

SEPTEMBER 2013

Horizons



Southeast Caribbe Mission, see page 6



Reggie
Hundley

Editor,
HORIZONS

and

Executive Director,
Mission Services
Association

editorial

Lessons Learned at Midnight from a Jail Cell -- People are Likely to Think We are STRANGE!

Allow me to begin by reiterating that I have never been in a jail cell at midnight. As I mentioned in the editorial previous to this issue, this is one of a series of editorials stating lessons learned from Acts 16:16-40. Hopefully these will resound with you as they have with me!

The time is midnight. There has been little sleep. There has been no medical attention provided. Recall the circumstances recorded for us immediately preceding, "The magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison." (Acts 16:22-23 ESV). It is an amazing mental image to capture. Two men singing while lying naked in a jail cell, bleeding from open wounds, nerve endings sending messages of excruciating pain to the brain, the stench and filth of raw waste surrounding them. Both surely knew even more pain and probably death awaited them shortly after sunrise, though they were innocent of wrongdoing!

In spite of all these circumstances, Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God, the very God whose service was the cause of their current situation. Can you imagine what the others sharing their surroundings thought of them? I am quite confident that their cell mates thought these men had lost total touch with reality. In all likelihood, most wished they would stop, and some may have shouted for their silence. Frankly, their cell mates probably thought they were out of their collective mind!

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

Those who are followers of Christ realize that Paul and Silas were in exactly the right frame of mind. Even though I can neither fathom nor want to experience their conditions, I know Paul and Silas were demonstrating the very way I need to respond to the difficulties of life. When all is bleak and the future is in doubt, I need to sing praises to the God who is in control of all my life for His glory.

Living a life that is counter to all the reasoning of the culture surrounding us is the picture of sanity. We should never expect non-believers to understand or agree. We often find ourselves frustrated with the rising tide of Western culture that denigrates and casts aspersions upon a Christian lifestyle. The proper question is, "Why should we expect those who do not follow Jesus to have any other response?" If the world thought Jesus was crazy, why should we expect anything less? Rather than be upset and frustrated when non-believers criticize our values and actions, we should be praising God for the opportunity to be light in the darkness. Paul and Silas chose that route, and it turned out well. May God give us the strength to be thankful the next time those who oppose Him accuse us of being "strange." You think about that!



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“Orvel, you are not too old to be a missionary for Jesus!” This sentence sums up my story. For years I turned my back on the Lord’s call in my life because of my lack of faith in His ability to make me adequate for His work. This article is my story about how I came to trust God as my All-Sufficient Provider and accept His call on my life. . . .

I am living proof that when God has a hold on your life, He will not let you go. You might let go of God but He will keep calling you back to His call for you -- even if you are hard of hearing! God confirmed His call for me over and over again while I struggled through college. I knew He had a plan for me and a job to do!

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2013

NOVEMBER 14-17

International Conference On Missions

Kansas City, Kansas

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NOVEMBER 15-17

Eastern Christian Conference

Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania

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410-836-6102 / info@easterncc.com

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2014

July 8-11

North American Christian Convention

Indianapolis, Indiana

Theme: reMission

2014 President: Tim Harlow

Contact information: North American Christian Convention

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SOUTHEAST CARIBBE MISSION



**Orvel &
Kandi
Griffith**

~
Missionaries,
Southeast
Caribbean
Mission

“Orvel, you are not too old to be a missionary for Jesus!” This sentence sums up my story. For years I turned my back on the Lord’s call in my life because of my lack of faith in His ability to make me adequate for His work. This article is my story about how I came to trust God as my

All-Sufficient Provider and accept His call on my life.

My story begins in 2000 when I retired at age 62. I knew that the Lord wanted me to return to an earlier mission call He had given me in 1960 when I gave my life to Him. He moved me to go to Barbados in 1960 where as a Bible college intern, I helped start several churches and build several buildings. God definitely showed me the needs of the island people and wanted me to continue to support the work there. But, like Jonah, I ran from His call. From 1960-2000 I developed other interests due to my disillusionment with the church. Instead of missions work, I entered into the telecommunications field.

