

Missions

Cross-Cultural Work
in **Canada**

30 Years of Service
in **Uganda**

Report on **IBCM 2019**

Practical Thoughts
on **Giving**



BY ALLAN WILKS

The Gift of Giving

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And thereby put Me to the test, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” (Malachi 3:10, ESV)

When I was younger, I was in the habit, copied from a dear friend, of putting my weekly offering check in my Bible. I would insert it near the end of the Old Testament, on the page containing Malachi 3:10. When the offering was collected, I would open my Bible to retrieve the check and be thrilled, yet again, with the tremendous promise in that verse, the promise that God will “open the windows of heaven” and “pour down for you a blessing” to such an extent that “there is no more need.”

We serve a great God Who desires to drench us in blessing in order to satisfy all of our needs. Jesus points out in Matthew 6 that this same God feeds the birds and clothes the grass, so of course, He would want to do much more for us.

But this great promise is preceded by a command, “bring the full tithe into the storehouse.” The tithe was an integral part of Israelite society, in which it was expected that everyone would contribute 10 percent of their goods to the Levitical function within that theocracy. That the Israelites had drifted away from this practice was part of the reason that Malachi prophesied against them.

The promise of blessing tied to the command to bring in the full tithe seems to drain the promise of some of its wonder, turning it into a dry, economic transaction. Indeed, in modern times, this has often been the case, with preachers promising wealth in return for generous donations. This is far from what God is communicating through His prophet. God is not a financial investor to whom we entrust our wealth in expectation of a good return. In fact, God does not need any of our so-called wealth. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, says Psalm 50.

Here is the mystery of the full tithe: although there is great blessing in receiving from God, there is even greater blessing in

the act of giving. How can this be? There are many reasons this is true; here are just a few:

First, and perhaps most important, experiencing the sacrifice of giving leads us to a deeper appreciation of what was involved in the Father’s giving His Son as a sacrifice for sin. We will never fully plumb the depths of this great act, but practicing generosity will help.

Second, not only do we understand God’s love better, but we become more like Him as time goes on. In 2 Corinthians 3:18, the apostle Paul says that we are being transformed into the image of the Lord; our giving is one way that the Holy Spirit is accomplishing that. As we yield to the consistent practice of giving, He gradually turns our sinful, selfish hearts into loving, compassionate hearts.

Third, we learn contentment. Paul, in Philippians 4:12, says he knows “how to be brought low” and “how to abound.” He learned how to prevent life’s riches from having a grip on his heart, either in desiring them or in possessing them. He learned where his treasure truly lay, and in so doing, he experienced peace and joy in his life.

Howard Grose beautifully summarizes the blessing of giving in the words of this familiar hymn:

Give of your best to the Master;
Give Him first place in your heart;
Give Him first place in your service;
Consecrate every part.
Give, and to you will be given;
God His beloved Son gave;
Gratefully seeking to serve Him,
Give Him the best that you have.

Dearest Lord, thank You for giving us the gift of giving. Help us to see how precious this gift is. Help us to offer to others, with open and generous hearts, the resources You have given us. Help us to give up that which was never ours so that Your name might be glorified to all those around us. ■

Allan Wilks, CMML vice president, technology.

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A Cross-Cultural Work in Canada

Sharing Christ's Love with Indigenous Peoples

BY BECKY KEW

The Lord sent me to Sandy Bay First Nation about 13 years ago. My heart was burdened for the people with regard to the many suicides that were happening among the youth. Where I serve, the people are primarily Ojibway, and the community has a population of more than 6,000, with the majority of the individuals on welfare assistance. Often misunderstood and overlooked, indigenous peoples are precious to Christ, and He desires that they know His love and salvation.

In school

In 2006, God opened the door for me to share the Gospel at the only school on the reserve. I spent 11 years at the school, which had an enrollment of about 1,500 students, and taught approximately 24 gospel classes per week for first through eighth grades, with occasional opportunities in high school. These years were full of teaching the youth about the Lord Jesus and singing with them. Sadly, resistance from one individual happened from time to time, and rumors spread. Eventually, I was asked to stop teaching the Bible at the school. The Lord shut the door because He was about to open a new area of work for me.

At the Good News Center

While teaching at the school, I ran a drop-in center, the Good News Center (GNC), on the reserve and have continued operating it since then. Presently, GNC opens during the fall and winter months and is closed through spring and summer as it is located in the local skating arena. On the Monday, Tuesday, and occasional Friday nights that I open GNC, I have a wonderful time visiting with the local youth and giving them opportunities to be busy with good things. They enjoy activities, like Ping-Pong, while munching on snacks.

