

A young child with short, dark hair is sitting on the ground in a rural, outdoor setting. The child is wearing a light green short-sleeved shirt and a blue wrap-around skirt. They are looking off to the right with a thoughtful expression. The background shows a dirt ground and a simple structure made of mud and wood.

October-November 2010

Horizons

Please pray
for the ministry
in Ivory Coast,
that we would
love as Jesus
loved, serve as
he served and
give hope to all
those we have
the privilege
to meet.

CMF in
Ivory
Coast



Reggie Hundley

Editor, HORIZONS
& Executive Director,
Mission Services
Association

We welcome your letters to the editor. Letters no longer than one typewritten page are more likely to be published. Include your name and address on all correspondence. Only signed letters can be printed. Letters may be edited for the sake of length and clarity.

E-mail: editorial@missionservices.org



Editorial

A word from the past ... “Trifling”

When I was just a boy, my paternal grandmother employed some rather unique colloquialisms. She had grown up well away from a city and on the farm. One of the terms I remember Granny Hundley using was “nairn.” I recall her saying, “I ain’t got nairn.” Perhaps some are familiar with this rural southern contraction for “narry a one,” which is also a colloquial expression referring to the fact that she did not possess the object of the discussion. I do not mean to cast aspersions about this great woman of faith. I loved her dearly and still have fond memories of her home and her commitment to Christ’s church.

Recently, I came across another of her terms that I have never used, “trifling.” In his book *A Sweet & Bitter Providence*, John Piper wrote, “One of the great diseases of our day is trifling.” (Page 84 in the iBooks version, Crossway Books, 2010) While this word is seldom employed in modern conversation, and even less in formal print, I found it quite descriptive. I remember Granny telling all the children running around the house that we should quit “trifling.” I was never quite sure of her exact meaning, but I knew that we were doing something she considered inappropriate. Piper was quite clear that he believes the church, an institution and a collection of individuals, currently trifles our time away with trivial pursuits and activities.

In *Transformational Church* (2010 B&H Publishing), Ed Stetzer and Thom Ranier describe churches that are truly making a difference in their community. The authors begin by admitting many congregations are stagnant and suffering, but they offer hope because there are congregations thriving and lives are still being transformed by the power of the gospel. They urge readers to notice that these transforma-

tional churches were *focused* (emphasis mine) on the God-given mission of the church, while the congregations struggling have their mission confused with the maintenance of programs and activities. (Kindle version location 172ff).

These two books were written for very different purposes, but I found it interesting that both refer to our human penchant for focusing on trivial activities rather than the vital purpose of things. The goal of the church is to transform lives into the image of Jesus Christ. Though the church (as a whole) might be struggling, the church is vital and to be cherished. Upon the confession first uttered by Peter, Jesus said he would build his church. It is the only institution with the charge from God to go forward making disciples. This is nothing short of doing everything we can to see that lives are transformed.

We must be careful that we do not “trifle” our lives away as the body of Christ. We must be careful that we do not confuse our mission of transformation with the implementation and maintenance of programs. If a program (be it Bible study, missions, women’s ministries, men’s ministries et al) serves the purpose of transforming lives “into His likeness with ever-increasing glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18), then the program serves a mission. May we never be guilty of “trifling” with life because we value the existence of a program that has long since lost value. You think about that!



Horizons

September 2010

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HORIZONS is a mission-oriented magazine of the undenominational fellowship of the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ. Mission Services, as publisher of HORIZONS magazine, publishes articles written by field missionaries rather than staff writers. We believe this offers a clear image of the variety of opinions that exist between missionaries within the historical Restoration Movement.

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Coming Events

NOVEMBER 12-14

Eastern Christian Convention

The Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania

Theme: It's All About Jesus

President: Joe Wilson, Fork Christian Church, Fork, MD

Contact information: Eastern Christian Convention
410-836-6102
info@easternncc.com / www.easternncc.com

NOVEMBER 18-21

National Missionary Convention

Lexington Convention Center/Rupp Arena, Lexington, Kentucky

Theme: Harvest of Hope

President: David Linn, Caracas, Venezuela

Contact information: David Empson
317-539-4231 / david@nmc-windows.org

MAY 23-24

Forwarding Agent Conference

Johnson Bible College, Knoxville, Tennessee

Theme: The Work of the Forwarding Agent -- Yesterday,
Today, and Tomorrow

Contact information: Gerald Mattingly
865-251-2349 / GMattingly@jbc.edu

JULY 5-8

North American Christian Convention

Cincinnati, Ohio

Theme: unleashed: the church turning the world upside down

Contact information: North American Christian Convention
513-772-9970 / www.gotonacc.org

