

Missions

INDIA:
Two Nurses'
Missions Experience

KING OF GLORY
the Movie

MSC Canada's NEW Radio
"MISSION CHAT"

MEXICO Update



Thinking It Through

MARK KOLCHIN

Mothers Who Made a Difference

“I was my father’s son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.” Proverbs 4:3

It never fails. The camera pans the crowd at a major sporting event. It scans the stadium audience above then zooms in to the sidelines below, focusing on a host of exuberant, enthusiastic fans furiously jumping up and down. What are the first words out of their mouths as the camera closes in? They are, “Hi Mom!” To this day, I have never heard anyone ever say “Hi Dad!”, though I am quite sure that the sentiment was there. It is a very clear reminder of the special bond that exists between a mother and her child.

Ever since Julia Ward Howe first suggested it in 1872, the prospect of honoring mothers with a day of observance has held a prominent place in the national consciousness. When Anna Jarvis proposed doing so in 1907, the possibility of it becoming a reality moved even closer. But it was not until 1914, on the brink of World War I, that Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed it a national holiday. It has been observed ever since and for good reason. Most mothers serve as the family bookkeeper, purchasing agent, social director, taxi driver, secretary, custodian, grievance manager, nurse, laundry maid, chief cook and bottle washer—just to name a few.

Though the holiday is a relatively new event in modern history, the Bible has for ages held out shining examples of mothers who made a difference. Jochebed was one of those mothers. When the order went out by Pharaoh to kill all Hebrew male children, she was not afraid of the king’s commandment and took fearless steps to protect Moses and was honored for it (Hebrews 11:23). She had a strong faith despite the circumstances that surrounded her. Hannah was another mother who made a difference. When she was provoked by her adversary because she had no child, she did not retaliate or become bitter but instead called upon the Lord who honored her in time with the birth of her son, Samuel. She made a vow and kept it and “lent” him to the Lord (1 Samuel 1). She is a wonderful example to all would-be mothers. The mother

of Jabez was also a mother of distinction. She admitted that she bore him with sorrow (1 Chronicles 4). Most likely it was not travail she was referring to but possibly a trial that she was undergoing at the time he was born. It was even reflected in his name, which means “pain.” (What a name!) But the negative became a positive because it seemed to instill in him a sense of destiny and the idea that nothing good ever comes easily without perseverance and faith in God. His prayer, that God would bless him, enlarge his borders, be with him and keep Him from evil was heard by God and granted. Arguably, his success was tied to his upbringing and his mother’s influence during childhood.

Many are the biblical examples of mothers who made a difference. There is the notable woman of Shunem and her hospitality toward the Lord’s servants (2 Kings 4); the godly advice of the mother of King Lemuel to find a virtuous woman (Proverbs 31); and the consistent example of Lois and Eunice in teaching the Scriptures to Timothy from childhood (2 Timothy 1). These are prime examples of the powerful influence of women in general, and mothers in particular, in shaping lives for the sake of the Lord. But there is also a line of dedicated mothers right to the present day. There is Susanna Wesley, who bore 19 children among whom were Charles and John Wesley, the indefatigable force behind American Methodism. Likewise, there is Catharine Booth, wife of William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, who claimed all her children for Christ. These are but a few of history’s mothers along with many others who never showed up on the radar or made it in the history books but are nevertheless registered in heaven as mothers who made a difference. They have labored in their corner of the vineyard and have done what they could (Mark 14:8). A great big “thank you!” to all mothers everywhere, who through prayer and diligence, have made a difference in assisting in the Lord’s work at home and abroad. ■

Vol. 44, No. 5. Christian Missions in Many Lands (ISSN 0744-4052) is published eleven times a year by Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., Belmar, New Jersey. Periodical postage paid at Belmar, New Jersey, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send United States address changes to Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., PO Box 13, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. Send Canadian address changes to MSC Canada, 101 Amber Street, Suite 16, Markham, Ontario L3R 3B2. MSC Canada publication agreement Number 40026478. All correspondence, including address changes, gifts for missionary work, and for expenses should be sent by Canadian readers to MSC Canada, 101 Amber Street, Suite 16, Markham, Ontario L3R 3B2 and by United States readers to Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., PO Box 13, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. Copyright © CMML. All rights reserved.

COVER PHOTO: India—©iStockPhoto.com/adamkaz



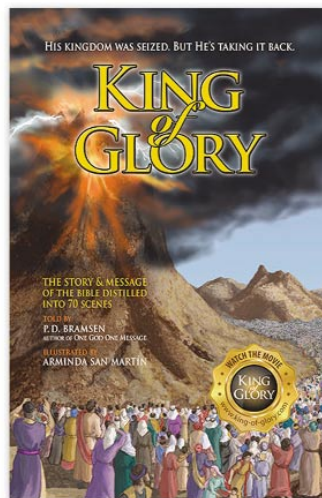
INTERVIEW WITH PAUL D. BRAMSEN

Since 1981, Paul and Carol Bramsen (Missionary Prayer Handbook Day 30; commended from Overbrook Gospel Chapel, Greenville, South Carolina) have served in the Muslim world context, first in Senegal, and later with an expanded focus to reach Muslims and others through multi-language radio broadcasts, books, booklets and now a movie.