So 40 years later, upon my retirement, God once more knocked on the door of my heart. How could He use me now? I was interested in following Him as a missionary; however, I learn best by working with my hands and feel intimidated by college requirements. I began to face my college fears and because I needed more preparation to teach on the mission field, I enrolled in some courses at a junior college in Fort Brag, California. I did O.K. in those classes. Perhaps the Lord was giving me the courage to face my fear of study? Then, in 2004, my wife, Kandi, and I attended a family reunion in Missouri and while there, we toured Ozark Christian College and the surrounding area. She and I talked all the way back to

California about how we could move to Joplin, Missouri, where I could attend Ozark for at least a couple of years. When we arrived back in California in early July, we decided to make the move and quickly sold a car, most of the furniture, as well as our house. Then with my mother-in-law in tow, moved to Neosho, Missouri, in order to enroll full-time at Ozark in January of 2005! Kandi remembers this move as the easiest one she ever made!

I am living proof that when God has a hold on your life, He will not let you go. You might let go of God but He will keep calling you back to His call for you - even if you are hard of hearing! God confirmed His call for me over and over again while I struggled through college. I knew He had a plan for me and a job to do!

In the summer of 2006, while at Ozark, I returned to Barbados for the first time since leaving in 1960. Kandi came with me and together we learned how much the people needed what we had to offer. The Lord rekindled a burning desire to return to Barbados and work with the people for the renewal of the Holy Spirit on the island. Instead of growing, the church was declining and their needs only grew for more churches and more leaders. I knew that I had a place in God's good work to help grow His kingdom in the Caribbean.

In May 2008, after three years of college, I completed the degrees I started so many years earlier and in January 2010, Kandi and I moved to Barbados. Like many missionaries, we had more enthusiasm than cultural knowledge but through the kindness of the



Jason and Orvel



Sunday morning class



Kandi's girls making earrings



*Discipleship class at
Ostin Church of Christ*

people, we came to know more about them and grew to love them.

The Southeast Caribe Mission is our small mission that exists under the leadership of one of the local pastors through his invitation to come to the island. Our ministry is one of leading Bible studies, teaching disciples how to disciple others, training leaders, and focusing our efforts to assist in future church planting opportunities.

Our work has been challenging. The people of Barbados are referred to as Bajan and their culture is a combination of British and African with much influence from American TV. The island was the first stop of the African slave trade to the American shores and the legacy of slavery remains in weak Bajan marriages and family life. The material that Kandi and I were using in our first classes seemed to not apply to this culture and attendance dwindled and at times was nonexistent. I began one-on-one mentoring and found that Bajan men had a difficult time expressing themselves with words and deep, meaningful conversations were foreign to them. They had to be taught how to be friends, how to sustain those friendships through conversation and time, and how to use those



friendships for spiritual growth. Additionally, transportation was a big issue. Not everyone has a car and bus service is unreliable. Just meeting together was a chore at times. Our car became vital in mentoring and discipleship. If people didn't have reliable transportation to the church building or homes that hosted Bible studies, I was committed to go out and meet with them during the week.

I found myself writing curriculum for the Bajan culture from scratch. I focused my curriculum writing on classes dealing with discipleship, stewardship, and leadership that I believed would apply to this culture. Satan frustrated our attempts to start up classes at every turn. I spent many laborious days writing lessons over and over again trying to find the right way of communicating God's truth in a relevant way to my island brothers and sisters.

Finally, when the training was moving the people forward, we experienced car trouble. I believe that Satan will hinder the Lord's work in any way possible and the loss of our car made individual mentoring almost impossible. We rely on God's gracious provision in our lives and through the generosity of a number of people in the States, we now have a different vehicle and have been able to resume regular, reliable mentoring.

