

Celebrating Faithfulness



...then & now...

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BCM International is a Bible-Centered Ministry dedicated to making disciples of all age groups for the Lord Jesus Christ through evangelism, teaching, and training so that churches are established and The Church strengthened.

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From the Editor

*"Be faithful, even to the point of death,
and I will give you the crown of life."
(Revelation 2:10)*

A well-known missions song challenges, "May all who come behind us find us faithful." Encountering that song first while serving as missionary in Bolivia, I misheard it as "may all who come before us find us faithful." The image in my mind was Hebrews 12:1: "Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." The witnesses evoked here are the roll call of faith in the prior chapter—Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses—cheering on a new generation of believers from the bleachers of a celestial coliseum.



Growing up a missionary kid in jungle areas of Colombia and Venezuela, my own heroes of faith included pioneer missionaries like my parents and their peers, men and women with steel in their backbones who could—and did—ride a mule up the Andes or face down a rioting mob with a Bible in one hand and God's love in their hearts and on their lips. They were not perfect; no human being is. But their faithfulness and unswerving commitment decade after decade in often extremely primitive circumstances taught this small daughter of American missionaries what courage, love, and sacrifice were all about.

Getting to know BCM missionaries and volunteers around the world has felt like coming home, because here too I have encountered a legacy of faithfulness. This issue celebrates that faithfulness. Faithfulness in long decades of steadfast service to God and others. Faithfulness in preaching God's Word in the face of persecution and hardship. In twenty short pages, we can only begin to tell the stories of BCM's own heroes of faith. But in this small glimpse, may you—like I—be challenged to emulate that faithfulness.

May those who come behind us, along with those who have come before and are now among that great cloud of witnesses, find us faithful as we run our race in steadfast and unswerving service to Jesus Christ.

Jeanette Windle
Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT



"My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love." Galatians 5:13 (CEV)

In today's world the idea of "Servant-Leadership" is a paradox. Leaders expect to be served, not to serve. In God's world, however, servants are empowered by God for leadership because of their willingness to serve Him. That is why we at BCM International believe a true leader is a Servant-Leader.

Galatians 5:13 reveals two important things about Servant-Leadership. Firstly, it is only possible in the context of liberty. Secondly, love is its only acceptable source of motivation. Release

from bondage of sin and death creates opportunity for us to live as we choose. Only love can properly motivate us to take that next step of service to others. Jesus Christ loved and served others, laying down His life for them. If He is our Master and Lord, we will only be happy when we follow His example of selfless service. To truly be a Servant-Leader, self must die and Christ must live through us.

Faithful service to others has been a core value of BCM since a young missionary returning from the Philippines in 1936, Miss Bessie Traber, took up the challenge of taking God's Word to children of inner-city Philadelphia and from there to the uttermost parts of the world, birthing the Bible Club Movement. It remains a distinctive of missionaries, pastors, and volunteers I am privileged to encounter in BCM fields of ministry on five continents. That spirit of faithful servanthood is a legacy to be celebrated and a challenge to be emulated.

As we celebrate that legacy in this issue of BCM World, pray with us that today's new generation of BCM ministry leaders and partners will also be found good and faithful servants.

Blessings,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty".

Rev. Marty Windle
President



Miss Bessie Traber



Photo by Shaivaji Maulik.

Orissa Burning: Faith Under Fire

By Jeanette Windle

On Christmas Day, 2007, across the planet, Christian families feasted, exchanged gifts, and celebrated the birth of their Savior. But in Orissa, India, Christians were running for their lives as mobs of radical Hindus looted and burned churches and homes. By the end of the holiday, thousands of Christian families were refugees, hundreds of churches destroyed.

Among them were 9 BCM churches with 243 BCM church families left homeless. When a Hindu radical climbing one church roof to pull down its cross fell to his death, BCM pastor, Dasarath Digal, and six church leaders were thrown in jail for his murder. BCM's Orissa district supervisor describes that day's ordeal:

"I am deeply despaired to inform you about the attack on Christmas Day at our BCM churches. At 11 AM, while all believers gathered to celebrate Christmas, fundamentalist Hindu attacked. They beat the men with rods and kicked the women, pulling their hair and smashing them to the floor. At the same time another group started to demolish the churches with fire. The people ran to their houses to hide themselves,

but the Hindus followed them and burnt the believers' houses. The mob was so severe, it separated children from parents and other family members. Separated and alone, they did not know where to go. No one saved even a piece of cloth to cover up during this chilly winter. It is pathetic to see children under the trees in the jungle without food to eat or drink."

Located in southeastern India, Orissa is one of the poorest states, its population of 32 million made up largely of Dalit ("Untouchables") and tribal groups. The Orissa Christian community has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years, rising from 2% to approximately 25% of the population today. Hindu leadership has viewed this explosion with alarm, their concerns at least as much economic as religious. Hinduism is based on a strict caste system, with the Brahmins or priest class at the top, followed by Kshatriyas, or ruling aristocracy, then Vaishyas, the merchant class, with Shudras, unskilled laborers and servants, at the bottom, and the Dalit, or "untouchable" class having no caste at all.

The wealth and social dominance of Hindu upper castes rest on the willingness of Shudra and Dalit masses to accept peasant status, not only for themselves, but their children in



BCM pastor and family standing in front of their destroyed home.



Despite the constant threat of violence against themselves and their families, Orissa pastors continue to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here, BCM President Marty Windle meets with several persecuted pastors from the Orissa region.

perpetuity. When new believers find spiritual freedom in Jesus Christ, they are also set free from the caste-based economic system. The radical Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in Orissa and other states on an anti-conversion platform, their stated goal to eradicate Christianity or any other religion except Hinduism within India. Although Orissa's large Christian population has been a key target, persecution against the body of Christ around the country has included beatings, kidnappings, burnings, intimidation—and, yes, murder.

