

May 2025

MISSIONS



St. Lucia
Gospel Calendars
Reach Coastal Towns
and Rural Villages

Romania
Believers Support
a Nepali Church

Ukraine
Women and Children
Experience God's Peace



THINKING IT THROUGH

BY ALLAN WILKS

The Nature of Restlessness

Stillness is hard. We love to be busy, whether with work, play, ministry, or myriad other activities. Even our lazy moments are often filled with stimulants such as media, music, or eating. For many, the only still moments of the day are during sleep, and even that may be restless. Why is this?

One reason is that because God has made us in His image, we are creative. We love to express ourselves in making, building, working, and accomplishing—just as God did when He spoke His beautiful, awesome universe into existence and when He fashioned the pinnacle of his creation, mankind.

We are also restless because of the gift of pleasure. God created us with the capacity to enjoy what He has made for us, and we get pleasure from sampling His many other gifts, such as beauty, food, travel, community, intimacy, and so on. Indeed, because His gifts are plentiful, it is common to indulge in their enjoyment so much that we forget their source.

Yet there is an even deeper reason for our restlessness, and Ecclesiastes 3:11 expresses it beautifully: “[God] has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.” (ESV) God has created us with a yearning for Himself—“eternity,” as the writer of the verse says. By our very created nature, we long to know and be like our Source, the One who breathed life into us at the dawn of time. But He has made us this way such that we “cannot find out,” we cannot plumb the depths of, His true majesty and glory and infinitude. So we become restless to know Him.

This part of our nature is impossible to suppress. Like the noise from the nearby highway, it is always there. We can overlay it with other, louder activities, but these efforts only mask the noise, never remove it. God notes this reality when He says, in Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God.” He is saying, in effect, that when we can tamp down our other forms of restlessness, we will find ourselves in a position to probe more deeply our yearning to know God.

God has created us with a yearning for Himself.

done from the beginning to the end.” (ESV) God has created us with a yearning for Himself—“eternity,” as the

God Himself rested on the seventh day of creation, signifying to mankind the importance of regular rest as a time to feed our longing for Him. The inclusion of the Sabbath in the Ten Commandments indicates the high value He placed—and, therefore, that we should place—on a periodic laying aside of our temporal work and pleasure to draw near to Him.

George Herbert, the great 17th-century English poet, beautifully captured this idea of restlessness in his poem entitled “The Pulley”:

When God at first made man,
Having a glass of blessings standing by,
“Let us,” said He, “pour on him all we can.
Let the world’s riches, which dispersèd lie,
Contract into a span.”

So strength first made a way;
Then beauty flowed, then wisdom, honor, pleasure.
When almost all was out, God made a stay,
Perceiving that, alone of all his treasure,
Rest in the bottom lay.

“For if I should,” said He,
“Bestow this jewel also on my creature,
He would adore my gifts instead of Me,
And rest in Nature, not the God of Nature;
So both should losers be.

“Yet let him keep the rest,
But keep them with repining restlessness;
Let him be rich and weary, that at least,
If goodness lead him not, yet weariness
May toss him to my breast.”

Lord, teach us to be still so we may hear Your voice. Amplify the restlessness with which You created us so we may crave communion with You. Help us never allow the enjoyment of your many gifts to overwhelm our enjoyment of You. ■

Allan Wilks is a CMML director.

Vol. 54, No. 5. Christian Missions in Many Lands (ISSN 0744-4052) is published 11 times a year by Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., Belmar, New Jersey. Periodicals postage paid at Belmar, New Jersey, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., PO Box 13, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADDRESS CHANGES, AND ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE: Write to Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc. (cmml@cmml.us), PO Box 13, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. Copyright © CMML. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

COVER PHOTO: Evangelism in Anse la Raye, St. Lucia—Photo by Phil & Trena Gould



God Brought the Mission Field to Us

IN ROMANIA, BELIEVERS
SUPPORT A NEPALI CHURCH



BY MARIANA DOBROVAT

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

We've all heard of the Great Commission, the last commandment the Lord Jesus gave His disciples before His ascension to the Father in heaven. The Holy Spirit gifts some of us with the skills to fulfill all aspects of this charge and enables others to teach believers to observe everything He commanded. However, the Holy Spirit calls and equips all of us, in the measure He gives, to obey the Great Commission.

Our mission to further God's kingdom starts within our earthly families and then extends to our neighbors, coworkers, friends, and even enemies. The mission field to which He calls us to share the Gospel may be local or in a foreign land. But what happens when God brings a foreign mission field to us? It may come in the form of refugees from other countries, a phenomenon we have seen increasingly in America and Europe over the past 20 years.

