

SEPTEMBER 2012

# Horizons



**Commonwealth International University**  
**A story of transformed lives**

see story beginning on page 6



Editor,  
HORIZONS

and

Executive Director,  
Mission Services  
Association

# editorial

## **Forget all the talk about carbs and wheat belly! What We Need Is More Bread!!**

Bread is such a confusing thing in the 21st century. Fifty plus years ago, the aisles of a grocery store were short compared to the super stores of today. Bread choices occupied a tiny part of those short aisles. The store where my parents shopped stocked only three brands, and each of them offered a choice of thick or thin sliced. Other than buns for hamburgers and hot dogs, that was the sum total of the “bread aisle.” Today’s choices dwarf those of 1960, as do the controversies about bread.

A strong cohort will proclaim that only bread made from the whole grain of wheat is truly healthy. An equally strong cadre will assert that all gluten should be avoided so our “wheat bellies” might be shed. Perhaps a stronger band still will tell everyone to avoid most breads altogether, because we are being destroyed from the inside by “carb overloading.”

In the midst of sorting out the truth of these arguments and the variety of choices, we have virtually lost sight of the impact of an incredibly powerful truth found in God’s word. What we NEED is bread, because bread is central to life. Without bread there was no meal in scripture. Without bread there is no satisfaction. People are searching in so many destructive ways, making so many destructive choices because they are unsatisfied. GK Chesterton said, “Every time a man knocks on a brothel door, he is really seeking God.” They do so searching for satisfaction they have not found.

Isaiah 55 and John 6 call us to God’s table because it alone can satisfy. God’s word and table are bread, because Jesus is the bread! If you and I make Jesus the center of our

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lives, just as bread was the center of the biblical meal, we will find satisfaction. If we place sports in the center of life, days will be filled with frustration, disappointment, and arguments with other fans. We may enjoy a few moments of happiness when victory comes, but never abiding satisfaction. If our focus is on possessions we will find flaws in the jewelry, repairs that are needed on the house, dents we did not know were on the car, new components for our toys that we know would make us happier, and bills that cannot be paid. We may have fleeting moments of enjoyment, but any satisfaction will be temporary! True satisfaction will not be found in personal achievement. We may sense joy when things "turn in our direction," but disappointment and bitterness loom when another eclipses our ability or is chosen over us...no matter how "unfairly" we may deem the circumstance to be!

What we need is BREAD, because it alone will satisfy. It is not the bread on the counter of the nearest grocery nor bread fresh from the oven of the nearest bakery, but bread that cannot be purchased with money. The bread about which Isaiah heard from God (Isaiah 55:1-2) is the one and only Bread of life - that is Jesus. It is not that Jesus can give us bread. It is Jesus himself that is the bread. You think about that!



# Horizons

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Our story includes names like Yevgeny and Andrei, Lena and Olga, Anastasia and Natasha, Vadim and Sergi. These are students whose lives were transformed and are now being using by God to transform other lives (Romans 12:2). The story of Commonwealth International University is their story, and for them it is a story of love -- their newfound understanding of God's love, their growing love for God, their love for their fellow students, their love for the school that gave them hope and a new life, and their love of sharing the Good News and serving in the name of Christ.

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# coming events

# 2012

## NOVEMBER 9-11

### **Eastern Christian Conference**

Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania

Theme: "Your Kingdom Come ..."

President: Brent Storms

Contact information: Eastern Christian Convention  
410-836-6102 / [info@easterncc.com](mailto:info@easterncc.com) / [www.easterncc.com](http://www.easterncc.com)

## NOVEMBER 15-18

### **International Conference on Missions**

Indianapolis, Indiana

Theme: "Radical ... again!"

President: John Caldwell

Contact information: David Empson  
317-539-4231 / [david@nmc-windows.org](mailto:david@nmc-windows.org)

# 2013

## May 20-21

### **Eubanks Institute for Missions (EIM) Conference**

Johnson University, Knoxville, Tennessee

Focus: Bible Translation

Contact information: Gerald Mattingly  
865-251-2349 / [gmattingly@johnsonu.edu](mailto:gmattingly@johnsonu.edu)

## JULY 9-12

### **North American Christian Convention**

Louisville, Kentucky

President: Matt Proctor

Contact information: North American Christian Convention  
513-772-9970 / [www.gotonacc.org](http://www.gotonacc.org)

## JULY 21-27

### **2013 Lake James School of Missions**

Angola, Indiana

Contact information: Kent Shady, Program Chairman  
260-824-2132 / [kdshady@adamswells.com](mailto:kdshady@adamswells.com)

