

November 2025

MISSIONS

God's Plan for
Encouraging the
Assemblies in
Poland and
Portugal

10 Acres Devoted
to Ministry in Mexico

A Century of God's
Faithfulness in Zambia



THINKING IT THROUGH

BY KEITH R. KEYSER

Missions and Love for Others

By God's grace, Paul was an accomplished missionary and expositor of Scripture. He was also a great lover of the church. First Thessalonians reveals his passion for the believers in Thessalonica, desiring to see them established and growing in the faith. His approach was neither dictatorial nor self-serving. Instead, his attitude and methodology matched his message. Paul's exemplary behavior provides a pattern for Christian workers everywhere.

After his initial visit to Thessalonica, recorded in Acts 17, Paul continued to pray for the believers, thanking the Almighty for their "work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope." (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3) The Gospel had powerfully converted them from idolaters to believers in the true and living God. When Paul wrote to them, they were awaiting the Son of God's return and were themselves examples of the marvelous change the Gospel produces (vv. 9-10).

In the second chapter, Paul discusses the approach that he and his colleagues had adopted among the Thessalonians: boldly preaching the Gospel despite a previous imprisonment at Philippi for the same ministry. Invariably, this preaching brought more persecution, as the phrase "in much conflict" shows; nevertheless, their love for the Lord and their passion for souls overcame any reticence in proclaiming the Gospel (2:2).

A sincere ministry

Paul and his friends had no ulterior motives in heralding Christ's Gospel. Their teaching was not erroneous, nor were they living a double life—gaining followers so they could take advantage of them (2:3). Neither was their message deceitful like so many "last days" preachers (2 Timothy 3:13).

The missionaries' motivations were pure because they kept a God-centered focus. First, God had examined them and committed the sacred treasure of His truth to their trust (1 Thessalonians 2:4). Second, they understood that the Gospel is an extremely valuable treasure that God's heralds must guard carefully (vv. 4-5). Third, they were not trying to please men but rather knew that the Lord tests the heart and will one day evaluate and reward their service at His judgment seat (v. 6).

A faithful ministry

In proclaiming the Lord's words, Paul preferred honest language over flattery (v. 5). He and his colleagues did not seek material gain from their would-be converts, unlike many ancient philosophers (as well as preachers of many different eras). Instead, they conducted themselves in a familial way. They were gentle, like a nursing mother, with the newborn Christian babes and were willing to pour out their lives to edify them (vv. 7-8).

These missionaries labored night and day to avoid placing any financial demands on their hearers (v. 9). Like the woman in Proverbs 31, their lamps were not extinguished at night (v. 18). They coupled tentmaking and preaching so they could be self-supporting, not mixing the message with material concerns. Christ's Gospel should never be confused with a business proposition or a moneymaking ploy.

A family ministry

Besides his maternal metaphor, Paul also uses a paternal image in 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12. Like a wise father, he "exhorted and comforted and charged" his spiritual children to "walk worthy of God," as did his collaborators. He not only taught and urged the Thessalonian believers to adopt a holy lifestyle—a devout, just, and blameless walk for the Lord—but also modeled it (v. 10). As Charles Spurgeon explained, "If a man walks in Christ, then he so acts as Christ would act; for Christ being in him, his hope, his love, his joy, his life, he is the reflex of the image of Jesus; and men say of that man, 'He is like his Master; he lives like Jesus Christ.'"¹

As Paul's example shows, proper doctrine and service flow from God Himself. The Lord's work demands both obedience to the Bible and love for people. Modern believers should follow this apostle's example in diligence toward Christians and the lost alike. "Speaking the truth in love" must be our guiding principle as we "make disciples of all the nations." (Ephesians 4:15; Matthew 28:19) ■

The Lord's work demands both obedience to the Bible and love for people.

Keith R. Keyser is a commended worker based in Pennsylvania.

¹ Charles Spurgeon, "November 9, Morning," *Morning & Evening* (Hendrickson, 2011), 628.

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COVER PHOTO: Believers outside the Olarias assembly in Portugal—Photo by Mark Swaim



WHEN *God* CHANGES OUR *Plans*

An Introduction to the Assemblies in Poland and Portugal

BY MARK A. SWAIM

At the beginning of 1998, five weeks after our wedding, Tami and I flew to Poland to begin a life of service for the Lord Jesus. We spent 11 years in Poland working mostly with youth, teaching God's Word, proclaiming the Gospel, and encouraging a small group of believers who met in a home on a mountainside near the Slovakian border.