I have found that I am walking in the very footsteps of Jesus through one-on-one and small group mentoring. Together, the men and I are discovering that Jesus' way is always the best way. Although Kandi and I remain faithful to our classes in the church, our ministry has developed into a mentoring ministry. I would say that we are involved in



Home Bible Study



Ostin's Men's Fellowship



*Sunday night at
Ostin Church of Christ*

a relationally-distancing culture to teach them how to be close to the Lord and each other, and we are using an apprentice concept. We are trying to live out our faith in front of our Bajan Christian family so that they can see, hear, and feel what it is like to be close to the Lord and each other. We strive to develop disciples in this culture who are distinctively Christian and make every effort to challenge the churches here to hold on to the Great Commission and join God in His kingdom work for the Caribbean. The focus of our efforts are to build relationships, to be mentors and show how to mentor, and to be living examples on what a fully dedicated life of discipleship looks like in Barbados. We strive to live to “deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Christ.”

We are in our fourth year of serving the Lord in Barbados and still find ourselves learning its culture. Barbados is the eastern most island of the Caribbean some 1663 miles southeast of Florida and about 250 miles from the South American mainland. It is 21 miles long and 14 miles wide (166 square miles) with a population of 292,000. English is spoken on the island in a Caribbean dialect called “Bajan” English. Barbados is the fourth-wealthiest Caribbean island and as such stands in a unique place in this part of the world to evangelize and plant churches in neighboring islands as well as South America. In 1966 Barbados received its independence from England. The country was originally an English colony and many English customs exist today.

Our future work is to deepen and enrich the work that has been started. Also, several pastors in Barbados are getting ready to retire while others are facing

physical ailments and challenges. Many are working other jobs to support their families and are by all means, stretched to the limits. We continue to offer ourselves to these faithful preachers and pastors to assist them in their work as well as encourage them in their own faith and walk with Jesus.

Moreover, we desire our future to impact the youth and young adults of Barbados who desperately need clear spiritual models and direction. Immorality is pervasive in the culture



and is as widespread in the church as it is in the unchurched. Over 73% of all births in the country are illegitimate and only 13% of all adults are legally married. Challenges regularly face the gospel. Satanist groups are active with attacks on one of our churches. Muslims and Mormons work to win those disillusioned with Christianity which is typically an Anglican tradition. Materialism, decreasing church attendance, and increased violence, drug use, and crime are all symptomatic of the spiritual struggle of Barbados. The need is great for the renewal of God's people and a spiritual awakening of the country. Kandi and I wholeheartedly believe that when the gospel is lived out in a practical way by the church, it is the right method God will use to show Bajans the way to Christ and to address all of these societal issues. Kandi and I are excited to be a part of God's kingdom work in Barbados as He continues to grow His kingdom.

Please join us in praying for these precious people who need structure, step-by-step spiritual training, mentorship, love, and leadership. You are never too old to be involved in evangelizing another people group and raising true disciples of Jesus.

Please check out our Facebook fan page – Southeast Caribe Mission.

Our contact information is:

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Orvel & Kandi -- Thanks for your prayers and support



George, Orvel, and Brian -- two of Orvel's one-on-ones



Baptisms at Miami Beach



Church Village Men's Fellowship



Discipleship Class at Church Village Church of Christ

mission
trip
journal:
GHANA

by
Dwain C.
Illman, M.D.

In The Shadow of Idols

Our 18 member medical team drove into the village of Klonu in very rural Ghana and saw strange items in one part of the village. Just short steps from where we would be doing our clinics and where the huge unity praise service on Sunday would be held were wooden idols and a fetish fence behind which the fetish priest lived. This is the territory of Satan.



People come from all around to offer sacrifices to those two wooden idols by killing chickens and goats, pouring drink offerings on the ground or offering other gifts. Inside the house the priest would offer blessings and curses that will alter the lives of the people. Many people are afraid of the fetish priests. It takes various forms such as ancestor worship, cults and voodoo. The voodoo talked about in Haiti originated close to this area. The evil power is real.

Ancestor worship is disturbing on many levels.



