

January 2025

# MISSIONS

A photograph of two women sitting at a table, eating and talking. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a light blue top. The woman on the right has long grey hair and is wearing a blue denim shirt. They are both smiling and looking at each other. There is a plate of food in front of them, including what looks like fried items and a salad.

## Food, Conversations, and the Gospel in Cyprus

A Journey toward Nursing  
in Tanzania

An Interview with MKs  
in Burundi



# THINKING IT THROUGH

BY JOHN PEASLAND

## A New Song

Last year, CMML kicked off a renewed focus—in our publications, conferences, and digital communication—on the “Unfinished Task.” We printed maps of the 10/40 Window showing the 31 largest unreached people groups in that region of the world and included one with each copy of the 2024 *Missionary Prayer Handbook* we sent out. The messaging challenged thousands of believers across the US assemblies to consider going to the 10/40 Window, sending believers there, and supporting missionaries already serving there.

Praise the Lord for what has been accomplished as believers accepted the challenge and joined Christ in His mission to build His church, seeing Him save souls from people groups around the world. Much progress has been made over the past 2,000 years: of the 17,260 people groups in the world, over 10,000 have been substantially reached with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. And the established evangelical church is committed to reaching the remaining groups.

However, the stark reality remains: over 7,200 people groups still must be reached, which amounts to about 3.4 billion people. These numbers are not just a statistic but a call to action, a reminder of our mission’s urgency.

Psalm 96:1–3 says, “Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.” Then, in verse 4, the psalmist continues that his reason to sing and proclaim salvation among the nations is God’s greatness.

Now, dear believer, our God’s greatness has never changed. He was great thousands of years ago when this psalm was written, and He will always be “greatly to be praised.” (Psalm 145:3)

He deserves to be glorified among the nations, among all peoples, including the 7,200 yet to be reached with the proclamation of “the good news of His salvation.”

Oh, that the Lord would fill His church today with the psalmist’s great longing to see His glory declared among the nations: “The Lord reigns; . . . He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.” (Psalm 96:10, 13)

The day is coming when a new song *will* be sung: “And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.’” (Revelation 5:9–10)

May each child of God in the North American assemblies recognize the great privilege and responsibility we, as His ambassadors and collaborators on the earth, have to be about His mission until He returns!

In 2025, CMML begins a journey across the regions of the 10/40 Window, focusing on specific areas and the unreached in each. This year, our focus, as previewed at our recent Annual Fall Conference in New Jersey, is the region of South Asia.

As you receive your copy of the 2025 *Missionary Prayer Handbook*, join us in praying for those the Lord has sent out and is using worldwide. Learn more about South Asia and the 1.8 billion unreached people there. Pray by name for the 30 largest unreached people groups in South Asia (plus another large group: the deaf in South Asia), and ask the Lord to send more laborers into this harvest field. And, as you pray, ask Him, “How would you use me to declare Your glory among these nations?”

May the new song of the Lord’s salvation echo across these Gospel-barren lands, and may many unreached come to a saving knowledge of our wonderful, great Savior! ■

*John Peasland, CMML executive director*

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COVER PHOTO: Women in Cyprus—©iStockPhoto.com/wundervisuals



# Obedience to God's Voice



## A Journey toward Nursing in Tanzania

BY JENNIFER KINLAW



When the Lord led us to Tanzania six-and-a-half years ago, I never thought I'd end up working in a local hospital. Maybe it was more that I hoped the Lord wouldn't ask me to. It had been almost 20 years since I'd earned my bachelor's in nursing, and I hadn't practiced in a long time. The vast health-care differences in this developing country, on top of working in a different language, Swahili, were enough to scare me away.

### A dream deferred

The Lord gave me a passion for babies long before I can remember, and although He did not lead me into labor and delivery straight out of nursing school, the dream stayed in my heart. I buried it when my husband, John, and I started having our own children and then especially after we moved to Tanzania. I missed nursing but became content in the role of stay-at-home mother.

All that changed about two years ago when we heard that one of our Tanzanian friends was pregnant with twins. We were excited for her family but also cautious: not only do twin pregnancies carry a greater risk, but she had already lost a seemingly healthy newborn two years before. We rejoiced with the family when we heard that the mother had safely delivered healthy twin boys. The babies were crying, nursing, and doing everything expected of newborns. The parents were elated. But our joy turned to sorrow when both babies died the next night due to unknown reasons. (It may have been from sepsis, but no one will ever know since autopsies aren't done here.) Six other babies died on the ward that night.