Despite violence, the Christian church in India continues to grow. BCM International missionaries and pastors alone have planted thousands of churches in 17 of India's 27 provinces. Many of those churches are in Orissa, along with hundreds more village worship groups. Earlier this year, BCM President Marty Windle visited BCM Orissa pastors, among them, Pastor Dasarath, recently released on bail.

Marty shares, "I expected to meet with a group of persecuted and distressed believers. Instead I found a weary band of warriors. To a man, they were committed to continue preaching the Gospel."

Like other Christians across Orissa, the BCM churches began the labor of rebuilding. But on August 23, 2008, a radical Hindu leader who had spearheaded the Christmas Day attacks, Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, was assassinated. Though a Maoist insurgent group claimed responsibility, the

Swami's political party announced a revenge pogrom to wipe Christians from the face of Orissa. Within the next days, hundreds of churches, Christian schools and orphanages and thousands of homes were burned, upwards of 100,000 Christians driven from their villages. Hundreds of Christians have been confirmed killed, though the death toll may be far higher as upwards of 10,000 remain missing, unknown to be alive or dead.

On August 29, 2008, more than 40,000 Christian schools and colleges across India closed their doors to protest the violence and demonstrate solidarity with Orissa Christians. Meanwhile, both the Orissa state government and India's national government have stood by, refusing to intervene in the violence. Refugee camps have been established that currently hold thousands of Christians. But even as aid began flowing in from around the world, Orissa's ruling Hindu party sealed the borders, demanding that all relief be turned over to be distributed at their will.

This time all of BCM's 18 church buildings in Orissa were destroyed and all the pastors driven into hiding along with thousands of BCM church families. Among the dead was jailed BCM pastor Dasarath Digal's 24-year-old son, caught in a hail of bullets fired by a Hindu mob. For weeks BCM pastors and church leadership remained scattered, whereabouts unknown. But one by one, they were able to report in until to date all have been accounted for, with only three BCM Orissa church members out of more than 2,000 confirmed killed.

Today BCM International is sponsoring three refugee camps in undisclosed locations, holding around three hundred BCM pastors and family members. More than 1,000 more are clamoring to get in, but resources remain insufficient. BCM is also caring for some thirty children between ages 4-15 who were separated from parents during the violence, their families at this time not known whether they are dead or alive.

With Orissa's Christian community in refugee camps or driven from the state, their churches, schools, and orphanages largely destroyed, Christian ministry there, including BCM's, would appear to be at a standstill. Certainly the Hindu mobs are claiming a great victory. But though fire may burn buildings, it cannot destroy the church of Jesus Christ. On the contrary, the apostle Peter once reminded another group of persecuted believers that such trials "come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may prove genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:7).

And what a testimony of God's glory the Orissa Christians have offered to a watching world, including their Hindu neighbors. Like the early church in the book of Acts, they have taken the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever they have scattered. Despite hardships and attacks, BCM's own pastors have refused relocation in safer parts of India, but remain

committed to return to their communities and ministry as soon as the situation permits.

BCM's Vice President of International Ministries, Dr. Vararuchi Dalavai, reports back from Orissa, "This kind of persecution has definitely purified the believers. The church at large, and BCM specifically, is firm in its faith that we will bounce back with stronger determination. The silver lining of this persecution is that we hope to see more evangelization, more church growth, and more commitment."

BCM India's goal is not to retreat, but to double church growth over the next five years. It is a goal they have absolute faith they will reach, because long before the apostle Peter was a church leader encouraging persecuted believers, Jesus Christ Himself promised Peter, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

Nor radical Hindus either!

Pray for the Body of Christ—and for BCM ministry—in the state of Orissa, India. If you would like to participate in Orissa relief and rebuilding, give a designated gift or go to bcmintl.org to donate directly to the Orissa Persecution Fund. You may also send a check or make a credit card donation over the phone by calling 1-888-226-4685 or 717-859-6404.



A man passes out clothing to families affected by the recent Orissa violence against Christians.

Faithful Servants...

We are proud to honor those who have served faithfully long-term with BCM. Listed are missionaries still serving, or currently retired who have been with BCM for 30, 40, 50, even 60-plus years. The date given is the year of joining BCM International, then the Bible Club Movement, the country listed each missionary's main field of service.

SIXTY+ YEARS:

Audrey Pierce, USA—1947
Brena Price, USA—1948

FIFTY+ YEARS:

Glenna Bentley, USA—1950
Anna Miller, USA—1951
Betty DeGolier, Kenya—1952
Ruth Hornstra, USA—1952
Helen Stanislaw, USA—1952
Donna Culver, USA—1953
Nancy Lawrence, USA—1953
Annabel Winters, USA—1953
Anne Carman, Spain—1955
Chloe Chamberlain, Canada—1956
Ruth de la Mata, Spain—1956
Mildred Yancey, USA—1956
Nancy Davis, USA—1957
Dave & Lois Haas, USA—1957
Wen & Jean Otteson, USA—1957
Joyce Sacher, USA—1957
Roger Coon, Kenya—1958



View from Big Sky Bible Camp, one of many ministry areas BCM missionaries have faithfully served through the years.

A Contagion of Faithfulness

By Dan Schmidt, USA Director

We live in an “instant” society. Even our fast food eateries offer express service. In this context, faithfulness is not a commonly seen quality, nor does it seem to be much valued by a culture prone to rationalize, excuse, or spin.

But among those who follow the Lord, faithfulness is esteemed. We stop to celebrate a person's many years of service, or a couple's many years of marriage. We pause to hear these same people speak about how faithful God has been. Why? Because we know that when we see faithful people, we are looking through them at a faithful God.