OCTOBER 6-9

National Christian Convention of the Deaf

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Theme: "different"

President: Chad Entinger

Contact information: Deaf Institute
3515 Warsaw Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45205
www.nccdeaf.org

Focus A Small Cocoa Farmer, A Tailor, and A Roadside Vendor

by Andy Gable

A small cocoa farmer, a tailor and a roadside vendor: three people when encountered on the street appear unassuming, their stories like many others'. Three people who struggle to make a living in a politically unstable country stricken with poverty. And yet, these are three people whose life-stories testify to the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Cocoa Farmer and a Tailor

DAVID N'DRI is a cocoa farmer who also raises rice and corn during the off-season . . . all on less than two acres of land. David works hard, as his leathery hands attest. He often tries to find other ways to make extra income to support his family. He is a good man, a loyal husband and a giving neighbor and does nothing half-



Rice fields in Abengourou.

hearted, giving himself fully in all that he does.

David grew up in a Baoulé family deeply rooted in fetichism (use of amulets, charms and sacrifices to nature spirits). He, more than any of his siblings, took serious its practices and participated in the various ceremonies. His interest in the spiritual realm intensified and during his teenage years he dedicated himself to the teachings and practices of Buddhism. He fervently practiced meditation seeking to find both peace and insight from the spiritual world. Though David could bear witness to Buddhism's real connection to the spiritual world, he openly testifies that a far greater power is found in faith in Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit.

David came to faith in Christ through his relationship with a missionary in the early 90's. He gave himself to his new-found faith with an even greater intensity than before. He soon entered the mission's leadership training program and began



David N'Dri with CMF missionary Brian Hauser following David's graduation from our leadership training program.

teaching and preaching regularly. In 2006, David graduated from the pastoral training program. He not only serves as his local church's pastor but has also participated in numerous evangelistic outreach programs and as a church planter. He now heads up the Association of Christian Churches in Ivory Coast's Evangelism Committee. He does all this without receiving a salary, continuing to live off what his fields provide.

NESTOR ASSAMOI grew up living solely with his Agni father, a cocoa farmer who practiced animism (spirits and ancestral worship). Describing Nestor as a timid child is an

understatement. Folks from his home village say Nestor never used to speak . . . never. Many thought him to be “a little slow,” including his own father, and some even thought he was mute. He started attending church with a neighbor at a young age and quickly became one of its most faithful attenders.

Following his schooling (he completed Jr. High), Nestor, now in his teens, began training as a tailor. A few years into his training, Nestor’s father died before he had finished his training. And though Nestor should have inherited his fields, they were given instead to his uncle. The once well-paying tailor trade became a way to scrape by a living as the once affluent Ivorian economy collapsed.



Nestor Assamoi doing some of his tailoring.



Nestor preaching.

Along with his struggling tailoring business, Nestor often made it by on the occasional handout from members of his church family.

Nestor gave his life to Jesus when he was a teenager and began taking some of the Bible courses. He developed a real hunger for God’s Word and continued taking other leadership training courses. His unbelieving father, also doubting his son’s abilities, said the day his son speaks before the church will be the day he believes in Jesus and starts attending church. To the surprise of many, Nestor did begin teaching and preaching, though his father never made good on his promise dying soon after his son

started participating in the teaching ministry of the church.

Today Nestor is now married with a young son. Last year he graduated from our pastoral training program and now serves as the Associate Pastor in the Abengourou Christian Church. He receives a small part-time salary from the church (though he often works full-time hours) and still does some tailoring on the side to support his family. He has been involved in several church plants and serves as a regional director of leadership training. Though he is still soft-spoken in regular conversation, you would never know it by the way he preaches with passion and conviction.