## NOVEMBER 14-17

### **International Conference on Missions**

Kansas City

Contact information: North American Christian Convention  
513-772-9970 / [www.gotonacc.org](http://www.gotonacc.org)

## NOVEMBER 15-17

### **Eastern Christian Conference**

Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania

President: Don Hamilton

Contact information: Eastern Christian Conference  
410-836-6102 / [info@easterncc.com](mailto:info@easterncc.com)  
[www.easterncc.com](http://www.easterncc.com)



focus

# Commonwealth International University

## A story of transformed lives

by **Georges Carillet**, President  
[georges.carillet@gmail.com](mailto:georges.carillet@gmail.com)

**T**he story of Commonwealth International University is that of transformed lives. The story takes place in Ukraine, in Simferopol, the capital of Crimea. It starts twenty years ago, right after Ukraine declared its independence from the crumbling Soviet Union. Crimea's coast was the Soviet's Riviera and home to the USSR's Black Sea Fleet. The famous WW2 Yalta conference took place in the Livadia Palace, what had been the summer retreat of the last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II. The ongoing transformation of Ukraine from a Soviet communist republic to a democratic nation is another story.

This is the story of a college that God is using to transform lives. That is why it was started -- to share the Good News and Christian worldview with unbelieving students that they might become disciples (Mt. 28:18-20). As lives were transformed we developed another goal: equipping believers for ministry. The college soon became an expanding ministry: a hub for other means of sharing the Good News and Christian worldview and making disciples.

Our story includes names like Yevgeny and Andrei, Lena and Olga, Anastasia and

Natasha, Vadim and Sergei. These are students whose lives were transformed and are now being used by God to transform other lives (Romans 12:2). The story of Commonwealth International University is their story, and for them it is a story of love -- their newfound understanding of God's love, their growing love for God, their love for their fellow students, their love for the school that gave them hope and a new life, and their love of sharing the Good News and serving in the name of Christ.

CIU is a campus ministry that also offers Bible degree programs and equips students for tent-making ministries and Christian leadership while reaching the unbeliever with the Good News and Christian worldview.

## Evangelize and equip students for ministry

**Commonwealth International University equips Christians for tent-making ministries and Christian leadership.** Our dual diploma approach takes into consideration two factors. (1) Most graduates of Christian colleges cannot make their living in Christian service. The market for paid ministries in Ukraine and Russia is very weak. It is expected that ministers will be bi-vocational, especially in serving smaller churches. Ukrainian churches are often struggling with low membership, leadership issues, financial problems, theological diversity, life-style issues, and social isolation. (2) Few businesses or organizations will hire university graduates on the basis of their diploma if it is not state-issued.

For fourteen years we were licensed and accredited by the Ministry of Education of Ukraine as **Crimean-American College** to grant the bachelor's degree with an English major and German minor. Students were required to take World Religions and two Bible courses. Additionally, CIU offered a minor in biblical literature



*Equipping Christians for tent-making ministries.*

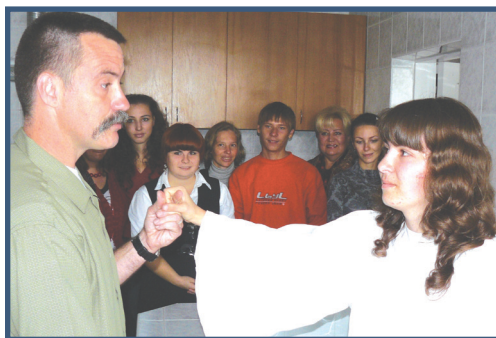


*Many from CIU find a place of worship and service in Simferopol Christian Church.*

that was not accredited but especially helpful for those who wanted to be translators or teachers of English, for all Bible courses were taught in English. Though we were limited to one major, we attracted over 180 students. When CAC was shut down by injustices, we had to give up our students and start over. We formed a partnership with a state university that leases rooms on our campus. As of fall 2011, our teachers of English are also their employees -- and continue to teach the Bible courses.

If the past is any indication of the future, a significant percentage of the English students will become believers by the time they graduate. In our early CAC days, there were years in which no student claimed any faith in God when they entered the college but in four years the entire graduating class of up to 24 students had become believers! The first year was extraordinary in that 28-35 students, friends and parents were baptized into Christ. Most of them attended the newly established Simferopol Christian Church. Not all years were that remarkable, but in general most of the students became Christians before graduation, or did in the next few years after graduation. I suppose over 220 students became followers of Christ; some of them influenced friends and parents to become followers, too.