At the end of 2008, with five boys in tow (we would welcome our daughter several months later), the Lord unexpectedly brought us back to the US and led us to settle in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. We continued a life of service to the Lord Jesus, though He saw fit to change the ministry: we now served Him in Pennsylvania and surrounding assemblies while I traveled to Poland three or four times per year. On those trips, I taught God's Word—not only to the youth and small house church where we had lived but also in assemblies throughout the country. I also established Bible programs, preached the Gospel, and counseled believers. While this setup did not seem ideal to us, it was the Lord who had guided the way our service would be rendered to Him.

In 2015, we faced another major change in our service. Peter Cerqueira (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 12) invited me to participate in a conference in Portugal. Saying yes was not easy. Being away from family was hard, so when it had to happen, I preferred to spend my time in Poland. Yet, since the Lord is the Shepherd of the work, I went by faith, not knowing the purpose of this open door.

Time is often the revealer of secrets, and with its passage, I came to understand that God's purposes centered on three individuals: Peter Cerqueira, Pedro Barbosa, and Carlos Oliveira. Each of these men is involved in the Lord's work in various ways, and I have had the privilege of working with them.

Today, I thank God for the opportunities to visit and support the assemblies in Poland and Portugal. Both countries have great spiritual needs, but each has bodies of believers committed to Christ and to serving Him. Let me introduce you to several of the assemblies I fellowship with.

The growth of Portugal's assemblies

Although the percentage of evangelical believers in Portugal is low (recent studies estimate 1 percent), a lot of work is done in Lisbon, the capital. This is where Pedro Barbosa has planted a local meeting (in the Amadora region). I met Pedro at the 2015 conference, which focused on the characteristics of a healthy assembly. He liked what he heard and returned to Lisbon to start a new assembly. To encourage and help him, I launched what I call a Bible program—intensive Bible teaching over the course of a day.

Pedro and his wife, Gracia, have devoted their lives to the Lord, and through their efforts, this church has been established. It now needs two things: a greater understanding of the priesthood of all believers and plurality of leadership. The believers are still growing toward maturity, however, and are not ready to take on leadership roles.



▲ The believers in Lisbon's Amadora region

◀ The St. Kats assembly, one of Portugal's oldest

One of Portugal's oldest assemblies, affectionately called St. Kats, is also in Lisbon. While a small meeting now, it still wields great influence. The Adriaio family leads the assembly. The parents and young adult children are all tireless workers for the Lord. They not only work out of this assembly but are also heavily involved in a nearby assembly called Olarias. Over the past 10 years, this assembly has grown into the largest Brethren church in Portugal.

Just across the bay, on the southern end of Lisbon, you can find the Quinta do Conde assembly, where Carlos Oliveira has been laboring along with other faithful elders for many years. Decades ago, the believers divided over an issue, and the divisions persist to this day. Yet God saw fit to bring Carlos, missionary Peter Cerqueira, and me together through providential circumstances. We work together and enjoy wonderful fellowship and trust that our fellowship will open doors for reconciliation.

An hour north of Quinta do Conde, the town of Lourinhã sits on the Atlantic coastline. This is where Peter and Nelly Cerqueira live. They long to see an assembly planted in this area. But, while that door remains closed, they labor alongside a Brazilian missionary, Claudio Martinowski, who is planting an assembly in Marinha Grande. Peter and Nelly travel an hour farther north to fellowship with and help this newly forming assembly. Since people in Portugal, and in Poland, tend to be wary of house

meetings, the assembly in Marinha Grande moved its services to a rented office space. Immediately, they began to experience opposition and pressure to close down their meetings at the location. Please pray for this developing work and the ongoing ministry of all Portugal's assemblies, from largest to oldest.

Poland's assemblies reach out

Tami and I spent 11 years in Nowy Sacz, Poland, a medium-sized city about a half-hour drive from the Slovakian border. There were (and still are) very few evangelicals in Poland, and in this region, the number of evangelical churches was especially small. At the time, a family outside of town hosted a small assembly in their home. This was where we fellowshipped when we lived in Poland.

An hour north, in the city of Tarnów, we got to know a family who also hosted an assembly in their home. Over the years, we worked together, and our families became close. The assembly had always been small. Today, it meets in the center of town with a group of about 40 people in attendance each Sunday.

