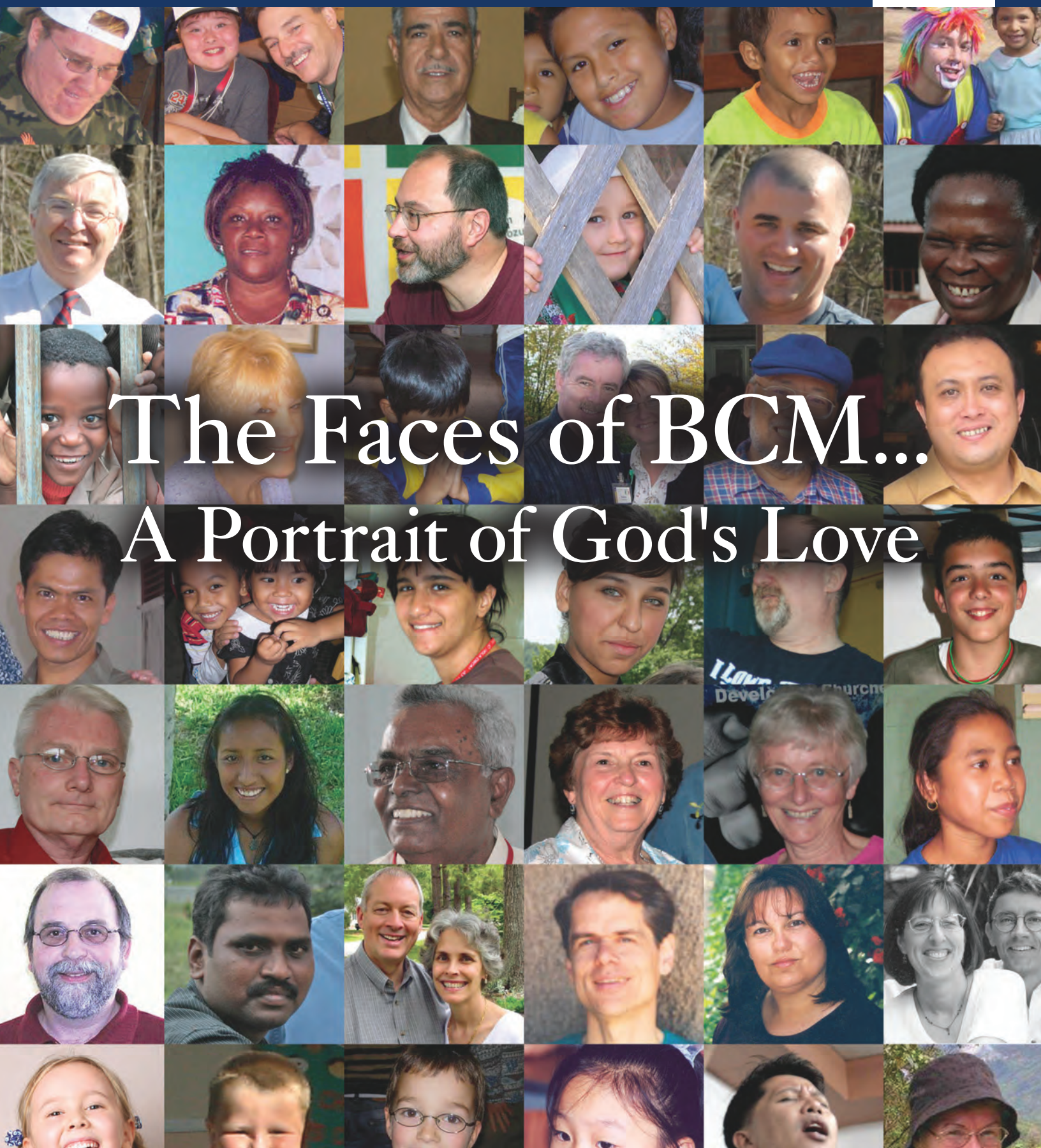


World

Spring 2008

An Inside Look at BCM's Global Ministries



The Faces of BCM... A Portrait of God's Love

Cover photo: Faces from all across BCM's ministries around the world. From missionaries, camp kids, church goers, leadership, and beyond, these faces represent the global reach of BCM International.

From the Editor

Since Marty and I were privileged to come on board with BCM International in January, 2006 one of the greatest delights God has given us has been getting to know the faces of BCM missionaries and ministries around the world. To date in these last two years, I personally have been able to visit 16 BCM fields on 4 continents while Marty in his responsibilities as president has traveled to far more.

I return home with two inescapable conclusions:

There is nothing more beautiful and inspirational than seeing the body of Christ in action. The courage and sacrifice of brothers and sisters in Christ in some of the most difficult corners of the planet where they face persecution and the possibility of death as a matter of course. The persistence and faithfulness of others in the midst of countries that are wealthy and powerful, but have turned their backs so completely on God that holding up the light of an open witness for God can be as challenging as overt persecution. The eagerness and energy of a mushrooming church in places like Latin America where out of their own poverty they are taking seriously the Great Commission to take God's Word and love to the nations.

I am immeasurably privileged to serve together with that piece of the body of Christ—dedicated missionaries, associates, and volunteers—that God has called to be the BCM ministry team in so many countries.

2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us that *"we who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory."*

In this issue you will catch just a glimpse of the ever-changing and infinitely-varied faces that not only make up BCM International, but a portrait of God's love to a world in need. **Missionaries:** 750+ representing more than 40 nations serving in over 50 nations on five continents. **Ministries:** children, women, and men with both spiritual and physical needs whose lives are being touched by BCM outreach around the world. **Volunteers** willing to travel across the world to share God's love as well as their own time and resources with people who have no personal claim on their lives—and who find themselves losing their own heart in the process.

As you see their faces and read their stories, my prayer is that you too will glimpse the reflection of God's glory and the likeness of Christ in these brothers and sisters of the global BCM ministry team. And that you will be as blessed and challenged as I to come on board with us in '**praying, giving, going**' that a world in need may come to know the compassion and mercy and love of God.