Faithfulness is contagious. God exhibits the quality, which then oozes into people. Their faithfulness in turn has a way of spreading. For more than seven decades, BCM North America has included hundreds of missionaries and ministry partners banded together in rural, suburban, and urban settings.

Whether it's Montana or Maine, New York or Georgia, these men and women have been dedicated to serving children, teens, and college students, helping them meet and develop lasting relationships with the Lord. The impact of their faithfulness is evident when children—and sometimes grandchildren!—of those influenced by BCM missionaries and their support networks show up in Bible Clubs and at camps. It's plain when these children go on themselves to be involved





Streamside camp staff welcoming camper during Summer 2008 season.

in kingdom service in churches and on mission fields.

Take Todd Bonefeole, for instance, from Montana. He can trace his connection with BCM back to pioneer missionaries who moved to the state in 1944. Todd sat in a Bible Club led by Jean Clark and Hazel Simonton, then later attended Big Sky Bible Camp, which they started in 1945. Now a BCM missionary, Todd served this past summer as interim director for that same camp. In fall, winter, and spring, he'll be leading Bible Clubs in a variety of schools, remembering how these women influenced him and carrying on their legacy.

Karen DeVries is another BCM missionary whose life bears the imprint of Hazel and Jean's faithfulness. Karen "grew up at camp." She now leads Bible Clubs in Missoula during the school year and spends each summer at Big Sky.

BCM's roster includes many who have been faithful in the Lord's service for decades. Glenna Bentley retired not long ago after more than fifty years in children's ministry. One place "Miss Glenna" served was Camp Streamside in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains, where she taught Scripture to kids from the inner city of Philadelphia.

Brena Price, another fifty-year BCM veteran, currently hosts a prayer meeting for New York missionaries every six weeks in her home. Though a retired missionary, she still teaches a group of women from her church, urging them to grow in their walk with the Lord. Her humble spirit and kind words set an example for those who know her.

Wen and Jean Otteson spent many of their fifty-plus ministry years at Mount Traber Bible Camp in Nova Scotia, Canada. Though now retired to their native Pennsylvania, when they sit with coffee cups at a table in Camp Sankanac's dining hall during BCM North America's Annual Conference, they are eagerly greeted by a new generation of faithful servants who benefited from Otteson's willingness to "stay in the yoke."

These BCM missionaries have a combined total of more than two centuries of service—and mentioning them pulls just four names from a much longer list.

In his wonderfully titled book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, Eugene Peterson says that we who trust Jesus are both disciples and pilgrims. As disciples, we are meant to spend our lives apprenticed to Jesus, learning to

Faithful Servants...

Continue celebrating with us these faithful servants who have served over 40 years with BCM International:

FORTY+ YEARS:

Camila Plaza, Spain—1959
 Gloria Rodriguez, Spain—1959
 Herb & Phyllis Spence, USA—1959
 Gretchen Devries, USA—1960
 Mary Lee Butler, USA—1960
 Jeannette Gellart, USA—1960
 Joyce Laird, USA—1961
 Jim & Fran Lines, Italy—1961
 Claire Burford, USA—1962
 Alice Loyd, Ireland—1962
 Joan McKinstry, No. Ireland—1963
 Alice Rasmussen, USA—1963
 Mary Ann McCloy, Zimbabwe—1964
 Glenys Nolan, Wales—1964
 Len Poot, Netherlands—1964
 Mary den Boer, Netherlands—1965
 Raquel Diaz, Spain—1965
 Marge (Livingston) Dickinson, Congo/USA—1965
 Pat Johnson, USA—1966
 Jan Aucompaugh, U.K.—1967
 Jeanne Desposito, USA—1967
 Tom McKinstry, No. Ireland—1967
 Pirjo Nieminen, Finland—1967
 Evelyn Plett, Spain—1967
 Dale Sigafos, Germany—1967
 Kees & Nellie Brussel, Netherlands—1968
 Joanna Gerhardt, USA—1968
 Millie Milam, Suriname—1968
 Jeanne Schaufelberg, USA—1968
 Paula Sigafos, Germany—1968

prefer His ways. As pilgrims, we spend our lives on a journey, drawing ever closer to the Lord. Peterson recommends the “Psalms of Ascent” (Psalms 120-134) to pilgrims and disciples for encouragement in continuing the faithfulness such life requires, noting how this section keeps us focused on moving onwards and upwards.

Among the Psalms of Ascent lies a phrase that describes the work of many who have long labored under the banner of BCM. It comes right at the end of the batch, where the writer urges praise from servants of the Lord “who stand by night in the house of the Lord” (Ps 134:1). One can picture the people this psalmist has in mind, filing into the Temple to perform their duties during the graveyard shift, when few others are around to notice. Week by week, month by month, they carry out what they have committed to do regularly, gladly, faithfully.

This image becomes a wonderful illustration of others down through the ages who have worked “behind the scenes.” For BCM missionaries and ministry partners, as also happens in so many other agencies, people serve faithfully not because they crave recognition, but because they are motivated by love of the Lord who has been and always will be faithful. His character shapes theirs; His faithfulness is contagious, and when people catch it, they bear fruit that lasts for generations.



Faithful Servants...

As we celebrate these that have served over 30 years, pray for revival among the nations and an increase in workers to spread the Word!