My husband, John, and I serve the Lord in Braşov County, Romania—in a town called Ghimbav. After the communist regime collapsed in 1990, most Romanian factories either shut down or were sold to foreign investors, creating one of the highest unemployment rates the country had ever experienced. Many young Romanians migrated to western Europe, seeking better-paying jobs and a fresh start.

Now, 35 years later, Romanian businesses struggle to find workers. As a result, we've seen many people from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Laos, and other developing countries immigrate here to work in the construction field, restaurants, hotels, and small businesses.

The foreign mission field has come to us. And one day not long ago, God led us right to the Nepali community.



This page (from top): The Dobrovats support the local Nepali church; Nepali Christians participate in a monthslong Bible study on discipleship; John teaches on discipleship.
Opposite page (from top): A Nepali believer interprets for John to ensure everyone comprehends the message; Romanian and Nepali believers gather for church in the open mountain air; Dipak and Trushna enjoy a meal in the Dobrovats' home.

Assisting the believers

Two years ago, John attended a large Christian meeting at a newly planted nondenominational church in Ghimbav. The gathering comprised people from other churches, including about 40 young Nepali Christians. The man organizing the meeting was stressed because he needed a way to help the Nepali Christians understand the messages. They didn't speak Romanian but understood English.



With no one else available to translate the messages from Romanian into English, the organizer asked John to step in. That was the beginning of our relationship with the Nepali church.

The believers are hardworking people. Many of them borrowed €5,000 (about US \$5,463) to come to Romania through labor agencies, with which they have contracts. They are here on work visas, and often, those who are married cannot see their spouse and children for extended periods. These circumstances draw them closer to the Lord and one another.

We've hosted the church's pastor and his wife, Dipak and Trushna, for dinner several times, and they've graciously invited us to their home too. During one of their visits, Dipak shared how discouraging pastoring the young church can be. Since starting



the church, he has been trying to teach and equip prospective leaders, but unfortunately, many of the Nepali leave Romania for better opportunities in western Europe. Training future leaders who ultimately decide to move on is a significant challenge.

While many of the Nepali are here temporarily, some choose to remain in Romania—the pay may not be as high as elsewhere in Europe, but Romania is still a safer place to live. We support the group in several ways. We held a Bible study on discipleship with them for several months, and we plan to resume it as soon as the pastor informs us they're ready. Dipak often invites John to preach at the church's Sunday services, and the Nepali believers seem encouraged and at ease around John.

Building relationships

Dipak and Trushna's house is always packed with people. When we suggested they establish some boundaries to create privacy for themselves, they replied that they didn't have the heart to do so. They love these young Nepali, most of whom

are men, and want to provide a home where they are loved and welcomed. Their home is the only place where these believers feel comfortable and relaxed.

Although Romanian believers have shown them Jesus's love and helped them countless times, the Nepali Christians remain very shy, respectful, and careful not to offend anyone. Last summer, however, the Nepali community invited us to a large gathering in the mountains, where we worshipped together, listened to several short messages, and enjoyed a cookout. The believers prepared traditional Nepali food and served the Romanian believers, waiting until everyone else had been served before sitting down to eat. They were an example of humility and service.



There are now many Nepali working across Romania. Dipak and Trushna are involved in planting Nepali churches in several large Romanian cities. Some of the Nepali workers are Muslims. One believer's husband, for example, is a Muslim. He joins their gatherings, where believers surround him and he hears God's Word. We pray that one day he, too, will come to faith and share the message of salvation with others.

Walking in wisdom

What an incredible opportunity Romanian believers have to minister to foreigners from Nepal and so many different cultures and countries! Praise God for His wisdom and the mysterious ways He sometimes brings the mission field to us rather than sending us to the mission field.

May we seize every opportunity to make Him known.

May we seize every opportunity to make Him known, for the time is short and "the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:16)

We deeply appreciate your prayers for the Nepali pastor, his wife, and the church they lead. Please pray that Romanian believers will continue reaching out to the young Nepali Christians and demonstrating the love of Jesus. Pray also that the young Nepali believers will remain strong in the Lord and resist temptation as they wait to be reunited with their families. Please pray for us and our involvement in their ministry—that we will always serve in the Spirit. ■



Mariana and John Dobrovat are commended from Valley Bible Chapel in Napa Valley, California.

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: In your country of service, do you have friends who are missionaries like you? If so, how does that relationship support you?



Angela Loudon

Yes! While we only get to see our US missionary friends every other month, we value their friendship immensely. As fellow missionaries, we understand the challenges of the culture and place where we live, can relate to the stages our kids are at, and talk openly about our ministries. It is a supportive relationship that greatly enriches our lives.



