

September/October 2014

Missions

Developing
Christian Authors in
Papua New Guinea

**New Missionaries
Answer Frequently
Asked Questions**

**Lessons Learned in
Bolivian Prisons**

**50 Years of God's
Faithfulness**



Thinking It Through

IAN TAYLOR

Depression and Burnout

Could missionaries suffer from depression or burnout? If they really depend on the Lord and have seen blessings in the work they do, how could depression or discouragement be a possibility? Didn't Paul state, "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline"? (2 Timothy 1:7) Is Paul saying here that hardworking Christians will have self-control and power to overcome depression? I like the explanation of that verse in the ECS Course, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus*:

This verse has often been used to teach that a Christian who is living close to the Lord should never be afflicted with any kind of mental ills. That, of course, is not a scriptural teaching. Many mental ills can be traced to inherited weaknesses. Many others may be the result of some physical condition that is not connected in any way with the person's spiritual life.

What this verse is teaching is that God has given us a spirit of self-control or self-mastery. We are to use wise discretion and not act rashly, hastily, or foolishly. No matter how adverse our circumstances may be, we should maintain balanced judgment and act soberly.¹

We only need to read some of the Psalms to realize that King David, a man after God's own heart, suffered from depression and despair (Psalm 13:1–2).

Christian workers are often so busy with the many demands on their time and energy that they don't have time to relax and recuperate their strength. Along with this busyness, other areas may be neglected, such as quality time with their family. Often they feel guilty if they are not continually busy doing something related to the ministry. To take a weekend off to be with their family is almost unthinkable. "What would the local believers think if they knew we were relaxing at a beach for a few days?" "What would the supporting assembly think if they knew we went to see a soccer game or spent money on travel to get away?"

Missionaries in particular need to prioritize their responsibilities so that they're able to take time each day to be in the Lord's presence to read the Word and pray. The family and marital relationships need time, energy and spiritual understand-

ing so that family life can be a major part of their testimony to those whom they serve. Sufficient time needs to be spent with their children so that they will not feel neglected and build resentment against the parents' busyness or the country they live in.

Sometimes, having many ideas and plans to help build the work comes from our own enthusiasm and desires, and we find ourselves carrying burdens the Lord doesn't want us to carry. We can become so adept at organizing, that we leave the Lord out and then wonder why we don't see the planned results. This brings discouragement that can often push us into trying to do more and more!

Waiting on the Lord opens the way for Him to show us His plans and purposes that will be far more fruitful. When we wait on Him and spend the necessary time in His presence, He will not only guide but give all the daily strength, along with spiritual and even financial resources, to accomplish His plans.

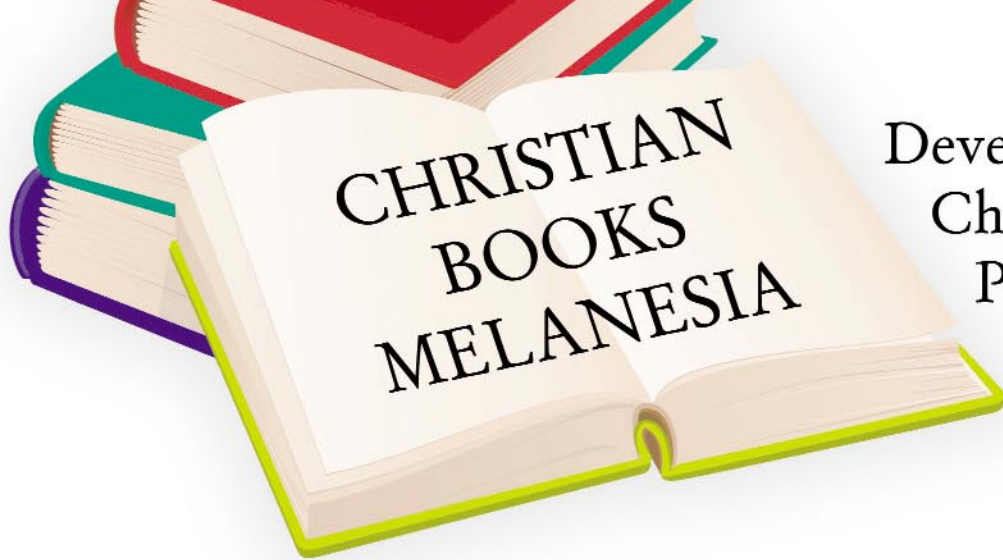
God told Jonah to preach judgment to Nineveh. But Jonah had his own plan; rather than preach to them and probably see repentance and forgiveness, he decided to run away. Because of Jonah's own willfulness, God brought him to the depths of despair. His stress and pain was God's way of bringing him to the end of himself so that Jonah would realize that God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8).