Q: Paul, you worked with a small team for more than three years to turn the book *King of Glory* into a movie. But before we talk about the movie, tell us what inspired you to write the book.

A: A key event the Lord used was in 2009 when Carol and I visited workers in the Middle East. While there, I had the opportunity to teach a group of Arabic-speaking believers how to present the Gospel chronologically beginning in Genesis. One day, I flipped through an Arabic Bible storybook they used to teach children. I noticed that the paintings looked rather Western, showing, for example, a pale-skinned, blue-eyed Jesus. I also couldn't help but notice that it did not present the concept of substitutionary sacrifices for sin. And perhaps my greatest concern was that it didn't seem to tie the many stories together to present one story. The Lord began to put into my heart a



burden to produce an illustrated book that would make His story and message clear to people of all ages and cultures—giving special care to present it in a way that could penetrate Muslim minds and hearts. The same month we returned from the Middle East, Jabe Nicholson and the “Good News on the Move” team came to our local church in South Carolina. Without knowing about the growing burden already forming in my mind, Jabe brought up the need for such a gospel tool. The next month, God led us to just the right artist and the rest is history.

Q: How does *King of Glory* tie together the many stories of the Bible to present one story?

A: It weaves together 70 key stories to show the big picture of God's purpose and plan for mankind. The book has two main parts: The Old Testament scenes in which *The King Foretells His Plan* and the New Testament scenes where *The King Fulfills His Plan*. More than half of the book's Old Testament scenes are from Genesis 1 to 4. These stories provide solid foundations to help a person see why they need a Savior and why it was necessary for that Savior to shed His blood for our sins.

Q: Can you give an example or two of how such foundational stories have helped Muslims understand the Gospel?

A: The first Muslim we saw come to Christ in Senegal was Malick. After seven months of studying the Bible and seeing Christ in all the Scriptures, he testified that his reason for transferring his faith from Islam to Christ was because, in his own words, "I discovered that all the prophets pointed to Jesus, and none of them mentioned Muhammad!"

To give another example, years ago while visiting Senegalese Muslims in Harlem, New York, I had the opportunity to have supper with Abdoulaye. This 29-year-old man had already watched the *Jesus Film* several times in his heart language of Wolof. Still, it made no sense to him why Jesus died on the cross. The question lingered in his mind, why would God allow a great prophet like Jesus to suffer such pain and shame? After supper, using some visual aids I had with me, I took about 40 minutes beginning in Genesis to tell him God's

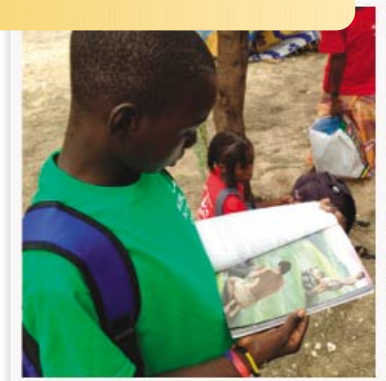
story and message. After telling the story of creation, the fall, and God's promise to send the offspring of a woman to deliver sinners from Satan, sin, death and hell, I told a few animal sacrifice stories, emphasizing that animal blood could only picture what God really required to punish

sin without punishing the sinner. Just as you can't trade a toy car for a real car, so the blood of a lamb or a ram does not have the same value as a creature made in the image of God. Animal blood could not remove man's sin debt. A perfect, infinite, willing sacrifice was needed. Well, when we got to the story of John pointing to Jesus and saying, "*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,*" Abdoulaye exclaimed, "Now I'm beginning to understand the *Jesus Film*!" What made the difference? Old Testament foundations.



Q: What inspired you to turn the book into a movie?

A: Oral learners. Many people in our world today either cannot read or choose not to read. Most of today's generation prefer watching a video to reading a book. They go to YouTube, not the library. They remember and learn from stories, not four-point outlines. So the same month (September 2011) that the *King of Glory* book came off the press, we began to lay plans to turn it into a movie.



Q: Tell us about your team and the process you went through to produce this film.

