena Kerns Missionary Prayer Handbook Day 15) and eight grandchildren.

THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF MENTORING

by J. Yi

Growing up I remember throwing pebbles in a pond and watching the ripples expand and radiate outward, seeming never to end. Looking back at my life, I can see the ripple effects of those who mentored me in shaping the man I am today.

It was through a brother mentoring me that I was first introduced to the assemblies. I actually became a Christian while attending a Baptist church. In high school God prompted me to start a Bible Study Club. One of the students in the study attended a local assembly and asked me if she could invite her youth leader. I more than welcomed an adult's assistance since I didn't know what I was doing. He took an interest in me and invited me to study the Bible with him on a regular basis. In addition to meeting weekly, he opened his home and his life; he made me a part of his family. Not only did I begin to grow in knowledge of the Word, but I also saw Christianity being lived out in how he related to his wife, his children, and those around him. He never asked me to leave my church; it was the Holy Spirit who prompted me to make a change.

Over the years, the Lord has continued to bring others into my life to mentor and disciple me. These godly men, who loved the Lord, loved His Word, loved His people, and loved the lost, opened their homes and their lives, imparting to me their vision and passion.

I sometimes wonder where I would be today without the influence of these brothers who took to heart the Lord's command to go make disciples...teaching them to observe all that He commanded them (Matt 28:19). It seems the trend in the church today is to make converts and let disciples happen rather than to make disciples and let converts happen.¹ I know what this is like first-hand, having grown up in a church with a senior pastor and a youth pastor who were swamped and overworked with no time to mentor individuals. Any personal time was invested in those who had problems, with those in need of counseling. Those who showed potential were encouraged to go to seminary. More and more there seems to be

a trend away from personal mentoring toward relying solely on group discipleship. Is it any surprise that Christianity has become shallow in so many churches and that the lives of many church attendees have negligible difference compared to those who aren't?

Is this the model we see in the New Testament? Careful study of the gospels reveals more, in fact, about Jesus' interaction with his 12 disciples than His ministry toward the masses. He invited these men into His life and ministry; they were by His side for three years. Others could see the effect this had on them. Is it surprising then that the religious leaders reacted with amazement, recognizing Peter and John as having been with Jesus (Acts 4:13)? Although uneducated and untrained according to worldly standards, they were educated and trained by the Master in the school of God. God used these men, who were mentored by the Lord, to grow and multiply His church.

Lastly, we certainly cannot forget the greatest missionary of them all. Paul modeled Christ and mentored numerous men, men like Timothy and Titus who in turn entrusted these things to faithful men who were able to teach others also (2 Tim 2:2). The ripple effects of Jesus, the apostles, and their disciples' mentoring are the method by which the church of God has grown and multiplied through the ages. As important as observance of the Lord's Supper, plurality of leaders, and priesthood of all believers are part of New Testament principles and patterns, is not personal mentoring/discipleship a prominent pattern and principle as well?

We easily remember prominent men and women in history who made great strides for the kingdom, yet easily forget the men and women who mentored and influenced them along the way. Only eternity will fully make known the ripple effects of their investment and our investment in the lives of individuals. May the Lord use us so that the ripple effects of the pebbles we drop become like waves that reach the ends of the earth and roll on for centuries and for eternity.² ☪

¹Dallas Willard; ²Part of a quote from John Piper