Jonah's near-death experience brought him back to the place of total dependence on God. He then could cry out to God, "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you." (Jonah 2:7)

Yes, there will be stresses and strains in the Lord's service, but by keeping our eyes on Him, making sure we give sufficient time to Him, our families, and the work He has called us to, we will find that He not only takes us through those times of depression, fear and confusion but will bring us into the blessings and fruitfulness that He has purposed for us.

Those of us who support Christian workers should encourage them to take time for renewal and refreshment, without fear of judgment. ■

¹ MacDonald, William, and V. Paul Flint. *The Letters to Timothy and Titus*. Dubuque, Iowa: ECS Ministries, 1962.



CHRISTIAN BOOKS MELANESIA

Developing Local Christian Authors in Papua New Guinea

BY REGGIE HOWARD

Christian Books Melanesia (CBM) is a remarkable work of God that has quietly impacted Papua New Guinea and other Islands in the South Pacific.

Back in the 1950s and '60s, the assembly missionaries (mostly from New Zealand, some from Australia, and the Wunschs from the USA) evangelized and church planted in very remote areas of Papua New Guinea where the literacy rate was near 0 percent. Assembly missionaries took the lead in developing literacy materials to help villagers learn to read and write in the trade language (*Tok Pisin*, commonly referred to as "Pidgin"). These materials were truly effective and continue to be used today around the country, and more than 200,000 people have learned to read and write in literacy schools using this curriculum. The missionaries also developed Bible study books, a New Testament commentary series, devotional books, topical books in the Pidgin language, and as English was taught in the schools the need for localized English books was also targeted. The demand for these materials and books grew to the point where they registered the publishing ministry as a not-for-profit organization and chose the name Christian Books Melanesia. Its ministry has spread around the country and the Pacific region. It continues to be truly an assembly ministry, with the entire board of directors made up of active assembly leaders.

Shortage of authors

In 2008 I was invited to attend CBM's annual general meeting. The discussion turned to the need for new books, the shortage of authors, and the fact that none of the books (apart from a pamphlet and compilation of short stories) were written by Papua New Guinea believers. All agreed that the need for training local authors was very obvious and should be addressed. The discussions went on to how to provide this, and the way forward was not clear at all. So they asked me to head up this new ministry oppor-

tunity, and in the directors' meeting the next day they endorsed the idea and set a budget for me to work with.

Help me, Lord

I was lost—excited about the opportunity of seeing believers trained, but lost as to how to go about it. The two difficulties were to identify the right people to train (resources were limited) and to develop a suitable training program that would be effective in developing these potential authors.

It was close to furlough time for my family and me, so the second difficulty could be addressed while I was away (I enrolled in a master's degree program). The first difficulty was solved by running a nationwide Christian Writers Competition, complete with prize money for the top three entries. We advertised through the two national newspapers and the competition started while I was away on furlough. We had no idea what responses we might get, but it seemed to be a good way to find Christians who were interested in writing and had the skill and discipline to do a reasonably sized piece of writing (everyone seems to think that writing a book is easy until they actually try it).



Participants eagerly working on an intensive writing assignment.

The Lord began before us

We were really pleased with the response to the Christian Writers Competition. There were more than 80 entries. About half of them were good enough for us to invite the authors to our training workshops. Several of them were so good that with a little more work they could be published as books—three are in print now and six shorter articles were put together and compiled into a book. We learned that God was already preparing some of His people to be Christian authors for this region of the world; we just had to step up and join His movement.

Developing God-given talent

With this good start, we organized weeklong training workshops in three regions of the country. The 60 men and women who have participated in these intensive workshops are remarkably diverse. They include farmers, store keepers, journalists, accountants, teachers, lawyers, a university professor, Bible school teachers, pastors and elders. All of them have been eager to learn; I can hardly finish explaining the next writing assignment and they have pen in hand ready to dive into it.

