

November 2013

CHRISTIAN  
*Missions*  
IN MANY LANDS INC.

*Come Apart  
and Rest a While*

**EUROPEAN  
CHRISTIAN  
WORKERS'  
CONFERENCE**

**An Elder's Visit  
to Commended  
Missionaries**

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# Thinking It Through

WILLIAM YUILLE

## Thanksgiving

At this time of year (October in Canada and November in the U.S.), we in North America celebrate Thanksgiving. Originally it was a time to give thanks to God for the blessing of the harvest, but what it has become reminds us how traditions may continue to be observed even when they have lost much of their intended meaning. This applies sometimes to traditions which the Lord Himself prescribed. For example, it may be true of our attendance at gatherings of the Lord's people or of our participation in the Lord's Supper: we may be concerned about doing this regularly in the right way but it does not necessarily follow that there is genuine worship. The people of Israel at different times in their history were observing the correct religious ritual, bringing the right sacrifices in the right way, and yet God could say, "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats."<sup>1</sup> It was He Who had specified what sacrifices they were to bring and how and when they were to be offered, and they were complying with His instructions. Yet He was sick of the whole thing! He requires more than compliance with a request in a detached mechanical manner. Doing something in the right way is not acceptable to the Lord unless it is done with the right attitude! We are reminded of this repeatedly in Scripture.

**"OFFER TO GOD  
THANKSGIVING, AND  
PAY YOUR VOWS TO  
THE MOST HIGH."  
—Psalm 50:14**

He desires humility

### He desires humility

"For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise."<sup>2</sup>

### He desires obedience

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, 'Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written

of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart."<sup>3</sup> The Lord Jesus is the supreme example in this respect as He takes these very words upon His lips in coming into the world.<sup>4</sup> But the principle applies to us. Saul failed to destroy the Amalekites and their possessions and sought to excuse his disobedience on the grounds that the people preserved the best of the cattle to sacrifice to the Lord. Samuel came back with this stinging rebuke, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."<sup>5</sup>

### He desires thanksgiving

"Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?"<sup>6</sup> This is a rhetorical question which again draws attention to His displeasure with their sacrifices. "Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High."<sup>7</sup> He looks not for the observance of some ritual but for a genuine expression of appreciation for all that He has done. The Lord Jesus again is our example. Four times in the Gospels we read that He gave thanks. When He recognized His rejection by the cities in which He had worked so many miracles, He said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and the prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight."<sup>8</sup> Before feeding the 5,000, "Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples..."<sup>9</sup> At the graveside of Lazarus, the Lord Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me."<sup>10</sup> And then in the upper room, "He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them..."<sup>11</sup>

Let us then not simply celebrate Thanksgiving as an empty tradition but come before the Lord continually in humility and obedience and genuine thanksgiving. "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."<sup>12</sup> ■

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 1:11; <sup>2</sup> Psalm 51:16-17; <sup>3</sup> Psalm 40:6-8; <sup>4</sup> Hebrews 10:5-9; <sup>5</sup> 1 Samuel 15:22; <sup>6</sup> Psalm 50:13; <sup>7</sup> Psalm 50:14; <sup>8</sup> Matthew 11:25-26; <sup>9</sup> John 6:11; <sup>10</sup> John 11:41; <sup>11</sup> Luke 22:19; <sup>12</sup> Hebrews 13:15



# *A Missions Trip of* **Encouragement**

Why it's Important to Visit Commended Missionaries

by Rex Trogon

**M**y wife Nancy and I served in Africa (1983–1993) on an isolated mission station in Zaire (now the DR Congo). While there, we learned the value of a visit from home. Visitors would come just when we needed them most. Like the apostle Paul wrote of Titus, “Nevertheless, God... comforted [or encouraged] us by the coming of Titus.” (2 Corinthians 7:6)

Many missionaries, however, have never had someone visit from their commending assembly. We, at home, tend to focus on the part we have in missions by praying for, giving to, and corresponding with missionaries. These things are essential, but never underestimate the value of a personal visit to those who serve the Lord on the foreign field.