A: When it came to making a movie of this sort and scale, most of us were amateurs. In our garage studio I posted this quote taken from Eric Sauer's book, *Dawn of World Redemption*: "The more primitive the material, the greater...the honor of the Master; the smaller the army, the mightier...the praise of the Conqueror." That described our team: primitive and small. If you look at the credits on a Disney-Pixar movie, you may see more than 500 names. We had less than ten who actually worked directly on the movie. But if you count all the people who contributed encouragement, critiques, prayers, and finances and add to that all who are presently working to translate and dub it into more languages, I suppose there are way more than 500 names on God's list of credits!

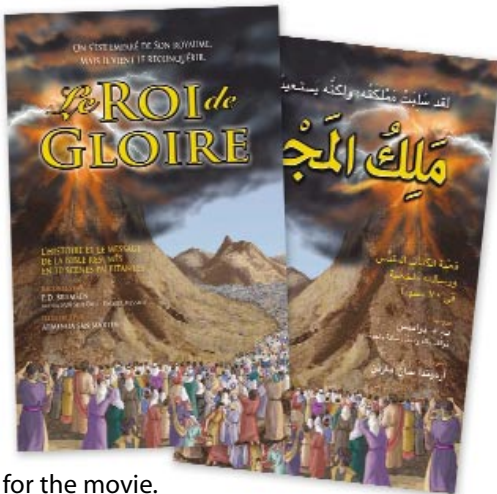


Q: What did the production process look like?

A: There were many stages: planning, creating new artwork, finding the right voice and recording the narration, selecting and purchasing needed equipment, software, copyright-free musical pieces and sound effects, and the like. The challenges and learning curves to turn the book's 70 scenes into a movie were great. Andrew Harmon of Kentucky lived with us in our South Carolina home for 16 months, working in our garage studio. Andrew was our main computer-graphics and music guy and brought a lot of creativity to the project. Several others also filled critical roles in the production. As new production needs arose, God provided, at just the right time, the wisdom, help, and finances we needed to accomplish the varied tasks. God showed His faithfulness throughout the production.

Q: How does the dubbing process work and which languages will you focus on?

A: In answering this question, it is important to understand that the *King of Glory* movie is not merely based on the book; it is a *word-for-word presentation* of the book's 70 stories, or scenes, as they are called. This means that once the book has been translated we have the script for the movie.



Also, we have chosen to use one narrator. This not only seems to work well, but it also simplifies the process of dubbing the movie into other languages. Also there is no lip sync to deal with, so dubbing the movie is a fairly straightforward process. At present, the book has been or is being translated into more than a dozen languages, beginning with Arabic, French, Spanish and Turkish.

Q: The *King of Glory* movie (English version with some foreign language subtitles) will be released on DVD and Blu-ray on May 25. How do you plan to get this gospel presentation to people around the world?

A: Only the Lord knows the full answer to this question, but already the scenes and episodes can be watched on ROCK International's website, on TransWorld Radio's TWR360 site, and on YouTube. Many are also sharing it on Facebook. By us purchasing Facebook ads, tens of thousands of Muslims and Christians in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa are watching it. We appreciate the prayers and help of the Lord's people to get it into the hands of those who need it most. The movie will be dubbed into Korean and we envision it being given out by Korean believers to the international community converging on Pyeongchang in 2018 for the Winter Olympics.



Q: The running time for this movie is 3 hours and 42 minutes. Do you expect people to watch it in one sitting?

A: Yes and no. There are four ways to watch this movie. You can watch it in episodes, one scene at a time, in two parts, or all at once.

We designed the movie to be watched in 15 episodes. Most episodes are around 15 minutes long. The episode design should work well in many contexts such as homes, small group studies, Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools and camps.

Another way to use this gospel-teaching tool is to watch the scenes one at a time. Most of the scenes are 2 to 4 minutes long, so this can work well if you want to stop and discuss the story and its embedded teaching. This method breaks the flow of the story and message but works well in many contexts.

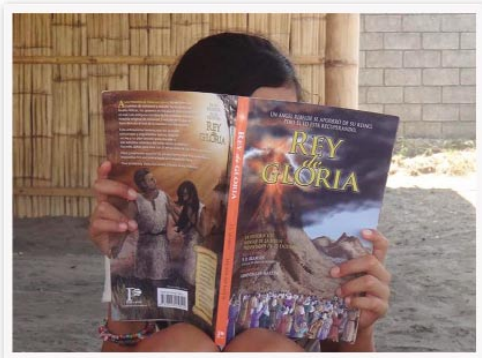
In the home or special event context, many will choose to watch it in two parts as it is laid out on the two DVD (or Blu-ray) set. The Old Testament runs 1 hour and 47 minutes; the New Testament runs 1 hour and 55 minutes.

Finally, it can also be watched in one sitting. On December 6, 2014, we had an advanced screening premiere of the movie in a local theatre. We wondered how our 160-person audience would react to watching it in one sitting. Those interviewed said things like, "It kept me engaged. When the first half finished, I thought, done already?" When asked if it seemed too long, a 12-year-old girl shrugged and said, "We watch *Lord of the Rings*. So, no, it didn't seem long."