Additional to the accredited English degree program with the national university, CIU offers a minor and two majors in Bible. Students graduate with a degree from a state university and from Commonwealth International University. These programs are not limited to English majors nor to our partner university. We invite



*Many students encounter the Christian worldview and gospel for the first time while studying the impact of the Bible and Jesus of Nazareth in their English degree program.*





*CIU graduation*

students who want to get a state degree for career purposes, but also would love to study the Bible in order to be better equipped Christians and to better serve the kingdom. They may serve churches and various Christian ministries but not be financially dependent on them. They simply may be better equipped Christian leaders and servants in the church and marketplace for the sake of the kingdom.

For those students who are serious about being used by God to reach their fellow students and their peers after graduation, we offer the **Impact** program. Besides majoring in Bible, they have a concentration in Ministry that includes on-the-job training, discipling and mentoring. We draw on the many fine resources available to us to enrich the student's learning and doing experience, including our partnership with the **Christian Center for Science and Apologetics**. They provide written materials, seminars, camps and conference opportunities, as well as internship options.

Our potential campus ministry is enormous. With the national university on our campus, we have access to students who are not in our co-operative language degree program. Since some of our Bible students also attend other universities, our campus ministries can eventually touch all six major universities in Simferopol -- including a major medical university. Furthermore, our potential for enriching the kingdom with equipped and dedicated Christian leaders is significant. As far as we know, no other school in Ukraine is attempting such a dual degree program. We are not preparing people for the pulpit, though some have become preachers, but for the many other areas of ministry important to the church and kingdom.

**“Describing the ‘campus ministry,’ I would emphasize its unique role in Ukraine. In the US, there are a lot of resources for young people who have problems: social workers, counselors, various other services. Here, if your parents are not taking care of you, you’re on your own. School, government, etc. are of little help.”**

*Yevgeny Ustinovich, CIU graduate and professor of Linguistics, English and Bible.*

## **Faculty, staff & graduates reach out to evangelize and serve**

A lot of good things originated with the college and keep expanding outward. One of our principle strategies is to go where the people are, and to do as much as we can on their turf. Our first outreach was the twice-annual international

academic forums for professors and professionals of Ukraine and Russia. The primary purpose was to bring together scholars (almost all were atheists) to be influenced by Christian scholars. We did this for fifteen consecutive years; now we have occasional conferences, smaller forums, and guest lecturers of note. Some Ukrainian and Russian Christian leaders took the idea home with them and established local conferences. Now there are major conferences in Odessa, Ukraine and Kursk, Russia.

The various annual themes become vehicles to discuss the overarching theme of our forums: “Man and the Christian Worldview.” We bring up worldview questions in order to encourage participants to think about the foundational ideas that they habitually and traditionally ignore. LATM made it possible for us to publish an annual book of reports to continue our influence.

Our spring symposiums are limited to 25 presenters and only up to one-third of them can be Christians. The object is to use Christians to influence non-Christians. These are held on the Black Sea coast for up to four days and provide opportunity for interaction not only during the Q&A sessions but meal times and evening events as well. Our two and three-day fall conferences are not restricted. Our first event was held in the Crimean parliament building with 400 attending and some 65 presenting in sessions organized according to their field of expertise, besides the plenaries. Eventually we met in the medical university and now on our own campus with more manageable numbers. The translation services for our conferences, lectureships and publications are provided by CIU students and graduates who became outstanding professionals.



*CIU conferences attract university professors from Ukraine and Russia.*



*Commonwealth International University*

Once CIU gained considerable credibility among the “intelligentsia” of Crimea through its forums, it offered the area universities its Christian guest scholars from the West to give lectures for two or three days. We continue to do this even apart from conferences. This gives students, the vast majority of whom claim to not believe in God, an opportunity to hear a Christian professor for the first time in



*All of the Bible faculty and most of the staff are graduates of CIU.*

their lives. It also encourages believers to continue in the faith.

Only God knows the full effects of our academic outreach. These professors came from all parts of Ukraine and many parts of vast Russia. A few were baptized; some changed their worldviews; some changed their position on specific issues (the president of the medical university changed his position on euthanasia). A social and political science faculty chair coauthored with one of our American participants a book on ‘the Christian religion’; as a result it has a major section on a biblical view of Christian doctrine. The chair of a philosophy department, an unbeliever at the time, coauthored with our Christian scholar three books which presented a Christian and non-Christian perspective on major issues of philosophy. Now he is a believer. These four books are approved university textbooks.

