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Missions

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in **Zimbabwe**

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Thinking It Through

ROBERT DADD

God Opened the Prison Doors

For more than 40 years, the Lord has used John and Karen Short, assembly missionaries commended from Australia, to spread the Gospel to China and other Asian countries. They often faced danger as they traveled into China to spread the Word of God with Bibles, tracts, and study materials. John was arrested a number of times by the Chinese authorities for his witness for Christ.

In March 2012 John was the key presenter at CMML's Focus on China conference in New Jersey. Hundreds in the audience were thrilled to learn about what the Lord is doing in China. An enthusiastic evangelist (at 75 years), John challenged us to get involved in the Lord's service and to pray for the gospel outreach taking place in China. He invited us to visit to see firsthand what God is doing and, as the Lord calls, to become part of that work.

On February 16, 2014, John traveled into North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea, DPRK) as part of a small Chinese tour group. He purposefully brought tracts to share the Gospel with those who had never heard about the Lord Jesus. On February 18 authorities arrived at his hotel room to question him and a Chinese Christian who traveled with him. Eventually they were put in separate cars to be returned to the airport. The Chinese believer safely returned to Beijing but John was not heard from or seen after that morning. He was told he faced 15 years in prison for distributing religious pamphlets. When the Chinese Christian notified Karen that John had been arrested, she didn't know if she would see him again. However, she knew he went into North Korea in obedience to the Lord's command to take the Gospel to one of the world's neediest countries.

Karen immediately put out a request to pray for John's safety, health and, if the Lord willed, his return home to Hong Kong. That request traveled around the world by email and the Internet. We at CMML heard from Karen and put the request on our website and social media pages asking the Lord's people to bring this evangelist before the throne of grace.

After hearing nothing for 13 days, *God opened the prison doors* in DPRK. Karen received word that John was being released and deported back to Beijing. Amazing, yes, but not for our God who hears and answers prayer! It reminded us of when God miraculously threw open the prison doors for Peter and later Paul (Acts 12 and 16).

God knew where our brother was every minute of the day and night. He knew of the four-hours-per-day interrogations. He knew of the 24-hour guards, the loneliness of confinement, and that John was being deprived of much-needed daily exercise. God also knew of the tens of thousands of saints around

He went into
North Korea in
obedience to the
Lord's command

the world who prayed for John 24/7. Isn't it amazing that it wasn't a famous international personality that went to plead for his release, but rather the almighty God of the universe, whose eye is on the sparrow, cared for His own in that Korean detention center? When asked what kept him going in prison, John said that "recounting Biblical Scriptures helped him endure the 'long and grueling investigation.'"¹

In God's perfect will, He often requires His people to learn patience as they wait for visible answers to prayer. Sometimes He chooses not to give deliverance. But at times, He moves in extraordinary ways to show Himself strong on behalf of His servants. John's unexpected quick release from detention in North Korea is such an event. Without any doubt, the Lord intends for this to strengthen our faith and give us fresh boldness in our witness. Surely such an answer to prayer should remind us that the promise of the Lord, "I am with you" (Matthew 28), still applies to us in 2014.

We should expect growing hostility to the Gospel in the days ahead. In a recent prayer letter, John and Karen remind us that "God's path for all Bible-believing Christians... is to accept the misunderstanding, strong dislike, even hatred and persecution in this day of Christ's rejection, because we give preeminence to Jesus Christ." In the presence of great opposition, God gave us powerful evidence that He answers prayer and *still* opens prison doors. ■

¹ TheGuardian.com.

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FRONT COVER PHOTO: Chishawasha Valley—Marilyn Barnes BACK COVER PHOTO: New Jersey beach—Dana Brown