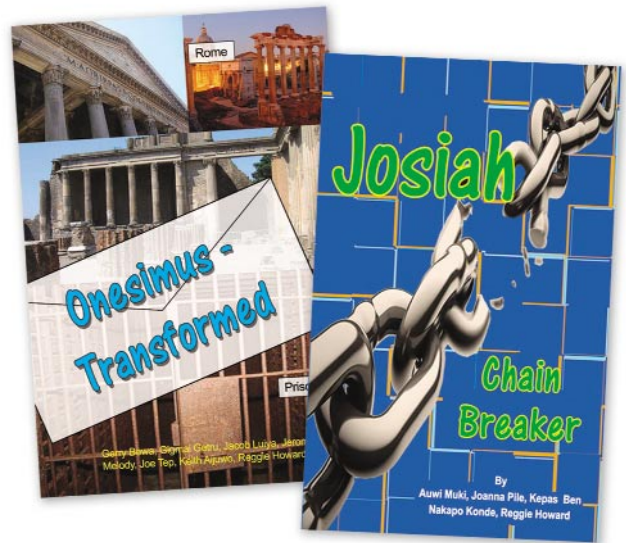
Immediate fruit

These are the foundational workshops. The advanced workshops require smaller groups, invited out of the pool of those who did well in the first round. In the advanced workshops we work together on a writing project. We choose or are given a topic and then discuss what needs to be researched and thought out and how to work together in producing an actual book. In the first of these we chose to study King Josiah. There were five of us, staying at our family home in Wewak, working tirelessly morning, afternoon and night for seven days (Susan catered for us extremely well). None of us would have gotten very far on our own, but by discussing everything as a group, pool-

ing ideas and insights, and seeing this as a truly collaborative effort, a good book was formed in a week. The title of the book is *Josiah—Chain Breaker*. Later, six men and I met at Goroka in the highlands region and did the same thing, this time studying the little book of Philemon. The men instantly caught on to the letter's backstory, the need for Paul's mediation, and so many other aspects. I was amazed. We planned the book out in rough form, but they were unwilling to divide up and have different people write different parts of the book. They insisted that we do each step together. After the first day of this I had to drop out as a writer and became a full-time editor, compiling their work into cohesive chapters and sections. It was a truly remarkable experience and this collaborative effort also turned into a book titled *Onesimus—Transformed*.

Broader fruit

Apart from these two books that came out of writers' workshops, there are already six other published books written by PNG authors, and manuscripts keep coming in. The Lord has given valuable insights to His people here that much of the rest of the world is lacking—insights into spiritual, relational, and biblical matters. PNG exports



From Left: The first writers' workshop held in the capitol city, Port Moresby; Intensive instruction on communication theory with the book of Jonah used as an example of excellent writing; Group writing the book, *Josiah—Chain Breaker*.

much gold, copper, natural gas, vanilla, cocoa, coffee, fish, timber and other natural resources to the rest of the world, but more importantly it is now starting to export spiritual riches through the writings of God's people here.

Some of these books are available as e-books and can be downloaded anywhere in the world. They can be found at Amazon (Kindle), Apple, Barnes and Noble (Nook), Kobo, and other e-book retailers. They can be searched using their titles: *Josiah—Chain Breaker*; *Onesimus—Transformed*; *Groping for God*; *Jesus has Defeated Satan*; and *Living Your Dreams*. You can join us in praying that these books can reach into difficult places where the Gospel is not welcome. Pray that lives will be touched for eternity, and may God receive the glory in everything. ■



Reggie and Susan Howard were commended from the assembly in Federal Way, Washington, and Des Moines Gospel Chapel, Des Moines, Washington.



From Top: This Wewak group earned the "most improved" award. All the groups have been wonderful; Six men from this group reconvened later and wrote the book, *Onesimus—Transformed*.

MAY WE INTRODUCE

Drew Woodhams • Missionary to the Philippines



Greetings! I was saved at the young age of six, while attending Skyland Bible Conference. At the end of the last children's meeting the leader invited anyone to come forward and accept Christ as Savior, as the Spirit was working in their lives and if they had come to the conclusion that they were sinners and needed the Savior. And, praise the Lord, He saved me!

I currently teach strings and audio engineering to missionary children at Faith Academy in Manila, Philippines. Founded in 1957 by assembly missionaries, Faith Academy provides Christ-centered education to kindergarten through 12th grade students and is made up of about 80 percent missionary kids and 20 percent local Filipino children. Most of the MKs live with their parents who are involved in various works in the surrounding area, but room and board is available to students whose families are located in other parts of the world.

I was called to missions earlier this year when I heard of

Faith Academy's need for a strings specialist through a missionary newsletter to our assembly. I then contacted the missionary family there in the Philippines and received more information about the position and the processes that were involved. As the Lord continued to lead, He provided an opportunity for me to visit Faith Academy in April to get an idea of the work I would do there. It was my prayer that during that trip the Lord would make it very plain to me whether or not I should continue to pursue the opportunity. As He always does, He answered my prayer and made it very clear that this is what He would have me do.

Besides my already existing responsibilities, I hope to begin a young men's Bible study with students from Faith and to get opportunities for the strings department to play in the community. It has been truly astounding to see Him working in all of this as well as make the process move so quickly! ■



New Missionaries Answer Frequently Asked Questions

BY JEREMY AND SONJA BASSETT

Since going on the mission field earlier this year, we've received lots of various questions from people regarding our new life here in Burundi. Because of this, we decided to answer some of our most frequently asked questions.