One of the things our forums did for the kingdom was to break down some of the stereotypes and barriers between those raised under communist atheism and Christians. Having been taught that Christians believe myths and superstitions, they were surprised to hear coherent and persuasive presentations on “secular” subjects that were informed and shaped by a Christian worldview.

CIU is committed to using its resources for the sake of other ministries as well as its own. As a result of our outstanding students, graduates, faculty and staff, we provide speakers and translators for family camps and conferences; mentors, camp counselors and translators for ministries to orphans and street children;

**“The conference deals with an important issue: man in his worldview. Indeed, the major question we face in life, which we try to tackle here, is: What is man’s purpose for life? As I understand it, man’s purpose is to know God and to draw closer to God.”**

Concluding statement of the October 2006 conference by a former Marxist, Professor and Chair of Philosophy in a Simferopol university.

**A partner in the forums is the Christian Center for Science and Apologetics, a national ministry. The founder and president, Sergei Golovin, calls our conferences “a short-term mission to the tribe of intellectuals.”**

assistants to ministries that hold student camps; conference speakers and lecturers for campus ministries; and personnel for churches -- worship leaders, preachers, deacons, elders, and teachers. Our CIU faculty are our graduates who went on to earn graduate degrees in Bible and English or linguistics.

We formed Tabitha, a second hand thrift shop and benevolence ministry in partnership with Master Provisions, to provide inexpensive clothing, employment for Christians who

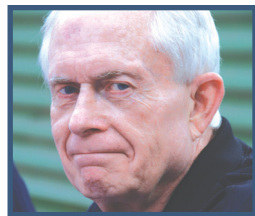
will share their faith, and profits to fund mission, ministry and benevolent projects. One of our graduates is the director. Tabitha funded many CIU scholarships till the recession took its toll. Many underprivileged teenagers who would never have had access to a university-level education were able to study and now are involved in various ministries.

## The beginning of the story

Twenty years ago Dr Keith Keeran and Dr. Jim Girdwood asked themselves what Kentucky Christian University might do to share the Good News with the people of newly independent Ukraine. Less than two years later Crimean College and KCU founded Crimean-American College.

LaVerne and I have been a part of this transforming story for eighteen years. We live in Simferopol. I am the president of CIU, but I went ‘just to teach.’ This is my love, teaching the Bible in ways that open the eyes and hearts of the unbeliever, then equipping them to become life-long students of the word of God and loving servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. May God continue to use Commonwealth International University to transform lives - on campus and far, far beyond.

We welcome financial and prayer partners, and someone who could teach, lead and administrate in CIU’s creative ministry. Join our story.



*Dr. Keith Keeran, founder of CIU, reflects on his 20 years of leadership and fruit.*



*CIU grads serve in churches, camps, conferences, colleges, ministries, and the market place.*



# Polish Christian Ministries

## Continuing a Strong Tradition of Leadership

In 1954 **Paul Bajko** established the Department of Missions of Eastern Christian College and began working with pastors and churches in Poland. Paul served as its Director for 40 years. During that time he assisted the Polish churches in many ways and also provided material goods during a time when many things were sparse in Poland. A number of churches were established in Poland and one in the United States under his leadership. Most of his tenure was while Poland was still a Communist nation but much was accomplished for God's Kingdom. In 1992 the mission's name was changed to Polish Christian Ministries.



At the request of Paul Bajko, **C. Wayne Murphy** joined the staff of PCM in 1993 as Director-elect and then as Executive Director. Wayne's background was as a church pastor for almost 25 years with a strong emphasis in church planting and missions. During that time he served on the Board for PCM for 16 years. As PCM's Executive Director Wayne helped to develop partnerships with other organizations serving in Poland as well as working with the Polish pastors to help strengthen their churches. He has encouraged churches to become totally self-supporting. Several new churches were established during his tenure. He provided much assistance and leadership in the establishing and continuation of the Annual Leadership Conference. Wayne is scheduled to retire as PCM's Executive Director on February 28, 2013, completing 20 years as Executive Director.



Since Wayne announced last year his plans for retirement, the PCM Board began searching for his replacement. The search was completed when **David A. Hatfield** was offered the position by the Board of Directors and agreed to become the next Executive Director. He has a background as a church pastor and for the past five years served on the staff of Impact Europe. He is already acquainted with many of the Polish pastors and is in the process of learning the Polish language. He will work alongside Wayne from September of this year through February of 2013 as Executive Director-elect. On March 1, 2013, David will become the next Executive Director of Polish Christian Ministries.