THIRTY+ YEARS:

Winfield Holman, USA—1969
 Bob & Sandy Barber, Scotland—1970
 Robbie & Urma Cramer, Suriname/
 USA—1970
 Mario & Elsy Gutierrez, USA—1970
 Esther Sampson, USA—1970
 Alna Sherman, USA—1970
 Jorene Williams, USA—1970
 Carolyn Mapplebeck, Canada—1971
 Karen DeVries, USA—1971
 Donna Dudte, USA—1971
 Helen Griepsma, USA—1971
 Mary Lou Heyboer, USA—1971
 Eleanor Marzullo, USA—1971

Pekka Nieminen, Finland—1971
 Pam Rowntree, Canada—1971
 Edyth Broker, USA—1972
 Winifred Green, USA—1972
 Christina Lall, India—1972
 Norman & Margaret MacDonald,
 Canada—1972
 Assiena Maseko, Swaziland—1972
 Stan & Irene Paget, Scotland—1972
 Bernice Rhodes, USA—1972
 Vonda Smith, USA—1972
 Erna Stern, Canada—1972
 Jan Wheeler, USA—1972
 Marilyn White, Canada—1972
 Lydia Dominguez, Mexico—1973
 Isabelle Leaitch, Spain—1973
 Linda Miller, Austria—1973
 Art Parker, USA—1973
 Bea Schuit, USA—1973
 Pat Black, USA—1974
 Bob & Ruth Boger, Canada—1974
 Vararuchi & Veronica Dalavai,
 India—1974
 Marion Jean Grant, Pakistan—1974

Sandy Luther, USA—1974
 Doug & Marianne Schuster, USA—1974
 Gloria Jean Burns, Canada—1975
 Shirley Cook, USA—1975
 Debbie Dancey, Ireland—1975
 Manuel Dominguez, Mexico—1975
 Al & Bonnie Ferland, USA—1975
 Tom & Sarah Minnis, Scotland—1975
 Sylvia Rogers, USA—1975
 Imro Smit, Suriname—1975
 Barb Van Valkenburg, England—1975
 John & Lois Cameron, USA—1976
 Jim Ecker, USA—1976
 Lorraine Stirneman, USA—1976
 K. R. Benjamin, India—1977
 Guinaseeli Devadasan, India—1977
 Violet Jesudoss, India—1977
 Grace Kemp, Canada—1977
 Luetta Millheim, USA—1977
 Totoram Baran, USA—1978
 Sally Klassen, Canada—1978
 Ken Marvel, USA—1978

Wendell & Jean Otteson: Because You Gave

By Jennifer Hamilton

In March of 1958, Wendell and Jean Otteson, two young American missionaries with the Bible Club Movement, now BCM International, and their two small children arrived in Brookvale, Nova Scotia. A Christian contact enabled them to rent a house, but the local pastor claimed the Ottesons were Communists. With this less-than-warm welcome, Wendell and Jean began a half-century of service as children's ministry workers.

Though locals were suspicious of the Ottesons, as Wendell went door to door in surrounding farming communities, he found hearts hungry for the Gospel. As Nova Scotians got to know the Ottesons, they came to trust them. A Bible Club was started. The Ottesons were asked to start a Sunday school. This ministry blossomed into another Sunday school, daily vacation Bible schools, and rental camping.

Then Wendell and Jean heard about an 88-acre farm with a brook running through it for sale. With the support of BCM founder, Miss Bessie Traber, they were able to purchase it for only \$2,500. That property became Mount Traber Bible Camp. Logs from the property itself became the camp's first buildings, and in 1966, Mount Traber had its first camping season. Bible Clubs and Family Bible Hour were now offered at MTBC year-round. A couple years later, a gift of \$3,000 from two churches in Michigan allowed Ottesons to add a 395-acre parcel of land across the brook to the camp property. Another gift added seventeen horses for a riding program.

Over the years hundreds of children have heard the gospel and been influenced to follow Jesus Christ through Wendell and



Mount Traber Bible Camp

Jean's ministry. After faithfully serving the Lord they love for fifty-one years, the Ottesons retired in 1998 to the Pocono Mountains, where they now minister to "senior saints" in their home church and enjoy being close to grandchildren. Not long ago, one of Mount Traber's first Bible Club attendees wrote to thank them:

Dear Uncle Wen and Aunt Jean,

A few years ago, Pastor Goode sang, "Thank You for Giving to the Lord." I thought of you throughout the entire song and what a difference you have made in my life. Because you gave:

- *A little farm girl heard the message of salvation for the first time.*
- *A teenager had a "Christian home" a mile away from home where she knew she was loved and accepted—and had a toothbrush in the cupboard!*
- *A young lady had a discerning second set of parents to help her make life choices—and a place to bring her latest beau for the stamp of approval.*
- *A young mom had Christian role models to pattern herself after as a parent.*
- *A grandmother remembers all the love poured into her life and wants to love her grandchildren the way she was loved.*

I love you, Uncle Wen and Aunt Jean!

Rita



Wendell & Jean Otteson

Anne Carman: *No Temas, Tened Fe en Dios*

By Dawn Moore

“All around us are hearts of fear,” BCM missionary Anne Carman wrote home from Spain during Franco’s decades-long military dictatorship. Her response then and now remains, “*No temas, pero tened fe en Dios*,” or translated from the Spanish, “Do not fear, but have faith in God.”

For fifty-three years, Anne has faithfully shared the gospel, successfully negotiating religious persecution, economic turmoil, and the twists and turns of Spain’s uncertain political landscape to introduce children to Jesus Christ. While most of her ministry years were spent in Spain, Anne’s legacy also entails establishing Bible Clubs and camps, teaching, training, speaking, and translating BCM curriculum wherever Spanish is spoken in the world.

Anne’s grandfather was the catalyst Christ used to get her mother, a non-practicing Catholic, and her father, who had no religious affiliation, only an affinity for alcohol, to come to know Him. While not enthusiastic about his invitation to church, Anne’s parents went and responded to an altar call. That same day, at age thirteen, Anne Carman, along with her brother and sister, gave her heart to Christ. The next day her father visited all their neighbors and told them what had happened. As the light of Jesus replaced the darkness of their home, Anne remembers, “It was like lifting the shade in our whole house.”

