

July 2016

Missions



**Vibrant
Burundi**
Missionaries'
Photo Journal

CMML Visits
BAJA, MEXICO

The Power of
PARTNERSHIPS

God at Work in
PANAMA



Thinking It Through

ROBERT SPENDER

The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength (Nehemiah 8:10)

Joy is such a positive emotion. It brings a smile to our face and warmth to our heart. Joy and happiness are closely related but happiness tends to be situational and related to the moment while joy is deep-seated and more intense.

The author of Hebrews writes that the Lord Jesus Christ endured the cross for the “joy that was set before Him.” (Hebrews 12:2) Our Lord faced many sorrows during His life but none like His suffering at Calvary, so when we read about the “joy that was set before Him,” it should make us reflect upon His joy.

Knowing that He would soon be reunited with His Father in heaven would have been a great joy to our Lord. We are often separated from family members for a period of time and look forward to a day when we can see them again. The Lord Jesus was willing to be separated from His Father for a period of time on Earth, even being “made a little lower than the angels.” (Hebrews 2:9) As He faced death for us He also saw through to the joy of rejoining the Father. He alludes to this joy in John when speaking with His disciples in the upper room. Had they grasped the full implications of Jesus’s teaching, they would have rejoiced at His reunion with the Father after He had finished the work of salvation (John 14:28).

One great focus of the Lord’s joy was His obedience to the Father’s will. He alone could say, “I always do those things that please Him.” (John 8:29) Accomplishing the Father’s will at Calvary was the reason He came to Earth. The events of His trial and crucifixion were shameful, and He despised such treatment, but He knew that it was His Father’s will. His obedience to the Father brought us salvation and Him great joy. As the author of our salvation Christ opened the “new and living way.” (Hebrews 10:20) As the finisher of our salvation He completed the Father’s plan and perfected the way for all who believe, including Old Testament saints and everyone since.

Perhaps His greatest joy, and the hardest for us to understand, was the completion of our salvation. He knew from the beginning that He would die for the sins of the world.

Amazingly, His love for us was so great that He was willing to die on the cross (Philippians 2:8). Our Lord’s earthly life was not marked by numerous happy occasions. For sure there were moments of joy when He encountered faithful and thankful people, but during His ministry the Scripture testifies to opposition from many sides including the religious leaders, people He met on a daily basis, and even His family. Yet He endured opposition and rejection (John 1:11), knowing that the way was being made for our eternal inheritance. Indeed, He knew that what He would suffer would bring many persons to glory (Hebrews 2:10; Isaiah 53:11).

For three years or more, people gathered around the Lord to hear His teaching and witness the miracles He did. Some became believers and disciples. Best known are the 12 disciples but there were many others including women, Samaritans and even leaders of the people. We have hints of the close fellowship between the Lord and His disciples, especially John, the disciple who leaned upon Jesus’s breast. The brief earthly joy that these close friends brought the Lord would be sealed into an eternal relationship by His death on the cross. He knew that the present joy of fellowship would reach into eternity because of His willing sacrifice (John 17:13). In a similar way the Lord is with us each day inviting us to walk with Him. When we gather together He is in our midst. Meditation upon the finished work of Christ can bring the believer great comfort and a renewal of deep-seated joy. Indeed, we can agree with Nehemiah that the joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10). ■

Meditation upon the finished work of Christ can bring the believer great comfort and joy.

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COVER PHOTO: Jeremy & Sonja Bassett—Burundi

Mexico

CMML VISITS MISSIONARIES IN BAJA

BY PHILIP C. PARSONS

What comes to mind when you think of Mexico? Some are drawn to the mystique of ancient Mayan and Aztec civilizations while others are captivated by the world-class resorts in places like Acapulco and Cancun. Still others are fascinated by Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés who conquered the Aztecs and renamed the vast territory as “New Spain.” That conquest opened the door and by 1523 missionaries from Spain arrived in “Nueva España.” They not only built massive and ornate monasteries but converted millions of people to Catholicism, giving Mexico the world’s second largest Catholic population after Brazil.