# Roadblocks with a Smile

## *Zimbabwe Adventures 2012*

by Dwain C. Illman, M.D.

The team of ten Americans touring and serving in Zimbabwe under the banner of FAME kept saying as we were travelling on main highways: “not another roadblock. That’s eight police stops in the past 4 hours.” We also commented: “is this plan E or is it plan F?” The good news: any obstacle thrown into our path was typically greeted with optimism, a smile and a prayer. What a great group!

This was a homecoming for some of us. Dr. Jim and Joyce Frasure as well as Marilyn and me had lived in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) in the 1970’s. The Frasures served for some years at both Mashoko and Chidamoyo Christian Hospitals. I was medical doctor as well as medical director at Mashoko for 3 years. I began my connections with both places in 1969. I worked with Dr. Dale Erickson at Chidamoyo, Drs. Frausre and Cobb at Mashoko and some time with Dr. Robert Walker at Hippo Valley in Chiredzi. So much of my life’s directions were shaped by this. We have gone back to both Mashoko and Chidamoyo to serve for several months on four other times. I have diversied now and have gone and or led over 30 times to work in short term medical missions in Asia, central America, Ecuador, Haiti and a half dozen other African nations. But I divert. Let me tell you about some of our recent experiences in Zimbabwe.

The frequent and unneeded police roadblocks bordered on harassment and made travel very slow. We were told the police are given a quota to collect weekly. At the stops it might cost the driver \$5 cash if no receipt is given or \$10 cash with a receipt. One stop on our travel from Masvingo to Bulawayo we were told to go back 10 miles to a police post to have our bus more thoroughly checked. Fortunately our driver persisted and got us



*FAME group at Chidamoyo*

on our journey in about 30 minutes without having to go back. Three-hour road trips routinely take 4-6 hours.

The country of Zimbabwe has spectacular natural beauty beginning with the mile high plateau around Harare to the slightly lower elevated areas around Karoi and Masvingo. The hills and small mountains are at times rolling and then have precipitous and beautiful descents. There is nothing in the rest of Africa to challenge the beauty of Victoria Falls. We concluded our travels in country with one night there. We witnessed over a mile length of waterfalls standing about 100 feet across the narrow gorge from the falls. The falls drops straight down 320 feet. In our visit 120,000 gallons of water a minute were cascading and tumbling down. Huge clouds of mist can be seen 30 miles away and when walking along the edge this creates a lovely rainforest and drenching showers.

It was sad to see deterioration in roads, cities, national parks, buildings and utilities. Electricity is produced, distributed and sold by ZESA -- the national electrical utility. Zim power would go off for hours or days without warning. The mission stations of Chidamoyo and Mashoko are on ZESA. Most of our times at both we had no ZESA and only minimal times with generator power. Both missions are having problems with their water supplies mostly because of failed water pumps operated by electricity. Two of the three borehole pumps we helped purchase in 2007 at Mashoko have failed. In our time at Chidamoyo we were given 2 liter bottles of water to use for bathing.

Another type of roadblock was in vehicular failures. Mashoko's 8-passenger Toyota van overheated outside of Harare forcing it to stop frequently to cool and be refilled with water. It had to travel 30-40 miles an hour in the 180-mile trip. Toyota dealership in Masvingo had it over a week and still had not repaired it.

On our "just over an hour" trip to Ruponeso Clinic in Mashoko area, we got the American-style ambulance stuck in river sand as we attempted to cross a river whose low water bridge had been destroyed in last year's flooding. Dr. Bungu in his Land rover went



*Effective transport through river sand*



after a chain and was able to then pull it out. Our clinic we held there went well but on our return, the ambulance kept stalling perhaps from dust in the fuel system. It had taken us 3 hours to get there and then it took four and a half hours to return to Mashoko.

Effective and rewarding clinics were conducted in the township of Chiremewemwa under a huge tree until rain forced us to work under some porches of the local stores. I was treating one man when the rain began. He told me: "that is my store. Please use the porch." Thank you Lord for providing for our needs.

Another clinic was held in the first ever event in the new church building of the Odzi Church of Christ. Chaplain Augustine Makuku from Mashoko is going to retire from his chaplaincy at the hospital and serve as pastor of this church. HASTEN led by Dr. Dennis Pruett has constructed this building.

Roadblocks in effective harvests and food production are sad. The country exported food to all the neighboring nations until two out of three of the large, very productive, white-owned farms were seized by the government in the year 2000. Drought exacerbated the lack of food as little rain has fallen in the southern half of the country over the last three years. Local farms in the north around Chidamoyo-Karoi areas looked lush and good; small farms around Masvingo-Mashoko were drying up.