Over the years, several teens professed salvation, and some were baptized. However, continuing in their faith is difficult for them as their families don't offer much encouragement. Because the tragic history of the residential schools across Canada and the US confuse first peoples' understanding of Christianity, many ridicule the youth for trusting the Lord Jesus. Please pray for the teens as drugs and alcohol are ruining precious lives.



From top: In 2006, Becky began teaching the Bible in the reserve's school; At Biblicious Day Camp, kids play a game with water balloons.

At the Meeting Place

For the first 12 years in Sandy Bay, I spent all of my time with the youth at the school and at GNC, so I didn't get to know the adults well. A foundation was laid, and the Lord paved the way for me to reach out to adults too. During the turbulent time of leaving the school, a local businessman offered me a building to use for my work. The offer was a complete surprise to me, but it was a voice from God during a difficult time: He still had work for me to do, despite the division that was happening on the reserve. The building was an answer to prayer since I longed for a place that was separate from the reserve's troubles yet close enough for the residents to find help and for me to share the Word with them. The businessman arranged a lease for five years for \$1 per year! In this building, which is located beside the only grocery store in the only town five minutes off the reserve, I run a second drop-in center called the Meeting Place.

The building is a perfect place to meet and visit with adults and families. The Meeting Place helps to address physical needs by giving visitors clothing and food, and we distribute literature and hold various outreaches from the building. I offer coffee times periodically throughout the day and often open the clothing depot and provide craft projects during those times. On Thursday evenings, we host a midweek outreach, at which we eat supper together and watch a Tribal Trails video (TribalTrails.net), hearing the testimonies and music of indigenous people. In the fall and winter, one of the elders from the local assembly helps with this gathering. A Sunday-night outreach also started at the Meeting Place, and 10 to 15 adults attend. Currently, we are studying John, and we have started singing together too. With the van the Lord provided, we pick people up for these outreaches because transportation is a challenge for many of them. On the days that I can't, my neighbor Paul, who rejected me and the reserve once but now is saved, baptized, and in fellowship at the local assembly, drives the van. It's a brand-new work of building trust all over again and forming new relationships. On Sunday mornings, I drive to my local assembly and often

bring one or two visitors from the reserve with me. Please pray for this outreach, that God would move the adults' hearts and save them for His glory!



At kids' club and camp

When I am not at the Meeting Place or the Good News Center, the Lord has given me two kids' clubs to work with. Biblicious Kids' Clubs meet at Sandy Bay and at Ebb and Flow, a reserve about 40 minutes away, for two hours after school once per week. I gear the content and activities to kids in fourth through sixth grades, and local teens often help me prepare the snack and lead the craft. The kids' clubs wrapped up for the year at the beginning of June, and I held the 13th annual Biblicious Day Camp at my home in July. With one week designed for kids and another week for teens, the day camp runs from 1:00 to 7:30 p.m., and activities like Bible time, swimming, singing, crafts, and verse memorization keep the children and teens busy for the two weeks.

Through social media

I am very active on Facebook, using it as a ministry tool. A presence on Facebook is a great way to build trust, as the youth and adults of Sandy Bay and Ebb and Flow can see how I spend



Above: Whenever possible, Becky invests in quality one-to-one time with the teens. **Right (from top):** Throughout the day, people from the community gather at the Meeting Place for coffee and conversation; Midweek and weekend outreaches, which include watching gospel movies, attract people from the reserve.

my time, and it's an effective way to reach those who would not normally talk to me in person or come to the Meeting Place. Under the Facebook name "Becky RD," I post verses and encouraging words, updates on the community, details on special events, and information about day-to-day activities. When I am able, I also share live videos about God's way of salvation. In response, many comment on or share my posts, creating good interaction. Quite a few of the local people, who are often up all night because they are unemployed or do not attend school, send me messages late at night asking for help or answers to their questions.

In the community

I also distribute literature and set up gospel tables in the winter and summer at various indigenous events, including powwows, hockey tournaments, and musical events. The powwows used to be quiet, with only a few coming to my table, but now that people know me, many come, shake my hand, and take literature. I provide bags for them, and they fill them up with literature. I've met indigenous people from other provinces who received literature from someone who stopped at my table!

Starting 10 years ago, the Lord opened the door for me to write a bimonthly column for a local, gospel newspaper called *Indian Life Newspaper*, and I distribute the paper to the people I see. With an emphasis on the Gospel, I cover topics that include spiritual life, human struggles, and current events.