Mexico is one of the largest countries where missionaries associated with CMML serve. Currently, there are 40 missionaries scattered throughout what is officially known as the United Mexican States. The capital, Mexico City, is home to nearly nine million people, making it the largest city in Mexico. With more than 121 million people, Mexico has the second largest population in Latin America after Brazil and has the largest population of Spanish speakers in the world.

When considering assembly missionary work in Mexico, the name Harris readily comes to mind.¹ In 1891 Mr. and Mrs. Eglon Harris of Bournemouth (United Kingdom) arrived in Mexico on business. However, seeing great spiritual needs, Eglon was burdened by the Lord to preach and distribute tracts. Two years later an assembly was started in Orizaba. Many years later, Ronald and Dorothy Harris continued in the work begun by grandfather Eglon. Another Harris couple, although not related, Donald and Claire also worked in Mexico for many years and started a camp there. Many others have joined the work in Mexico due in part to its close proximity to the United States.

Recently, my wife, Mary, and I visited Leon and Linda Crawford and Stephen Roughton (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 20), three of our CMML missionaries who serve in Ensenada, an important seaport city on the Baja peninsula in western Mexico.



From top: Mexican flag;
Market street in Ensenada;
Seaside view in La Bufadora;
Cactus in La Bufadora

LEON & LINDA CRAWFORD

Eric and Roxana Ericsson (MPH Day 30) invited the Crawfords to pray about joining them in the work in Ensenada, but the Lord had been preparing the Crawfords years before. Leon, having grown up in Yakima, Washington, and active in Tieton Drive Bible Chapel, sought the Lord for direction and purpose during his high school years. After an abbreviated study at Emmaus Bible School, Leon returned to Yakima and helped with youth work and Bible camps. In 1983, Leon spent several months with the Mark Mattix family in Bolivia where the Lord gave him insights and broadened his vision of foreign mission. Meanwhile, Linda Chavez, a Bolivian national, was involved in the assembly work in Camiri where the Mattix and Train families worked. Interestingly, Linda was Leon's Spanish language tutor, and soon a friendship developed that led to marriage in November 1985. They returned to Yakima but never lost sight of the desire to serve the Lord in foreign missions. Skilled in auto mechanics, Leon lost his job due to an illness. However, a local hospital needed a Spanish/English interpreter and Leon took the job. They began their own Spanish translation business and continued to be active in the work of the Lord. Now with three children and the business growing, Leon and Linda had resigned to the reality that foreign missions was not part of God's will. Two days before committing to administer a large interpreting service, Leon learned the program was placed on an indefinite hold. To help ease the discouragement, the elders at Tieton Drive urged the Crawfords to visit the Ericssons and the work in Ensenada. The visit rekindled their earlier dreams and they were commended to the work of the Lord in February 1997.

There are 12 assemblies in the Ensenada region, but for now a large portion of the Crawfords' time and energy is given to an assembly that was started about five years ago. Inglesia Cristiana Familiar is located in a second story, centrally located and easily accessible strip mall. In addition to developing leadership through a variety of programs in the assembly, Leon and Linda carry on an important marriage and family counseling ministry. Their home exemplifies the Spanish greeting "mi casa es tu casa" where "my house is your house," and you are to make yourself at home. Many do so and we had the great privilege of seeing just how effectively their home is being used to bless many.

Their ministry of helping others has expanded their vision to someday see the development of a retreat center. From helping families with troubled children to providing a place of rest and refreshment for missionaries, national workers, and missionary kids, they invited us to join them in prayer for such a place.



From top: (Left) Leon and Linda. (Right) Youth group; Inglesia Cristiana Familiar sign; Leon preaching; Prayer meeting.