Zimbabwe

Finding Hope in a Desperate Land

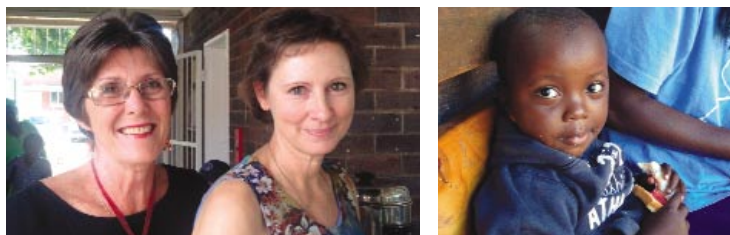
BY MARILYN BARNES AND ALYSON TROTTER

A small landlocked country about the size of Newfoundland or Montana, Zimbabwe is located in southern Africa surrounded by Zambia, Botswana, South Africa and Mozambique. This beautiful country, known for Victoria Falls, baobab trees, balancing rocks and lots of wildlife, has a population of 12 million, of which 45 percent are malnourished. There are six million individuals, half the population, who are 19 years of age and younger. Conservative estimates state that 40,000 people died last year of AIDS and, as of two years ago, there were one million AIDS orphans. Although it was once called the breadbasket of southern Africa, now, because of the political and economic crises spanning the past 12 years, the country is in very bad shape with the unemployment rate among the highest in the world, ranging from 80 to 95 percent. These overwhelming factors have had a dramatic effect on the family unit, and a grandmother often heads her family because her children, along with their spouses, have died leaving her to raise and feed her grandchildren. An even worse situation is the estimated 50,000 homes that are child-headed, in which the parents have died and the oldest child is left to care for his or her younger siblings.

Since 2006, the Zimbabwe Assistance Program (ZAP) has been a project of MSC Canada that partners with ministries run by national believers. Annual trips are made to Zimbabwe to administer this program, and 100 percent of the funds received goes to these ministries. In February, we visited for two weeks with three goals in mind: we wanted to encourage the national believers who serve the Lord in difficult circumstances, to pass on financial support received through ZAP for supplies they simply can't afford and to present the Gospel to women and children through the use of a "Life Band." The following are six ministries we partner with.

Feeding program at the pediatric AIDS clinic

After traveling great distances by foot or by bus, between 20 to 120 children arrive three days a week at the Parirenyatwa or Harare Central pediatric AIDS clinics in Harare. They arrive sick,



Top: Chishawasha Valley. **Bottom (L-R):** Rose (L) and Tracy (R) at the feeding program; Child at the feeding program.

weak and hungry at a clinic that often lacks the equipment and medical supplies needed to help them. Tracy and Rose, Zimbabwean nationals, prepare and serve food to these little ones, hoping it will give them much needed energy to see the doctors. Two-year-old N.P. and his mom are both dying. N.P. was too weak to reach out and take a sandwich but managed a big smile of gratitude for such a small gift. Sadly, not all children can even manage a smile, as one young terminally ill fellow we saw collapsed into a chair and sat crying, unable to eat. The nurse asked us to pray with him, and then he was led out of the



Clockwise from top left: Tarsi and Felistas from Bethany Bible Chapel Kids' Club; Orphans' Club; Mike and Liz who care for the elderly; Bethany Bible Chapel Kids' Club.

come straight from school, arrived full of energy and opinions! The girls enjoyed trying to outdo each other at reciting the previous week's memory verse. They listened well but it was clear, through their responses to questions, that they don't yet fully grasp who God is and what they have to do to have their own personal sins forgiven.

Perekedza orphans' club

A warm and caring woman with three children of her own, Natalie is young in her faith but has a heart for serving the Lord by caring for 75 orphans. Grandparents care for some of these children, but many are in child-headed homes. Each Friday afternoon, she balances feeding them physically and spiritually, but physically first so that they are able to listen more easily to the teaching. The day we were there, each child was fed a plate of sadza, a corn-based food cooked a little thicker than mashed potatoes, along with a small portion of chicken. As well as feeding them every Friday, she pays for their school fees, uniforms, medical expenses and once a month supplies them with food to take home. Working with orphans over the years, Natalie has been encouraged to see children come to know the Lord and have their lives changed. Just recently, an orphan for whom she got a job cleaning piggens five years ago returned to visit Natalie. She was thrilled to hear that he is going on for the Lord and

now manages the whole farm. On the other hand, one 15-year-old girl that Natalie had high hopes for hadn't been to the orphans' club for several weeks. Natalie found out the day we were there that the young girl had been married off, and it isn't likely she will see her again. Another sad story is of Nigel who attended the orphans' club when he was younger. He is now 19 years old and was beaten severely by his grandfather just before Christmas. Natalie was called by some of the other orphans. She collected Nigel and took him for medical treatment. After much testing, it was discovered that Nigel has a large brain tumor. He is currently awaiting surgery to remove the tumor, however, though Natalie has paid for his surgery ahead of time, he is turned away each week when she takes him to the clinic. The tumor continues to grow and he is losing the ability to walk and see, yet he assures her it is alright. This crisis has brought him to the Lord, and he knows he will be in heaven with God soon if he doesn't get the surgery. The Lord has given Nigel tremendous peace in a very difficult circumstance, and his testimony shines brightly for all to see.

room assisted by the nurse and his young brother. The staff is very grateful for the way the children are loved and cared for as a result of Tracy and Rose's love for the Lord.