### Questions and answers

That tragedy began my nursing journey in Tanzania. Overcome with grief, I cried out to the Lord with questions flooding my mind: *How could this happen? This is crazy! Why did they die? Lord, what can I do to help keep this from happening so often?*

I knew that without an active US nursing license, I could not do anything, but John and I continued praying, despite my initial fear of navigating the health-care differences in a developing world. I began researching what it would take to reactivate my license, and it looked doable until I realized I would have to do a few months of clinical work in the US. Since our teenage son was studying in Kenya at the time, John would need to stay in Tanzania in case of an emergency. *Certainly*, I thought, *the Lord would not ask me to do that—that's unreasonable.*

I tried to forget the whole thing, but I couldn't. The Lord began speaking to me from all different directions, including our ladies' Bible study, the preacher I listened to in the mornings, and my own quiet time.

**Left (from top):** Kigoma Baptist Hospital delivers at least 350 babies per month; Jennifer holds a newborn she helped deliver.

**Right (L-R):** Jennifer cares for a Tanzanian mom and the first baby Jennifer personally delivered; US students serving in a missionary capacity sometimes shadow Jennifer, as does her daughter Elaina (right); Jennifer helps a coworker celebrate her engagement; Opportunities to encourage and minister to mothers abound.

Finally, the Lord spoke to me through a radio sermon from In Touch Ministries.<sup>1</sup> The preacher, Dr. Charles Stanley, encouraged listeners struggling to commune with the Lord to consider the last thing God had told them to do. Their relationship wouldn't be restored until they obeyed. Dr. Stanley also pointed out the temptation to tell the Lord that we're available but then close off an area to Him. That hit me hard!

I realized that although I had learned not to tell the Lord I wouldn't do something, I had said in my heart out of fear, *I do not want to work in a hospital here*. So, with trepidation, I re-surrendered to the Lord. I committed to do whatever He wanted, even if it meant working here and temporarily splitting up my family while I obtained the necessary experience in the US first.

### A learning curve and ministry opportunities

I completed the online bookwork for the renewal course, and then, in February 2023, my two daughters and I set off for the US so I could complete the clinical requirements. I had never traveled internationally without John, but the Lord gave me much peace.

After returning from the US three months later, I began the process of getting licensed in Tanzania. No other CMML missionary in Tanzania had worked as a nurse here, so the process was new to us all. We ended up hiring a lawyer to help with the paperwork, and by January 2024, I was ready to start.

I now work two days per week in the labor and delivery ward of Kigoma Baptist Hospital, which has the most deliveries of any clinic or hospital in our region—at least 350 per month. I quickly

### I get to help the women in their most vulnerable time.

realized I needed to learn a whole new set of Swahili terminology for the hospital, so every time I heard a new word, I wrote it down and studied it later. Initially, the work was awkward and exhausting. However, I knew the Lord wanted me there, and He gave me the strength and grace I needed for each day.

Now, I can say that I love working with the women here. It's raw and so different from working in the US, but I get to help the women in their most vulnerable time. They usually don't have any family with them during the delivery, there's no pain medication, and they have no one to tell them, "You're doing a great job!"

I get to pray with many of the women and minister to them in ways I could never otherwise. Often, after a woman delivers, she looks me in the eyes and says, "Thank you so much—thank you!" I pray that they see Jesus Christ's love in me and that the Lord will water and nurture the seeds planted in their hearts.

### The Lord's path forward

Each week, as I work with Tanzanian nurses and doctors to help deliver healthy babies and prevent unnecessary deaths, I am aware of the lack of resources and personnel. The Lord has shown me the need to further my education to serve women and their families more effectively. Lord willing, I plan to start an online certified nurse midwifery course this month. I would appreciate prayer for this endeavor as I will juggle home life, my hospital work, and online study.

I recently told a friend that what I once feared, the Lord knew would be the perfect fit for me. Truly, He does not call the equipped; He equips the called. I'm excited about all the Lord is doing and continue to follow Him as He gently leads me onward into His perfect plans. ■



Jennifer and John Kinlaw are commended from North Ridge Bible Chapel in Raleigh, North Carolina.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Charles Stanley, "When God Is Silent, Part 1," In Touch Ministries, 12 October 2020, [InTouch.org/listen/radio/when-god-is-silent-part-1](https://intouch.org/listen/radio/when-god-is-silent-part-1).