Jeanette Windle
Senior Editor BCM World



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The Faces of BCM International

by Martin D. Windle
President, BCM International

2008 marks the 72nd year of ministry since BCM International began as the Bible Club Movement in the fall of 1936. Spanning five continents, BCM International's 750+ missionaries represent more than forty nationalities and minister in more than fifty countries to a half-million-plus people every month. Walk with me through some of the images of this last year.

The Faces of BCM Missionaries

In India last June, a BCM India missionary/pastor was beaten, head shaved (a gesture of contempt in the culture), then dumped in the river for dead. Miraculously rescued, he was evacuated to the BCM Hyderabad Center where he and his family were offered sanctuary as he recovered from his injuries. When I visited with him a month later, he was already preparing to go back to continue sharing the gospel.



Nor was this the first time. Four years earlier, he'd also been beaten and left for dead. When urged to consider a safer ministry posting, his answer to me and others was: "Even if they cut my body into pieces, each piece will cry out the name of Jesus!"

BCM ministry leaders continue to face persecution and danger in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, the Muslim-controlled south of

the Philippines and other countries. But they have not let that stop them from presenting the light of the Gospel to those in need of God's love and eternal salvation.

On August 15th, 2007, an earthquake measuring 8.1 destroyed 60% of Ica, Peru. BCM Peru missionaries responded immediately to the crisis with what they had—themselves. A team of sixty Peruvian BCM Bible institute students and missionaries loaded up vehicles with tools, clothing, and food supplies. Pitching in with demolition, clearing, repairing and cleaning, they also listened to the heart cries of quake victims and shared the Gospel with them. More than 900 prayed to receive Christ as Savior.

Not long after, when the lowland areas of Bolivia were hit with the worst flooding of recent history, a team of BCM Bolivia medical doctors and volunteers from the Andes highlands immediately headed down to the jungle. This story was repeated by BCM teams just within the last year with flood victims in Mozambique and Sri Lanka.

In Swaziland, our two BCM Swaziland missionary ladies are ministering to more than 9,000 children in schools and clubs every month. There are many schools asking for visits, but no one to send. No

longer young, they begged me to send them a young man to work with the children.

In Tamil Nadu, India, 41 BCM India missionaries minister to over 90,000 children in religious release-time clubs

every month. They conduct 650 monthly meetings reaching an average of 13,000 youth and adults. They fill the in-between areas with children's camps and retreats, adult camps and retreats, teacher training, Vacation Bible Schools, church ministries, and puppet programs.



In Western Europe, where less than 2% attend Bible-believing evangelical churches, BCM missionaries across the UK, Italy, Spain, Germany, France and Holland continue to raise high a steady light of God's love and biblical teaching with a third generation of scripturally-grounded and disciplined Christian leaders now emerging from these ministries. In North America, BCM missionaries and volunteers continue quietly, often with little recognition or fanfare, to reach children for Christ in neighborhood Bible Clubs and school release times, to give up vacation weeks to minister to needy children in BCM camps.

In every country where they serve, many of our BCM missionaries are tent-makers because there is no support for them. Among our ministry couples, one spouse often works full-time so the other can give full-time to BCM ministry. They take time off their jobs, gather what they can from local believers and what we at the International Ministry Center can offer from our own meager resources, and go forth to demonstrate the Gospel in actions to their fellow countrymen. I personally am witness to

the austere living standard so many of our BCM ministry leaders around the world have chosen in order to dedicate resources and salaries to God's work—and BCM's.

The Faces of Our Ministry

In Orissa, India, an outbreak of persecution from radical Hindu fundamentalists during Christmas morning church services left 287 homes and 91 churches burned and over two thousand Christians in refugee status. Of those, nine BCM churches were destroyed, 243 BCM

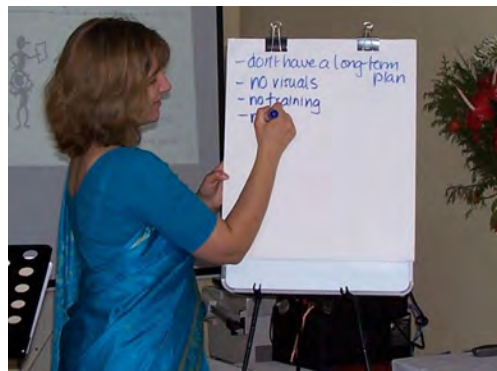
families left homeless, including nine pastors. Seven BCM believers are still in prison under false accusations. Fellow believers from India and other BCM ministry locations around the world immediately began gathering clothing, food, and funds for the Orissa refugees.

While we have been able to meet immediate needs, the rainy season is at hand. The refugees are still living under make-shift tarps and have no meeting place. Many believers have been forced to move, which has left



Continued on page 4

several villages without an evangelical witness. Our BCM missionaries/pastors in the region are courageously refusing to abandon their ministries, having faith that God is in control, and that they should stay until God's leading and not the devil's routing. I am scheduled to visit with these 71 BCM missionary/pastors June 28th and hope to take more funds to help first in the rebuilding of their homes and then the churches before rainy season.



Esther Zimmerman, Director of International Children's Ministries, leading Train the Trainer workshop

All across our ministry fields, BCM's *In Step with the Master Teacher* is multiplying not just Bible teachers and ministry leaders, but Master Trainers who can carry forward the multiplication process. In Lviv, Ukraine, BCM missionaries conducted two Train the Trainer sessions, with 40-50 in attendance at each session. Many

were key Christian leaders who are now using the material in their own ministries, including several Bible colleges. A Train the Trainer conference held at Donetsk Christian University had 34 Russian and Ukrainian leaders from 27 areas in attendance. A second Train the Trainer was recently held by Ukrainian/Russian BCM missionaries with 13 key Russian area leaders, who will be presenting the material to area churches. Among those trained was Yulia, who has now taught *ISMT* in a number of key Russian areas, including eastern Siberia.

In Holland, 19 BCM children's ministry leaders from five continents gathered for a time of intensive training and planning, using *ISMT*, Train the Trainer, and *Footsteps of Faith*. Already reports are coming back of the material being used in several countries. One leader, Dr. Mohan, has conducted 6 *ISMT* trainings with BCM churches in India. Already over 50 new children's outreaches have started as a result. *ISMT* is being translated into Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Oriya. His goals for 2008 are for 200 new teachers and at least 6000 more children being reached through them.