Emmaus Correspondence School (ECS)

Much is happening in Zimbabwe's prisons. While we were in Zimbabwe it was announced that President Mugabe would release 2,000 prisoners (mostly women and juveniles) because of overcrowding in the prisons. Edward and Chunga, nationals who run ECS, were very busy marking courses so they could be returned to those prisoners being released. Although it seemed like they would lose a large number of students, the prison chaplain assured Edward and Chunga that he would introduce the new prisoners to ECS.

Bethany Bible Chapel's kids' club

Anita, Felistas and Tarsi lead a children's club each Friday at Bethany Bible Chapel located across the street from a government elementary school. The day we visited, the children, who

Destitute elderly

Due to the economic crisis, there are many elderly in Zimbabwe who have been left with no income or social assistance. Liz and Mike care for them by preparing boxes of food and clothing, which are delivered to these dear ones. Liz and Mike also plan and prepare luncheons for them to celebrate special occasions such as Christmas and Easter so they can anticipate something fun.

Chishawasha ladies' Bible study

In a remote village in Chishawasha Valley, which lies on the northern outskirts of Harare, Maggie has developed a strong relationship with a group of women. She has Bible studies with them and encourages them to study the Word on their own through Emmaus Correspondence Courses, in the hopes that they will not only know the truth intellectually but also apply it in their hearts and daily lives. This can be a very discouraging work as the women can give all the right answers and yet their lives do not reflect a personal commitment to the Lord. For example, H.A. is a young woman who has been in the study for a couple of years, yet there is great concern as she is dishonest and promiscuous. On the other hand there is A.M. who also has been in the study for a couple of years and yet is a great example to the other women as she cares for those less fortunate than herself.

Teaching the Gospel with "Life Bands"

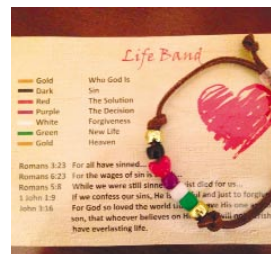
While in Zimbabwe, Alyson taught the Gospel using a tool that we named a "Life Band." We took with us 250 kits that had been prepared by the Thorold South Gospel Chapel in Ontario. The Life Bands are leather straps on which seven different colored beads are threaded, each representing a different aspect of the Gospel. This was a fantastic tool, which only the Lord could have put on our hearts. It was culturally acceptable and was easy enough for the smallest child to put together, and yet the older ones thought they were "very cool." After using the Life Bands with many children's groups, Sunday school classes and the Chishawasha ladies' Bible study, we still had more than 50 kits left which will be used to spread the Gospel to women in prison.

Peace in difficulty

It was such a joy to share the Gospel in a country where there is so little hope. This lack of hope can often be seen in vacant eyes, a lack of expression, and lives that seem to be plagued by injustice. The country continues to worsen and, as the years pass by, people are beginning to believe that conditions will never improve. It is our hope and prayer that more people in Zimbabwe will find God's peace, like Nigel found, in the midst of very difficult circumstances. ■

Marilyn and Phil Barnes were commended in 1985 by Malton Bible Chapel, Toronto, Ontario. They served full-time in Zimbabwe from 1998 to 2007, and Marilyn continues to be involved in the work there, visiting once or twice a year. They currently serve at MSC Canada where Marilyn works with Missionary Care.

Alyson Trotter attended CMML and MSC Canada's 2013 Missionary Orientation Program and is in fellowship at Thorold South Gospel Chapel in Thorold South, Ontario.



Top: Orphans' Club. **Bottom (L-R):** Woman and child at the Chishawasha ladies' Bible study; Maggie and Alyson with Chishawasha ladies' Bible study; Life Band.