I have preached at 36 of the 42 assemblies currently operating in Poland. Most are concentrated in the south-central region, with three in the Warsaw area. One of these assemblies met in a house in a town called Boża Wola (which means "God's Will"). A few years back, the Polish government began planning



Believers gather outside the Olarias assembly.



Claudio Martinowski leads the singing in Marinha Grande.

Marinha Grande's rented space



The assembly in Quinta do Conde (Photographed by Carlos Oliveira)

The Cerqueira family, missionaries in Lourinhã



The assembly in Tarnów, Poland ▶



▶ A fellowship meal at the Boża Wola church



▶ The Bielsko-Biała assembly's summer camp for Ukrainian kids



◀ The Oświęcim church

to build a futuristic airport that is expected to generate 150,000 jobs. The airport will be built in and around Boża Wola and will be a major European hub. Planners estimate it will handle 40 million passengers per year by 2035 (larger than the current population of Poland!).

Upon hearing of these airport plans, the assembly began to think of the possibilities for evangelism. Realizing they needed land and a building, they started to sacrificially give of their own resources for such a project. With the funds they collected, they purchased land and started saving to construct a building. Through the eventual help of a few North American believers, they built a simple structure. It suits their needs and is a place where they can serve the Lord in the community.

Since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, Polish assemblies have helped refugees in Poland and believers remaining in Ukraine. In one outreach, the assembly in Bielsko-Biała rents a house for Ukrainian mothers and their children and shares Christ with them. In August 2025, the believers planned a camp for Ukrainian children. The Palowice assembly organized relief aid that went regularly into Ukraine, while the Piasek assembly prepared gospel literature, backpacks for children, and Emmaus correspondence courses. The physical and spiritual aid went all over Ukraine in an effort to show the love of Christ to those in great need.

There are two more Polish assemblies to introduce you to—both near where some of the greatest horrors of humanity have taken place. The assembly in Oświęcim is just a few blocks from the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, a former German Nazi concentration and extermination camp. One town over, in Brzezczce, is another assembly—this one has a good number of young men and women. While visiting this area, I have often heard stories from the locals that center on the events that occurred in and around the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration

camp complex. Baptisms still take place in the river where Nazis dumped the ashes of cremated victims. It is always a joy to preach the hope of the Gospel in these two assemblies and to spread the truth of a God who sees all and cares.

Our ministry in Poland began with young people 28 years ago. Young people remain a concern to us. The generation and cultural gap between those who lived during the time of the Soviet Union and those who live today in the European Union could not be greater. We rejoice over opportunities to help build bridges as we so greatly need one another. Please pray that the Lord will instill in the believers the importance of working together across generations and finding a path forward that honors the Lord and glorifies His name.

God guides us step by step

In serving the Lord, we do not get to choose what we want to do. Left to our own, we would have lived and remained in Poland all these years. But, in clear and unmistakable ways, God has guided our steps (Proverbs 16:9) and geographically stretched our service to include North America, Poland, and Portugal. Through the years, the Lord has reminded us that God is more interested in what He is doing in us than through us and that we cannot forget the sanctifying work He is performing in our lives.

It is not our place, as servants of the Most High God, to question His ways. We know He is all wise and good and can see beyond what we can see. So we trust Him and rejoice that we have the privilege of serving the greatest of masters. ■



Mark and Tami Swaim are commended from Central Bible Chapel in Palisades Park, New Jersey.



Camp Berea in Mexico



10 Pine-Forested Acres Devoted to Evangelism and Discipleship

BY TED & PRISCILLA CLARK

This year, 2025, marks 29 years since the Lord moved us to a beautiful pine-forested, mountainous region outside Morelia, a large city in central Mexico. We have seen Him turn our 10-acre property into a camp and Bible conference center called Camp Berea, which has proved a valuable tool for our commitment to evangelism and the discipleship of believers.

Camp Berea's facilities accommodate family Bible camps, youth camps, and parenting mini-camps. The large dining room also provides a great meeting place on Sundays and Wednesdays for an assembly of believers from surrounding villages.

A camp experience for everyone

The family Bible camps held twice per year host the largest number of attendees: between 500 and 600 people gather for two or three days of outstanding Bible teaching and wonderful fellowship. They come from about 12 churches in surrounding cities. Though this camp is designed for believers, we have been overwhelmed with gratefulness to know of some people through the years who attended and were saved.