*Mashoko ambulance driven by Bruce Geoffrion who is Resource director and shipper at FAME. This ambulance was sent in last shipping container from FAME to Mashoko this year.*



*FAME medical clinic at Chiremewemwa near Mashoko*





*Joyful woman  
who wore attrac-  
tive blue accents*

The greatest joy came from people – both in time spent with our team and in time with the Zimbabwe people. The local Christians continue to amaze me with their joy and optimism. Seven of our team had long-term connections with Zimbabwe. Three were there for the first time. The Illmans, Frasures (Jim, Joyce, Kathy and Beth Minton) and Tamara Nice Miller have a long relationship with Zimbabwe.

Our visit to Chidamoyo was so much fun and allowed us to view a wonderful medical and Christian work. Kathy McCarty continues to be so innovative and effective in leading the ministry of Chidamoyo Christian Hospital. We laughed and cried as we listened to her stories. Jim Frasure and I spoke at the mission church on Sunday.

Mashoko Mission was a wonderful homecoming and celebration. Both Dr. Frasure and I had served as medical officer there at different times for three years. Dr. Zindoga Bungu and his wife Dinah are the leaders of the ministry. We appreciated their wonderful hospitality and kindness to us.

Yet another roadblock was the limitations on where we could conduct our clinics around Mashoko. The crowds coming to our clinics potentially could upset government officials and create problems for Mashoko. We decided the wise course was to cancel our last two days of clinics.

One Sunday at Mashoko was so very memorable. We went to Mashoko Church of Christ with about 900 others. Many of the secondary students had special music. As James preached I kept thinking "I've heard that somewhere before." He used the same message at Chidamoyo from Luke 15 with the parables of the lost coin, sheep and son. This was the very

text I had chosen to use at the evening Chidamoyo services so I had to change.

We left directly after the Mashoko morning service and drove 30 minutes to the very rural Chitiyo Church of Christ. This was dedication and celebration for their new church building that Marilyn and I had helped construct. 700 people dancing and singing outside the church greeted us. Many of the women wore



*Kathy McCarty--  
PhD, director of  
Chidamoyo  
Christian Hospital*



*Dr. Zindoga Bungu and  
wife Dinah. He has been  
the medical director at  
Mashoko since 1985.  
Both he and his wife are  
from the Mashoko area.*



*Dr. Illman, Marilyn Illman and  
Kathy McCarty at Chidamoyo*



*Happy women at Chitiyo Church of Christ dedication. Dinah Bungu is in front.*

their red and white colored uniforms. It was bright and festive as well as exciting. There was so much Spirit-filled energy during the entire day. Marilyn cut the ribbon and turned the key to begin the service. The enthusiasm continued in singing and dancing. I spoke for 22 minutes including interpretation by Dr. Bungu. I sometimes wonder what the interpreter is really saying but had no such qualms with the expert interpretation by Dr. Bungu. Even with my "short" sermon the services lasted over 2 hours.

Then they served a huge sadza and relish dinner for everyone. Sadza is the main staple in Zimbabwe and can be compared with a finer ground grits cooked in a large pot. The relish is some type of meat or vegetable cooked in a sauce to pour over the sadza. This day the ladies had goat, beef, chicken and vegetable sauces. The crowd loved it! I could not believe the size of the servings – corn meal sadza was piled high on the plates. Traditionally the sadza is eaten with your fingers, rolled in a ball and dipped in the relish served on your plates although in many homes the relish is dipped from a common bowl.

Our dear friends Abia and Julia Marombedze are key members of the Chitiyo church. After the service I gathered all of the family together for a photo. There were about 30 of the family there. They stood still and looked very sober so I yelled out: "let me see the famous Marombedze smile." All of a sudden they all grinned and laughed. What fun!

After all the festivities some of us went to Abia's home about 2 miles further into the bush. Eleven of the Marombedze family crowded into the back of the enclosed



*The happy Marombedze family, along with Dwain and Marilyn*

pick up. We had a fun visit and also did more Marombedze family photos.

Mashoko mission has expanded since we lived there. Seventy-five nursing students are now in a 3-year R.N. program. The government PAYS them \$440 a month to go to school. Licensed R.N.s are paid \$460 a month. The sad thing the government has had a 3-year freeze on hiring nurses in government positions. The government pays both Mashoko and Chidamoyo staff.