4 Important Gifts You Can Give to Missionaries

BY TOM TURNER

The Gift of Constant Prayer

Prayer is *the* lifeline for missionaries serving on the foreign field. It is the cord that binds them and their work to the God of the Universe. It is their source of strength, power and encouragement and the soothing balm when loneliness sets in, which it will from time to time.

God's servants spend much time in prayer committing their family and their ministry to the hand of the Lord for guidance. He is their hiding place when the path seems uncertain. Perhaps you remember the words from Norman J. Clayton's old chorus: "When the road is rough and steep, fix your eyes upon Jesus. He alone has power to keep, fix your eyes upon Him. Jesus is a gracious Friend, One on whom you can depend, He is faithful to the end, Fix your eyes upon Him."

Our missionaries rely on prayer from the saints back home to help sustain them and their work for the Lord. After all, they are the representatives from the homeland local assembly carrying on a work in a distant land. That is why your gift of constant prayer is so important to the advancement of the Gospel. James reminds us "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16b) Are you doing your part to support your brothers and sisters on the field?

The Gift of Caring

We enjoy having others show that they care for us, don't we? Imagine being thousands of miles from home and wondering if anyone cares. That's where you come in. There are so many ways you can care for the Lord's servants in addition to the regular prayer I suggested above. An email, a greeting card, a phone call or reaching out on Skype are just a few ways to show you care for those who represent you and your local assembly on the mission field.

Paul reminds us that "the members should have the same care for one another" and again about those who have the gift of "helping" others. (1 Cor. 12:25b, 28) These thoughts present a challenge to our daily living and busy lifestyle, but what about on a practical level as it applies to our missionaries? Are you involved in some way, letting missionary families, and especially missionary children, know that you are there for them? MKs in particular leave their friends and relatives at home to accompany their parents to the field to reach others for Christ. Would you consider coming before the Lord to ask Him, "What can I do to show your servants that I care?" I can assure you based on the hundreds of emails and letters we receive at the CMML office, this gift of caring provides a major boost to those serving on the front lines of missionary service.

The Gift of Unsolicited Support

Missionaries have many practical needs that must be met for them to remain on the foreign field. Living expenses vary from country to country but just as we at home need certain things, so do our missionaries. Food, clothing, children's education, transportation, ministry materials and equipment, medical costs and so forth must be met each month. In most cases missionaries rarely mention these practical things although we do become aware of special needs at CMML and MSC Canada. That is the reason we have the gift category "Where Most Needed" so that donors can suggest their gifts be used in this way.

Many of the Lord's people have befriended missionary families and pray for and help support them on a regular basis by suggesting that their gifts be used for their ministry projects. Paul reminds us that "God loves the person who gives cheerfully." (2 Cor. 9:7) Then again in Acts 11:29 he reminds us to "Send relief to the brothers and sisters...."

You may be interested to know that 100 percent of all gifts suggested for missionary projects are forwarded on, and nothing is taken out by CMML or MSC Canada to help defray the operating expenses of the offices. We are so thankful to the Lord when He lays it on the hearts of His people to suggest part of their gift for this purpose.

The Gift of Practical Helps

On the pages that follow you will find a wealth of practical ideas you can put into practice to begin making a difference in a missionary family's life. *60 Ways to Minister to Missionaries Overseas and at Home* has been compiled from questions posed to some of our worldwide missionaries. ■

Tom Turner is CMML's vice president, publishing

60 Ways to Minister to Missionaries Overseas and at Home

BY TOM TURNER

How to Minister While on the Field:

- 1** Send your assembly bulletin regularly to keep them up on the news.
- 2** Send audio files or CDs of special messages or speakers at your assembly.
- 3** Send good Christian videos and DVDs for use in their ministry or with their children. Perhaps ask them about titles they might like to have.
- 4** Postage from foreign countries to North America is expensive. Provide U.S. or Canadian postage stamps for missionaries to affix to their letters and then give to folks traveling back to be mailed in the U.S. or Canada.
- 5** Christmas presents sent overseas should be mailed six to eight weeks in advance. In the U.S., Global Priority Mail for smaller packages is fast and reasonably priced compared to air couriers. (Gift wrap what's inside as a surprise for the children.)
- 6** If sending equipment overseas, open the manufacturer's box, reverse it and reseal it so the lettering with the contents does not show. This will help avoid pilferage.
- 7** Keep your missionary up-to-date on the latest computer hardware, software and best prices. Today on the mission field, computers have become very important for communication and ministry.
- 8** Write and ask what software they or their children could use and send it as a gift. (One missionary suggested opening the new software and using it first so it can then be marked "used" to save on duty fees.)
- 9** Send cheery tablecloths and napkins to use for birthdays and holidays.
- 10** Offer to provide a subscription to a magazine the family would enjoy.
- 11** Send a good book that they might enjoy. (Mail at book rate if available.)
- 12** Games and sports equipment are a real hit on the field with the children.
- 13** Sometimes new and used tools are very useful in some mission areas. Be sure to check in advance as to needs and also the best way to ship since duty fees may be charged.
- 14** Many times clothing and food are most welcome. Research the country and speak with the missionary to decide what would be most helpful before sending.
- 15** Be sure to pray as you plan a package from yourself or your assembly asking the Lord to direct what should be included. Don't be afraid to ask a missionary what would be useful.
- 16** Sometimes missionaries enjoy receiving used women's and children's magazines with cooking tips, crafts, Christian articles, children's stories, news, and so on.
- 17** Visit a missionary on the field! Visit a missionary on the field! No, that is not a misprint. It is there to emphasize the importance of a personal visit from elders, friends and supporters from back home. What a huge encouragement this has proven to be for many of those serving far from their homeland. (Sadly, we at CMML have heard about missionaries who have never had anyone from back home come to visit and see their work and in some cases never even keep in touch by email or phone. Remember, when missionaries go overseas they are representing their home assembly, and their work is an extension of the work of their local assembly that commended them to the Lord's service.)
- 18** Send regular emails telling a missionary you are praying, giving them news of things back home and asking them for their prayer requests so you can pray effectively.
- 19** Offer to print and mail missionaries' prayer letters for them from the U.S. or Canada. They can email their address list and master letter to you to print and mail, saving them time and expensive foreign postage costs.
- 20** Help missionaries build their libraries on the field by providing books to help with their studies or to share with others. It is a good idea to contact them for ideas on titles they would like to have.

60 Ways to Minister to Missionaries Overseas and at Home

21 Send new greeting cards (in English) for birthdays, get well wishes and holiday greetings for missionaries to mail back home to their friends and family. Remember, they may not be able to purchase cards in the English language where they serve.

22 Place a personal phone call or a Skype call to a missionary to hear how they are doing and to catch them up on news from home. (You will probably make their day with this encouragement.)

23 Mail birthday cards to missionary children. The MKs sometimes feel forgotten and we know of one believer, who is with the Lord now, who faithfully sent a card and included a stick or two of chewing gum inside each one. She used the *Missionary Prayer Handbook* to find the birthdates. Maybe the Lord will lead you to pick up on this encouraging ministry to the kids.

24 Certain areas of the world require great care when contacting missionaries so as not to compromise their safety. In those countries be very careful in the words you use. Don't write about missions, politics, evangelism, financial support, missionaries and believers, elders, pastors, deacons or make negative comments about any group.

25 "Snail Mail" is very important to missionaries. That letter from home with a postage stamp from Canada or the U.S. and containing news or words of encouragement means so very much. One missionary stated,

"I don't care if the writer talks about their weather, their garden or their family. It just means so much to get that letter and to know someone back home is thinking about us and praying for us!"

26 Remember, the single biggest hindrance to letter writing or emailing is waiting for a big block of time. Don't wait—it will probably never come! Do it now!

How to Minister While Home on Furlough:

27 Allow a returning missionary family time to get back into the groove in North America. Generally there is a bit of culture shock during the reentry process.

28 When a family returns from the field, try to provide them with meals for the first few days while they adjust.

29 When your missionary family arrives home, try to meet them in person at the airport.

30 Try to have transportation available for a missionary to use while at home.

31 A gas credit card is a very thoughtful addition if financially feasible for you or your assembly.

32 If they need to purchase a vehicle, offer to help them shop for the best deal.

33 Offer to help a missionary family find a place to live during furlough.

34 When they are home, provide as a gift or lend practical items they'll need: appliances, toys, computer, printer, television, sheets and linens, and so on.