Portion intentionally left blank



Jeff Speichinger

Yes, we have many missionary friends. They are very supportive in the work of the Lord and helpful in many aspects of the ministry.



Michael Meiers

Yes, we do. We may not interact with our missionary friends on a day-to-day basis, but when we run into difficulties, they are there to help.



Jeanne Lipsi

I do. It is a blessing to have missionary friends and full-time Brazilian workers who support me in prayer, counsel, and fellowship. From my years growing up on the mission field, I have good memories of the missionary get-togethers my father, Dominic Lipsi, would organize at camp every July. They would last for a week and were open to any English-speaking Brethren believers.



Craig Landrum

Yes, we do. We occasionally pray together.

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

7 CMML RESOURCES

BY CRAIG



MISSIONS MAGAZINE

Published 11 times per year, *Missions* features articles and letters from the missionaries included in the MPH. The articles present readers with an in-depth view of the missionaries' ministries and lives, while the "Connections" department offers updates from the field, organized by the missionaries' location within the MPH. "Keeping in Touch," the final department in each issue, notifies readers of changes to the MPH, including furloughs, new missionaries, deletions, marriages, births, and home calls. This information helps you pray more knowledgeably for the missionaries as you work through the MPH monthly. If you aren't already a *Missions* subscriber, sign up today—subscriptions are free.



CMML has a long history of publishing the names of missionaries in our missions service. The reason has always been prayer. Names have appeared annually in our predecessors' publications, *Voices of the Field* and *Prayer Handbooks* were distributed to display in homes and churches. Finally, in 1967, CMML published the first *Missionary Prayer Handbook*.

Today, the MPH lists missionaries by country and includes a brief description, plus info about their country of service. It allows readers to pray for a new group each day of the month.

For decades, the MPH has been a useful tool that enabled missionaries to pray. However, did you know that CMML's other resources flow from the MPH? The articles you read, the videos you watch, the prayer requests you receive supplement the MPH. All CMML's resources are connected to the MPH.

To get the most out of your *Missionary Prayer Handbook*, visit www.CMML.us. Scan each QR code to learn more or see page 23 for more information.



"MISSIONS UPDATE" VIDEOS

Once per month, CMML releases a video featuring a missionary listed in the MPH. These three-to-four-minute "Missions Update" videos give you a glimpse into the lives of missionaries around the world and are perfect for sharing online or showing during church services. You may watch the videos on our website or YouTube channel.



CMML UPDATES EMAIL

The CMML Updates email takes your enthusiasm for missions to the next level. Periodic messages keep you up to date with all the new and exciting resources, events, and needs associated with CMML and the missionaries we serve. For example, we'll notify you when the latest "Missions Update" video is available on our website and YouTube channel. Visit www.CMML.us to sign up.



S TO HELP YOU PRAY

FRITCHEY

Individuals and families commended to cross-cultural ministry. In the early years, these missionary prayer lists appeared in *Missions from the Vineyard* and *The Fields*. Then, prayer calendars, and later, CMML produced a list in booklet format, *Missionary Prayer Handbook*.

Each entry includes their picture, contact information, and ministry details. The handbook divides the listed missionaries into 30 days so believers

can pray for them. How do you use the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*? The tools on our website, the social media posts you like, and the prayer emails you receive are connected.

Use the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*, use it alongside the following CMML resources. Contact us for our contact information.



THE CMML WEBSITE

CMML.us is chock-full of missions and assembly information, much of which expands on the MPH and enables you to interact with missionaries. You can access special prayer requests, learn about upcoming conferences and missions opportunities, watch videos, and read a portion of each *Missions* issue. You can also find missionary profiles for most of the US-commended missionaries listed in the MPH. Some choose not to have public profiles for security reasons. Through our website, you may donate to every missionary CMML serves, even if they don't have a public profile. Similarly, you can learn about and give to associated ministries—those connected to the missionaries.



MISSION PRAYER ITEMS EMAIL

MSC Canada, our sister organization, and CMML jointly publish Mission Prayer Items, an email that MSC sends out weekly. It features prayer requests from missionaries listed in the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*. Like the "Connections" department of *Missions*, the prayer requests are organized by the missionaries' location within the MPH. You may sign up on our website.



SOCIAL MEDIA

A benefit of social media is the ability to update prayer warriors instantly. On CMML's Facebook, Instagram, and X accounts, we post about news, prayer requests, and developments as they occur around the world. We also share about CMML events and other information. Follow CMML (@cmmlus) on your preferred platforms.



Copies of the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*

See page 18 of this issue to learn how you can receive the 2025 MPH.

Craig Fritchey, CMML assembly relations and missionary care liaison