Later this year David and Nestor will be serving together in a new and exciting church planting venture here in Ivory Coast. While many churches have been established in southern and eastern Ivory Coast, the northern and western regions of the country largely remain unreached. These two church planters will move to the Béoumi region to initiate a new church planting movement, launching four new churches in a region that sits as a gateway to the north and west of Ivory Coast. Please pray for these two men as they have the wonderful opportunity to spread Good News of Jesus Christ to those who have not heard. Though they might not seem



Nestor following his graduation . . . posing with family members.

impressive through the world's eyes, the Bible reminds us that, "beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."

A Road-side Vendor

Sometimes she sells cold water on a hot day. Other times she sells banana chips or even cheap medicines. She does not seem any different than the many other vendors along her road, and in many ways her story mirrors theirs: similar struggles in paying rent, putting food on the table and having enough to send kids to school; familiar battles with various sicknesses and diseases; the same family issues and relationship problems. But her story does not merely focus on the challenges of life, but the hope found within.

Her name is Fatou Kagambé. She grew up in Abengourou in a Djoula-speaking Muslim family. They are small-plot farmers, producing just enough to feed their family and sometimes a little extra to sell at the local market. She grew up amidst the many challenges facing those living in poverty. Fatou first met the Christian missionaries when her nieces started going to the mission's clinic for juvenile diabetes. She became the Djoula language partner and a good friend of one of the missionaries.

Fatou's desire growing up was to have her own family to take care of.



Fatou.

Like many other African women, she found herself in an abusive relationship, just hoping for a family to love and be loved by. Finally she married and now has two children. However, life was still very hard, often living day to day on her husband Noufou's small salary and her little bit of revenue, coupled with Noufou's history of making poor choices (drinking, fidelity, etc.). They struggled and all the while several missionaries continued to encourage them and reach out to them with God's message of hope.

Finally in early 2007 Fatou and Noufou found the peace they earnestly desired. A peace not found through Islam nor the riches of this world, but in faith in Jesus Christ. Life is still hard, but they now know

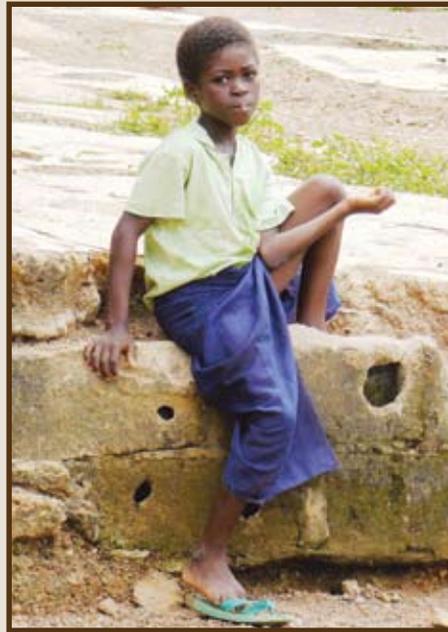


Fatou, her husband, Noufou, and their two girls, Aicha and Grace Miriam.

where to turn during hard times. One of those hard times was discovering that both Fatou and Noufou along with their youngest child Miriam Grace were HIV positive. Though it shook their young faith, they have found their solid footing in their hope in the life Jesus gives.

Later this year the mission will be reaching out to an area of Abengourou hit hard by poverty called Cocoterrain. It is primarily comprised of Djoula-speaking Muslims.

Fatou will serve as part of a team reaching out to the people of Cocoterrain through Community Health and Evangelism (CHE). We hope to empower the community with the skills and resources to break the cycle of poverty, helping them discover the peace they earnestly seek by also offering them true peace found in Jesus Christ.



A young girl from Cocoterrain.

Three different people, with three very different stories, yet one heavenly Father who made each of them unique; calls them his children; and set them apart for His purposes. Many would see them as “the least of these,” but like all his children, God regards them as his masterpieces. ***“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:10 NLT)***



Everyday life.



Carpenters at work.

CMF International's ministry in Ivory Coast focuses on helping both individuals and communities find holistic transformation in Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus healed both the body and the soul, we seek to impact our communities by caring for the whole person. We also firmly believe in the importance of multiplication. Whether it be in church planting, CHE or the medical ministry, we seek to train not just workers, but fellow trainers and partners in ministry.

We continue to mentor the Association of Christian Churches in Ivory Coast, planted among the Agni and Attié people groups, in their church planting and leadership training programs. We also reach out to



A grandmother holding her precious granddaughter as they sit in the waiting area of the PIM clinic.