Q: So the film kept people engaged, but how did it impact those who attended?

A: During the intermission, a middle-aged man, with tears in his eyes, told me it opened his mind to see Jesus in the Old Testament like never before. His wife was excited about how she will use the movie to teach youth. Another lady said, "I went between tears and goose bumps." As soon as the movie ended, an elderly gentleman across the aisle came over to me and, with tears in his eyes, said, "Thank you. I believe God will use this movie to reach millions with the Gospel!"



Q: How would you answer the question, "Why another film about Jesus?"

A: We produced this film because we see the urgent and widespread need for a captivating audio-visual gospel tool for all ages in many languages that chronologically presents the



big picture of God's plan of redemption, using key Old Testament stories to explain why the Messiah shed His blood on the cross for our sins. We wanted a movie that would powerfully communicate to people of all cultures and worldviews. *King of Glory* doesn't use actors, which can distract the audience or even date a movie; it uses paintings. It avoids clearly showing the face of Jesus and rarely shows the faces of the prophets, since that can offend Muslims. And we did our best to make it biblically accurate. For example, Noah's ark is drawn according to biblical dimensions. The Magi bow down before a toddler in a house, not a baby in a manger. At the transfiguration, Jesus's face doesn't just glow, it shines like the sun as the Scripture says. Most importantly, this movie exists to do what Jesus did on the Emmaus Road: "And beginning at Moses [Genesis] and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." (Luke 24:27)

Q: In a few words, what is the *King of Glory* movie all about?

A: The cross explained.

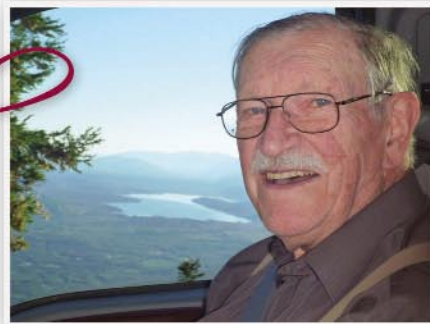
WATCH AND LEARN!

Visit www.King-of-Glory.com to learn more, watch individual scenes or purchase the DVD or Blu-ray Discs. Write to resources@rockintl.org for more information.

Home with the Lord

Lionel Russell

Missionary to Uruguay • June 30, 1923—October 12, 2014



Lionel Russell was born in Santa Fe, Argentina, and passed away in Oshawa, Ontario. He was predeceased by his wife, Irene (his better half as he would say), in May 2011. He left six children, 16 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren to cherish his memory. He also leaves many who adopted him as Grandpa, or Abuelo.

Dad was the fourth child of James and Grace Russell, missionaries to Argentina. Ages 5 to 12 were spent in Mendoza, Argentina, where he attended the British school which was bilingual, English and Spanish. During those years, he learned that missionary life was no picnic, had no luxuries attached, was not about an 8-hour day, had no fixed salary and often no human rights. He decided he would never become a missionary.

At seven years of age, Dad realized that Jesus had died on the cross to save Him personally! He was baptized at the age of 12 in a cows' drinking trough. While the event was exciting for him, he says "The cows were unimpressed; they just kept on chewing!"

In 1944 Dad went into the Argentine army for his mandatory one-year service. We remember Dad telling us the advice his father gave him. "Lionel, you are going into an anti-Christian environment. You need to hoist your flag to the top of the pole. Seek the very first opportunity to declare that you are a Christian."

Dad married Mom, Irene Gladys Hamilton, in March 1948 and in June 1949 they immigrated to Canada. One by one the family grew until our grand finale of twins brought the number to six.

In 1962 Dad and Mom began children's meetings called "Sunshine Hour" in Whitby, Ontario. It was held in their basement until it was outgrown; they then moved it to the local public school.

It wasn't easy to overcome the "I'll never be a missionary" syndrome, but the Lord led and opened the way for Dad and Mom into the Lord's Work in Uruguay. They left Canada in March 1968. There are many accounts and stories of their work in their book, *Who Will Go for Us?* Dad encountered the same working conditions as his parents had; however, God gave them such a love for the people of Uruguay—a fire that burned in their souls which was never extinguished. Some ongoing effects of their ministry are Ombu Bible Camp in Mercedes and a 3-minute and a 10-minute radio program which continue to be aired to this day.

Lionel and Irene returned to Canada in 1997 for health reasons. Their ears picked out Spanish wherever they were. This gave them a number of contacts, which resulted in Bible studies and work with migrant workers from Mexico and other parts of Central America. Other dedicated workers came alongside them, and it blossomed into a much larger work which continues on.