STEPHEN ROUGHTON

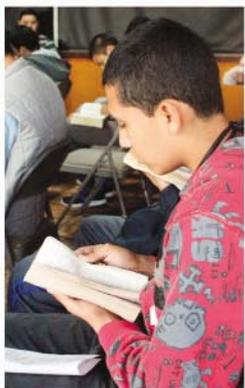
Like the Crawfords, Stephen had missions in his mind from an early age. It likely resulted from the prayers of godly parents who, when Stephen was born with several heart maladies, prayed that the Lord would take him home and spare him the pain associated with his illness or allow him to go into full-time service for the Lord. Following a time of searching and dedicating his life to the Lord while in high school, and at the urging of missionary Ken Small (see memorial on page 13), Stephen attended the Word of Life Bible Institute. This helped him become better grounded in God's Word. Eager to serve the Lord in Mexico, Stephen was advised by Ken to enroll in a bilingual Bible program in Argentina. Finally, the elders encouraged him to attend the Missionary Orientation Program by CMML and MSC Canada, which he did in 2009. Later that same year, Stephen was commended by Shannon Hills Bible Chapel, Greensboro, North Carolina, to the work of the Lord in Mexico.

Stephen was engaged in children's work in Tijuana (see August 2014 *Missions* for more details). About 18 months ago



the Lord opened the way for him to move to Ensenada to become more active in a church planting ministry, his real passion. Working closely with national leaders, Stephen helps a new church plant, Inglesia Canon Buena Vista. Discipleship, AWANA and an afternoon soccer ministry twice a week are just some of the things that keep Stephen busy and on his knees before the Lord.

Recently, he has been excited and challenged by teaching a Bible study at a drug rehabilitation center a short distance from the chapel. Once a week, as many as 25-30 young boys, who, because of drug abuse, are remanded to this facility, eagerly gather in an upper room at 7 a.m. to learn the truth of Scripture. After a time of singing, Stephen leads the highly interactive study. Often, at the conclusion of the study, questions are asked, giving Stephen insight into how these young men think and how to better prepare for subsequent studies. One young man, Shawn, gave his life to the Lord and, having completed the program, is now sharing God's Word with others at the center. Seeing the value of changed lives, the center's counselors are keen for Stephen to give more of his time to these men.



PRAY FOR THE WORK IN MEXICO

Pray that the Lord will continue to make a way for the Crawfords to keep the home they rent. It is an important component to their ministry. Should they need to find another place, pray that the Lord would direct them to a home that will bless all who come.

Pray for Stephen as he seeks further ministry opportunities at the drug rehabilitation center and his soccer ministry to young men. Stephen is also praying about relocating one day to plant a church in Jalisco, Mexico.

A vast growing nation, Mexico needs more workers, especially to work with young people. Nearly one-third of the country's population are children under the age of 15. Who is going to tell these children about the Lord Jesus Christ? Perhaps the Lord will use you to reach others for Him in Mexico. ■

Philip C. Parsons, CMML Assembly Relations and Missionary Care.

¹ Tatford, Fredk. A., Dr. "Where Aztec Glory Faded (Mexico)." In *That the World May Know: Dawn Over Latin America*, 300-07. Vol. 2. Bath, Avon, UK: Echoes of Service, 1983.

Above: Stephen and a young friend from Inglesia Canon Buena Vista.
Left: (Top and middle left) Bible study participants at the drug rehabilitation program; (Middle right) Inglesia Canon Buena Vista assembly; (bottom) Phil and Mary with Ruben, an elder at the assembly, and his family.

The Power of Partnerships

BY TERRY GILPIN



Partnerships can be powerful tools in the Lord's work. They are not new. The Scriptures are full of partnerships between nations, individuals, and churches. They imply fellowship, consultation, accountability, sharing at every level, responsibility, and a joint commitment to see a project through to the end.

Good partnerships are all about doing things *with* others, rather than *for* them. They involve a sharing of resources and knowledge and promote a sense of dignity, achievement, and ownership. Absent or poor partnerships leave the door open for increased dependency, paternalism, disillusionment, and even a sad sense of failure. Successful partnerships may take

“We are laborers together with God.”

time and patience to develop as well as a patient willingness to wait for others who may take time to catch up and learn new ideas. The unmistakable sense of ownership at the end of the day always makes the wait well worthwhile.