Q: What do you normally eat?

A: We eat differently from how we ate in the States. In the States I, Sonja, loved to cook and would make all kinds of things. But cooking here is more of a chore—something to fit in because we have to eat. We typically eat rice with beans or lentils for lunch and then soups, vegetables, meat, and so on for supper.



Q: What's the weather like?

A: In my opinion the weather is beautiful! It's between 85 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit most of the time. Dry season has just begun so dust has taken the place of rain, and water availability has decreased.



Q: How do you get around?

A: We mostly use the motorcycle we bought not long after getting here. There is a car that we can use (we don't own it) but we don't use it much. There is also "mass transit" which moves "en masse" around



the city. I will occasionally take a bus with a friend but not regularly. I walk quite a bit too. I have two language routes which also serve as errand runs. One takes me to a market very close by and the other takes me down the street to some kiosks.

Q: What is challenging?

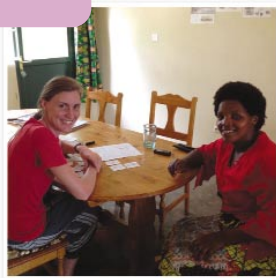
A: Ants—ants are challenging. It's dry season now and they're looking for water, so guess where they've taken up residence—my kitchen! I can't walk in there (even after I have cleaned) without finding lots of ants crawling on the counter-top. And I can't leave the kitchen without feeling ants on my arms. Yes, the ants are challenging. But I'll get over it! I won't get into all of the challenges lest you feel like I'm complaining, but I'll give two more. First, the church meeting on Sunday is a three-hour straight, loud and hot endurance. One of the things I love about Burundians is their ability to live through a week of surviving (for many) and then come to church with enough energy to sing, clap, and dance in worship to their Creator and Provider. I'm not Burundian and not used to this, so for me it's headache-inducing. Second, it's challenging to be a muzungu (white person) and always be watched, called out to, and just simply treated differently. It's challenging to not be just a normal person. As our coworker Casey said after my photo was taken unbeknownst to me at a pool, "Being a muzungu gives you a small glimpse into what life would be like as a celebrity." None of us enjoy the extra attention, but we must keep in mind that God has us living here for a reason and to just let it be what it is.



From top: Typical Burundian food; Dry season in eastern Burundi; Us on our motorcycle. **Right:** Sunday morning at a Burundian assembly (Jeremy preaching with Parfait interpreting).

Q: What do you enjoy?

A: I enjoy lots of things! I enjoy Madame Leopold who loves to have me buy beans, peanuts, and wheat berries from her; she always greets me with a huge smile and is so patient as I practice my Kirundi. I enjoy buying toilet paper at the "Blue Container" because the lady there thinks my Kirundi is hilarious. I enjoy riding with Jeremy on the motorcycle. I enjoy our teammates and the many conversations and



laughs we have together. I enjoy my language helper and her five kids who are becoming dear friends. I enjoy getting emails from people back home

with bits of news. I enjoy the goats that pass by our house several times a day. I enjoy little Ella, our employee's daughter. I enjoy the smiles when I speak Kirundi to a Burundian. I enjoy stepping out of Africa and into Europe for an hour as we enjoy a coffee and pastry at the Belgian café. I enjoy visiting our neighbors and learning to play their version of Mancala, which includes my fingernails getting packed with dirt since the holes are depressions in the ground and the playing pieces are large black seeds. I enjoy all of the sunshine, the countryside, the mountains and the lake. I could go on, but it might get tiring for you to read!

Q: What is it like having an employee?

A: I don't really like having an employee. I feel like I have a guest that I'm ignoring! I sometimes feel like she will judge what I do. For example, if she is doing laundry and I'm sitting on the couch reading, I feel like she will think that I'm a lazy American who sits around while she works. But I must keep in mind that she is really thinking how great it is that she has a good paying job. In Burundian culture nearly everyone (not just westerners) is expected to employ at least one per-

son—you're considered selfish if you don't. And there are so many unemployed that a person with a job is truly glad for it!

Q: How are you doing emotionally?

A: Well, it depends what day you ask! Some days are great; other days are rough. Rough because I feel like I'm getting nowhere in Kirundi, I burned the rice, another person asked for money, and my attitude through it all was rotten. But those days are occasional and I would have similar days in the States. I think, for the most part, we are pretty good emotionally. If I sit and think about my emotions I find that I miss family, friends, and things that are familiar. Oh, and my independence! I can't jump into the car and go somewhere on my own.