Dad would be the first to admit his failings, and so many times he expressed his feelings of unworthiness of the love of his Heavenly Father. We don't want to portray a life of perfection, but rather a life focused and a heart dedicated and soft toward the will of God for his life. In the hospital, Dad loved to sing his favorite hymn, "My Jesus I Love Thee," as he expressed, "Why would the Lord love me?"

Dad and Mom gave our family a strong spiritual foundation for our lives and a great example of living life selflessly. Why else did all who met Dad feel loved, heard and cared for? We admired his wit, his sense of adventure, his warm heart, and the wise counsel he shared from his many years of walking with his Savior. He has left us a strong legacy of faith, a challenge to follow! ■

BY HAZEL HNATKO



INDIA

Two Nurses Share their Missions Experience

BY REBECCA COOPER AND ANNAH COOPER

Recently, sisters Rebecca and Annah Cooper volunteered for three weeks at Accept Ministries in Bangalore, India. The Coopers learned about this work, started and led by Raju and Joyce Mathew (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 8), through the CMML website and encourage others to participate in short-term missions.

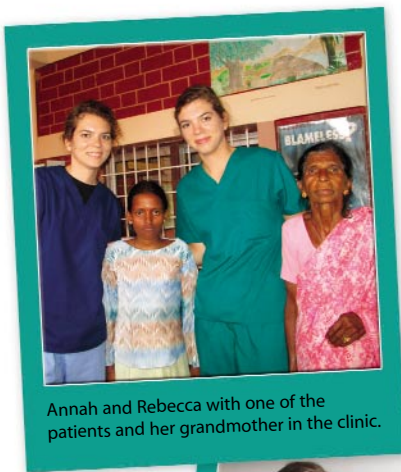
Rebecca's Perspective

Raju and Joyce Mathew were commended from an assembly in California and started Accept Ministries some years back, originally in their home. The facility is now a 35-bed hospice and care center that treats those with HIV who have developed opportunistic infections. It is my hope that my report will encourage others to visit, help prospective volunteers to be better prepared, and give a clearer idea of what to pray for.

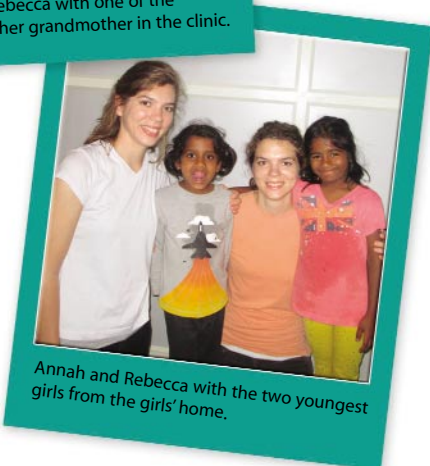
My sister Annah and I read about Accept through CMML. We're both registered nurses and I work at a local hospital so the medical aspect of this opportunity was what interested me. This was our first medical mission trip and we were slightly anxious about what we'd encounter. We were also excited that there was a children's home and that we had the opportunity to meet and spend time with the children living there.

There were a few cultural differences that we had to adjust to, one being the driving (according to Raju, Indians follow this Scripture when driving: "Every man does what is right in his own eyes"). We also had to adjust to eating with our hands and a diet much richer than we were used to. Thankfully, we never had the opportunity to drive and the food definitely grew on us. At the beginning of the trip, eating with our hands was awkward and took us far too long, but by the end we could have a plate down in five minutes. We stayed in a very comfortable room overlooking fields of grape vines and corn. At any given time we could hear the various noises of pigs, cows, chickens, dogs and rabbits, all of which help sustain the facility and entertain the children.

We spent the first few days of our trip meeting the children. There were 12 boys and six girls ranging in age from 6 to 19. They were all very patient with our meager attempts to learn and remember their names. Early on, our names became Annakka and Rebecakka ("akka" meaning "older sister"), indicative of the warm spirit in which we were welcomed. We spent a good amount of time with them and were encouraged by their knowledge of the Scriptures and



Annah and Rebecca with one of the patients and her grandmother in the clinic.



Annah and Rebecca with the two youngest girls from the girls' home.



Rebecca with two patients in the Accept clinic.



Annah reading to the girls during one of their devotion times.



Annah and Rebecca with a patient in the clinic.

how involved they were in the local assembly. We spent the first few nights piling into the 27-passenger van that transports the kids, some of the staff, and even occasionally a patient from the clinic to a local high school to hear an evangelist. There were also Wednesday night prayer meetings, Saturday night Bible studies and Sunday morning services. These outings became a highlight of our trip.