In 2007, BCM Asia also hosted the first Pacific region Train the Trainer conference in Sri Lanka. Within one month, BCM leaders who attended had already scheduled three *ISMT* events in India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

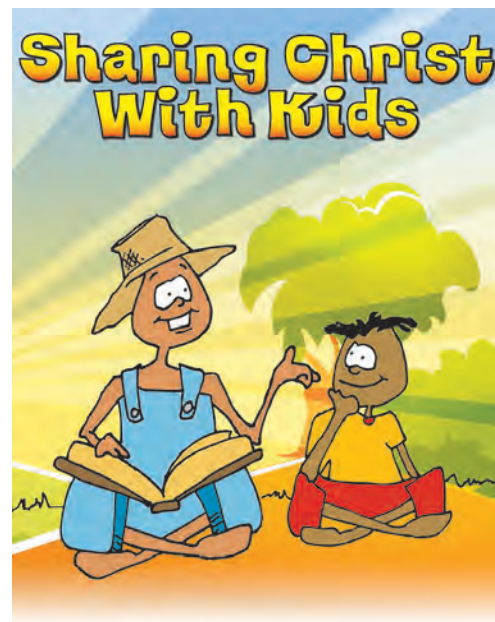
In Nicaragua, a short-term mission team from Canada met with 240 believers from 33 churches for an *ISMT* training event. 27 local pastors were in attendance. Response was overwhelming, and the Nicaraguan churches have asked for another conference next year. Bolivia, Peru, Romania, Slovakia, Indonesia—this story could literally be duplicated around the world.

ISMT and BCM's chronological Bible curriculum, *Footsteps of Faith*, have impacted other new language groups this last year as well. OMF Publishing in the Philippines is bringing out an entire edition of *Footsteps of Faith* for the Asia-Pacific region. A partner publisher in Myanmar is translating *FF* to offer the first children's Bible curriculum ever in Burmese. BCM material already translated into Ukrainian has now been

translated into Russian. In April 2008, *Footsteps of Faith* was launched in Bulgaria.

In March 2008, *ISMT* was published in Romanian, and BCM Eastern Europe and Train the Trainer coordinators Bob and Sandy Barber conducted the first Romanian Train the Trainer in conjunction with New Hope International. At least one attendee was using *ISMT* to train a group of 10 teachers in his church within two weeks of returning home.

This year too saw the release of BCM's new children's evangelism tool, *Sharing Christ with Kids*. A joint development project between BCM, AWANA, and Celebrate Kids, *SCK* teaches through a practical and interactive four-hour seminar how to boldly and biblically share the gospel with kids.



Sharing Christ with Kids, a new evangelization training curriculum

In Germany this past fall, BCM German and expatriate missionaries celebrated the completion of the 300-seat building for the growing BCM Church in Hünfeld. Local believers teamed together with teams from the USA to complete the church. The celebration filled the church with local community leaders, believers, and international visitors. Why is this so important? With the lack of evangelical churches in the area, people drive from a large radius to attend services.

The new facility also houses the offices for the *Conference for Church Planting* (*Konferenz für Gemeindegründung* or KfG), found in 1983 by BCM missionaries and other evangelical ministry leaders. Church



BCM Church in Mexico

planting continues to be a focus on BCM fields, with over 17,000 BCM churches now reaching their own communities around the world, the majority in India and other Asia-bloc fields.

What Would Jesus Do?

Jesus had compassion on people’s physical suffering and needs even as He preached the Good News of the kingdom of heaven. Disaster relief, refugee rehabilitation, health clinics in India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, ministry to street kids in Latin America, village health care, equipping the handicapped are just some of the ways BCM missionaries demonstrate the love and compassion of our Savior to a needy world.

A North American woman wrote us recently of how she came to Christ 45 years ago at age seven through a Bible club taught by BCM missionaries from a home where she’d been raised in spiritism and occultic practices. She shared that two things those BCM teachers had taught kept her from every cult in the world. “They taught me every week that Jesus was very God, and that once Jesus saved me, He kept me.” Those truths kept her through suicide attempts and an abusive home life, eventually leading her to saving faith in Christ.

“The real reason I wrote,” she shares, “is the latter part of this letter. Because of that Bible Club in my school, my life was altered forever. The greatest blessing is to see the change in my children’s lives and now the grandchildren. I have two children—a son and a daughter—and seven grandchildren. One was saved last year. My son is a missionary in Mexico.”

The stories of how God continues to move through BCM ministries around the world could go on and on. Camping programs in more than twenty-five countries. A beautiful new BCM camp in the Andes highlands in one of our newest fields, Bolivia. 1.3 million children hearing the Gospel in Bible Clubs and school release classes. There is not room in these pages for all the stories.

The Faces of the Unreached

Yes, God is working through BCM missionaries and ministries around the world. At the same time BCM International is facing challenges as never before, not only in maintaining current ministries, but taking on new opportunities for service that continue to open up around the world. There is a critical need on all five continents for believers willing to answer God’s call to serve in the midst of persecution, hardship, and difficulty. We are looking for personnel to meet requests for ministry in evangelism, discipleship, camping, training, and disaster relief.

At the same time, BCM faces a critical need of funding to carry out these ministry opportunities. Below is a financial statement for 2007, and a ratio chart of ministry and overhead. As you can see, we are investing in ministry, while trying to keep administrative costs low. We are also investing in fund-raising as we seek ways to fund further ministry.

This is important for several reasons. We finished the year with a deficit. Most of our missionaries are serving and surviving in spite of severe personal support shortages. Financial shortfalls have prevented ministry or left unanswered many exciting ministry opportunities. We have several churches waiting on funds before they can be built in Africa and Asia. Available travel funding doesn’t begin to match requests for training of teachers and church leadership on all five continents.