Q: Have you been sick because of being in a new country with different germs?

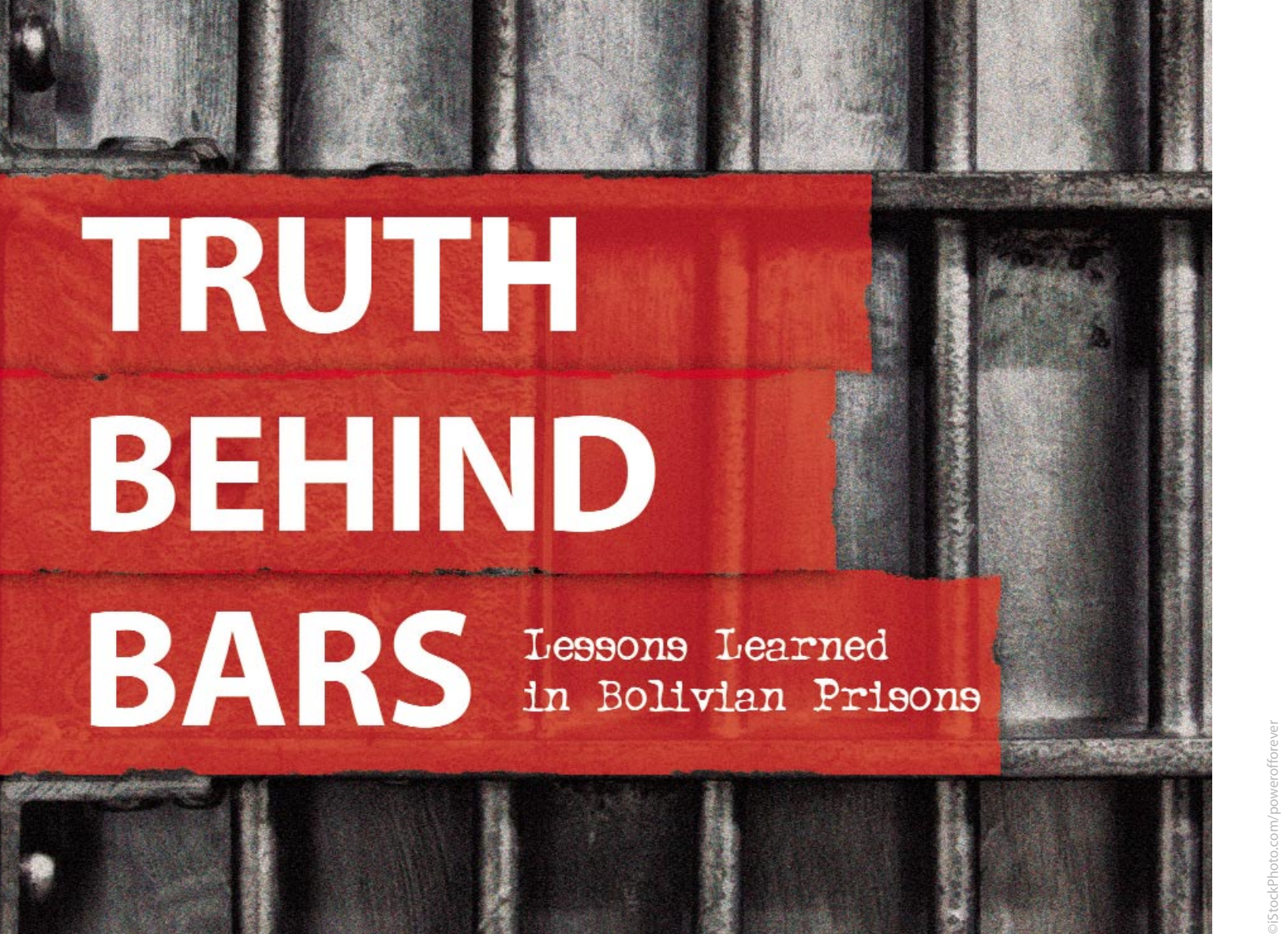
A: No, we haven't been sick except for the time we foolishly ate leftovers that had been around too long. We feel great except for needing more rest! We easily sleep 8 hours most nights and even then often don't feel rested. This is due to several reasons. We are learning a new language: we were told at our training that when intensely learning a new language the body needs two additional hours of sleep. We are in a hot climate which quickly tires a person. Everything is new; being constantly surrounded by new things stimulating our brains is tiring.

Thank you for your encouragement!