Work in the clinic began a few days after our arrival, and we were able to make rounds with the doctor and be involved in the assessment and care of patients. The patients are very poor and have often postponed treatment for as long as they could. By God's grace Accept offers care at minimal cost, allowing patients who have been turned away from other medical facilities a chance to be cared for. My sister and I were astounded at the condition of some of the patients as well as stories we were told by the staff. Although we struggled with our natural fear of disease and health risks, it was an honor to work among the staff who take these risks on a daily basis and show Christ's love despite the circumstances. I know they would give the credit to Him who works through our weaknesses. All the staff were extremely patient with showing us how we could be of help.

They have a morning chapel service in the clinic six days a week, open for anyone interested. Hymns are sung and then a gospel message is given, most often by Raju, but others volunteer as well. It was a pleasure to see unbelievers attend out of curiosity and have the opportunity to hear this message of hope. We were blessed to meet and fellowship with several patients who had come to know the Lord through this ministry. Each patient is exposed to both the love of God in action and the message of the Word.

Our schedule consisted of breakfast followed by chapel and then work in the clinic. We would break for meals and tea and often had the delightful opportunity to eat with the children. We also attended all of the weekly assembly meetings and had opportunities to play games with the staff and children and were sometimes able to join



Dinner with the boys.

“HIV is not a terrible thing; eternal damnation is a terrible thing.”

the kids with their daily devotions and singing, along with helping them with their homework. We thoroughly enjoyed the various opportunities of service and fellowship that were available at any given time.

The blessings of this ministry are numerous but it still has its challenges. They have difficult times and continual needs: prayer being the most important. During our short time at Accept, there were days when we felt drained and didn't feel like helping with the day-to-day work. You can only imagine the grace the full-time staff need. It was tremendously encouraging to my sister and me to witness the sacrificial attitudes and lifestyles of those in the Accept ministry. We were blessed by the impact it makes amidst a world of sin and suffering. Of course Raju gives all glory and credit to our Lord, and it's wonderful to see His work being done. It's amazing to see it as a picture of the world's hope through Jesus Christ. Many of the patients come out of desperation as a last resort, poor and helpless with the effects of this incurable disease. And that's how we come to Christ and

His undeserved gift of salvation. I took away so much from this experience. I was reminded of how weak I am, but when I am weak, He is strong. I naturally have many fears but there is great freedom in trusting God with these and depending on Him to overcome them. There is only hope in Christ our Savior amidst the slavery of sin and the curse of the fall. In the words of Raju, "HIV is not a terrible thing; eternal damnation is a terrible thing." Left on our own we are all infected with the incurable disease of sin and desperately wicked. We all need salvation. Our God has sent His Son as a cure, and He is our only hope of freedom and happiness. All praise to Him for His grace and mercy which He bestowed on mankind. I came away feeling privileged to be a believer and honored to work with this great ministry.



A few of the compassionate nurses at the Accept clinic.

We began to work in the clinic a few days after our arrival. Each day went quickly as we helped with patient care, meals and laundry. The clinic is for short-term care and anyone with HIV or AIDS can come for treatment. There were several patients who had been there for longer periods of time. Accept has a staff of nurses, counselors, nurse's aides, and a doctor who frequently comes and makes rounds. The first couple of days were tough. I saw patients in very poor health. However, my sister and I are nurses so we are somewhat used to similar environments. The language barrier was definitely an issue, but there were some patients who spoke English and who translated for us at times. The staff, who all speak at least some English, were very helpful as well. We really admire everyone who works at Accept and the sacrificial, God-honoring work they do every day.

We spent time with the children at night, helping them with homework, playing games and so on. We were privileged to attend the local assembly while there. Raju also shares the Gospel in the clinic's small chapel every weekday morning. It was wonderful to see many patients voluntarily attend the services, and I was so blessed by the messages given.

My overall experience was quite challenging and yet extremely rewarding. I had to depend on the Lord and He was so faithful. The Lord is being glorified through this great work, and I felt honored to be a part of it for a short time. I pray that the Lord gives me the opportunity to return. ■

Annah's Perspective

Visiting India was quite an experience. The culture there is so different from ours, and seeing the contrast between the poor and well-to-do was really eye-opening. I came home with a different perspective on life and pray that I will not take what I have for granted. At Accept I saw happiness and contentment with having little, and I believe that is truly God-honoring. My sister and I stayed in one of the volunteer rooms they provide, and it was very comfortable with a fridge, microwave, and our own bathroom. Raju Mathew was very warm and welcoming to us and made us feel at home. We spent the first few days getting to know the 18 children. They were so kind and open to us, and it was truly a joy to be able to spend time with them. All of the children live there and have separate boys' and girls' homes. Most of them speak some English and the older ones are quite fluent.



Fun times traveling in the facility's 27-passenger bus!



A hard working staff member who has been there since the beginning of Accept.

Annah Cooper and Rebecca Cooper are in fellowship at Tidewater Gospel Chapel, Norfolk, Virginia.

NEW!