Dr. Kouka with a child at the PIM clinic.



A mother and child in the waiting area of the mission's PIM clinic.

Djoula-speaking Muslims, seeking to make disciples through Chronological Bible Storytelling. The CHE ministry empowers both churches and community leaders to tackle obstacles within the community, while also sharing God's message of complete transformation. Our pediatric clinic ministers to the under-served of Abengourou and also serves as the center for pediatric AIDS care in the Abengourou district. We care for more than 1,400 patients who are HIV positive.

David, Nestor and Fatou are just three of the wonderful people God has called to serve alongside us.



Our son, Clay, playing with some of the local children.

There are countless others whose stories inspire us to continue the Lord's work in Ivory Coast. Please pray for the ministry in Ivory Coast, that we would love as Jesus loved, serve as he served and give hope to all those we have the privilege to meet. God is moving powerfully and we want to ride the wave of his active grace.

Contact info:

Email:
gablecmf@hotmail.com

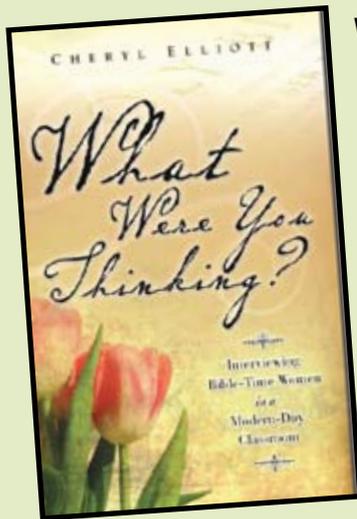
CMF's website:
cmfi.org

Andy's Blog:
gablesinivorycoast.blogspot.com

Facebook:
Andy Stephanie Gable



Cole Bonifacius (CMF intern) at his host family's courtyard.



What Were You Thinking? . . .

- . . . Eve, as you tasted the forbidden fruit?
- . . . Sapphira, as you lied about the money?
- . . . Mrs. Lot, as you glanced back at Sodom?
- . . . Hannah, as you left Samuel with Eli?
- . . . Martha, as you tattled on Mary?

What were these women thinking? You might be surprised to learn that these Bible-time women may have had thoughts that would be hard to distinguish from those of modern-day women.

In these pages you will meet thirteen Bible-time women through a casual visit in a contemporary, small-group setting. Interviews with these women bring their previously black-and-white lives into vivid, living color as you get to know them more personally and begin to feel their heartstrings tug a familiar pull on your own.

Thirteen lessons! Included with each 20-minute interview are 6 group discussion questions.

Ladies in the local church, are you searching for a way to bring the lives of women of the Bible to life in your small group?

Missionary wives serving on foreign fields, are you struggling to find a way to help the women you are witnessing to see themselves in the pages of scripture?

OR

Perhaps you're interested in a book where you can just sit back and enjoy visiting one-on-one with women who lived thousands of years ago.

If so, then this is a great resource for you!



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plus \$4.00 s/h



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or

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"Universe Lost", "The Thought That Counts", and "The Principle of the Thing" — This trilogy is the result of more than 40 years of work by the late Dr Stuart Cook. These books are especially important in these times in which cultural groups are interacting as never before. World evangelism requires that we have the ability to formulate strategies that are understandable and will lead those with non-Biblical cognitive styles into an understanding of God's truth.



We are at war! But this is one war where the only proper stand is total commitment on the right side and unswerving dedication to the absolute defeat of every power or personality which opposes the purposes of God. "Warlord" is the latest book by the late Dr. Stuart Cook and was completed the day before his untimely death. Reserve your copy now!

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TCM . . . TCMII is looking to fill two full-time positions at the Heiligenkreuz, Austrian campus by March 2011.

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Send resumés and inquiries to Tony Twist (tony.twist@tcmi.edu).

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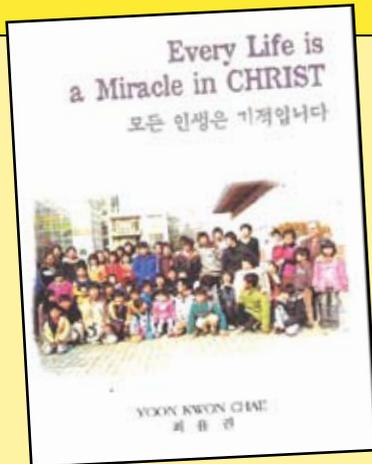
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Chae's latest book

About These Books: Experiences and inspirational stories of over 45 years of ministry among refugees, orphans, and forgotten lives in Korea and in the deserted areas of the world. You will laugh and cry with the author.