Thanks for reading a long list of frequently asked questions! We appreciate each of you and we really enjoy hearing from you. We can't promise an immediate response, but please know that your emails are enjoyable and encouraging to us! ■



Jeremy and Sonja Bassett were commended in 2010 by the assembly in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, and in 2013 by the assembly in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.



TRUTH BEHIND BARS

Lessons Learned
in Bolivian Prisons

BY WENDY SCHULZ

Before God called me to share His love in prisons, there were truths in my head that had not yet reached my heart. Here are some truths that have come alive for me in the last 12 years of prison ministry.

GOD CAN USE YOU

God can use anyone who is willing. 1 Corinthians 1:27 says, "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty."

Many people would see Bertha as uneducated and poverty-stricken, yet God has used her to start a prison ministry and see many come to Christ. Luz is an elderly woman who, as a relatively new believer, began visiting a prison and continued doing so well into her 80s. Elizabeth is a woman with a difficult past. She suffered with an alcoholic husband, abuse, and mental health issues with one of her children. She told the Lord He

would have to call her by her full name if He wanted her to visit the prison. One day a policewoman showed up at her spa with a letter from a prisoner. The letter addressed her by her first and last name and was from the barber who had cut her children's hair in the past. He was in prison, and he pled with her to visit him. She remembered what she had told the Lord and began visiting this man. She is now a spiritual mother to many others in the prison.

GOD WILL ENABLE YOU

In 2 Corinthians 12:9 the Lord told Paul that "My strength is made perfect in weakness." I am an introvert and was extremely shy as a young person, yet I feel no fear when visiting violent prisoners in maximum-security prisons. 1 John 4:18 says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear." God pours His love into our hearts and there is no room for fear.

Have you felt that God is asking you to do something for

Him? If He asks you to do something, He will enable you to do it. It was hard to understand why God would call me to visit prisons as I seemed like the least likely candidate for the job. The story of Moses's call to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt has always struck a chord with me. Moses pleads with God to send someone else! Yet God enabled Moses, and he is remembered as a great leader, not because of his ability, but because God was with him.

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear."

I John 4:18

GOD LOVES THE BROKEN

In entering the spiritual darkness of a prison, I discovered that just a small thing, like a hug, could shine a light that could lead someone to Jesus, the Light of the world. Some young men in the prison were involved in Satanism. They gave a visiting pastor a drink that had been poisoned. God preserved his life, and we went back to visit these same young men. At the end of our time together I felt God guiding me to give one of them a big hug. When I looked into his face, there were tears running down his cheeks. That was the beginning of his breaking free from Satanism and turning his life over to Jesus.

Some people who are involved in prison ministry seem to think that God sends us to reach the few prisoners who are worthy. However, I discovered that Jesus really meant it when He said, "For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Matthew 9:13) Over and over God seemed to guide me to the most hardened criminals. One young man was described as "human garbage" by another prisoner. Later he unsuccessfully tried to commit suicide and then turned his life over to Jesus.

GOD HEARS AND SETS FREE

As it says in Psalm 102:19–20, God hears the groans of the prisoners. One day God sent me to the punishment unit to see a young man who had recently been imprisoned. When the guard took him out of his cell, I told him that God had sent me, that God loved him whether or not he was guilty and that God hadn't forgotten him. He fell into my arms sobbing as he told me that he had been about to take his life due to feeling that there was no hope for him. He began reading the Word of God

and was used to share the Word with other men in the punishment unit. He was eventually exonerated of the charges against him.

The psalmist says, "Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!" (Psalm 142:7) This is the cry of so many prisoners! God is not limited to freeing them from their guilt and shame, but, in many instances, He literally brings them out of prison. One young man had two 30-year sentences, which is the maximum sentence in Bolivia, and also another 15-year sentence. He was so depressed; it seemed totally impossible that he would be able to get out of prison. The Lord worked on his behalf, and he was released from prison after only 10 years.

GOD BLESSES

Jesus told a story about the end times. Those who will enter His kingdom will say to Him, "When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'" (Matthew 25:39–40) Jesus said that when we visit someone in prison we are visiting Him! Returning to Bolivia after the death of our 18-year-old son, I remember a believer in a church I visited responded to my grief with a long list of advice, but when I visited the maximum-security prison, the men took me in their arms and cried with me. Jesus ministered to me in an incredible way in that prison.

GOD IS WITH YOU

In the past 12 years ministering in prisons, I have learned the importance of keeping our eyes on Jesus. Hebrews 12:1–2 it says, "let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus...." "When entering a prison, we enter enemy territory. If we focus on what the enemy is doing we will be overwhelmed and tempted to give up, but we can run with endurance if we keep looking to Jesus. There is joy in knowing He will make all things right, and, that as we serve those in prison, we are serving Him.