MSC Canada's Mission Chat



MSC Canada has launched a daily missions program called **Mission Chat** which is broadcast Monday to Friday on Hope Stream Radio. This Christian radio streaming service is a new venture by our friends at FBH International (formerly Family Bible Hour, now Faith by Hearing), and MSC Canada is pleased to be the exclusive missions content provider.

Mission Chat features interviews with workers on the field, profiles of countries and workers, guests chatting about important missions topics, and informative pieces on the issues facing missions around the world today.

Believers will enjoy the content and format of Hope Stream Radio as it features short segments on a wide variety of topics and by many different contributors. There is currently a two-hour block of content that loops through the day, and this will expand to a four-hour block. You can listen to HSR by visiting **HopeStreamRadio.com** or by downloading the app for iPhone or Android. Past editions of *Mission Chat* can be heard through MSC's website: MSCCanada.org. ■

MAY WE INTRODUCE

Holly Dobson • Missionary to Ireland



Growing up in Chicago at Palos Hills Christian Assembly, I had many opportunities to sit under the sound of the Gospel. It was during a summer daily vacation Bible school week, at the age of four, that I realized I personally needed to trust Jesus Christ as my Savior. Since then, I have grown to understand on a deeper level what Christ has done for me and to put my trust in Him, not just for salvation but for daily life. The Lord blessed me with godly Christian parents as well as many adult mentors to encourage me to grow in my walk with the Lord. Being a mentor to a child has lasting impact, and I am so grateful to the ones who came alongside me over the years! After college, the Lord led me to Atlanta, Georgia, to continue my education and to fellowship at Marietta Bible Chapel. During my 11 years in Atlanta, I had many opportunities to grow in the Lord and serve Him.

About four years ago, the Lord began to impress on my heart (through personal devotion times and various messages from Bible teachers) His desire for me to give more of the time He has given me back to Himself. I didn't know what that would look like, but as I submitted to the Lord's leading and

sought godly counsel, He began to bring before me the people and country of Ireland. Many times I questioned if I was really hearing the Lord or just thinking my own thoughts. But the Lord continued to bring people and circumstances related to Ireland across my path. During the summer of 2013, I learned about Ireland's National Bible Study Club ministry and how so many children are reached with the Word of God through monthly Bible study correspondence lessons. I visited Ireland for two weeks that fall to see the NBSC ministry. In the summer of 2014, I returned to Ireland to spend three months with the NBSC team.

Through the circumstances the Lord brought before me, His Word, His peace, and the affirmation of my elders and family, the Lord led me to serve Him in Ireland alongside the NBSC team.

The Lord continues to amaze me in the ways He chooses to show His faithfulness. His mercies are new every morning and His faithfulness is great! I value your prayers for wisdom as I seek to continue to follow His leading and be a part of His work in Ireland. ■

Home with the Lord

Dena Mae Eckman Speering

Missionary to the DR Congo • Oct. 2, 1920—Feb. 21, 2015



Dena grew up in a small town in eastern Pennsylvania. When she was just five or six years old, her father suffered a head injury at the family-operated saw mill. The injury caused his personality to be altered to such an extent that her mother could no longer live with him. She eventually took her youngest child and moved to a nearby town. As a result, an aunt came to live with the family. It was this aunt who led Dena, the youngest child left behind, to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dena taught a boys' Sunday school class and realized that she wanted more training and needed to intentionally study the Bible. This led her to Philadelphia School of the Bible where she met her future husband, Frank Wade Speering. They were married in 1944 and made plans to go to the mission field of Brazil. Frank was in the Coast Guard during World War II and became extremely ill. At first, it was attributed to sea sickness, but they realized too late that he had colon cancer. He died a year later at the age of 24, leaving Dena a young widow with a 10-week-old daughter, Marian.

Dena abandoned the idea of going to Brazil as it was a dangerous pioneer field at the time, not a place for a widow with a small child. However, she continued to seek what the Lord would have her to do.

A missionary from the Belgium Congo, Bill Deans, visited her chapel in Augusta, Georgia, and shared about the work taking place there. She was burdened by the Lord to go. Bethany Bible Chapel of Augusta, Georgia, was willing to commend this young 27-year-old widow with her two-year-old daughter to the work in Africa—a work she continued for 45 years.

She first traveled to Ontario, Canada, to take a Wycliffe class and a practical nursing course. She later traveled by boat with several other missionaries to Belgium where she studied French. When the other missionaries set sail for Africa a year later, she was forced to stay behind due to a lack of funds. While she waited for the Lord to provide she took a tropical medicine course offered in French, a language she had just learned.

When she arrived in Nyankunde, Belgium Congo, her first ministry was to care for abandoned children. In those days, twins were considered a curse and one twin was abandoned in the jungle to die. These res-

cued babies were cared for in her one-bedroom home, some sleeping in drawers, a trunk, and even one, appropriately named Moses, in the bathtub.