## **A Burden to Go**

In 2005 Believers Bible Chapel in Charlotte, North Carolina, commended our first missionary family to Africa. Jesse and Joy Johnson (*Missionary Prayer Handbook*, Day 1) were on their way to serve Lord in Burundi where Jesse grew up. The work was started by Jesse’s grandparents, Carl and Eleanor Johnson, and continued by their sons, Harry and Ruth Johnson (Jesse’s parents), and Ken and Melli Johnson. How wonderful it is that Jesse and Joy, the third generation, are there serving among the people of Burundi.

When we commended Jesse and Joy to Burundi, the elders discussed the possibility of going to visit them there. The years

**Above:** Rex and Derek with the Johnsons

passed too quickly and during their brief trip home in 2011 we talked about it again. I felt burdened to make the trip, based on my experience as a missionary and because I was one of the elders who commended them to this work. I was the most likely one to go since I had experience traveling in Africa. There are challenges in preparing, planning, and making such a trip that can be overwhelming.

## Factors to Planning the Trip

**Check availability:** First, I wanted to make sure that the Johnsons were open to a visit. Knowing their busy schedule and the demands that visitors can make on the host, I contacted the Johnsons and shared my desire to make this trip. Their response was very heartening to me. They wrote, "Wow! It would be such a wonderful blessing for you to actually come see with your own eyes what the Lord is doing here."

**Travel with someone:** An added blessing was that Derek Watson from Northern Ireland joined me for the trip. Derek and Heather and their two boys came to the U.S. for 18 months to work with Nancy and me. They came to know Jesse and Joy during their time with us. I believe that a trip like this should

have more than one person going if at all possible. So, having Derek go with me was a great help and good fellowship.

**Determine the appropriate time frame:** When it came to planning the trip, I knew I should make my visit long enough to be beneficial, but brief enough to be a blessing, not a burden. So, we set the time frame at six days, arriving on Thursday and departing the following Tuesday. This would give us the privilege of being with them for the Lord's Day, with a few days before and after. It worked out perfectly.

**Set goals:** Jesse and Joy were prepared for our visit and had planned a schedule that would make the most of our time. The goal was to see firsthand the different works going on in the assemblies, the Discovery School, the Bible school, and more. We especially wanted to have some personal time with the Johnsons and meet their co-workers among the Burundian believers.

## Our Trip in Action

**Assemblies:** We visited a variety of assemblies from the mountains around Bujumbura to the shore of Lake Tanganyika. During this brief visit, we met and ministered to the saints at three assemblies and visited with elders at seven other locations. This gave Jesse quite a workout translating for Derek and me into Kirundi, which he handled well. I was so thankful for the Lord's help to remember much of my Swahili after being out of Africa for 20 years. Enough people spoke Swahili that my familiar greetings brought joy and even some applause from them, which was a great relief to me.

The Burundi saints and elders in the assemblies are whole-heartedly committed to serving the Lord. They have endured great hardships and grief through the tragic period of war and have grown deeply in their spiritual lives. They have needs but are not given to begging or waiting for help to come from outside the country. Their industrious attitude and zeal to build up the work of the Lord is a good testimony for His glory. This makes the missionary presence more of a team effort as co-laborers together.



**Clockwise from top left:** Preaching by translation; Meeting with elders and co-workers; Joy Johnson in a Discovery School classroom

**Discovery School:** We toured the Discovery School, an English-speaking school with a spiritual emphasis that has made a great impact on Burundi. A tremendous work is going on with Joy's direction of the school. They have more than 600 students enrolled this year and are beginning a building project. The design is a three-story school building to hold the successive years as they expand their program. Two new classrooms are complete, but the need is still great to accomplish this task. We stood on the roof of the first level and looked out to see the students during their morning break. What a privilege it was to be there and call upon the Lord for the completion of this building. "To Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." (Ephesians 3:20)

**Film team:** Upon our return from the Discovery School, the Gospel Film Team was loading up for a three-day journey to show a gospel film in a village about 200 miles away. Five men were going out with a sense of the Lord's leading to evangelize in this unique way. For years we have prayed *for* this film ministry, but what an honor to pray *with* them before they embarked on their trip.