The summer youth camps usually run from mid-July through early August. A weeklong camp for teen boys (13–17 years) is followed by a camp for young adults. Finally, a week is dedicated to teen girls. Through the years, we have been blessed to see some kids give their lives to Christ and others grow stronger in their faith and commitment to following the Lord.

The Lord has faithfully and graciously provided us with excellent Bible teachers, support teams from churches in the US, and a great crew of willing volunteers from our local church who help with the cooking and many other details involved in hosting these camps.

An emphasis on parenting

Some of our favorite camps have been the Parents-in-Action weekends, held three or four times per year. We created these small camps for parents striving to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Sometime before a Parents-in-Action weekend, each family registered to attend receives a missionary biography and material to guide the parents and kids through studying a particular book of the Bible. During the following two to three months, they use these materials as family homework in preparation.

On the first evening of the camp, each family presents memorized Bible verses to the rest of the group. Then, everyone enjoys a meal in the dining room, decorated for the country where the missionary biography took place.

The following day, each family fills in tests covering the biography and Bible study material the parents and kids worked on together. The six families with the most points from these tests receive prizes. Additionally, the children enjoy games, and the dads and moms participate in a parenting challenge and then a prayer time, where they can share their burdens concerning their children and bring them before the Lord. Each family also presents a pre-assigned craft or recipe they created together, offering samples if it is edible.

Holiday outreaches and prayers for miracles

The camp location has also been perfect for carrying out special events throughout the year for nonbelievers. We take advantage of holidays, such as Christmas and Mexican Independence Day. The church that meets on the campgrounds invites guests to a lovely meal and program related to the holiday, and we strive to make the gospel message abundantly clear.

People from the area have come to greatly enjoy and anticipate these events. Many return year after year, but each time, we have the joy of seeing new people show up too.

Since experiencing the love of Christ through these outreaches, many people have lost their suspicion of us, and the animosity we felt toward us in our first years here has lessened. Many have come to view us as friends, even though few are willing to leave their deeply ingrained religious traditions to consider the Gospel. But they hear it, and we pray that, eventually, faith will come through hearing. We have had the joy of witnessing this miracle a few times over the years through these holiday events.

We cannot thank the Lord enough for answering the desires of our hearts and using this unique, beautiful place for the salvation and discipleship of many precious lives in central Mexico. ■



Ted and Priscilla Clark are commended from Centerpoint Church in Mesquite, Texas.



This creative watermelon carving took place during a Parents-in-Action camp.



The room is packed during an Easter-weekend family camp.



Girls attend a special week of camp.

Boys tackle a challenging obstacle course during their camp week.



Another holiday outreach centers around Noche Mexicana, the celebration that leads up to Mexico's Independence Day.



Guests enjoy a meal during a Christmas outreach.

Campers fill the dining room.

Kitchen helpers prepare a meal.



Interview with Joshua Loudon



Joshua Loudon and his fiancée, Kuwaha

A New Missionary Shares about Daily Life

Though newly commended, Joshua Loudon isn't new to the mission field. He grew up in Zambia, where his parents, John and Karen Loudon (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 5), served the Lord. He developed a love for the land, culture, and people, and now, he considers Zambia his home.

In 2023, after several years in the States, Calvary Bible Chapel in Richmond, Michigan, commended him. He returned to Zambia with a burden for the many Zambians who identify as Christians but have never heard the Gospel or spiritual growth explained clearly. He and a team of fellow missionaries and workers hope to start a Bible school focused on discipleship. Meanwhile, Joshua is studying one of Zambia's languages, deepening his cultural knowledge, and engaging in social media outreach, evangelism, and discipleship. Additionally, he and his fiancée, Kuwaha, are planning their wedding in December. Please pray that God will guide and sustain Joshua as he serves in Zambia.

What is your area of Zambia like?

I currently live in Solwezi, which is the provincial capital. It is a major city within Zambia, but you don't have to go very far to find rural settings. It has many modern conveniences but also many rural areas nearby.

What is the weather like?

Recently, the weather transitioned from the dry, cold season to the rainy, warm season. But, normally, the weather is quite pleasant.

How do you get around?

I use a vehicle to get around town, or I walk as things in this town are not so far apart. If I want to go long distances, to other cities within Zambia, I normally use a bus.