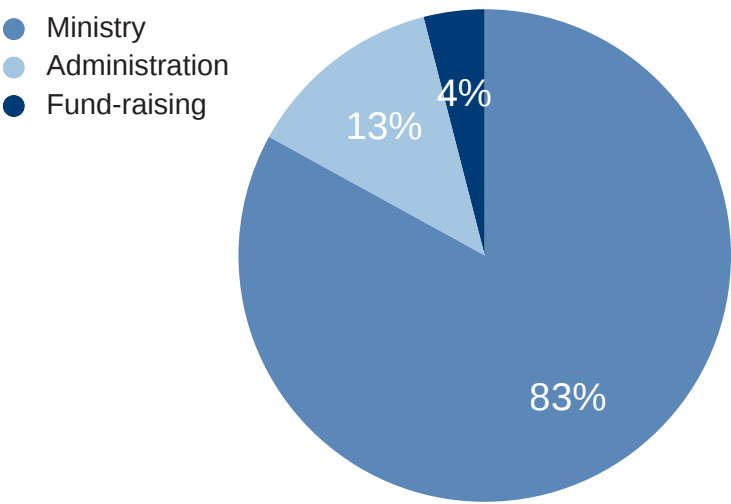
Some countries need camps, as in Ireland where we are waiting for funds to purchase a campsite for an already functioning camping program. Other camps in North America, Latin America, Asia and Europe need further development for ministry. Compassion and disaster relief

resources are without emergency reserves. Curriculum and training materials are waiting to be translated for use by eager missionaries and teachers in many countries. Here are the facts:

2007 Financial Report

Income		Expenses	
Contributions:	\$4,955,840	Salaries, camps, ministries:	\$6,324,739
Planned Giving:	\$5,169	Administration:	\$980,744
Other Income:	\$2,314,813	Fund-raising:	\$282,842
Total Income:	\$7,275,822	Total Expenses:	\$7,588,325
Total Deficit: \$312,503			

Overhead Ministry Graph



How Can You Play a Role?

So “What can I do?” you ask.

My answer is simple. It is not a new answer, not novel, but simple, tried, and effective. I ask you to Pray, Give, and Go.

Pray that the ministry will continue around the world. Pray that children and adults will continue to meet Christ and grow in Him. Pray that believers would awaken to the call of service for the Master. Pray that the necessary funding will be given so that ministry is not slowed or halted.

Give, not because of our ministry need, but according to God’s urging.

Go. There are many whom God is calling to minister in the harvest in some way. It may be short term or long term, in your own neighborhood or in a neighborhood in another country. But go! Together we can be used of God to accomplish His plan to redeem a lost world.

Blessings,

Rev. Martin D. Windle
President, BCM International

Split-second Tragedy Becomes God's Glorious Intervention

by **Lauri Barrette**
BCM Canada

Twenty-four years ago, a split second, a sheet of black ice and a spinal cord injury changed the course of our lives. Some would shake their heads and call it tragic. Yes, it was. But as I sat dazed in the snowbank beside the car, waiting for rescue workers to free my newly-paralyzed husband Daniel from the wreckage, I had the deepest sense of peace and knowledge that whatever happened from here on in would be used for God's glory.

When I met Daniel, a vibrant, recently-saved French Canadian, during a summer evangelism project in Quebec, I knew he was different from any guy in my church youth group I'd known growing up in Hamilton, Ontario. Cars, sports and girls were the main subjects of their conversations. Daniel loved talking about Jesus to anyone he'd meet.

As newlyweds, we'd just been celebrating New Year's Eve with my in-laws in Montreal for the first time together and were headed back to finish the last semester of our degrees at the University of Ottawa. The afternoon was cold



Daniel and Lauri Barrette

and snowy, the road slick. Then in an instant our car was spinning out of control—and so was our life.

Or was it?

When married life had begun for us only four and a half months before, I can clearly remember praying that God would not give us a mediocre life. This accident started us newlyweds on a course that would lead us to minister to many others who have experienced a disability.

We do this because God has ministered to us and has proved faithful, good and gracious to us in the midst of suffering. He even met our deepest desires to have a family by allowing us to adopt our two daughters, Jessica (17) and Emma (14). We are humbled and thankful for the following opportunities He has given us to serve Him through BCM International.

Overcomers Raise a Joyful Noise to the Lord

On the first Sunday of each month, we offer an Overcomers program in our church for adults with a range of developmental challenges. Many participants are residents of Christian Horizons Homes and attend with their workers. Though many are non-verbal, they enjoy making a 'joyful noise unto the Lord' with percussion instruments as the workers and our volunteers sing choruses. 'Jesus Loves Me' is always a favorite.

Communicating Bible truths in a concrete way that our Overcomers can grasp is a challenge. We've done everything from turning a hockey net into the mouth of the great fish that swallowed Jonah to borrowing the sanctuary's potted plants to create the Garden of Eden. Through props, costumes and drama we involve our friends as much as possible in the story or concept of the day.

How much do they grasp?

We cast our bread upon the water, then leave the results in God's hands. We trust that they

take in more than they can let us know. Our hope is that the love they sense from us will be associated with the name of Jesus. Craft and snack times allow us to interact with them and be a blessing to each individual and their worker.

Participation House

Participation House is a nearby residential facility for adults with cerebral palsy. We are thrilled that a secular organization allows us each month to hold a Bible Drama Club in their involvement center. A core group of clients faithfully attend as we use BCM's *Footsteps of Faith* curriculum and visuals to present the story of the evening. Using costumes, props and a simplified script, we act out the story, then talk about the lessons we can apply to our lives.



Participation House Bible Drama Club

Many of our non-verbal friends use a talking machine to say their lines. Daniel is often asked to visit clients who have expressed spiritual needs or who wish to do a Bible study. A few residents have begun attending our church. It is absolutely priceless to witness the light in their eyes and the joy on their faces when we talk about the hope of heaven and the new fully-functioning body that is waiting for those who believe.

*Handi*Camp Canada*

Handi*Camp Canada began its first session in 2001 under the guidance of Brian Robinson and his team from our mission partners now known as Handi*Vangelism Ministries International.



Handi*Camp Canada group

On the grounds of BCM Canada's Mill Stream Bible Retreat Centre in Omemee, Ontario, we gather together for what some campers describe as the best week of their year. Campers come with a wide range of physical and/or mild mental challenges and are cared for, one on one, by our godly, fun-loving staff.