**Bible school:** The Bible school where Jesse teaches together with national elders and teachers is set up in a wonderful way to accommodate the practical needs of the men who are sent from their assemblies to study the Word of God. They study one month and return home for two months. This enables them to work their gardens or jobs in their home villages and return for the next month of concentrated study.

**Co-workers and family:** Jesse's brother and sister-in-law, Danny and Annie Johnson (MPH Day 1), and their two children are there helping in the work. Their fellowship and special abilities bring so much to benefit the Lord's work and workers in Burundi. Being fluent with the language and culture, Danny is able to share in the ministry load for the assemblies and Bible school. He is developing a unique project raising animals that



**Top & right:** Discovery School recess;  
**Bottom:** Blind school class



will help to support some of the Lord's servants. Goats, ducks, guinea pigs, turkeys, and rabbits are some of the livestock he raises. It is truly amazing and you can see how much he loves and enjoys this kind of work.

The "in-between times" were spent with Jesse and Joy at home with their three wonderful boys. Zach, Micah, and Elliot made mealtimes fun and their energy was contagious. They are learning so much as they grow up in Burundi. Even with dangers in regard to physical health, there is much advantage to being in a healthy spiritual environment. In addition to the work Jesse and Joy are involved in, their children are part of touching the lives of the people here in a way that only children can.

**Other ministries:** We also visited other works in which Jesse and Joy have a part, such as the deaf school, medical work, school for the blind, eye clinic, and Sunday school work. When they were home on furlough, I listened to their reports and met with them as elders meet with commended missionaries, but until I was there myself, I did not realize all that they were doing. I felt like Barnabas when he came to Antioch and "saw the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord." (Acts 11:23)



Discovery School recess

## Go to Encourage and be Encouraged

The great thing about going to encourage others is that you often are encouraged more in return. As Paul wrote to the believers in Rome concerning his desire to visit, "...that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me." (Romans 1:12)

My hope is to encourage you to pray and to go help in this great work. Teachers, preachers, workers, and willing hearts, will you go? It could all start with a visit. Letters, emails, and satellite phones are great ways to communicate with missionaries, but nothing compares to being there personally. ■

*"...never underestimate the value of a personal visit to those who serve the Lord on the foreign field."*



*Rex Trogon serves the Lord full-time with his wife Nancy. Commended by Fairbluff Bible Chapel and Believers Bible Chapel, they are based in the Charlotte, North Carolina, area.*



## Home with the Lord

### Benjamin D. Peters

**Missionary to India • August 21, 1933 – April 26, 2013**

**B**en Peters was born to Christian parents on August 21, 1933, in a small village in south-central India. Missionaries had visited Ben's village several years before his birth and many of the villagers were brought to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It was at this time that Ben's grandfather was born again and changed the family's surname to "Peter" in order to signify his conversion to Christianity. When Ben was born several years later, he was given the name Benjamin Devamitra Peters—Devamitra means "friend of God" in the local language.

The oldest of 14 children, Ben learned responsibility and hard work at an early age. These character traits benefited him later in life as he seemed to be endowed with exceptional energy and determination, which became his trademark. An elder from an assembly in the States observed the long hours and hectic schedule that Ben maintained, and jokingly commented, "No flies can land on Ben Peters!"

The energy that Ben possessed drove him to not only educate himself under a streetlight in his village, but also

to ensure that others had the opportunity to receive an education. It drove him to not only study God's Word so intensely that he was almost a walking Bible, but also to share his knowledge with others through evangelism and teaching. Ben became a living example of Colossians 1:29 in his service to others: "Whereunto I also labour, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily."