Perhaps the principle of partnerships is especially important for new missionaries who are likely to find themselves serving in an established work where the local national believers are already recognized as leaders. The worker who fails to build his projects on healthy partnerships will rapidly fall prey to frustration and disappointment. How often that has happened! On the other hand, new workers who are willing to spend time working under and with the local believers are much more likely to be effective in their ministry and will eventually leave behind a work that is strong and independent.

Thoroughly biblical, partnerships have existed from the early days of the Church. The Book of Acts is a record of how the first century work of God was built on partnerships.

Biblical partnerships

Consider these partnerships found in the Bible: partnerships with God, other workers, the commending assembly, national believers, and with other helpers.

God

“We are laborers together with God.” (1 Corinthians 3:9) That amazing statement reminds us that work for God, at home or abroad, is always His work. He is the senior partner; we can marvel that we are invited to play a part in the establishment of His Church.

Other workers

In Colossians, Paul referred to both Epaphras (1:7) and Tychicus (4:7) as his fellow-workers. In Romans 16:21 he referred to Timothy as his “workfellow” or “coworker.” Paul was driven, dynamic, opinionated, and often demanding, but he constantly referred to and appreciated those who partnered with him in his sufferings and activities. That working togetherness can be as difficult and challenging for us as it was for the apostles and their companions, but the work won't go forward if it doesn't happen.

The commending assembly

In Acts 14:27, Paul and Barnabas “rehearsed all that God had done with them.” In Acts 13:2, the church at Antioch entered into a partnership with these two missionaries when they commended them to the work of the Lord. Doubtless the assembly regularly prayed for them and, when they returned home, was anxious to hear what the partnership had accomplished. It is still the same. When the missionary is away, the commending assembly fuels the partnership with regular prayer, contact, encouragement, gifts, and perhaps even visits.

National believers

Paul's letters are full of telling references to believers in many cities. He regarded them as partners. See his long lists of friends and partners at Rome (Romans 16) and Colosse (Colossians 4), to say nothing of his personal partnerships with Timothy, Titus, Luke, Onesimus, and others when in Rome. It can be tragic and devastating when a missionary sees himself as coming to direct a work in which local national believers have been involved for decades. Such an attitude sets him up for failure. Younger workers are most effective when they come fully prepared to serve as junior partners with both senior colleagues and local believers. Such service will gain the respect of local believers. The result will be a fulfilling partnership for the missionary and a blessing to the national church.

Other helpers

In 2 Corinthians 8:4, Paul referred to "the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people." We thank God for groups such as CMML and MSC Canada who partner with the Lord's servants abroad and facilitate God's work in many practical

ways. For more than a century this type of service has greatly impacted God's work abroad. Missionaries on the field have benefited from the partnership and the help given, often in trying circumstances, as funds are forwarded, information disseminated, and prayer encouraged.

An effective tool

The goal of the Lord's servants everywhere is to one day leave behind a self-sustaining, independent work, developed and owned by the local believers. The most effective tool to accomplish this goal is the development of strong sustainable partnerships with colleagues and local Christians. After all, it is what the Lord Himself did! ■



Terry Gilpin was commended in 1969 by Ebenezer Gospel Hall, Bangor, Northern Ireland. His wife, Jane, was commended in 1997 by Fifth Avenue Chapel, Belmar, New Jersey.

Fifth Annual WHAT'S NEXT? Youth Conference



BY ANNIE ELLIOTT

In its fifth year running, "What's Next?" is a full day conference dedicated to young people in grades six through 12. This year, 108 teens and youth leaders from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania were challenged by excellent teaching and enjoyed fellowship, food, and many games.

Dale Konkol (MPH Day 26) opened the day in prayer and briefly shared about his family's ministry in Paraguay. Sam Killins (MPH Day 24), missionary to Colombia, gave two ministry messages—his testimony of how the Lord called him to missions, and a challenge from God's Word focusing on the life of Abraham.