The change in her father affected Anne profoundly, generating in her a strong desire to bring light into a dark world, even as two differing points of view shaped her outlook on missions. Attending what is now Philadelphia Biblical University, Anne listened as BCM missionary Maria Bolet



Anne Carman

proclaimed the need for helpers in Spain while another speaker decried that need and called instead for financially supporting national missionaries. Anne chose the latter and worked five years to support a pastor’s wife in Barcelona.

Praying for guidance, Anne asked God what would happen to her Barcelona missionary and the Bible Clubs she taught in a Connecticut low-income housing project if she joined Maria in Spain. In response, Anne received a letter from her missionary’s organization telling her that the pastor’s wife was now being helped by nationals and that her funds were no longer needed. Meanwhile, a Bible Club volunteer had asked Anne for a more responsible role. Turning her clubs over to the woman, Anne prepared to head to Spain.

The Franco regime now controlled Spain. A triumvirate of military rule, a Roman Catholic state church, and right-wing aristocracy denied Spaniards most individual rights, including religious freedom. By the time Anne had raised her support, Maria Bolet

was expelled from Spain for sharing the gospel. Determined to pick up where Maria had left off, Anne said *adios* to family and friends in September 1955, sailing out of New York harbor on a passenger ship to Spain. Within a year of her arrival, authorities had closed the church where BCM ministered in Zaragoza, Spain. Anne joined Maria in Tangier, a Moroccan city an eight-mile jaunt across the Strait of Gibraltar where many Spaniards had fled as refugees of the Spanish Civil War. Evangelical missionaries working among the Arab, African, and Berber people had founded a hospital and school in Tangier. Anne helped teach in the school, training Spanish nationals to carry the gospel back to their homeland.

By 1961, Franco’s signing of the Pacts of Madrid treaty with the United States produced a gradual reconciliation with the international community. Spain joined the anti-Communist bloc, became a member of the United Nations, and was moving in a more democratic direction, permitting Anne and other BCM missionaries to return to Spain. But integration into the European free-market system had resulted in sharply rising prices and falling wages. Tensions mounted as opposition groups to Franco’s authoritarian system grew bolder in voicing their distress.

“If our hearts are not established or settled in Him, then we will be filled with fear as we think of the future and of what could happen in these uncertain times,” Anne wrote from Zaragoza in 1961. “All around us here are hearts of fear, and rightly so, because they know not the Prince of Peace, who has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”



Anne Carman (bottom right) and Maria Bolet (Bethel Bible School founder; bottom row, second from right) with students in Tangier, Morocco.

Words as true today, as they were forty-seven years ago. When the Spanish government refused to reopen the church in Zaragoza, Anne and Spanish believers worshiped in their homes. “Franco had made a rule that we couldn’t have more than twenty in a room,” Anne explains. “He closed the church because people were being saved.”

Was Anne discouraged by not having a church to worship in?

“We had a great time,” she shares. “We multiplied, and this was really the beginning of the Bible Clubs.” Many kids came to the Bible Clubs, even though parents were afraid of being persecuted for being Protestant.

Were the children afraid? No. They were taught faith instead of fear. Anne adds, “We taught them that it was a privilege to be a Christian.”

Within eighteen months of its closing, authorities permitted the Zaragoza church to reopen. Encouraged, Fernando, a church elder, pointed out to the Spanish authorities a law stating that Catholic and evangelical churches were allowed to teach in the public schools. Permission was secured for BCM missionaries to teach Bible in the schools. Their outreach expanded to ten public schools, then daily Bible Clubs, adult Bible Clubs, a Spanish translation of New Testament *Footsteps of Faith* lessons, and vacation Bible schools.

In 1991, Anne left Spain to spend the next years teaching and training children’s ministry leaders in Morocco, the Dominican Republic, Canary Islands, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Honduras, Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, Colombia, Chile, and Argentina, as well as the USA and Canada.

Over the years, Anne Carman has signed all her letters, “In His Faithfulness.”

The reason, she would tell you, is that without her shield of faith to protect her, this BCM veteran could not have withstood the Franco era of persecution against evangelical Christians or the hardships she’s encountered establishing Bible Clubs, teacher training, and Bible studies in lands shadowed by darkness and rooted in fear.

Anne knows the fearless peace found in God’s presence. It was there that He forged her strength of character and iron determination to do God’s will in making a difference in the lives of His children across the Spanish-speaking world. In 1998, at the age of seventy-one, Anne returned to the United States, where she has spent the past ten years as an active recycled BCM missionary, faithfully serving the Hispanic population in Florida—and wherever God leads her, as she continues to teach children that there is no need to fear when you belong to the Prince of Peace.



Dave & Lois Haas with their children and grandchildren.

Dave & Lois Haas: Shaping Lives Through God's Word

By Dawn Moore

"The ills of society imprint themselves upon children so easily," says Dr. Dave Haas of BCM International.

He knows of what he speaks. From camps to copyrights, Dave and Lois Haas have faithfully served the Author and Perfector of our faith as full-time BCM missionaries for fifty-one years, imprinting Christ's love on lives through children's ministry as well as sending God's Word around the globe via Bible curriculum.

Both saved at age 9 in Christian camps, Dave and Lois met as children while learning to use their musical talents to serve the Lord in a weekly radio ministry called Children's Church of the Air. Both felt God's call to missionary service as young teens. They were married after college in 1956. While Lois taught school, Dave attended Faith Theological Seminary, graduating in 1958.