35 Let a family on furlough use your home or vacation place for a weekend of relaxation.

36 Provide an expense paid mini-vacation at a hotel or resort.

37 Offer to keep a missionary's children for an evening so mom and dad can have a night out together.

38 When home on furlough, remember that missionaries and their kids like to be treated as "regular" people.

39 Be sure to invite missionaries to social events... not only to come to preach.

40 When a missionary wife is asked to speak at a ladies' conference, offer to look after her children so she can concentrate on sharing about their work.

41 When a missionary returns home, give him the opportunity to get involved in the work at the local assembly.

42 Be sure to invite new folks at your assembly over for a meal to meet the missionary family and get acquainted. This is important for both parties.

43 When missionaries are in your home, ask about their work. They want to share but may be hesitant.



44 A Ladies' Tea is a great way to interact with the returning missionary mom.

45 Offer to set up doctor and dentist appointments in advance if a family needs care when they return home.

46 Post missionaries' photos on the assembly bulletin board along with their letters and emails as a reminder to pray and so folks become familiar with their work.

How to Minister to the MKs:

47 Take a special interest in the missionary's children when home on furlough. Take them to special attractions, sporting events, and so on.

48 Include MKs in the young people's activities at the assembly. Many times they feel left out and alone as people concentrate on their parents and the work on the field.

49 Pay for missionary kids to go to a Christian camp. It's a great way for them to make new friends.

50 Take time to talk to missionary kids... even if you are much older. Show an interest in them and their friends from overseas. Many times these dear children feel excluded at the meetings.

51 Invite MKs along on your boat, your camper, or to your swimming pool. Take lots of photos for them to show to their friends on the mission field.

52 One of the best things you can do for a missionary is to "love their children." Love can be shown in so many different ways.

How to Minister at the Assembly:

53 Undertake projects in your assembly to send missionaries items such as dolls, blankets, baby outfits, crafts, and so on. Get in touch with those on the field to see if you can help in this way.

54 Have a midweek Missionary Supper for your assembly. Invite missionaries in the area to attend and report on their work, or read their current emails. Then pray!

55 Arrange in advance to phone or Skype a missionary family on the field to have them give a live report during prayer meeting or at a Sunday service. (Use an amplified speaker phone or computer projection so all in the audience can hear and see.)

56 It is important for commending elders to be in contact with their missionaries by mail, email, telephone or Skype on a regular basis. It shows interest and encouragement from home and reminds missionaries they are accountable to their commending assembly.

57 Ask your elders to share the communications from missionaries with your assembly so you can pray effectively.

58 When missionaries visit your assembly to tell of their work, if possible, give them the option to stay in a hotel at the assembly's expense, or in the home of one of the believers.

59 When a commended missionary family returns on furlough, their elders should make a point to meet with them to be able to pick up on problems or areas of special needs that may require attention and to provide encouragement and help with their transitioning from one culture to another.

60 At your assembly, prayerfully consider serving as a "sender" with:

- Moral Support – just "being there"
- Logistics Support – handling details here at home
- Financial Support – helping with practical needs
- Communication Support – letters, email, Skype and more
- Reentry Support – helping them feel at home and getting settled
- Prayer Support – spiritual warfare at its best

Prayer is the arena of spiritual warfare. It's where the action is—supporting and sustaining those on the mission fields of the world. One of the strongest weapons to bind the work of the enemy is the intercessory, effectual, fervent prayer of a committed, united team of believers. Remember... those who "go" and those who serve as "senders" are equally important to the work of the Lord! ■

Tom Turner is CMML's vice president, publishing



MEET Chizungu

A Woman Who Lived a Faithful Life

BY EMMA WICHERS



I first met Mrs. Chizungu, more commonly known simply as “Chizungu,” a few months ago when she was brought into Chitokoloki Mission Hospital’s minor theatre to have a dressing changed on her foot. There wasn’t a lot about her that would make you notice her. Tiny, frail, and white-haired, she didn’t say much. As I changed her dressing, I tried to talk to her in my limited Lunda and then chatted a bit with the nurse Mrs. Nsefu, a believer in our local assembly who had been caring for her. Mrs. Nsefu told me that Chizungu had stepped on a thorn some time ago and the wound had not healed well. We cut the dressing off her foot to reveal a smelly, necrotic-looking wound that had obviously been there for a while. Chizungu winced but sat quietly as we cleaned and redressed it. They left and I went on with the business of the day, not especially moved by the encounter. At that moment we had several *nkakas*, or elderly people, with wounds and ulcers. However, as time went on and she continued to come in for dressing changes and debridements, I began to hear more about her.