Above: Idols in village just steps from clinic and site of Sunday praise gathering.

Below: The entire clinic team.





***Enoch Nyador and family at clinic.
Enoch is director of Ghana Christian Mission.***

a result of traditional ancestor worship beliefs. Funerals are seldom conducted soon after a death. The corpse is refrigerated in a local morgue at significant cost to the family. Everyone is invited to a funeral dinner weeks to months later in which hundreds will come and thousands of dollars will be spent on the affair. As some have rationalized this process to me: “it would not be good to deny your mom this recognition.” The process has the fragrance of ancestor worship. It would seem Christians should have a timely memorial and praise worship then give the money that would have been spent to the poor.

Sunday morning 900 people gathered in Klonu under tents so we had a large central area with seating on all four sides of a square. As I stood to preach I could see the idols just a few steps from me where chickens and goats are sacrificed. The most powerful Scripture to counter this is Romans 8:28-31 where Paul talks about demons, powers of darkness that the power of Christ has defeated. As I spoke, I got amen’s, clapping, occasional drum roll and then at one point, many people began singing and then dancing in the center in celebration of Christ’s victory. I had gotten “amen’s” before when I preached but never praise dancing! Four people came forward to accept our Lord that day. One was the 25-year-old

Dancing celebration at Sunday praise service.



man who probably had had polio ten years ago and had no use of his legs. He walked on his hands and drug his legs. We had seen him in clinic always with a big smile. That day he came with his biggest smile as he accepted Jesus.

Through the days of Klonu we treated hundreds and taught as many. One fetish priest from a nearby island came to clinic and accepted Christ. He determined he would rid his life of all the old superstitions. Another priest also came to Christ. Louis is in line to become chief of his area. The elders told him he could not be a Christian and a chief, as he would need to continue to appease the ancestors. He told them: "give me 5 years as chief doing it as a Christian with no ancestor worship. We will see how God blesses." The elders agreed. Pray for this young chief and his Christian leadership.

There were several other fetish priests who came for medical care and rejected Jesus. One night our local pastors showed the Jesus film that has Jesus speaking Ewe, the local language. In two nights of the showing 26 people came to Jesus. It is a very moving experience.

Our team worked and prayed hard. The Ghana pastors had done walks through all the surrounding villages praying over each. We treated a lot of people -1880; fitted 470 pairs of glasses and 201 were seen by the dentist. Through all this healing, prayer, pubic health teaching we had 106 people come to The Lord during our days in Ghana. We give all the glory to God. Our pediatrician from Phoenix noted that never in her career had she



Unhappy boy at clinic.



Busy clinic day.



Greeting a patient.



Waiting patiently. Hundreds gathered daily and waited for care.



Muslim woman at clinic.

literally saved the lives of 5 children. I had never seen so many critically ill children on one GHO outreach.



The following are stories of patients to whom we had the privilege of ministering:

** Grace Anape is a 35-year-old woman who was beaten by her husband and others when she became a Christian. She was suffering from a minor head injury days later. The perpetrators are all fetish and did not want a Christian in their area.*

** And then there was the 27-year-old woman who claimed to have a 21-year-old daughter. My math didn't work out with that.*

** Laura came to clinic one morning and said: "I feel so happy today." Then Loren said Sunday as she stepped off the bus in Klonu for Sunday worship: "I'm home. I am where I am supposed to be." This was Loren and Van's third trip to Ghana with us. Marilyn and I returned for the tenth time to work with Enoch, Raphael and the rest of the partners.*

** Then there was the woman with multiple complaints who walked to the Volta River, hired a canoe to take her across, then paid for a ride in an old vehicle with 50 people packed in only to walk some more miles to get to clinic. That is hard to imagine how desperate the people are for medical care. For the majority poor in Ghana and most of all Africa, it is a failed health care system. Access is nearly non-existent, meds are priced out of their abilities and quality of care is truly sub standard. A glaring example was to witness two different twenty something men who went down with probably polio 10 years previously. Where are the vaccination clinics?*