# Ask a Missionary?

Missions work around the world is unique—different from what friends and family at home encounter day to day. So, to learn about life on the field while getting to know our missionaries better, we asked them to share their firsthand experience or advice.

## QUESTION: What is something from your home country that you miss? And something in your country of service that you enjoy?

**MEXICO**  
Christine Pillette



I miss drinkable running water. After so many years, I've gotten used to soaking vegetables to sanitize them, but there is just something very convenient about being able to brush your teeth with sink water. Here in Mexico, I love all the fresh produce that is a fraction of the cost we pay in the USA.



Portion intentionally left blank

**ECUADOR**  
Esther Borman



I miss the change of seasons from my home country—the spring flowers and autumn leaves. However, I love the wonderful, temperate weather we receive in our country of service.

**HONDURAS (REFOCUSED)**  
David & Mary Dominguez

We enjoy the Christians and the acceptance of the Gospel.

**BURUNDI**  
Sonja Bassett



We miss the privacy and sense of sanctuary that a home provides in the US. But the flip side is that while we don't have that as easily here, we truly enjoy and love the three Burundians with whom we share our lives so closely: our yard worker, our domestic helper, and Jeremy's colleague.

**JAPAN**  
Kelly Smith



I miss good Kansas City-style barbecue sauce, but I enjoy the wide variety of delicious pudding cups here.

On a more serious note, my limited language ability means that I miss being able to fully show my personality to others. However, I appreciate the patience and active listening that the Japanese women show me when they do their best to understand what I'm trying to say, even if I choose a strange word or use incorrect grammar.

**JAPAN (REFOCUSED)**  
Bob Longo

I miss the flute-like melody of the wood thrush and the rustic colors of the oaks in autumn. Here in Japan, I enjoy the beautiful melody of the Japanese bush warbler and the deep reds of the autumn maples. Truly, God gives good replacements.

## PERU

Nicole Cacho-Hansen



I miss dishwashers and bathtubs, and I enjoy all the inexpensive, delicious fresh fruit.

## PHILIPPINES

Randy & Teresa Walker



We missed our children and grandchildren, our home church, and the mild climate. In the Philippines, we enjoyed the deference for elders and the openness to spiritual things.

*Editor's note: The Walkers are former CMML missionaries who recently returned to the US.*

## OTHER OVERSEAS SERVICE

Bert Mast



When we're in Zambia, one of the biggest things we miss is being with family. Another thing we miss is the ease of finding needed supplies. In Canada and the USA, one can go to big stores or search the internet and relatively easily find almost anything you want and have it in a few days, if not that day.

On the other hand, in Zambia, we enjoy such good, ripe fruit. It is a treat being in Zambia during mango season (November–December).

I also enjoy the mild climate in Lukolwe, where we never have freezing temperatures and the hot season lasts for only about a month. Thankfully, there are lovely Christians to fellowship with on both sides of the globe.

**ASK YOUR QUESTIONS!** Visit [CMML.us/askamissionary](https://www.cmml.us/askamissionary) to submit your question—it might be selected for a future issue!

## SEEKING THE LORD TOGETHER

CMML's Virtual Prayer Meetings



Back in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in stay-at-home orders, CMML participated virtually in the North American Week of Prayer, hosting prayer sessions for men and women via Zoom. The interest in those meetings led us to launch Pray with CMML, a prayer session from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. (EST) on the second and fourth Fridays of every month. We began hosting two Zoom meetings: one for men and one for women, each led by CMML staff. Participants pray for current needs, including the Lord's work around the world and global events.

Some of the participants are believers from local assemblies in North America; others are missionaries serving worldwide. Some stay for the entire two hours; others drop in for a portion of the time. Each one's presence contributes to a rich time of prayer. "It was a delight and pleasure," one missionary said of a CMML prayer meeting, "to be in the company, even via Zoom, of so many of those who have placed their trust in the Word of God. It was inspiring to share with them in the work of the Lord in so many places around the world."

If you're interested in praying with us, please visit [CMML.us/pray](https://www.cmml.us/pray) to register and receive the Zoom meeting ID and password. "It is time to seek the Lord." (Hosea 10:12) ■