What foods do you eat?

I eat *nshima* (made of maize or cassava) with various types of side dishes almost every day for lunch. For supper, I eat either potatoes, rice, or pasta.

What's your favorite cultural behavior or tradition?

I love the respect shown between a mother-in-law and son-in-law. When they greet each other, both will kneel on the ground a short distance away and continue greeting in a traditional manner.

How do you get to know people?

Normally, I get to know people through connections at church or through meeting someone over and over.

What languages are spoken in your area? Do you speak or are you learning any?

Lunda, Bemba, Kaonde, Luvale, and English are the languages commonly spoken in this city. Currently, I am focusing on learning Lunda.

What does a typical week look like for you?

I have been in a transitional period, so every week is different. Some common things that happen, though, are attending assembly meetings and outreaches, creating gospel and ministry videos for my TikTok and YouTube accounts, and studying Lunda.

What do you like to do for fun, or how do you relax?

I like to watch soccer, go on dates with my fiancée, or work on my motorbike.

Do you use any personal hobbies in your ministry?

I like to do video editing, and I use it to create gospel videos that I show to people.

What is challenging?

It is difficult to share the Gospel with people when there are so many different languages. It makes it hard to understand what people are saying and to communicate.

Do you feel settled?

Not yet as I plan to move to a different part of town in the near future. It may take some time to get settled there as well, but I will manage.

How can we pray for you?

Please pray for my Lunda learning to be fast and effective. Pray for those who have heard the Gospel to respond in faith and be saved. And pray for wedding plans with my fiancée as we plan our future. ■

LEARN MORE ABOUT ZAMBIA!

- Slightly larger than Texas, Zambia is home to 21 million people.
- Forty-six percent of Zambia's population lives in urban areas—one of Africa's highest levels of urbanization.
- Forty-two percent of the population is under age 15.
- More than 70 languages are spoken.
- Landlocked Zambia shares its largest body of water, Lake Tanganyika, with neighboring countries.
- Christianity is Zambia's leading religion, and 25 percent of the population identifies as evangelical.

"Zambia," *CIA World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency, 10 September 2025, CIA.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/zambia/.

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The 2025 European Christian Workers' Conference A Unique Opportunity for Missionary Care

BY PHILIP & MARY PARSONS



The CMML directors have recognized how important missionary care is to those who, in obedience, serve the Lord around the world. It helps missionaries remain effective in fulfilling the Great Commission. Three couples with missions experience—Tim and Joy Beer (Zambia), Jim and Sharon Fleming (Colombia), and ourselves, Phil and Mary Parsons (Philippines)—are engaged in a ministry of caring for CMML's missionaries, which includes visiting them on the field. While we cannot always be physically present, however, we walk beside them through prayer, digital messages, and video chats. We hope to reassure workers that they are not alone and to support them in the work God has called them to.

One unique opportunity to extend missionary care has been flourishing for 48 years: a weeklong conference in Annecy, France, for workers from throughout Europe. In August 2025, we, Phil and Mary, had the privilege of joining about 80 men, women, and children at this European Christian Workers' Conference.

Spiritual enrichment and relational encouragement are two components of the care experienced at the annual workers' conference. Emotional bonds are formed and support for the missionary family is built during the brief times of prayer each morning. This year, Mary led the women's group using a devotional theme of "In Christ, I Can Do Hard Things." Phil enjoyed connecting with the men during their prayer gatherings, which Matthew Glock (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 10) led. Matthew asked men to read aloud Scripture that encouraged them, which was followed with prayer.

Spiritual care was further enhanced by two preaching sessions each morning. When the scheduled speaker was unable to come, the conference committee invited Phil to take his place. Phil presented highlights from the life of Joshua and a few New Testament figures. The stories reminded listeners that the God

we serve is active in everyday life. Even when His people fail, a yielded and obedient heart need never lead to despair.

Mealtimes offered us a safe space to engage in conversation with missionaries. Our listening ears enabled some to share their challenges, struggles, and doubts without fear of judgment. We also chatted about ministry highlights and practical advice on matters such as transitions, education for children, and health care.