A barbecue lunch, various lawn games, soccer, volleyball, and a tour of CMML's beautiful facilities rounded out the day. We are delighted to invite these young people to CMML and to encourage them in their walk with the Lord. It is our prayer that the Lord will call some to serve Him through missions.

Additional photos can be viewed on CMML's Facebook and Instagram accounts. Lord willing, CMML will host the sixth "What's Next?" conference in spring 2017. ■

Annie Elliott is the editor of Missions magazine.



vibrant burundi

a photo journal

BY JEREMY & SONJA BASSETT

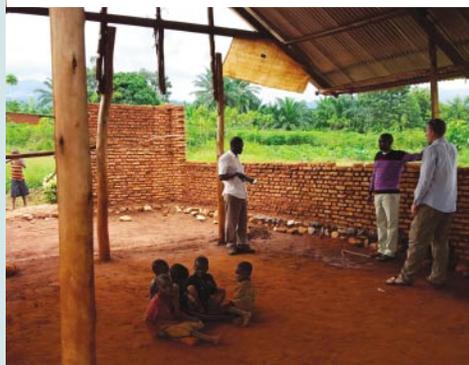
We have been in Burundi for more than two years now, and we often find it difficult to capture snapshots of the activity of the lives we live among the vibrant Burundian people. However, we know that photos are a key way to keep people connected and informed in what the Lord is doing in this tiny landlocked country in east-central Africa, so please enjoy these windows into life in Burundi.



We recently visited the new building location of the church that gathers in Muyange. Between their own work and receiving some help from others, they are upgrading from a building made of sticks and tarps to a building made of brick and corrugated metal roofing. Each person or family was assigned a certain number of mud bricks to make since it is much cheaper than buying bricks already made. (Yes, even children helped make the bricks!)

This third photo, of the children, is a very typical scene. Anywhere we go neighborhood children congregate and stare at us and usually have ready smiles if we tease them or take a photo. It is common to see a small girl of only four or five years old carrying a younger brother or sister on her back, as you see in the photo.

Please continue to pray for us as we interact and build relationships with Burundians. It is not always easy to feel like we connect very deeply because of how our different cultures dictate what friendship is and means.





Following the visit to the Muyange church building location, we went to the home of one of the elders (the man holding our daughter, Reese, in the previous photo) and took this photo of Sonja and Reese. We were able to meet most of their children. We enjoyed a Fanta and amandazi (the closest thing to a donut and yet not anything like our own American donuts), which is a customary way of showing hospitality if the visit does not take place during a meal time.



On a recent Sunday, we visited the church of Rumonge. A group went to encourage this church who had been led astray by empty promises from a problem-causing man. These two women are involved in special ministries among the church body, and so they each received a Bible as a gift.



Jeremy recently completed the formatting of a third book and Parfait, a national co-laborer, printed 500 copies of this Emmaus Correspondence School course book. Pray for Jeremy as he helps Parfait become confident on the Riso printer so that Parfait in turn can help Gedeon, the Emmaus Correspondence School director, become confident using it. Pray for the work of Emmaus Correspondence School. With more than 6,000 students, it is a flourishing ministry and key in helping the Burundians grow in their Bible knowledge and in their relationships with Jesus.



We try to spend Friday mornings as a family. We particularly enjoy going to the pool, but sometimes we do something different like go to the beach to play in the sand with Reese.

Please continue to pray for us and the rest of the missionaries serving in Burundi (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 1). Our coworkers include Daniel and Anne Johnson and family, Jesse and Joy Johnson and family, Ken and Melli Johnson and family, and Casey Conaway, from Waynesburg Bible Chapel, who works with Hands & Feet Ministry.



Jeremy and Sonja Bassett are commended from two assemblies in Wisconsin.



GOD AT WORK IN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

BY BYRNELL FORESHEW

Known as “the pass between two continents and the pathway between two seas,” Panama has been the meeting place of commerce and culture for centuries. At 8 degrees north of the equator, it connects the world from north to south and east to west.