Respite for their parents and care-givers is only a by-product of their week at camp. Our hearts' desire is to build up each camper and encourage them to have a relationship with Christ or grow in their walk with Him. The faith and love displayed by those campers who already know Christ has impacted our own lives.



The seriousness of what we do for the kingdom of God hit home in a very hard way this winter as one of our newer campers passed away due to complications with her hydrocephalic condition. We know that her two sessions with us were her first exposures to ever hearing about the gospel or prayer or the Bible. What a sobering reminder of the urgency of our calling.

'God's Special People.' 'People Plus.' 'The Specially Challenged.' No matter how one distinguishes this segment of the population, God compels us to "go into the streets and alleys of the town" to bring them in to dine at His table. They are no different from us, sinners in need of a great Saviour, broken as we are, only perhaps more overtly.

And as are we, they are potential growing and serving members of the body of Christ, created in Him to do good works, which God prepared in advance for them to do. As we look back to that icy road twenty-four years ago, we see His hand in it all, and praise Him for that split-second tragedy that became His glorious intervention into our lives for His kingdom. To Him be the Glory!

READ, LADY, READ!

by Marilyn White with
Jeanette Windle

BCM Canada missionary Marilyn White offers a smiling invitation to tag along with her on a Monday morning. It's been nine years since Marilyn was first invited to conduct a Bible class for mentally-handicapped adults at the Essex County Association for Community Living Center in the town of Essex not far from her own town of Leamington, Ontario.

"Although I had no training," Marilyn shares now, "I started and haven't looked back since!"

It's just 9:30 a.m. when Marilyn signs in at the front desk. Larry is often waiting for her. Smiling broadly, he shakes hands and asks, "Church?". Larry follows Marilyn downstairs to a back work-room where she finds several of her class members waiting quietly or working at jobs suited to their abilities. As Marilyn approaches, Jimmy gets to his feet, excited his teacher has finally arrived. Using a white cane, Jimmy slowly makes his way to the classroom. Before Marilyn can follow, Dino asks her to pray with him. Darcy joins in. Marilyn may not understand everything they are praying, but the Lord does.

On the way out, Marilyn pauses to encourage Sandra to join them for the Bible class. Although Sandra is non-verbal, she enjoys the class song time. Rick joins the group, and on this occasion so does June who is autistic. Each week brings a different number of people attending the class. Marilyn takes attendance. After a brief discussion about their weekend, it's time for the Bible lesson. When Marilyn doesn't start soon enough to suit Jimmy, he begins demanding, "Read, lady, read!" Jimmy certainly does enjoy the Bible lesson!

While it's impossible for Marilyn to know how much each of her students is actually picking up of the Bible lesson, she knows they are definitely picking up on the love and acceptance they encounter in her class. After nine years of coming to ECACL, Marilyn White's Monday morning trek isn't just a weekly responsibility, but a privilege of sharing God's love with a very special and delightful group of friends.



To Indonesia with Love

by **Bob Evans**
International Representative

Indonesia is a land of 17,000 islands, 235 million people, of which 81% are Muslim, 16% Christian, 2% Hindu. BCM International is involved in ministry in six locations on four major islands of Indonesia—Nias, Bali, Java, and Papua New Guinea. In some locations the majority religion is Islam, in another Hinduism, while others are steeped in traditional and animistic beliefs. But in each location BCM's ministry purpose remains the same—to make disciples of all age groups through evangelism, teaching and training.

Though BCM has been involved in a wide variety of compassion ministries over the decades and across the globe, prior to the tsunami of Christmas, 2004, we had never as a mission been involved specifically in 'Disaster Relief.' But because of BCM's ministry presence in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia, when the tsunami hit, we were in a position to get involved and help. BCM has contributed to the post-tsunami relief efforts in all three countries through donations, rebuilding, and volunteer personnel.

Three months after the tsunami, the islands of Nias and Java were rocked again by sizeable earthquakes. In Nias about 90% of the buildings were compromised. Many homes and churches were totally destroyed. In addition to providing food, medicines, clothing and school supplies, BCM staff, assisted by both Indonesian and expatriate believers, provided spiritual counseling and trauma healing, particularly for

children. Through faithful giving of the BCM global family and other donors, a number of churches and homes were rebuilt.

This initial demonstration of God's love has opened tremendous opportunities for ongoing evangelistic and Bible-teaching ministries.

Nias alone has a population of more than 500,000 people. BCM Indonesia has now held evangelistic outreaches in 5 of the 31 counties. More than 5,000 people have heard the Gospel with 189 declaring their faith in Jesus Christ. Rev. Doddy Prasadja, BCM Field Leader in Indonesia, is hoping to conduct evangelistic and discipleship outreaches in every county during the next year. The total cost for this effort would be less than \$12,000.

In November, 2007, I along with BCM missionary candidate Tommy Gambrell traveled to Indonesia to meet up with a team of BCM Indonesia leadership. Purpose for the trip was four-fold: to conduct pastors' conferences, review disaster relief efforts, meet with and encourage ministry leaders in Bali, Java, and



Nias, as well as share God's love and the Gospel of Jesus Christ at a number of our BCM churches.

At one evangelistic meeting, more than 300 people crowded into a very simple half-constructed church building. Kids and teens made up 60% of the congregation. A teen worship team led the meeting. When the invitation was given, two middle-aged ladies came forward to receive Christ. After speaking in another of our BCM churches, I was thrilled to learn that of the 285 people present in the service, more than 80% had been saved out of Islam.

As a result of the bold initiatives BCM Indonesia has taken, many pastors and churches have been seeking our assistance. On the Island



Java island countryside



Group photo at Indonesia Pastors' Conference

of Java, we conducted a three-day conference for pastors, wives and church leaders, with sixty-three people in attendance. Many more wanted to come but attendance was limited by the lack of finances. Most of the churches represented have 60-80 in the congregation. Some are very new with young congregations. Subject matter dealt with included the foundation blocks for ministry, prayer, Christian home and family plus practical sessions on evangelism and Bible teaching. As vital as the teaching material was the fellowship and mutual encouragement.