She later took over the care of a girls' school, worked in a printing press translating Sunday school material into Swahili, and starting the Emmaus Correspondence Courses in that area. When war erupted and she was evacuated to Uganda by the UN, she started the Emmaus Correspondence Courses there too.

One special experience she had was the privilege of translating for the well-known speaker Corrie ten Boom at a conference in Nyankunde.

She later moved to a remote station in the Congo, Itendey, where she coordinated baby well clinics, taught the Bible school students' wives, provided a lending library for Sunday school teachers and trained them to teach. Each Sunday she would drop off Sunday school teachers at eight or nine villages, teach at the last village, and then pick the teachers up on the way home.

She ran a missionary guest house in Bunia for a while and began to teach Swahili to new missionaries.

One of the last projects she worked on was a ministry to the Pygmy people. She would trek into the jungle to find these nomadic people and bring them the Gospel. She later started the first school for the pygmies, a people group the nationals considered subhuman and unable to learn.

Dena retired twice. Not able to stay away from Africa for very long the first time, she returned to her work there. The second time she retired was due to health issues, and she settled at Pittsboro Christian Village in North Carolina where she remained until her passing. There she continued her translation work. She helped proofread the translation of William MacDonald's Believer's Bible Commentary and helped revise the Swahili Bible. She also continued to grade Emmaus Correspondence Courses.

As a widow for almost 70 years and a missionary for 45 years, she demonstrated a life of total dependence on the Lord, and the Lord demonstrated His wonderful faithfulness through her. She left a strong and blessed legacy. ■

BY TRINA WAGHER

Ericssons' Mexico Update

Ministering in Person and from Afar

BY ERIC & ROXANA ERICSSON

It's a wonderful thing to be able to look back and see how God has orchestrated each step of the way: from Europe where we were first married and started serving in many different countries; to Patagonia, southern Argentina, where we were involved in establishing missions in out-of-the-way places, camps, youth ministries; and finally the past 26 years in Mexico. The main thrust of the work in Mexico is to prepare nationals for living by the Word and teaching it among their people. The purpose is to instruct and mentor those already serving in various ministries with emphasis in life transformation and finally to visit and encourage them on the field where they are starting churches in their neighborhoods, in their homes, under a few shady trees, or in churches being established. That includes long trips into villages to encourage people with love and words of edification from the Lord. We also do some teaching, and leave with them materials for their own edification and for teaching those who are listeners or new believers.

Ministering from afar

It's been a wonderful life! We would not trade it for all the comforts of home! However, due to a very tragic accident in Mexico, Roxana is not able to make the long trips, and her love of teaching is becoming a vicarious one, using the Internet and writing. She keeps in touch with many students who seek her counsel and advice.

Eric spends many hours translating materials and books for use in the Latin American world. His love of reading and study motivates him to keep on the job even when not on the "front lines." However, his recent visits to the ministry training school in San Carlos, Mexico, for the purpose of teaching, have brought some great results and reports.

Teaching eager students

Last November, we had the Annual Pastors and Leaders Retreat at the school in San Carlos (which is in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico). We were glad to see a group of enthusiastic young people sitting in the first row! Students who love the Lord and want to make a difference in their churches and in their country come to learn and seriously study God's Word, getting in touch with

those who would teach and mentor them.

This year we had students from Honduras, Veracruz, and Oaxaca as well as some from the local area. Besides teaching the books of Daniel and Nehemiah, I taught studies on grace, a wonderful theme and practice, making a difference in how the students view Christ and "live Him out" in their daily relationships. We are very thankful for these studies in our lives as we see the wonderful work of Jesus living His life through us and influencing those we love and bring them into a closer, more loving walk with the Lord.

The students had many questions and soaked in like sponges every teaching and word from the Lord. In front of the class was a panorama of the Bible, giving a glimpse of Christ in all the Scriptures. As they read the Word, the students underline God's attributes and Christ manifestations, and personal applications are written down. Spending time alone with God in the desert is part of their training and is good for personal reflection and prayer.

Eric briefly visited some of the students in the state of Sonora. Being with them in their homes, singing, praying, and listening to them teach the Word to new believers is refreshing and good for the soul! It makes every moment spent with these dear people so very worth while.

Continued prayer

Roxana stayed home this time to recuperate and write her memories for a future book. Her love for teaching and the Mexican people never dims, and she prays that God will continue to use her wherever He puts her. Your prayers are so greatly appreciated and so needed during these years of transition. With God, all things are possible! ■



Eric with school participants.



Eric and Roxana

Eric and Roxana Ericsson were commended in 1988 by the assembly in Wideside, Hillsboro, Oregon.