I am very weak but willing to be used in a work to people who are often misunderstood, carry much pain, live with the tragedy of the past and present, and suffer from addictions as a result, in some cases. I need wisdom in every area of my life as I reach out to the people of Sandy Bay and Ebb and Flow and my unsaved family members. Please pray that God will bless the activities of this ministry and that the Gospel will reach the people as I spend time with them. Pray also that the Lord will send help, in some way, for reaching out to the adults and youth. I pray that God will raise up men and women within the community who have hearts to do His will and turn to His Word to be lights to their own people. With God all things are possible! ■



Becky Kew is commended by Portage Gospel Hall in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.



Above: Like those at Sandy Bay, the children at Ebb and Flow have fun making crafts at kids' club. **Below (from top):** Biblicious Day Camp offers local children positive activities like singing and memorizing verses; At local events, including powwows, Becky shares the Gospel and distributes literature.



Home with the Lord

José Teri

September 10, 1936 – December 24, 2018 • Missionary to Argentina



José lived his life loving his Savior, faithfully serving his Master, and teaching and preaching God's Word everywhere he went. With maternal grandparents who were commended missionaries from Germany, José was born into a Christian family in Argentina. He accepted Christ when he was 16 years old and was baptized four months later. José began sharing the Gospel with the unsaved through a group of believers in his local assembly. They would go to the nearby villages in Tucumán Province every Saturday and Sunday in the afternoons to preach the Gospel at open-air meetings or gather in believers' homes. Over the next few years, he felt led to pray for Ecuador as he considered full-time missionary work in that country. But the Lord had other plans for him.

During his compulsory year in the army, the Lord called him to full-time work in northern Argentina, which he began at age 20. In June 1959, Calle Córdoba Assembly in Tucumán commended him, and in 1977, 14 other assemblies from northern Argentina commended him. While speaking at a conference in Orán, he met June Pevitt, a commended Canadian missionary. They married on December 12, 1959, and eventually, they had nine children—five boys and four girls.

José's passion was teaching and preaching the Word of God, the Gospel of salvation found only in our Lord Jesus Christ, and trusted that God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, would bless each seed planted. José had a special love for the people of northern Argentina. He had a commanding voice and a preaching gift that engaged his audience regardless of their status in life. José visited almost all the assemblies in northern Argentina and 12 assemblies in Bolivia, teaching and preaching God's Word. He became known as "Don José" or "hermano José,"

and some called him endearingly "Don Daddy."

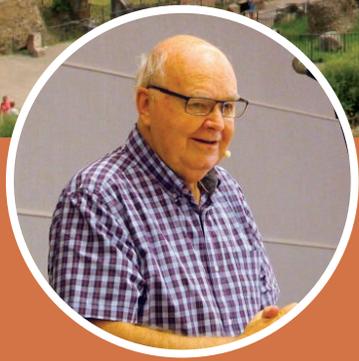
José and June began their work together in Perico in the province of Jujuy, and then, they moved to Metán in the province of Salta. José and June started a radio program that aired six days per week for five powerful minutes in the morning. People would pause their work to hear the message. José also had a good singing voice, and besides singing himself, he taught many to sing hymns to the Lord with June accompanying on the organ or piano.

We, José's children, hold dearly a couple of things about our dad: He loved the Lord with all his might, and he preached the counsel of the Lord fearlessly and faithfully, which never changed. Both of our parents had an unwavering faith that the Lord would provide for their every need. We witnessed this through the years and share this beautiful legacy today.

Nearing his last days on earth, José longed to go home to be with the Lord and to see June again. He was so excited that he would be there soon. It was a happy, contagious thought for all of us! We miss him and Mom dearly but know we will be together again. What a joy-filled blessing we share in knowing the God of creation, the God of eternity, the Savior of the world, the Comforter Who walks and talks with us every day!

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age! Amen." (Matthew 28:19–20)

Nora Teri



IBCM 2019

Believers Unite for a Common Mission

BY THOMAS SCHELICH

The seventh International Brethren Conference on Mission (IBCM) convened outside of Rome, Italy, from June 24 to 28, 2019. The conference meets every four years and has grown dramatically since its start in the 1990s. With the theme “engaging with the world and its needs,” this year’s conference welcomed nearly 1,000 Christians with involvement in Brethren missions and featured attendees from 122 countries. Members of the boards and staff from CMML and MSC Canada represented their organizations and participated, and some presented. Also in attendance were several commended workers from the US and Canada whom CMML and MSC serve and ministries that partner with the two organizations, including Believers Stewardship Services, Biblical Eldership Resources, Emmaus Bible College, and Legacy Ministries Canada.