Just before the evening meal, several attendees led dynamic and relevant seminars. Jerry and Sarah Mattix (MPH Day 26) presented on spiritual warfare, drawing on their experience serving in a special-areas country. Peter Mead (MPH Day 13) led two seminars: one on practical steps to spiritual growth and one on preaching with authenticity. Paul Rabideau (a licensed professional counselor based in New Jersey) highlighted the significance of being known for gratitude, while Allan Wilks (CMML vice president, technology) introduced artificial intelligence as a help in ministry.



CMML's missionary care comprises a team of experienced missionaries who know what it means to be lonely, exhausted, and discouraged. Our joy comes when we meet missionaries face to face, hear about their experiences, and then pray for and encourage them as they seek to faithfully serve the Lord. We desire to assure the missionaries they are not forgotten and to open the way for honest and heartfelt communication. With its emphasis on spiritual and physical refreshment, the European Christian Workers' Conference is the perfect opportunity to practice missionary care. We thank the Lord that we could pray, talk, and study the Bible with the missionaries in Europe. ■

Philip and Mary Parsons, CMML missionary care

Above (L-R): Phil teaches a plenary session; About 80 Christian workers gather at the 2025 conference; Graham and Caroline Webb (MPH Day 26) sing with other attendees. **Right:** Peter Mead speaks about spiritual growth.



Sakeji Mission School in Zambia

Celebrating 100 Years of God's Faithfulness

BY MARK RONALD

As I began to write this article, excitement was high at Sakeji Mission School in Zambia. The second term of the school year was ending (July), and our 66 students were getting ready to go home for the school holidays. But, this time, there was even more to be excited about as we anticipated the arrival of more than 250 alumni and friends to celebrate 100 years of the school's existence. Tents were set up, menus planned, and a multitude of tasks, large and small, completed—the culmination of four years of prayerful discussion and planning.

As the children departed, we were reminded of God's faithfulness: He had once again provided for the needs of another term and continued to give us opportunities to share Christ with the students in word and action each day. We thanked Him and prayed for the people who would soon be arriving. We asked that their time at Sakeji would be safe and fun but also an encouragement to take an upward look, a look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Quite possibly, some would need to be exhorted to run their Christian race with endurance, and others who might not yet have a personal relationship with Christ would need to hear the Gospel once again.

One hundred years! Quite a milestone! But let me offer a bit of history before we continue with the present.

Building on a firm foundation

Sakeji Mission School was established 100 years ago when it became clear that the children of missionaries serving in sub-Saharan Africa needed a school. In answer to the prayers of many pioneer missionary families, Dr. Walter and Anna Fisher launched Sakeji with the faithful help of our God. Since then, more than 1,600 students have passed through its dorms and classrooms, receiving a good primary education and a knowledge of Scripture that has provided a solid foundation on which to build the rest of their lives.

Sakeji has always been a boarding school for primary students, some even as young as five years old. In the early days, each term lasted 18 weeks—a very long time indeed to a young child away from home. Now the three terms in the school year each run 10 to 12 weeks.

Sakeji is not only a school but also a family and a place of childhood training. Once a school for expatriate missionary children, the student population has gradually changed through the century, and today, most of our students are Zambian.

The beauty of the Word and of nature

The school's beautiful campus—with its subtropical location, higher elevation, and surrounding natural forest, plains, and river—has always provided an ideal setting for young learners. From the very beginning, though, existence was not easy: Sakeji faced shortages of food and staff, isolation due to the lack of good roads (or roads altogether), and occasional threats of border disturbances when neighboring countries were suffering civil wars, just to name a few challenges. Yet, through it all, God has been faithful in His supply and protection.

Through it all, God has been faithful in His supply and protection.

Although some of the same challenges remain, Sakeji is still a place where students receive a good education and, more importantly, where God's Word is planted in their minds and hearts. Every day, the Bible is opened for morning and evening devotions in the dormitories, in classes, and during various other activities.

The Scriptures are not only the foundation of the school day but also a resource for extra challenges. Every year, for instance, the staff encourages sixth- and seventh-grade students to recite 100 of their Bible memory verses from the year—all in one recitation. Often, as many as 12 students are successful,

and each receives a prize for his or her efforts. As a result of this strong Bible emphasis, many students come to Christ in faith for salvation, and they begin to learn more about God's plan for their lives as they continue at Sakeji.

Through the years, Sakeji has also been a hub from which missionaries reach out to the surrounding community. Despite serving full time as staff at the school, these missionaries carve out time to be involved in children's meetings, camps, local assemblies, medical work, repair jobs, and more, as suited to each person's God-given abilities.