In fact, expressing the love of God to the "others" of society was the driving force behind nearly all of Ben's labors. Whether evangelizing lepers in the leprosy hospital, establishing a church among the Scavengers (septic-tank cleaners) of India's untouchable caste, or providing food and shelter for widows and orphans, Ben always served the outcast, poor and weak as unto the Lord.

When Ben answered the call home by his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on April 26, 2013, he took nothing with him. However, what he left behind, the value of his labors and impact of his witness on the "others" of India, will be measurable only in eternity.

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# MAY WE INTRODUCE

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## Rikki & Dinna Tienzo Missionaries to the Philippines



### Rikki's Testimony

I was born into a devout Catholic family in the Philippines. My parents were members of the Cursillo, which was a zealous Catholic movement in the 1970s. We came to know the Lord when the community Bible study leader left the local group, and it became a social organization where anybody was welcome. A Methodist couple eventually joined the fellowship and that was when we started to hear about the Gospel. More and more of the youth became exposed to different evangelical school organizations like Campus Crusade for Christ and the Navigators, and we started to learn about grace. It was a long process, as the Catholic way of thinking was deeply entrenched in our thoughts. Eventually, an elder of the assembly in San Juan (Manila) learned about this Catholic group gathering as a church and unselfishly and systematically showed us the truth of God's Word. I do not really know the exact moment I got saved, I just knew I was and I had the verses to prove it. My brother and I became the first elders in this brand-new assembly in Cavite. By the time I was 30 and married, I was given a chance to help plant a new assembly in a nearby town of Amadeo. I was then invited by a company in the United States to join their architectural-design firm. I came to the States and was blessed with the opportunity to fellowship with North Shore Bible Chapel in Zion, Illinois, and Bear Lake Bible Chapel in Apopka, Florida, where my wife and I served the Lord until we went back to the Philippines.

### Dinna's Testimony

I was saved when I was 16 years old as a senior in high school. I remember sitting on a campus bench during a break that afternoon. A girl approached me and shared the Gospel. I

immediately believed and, that night before I went to bed, I prayed and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into my heart. I kept asking the Lord over and over to forgive my sins and come into my heart and be my Lord and Savior. I guess I wanted to be sure that He really heard my prayers! After saying my prayers, I had peace and slept soundly because I knew that if I died that night I would surely go to heaven. I was the first in my Catholic family to be saved, and there was persecution. I was glad my aunt, who was living with us, eventually got saved too—I was no longer alone in my newfound faith. In school, I was invited to attend the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, and there I enjoyed the fellowship of believers and learned more about the Lord. After graduation I found a group of young people in our community that started to gather and study the Bible. It eventually became an assembly and I was so glad to be part of it because it was there that I grew in my Christian life.

### Together

We lived two houses apart all our lives and it was in the assembly in Justinville, Bacoor, Cavite, that we saw that the Lord wanted us to be together. We were married in 1990, and the Lord blessed us with a lovely daughter, Dana, two years later. We came to the States as a family in 2000 and sought to be used by the Lord there. Seven years later, we were just supposed to visit the Philippines and wait for our working visa renewal when the recession hit. Rikki's company had to let him go and we saw this as a "go signal" from the Lord to do what we really wanted to do—church planting! With the blessing of our two assemblies in the U.S., off we went as full-time missionaries to a remote town called Presentacion, in the Bicol Region. ■

# NEWCASTLE WEST, IRELAND

## A Chimney Sweep's Answered Prayer

by W.H. Burnett



Earlier this year, my wife Beth and I were privileged to travel to Ireland to visit with our son and daughter-in-law, Colin and Natalie Burnett (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 12). They serve the Lord in Newcastle West, County Limerick, and have been evangelizing in that town for more than 14 years. When they arrived, there was only one believer in that staunch Roman Catholic (RC) town—a humble man, John Griffin, the chimney sweep. Unknown to anyone, John had been praying that the Lord would send to Newcastle West someone who could bring the Gospel to the people and establish a local church. Colin and Natalie were the Lord's answer to John Griffin's prayers, and today there is an established New Testament assembly with about 30 people in fellowship, all of whom had no previous background other than in the RC system. Some years ago, Colin and Natalie were joined by Northern Irelanders Andrew and Jillian Shanks, who are valued co-laborers in the Lord's work in that needy town.