** A heart-wrenching example of the difficulties of accessing medical care was vividly seen in the one-month-old twins who came with mom and grandma. Dr. Diane unwrapped the one and thought he was dead. The other was not much better. Both were dehydrated, 3 pounds down from birth weight and not sucking. Mom did not have enough milk for two. Dr. Diane called for our NICU nurse Amanda and started dropping in electrolyte solution. Then she called for moms to donate breast milk. We paid for transportation back to the town hospital an hour away. They came back for church gathering at the village on Sunday. We found they only went to a clinic and not the hospital but did look some improved.*

** 30-year-old Korfiwa had experienced a spitting cobra a few years back whose venom had injured one eye.*



Comments and observations from our team:

** Mark F. commented one night he had seen a young man walking only on his hands who had the biggest smile. Then later Mark said: "I was so touched when I saw that man walking on his hands, dragging his legs behind him across the courtyard of the Sunday worship to confess his new faith in Jesus."*

** Pastor Nelson is a very large man who loves The Lord. He worked daily with dentist Herb. The word for "Next"*



Mom and child waiting to be seen.

sounds like “Boo Boo”. He kept saying, “boo boo” that the dental team called him Big Boo Boo, Herb was known as Dr. Boo Boo (not a good name for a dentist), and young Rachel was little Boo Boo. I think they had too much fun pulling teeth! Dr. Herb was amazing. His patients were in the ubiquitous plastic chair tilting their head back while he used natural light and his headlamp to examine and then pull a tooth as needed. No electricity; no running water but a true servant’s heart. Thank you doc!

** Our team worship and devotions were especially inspiring. Dr. Herb brought his ukulele and his own song-books. Joe got a very nice drum in Accra and used it. At times Tony played the ukulele and Joe the drum. Singing and harmony were special with Peggy and Lauren singing out. Marilyn inspired us all with her morning devotions centered on the book of Jude. She never even got out of the first chapter.*

** It seems it is hard to have a GHO African trip that doesn’t have vehicle problems. Our bus just failed about 4 miles from our lodging. We all got out and at that very moment a 20-passenger van passed by completely empty! For a few dollars we got a ride to supper. Is our God awesome or what?!*

** Marilyn and her translator William took a break and walked through the village of Klonu. She noted a regally dressed threesome on a porch. The older lady told her: “I was seen yesterday at the clinic and am not any better.” Marilyn asked to pray for her and explained that relief is not always immediate. There seemed to be acceptance.*

** A woman came too late to clinic as we were closing up. Loren and Dr. Diane treated her and her children anyway in the triage area. Enoch followed up by leading the woman to The Lord. It was*



***Happy and healthy child.
How wonderful!***



***Marilyn Illman providing
reading glasses at clinic***



Children posing at clinic.



More patients waiting to be seen.



Pensive child after being seen at clinic.

worth working “late.”

** Around the area as we were driving back and forth our team commented on how many large posters there were advertising the Sunday celebration with a prominent photo of Dr. Dwain. One return home journey Steve had the bus stop so we could get a team photo in front of a large poster. It was a little bit embarrassing. One speaker on Sunday commented, “that I looked a lot younger than my photo.”*

** There was a patient who told Marilyn “I need reading glasses so I can read the numbers when I scratch off the lottery ticket.” Cell towers everywhere and now lottery tickets are available in village areas. Progress?*

** Van met Pastor Edith who was the first evangelist to come to Klonu area years ago. That was a meaningful time.*

** I met my patient Toflu who is now 80 but was bitten by her husband multiple times 60 years ago. She had scars all over her body. I suspect alcohol was involved (I did learn something in my 30 years in the emergency department).*

** Two seasoned idol worshippers were ready to destroy their idols after meeting Jesus.*

** Hannah looked up one day and saw Mark B carrying a patient to one of the providers. The patient had a serious stroke in the past. Hypertension was endemic among the people. Amazing number of critically dangerous pressures. We did what we could and mainly focused on education and follow up.*