So, get involved in what is on God's heart. Be His hands, His feet, His voice. He will use you. Do not be afraid; He is with you!



Wendy and Jurgen Schulz are commended from Oak Bay Gospel Assembly, Victoria, British Columbia, and Elim Gospel Chapel, Courtenay, British Columbia.



Celebrating 50 Years of God's Faithfulness

EVERYDAY PUBLICATIONS INC.

BY MARK BEACH

In the Old Testament, the 50th year was referred to as the "Year of Jubilee." It was a major event on the Jewish calendar—a 365-day thanksgiving celebration. It was a time set aside to reflect on God's goodness over the past 50 years, to give thanks for His faithfulness, and to return to one's inheritance, in order to prepare for the next 50 years.

This year, Everyday Publications Inc. (EPI) is celebrating its jubilee year with the theme, "Thanksgiving—Ebenezer and Jehovah-Jireh!" 1 Samuel 7:12 says, "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us.'" For 50 years He has guided and provided, enabling EPI to send millions of books about the Bible around the world!

"Jehovah-Jireh" was first spoken by Abraham in Genesis 22. When Abraham saw the thicket-entangled ram that he could offer in place of his beloved son, Isaac, his grateful heart could not help but exclaim, "Jehovah-Jireh!" literally meaning, Jehovah will see to it, the Lord will provide. This is our assurance for the future: whether the Lord is pleased to continue to use this ministry for another 50 years or 50 days, He will indeed "see to it" and provide all that is needed.

Ebenezer: Thus far the Lord has helped us

EPI was founded by Dr. R. E. Harlow and his wife Gertrud in 1964, initially to help provide Bible-study materials for believers in Africa. Gertrud recounts:

Soon after we were married I remember telling Ed about the need for simple Bible commentaries for the Congo believers and that I had hunted through bookstores for something not too westernized, not too deep doctrinally,



for which I would be able to get permission from the publisher to translate—without success. I asked, 'Would you be willing to write a simple commentary in English which I would translate into Swahili?'

He replied, 'I think I have a tiger by the tail!' And indeed he had! He wrote a small commentary on Genesis in Everyday English that I translated. That was really the beginning of EPI and Ed did not let go of that tiger tail until the Lord called him home 39 years later. Perhaps some day the Lord will reveal to us how many lives were touched by this ministry.

Dr. Harlow, co-founder of Emmaus Bible School and Emmaus Correspondence School, championed a method of writing that he called Everyday English. From that single title on Genesis, the work has grown to include a complete set of commentaries on the entire Bible in Everyday English as well as more than 250 titles in standard English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Congo Swahili.



Gertrud realized that most books are written at the academic level of the author. This isn't a problem for those in developed countries who are well educated and have English as their mother tongue. However, this can be a big problem for those who know English as a second or third language, or native English readers whose comprehension is limited due to a lack of education, or those new to the Christian faith who are trying to firmly establish themselves in the fundamental doctrines of the faith. Dr. Harlow's development of Everyday English, which expresses thoughts in concise sentences that clearly explain the author's message, helped to solve this problem. Since it has a "common language" method of construction, it's easier for missionaries to translate an Everyday English title into the language of the people in their field of service. To date, assembly missionaries have translated more than 80 of our Everyday English titles into more than 60 languages around the world.

The Harlows' story is told in *No Time to Quit*, published in 2000. Ed was promoted to glory in 2003. Today, Gertrud continues to labor at Park of the Palms in Florida. In true Harlow fashion, she has shown that she still has no time to quit—or even (willingly) slow down! She was past her 80th birthday when the Lord laid it on her heart to undertake a complete revision of the Congo Swahili Bible. The Lord was truly her "Ebenezer" on this project, resulting in almost 90,000 Bibles being printed and distributed in Congo. Her current "retirement" project is to translate William MacDonald's *Believers Bible Commentary—New Testament* into Congo Swahili. Matthew through Acts was completed in 2013 and 3,000 copies were safely shipped to Congo. Now 89, she has almost completed Romans through Colossians.

Left: The Harlows in the late 1960s. Right: Finished books

Jehovah-Jireh: the Lord will provide

The Lord has indeed “seen to it” that EPI would have everything we needed to meet the needs of God’s people and servants He had entrusted to us. Gertrud recalls how the Lord provided the necessary workers:

Another thing that has amazed me throughout the years is how the Lord Himself called others to share in this ministry. Almost no one was formally invited. They just came, called by the Lord and commended by their assemblies. Even after Ed’s ‘graduation,’ when it looked as if this ministry would fold, the Lord sent more, and younger, and very well-equipped workers to join the team. And so the blessing continues to spread and increase in other language areas as well, with the most valuable help being the volunteers who assist in the print shop and the faithful prayers and support of God’s people. Amazing! Only our wonderful Lord can do it.