### Provision for a New Building

The main reason for our visit was to be with the Newcastle West assembly as they celebrated the opening of a new building for the assembly. Since the beginning of the work, the assembly has been in several locations to accommodate various stages of growth, but most were remote from the town center and not readily accessible to the townspeople. After much exercise in prayer, Colin and Andrew discovered an empty furniture warehouse located at the very center of the town, directly across the road from the RC church. The building was a simple, bare-walls structure with no insulation, lighting nor heating, but Colin and Andrew were convinced that the Lord would have them move to this highly visible and accessible location. They moved forward in faith and managed to secure a long-term lease on the building. Their faith was rewarded when, without making their needs known to anyone but the Lord, funding and materials to undertake the necessary renovations were made available through the generosity



**Above from top (L-R):** Newcastle West assembly; Assembly entrance; Main auditorium; Colin, Natalie and family; Recent converts Gerry, Nadina and Phil.  
**Opposite page (L-R):** Irish rural road; Newcastle West town square.



of several sources in Ireland and abroad. The labor to undertake the project was supplied by brothers and sisters who volunteered their time and energy, including many young people who came from Northern Ireland to assist. Colin's earlier experience in construction enabled him to manage this large project. During the construction, people from the town visited regularly and showed an interest in what was happening and asked questions, which opened the door to the Gospel. Before the building was complete, Gerry, the owner of a tire shop next door, was saved, and his wife Nadina followed shortly after. Both are now baptized and in the Newcastle West assembly.

### Great Fruit from the New Facilities

When the work was completed, the assembly hosted an "open house" for the townspeople, and the building was filled with Catholic people, all of whom showed interest and received literature to take home. The local newspaper also attended and gave them a two-page spread in the next issue—complete with pictures. The official opening of the new building was held a little later as we, Colin's parents, wished to be part of the celebration and to give some ministry. On the opening night the new hall was filled to capacity with local brothers and sisters and people attending from other assemblies in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The total number was approximately 80 people, which was a great boost to the local assembly. Ministry was given based on the record of the inauguration of Solomon's Temple, and relating it to the spiritual temple of our day. The Sunday following the official opening, a recently-saved young woman with a sad background was baptized and received into fellowship. After the baptism, the Gospel was preached from John chapter three, and a woman in her 60s was saved. She was the mother-in-law of the tire shop owner referred to previously—this whole family has now been touched by the Gospel. We continued in Newcastle West for three weeks, ministering to the assembly at the Sunday and midweek meetings.

### Prayer for Continued Blessings

Please pray for this work of the Lord in Newcastle West. They are riding the wave at the moment and seeing blessing on a regular basis. Pray that the interest shown by the community will bear fruit, and that a mighty wave of salvation will sweep through that town to the glory of God. Pray also for the assembly. Whenever a work of God is going on well, Satan is ready to disrupt and destroy, as it was in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. Pray especially for Colin and Andrew who have to handle the ministry, and face the unique problems and difficulties associated with a new work, while having no other assemblies nearby to help. Pray also for their families, as being in an isolated assembly can produce difficulties when looking for fellowship with other young people. They especially need our prayers.

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If only John Griffin were able to see what has developed recently in Newcastle West as a result of his prayers. How pleased he would be.