** One morning the crowds were huge and restless. My patient Sam shook my hand and said: “You are doing the best you can.” He gave me a big smile and went on to pharmacy. That was comforting as it came at the high point of a very frustrating start that morning.*

** Emilia at the Tefle clinic said she had a home bakery and provided some of the bread that was sold along the roads. She says there are over 50 home bakeries in this small town of 5000. Comfort is 37 and spends her days frying chicken gizzards and selling them along the road.*

** What a testimony Dr. Diane gave us one evening. She noted how many very sick people she has treated with malaria, typhoid, dehydration, etc. “I had at least 5 patients who are on my all time top ten list of interventions that made a difference.” She has been a busy pediatrician for 15 years. She gave terrific counseling in some autism cases. I told Dr. Diane: “God brought you here for these situations.”*

** Our local coordinator is Raphael Gunu. He is a dear Christian brother and a very hard worker. One day he was commenting on what one of the pastors had said. Raphael said: “he is economical with the truth.” (It is culturally unacceptable to call someone a liar).*

** In my planning I thought we would treat about 1500 patients. Just another example of how difficult plan-*



Children waiting and watching.

ning can be - we saw 25 % more. Fortunately there were some pharmacies in our lodging town. In those pharmacies we noted that a treatment for malaria would cost \$10 for adults and \$35 for kid's liquid treatment. A strip of 8 Tylenol was \$5.00. The average daily wage in this area was about \$1.50. No wonder people came so far to get a small bag of Tylenol and one of vitamins. Most got other more specific treatments. We had some friends who had donated \$1000 for additional meds; Peggy had a friend donate \$500 for this fund. God provided and most got what medicines they needed.

* The recurring diagnoses were: malaria, back pain, variety of skin rashes, hypertension, pneumonia, typhoid, Bilharzia, variety of musculoskeletal complaints and even some visceral larval migrans.

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Agave Christian Union works diligently each year to partner with GHO. This is a group of believers from at least 25 different church groups in the region around Sogakope. The outreach is amazing. Don't plan on coming on this outreach unless you are prepared to work very hard. The crowds are nearly never ending. At the same time God has been blessing this ministry. When did you last lead someone to our Lord? When did you last save 5 lives in a week? Next year the villages are scheduled to be:

AGBADZAKOPE and TORVE. One is 45 minutes west of Sogakope and the other is 30 minutes east. The Sunday unity services will be at Agbadzakope (I recommend practicing saying this at home first!). This would be July 21 to August 3, 2014. Marilyn and I are praying to see if God is leading us to return for an eleventh time.



**Dr. Illman at clinic with patients.**



**Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, Bloomington, IN team: Peggy Welch, Marilyn Illman, Dwain Illman, Steve Dyer.**



**The village well.**



**Carrying water from the well on their heads**



Each trip we have a team time where we each share a “headline” view of our ministry together. I will close with them.

*Mark F. described it as “the best of times and the worst of times.” He noted the worst suffering he had seen but saw the crippled man accept Christ.*

Peggy thought we “plowed holy ground.” The locals were prayed up and ready. *“Shocking Joy” was Van’s description.*

Steve thought it was “humbling, very humbling.” Togo is worse than Ghana. I have been humbled as to how well the medical professionals handled the difficult situations.

*“The Land of the rejected” was Phillip’s description. God cares for the rejected.*

Herb jumped on “love and laughter.” He fell in love with his interpreter Nelson.

*Joe put it as “Restoring the Wonder.” He had gotten burned out in his faith but saw the wonder in Ghana.*

Rachel put it beautifully with “when you have nothing more to give, that’s when God steps in.”

*Lorna thought she never felt so dependent upon God. Give me patience she prayed over and over. “Hope and hopelessness” would be her summary.*

Mark B marked it as “breaking boundaries.” God’s work is breaking every boundary.