A rapidly developing country, Panama has one of the fastest growing economies in Central and South America. However, we are not too far removed from “Third World” status when it comes to high corruption in all levels of government and business, poor education and health care, the gap between rich and poor and the dwindling middle class, and escalating immorality and violence. In saying this, we see a rapid growth in materialism, trying to obtain at all costs—even to neglecting their own children—a lifestyle they see and hear through their television and social media network. Panama City’s skyline looks much like that of any other capital city in the developed



world, but don’t be fooled by the façade that obscures the reality of spiritual and moral darkness. There is a saying here: “dress so no one knows you’re poor.” In other words, what you see is not necessarily what is true.

One of the largest trade routes in the world, the Panama Canal has introduced a varied cross section of culture, language and religion. Indifference to the Gospel because of religious

confusion, materialism and social media is on the rise, and many young people are addicted to their electronic devices and virtual friends. With much spiritual confusion and blindness, the word “Christian” is applied very liberally to anyone who attends any kind of religious organization, even if they don’t believe or teach that Jesus is God or that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. In spite of these hurdles, God is working; souls are being reached with salvation and growing spiritually. The Lord Himself said in relation to the strait gate “strive to enter in” and the narrow way “few there be that find it.”



Assembly testimony



April 26, 2016, marked seven years of assembly testimony in Valle Hermoso, and December 5, 2015, marked five years since the planting of another assembly in Dolega (La Acequia), Chiriqui. Our fellow workers Marcos and Sara Sequera, commended from Venezuela in 2009, labor in this province of Chiriqui in the far west of the country, which borders Costa

Rica. Since the beginning of this year the assembly there has enjoyed the accommodations of a newly constructed hall.

First generation believers

The work in Panama started in the small village of Valle Hermoso, about 45 minutes west of Panama City, in November 2005 with a visit by Ross Vanstone from Canada. That visit turned into a two-year stay, but when we arrived permanently in December 2007, Ross moved on to break new ground elsewhere. Over the years, like any new work, there have been many difficulties, heartaches and tears, but as the birthing pains gave way to new life, God was doing an eternal work in the Isthmus of Panama. We still face difficult situations, but see fruit and growth and the evidence that the work is surely of God. We are so dependent on His wisdom, Word and strength to guide us through each new situation that we face.

The small group of believers in Valle Hermoso continues to show signs of growth and commitment. As first-generation believers, most are the only ones saved in their families. It's not easy for them and each day is a test of their faith as they seek to live Christian lives in the midst of ungodly home environments with many temptations. Most of the adult believers attended a variety of churches before being saved, so they come with religious baggage and confusion that is not easily undone. It takes much time and patience, step-by-step teaching to feed and help them grow. The teaching isn't just in spiritual and moral things; it includes marriage and family life, how to care for and teach their children, resolving problems in all areas of life (work, school and family), managing finances and learning to form an orderly and respectable lifestyle, using Scripture as their guide.

Indigenous people

We work with a number of indigenous people from the Kuna Indian tribe. Open to the Gospel, a number have been saved and added to the assembly. One family in particular has given us much joy: three of the sisters (Hilda, Rode and Anelda) are saved, and two of them (Hilda and Rode) are in the assembly. Rode's son and daughter are also saved, baptized and in the assembly. Sadly, the husbands of these three sisters are not saved. We heard recently that Anelda's two daughters have professed salvation as well, so we thank the Lord for this encouragement.

In the province of Chiriqui, our coworkers, the Sequeras, labor more among the Ngobe Bugle indigenous tribe and have seen blessing in salvation as well. There are numerous indigenous tribes throughout the country, but these two make up the largest population.



From top: Valle Hermoso assembly building; Valle Hermoso assembly believers; The new hall in Dolega, Chiriqui; Kuna believers with their Kuna Bibles.