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If only John Griffin were able to see what has developed recently in Newcastle West as a result of his prayers. How pleased he would be. But dear John went to be with the Lord last year, and he prayed for a future that he would never see in its present fullness. The day of reward is coming and we are confident that John Griffin will receive a crown of glory for his persistence in prayer, that brought the Gospel to Newcastle West, and also for his humble support in the assembly during his latter years. ■

*W.H. Burnett and his wife Beth are in fellowship in Hopedale Assembly, Ontario, Canada.*



# Come Apart and Rest a While

## EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WORKERS' CONFERENCE

by Annie O'Connor

**H**ave you ever worked so hard in your ministry—counseling others, teaching, preaching, leading Bible studies, writing—that you feel you need to rest? That you need a brief moment to step back and look at the big picture? To reflect on where God has you and where He is leading; to be spiritually refreshed so you can return to serve others with a greater impact? You're not alone. Many missionaries work long days, giving of themselves to the Lord's service, yet few get a chance to "come ye yourselves apart... and rest a while." (Mark 6:31) This is where the European Christian Workers' Conference (CWC) comes in.

## A CONFERENCE FOR AND BY MISSIONARIES

CWC is a weeklong conference for missionaries serving in Europe who are associated with CMML, MSC Canada, Echoes of Service, and other sister organizations. An annual event begun in 1978, it is directed and planned by the missionaries themselves. Its purpose is to refresh attendees both physically and spiritually and to give a unique opportunity for fellowship with other English-speaking, like-minded workers. This year 75 adults and 27 children attended, representing about a dozen countries. In addition to missionaries, representatives from service organizations attended: Russ and Alison Sutherland, Phil and Marilyn Barnes, and Sandra Barnett represented MSC Canada, and Allan and Fiona Wilks and Annie O'Connor represented CMML.



**Clockwise from top:** Group photo; Hank, Beryl, and Julie Gelling; Jeanne Tabailoux and Bea Gyger.

**Opposite page from top (L-R):** Ministry session; Esther and Jessica; Children's meeting; Lake Anney; Conference center grounds.





## THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

The conference was held the third week of August near Annecy, France, surrounded by majestic mountains and close to picturesque Lake Annecy. Beginning Saturday afternoon, it ran until Friday morning. Each day began with a prayer time and breakfast and then two teaching meetings with Stephen McQuoid from GLO (Gospel Literature Outreach). Lunch was followed by a few hours of free time and then optional workshops. Dinner and an evening meeting where missionaries shared about their work finished each day. The last day was extra special with a morning worship and remembrance time and a talent show in the evening.

### Spiritual refreshment

A dynamic speaker, Stephen McQuoid shared from God's Word throughout the week. He focused on Nehemiah and Ephesians and used the texts and his personal experiences to encourage and challenge the listeners. Stephen grew up on the mission field and currently is the president of GLO.

### Practical study

Who better to learn from than others who work and serve in similar situations? Each day two or three optional workshops were presented by conference attendees. Subjects from computers and health, to the Trinity and witnessing, were covered. The service organizations also held meetings with the missionaries that they serve.

### Reports from the field

Each day several people gave presentations about their ministries. Many used creative ways to share what the Lord is doing; some used PowerPoint slide shows, others did skits, sang, and one couple even recited a self-written poem. It was a pleasure to hear about the exciting strides being made in the Lord's work and to share in the struggles faced by many. Each report was concluded with a group prayer time uplifting the presenters.

### Physical refreshment

Each afternoon was an important time for fellowship, relaxation, and reflection. Some went on field trips into town, on boat rides, or visited nearby castles. Some spent family time while swimming in the pool or fellowshiped with other workers around the snack shop. Others used this period for person-

al reflection and extra private time to bring important matters before the Lord. Several missionaries stated how important this time was for them. In addition, a chiropractor from Canada came and treated whomever wanted, free of charge.

### Kids' and teens' program

For many missionary kids this conference is the only time they have with other MKs. For this week they are able to create friendships and share with others who are growing up in similar situations. Volunteers from the U.S., Canada, and France came to lead the teen group, kids' program, and even babysit the youngest tots. The volunteers' work will certainly have a great eternal impact.