Nobody knew exactly how old Chizungu was, but she said she was a young girl when Chitokoloki Mission started 100 years ago, and I heard estimates saying she was 109. She was an unassuming lady, but special. Until recently, she would listen closely to the Sunday messages with the local assembly, then set out on trips to surrounding villages and across the river to share that message with her fellow Zambians. She didn’t have much, but she didn’t let that stop her from giving to others in need. Sharing the Gospel was not so much an aspect of her life as it was her lifestyle. Even when she was frail and bent over, she would faithfully walk to the hospital and tell those in the wards about Christ. Preaching Christ was a regular, consistent part of her life—it wasn’t the exception, but the rule.

The wound on her foot did not get better, and her general health started to deteriorate quickly. She stopped eating and drinking, and the decision was made to admit her to the hospital. She said less and less and slept most of the time. On the morning of January 29, I stopped by her bed on ward rounds and asked her how she was. She opened her eyes a little and gave a slight moan, then closed them again. An hour later a relative summoned me to come back to see Mrs. Chizungu. Her eyes were closed and she looked completely peaceful. I listened to her heart, heard a little flutter, then nothing. Just like that, she quietly slipped away into the presence of the One whom she had given her life to so long ago. As I looked at her body,

lifeless, lying in the very ward to which she had so often come to preach, I suddenly couldn't stop the tears from stinging at my eyes. I don't cry often, but the thought that this quiet, unassuming soul was at that very moment rejoicing in the presence of the One she had spent her life for was incredible. I felt very humbled as I sat beside her broken shell of a body.

Chizungu is now with her Savior and leaves a rich example behind. I am still here on earth, in Africa, at Chitokoloki Mission Hospital, and there is a lot to do.

This past month has been spent in language learning and making contacts in the surrounding area. I spent a week in a nearby village and gained a new appreciation for what it's like to live with no power or running water, how hard the manual field work is, and what it's like to eat nshima for each meal. It was also a rewarding time of getting to know many new people, discovering much about the Zambian culture and the village lifestyle, and learning so many new Lunda words that some days it felt as if my brain could explode. The hospitality and love shown to me by the people during this time is something I will never forget.

Thanks so much for standing with me in prayer, for encouraging me, for writing to me, and for supporting me. I am a "flawed vessel" but thankfully the Lord uses those! It's been awesome to see how, even with my doubts, tiredness, and general "newness" on the mission station, the Lord continues to work in my life and in the lives of those around me. I'm so thankful to be here.

Keep sharing Christ on the mission field in which you find yourself! ■

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Ephesians 5:15-17

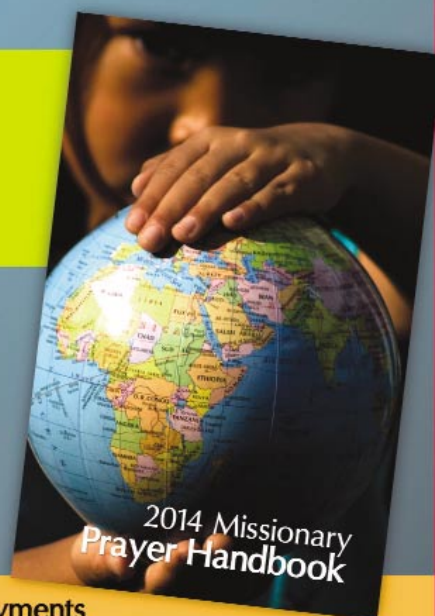


Emma Wichers was commended in 2013 by the assembly in Heidelberg, Ontario.