The nursing school has a collection of bunched together buildings south of the hospital. A new outpatient and a new obstetrics buildings are squeezed into areas west and south of the hospital. The previous front entrance is closed with a security fence around all the buildings and one public entrance. Water continues to be a problem both because of failed pumps as well as irregular electricity from Zim electrical source.

We had many smiles as we travelled, served and shared. I loved it when the storeowner at Chiremwarewa invited us to use the portico in front of his establishment. Marilyn laughed when a patient was looking at her boxes of glasses that were marked with the refraction numbers such as 1.00, 1.25, 1.50, etc. The patient asked why the prices were so different. The people are accustomed to paying for each portion of their medical care.

Marilyn was doing reading glasses mainly used for people over 40 help in seeing fine print and doing detail work. An 8-year-old student

came and was not able to read his textbooks. She gave him a pair of glasses and he said: "I can read."

Another patient commented after getting the correct glasses: "I see vividly."

Joyce Matemambea was a 12-year-old patient who I noted was very nervous. As I checked her, I felt that her palms were all sweaty. I asked why she was so nervous. She said: "this is the first time I have seen a white man." I guess I can be a little frightening to look at.

Another lady told me: "I don't work." I asked more questions. She then said: "I gather and cut firewood, fetch

water, cook and work in the fields." I told her that defined hard work!

We certainly had many roadblocks to effective service but we were always greeted with welcoming smiles. One man at Mashoko told us as he reflected on the clinics we did: "you did so much for our people. You don't realize how much you did for our people. Please come again."

That continues to make me smile and be thankful!



*Marilyn Illman fitting reading glasses for a man*



*Very happy man who got the reading glasses at Odzi Church of Christ clinic site.*

# DESIDERATA

—● Our visit to Zimbabwe Christian College in Harare was good. We talked with President Sydney Mavodza and his wife Concila. They have a record enrollment of 53 full time students. The campus looks great. We took a photo at the spot on campus by some large rocks where I had taken a photo of our daughters Christine and Julia when they were 2 and 4 years old.



—● We visited some missionaries in Chinoyi – Mark and Helen Begerly. They appear to be doing a marvelous work at Huntington Retreat Center and with some area churches. They are proposing to build a small clinic on the foundation of an uncompleted building. Bruce Geoffrion and I did some study of the project on behalf of FAME as they are requesting FAME funds.

—● Chidamoyo has some powerful statistics. They see 6000 outpatients a month. There are 150 babies a month born there with 1% Caesarean section rate. They conduct 15 outreach clinics a month for vaccinations. Kathy does bartering for services in that a kilogram of peanuts is worth so much; a chicken will pay this much towards their bill, etc. It does cost \$2 a night to stay in the hospital and get the 3 meals a day. It costs \$5 for a delivery. A caesarean section is \$100.00.

—● We enjoyed our visit to the Great Zimbabwe ruins. These are ruins of a culture probably around 1400 AD. We stayed at the Lodge at the Ancient City.

—● Our visit to Masvingo and CAMELS Print shop was fun. Marcia Kay Thompson and Godfrey Makuku were most gracious. They helped us a lot in our lodging schedule change and our transportation alteration from being packed into a dual cab truck to riding in a 20-passenger bus.

—● The night we spent at the farmhouse in Masvingo was lovely. Chris and Carrie Diedricks were so good to us. It was a visit reminding me of a different era in Zimbabwe.

—● After a very long road trip we made it to Victoria Falls. I had debated in having us fly from Bulawayo but I was advised that Air Zimbabwe was unreliable. That was a fulfilled prophecy – 2 months ago their creditors seized their aircraft and now the fleet is in Johannesburg.

—● The group travelled 20,000 miles by air and about 1380 miles in vans, dual cab pickups and buses. There were about 34 hours in vehicles driving in country.



● The team meetings, interactions and devotions were terrific. Marilyn led us in a study each morning that was very challenging, interesting and so timely. Thank you Marilyn.

● Bruce and Tamala drove for us back from Ruponesa when we were having vehicle problems. They are good and are very flexible people.

● The ladies enjoyed shopping in Bulawayo. The taxi only held 8 so Bruce and Jim stayed at the Southern Comfort Lodge while I escorted the shoppers. The Lodge is a very nice place to stay and serves really delicious food. Our final team meal was at the Boma (meeting place). We had lots of wild animal meats and variety of other selections as well as African dancing and music. It is at the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge.

● It was disappointing to have brought all the meds for clinics and then not being able to use them all even though there is such great need. The good news is that the meds will be used by Mashoko Hospital.