## UPHOLD THIS MINISTRY IN PRAYER



Encouragement, fellowship, and refreshment are the themes of this important conference. For some, it is their only time away from "the front lines." Support this meaningful time for the European workers with your prayers, by volunteering to come and help next year with the children's or teens' program, or by giving a gift to assist with the conference needs. Your prayerful partnership in this ministry means a great deal to God's faithful servants working in Europe. ■

*Annie O'Connor is the editor of Missions magazine.*

# MAY WE INTRODUCE

## Lianne Torok—Missionary to Germany



I was born in Canton, China, and adopted at three months by CMML missionaries to Hong Kong. Raised in Erie, Pennsylvania, I learned from a young age the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection,

and at four years old I accepted Christ as my Savior. Growing up in a Christ-centered family, it was easy for me to participate in Bible studies, prayer meetings and the breaking of bread. But I was a second-generation Christian being spoon-fed what I learned about the Lord. I had a lot of head knowledge without the experience of living a life that was fully surrendered to Him.

It was not until one summer away at a Christian camp that I was struck with the truths of Luke 9:23. I came face-to-face with the reality of my need to “deny” myself the right to be my own authority. For years I had been a supporter of Christ, but I knew that if I was going to make the transition to being a follower of Christ it was going to cost me something—my will for His.

In 2009 I graduated college and took a job teaching middle

school math. It was during that year that the Lord convicted me of my passion for teaching math, but lack of sharing anything with an eternal value. I knew I could no longer be a “casual Christian,” only reading my Bible as comfort food in times of trouble. So in 2010 with a deep desire to know the Lord Jesus more, I attended Capernwray Bible School in England. There the Lord opened my eyes to the global scale of His work, sparking my initial interest in serving overseas.

The Lord often burdens one’s heart for the people of a particular country. However, throughout my life the Lord has continued to fuel my desire to work with teens, and challenge them to examine their own personal response to Jesus Christ.

By God’s grace I have joined the staff at Black Forest Academy (BFA) in Kandern, Germany, as a resident assistant. BFA provides a quality, international Christian education to the children of missionaries. I count it a privilege to care for and disciple teens whose parents have sacrificed their lives for the sake of the Gospel. As I embark on this journey please pray that I might strive to continually seek to know Him more, living a life that cannot be explained outside the power of the Holy Spirit. ■

## Emma Wichers—Missionary to Zambia



My name is Emma Wichers and I’m originally from West Montrose, Ontario. My interest in international missions began quite a few years ago, but I really wasn’t sure how or where the Lord would have me serve. I

decided to pursue nursing with the hope of using it as a way to share the love of Christ and ultimately reach others with the Gospel. Last summer, between my third and fourth years of nursing school, I spent three months at Chitokoloki Mission Hospital in Zambia. In addition to learning the ropes at the hospital, I also got the opportunity to get involved with several Bible studies and to develop many worthwhile relationships among the Zambian youth. Those three months were exciting, rewarding, and challenging, and as I left I remember thinking that the summer was much too short—I still had ideas and hopes for future ministry and involvement! I began to pray about returning and also started to seriously seek out advice from other missionaries and the elders of my assembly. As I finished my final year of school, the doors back to Zambia kept

opening, and more than that, I felt a peace and confidence while pursuing this course of action that I believe could have come only from the Lord. I had the opportunity to attend Missionary Orientation Program (MOP) at Greenwood Hills. It was an awesome time to gain practical advice, hear challenging messages, meet like-minded people, and bounce ideas and questions off seasoned missionaries. As I write this, I am sitting in Heathrow Airport in London, England, waiting to board the plane that will take me back to Zambia, but this time I don’t have a return ticket for the end of the summer. Although I am definitely excited to return and work on solidifying my skills as a nurse, I am more excited about going back to share the Lord among the Zambian people and to see His name glorified. I would like to continue to be involved with the youth and to help out with the practical needs associated with running the mission station. I appreciate your prayers as I work to learn the local language, Lunda, and seek to prioritize my time in a setting that is often quite busy. There are many things to stay busy with, but I want to keep sight of my goal: to build bridges through practical service with the purpose of evangelism and discipleship for the glory of God. ■