The Lord has provided modern, digital printers that allow our print shop to function as a print-on-demand (POD) operation. This means EPI can format and typeset our books electronically, store them as computer files, and then send a file to one of our digital printers and only print the quantity needed at the moment. POD allows us to print cost-efficiently without unnecessarily tying up money in inventory.



Almost 25 years ago, we felt the Lord directing EPI to offer our books free of charge to assembly-commended missionaries and national workers overseas and to offer them to workers in Europe and North America at the deepest possible discount. Again, the Lord has “seen to it” that we have never had to say, “No.”

Only the Lord knows what the future holds for EPI. The printed page will always have a strategic and vital place in the Church’s ministry and the fulfillment of the Great Commission. But what other ways could EPI use to distribute good books about the Bible to even the world’s most inaccessible areas?

Above: Color printer

e-books? Flash drives containing libraries of books? Intriguing possibility. Missionaries, workers, leaders, please tell us how Everyday Publications can best format, publish, and deliver the Word of God and other books in your sphere of service.

The time is short. The world needs the Word. We have no time to quit and no time to lose! ■



Mark and Gail Beach were commended to the work of Everyday Publications in 2006 by Northeast Bible Chapel, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mark serves as executive director (on-site administrator) while Gail serves as the EPI bookkeeper.



Above (L-R): EPI folk in 1984; EPI staff and volunteers in 2009.



Left (from top): EPI office in Port Colborne; Skids of books; Skids of EPI books ready for shipment from Port Colborne.

MAY WE INTRODUCE

Mark & Christy Ferguson Missionaries to Moldova



Mark's Testimony

I grew up without Christ. Through my teenage and early adult years, I was battered by sin. But God in His grace had a plan for me. During my junior year in college, a classmate shared the Gospel with me. It was the first time that I could ever recall hearing it. My heart embraced the wonderful news of God's gracious gift of salvation by faith in Christ, and I was gloriously set free from my sin and made new in Him. I had many things to learn as the world had been all that I knew; God, His Church, and His Word were all brand new to me. I didn't know much about Him yet, but I knew that giving my heart and life to Him was the right thing to do. After joining my first church and being baptized, I had a great hunger to learn more about God. I had lived so long without Him and I deeply wanted to build the rest of my life on the foundation of His Word. So I left my home and job to attend a Bible college in West Virginia. This was a time of great learning as God faithfully began to strip away old thoughts and patterns and replace them with His truth. In February of my second semester there, at our missions conference, I made myself available to God to serve Him however He might choose to use me.

Christy's Testimony

My dad left our family when I was just two years old, and my early life was filled with many great challenges. The speaker at a church that we visited one Sunday talked about sin and salvation. I remember feeling genuine conviction and sadness over my sin and truly desiring to be cleansed and saved. I believe that I truly trusted in Christ that day, but I had little access to discipleship. Without consistent leadership and accountability, I succumbed to many of the world's pressures and temptations. When I was a junior in high school I started to attend a youth group with some friends at a nearby church. I quickly developed a deeper understanding of God and His

grace, and I recommitted my heart and life to Christ. After high school I had a great desire to learn more about God and His Word, so I enrolled in a Bible college. At a missions conference in February 1996, I committed my heart to missionary service.

Together

Shortly after that missions conference, Christy and I developed a friendship that was founded on our likeminded commitment to make Christ first in our lives. After some time we began to discuss the possibility that God might use us together as a team. After much prayer and counsel, we trusted this to be God's will and were married in 1997. We pursued foreign missions after college but felt that God was not giving us clear guidance to a foreign field. However, God began to birth in us a vision to serve unwed pregnant teens in a home setting. This vision came to fruition as God opened an opportunity for us at a ministry in Raleigh, North Carolina, called Christian Life Home. After five years of service there we sensed that God was directing us to focus on the development of our own growing family. I took a job as a physical therapist while Christy focused on the education of our four children (Conner, Micah, Carli, and Anna). Two years ago Christy and I sensed that perhaps change was on the horizon and that God was inspiring our hearts again toward foreign missions. We agreed that this was the desire of our hearts and committed to praying for that very thing. Since that time He has continued to burden our hearts, clarify our vision, and provide an answer to our prayers. In August of this year we transitioned to Zirnesti, Moldova, to serve with a ministry team there called CMIAid where we will serve in the local assembly and develop an elder-care ministry and nursing home through which we will share the Gospel and minister the love of Christ. ■