Growing together

Each day held scheduled times of song and prayer, plenary sessions, afternoon workshops, and evening missionary reports. Most of the conference was in English, but the songs and prayers, which praised, worshipped, and thanked the Lord, were offered in many languages, creating a truly international experience. Giving a one-hour presentation each day, Dr. John Lennox of Oxford University was the featured speaker. His talks, designed to give the listeners confidence in the factual and intellectual basis for their conviction, focused on apologetics and defending the faith. He emphasized that believers have not a “blind faith” but a faith that is supported by evidence from science and history.

Other scriptural presentations followed each morning and emphasized the effective working of the church in today’s

Above (top): Ruins surrounding the Roman Forum. **Above (bottom row L-R):** Focusing on apologetics, Dr. John Lennox addresses conference attendees; Fares Marzone, the IBCM chairman, encourages listeners to make disciples for Christ; Joel Hernandez, a CMML director, shares with conference attendees while Mark Rogers (MPH Day 22) interprets.



world. The workshops covered a wide range of practical subjects, including outreach to those of other religions, church planting, women's ministry, gender identification, church discipline, and effective preaching. Mission reports focused on a different part of the world each night, with missionaries sharing inspiring stories and current needs.

Encouraging one another

In between the meetings, Christians talked, networked, or met in groups of particular interest, and all enjoyed the fellowship of those drawn from every part of the world. Attendees discussed new initiatives, formed new partnerships, and renewed old contacts. Much good can be expected to come from the bonds formed during these times.

One of the most productive and encouraging aspects of the conference was the growth and maturity of the developing missionary service organizations (MSOs). Historically, MSOs formed in English-speaking nations to service missionaries who came from "sending countries" and went to the majority world. Today, the mission field has changed, and it is now "from everywhere, to everywhere." New MSOs from Argentina, Romania, Papua New Guinea, and other nations are growing in strength, confidence, and influence. The conference demonstrated that the Brethren missions movement is global and expanding.

Renewing the vision

As the conference progressed, three general themes developed. First, presenters exhorted churches to engage the world

actively and take the Gospel into their communities confidently. According to Dr. David Henry of Jamaica, churches need to move from invitation to infiltration, from preaching the Gospel at meetings to taking the Gospel into every aspect of society. Churches are using current social issues as both doors for involvement and opportunities to show Christ's love.

Second, discussion circulated on leadership within the local church and on the transition of leadership to the younger generation. The speakers strongly affirmed the truths of the plurality of elders and the priesthood of all believers, but within that framework, they presented different models of leadership. They also discussed the importance of transferring responsibilities from sent missionaries to nationals to sustain the mission work.

The third theme that developed was the church's response to the historic migration of peoples that is happening today. While political leaders are adjusting national policies, many churches throughout the world are working to show Christ's love and to present the Gospel to those who are part of this migration. The very size of it is daunting, but churches and missionaries are rising to face this great human need.

The conference concluded with a message from Fares Marzone, IBCM's planning committee chairman. He emphasized that the church does not have multiple missions; rather, it has one mission: to make disciples for Jesus Christ, always remembering the work He did and always looking for His return. The next IBCM is already anticipated as we continue in the work of that mission. Visit IBCM.net to learn more. ■

Thomas Schetelich, a CMML director, attended IBCM.

Top Row (L-R): CMML and MSC workers joined to fellowship with one another; View of Rome, the location of IBCM. **Bottom Row (L-R):** Nearly 1,000 Christians learned, worshipped, and fellowshiped together; Sara Raju, Paola and Dan Pasquale (MPH Day 13), Jeanne Lipsi (MPH Day 20), and Joe Raju (CMML director) chat together; Karin and Bernd Flock (MPH Day 10) and Sharon and Jim Fleming (MPH Day 28) catch up between sessions.



How Shall We Then Give?

Practical Ways to Practice Giving

BY ALLAN WILKS

As noted in “Thinking It Through” on page 2, God expects that we, His people, will “bring the full tithe into the storehouse.” (Malachi 3:10, ESV) He wants to bless us with the gift of generously giving back to Him a portion of what He has given to us. The idea that giving is itself a gift transforms it from a duty to a delight as we realize that we are materially participating in God’s work around the world.

God’s greatest project in the present era is to build His church (Matthew 16:18), so this project is arguably our best investment as we think about how to give. It is a great privilege to be connected directly to this work; in fact, we become participants in it. In addition to being blessed ourselves, those who receive from us are encouraged, as are those to whom they minister.

Giving intelligently can be hard work. Once we have decided to be generous with our finances, we find that there are numerous ways to do this—far more than we can satisfy. So how should we give?