After a short-term ministry trip to Jamaica, the Haases responded to an invitation from Bessie Traber, founder

of Bible Club Movement, to open BCM ministry in Jamaica. But by the time they'd raised their support, Jamaica gained independence from Great Britain, closing its doors to any new mission board. Instead, they began ministry in the U.S., teaching Bible Clubs in Philadelphia and directing summer programs in BCM's two Pennsylvania camps, Sankanac and Streamside, for more than thirty years. There they fought to undo damage that poverty, discrimination, abuse, broken homes, and addictions had imprinted on campers, offering instead the love and complete acceptance found in Jesus Christ.

"You never knew what to expect at camp," Dave expresses.

"We never felt we were equal to the challenges," Lois adds. "I got a knot in my stomach every time thinking what will happen this time? Why are we here?"

God knew why they were there. Campers were often sent by mission organizations who wanted kids from

inner-city Philadelphia to learn that a life lived with Jesus could become their new hope for the future. Camp Sankanac's motto comes from Zephaniah 3:17, "The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty." Dave and Lois learned to rely on God being in their midst and mighty to get through to kids more accustomed to the law of the street than the forest of the Pocono Mountains. Dave remembers one camper in particular.

"One boy named Peter at Sankanac was a chronic problem camper. He resisted authority and acted like a spoiled child. I don't know why it had to be him, but we had him for the five weeks of boys' camp for several summers. We dreaded to see him come. We hated to see him go."

But Peter eventually accepted Christ as Savior. The Haases and other BCM workers have such a short time during camp to show children the difference Jesus Christ can make in their lives. Nor can they know the impact of their outreach unless they hear back from campers.

“One day, out of the blue, I get this call,” Dave shares. “It’s Peter. He’s a lawyer in New Jersey now. He called to thank us and tell us what he’s done with his life.”

Then there’s a boy we’ll call Jamal who met the Haases at Camp Streamside, founded in 1942 in the heart of the Pocono Mountains to reach inner-city youth. Dave received an invitation a couple of years ago to meet Jamal for breakfast. When Jamal walked into the restaurant, Dave didn’t recognize the big, muscular African-American man who approached the table. But Jamal recognized Dave.

“You led me to Christ at Camp Streamside,” Jamal said. “And my brother.”

Jamal is now a pastor in suburban Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with over a thousand in his congregation.

“Jamal escaped our follow-up,” Dave says. “But the Lord followed him up.”

Dave has also served BCM International as Director of Philadelphia Area Ministries, teaching Bible Clubs, and training and supervising volunteer teachers. Later as Director of Training Services, he developed trainers, programs, and training materials to strengthen BCM missionaries and ministries in the USA and other countries. Tenures as Dean of Manna Bible Institute and BCM’s Northeast Regional Director prepared him to serve as BCM’s Vice President of USA Ministries, responsible for 190 other missionaries.

Dave also served as Director of BCM International Publications and is presently Director of Curriculum Development with Lois as his assistant. They are part of a team revising BCM materials, and facilitating their translations into numerous languages of countries where BCM missionaries



work. A priority is the eight-volume, Genesis-to-Revelation Bible curriculum, *Footsteps of Faith*, and multimedia resources for use with it. Lois also wrote *Tiny Steps of Faith*, a preschool Bible curriculum now translated into many languages around the world.

Together Dave and Lois have raised three sons, requiring the couple to balance on a tightrope between a growing family and a growing ministry.

“God brought us together as a team,” Lois explains. “Our goals are the same.”

“We’re a complete unit,” Dave adds. “She has gifts, insights, and sensitivities that I don’t have. Rather than competing with each other, we use our gifts together to get the job done.”

The Haases have gotten the job done by learning to love, appreciate, and value each other while faithfully relying on God to do the rest. Music is one of God’s tools through which they work together in harmony. Dave plays piano and violin. Lois sings. As a duet, they have used their musical talents to reach souls, enrich lives, and praise God.

The Haases are strong believers in the importance of faith. When they needed fifty dollars to register their sons in a private Christian school, they didn’t just pray for the money, but asked that if God wanted them to continue at this school, He would provide the fifty dollars. Going to the mailbox, Lois opened a note thanking the Haases for a music tape they’d recorded free of charge some months previously. Included was a fifty dollar check.

Dave and Lois are delighted to be humble characters in God’s story of redemption and reconciliation. “God took us to different places in the world and used us in many ways we never dreamed of.”

The Haases have ministered short term in Jamaica, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Peru, and Dave in India. These days they stay a little closer to their Lancaster, PA home, but still travel to give seminars and represent BCM International.

Nonetheless, some people have wondered if Dave’s seminary training was wasted when he went into children’s ministry.

Was it?

What is the value of one soul won for Christ?

Throughout nineteen thousand days of ministry, the Haases used Dave’s seminary training and Lois’ teaching degree to share Christ with children and to train others to do so, not just in Pennsylvania, but around the world through the reach of Bible curriculum and teaching materials in other languages. They’ve learned that God’s Word, whether sung, spoken, or written, can shape lives through the transforming power of the Author and Perfecter of their faith.

Tom & Joyce Sacher: Living Out Faithful Servanthood

By Jennifer Hamilton

“Would someone be willing to take on the responsibility of cleaning up camp and preparing it for summer?”

It was 1958 at Camp Streamside in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, where inner-city youth from Philadelphia came for a breather from city life and to learn about the love of Jesus. As Bessie Traber, founder of BCM International and Camp Streamside, presented this need to her office staff, twenty-two-year-old Tom Sacher and his twenty-one-year-old wife, Joyce, volunteered. Meeting as students at Moody Bible Institute, the couple had been thinking of missionary service overseas. Little did they know their hearts would be captured by God’s love and vision to reach those inner-city children. They would remain at Camp Streamside for most of their fifty years of service with BCM.