Orphanage Bible classes

Thursday evenings we are in an orphanage called Ciudad del Niño (City of the Child) for two Bible classes. There are about 140 children and we are able to speak to about half of them each week. They are a good group and attentive, but their young minds have been contaminated by what they have experienced at a young age. We pray that the constant pouring of God's love through His Word into their hearts will soften them and turn them to the Savior. Lois's time volunteering as a doctor in the orphanage clinic has been limited due to our children's schooling needs, but she still has an active presence there.

Another opportunity to share the Gospel at the orphanage is with a number of young Taiwanese ladies who volunteer in a variety of capacities. They usually come for a two-year term. We have befriended a number of them and have had the opportunity to have them in our home and share gospel literature with them in their native tongue. At first they were reluctant to take the literature, but in a recent conversation with a couple of them they told us that they now read the Bible and attend a Taiwanese Bible study. They had a number of questions for us. We are happy to be just links in the chain, channels only, that souls might hear the Gospel and be saved.

Young people

The Friday evening young people's Bible class has become smaller as the competition is stronger with five new churches starting up very close to where the hall is located. These groups are very worldly in their means of attracting the young, with very little emphasis on salvation or the truth of Scripture. It's an evening of worldly entertainment in the name of God! Immorality, violence and disrespect on all levels run rampant amongst the youth, and it's destroying these precious lives. We know it's only salvation

and obedience to the Word of God that will save, guide and preserve them from the disastrous lifestyle of their parents and peers. They don't need more of the world in the name of church—they need salvation in the name of Christ!

We have seen so many young people start well but get drawn away by this ungodly world. Because of this, we started a special Bible class to help them understand the importance of obedience to God's Word, and that cultivating, enjoying and pursuing a personal relationship with the Lord is essential to holy Christian living.

Additional ministries

Throughout the year we have several one-week children's Bible classes at our home during school breaks as well as a variety of other gospel outreaches in the local communities. The annual short-term missions trip for girls from Britain and North America has been an encouragement to the work here as well as in their personal spiritual development.

Pray for Panama

There is much work to do and the laborers are often weary, but great is the God whose work it is! *He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.* (Psalm 126:6) ■



Byrnell Foreshew was commended in 2005 by three Ontario assemblies. His wife, Lois, was commended in 2006 by the assembly in Lossiemouth, Scotland.

Earlier versions of this report first appeared in *Truth & Tidings* and *Believer's Magazine*.



From left: Orphanage Bible class; Children's Bible class at our house.

Home with the Lord



Ken Small

Missionary to Mexico • June 4, 1937—May 1, 2015

Ken grew up in a time very different. He was born at home in Dundee, Scotland. World War II soon broke out and Ken's earliest memories included diving under the kitchen table as a British Spitfire chased a low-flying German fighter above his home. Even when times were difficult, the Small family home was always cheery. Ken's mom, Isabella, was the quintessential happy Scottish spirit, which was passed to Ken and Margaret, his older sister. For Ken, early life in Dundee was spent working at a manufacturing plant with Friday nights reserved for dancing.

Ken enjoyed soccer, judo and boxing. When he was 18, he served a two-year stint in the Scottish Parachute Regiment. Instantly hooked, Ken fell in love with the thrill and danger of skydiving. Even after the army, Ken racked up more than 350 jumps over his lifetime.

In 1961, Ken followed his sister to Vancouver, British Columbia. There, Ken continued his passion for skydiving and won many awards. Ken was hired by Henry McLaren (Heather Bible Chapel) at his company, Henry Electric. Henry and other Christian employees used friendship evangelism over the next year and a half with many chats, invitations and meals. One day, Ken agreed to go to dinner and the midweek prayer meeting. Ken recalled that the message from Revelation sounded like French to him, but afterward he was invited to Henry's home for tea. While in the driveway, Henry explained the simple Gospel. The Lord worked in Ken's heart and he prayed for forgiveness and cleansing from his sin. From that day until the Lord called Ken home, he never wavered in his love for the Lord Jesus and his desire to share the Gospel.

A few months after Ken's conversion, he attended Burrard Inlet Bible Institute for four years while working part-time at Henry Electric. In the last year, foreign missions became his focus. He then attended a school in Tijuana, Mexico, that taught basic dental skills to relieve suffering and as a means to share the Gospel.