● I continue to note in developing countries that there is readily available money to build a building but not for staff, maintenance and equipment. The OB building at Mashoko is 7 years old and was built with an OR to do OB surgery. But it doesn't have the equipment to be used for this. Mainly they are missing the surgical light. So the area is used for storage.

● The senior Frasures and Illmans went on a 4-day safari and stayed at Imbabala Lodge along the Zambezi River near the Botswana border. It was so very nice. We had thatched cottages that were very nice. The mosquito nets created a small room over the beds. One evening we saw 300 elephants and had them on all sides of our open land rover. That was exciting. Just prior to that we watched 3 dozen sable. One night we watched a leopard then saw 6 wild dogs on a hunt. There were all the typical animals to watch. We had a herd of impala that stayed in the front area of the lodge. Marilyn heard this noise one night. She looked out the front door to see 60 impala staring at her – her flashlight illuminated their eyes quite well. I think she counted the number of eyes and divided by two to get that estimate. Cruises on the Zambezi at both sunrise and sunset were beautiful. Our favorite meal was one evening after safari at a location right on the river. The waning moon didn't up till 9 PM so most of the time was under brilliant stars including the lovely Southern Cross. Hippos were heard close by. In fact we saw several on our return to the lodge grounds. We saw this young male bull elephant that was obviously looking for a female but none was around. Our guide said: "that is not a happy chap."

## **Conclusion:**

Yes it was a wonderful journey! The entire group got to spend some time on an animal-viewing safari even though for some it was 3 hours early on the morning of departure. All ten of us had a most memorable time of travel and service. For many it was a time to revisit old memories but for all it was the making of new memories never to be forgotten. The church is alive and well in Zimbabwe.

# focus on

## Prayer Needs & Praises

### Europe

- Pray for TCM as they continue to reach out to the lost of Europe, Central Asia, and beyond, sharing the Gospel through students, graduates, faculty, staff, and volunteers.
- Please pray for Karen Richardson (France) as she recovers from carpal tunnel surgery on her left hand. Pray also as she will need surgery on her right hand in October.
- Please pray for Shannon Haynie (Ukraine) that she will be able to complete her registration process and receive her new visa without complication.

### Africa

- Pray for Richard Lee (Botswana/Zimbabwe) as mission work continues in this extremely difficult and impoverished area of the world.
- Don & Aleta Hulsey (Mozambique) give praise for 16 years on the mission field. May God grant them many more.
- Bob Sheffler (Ghana) gives praise that he is recovering well following recent surgery and also gives praise for a successful National Leaders' Retreat.

### Asia

- Missionaries from Myanmar and the Philippines request prayer for uprisings in both countries. In Myanmar it is focused against the military. In The Philippines the Buddhists and Muslims are at odds.
- Manasseh Fish (Myanmar) reports that Taunggyi Bible College in central Myanmar currently has 65 students registered from 11 different tribes.
- Billton Sohkhlet (India) asks us to celebrate the beginning of new churches in Umlympung, Nongstoin, and Plasha Village.
- Please pray for Rickie Clark (Japan) recovering from recent eye surgery.

## US

- Give praise for the recent successful World Convention (Goiania Global Gathering) recently held in Brazil. Pray for continued encouragement in uniting Christians from different branches of the faith.
- Begin now to pray for the International Conference on Missions to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana November 15-18. Pray for John Caldwell who is serving as this year's president.
- Pray for Pioneer Bible Translators, that God will grant wisdom on how to maximize the impact of translated scripture to grow his church in each place PBT serves.

## Puerto Rico

- Chuy & Jane Ramirez request prayer for Taino Christian Center, its leaders, and future construction plans.
- Puerto Christian School requests prayer for the right people to step up and serve in the work there.

## Team Expansion

- Join Jennifer Polzin, Hope Inner City Mission in Cincinnati, in praying for the kids they serve.
- Pray for John Bliffen as he serves as Regional Mobilizer on the staff at Mid-South Christian College.
- Ask God to bless the work of Tim & Twyla Bright as they serve as Regional Mobilizers in Arizona.
- Pray for Dave Damron as he heads up the Cochao project in Peru and serves as a Regional Mobilizer there.
- Pray for Eric & Michelle Derry (International Services) as they seek teaching positions.
- Praise God that Deb Dunker was able to assist with the Kairos course in Thailand recently. Pray for God to direct her future plans.
- Pray that Kelsey McMullen (International Services) will continue to excel in her new job as Project Fulfillments Specialist.

## Haiti

- Please pray for Haiti, as it is reported 85% of college graduates in Haiti permanently leave the country.



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