"I came feeling defeated. Satan was winning," shared a pastor from East Java who traveled seven hours to the conference. "But today God

spoke to me, and I want to serve Him with all my heart. I am encouraged to continue."

"What we received here is truth," commented another after the conference. A third added, "I learned here how to pray and the importance of prayer."

The interaction between older and younger pastors was wonderful to see. One young leader expressed fervently, "I appreciate that we younger pastors can learn from the experience of our older leaders."

Some of the attendees came with heavy burdens. One shared, "My son is very sick, but

my wife said, 'You must go to the conference.' Thank you to BCM for inviting me." As he finished sharing his heavy spirit, a number of people prayed for his son.

A major topic at these leadership conferences was the home and relationship between husbands and wives. One evening was set aside for prayer, out of which came some sincere confessions and a desire to make things right. Many confessed they had not told their wives that they loved them since they were first married. For some that had been 25 years. One pastor text-messaged after he got home. "I told my wife I loved her and she started crying."

Speaking for the group of pastors, one leader expressed, "The material has made us think. It was deep; we want more. Please hold another conference!"

As God provides, this as well as BCM Indonesia's other ministry goals, are definitely on the agenda. In spite of great opposition and limited religious freedom, God is doing great things in the hearts of the Indonesian people. It is a land in need of more missionary personnel, expanded ministry, and above all, prayer. Our BCM Indonesia personnel covet your prayers and financial support so that we can impact this great land with the Gospel in even greater ways before it is too late.

Donations to BCM Indonesia can be made online or through designated mail-in donations.



Tommy Gambrill, Rev. Doddy Prasadja, and Dr. Bob Evans

Short-term Mission Trip Creates Missions Journalist

by Jennifer Hamilton

On the day after Christmas in 2004, history's second-largest recorded earthquake registered a magnitude of 9.1–9.3 on the Richter scale. The Indian Ocean earthquake triggered a tsunami measuring 100 feet high, the height of a ten-story building. In Indonesia alone, an estimated 170,000 people were killed or reported missing. 500,000 were left homeless.

Around the world, Christian churches and organizations mounted relief teams to help tsunami survivors. My church, Lancaster Evangelical Free Church, sent a short-term team to Banda Aceh, Indonesia, to see what could be done.



It was January, 2007, two years after the tsunami, that I stepped into the biggest adventure of my life. Another short-term team was organizing a return to Banda Aceh to appraise rebuilding efforts and determine how we could help a missionary serving there. With some qualms to be sure, I left my husband and three small children behind as I started the journey to Indonesia.

Having traveled extensively through the cultural wonder

that is America, I had prepared myself for culture shock. I wasn't expecting this.

After three days of non-stop travel and jet lag, I was eager for a hot shower and long nap. Instead, I found myself staring at a tiled room with a drain and toilet. In place of a massaging shower head and hot water was a bucket and a large blue garbage can filled with cold water.

Traffic followed some unknown pattern without stop signs, speed limits or lane markings. In the back seat, I'd squeak as we narrowly dodged motorcyclists sharing the road. Smiling at me in the rear-view mirror, our driver offered a smile as he tooted his horn in friendly fashion to fellow motorists.

I'm taller than Indonesian men with very pale skin, making me an object of great fascination. One bold and boisterous woman grabbed my leg, rubbing its light shade vigorously. Once, four women converged upon my nose. When I sat down, village children ran fingers through my blonde hair to inspect its texture and color. Young girls inspected my toes and fingernails. As I walked down the street, a father crouched low to whisper in his son's ear, pointing at me. Now I know how zoo-kept gorillas feel!



One morning I was enjoying fried donuts freshly prepared by the Chinese family across the alley when a movement at the corner of my eye revealed a cockroach about three inches long. It strolled by the table, gave a wave, climbed into a cabinet and was gone. Our missionary hostess informed me she sees cockroaches so often they're like family members. I did not share that same affection!

Add in garbage everywhere. A stench of rotting fish and vegetables from the open air food market. Random, gaping holes in tile-paved sidewalks where a person could vanish if not watching where they walked. Since I speak no Indonesian, I carried a constant fear of losing my translator, thus being left unable to communicate.

I never imagined I'd lose my heart as I fell in love with these people.

There were Chinese families living under social persecution. Indonesian village women scraping to make money any way they could because the tsunami had taken their husbands and in many cases, their children. My heart broke over a baby girl with chocolate-brown eyes and cleft palate who could never afford the surgery to give her a smile.

Rebuilding has been significant, in most cases provided by Christians. But everywhere we saw evidence of how the tsunami ravaged the island. Cement foundations with broken tile flooring remain where homes once stood, walls scraped clean away, leaving twisted rebar behind. In the cities, buildings stand missing half of themselves, long strands of rebar hanging out over thin air. Grass and small plants are slowly returning where the wave of water had stripped the landscape of vegetation.

But it is the spiritual darkness of this Muslim country that feels defeating. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by a sign declaring that



Banda Aceh is under Shariah law. Muslim converts to Christianity face severe persecution, including death, if they do not renounce the name of Christ. Muslim fathers or sons are required to punish or kill their family members who become Christians.

Yet there is hope because Christ lives in Indonesians, both in the city and in outer-lying villages. After the tsunami, Christians arrived from other Indonesian provinces to offer help, surprising Muslims that Christians would be willing to help them. A number have come to Christ since that horrific disaster and are eager to learn about this Jesus who bled and died upon a cross so they could be free. Living each day under threat of discovery, these believers meet in secret, congregating in small homes where they sing and praise God with a passion that humbled me. They share their testimonies in a whisper, inexpressible joy in their countenance.

I went to serve as God led.

I left profoundly changed by a sweet and curious people who moved my heart in a way that I could not ever have prepared myself for, nor one that I will ever forget.

Eight months after my time in Indonesia while at my first writer's conference, I met Jeanette Windle, founder of the communications department at BCM. After many stories of a shared passion for missions along with the calling to be a writer, I eagerly stepped into the role of Missions Journalist at BCM. Through this position, I look forward to meeting more of the body of Christ from around the world, to share in the exciting stories of how God continues to move in various BCM ministries.