On Valentine's Day 1969 I, Bev, was invited with a fellow dental assistant student to tour the dental school. Within five minutes, Ken (now a 31-year-old bachelor praying for a wife to share his missionary life with) finagled my phone number

with the excuse that he could share his testimony and show his skydiving movie to my church college group. It worked—eight months later we were married at Laurel Bible Chapel in San Diego.

We spent the first few months in Vancouver and then were commended by 24th Avenue Gospel Chapel. We first went to Guadalajara, Mexico, for language study. After our son Kevin was born, we served in San Quintin, BC, Mexico, at a medical/dental hospital where we met Dr. Hazael Hatchett G., a Christian surgeon whom Ken would work with for over 40 years, including a couple of years in Mexico City. There, we fell in love with a beautiful one-year-old girl, Debbie, whom we adopted.

Ken's work for the past 20 years was in Baja California, Mexico, specifically Tijuana and Ensenada. The work in Tijuana includes Hospital Filadelfia, Dental Filadelfia, and the newest outreach, the Sonrisa Móvil (Smile Mobile), a complete dental office on wheels, capable of traveling to remote areas. The work in Ensenada includes Las Tres Palmas, a campus to house youth and adult groups while they build a home for a needy family and share the Gospel with kids' Bible classes. The newest outreach in Ensenada is "Team H12:One" (named for Hebrews 12:1), a Class 11 Volkswagen Beetle team that runs the Baja races to raise awareness of battered women and Casa Esperanza, a ministry that helps them.

Ken loved the Mexican people. His days were filled with helping them in any way possible. His happiest days included morning devotionals with the staff and time spent with patients. Ken didn't need an excuse to share his love of Christ—the barista at Starbucks, the employees at Home Depot or the nurse in the ICU—Ken lived to respectfully share the source of his joy, just like Henry McLaren had done for him over 50 years before.

A couple of years ago Ken was diagnosed with a severe lung disease that the doctors said was progressing slowly and felt he had three to five years. But, in April 2015, he worsened rapidly and within a week was in the Lord's presence.

The work in Mexico is ongoing through the RLM board and our coworkers, both Mexican and from the U.S.

BEVERLY SMALL



CMML's New Video Program

BY CRAIG FRITCHEY

Videos have become one of the most engaging ways to share information in today's communication age. When we think about missions, there is something special about seeing the scenery and faces of the people a missionary works with. One of my favorite childhood memories was when a missionary would visit our assembly with their projector in tow and show us videos and slides of their work. The impact of seeing with our own eyes what God is doing is very powerful.

"Missions Update from Around the World"

CMML has launched a new video series on our YouTube channel called "Missions Update from Around the World." Each month we highlight a different missionary listed in the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*. A short three-minute video takes you inside their ministry as they share blessings, challenges and prayer needs. These brief reports give you firsthand information of life on the mission field.

Other video resources

In addition to our monthly missions updates, CMML's YouTube page offers videos about specific countries and regions as well as videos on how to use the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*, what the Missionary Orientation Program (MOP) is about and how the ministry of CMML works. You can even catch a glimpse of what it is like to attend CMML's 26 Below winter retreats.

Suggested uses

These short videos (none are longer than 15 minutes) are great resources for midweek prayer meetings, youth groups, Sunday school, missionary conferences and other special missions-focused programs. One assembly even combined showing a missions update video with a live Skype call to the missionary in the video. You can also share these videos with others through your social media platforms or email.

How to access

You can view the videos on CMML's YouTube page ([YouTube.com/cmmlus](https://www.youtube.com/cmmlus)) or you can email me at ccfritchey@cmml.us for downloadable copies, which can be played without internet access.

CMML's desire is that these videos will be used by the Lord to bring our missionaries' ministries to life, help you become more aware of how God is working, and challenge you to pray for the Lord's servants. ■

Craig Fritchey is CMML's conference coordinator.