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MAY WE INTRODUCE

Tony and Edna Jones
Missionaries to Haïti



Hello, my name is Anthony Jones and I've been a missionary in Grand Goave, Haiti, since 2006. I was born again in September 1995 and baptized the following May in 1996. In 2000 I went into the mission field. My philosophy on missions was far different from that of most of the missionaries I had met; they relied on support from their local churches or other brothers and sisters while they were on the mission field. I had a different idea: I would travel where God sent me and start a business that would support the local community and my own ministry. I successfully ran businesses in the past, so this was nothing new to me. This time my business was going to be *His* business!

In 2000 I began to serve in the communist country of Cuba, where I fellowshiped with the most beautiful believers I had ever met. I supported pastors who led home churches until 2004 when suddenly the Cuban government kicked me out. I was blessed to have served there for four years and even today brothers and sisters from my home church continue to support the main pastor I was associated with.

Back home in Canada in 2004 I prayed asking the Lord what was next. I always said, "Don't send me anywhere easy!" Well as

I witnessed children compete with pigs for food from the same garbage piles.

we all know, our Lord answers prayer—welcome to Haiti! When I first arrived in Haiti for a two-week trip I was so overwhelmed by the lack of, well, everything. The people's adverse poverty was immense. I witnessed children compete with pigs for food from the same garbage piles; I had never seen anything like this before. So there I was in a town with an unemployment

rate of 85 percent, no infrastructure whatsoever, and I wanted to run a business that was supposed to support my ministry and the local community! I felt that it would not work and so I said, "I'm out of here." The next day I changed my airline ticket to go home the following day.

The next morning I found myself in the back of a van headed for the Port-au-Prince airport. Prior to leaving, my Haitian chauffeur told me to keep the doors locked, windows closed, and don't take any pictures. As we threaded our way through Port-au-Prince we got caught in one of its famous traffic jams. Sitting there I noticed a man looking up at me from a car below smiling with those

bright white teeth. I sensed he wanted to say something to me and, to the shock of my Haitian occupants, I rolled the window down and stuck my head out. In perfect English (which surprised me because all I had heard was Creole) he said to me "Jesus loves you!"

As he started to drive away I yelled back to him "He loves you too!"

Next thing I knew the Haitians riding with me pulled me back to my seat yelling "You stupid blan (white guy), you're going to get us shot!" As I sat there pondering that man's words, I said to myself, that's right, He loves me! I then tapped my chauffeur on the shoulder and told him to take me back to Grand Goave.

For the next year I lived in a tent on a mission compound where I met my wife Edna. We were married August 29, 2008, and have been blessed with two boys, Ben and Caleb. Please uphold us in prayer as we continue to serve our risen Savior here in Grand Goave, Haiti. ■

"...you're going to get us shot!"

REACHING HIGHER 2014

BY ANNIE O'CONNOR

Decision Making and the Will of God



We all face numerous decisions on a daily basis. From the smaller choices ("What model car should I buy?") to bigger ones ("What career should I have?"), we often struggle with the question, "What does God want me to do?" Personally, I'd love a formula to follow—pray X amount of time, have X number of "pros" on my trusty "pros and cons" list, etc. and *poof* the perfect answer pops out. But that's not how it works; God has a better way. At this year's Reaching Higher conference, Dr. Steve Price, a CMML board director, focused on the theme "Decision Making and the Will of God." He encouraged us to ask the question, "What will glorify God the *most*?" He explained that our decision making should be based on the following foundation: God's glory, aspects of God's character, and principles and instructions from God's Word.

In its fourth year, Reaching Higher was held Presidents Day weekend at CMML in Wall Township, New Jersey. Coming from as far as Texas and Canada, 50 young people (ages 20 to 35) gathered for deep Bible study and fellowship. In addition to the general sessions, attendees also benefited from three seminars: a Q&A with Steve Price, and two missions-focused seminars with Bert Mast (Kenya, *Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 2) and a "Special Areas" missionary.

At the suggestion of prior year attendees, the conference was extended to three days allowing for an additional general session, a breaking of bread service, and more fellowship time. On the third day the participants even enjoyed a lively scavenger hunt throughout the CMML facilities—from the office to the clothing center to the MK playroom, the participants got to know the nooks and crannies of CMML.

Held once a year, this conference is a time of refreshment and encouragement for young people looking to serve the Lord in their careers, families, and ministries. Lord willing, the next Reaching Higher conference will be held February 13–15, 2015. ■

Annie O'Connor is the editor of *Missions*.



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