About the author: A graduate of San Jose Christian College and Lincoln Christian Seminary. Founder of Korea Christian Gospel Mission, Seoul Christian University, Geon Christian Children's Home, Braille Christian School, Radio and Prison Ministry.

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Focus on Prayer Needs & Praises

McKinley Indian Mission, Toppenish, WA

- Please pray about these on-going concerns for the reservation and families at McKinley:
 - addiction to alcohol & drugs
 - dysfunctional families
 - need for quality foster care
 - high suicide rate among teens
 - gang activity & violence
 - legal issues
 - on-going health concerns among many members of the local congregation

Around the World

- Tony Twist (TCM International) asks us to pray for their students from Muslim-dominated countries. Some have faced interrogation, scrutiny, and even imprisonment as a result of their acceptance of Christianity.
- Please pray for the family and coworkers of Eunice Messersmith (PBT-PNG) who recently lost her battle with liver cancer.
- Rick & Suzanne York (Dominican Republic) ask us to be in prayer about a new church plant in the town of Higüey.
- Freeman & Carolyn Bump (Mexico) request prayer as they were not able to host work teams from the US due to extreme violence in Juarez. Please pray that tension will ease so work teams can continue next summer.
- North Haiti Christian Mission reports that the force of voodoo is strong. They ask our prayer that many church leaders will not fall to its temptation.

Afghanistan

- Pray for the families of the 10 aid workers recently killed.
- Specifically pray for Charles & Mary Beckett (minister, Woodlawn Christian Church, Knoxville, TN). Their daughter, Cheryl, age 32, was one of those aid workers.
- Pray that the people of Afghanistan and their political leaders will be able to work toward peace.
- Continue in prayer for aid workers and military personnel who continue to serve in Afghanistan.

Pakistan

- Please pray for the struggling people during this time of escalating financial, religious, and extremist crises.
- Pray for God's hand of protection over Saleem and others speaking out on behalf of Christians and other minorities when Islamic extremists are against them.
- Please pray for God's guidance in the completion of a much needed hospital in the Kasur area.
- Praise God for recent responses by numerous countries to this flood-ravaged country. Pray that this will be an opportunity to show God's love.

Celebrations

- Praise and rejoice with Mission Services as 2011 marks 65 years serving missions, ministries, and churches worldwide.
- Congratulations to Jim & Caranita Wolsieffer who will celebrate 40 years in Italy in 2011.
- South India Church of Christ Mission celebrates 60 years in India, having begun officially with Art & Ruth Morris and now continues under their son, David Morris.

National Missionary Convention

- Pray for David Linn (Caracas, Venezuela) as he serves as president of this year's 63rd NMC in Lexington, Kentucky.
- Pray for Jim Chamberlin, Teen Coordinator, who has undergone treatments for cancer. Pray that he will find strength and energy from the Lord to fulfill his duties for the NMC.

Africa

- Don Hulse (Mozambique) requests prayer for safety of seminary students, professors, staff, and colleagues. Rioting and demonstrations have resulted in several deaths and injuries with nearly 200 people arrested.
- Bob Sheffler requests prayer for the National Conference for the churches of Nigeria to be held in Calabar this November.
- Congratulations to Brian Jennings (Ghana) who is engaged to be married to Comfort Adjahoe in December.

Team Expansion

- Pray for VK as he teaches in Europe for 6 weeks.
- Pray for the health of Mary Lee Leazenby, mother-in-law of Dave Linn, president of the National Missionary Convention.
- Pray with Jorge & Diana Lugo for the registration and growth of the Impacto Church in Venezuela.
- Ask God to continue giving Doug Lucas strength, stamina, wisdom, and discernment as he serves as President of Team Expansion.
- Praise God with I & N that their financial debt of student loans was removed before they departed for Asia.
- Praise God with T & J that they have raised 100% of the support needed for their work in Asia.
- Pray with Rebekah Hannum in Venezuela for wisdom and strength for the leaders of the Casarapa church.