Six summers followed. Tom, who had been directing the summer camping

program, approached Miss Traber about moving his family to Streamside to develop it into a year-round facility. Her reply: “Young man, I can see God has laid this on your heart. Don’t let anyone hold you back!”

In spring of 1964, Tom, Joyce, and their three small girls moved to the Streamside property. As a family, they worked together serving God and others as Streamside ministry expanded. Summer camp was the highlight of each year, with eager, smiling children pouring off buses anticipating the summer fun. The first winter retreats were an experiment in patience and flexibility with groups fed from the Sacher’s own kitchen. But God, ever faithful, provided an architect, workers to help, and the finances necessary to build additional facilities.

1984 brought a shift into the Sacher’s lives as they were asked to develop a Candidate Department at BCM headquarters. Leaving Streamside was difficult, but they soon transitioned into this new challenge. Joyce enjoyed cooking for Candidate School and seeing the fruition of each new ministry that came with new missionaries. They became involved in supervising other USA camps, and Tom set up retreats where ideas and encouragement could be shared among camping staff.

Then in 2000, the Sachers experienced another major life shift. Tom had developed Alzheimer’s disease. The couple was invited back to Streamside, the place they loved, for Tom’s final three years. Once Tom went home to be with Jesus, Joyce remained actively involved in the ministry of Camp Streamside. She served the camp with her cooking, in addition to lending a hand for other camp projects.



By 2007, God had supplied Streamside with capable staff who could carry forward the services Joyce filled. Retiring from BCM, Joyce moved to a house in Indiana only three miles away from her daughter, Shari, and took on the joy of full-time grandmothering. She also serves in her church by babysitting for the local MOPS group, helping in the church library, singing in the choir, and helping with a Bible Club.

But earlier this year, she came back once more to Pennsylvania, leaving a continued loving touch on the ministry of Camp Streamside as she planted the flower gardens there. After fifty-one years of BCM ministry, Joyce Sacher offers a new generation of Streamside staff and counselors an example to follow of lifelong, faithful servanthood.



Donna Culver: A Childhood Calling

By Jennifer Hamilton

Donna Culver's passion for children's ministries started long before she applied with BCM in 1953, a passion that has carried her through fifty-plus years of sharing Jesus Christ with children.

The summer of 1940, Donna was nine years old when her parents took her to hear a born-again, Jewish evangelist. As the altar call was given, Donna went forward, her feet sliding through fresh sawdust on the floor. She waited at the wooden bench up front. But no one acknowledged the nine-year-old girl who wanted to confess her sins and accept Jesus as her Savior. When Donna left that day, she knew she'd been freed from her sin. But a burden to reach other children for Jesus filled her heart.

In 1944, during World War II, Donna attended a Bible camp where she responded to God's call to serve Him in missions. At a Christian college, Donna received training in children's ministries. Returning home, she began leading a Bible Club. Then at a conference, Donna met two BCM missionaries—Bernice Jordan, writer of BCM's *Footsteps of Faith* curriculum, and Dorothy Scott, who gave a request for summer counselors at BCM's Camp Sankanac. Two weeks volunteering at Sankanac began many years of children's ministry for Donna.

In 1952, Donna volunteered full-time, leading Bible Clubs in twenty-five townships. In 1953, she applied with BCM and for the next fourteen years would teach about 500 children a week in Bible Clubs as well as helping with summer camps.

In 1966, Donna was asked to go to Sweden to bring Bible studies to Swedish youth. Suffering from chronic pain and back problems, Donna was hesitant about going. But as she prayed, God gave her reassurance through Isaiah 58:11. "The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."

In only four months, God provided the funding she would need. Mission offerings from the New York camps where she served covered airfare. At Christmastime, 1967, Donna arrived in Sweden. Over the following two and a half years, Donna came to love the Swedish children. This was a foundational time when Bible lessons in Swedish were developed. *The Sword Forged* was written; this publication would be the beginnings of BCM's youth curriculum, *Steps to Maturity*.



Donna Culver, 1953.

Battling continued health problems, Donna traveled back to the U.S. with every intent of returning to Sweden. But she never would. When she left Sweden, Donna's Bible Club class gave their beloved teacher a pewter vase and card with Isaiah 58:11 written inside, the same verse God had given her years before: "The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs . . . and will strengthen your frame. . ."

Despite physical disability, Donna continued to serve, working throughout the next decades on the children's curriculum BCM uses today. In 1983, she created a newsletter called "Gleanings," which twenty-five years later is still sent bi-monthly to encourage missionaries. God is so faithful, Donna shares, always keeping the promise of Isaiah 58:11 to guide, satisfy needs, and strengthen her each day.



Tony Schaapman conducting street ministry in Montréal, Quebec, Canada.

To the Streets of Montréal with Love

By Lauri Barrette

Stand on any downtown street corner in Montréal, Québec, to see people of all cultures hustling and bustling to their next appointment, next class, next meal, next fix. Many would see only a blur of faces, a moving mass of humanity. BCM Canada missionary Tony Schaapman sees a mission field ripe for harvest. As Jesus looked upon Jerusalem and was moved to compassion, Tony's heart is to see Montréal's inhabitants turn to the Savior.

Tony Schaapman was a carefree 21-year-old Canadian hitch-hiking through Europe when he began questioning any purpose for his life. Returning to Canada, he met a Christian who introduced him to Jesus Christ. He felt a compelling responsibility to share this Good News with perfect strangers in his city, Montréal. After attending Bible school, Tony worked as a woodworker for ten years until the Lord called him to ministry as a full-time evangelist.

He met his wife Kornelia, a child care educator, when he went to France to become bilingual for ministry.

Tony is now entering his fourteenth year of ministry as a street evangelist reaching all ages and people groups in Québec through a wide variety of visual presentations in streets, parks, schools, door to door, and churches. Evangelism is in his DNA, he quips. "Give me five minutes and I'll develop a relationship with a perfect stranger, then share the gospel with them."