My adventure has just begun.



Gateway to the Amazon

by Dawn Moore

"Please buy something, Lady. I'm hungry." His brown eyes implored me.

The street kids of Iquitos knew their trade. This boy, plying bracelets handmade by his grandmother from wood and beads gathered in the Amazon jungle, was about the same age as the 10 year-old son I'd left safe and comfortable in New Jersey. We short-term missionaries had been warned that the child vendors could steal your heart—or pick your pocket.

Eight of us from Grace Fellowship Evangelical Free Church in Milford, NJ, along with four individuals from Vermont had joined full-time BCM Peru missionaries in their expansion project into Iquitos. Located on the Amazon with a population of 400,000, Iquitos is not only the largest city of Peru's northern rain forest region, but the most populous city anywhere without road access. It can be reached only by boat or plane. There on a property owned by BCM Peru, we helped build a dormitory, missionary house and a kitchen/bathroom facility. This site will serve as the base of operations for outreach to street kids around Iquitos.

At first I ignored the child vendor's pleas to buy something. When he persisted in following me down the street, I shook my head. He stuck to me like Chicklets™ gum on hot cement. With thumb and forefingers to his mouth, he motioned the international gesture for eating.



"Do you go to school?" My gringa Spanish seemed to catch him off guard.

"It's summer vacation." His smile was as bright as the 90-degree sun beaming down on us. It was a smile like my own son uses when he is well-pleased with his world.

Every time the same boy saw me at the Plaza de Armas or the Internet Café, he would run up and give me a warm hug. We would chat briefly as I ran errands. Day or night, he would walk beside me as if he were my self-appointed protector.

I asked one of the full-time BCM Peru missionaries if I could give him money.

"Buy his bracelets," she told me. "That way, he can keep his pride."

These kids from small barrios travel about an hour into the tourist areas around the city of Iquitos, considered to be the gateway to the Amazon Jungle, to sell bracelets, earrings, Chicklets™ and other small items. They use the money for school supplies or to buy food, supplementing what they eat from the fruit-bearing trees they have on their small farms or by fishing.

All of us felt sympathy for these young children and teenagers; our sorrow over their impoverished living conditions is what led us to Peru. Our mission was to begin the construction that would provide a safe place for some of the abandoned, abused and neglected children around Iquitos. There they would have opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ, come to really know Him and the hope He brings.

The property in Llanchama, owned by BCM Peru and located in the heart of the Amazon rainforest with direct access to the Nanay River, is about 50 minutes by public transportation from the center of Iquitos. It will function as the base of operations for evangelistic outreach to hundreds of villages around the city. Full-time missionaries Eliasib and Daniela Palomino (http://www.bcmperu.org/missionary_eliasib_



[palomino.html](http://www.bcmperu.org/missionary_eliasib_palomino.html)) are Area Representatives for BCM Peru who work directly with the poorest and most needy children by offering them practical life skills and spiritual direction.

"We want these children to have a better life," Eliasib tells us. "We are teaching them the Bible and explaining how living biblically will give them a future."

BCM Peru missionaries work with the local Peruvian churches, providing programs to reach Peru's youth before they get lost to alcohol, drugs and delinquency. Through dedicated effort they run Bible Clubs, evangelistic outreaches like Pennies for Peru, and Campamentos—a camp ministry for both



younger children and teenagers, held during the summer months.

“We want to start with the children—the future of Peru,” Eliasib said.

During their recent Campamento in Iquitos, the children had classes each day of the week—Monday through Thursday—where they learned about the Bible and what it means to live a transformed life. On Friday, they reviewed what they had learned.

“It was a very emotional night,” Daniela shared.

The children had accepted Jesus Christ, but now they had to make decisions about the hard things in their hearts.

“They harbored resentment, hate and anger, not to mention all the psychological issues resulting from being abandoned, abused, neglected or ignored by their parents,” Eliasib added.

Children had come to this retreat from various towns around Iquitos. Although each of these barrios has a school for children six to eleven years of age, their formal education ends there unless they go into Iquitos to a regional school where they must board. They therefore need to find some type of work they can do in the evenings so that they can afford to go to school during the day. Without further schooling, they have little opportunity to learn how to be good providers.

“Many of them simply don’t want to work,” Eliasib explained. “Most of them don’t know



how to earn an honest living. They have witnessed theft all their lives and this is what they know.”

“Girls get pregnant very young,” Daniela went on. “Their education has stopped, and this is what they do.”

They mirror what they have learned from the men and women in their town. Countless children don’t know their fathers because the men father children with various women throughout the area.

Construction at BCM Peru camp

Now that the construction in Llanachama is near completion, plans are underway to equip the site, not only for camp ministry, but as a permanent facility where the BCM Peru missionaries can work with the teens to teach them life skills such as fishing, carpentry, house cleaning, laundry care, sewing, masonry, electrical, etc. The BCM Peru missionaries also teach them about the Bible and how to live a life that honors God.

“Our greatest hope is for them to continue on to the Bible Institute at BCM Peru in Lima, become pastors and return to their home towns to teach their communities about Jesus Christ, their need for a Savior and the hope that He alone brings,” Eliasib said.

Helping children like my little friend selling bracelets in the Plaza de Armas requires dedication. The hard work of BCM Peru’s outreach to alleviate suffering by bringing hope is continuing in the Amazon. For me, it has been humbling and exciting to watch God working in Peru. From the hand-clearing of a jungle property though the construction of a permanent mission facility, it has been a privilege to participate side by side with the local full-time BCM Peru missionaries in the building of God’s Kingdom around Iquitos.

Please join us through prayer and monetary support (http://www.bcmperu.org/branching_out.html).



Recife, Brazil: Tourist Mecca, Home of Lost Souls

by Jennifer Hamilton with Maria Gusmão

Where the Beberibe River and the Capibaribe River meet, the cultural metropolis of Recife, Brazil beckons tourists with art, music, dance and Carnival. Four days before Lent, partygoers hit the streets to dance and drink their woes away.