Local assembly

The nearest opportunity I have to give to God’s great building project is in my own assembly. In addition to money, the assembly offers avenues in which to invest other resources that I have as I consider how to give time and talent to build up and encourage the people in my own congregation. Many assemblies give to missions, so a viable option is to give to my assembly’s missions fund; this gives the assembly an opportunity to join together in supporting missions.

Individual missionaries

Thinking more broadly, I may wish to personally become a financial contributor to missionary work elsewhere in my city or country or, indeed, the world. There are many ways to do this, and CMML can help as it supports the work of more than 700 missionaries. The *Missionary Prayer Handbook* (MPH) and *Missions* magazine are great resources to learn about the ministry of specific workers. I can ask the Lord to single out missionaries as I study their work and countries. Often, this leads to encouraging and fruitful communication with them.

Specific projects

As I pray for guidance in giving, the Holy Spirit may direct me to a missionary project (such as a school, hospital, or building project) that I have become aware of through the magazine, social media, or perhaps a friend. It’s a great idea to contribute to such a project as it bonds the giver to a particular structure or event associated with a missionary.

Special funds

While the blessing to the giver might be greater when the gift is directed to particular missionaries or projects, sometimes choosing these can seem daunting. CMML’s Where Needed Most fund is dispersed monthly, according to need, to missionaries listed in the MPH. Other funds are used for missionary children’s education, refocused missionaries, and various disaster relief efforts. CMML itself relies on gifts for its own expenses,

including the production of the magazine. Special funds are listed on this page as well as on the CMML website, CMML.us.

Global reward

Choosing how to give can be a difficult task, but there are many resources to help. In the end, the effort is greatly rewarded with the satisfaction of being part of a vast symphony of giving, directed by the Holy Spirit Himself. This symphony is the building of the church “so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:27, ESV) ■

Allan Wilks is CMML's vice president, technology.

How to Give through CMML

Once you've decided to give through CMML, there are three methods to do so: check, credit card, or electronic funds transfer. If you are located in Canada, you can give to missions work through CMML's sister organization, MSC Canada (MSCCanada.org).

CHECKS can be mailed to CMML. Make checks payable to Christian Missions in Many Lands, not to a missionary or project. Then, on a separate piece of paper, write the missionaries, projects, or funds for which you suggest the gift.

CREDIT CARD gifts can be given conveniently through the CMML website, CMML.us/donate. There, you can suggest the missionaries (some are not listed due to security concerns), funds, or projects to which you want to give. Please note that there is a three percent credit card fee.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT) is a great method when you give to the same missionaries or funds each month. You simply fill out an EFT form, and then CMML deducts the specified amount from your bank account monthly. Contact CMML any time to initiate or update your EFT.

Special Funds to Support Missions

CMML has several funds set up for specific projects. These funds allow you to become involved in missions in different ways. CMML's sister organization, MSC Canada, has similar funds. You can learn more about those at MSCCanada.org/give-now.

DISASTER RELIEF

In the event of a natural disaster (e.g., earthquakes, floods) or a man-made disaster (e.g., war, conflict), you can suggest gifts for the Disaster Relief fund to provide assistance to those in need. Funds are managed by missionaries located in or near to the areas affected.

MISSIONARY PROJECTS

CMML's website lists many specific missionary projects such as schools, hospitals, Bible translation efforts, building construction, ongoing disaster relief (such as Middle Eastern refugees), and more. Visit CMML.us/projects for the complete list.

MISSIONS MAGAZINE

Published 11 times per year, *Missions* is provided free of charge to US subscribers. Your gift to the *Missions* Magazine fund contributes to the magazine's production, printing, and mailing costs. Each subscription costs CMML approximately \$25 per year.

MK EDUCATION

Established in 1968, the Missionary Kids' Education Assistance fund helps defray the educational expenses of missionary kids through high school. While the fund does not meet their total educational costs, it is a blessing to missionary families each year.

OPERATING EXPENSES

CMML does not charge for the services it provides—100 percent of your gift goes to the missionaries, projects, or funds you suggest it for. Therefore, CMML relies on gifts suggested for its Operating Expenses fund.

REFOCUSED MISSIONARIES

The Refocused Missionaries fund is used to help retirement-age workers who have returned from the mission field or remain there with limited involvement. Recipients are 65 years of age or older and have served on the mission field for at least 10 years.

WHERE NEEDED MOST

Each month, CMML distributes funds to missionaries with the greatest needs. This is determined by various factors, including cost of living, current needs, and the amount of donations the missionaries received in recent months.