*Amanda felt it was “heart breaking, joyful, humbling, encouraging and difficult.” She felt the power of prayer like never before.*

Rodney can’t wait to tell people what he saw. Psalm 92:14 fits best for him that states to “bear fruit in old age.”

*Diane summarized it as “Plan B or power of Tylenol or Tylenol conversion.” Three conversions were her patients. She was so overwhelmed and frustrated she only had Tylenol to give out. One patient record had on it: “doesn’t like the church.” Diane gave her Tylenol, she went to the prayer room and accepted Christ.*

Laura noted it was a “stretch and obedience.” God says “these are my children and I need some help.”

*Hannah said she was going to cry as she said this but for her it was “despair to repair.” She was discouraged when she began the outreach but now knows the Lord is working.*

Van said this was a confession for him. On his first trip to Ghana he thought it would be like the movie Out of Africa. The second time he was frustrated and angry. This year I went to give hope that required more than prayer but required action.

*Tony’s reaction is “I am not good enough. I have never been in a place where I could see I was useless without God.”*

Our local host Enoch wanted us to note the power of medical evangelism. Muslims do not like medical evangelism because so many unbelievers are won to the Lord through this. This is serving on the frontlines for God. There was true spiritual warfare.

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Editor’s Note: Be sure to read Dr. Illman’s follow-up article, “Hot Tamale,” in the next issue of HORIZONS. Read about this team’s adventurous trip into Northern Ghana where about everything that could go wrong did just that.

# news brief

## *CRAM Worldwide Inc., serving the peoples of Asia*



*Prior to imprisonment*

of three, suffers from diabetes, high blood pressure and back issues. He reports to his family his eye sight is now blurred. According to Open Door USA, "North Korea for the past 11 years has been ranked number one as the most dangerous place in the world for Christians...There is a system of labor camps including the renowned prison No. 15, which reportedly houses 6,000 persecuted Christians alone."

Mr Bae is a personal friend of Dr. CY and Patricia Kim. They ask for prayers for his health and release.

Kenneth Bae on May 14, 2013 was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor in a NK prison for "acts against the state." Bae, a naturalized US citizen had been living for the past seven years in China, and began leading tour groups of American and Canadian citizens into North Korea a few years ago. During his trips, Bae apparently visited and fed orphans. Via letters to his family Bae states his health is deteriorating quickly. The 45 year old father



*July 2013*

### **PRAISE:**

- a 40' container of meals and 700+ blankets were safely delivered to Dr. and Mrs. Kim in May of this year. Pyongyang was the final destination, where the 285,000 servings were distributed to the NK orphans and children.

### **PRAYER:**

- Kenneth Bae,
- Sang Ho and Lisa Kim to receive Chinese residence visa so that they can work with CRAM for years to come.
- Yang Pao Orphanage / Disabled Old Folks Home building completion. \$100,000 needed to finish project.

## focus on

# Prayer Needs & Praises

## Asia

- Jesse Yangmi (Thailand) requests prayer as they attempt to assist displaced people along the Thai-Burma border.
- Ajai Lall (CICM, India) gives praise that their disaster relief ministry responded to the needs of 345 families who were affected by the devastating floods that occurred in India and Nepal earlier in the summer.
- Phillip & Margaret Ho (India) request prayer for new congregations established at Sohra and Lyngkien and ask us to pray that they continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

## South Pacific

- PBT-PNG requests prayer as the NT in the Tay language is scheduled to be completed this year, with the Mborena Kam, Waran, and Apal New Testaments following soon after. Pray that God will protect the people and resources involved in finishing these translations.
- Jesse & Karie Pryor (Papua New Guinea) give praise that several of their locally trained teachers have been accepted into the PNG Education Institute. Keep these teachers and their families in prayer as they will be away from home until December.

## Africa

- Mark & Tina Gebhard (Guinea, West Africa) request prayer regarding paperwork and other provisions for their planned return to the mission field.