A whirlwind of centennial celebrations

In 2021, realizing that the Sakeji centennial would be upon us before we knew it, the board and missionary staff began to discuss and plan the milestone, coordinate details, and purchase supplies from far and near. From the beginning, we prayed that the Lord would guide, encourage, refresh, and give opportunities for the Spirit to use His Word to touch hearts and draw others closer to Himself.

We held our first centennial event on February 14 of this year. Zambian dignitaries, along with former and current employees, joined our students and missionary staff for a short program and

a catered lunch. This celebration entailed a lot of unknowns, yet when looking back, we saw the Lord providing and guiding as 300 people came together to acknowledge 100 years of God's faithfulness. A speech given on behalf of the provincial minister of North-Western Province highlighted the strong Christian foundation of the school. We also shared a gospel message with those who gathered. Overall, it was a God-honoring event. A plaque in recognition of the auspicious occasion was unveiled during the program and is now mounted on a new clock and bell tower near the center of campus.

We held our second centennial gathering from July 25 to 28, just days after the second term ended. It was the big event! While we wondered, at times, how it could possibly come together, arrival day finally dawned, and the long hours of planning, purchasing, and organizing finally paid off. In total, just over 240 overnight guests attended, coming from almost every continent, while a number of people who live locally came as day guests. Former students, parents, staff, and those who had helped in practical building projects over the years were well represented. One attendee was the child of the very first student at Sakeji and was once a student himself. Some families had three generations of students present.



Opposite page: Students and staff form "100" on the football field to celebrate.

Top row (L-R): Sakeji's students and staff enjoy a beautiful main campus; This team maintains Sakeji's campus.

Middle row (L-R): Students participate in art class; Kitchen staff prepare for a meal; Students listen during a devotional time before supper.



Bottom row (L-R): Some current staff gather with all the Sakeji students; A missionary staff member reads to Sakeji's girls.

We felt a strong sense of the Lord bringing people together through conversations, games, crafts, food, and evening devotions. It was encouraging to see people sharing personal experiences across generations and cultures. Some brought their own children to show them where they had grown up and received their first years of education. Others testified that Sakeji Mission School was the place where they had come to faith in Christ. While there have been ups and downs in all our lives, the Spirit of God used the Word to encourage, remind, and strengthen each one. God is faithful!

Our third and final centennial event will be held, Lord willing, at the end of the year—with the current staff and student body, along with their parents and some alumni still in secondary school.

The next 100 years

Our school motto is *Tu vero permans* ("But you continue"). This is the Latin summary of 2 Timothy 3:14: "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them." As Sakeji Mission School enters a second century, we not only look back and celebrate, but we also plan, in God's will, to continue. There are more opportunities on our doorstep than ever before. The rural district where Sakeji sits is growing rapidly, particularly because various international companies are exploring for mineral deposits in our province. Increasingly, people are looking for a place where their children can receive an excellent education. Sakeji stands ready to take up the challenge—not only to provide quality education but also the opportunity for young people to come to faith in Christ, grow in their knowledge of God's

Word and ways, and continue in a life that prioritizes living for Him each and every day.

Please join us as we praise the Lord for all that has been accomplished in His name and pray for us as we seek to follow His leading in the days to come. I close with two stanzas of the revised "Sakeji Hymn," originally written by Julyan Hoyte in the early history of the school (sung to the tune Gwyneth):

Come, children of Sakeji;
Lift up your voice and sing
To praise our God and Father,
Our Lord and heavenly King.
His love has kept and blessed us
Right onward from our birth;
His power created for us
This rich and wondrous earth.

We thank Thee for our founders,
Our teachers, parents, friends
And for their love reflecting
Thy love that never ends.
As they so freely gave us
Their strength from youth to age,
Oh, make us always worthy
Our splendid heritage. ■



Mark and Pamela Ronald are commended from Glen Ewen Gospel Hall in Saskatchewan.



Top row (L–R): The new clock and bell tower commemorates the school's centennial; Alumni begin to arrive for the second centennial event; Gordon Molyneux, former pupil and son of the first student at Sakeji in 1925, encourages alumni to look unto Jesus.

Bottom row (L–R): Students and staff from the 1990s attend the alumni event in July; Alumni join a game of Ultimate Frisbee; Everyone gathers for an evening of encouragement and praise.