India

- Pray for good health for Richard Uriah, who was recently hospitalized with low blood pressure.
- Ajai & Indu Lall request prayer regarding a serious situation involving the mission hospital and a former employee. The ramifications of this incident could be serious. The mission is praying for God's intervention and help as they continue to boldly witness in the name of Christ. Pray for safety and security for everyone concerned.

Thank You!

MSA is grateful to the following individuals and churches who responded to our "65th Birthday Appeal." Your generosity has kept us going in the past and will help secure our future in these uncertain economic times. (Gifts received as of Sept. 30, 2010.)

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Every month, along with gifts from our supporters, come many handwritten notes of encouragement. We would like to pass along a few of those to help encourage our readers as well. These prayers and words of thanks are appreciated.

You're in my prayers.

--Kitty Barton, Billerica, MA

I am enclosing my contribution check . . . to help a little bit in your ministry. I wish I could give a dollar for each of your 65 years.

-- Mrs. Norma Jean Bauer, Boise, ID

Happy 65th! My husband, Harold, went home to be with the Lord in Nov. '07. We have supported you through the years. Wish I could send more, but hope this helps. In Christ,

--Faye Compton, Carmichael, CA

Dear Friends, you help so many missionaries; it is a privilege to help you in this small way.

--Cozad CC Missionary Ladies,
Betty Sweeney, Treas., Cozad, NE

I remember meeting Bro. Mac (Bill McGilvrey) when we stopped by Mission Services in Joliet as we were traveling in preparation to going to Japan. That was in the summer of 1953. Brother Mac introduced me to a south side Chicago church that he knew was looking for someone to support. That was the beginning of his support and Mission Services was there for us until we retired in 1999.

I can't begin to name the various ways that Mission Services helped us. My birthday is this month so tomorrow I will be putting a check for my birthday money and it will be designated for your birthday year. Also enclosed is a little something to help you along the way. Hopefully we will be able to send more a little later. In His name,

-- Ernest Faber, Japan/retired

Enclosed is a token, remembering all that Mission Services did for Harold and me while serving the Jamaica Christian Mission for 50 years. I will always be grateful for your help. My prayers are with you. Wish it could be more. Remaining faithful,

-- Adele E. Hill, Deltona, FL

Happy Birthday . . . and many more!

-- Richard/Alma Hoel, Greenwood, IN

Beautiful brochures!! Could you send me about 10 or 12? I'd like my kids to have one and a few people in the church here. . . . Best you have done yet. I am proud!

-- Adele McFarland, Placerville, CA

Keep up the good work!

-- Vinton/Rachel Ritchey, Joliet, IL

Happy Birthday! I'm asking God to continue blessing you and the work. Surely it won't take another 65. If Christ Jesus returns, may He find us working to reach the lost.

-- Josie Smith, Ligonier, PA

The small gift that hopefully will help you share the "Good News."

-- Martha J. Smith, Girard, PA

You are doing a fantastic job with Bana Uriah's newsletter and I'm sure many others too! God bless you. Love,

-- Merlin/Betty Walworth,
Roscommon, MI

Thanks for the work you do and making us aware of the service you do.

-- Julie Wentz, Aurora, CO

To all at Mission Services, I wish I could send more but just can't at this time. . . . God bless you all and the great work you are doing! -- Colleen Wiley, Grinnell, IA

Memorial

Beryl "Dean" Cary (1940 - 2010)



Beryl "Dean" Cary went to be with his Lord on Friday, August 6, 2010, at the age of 69. Memorial services were held at Compass Christian Church, 2600 Hall Johnson Road, Colleyville and also in Eagle Pass, Texas. Dean's ashes will be taken to Honduras, where he served the Lord the last 13 years of his ministry. In lieu of flowers, donations may be mailed to Lifeline Christian Mission, 184 Old County Line Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081-1034, or made online and designated to the "Dean Cary Memorial Project."

Dean graduated from Eagle Pass High School in 1959 and from Ozark Christian College with a B.S.L. in 1964 and a B.A. in theology in 1965. From 1968-1970, he did graduate work in Latin American history at the University of the Americas in Mexico City. Dean was an eternal optimist and always saw the good in people. He loved Jesus and walked with the Lord faithfully. He had a genuine love for all people and a passion for sharing Christ with them and spent most of his life preaching and ministering to the Latin-American people. He was featured in "Texas Monthly's" May 1985 issue for his coverage of elections in Mexico while working in radio and TV.