Opportunities to witness on the streets are endless. Many are searching and willing to dialogue, hungry for a spiritual encounter. Still, they are disillusioned with the portrait of Jesus painted for them through the media or various religious backgrounds. Many have turned to psychic hotlines for guidance and direction. New Age philosophies appeal to masses of people more willing to pursue a counterfeit "discovery of the inner self" than be

accountable to a Creator who loves them deeply. Those identifying themselves as Roman Catholic are often non-practicing, and Québec has fewer believers than Cuba.

With such diversity, it is important to know where people are concerning spiritual things. One effective way Tony has learned to discover this is through surveys he conducts in subways, parks, and streets. People are asked questions like, "What is the purpose of life? Have you ever read the Bible? Who is Jesus Christ, and what was His main mission?" This year alone, over six hundred surveys were taken. Answers to these questions become springboards to further discussion.

Just as Jesus didn't send his disciples out by themselves, Tony does not work alone. Ten to fifteen consistent volunteers accompany him in door-to-door evangelism and street ministry. Over the course of this year, he's had 10-12 groups that have joined him either

for a week or weekend to share the Gospel in the open air through surveys, tract distribution, preaching with the aid of the sketchboard, drama, and endless one-on-one encounters. Sometimes he involves younger groups in practical service with a local mission to serve meals on the street or at a soup kitchen.

A young man named Costa had accepted Jesus as Savior while watching a Billy Graham evangelistic program, but knew no other Christians. Working at a store as security guard, he noticed crowds gathering around Tony and his sketchboard. Curious, he walked over to check them out. From then on, he would come each day during his break to listen to the message and talk to the team. Soon he began attending Tony's home church.

Seeing Costa grow in his faith has been one of Tony's greatest joys. Today, Costa is using his own gift as an evangelist, sharing in his workplace and helping people locally to develop a passion for missions. Costa also serves as a team leader each year for a one week mission to children on a First Nations reserve near Sudbury, Ontario.

Tony has had opportunities to train others as well in evangelism. A young Bible College student named Dwight came with a team to work with Tony for a day. Catching the vision for open air ministry in Montréal, he shared his excitement with a young man named

Geoff Wright from his church in Maine. Both have spent summers training with Tony. Dwight is currently at Word of Life in Sherbrooke, Québec, learning French so he can carry out the Great Commission. Geoff is working to save money so he can return and study French as Dwight is doing with the goal of being a church planter in Québec.

Over this past summer, Tony reports that approximately forty people made a profession of faith. While visiting a friend in Montréal, one young lady from New Brunswick heard Tony's sketchboard presentation on the street. After female team members spent over an hour sharing with her, she prayed to receive Christ. Upon her return home, Tony made contact by phone, asking if her desire to find God had been met, and could he refer her to a local church. She was enthusiastic to find a place of worship where the Bible teaching was in line with what she'd heard on the street that day.

Attempts to follow up are not always successful. As in the parable of the seeds, some grow and flourish, going on with the Lord. Others do not. Tony's primary focus is in casting his bread upon the waters, presenting the plan of salvation. When someone indicates a decision to follow Christ, he then turns them over to the care of the local church. This side of heaven, Tony will not know the end

results of his seed-sowing, but he leaves it in God's hands.

Tony's time on the streets with his teams has not been without interference. But in true Canadian "live and let live" fashion, their presence is not generally troubled by opposition. The odd ill-informed law enforcement officer may try to shut down their efforts. But Tony has learned that meeting with authorities face to face to explain what they're doing on the streets and build rapport with them helps as a preventative measure.

Tony has also learned to deal with poor weather conditions. These are not allowed to become a deterring factor. As Ecclesiastes 11:4 says, "Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap." Whatever the forecast, rain or shine, teams head out, trusting God to provide shelter or overhang if needed, a good location, and lots of people.

To keep his ministry effective, Tony also knows the importance of keeping his own walk with the Lord vibrant. He does so through personal reading, prayer and fasting, Bible study, preparing for pulpit supply, and meeting with other men on a weekly basis. That initial, compelling desire to share the gospel with complete strangers, to see a lost world come to Christ, continues to burn in his heart today.

Tony sums it up much like the apostle Paul long ago, "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:16). I commit a great sin if I do not share the Good News with my neighbor."



Geoff Wright preaching in Montréal.

Individuals or church groups are welcome to join Tony in street evangelism for a day, weekend, week, or the summer season. Training is provided as requested. E-mail Tony at t.schaapman@bellnet.ca or call him at 1-514-830-6761.

FALL 2008 MISSIONARY CANDIDATES



BCM International is pleased to announce our North American Missionary Candidates for Fall 2008:

Bolivar Cuevas – Bolivar, a 14-year Associate Missionary with BCM, will be serving in the Dominican Republic and Caribbean area as a full-time missionary.

Jamy Landis – With years of camp experience in Alaska, Jamy is coming to BCM to serve as Director of Big Sky Bible Camp in Montana.

Lori Pfeffer – Lori, a returning missionary, will be conducting Bible Clubs, Released Time Classes, and other ministries to children in the Allentown, PA area.

Jane & Stephen King (top middle) – Jane will be serving as an Associate Missionary in Teacher Training. Stephen will be working in Information Technology development for the whole of BCM.

Tommy & Kelly Gambrill (bottom middle) – Tommy and Kelly will be working in disaster relief assessment and course of action as needed.

Adam & Becky Weiss – Adam & Becky served previously as short-termers with BCM and are now looking to minister with BCM Peru full time by 2010. They will be attending the Center for Intercultural Training in 2009 to prepare for their ministry.