## South America

- Mark & Barbara Stringer (Colombia) request prayer as they travel to Arizona for Barbara's knee replacement surgery.
- Paul & Sheri Moreland (Colombia) give praise for the Lord's recent provision of a church meeting area and also new living quarters. The official inauguration of the new church was held on August 11.

## USA

- DQ & Beth Roberts (Christian Riders Ministry) request prayer for the sale of the ministry building and house in South Dakota.
- Pray for God's continued blessing and favor on the Christian Riders Ministry as they relocate to Kernersville, NC.
- James & Shai Hla give praise that God has opened a new mission field for them in Columbia, MO. They will be ministering to Christian refugees from Burma who live in that area.
- Pray for the family of Gwen Ray who recently passed away in Louisville, KY. Gwen was a former employee at Mission Services for 17 years.

## Global

- Pray as Good News Productions translates *The Global Gospel Project*, a series of 88 stories on the life of Christ, into the top 25 languages of the world by the year 2015. (To view these, please go to [www.themissionsnetwork.com](http://www.themissionsnetwork.com))
- Please pray for the missionaries and ministries continuing to deal with the financial constraints of difficult economies.
- Mission Services gives praise for the exciting growth evidenced by increased use of the missions network for viewing mission videos as well as current and historical newsletters.

## Team Expansion

- Praise the Lord for raising up workers in the Ancash Region of Peru.
- Join PB in asking God to use the language learning process to bless many people.
- Praise God for his provision and protection for the Connections team to South America.
- Join M & J in Southeast Asia in praying that someone would come alongside Caleb to encourage him in the faith.
- Join J & J in Southeast Asia in asking the Lord for chances to break down walls to establish friendships.
- Pray with L & B in Central Asia that relationships in their new neighborhood will lead to the spread of the Gospel.
- Pray for F & B as well as TS as they serve apprenticeships in Central Asia.



# Gifts

## in memory of **Gwen Ray**

Given by:

Frank & Alice Baker  
Knoxville, TN

Charles & Jean Barnett  
Indianapolis, IN

Max & Ruth Ann Heath  
Shelbyville, KY

Reggie & Carol Hundley  
Knoxville, TN

IDES Staff  
Kempston, IN

Michael & JoAnn Ridge  
Louisville, KY

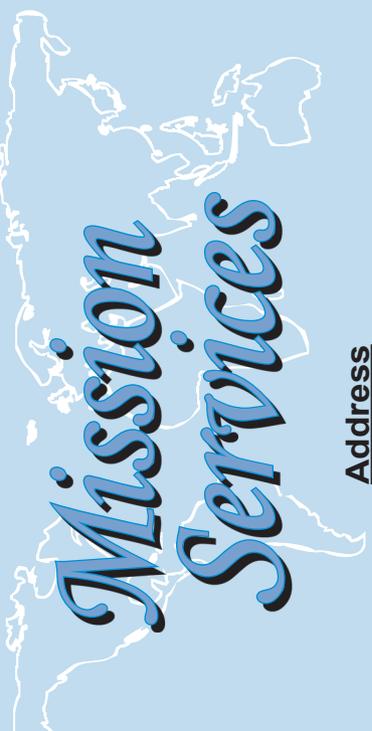
M/M Ray Schultz  
Amelia, OH

Joe & Barb Smith  
Indianapolis, IN

## in memory of **Ed Spencer**

Given by:

Dirck Spencer  
Winterville, NC



# Mission Services

## Address

2004 E. Magnolia Ave.  
Knoxville, TN 37917

## Phone Numbers

1-800-655-8524 (USA)  
865-525-7010 (Outside USA)

## E-Mail

[msa@missionservices.org](mailto:msa@missionservices.org)

## Web

[www.missionservices.org](http://www.missionservices.org)  
[www.themissionsnetwork.com](http://www.themissionsnetwork.com)

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Before you move, please send the mailing label with a copy of your new address to  
MISSION SERVICES ASSOCIATION, 2004 E. Magnolia Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917.

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2004 E. Magnolia Avenue  
Knoxville, TN 37917

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