What potential tourists won't read about when planning their tropical getaway are the children living in the slums. Recife brochures won't mention the *aviozinhos*, the boys ages six to twelve who deliver drugs to addicts. Vacationers won't tour cardboard, scrap lumber and tin shacks with no electricity or running water. They won't hear the gun battles nor see sanitation teams, police squads who clean up neighborhoods by disappearing street kids as well as adult delinquents.

This is the Recife where BCM Brazil missionary Maria Gusmão serves. Every year Maria leads Bible camps for the children of Recife's slums. She also reaches out to children in country villages, driving up to seven hours one way in a questionable vehicle on even more questionable roads, all so that the Gospel may reach these small, lost outcasts of Brazilian society. In these areas, illiteracy prevents many from reading God's Word for themselves, but Countryside Evangelism events share the Gospel with adults and children alike.

Slum children pouring in for Bible camp come from a wide gamut of life experiences. Lice, inadequate clothing, and malnutrition are only some of the problems children bring with them to camp. One eight-year-old little girl nearly died from the rat poison her stepmother fed her.

Cleiton is a thirteen-year-old drug dealer trying to stay out of his neighborhood. If he returns, he will be killed by rival dealers who want his territory. An addict himself, Cleiton suffered horrific withdrawal headaches that medication couldn't touch during camp, as camp rules forbid the use of drugs. Sixteen-year-old Anderson is a direct result of the environment where he is trying to survive. In his short life he has killed four people.

But though the enemy may have a foothold in Recife, Jesus has the victory! Juvenile killer Anderson is one of many who gave his life to Jesus in this year's camps. Before he left, he asked for help because he was returning to the environment that made him a killer. In the January 2008 camps alone, 43 teens accepted Christ as Savior. At a recent Countryside Evangelism event, another ten children and thirteen adults received Christ.

God has prepared His harvest in Brazil. But with the significant drop in the value of the American dollar, Maria is currently running this ministry with less than 30% of what is needed per month. More ministry leaders are needed to reach the countless thousands of needy children on the streets of Recife and around Brazil. Pray that God will raise up laborers and resources to bring in this harvest of lost young souls in Recife, Brazil.

Donations for this ministry can be given through BCM International, designated for the Recife, Brazil, camping program.



God's Grace Abounding in Scotland

by Steve Marr with Jennifer Hamilton

The head teacher didn't want the Bible Club in his school. Though he couldn't throw them out, he got creative, allowing meetings only in the foyer. He banned words like salvation, heaven, hell and sin. He sent a member of his staff, Miss Roberts*, to watch the club for anything that could be used to force its closure.

She was an imposing figure, rather scary in her unsmiling rigidity with a reputation for strictness. One step out of line—actual or perceived—could be fatal.

One week after a lesson on the life of Joseph, the children were asked to “talk to God about any problem and ask Him to sort it out.” Miss Roberts looked agitated. The next week she was definitely bothered about something. The third week, she was positively jumping like a cat on hot coals. She strode over to Bible Club teacher Steve Marr, pointing at him. “In my office, now!”

Steve Marr first became acquainted with BCM International when the girl he was dating took him along to help at a summer camp in the South Lanarkshire area of Scotland. His date, Liz, eventually became his wife. Steve and Liz Marr joined BCM as missionaries in 1992. With their two children, Nathanael (13) and Bethany (11), they live in Barrhead, near Glasgow in Scotland. Steve serves as UK representative for BCM and preaches regularly in a number of churches. But the bulk of his ministry involves going into schools and running Bible Clubs, speaking at school assemblies and teaching religious education classes, as well as summer camp ministry.

Now it looked like it was going to be the end for this particular Bible Club. Obeying Miss Robert's order, he sat in a chair.

Miss Roberts began: “I've been watching you with instructions to make sure you don't do anything against school rules. You always give out



homework, and a few weeks ago, you gave me the perfect opportunity to prove that you and your God are liars and fakes!”

Steve was stunned. Homework wasn't a bad thing in schools and what could he have said to give proof of lies or insincerity? As he racked his brain to come up with an answer, his accuser continued.

“You told the children that they should talk to your God about a problem and ask Him to sort it out. I realized that if I did that homework and nothing happened, you would be proved to be a liar and your God just a figment of your imagination.”

Tersely, Miss Roberts added, “But it didn't work out like I thought. Your God answered my prayer!”

Silence filled the room. A tension that could almost be touched was broken only when Miss Roberts spoke. “You have to tell me what this means and what I should do about it!”

Over the next thirty minutes, Steve explained the Gospel, leading Miss Roberts to Christ in her own office.

But that wasn't the end of the story. The following week, Steve met with the children of the Bible Club and told them about his experience. The children went into a huddle, whispering to each other. After a short time, one of the students turned to Steve.

“You gave us homework to pray about a problem and ask God to sort it out. Well, we all had the same problem. We all prayed for Miss Roberts!”

***Not actual name**

Read more stories of God's grace in BCM Scotland's clubs in the latest on-line version of BCM World.



SPRING 2008 MISSIONARY CANDIDATES



BCM International is pleased to announce our Missionary Candidates for Spring 2008:

Rev. Andrew Spreadbury: Andrew is serving as Minister-at-Large, blessing BCM missionaries through representation and speaking opportunities. He is based in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area.

Jason* & Jennifer Hamilton: Jennifer is serving as Missions Journalist for the BCM Communications Group, and has been featured in *BCM World*. Their children are Savannah (7), Nathanael (4), and Gabriel (3).

Tim Sytsma: Tim is serving in western Michigan running Bible Clubs and release time classes, as well as helping at Pine Ridge Bible Camp and Conference Center.

Pat* & Dr. Homer Heater: Homer is also serving as Minister-at-Large. He teaches part time at Dallas Theological Seminary and is based in the Dallas, Texas, area.

Frank Lenahan: Frank is rejoining BCM, having served previously for 13 years. He will be active with church development in western New York, as well as helping with camp and Bible Club ministries.

Angela* & Paul Briggs: Paul is a BCM Canada missionary appointee, and will be serving as the Director of Mount Traber Bible Camp and Retreat Centre in Coles Brook, Nova Scotia, Canada. Their children are Leah (3) and Seth (18 mos.).

* – Not currently seeking missionary status.