Dean was preceded in death by his mother, Frances Cary, and one sister, Martha Cary. Survivors include: Wife, Karen Cary; daughter, Ann Haskins (Marty) of Houston; daughter, Rhoda Lynn Perkins (Mark) of Cedar Park; daughter, Patty Evans (Matt) of Cedar Park; daughter, Cynthia Elliott (Casey) of Roanoke; daughter, Tracy Munford (Jason) of Fort Worth; daughter, Lisa Ciora of Keller; father, Harland Cary of Eagle Pass; sister, Phyllis Garza of Eagle Pass; brother, Tom Cary of Eagle Pass; brother, John Cary of Del Rio; 17 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and many loving foster siblings, nieces and nephews.

Gift

in Memory of:

**Cheryl Beckett
Afghanistan**

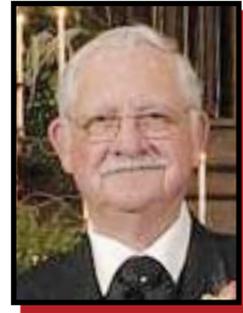
Given by:
Frank & Alice Baker
Knoxville, Tennessee

Please note that in the August issue of Horizons, Carol Kelley was misidentified. The picture that ran in that issue was actually that of her sister, Claudia Christiansen. We are thankful to Chuck for his generous gift in memory of his wife and offer our apologies to the Kelley and McFarland families for the error. Pictured at right is Carol Kelley.



Memorial

Riley Donica



The funeral services for Riley Donica were held in The First Baptist Church in Mena, Arkansas, on July 23, 2010. Estimated attendance was 600-700. Riley and Jane's grandchildren provided the music. Dr. R. Joe Wilson and Riley Christensen did the eulogy and Ben Merold presented the message.

Born and raised in the Kiamichi Mountains of southeastern Oklahoma, Riley made the rugged area the center of his ministry work. He was also a strong defender of the 2nd amendment, the right to keep and bear arms. "He was never intimidated by the fact that he lived in Nowheresville," his daughter Robin said. "He loved the land and he loved his guns and he was determined to stay the course."

Riley was the first student to enroll in Dallas Christian College in 1950. He ministered to Christ's Church in Zafra, OK, for 52 years. He was a part of the Kiamichi Christian Mission, which establishes churches over a 3,000-square-mile area of southeast Oklahoma and western Arkansas. Riley also served as Director of the Kiamichi Men's Clinic for nearly two decades. He established The Nation's Ministry, the Rendezvous, and operated the Wild Horse Trail Camp.

A licensed pilot, Donica flew all over the country becoming a well known speaker in the areas of politics and freedom as well as preaching revivals all over the United States. He touched the lives of 1000's. He provided pastoral and benevolent ministry in a large area of southeast Oklahoma and southwest Arkansas. The depth and breadth of his ministry was significantly under reported. The measure of a man cannot be fully ascertained till one measures the space that has been vacated. He will be missed greatly by his family and his friends.

While Jane was away in Nashville, Tennessee, Riley rode his horse to check out his 80 acres. He tied up his horse in a grassy place in the middle of a thicket, laid down, took his hat off, and folded his glasses into his hat. He was missing for 2 1/2 days. Hundreds on foot, horses, 4-wheelers, two airplanes, and one helicopter joined in the search for him. He was found when his dog Brusky came out to meet the rescuers. The horse was still tied and his dog had guarded him for 2 1/2 days.

Riley Donica died in the mountains he loved with his horse, with his dog, with his cowboy hat, with his gun strapped to his side, and with his spurs and his boots on. It was a storybook ending to a very unique and colorful life. Many who knew him, believe he may have scripted the whole thing; anyway it is a story he would have enjoyed telling. In Heaven Gabriel undoubtedly greeted him by saying, "Jane told you 'not to ride down on the 80 by yourself,' now look where it got you."

Riley is survived by his wife, Jane; son, David; daughters Cynthia Perkins, Sherry McKim, and Robin Wolaver; 17 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; brother Rod, and sister, Katie Donica.



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