

# BCMWorld

An Inside Look at BCM Global Ministries

Issue One, 2011



## HONORING THE PAST.



## CELEBRATING THE FUTURE.

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BCM International is a global 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 PRESIDENT

*The LORD says: "I will guide you along  
the best pathway for your life. I will  
advise you and watch over you."*

—Psalm 32:8 (NLT)

I recently returned from a glorious celebration of Bible Centered Ministries International's Diamond Jubilee in the Philippines, where mission founder Miss Bessie Traber first taught Bible Clubs to children (see article, page 4). Much has changed since 1936 when what was then called the Bible Club Movement initiated its first children's outreach with a handful of volunteers in inner-city Philadelphia. Seventy-five years later, the sun literally never sets on BCM ministry with more than 700 missionaries and thousands of volunteers serving together to reach children and develop the Church in more than fifty countries on five continents.

In the Old Testament, the Year of Jubilee celebration was a special time of revival, when God renewed His covenants with His people, calling them to repentance and forgiveness, while His people reaffirmed their commitment to relationship and service to Him. My prayer for BCM International in 2011 is that this Diamond Jubilee year will serve the same purpose — that we will renew our vision of reaching children and strengthening the Church worldwide, that God will reposition and fortify us for future ministry, and that we will continue to be an agent for revival of God's people and an instrument of evangelism to a lost world.

In this Diamond Jubilee year, I would also like to give special thanks and recognition to BCM leadership, missionaries, volunteers, and donors all around the planet who have provided individual initiative, continuity, and sponsorship for BCM's ministries, often at great personal expense. May our heavenly Father reward you with His "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21). Together may we continue to make a difference by presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ to those still in need around the world.

As we celebrate God's faithfulness and blessing over these past seventy-five years, I invite you to celebrate with us. Begin with the exciting accounts of God's past and present working in the pages of this BCM World issue. But don't stop there. Check out firsthand photo albums of that Philippines celebration and many other exciting BCM happenings at our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/BCMInternational> (you don't need to be a Facebook user to see it). Take a moment to watch our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative video at our website, <http://www.bcmintl.org>.

Best of all, come join BCM ministry personnel gathering from around the world at our international Diamond Jubilee celebration October 28-30, 2011, in Lancaster, PA (see back cover). We'd love to celebrate with you in person there!

Blessings,

Marty Windle



## From the Editor

I was in Nairobi, Kenya, chatting with a Christian publisher from United Arab Emirates. When I explained I served with BCM International, his face lit up. "I know BCM. Many years ago, your ministry leaders in Tamil Nadu, India, trained me in children's ministry."

I've enjoyed variations of this conversation with complete strangers literally around the planet. "I came to Christ at a BCM Bible Club in Philadelphia ... Amsterdam ... Glasgow."



"As a kid I attended BCM's Camp Sankanac in Pennsylvania. Their counselors showed me Christ's love and changed my life." Or Big Sky Bible Camp in Montana. Mill Stream in Canada. Centro Betel in Segovia, Spain.

This year BCM International celebrates its Diamond Jubilee since its founding as the Bible Club Movement in 1936. Seventy-five years of teaching God's Word to children and adults in more than fifty countries on five continents leaves a rich legacy of people impacted by the life-transforming gospel of Jesus through the ministry of BCM International. In this issue we honor that legacy. We invite you to join us in field celebrations from the Philippines to Canada, to reminisce with us at God's working over the decades.

But while we honor the past, we celebrate as well the exciting on-going ministry of BCM around the planet. 1500 newly trained children's ministry leaders in Nigeria. A church plant project in the very town where BCM founder Bessie Traber first taught children in the Philippines. An exciting new publishing partnership in Kenya.

Join us in honoring those who've served God so faithfully with BCM International over the last seventy-five years. And in celebrating an on-going future of "Reaching Children and Developing Churches Worldwide."

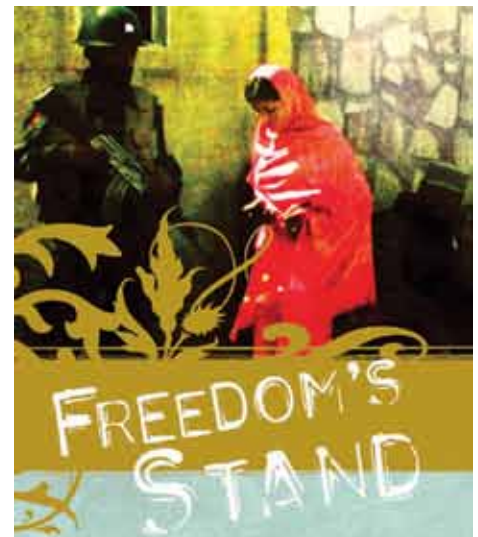
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Jeanette Windle's latest Tyndale House Publisher release, ***Freedom's Stand***, is now available in bookstores and from online retailers. Set in Afghanistan, ***Freedom's Stand*** is sequel to 2010 Christian Book Award and 2010 Christy Award finalist, ***Veiled Freedom***. Consider donating a copy to your church or public library. **Proceeds benefit BCM's global ministries.**



BY JEANETTE WINDLE

"A message of hope. *Freedom's Stand* will touch your heart like nothing else."  
Dr. Carl Moeller, President, Open Doors

"*Freedom's Stand* has made the people of Afghanistan and their struggles part of me."  
Steve Saint, Author, *End of the Spear*

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# BCM's Birthplace Celebrates Diamond Jubilee

by Joe Dukes, BCM Vice President for Personnel,  
with Jeanette Windle

BCM Philippines has reason to claim the honor of being the birthplace of BCM International. Miss Bessie Traber was serving as a missionary in the Philippines when she first developed her innovative children's outreach focused on using neighborhood Bible Clubs to reach children with the gospel of Jesus Christ and ground them firmly in God's Word. It was upon her involuntary return for health reasons to her native USA city of Philadelphia that God called Bessie Traber to use her Philippines ministry experience in founding similar Bible Clubs in North America. Thus began the ministry of the Bible Club Movement, now BCM International.

Decades later, Bessie Traber's vision for children's ministry returned to the Philippines with the founding of the first Bible Clubs in Manila, a ministry that in time expanded to church planting and other outreaches. Today the BCM-associated Bible Centered Fellowship, Inc. (BCFI), encompasses more than 100 churches with as many full-time BCM Philippines missionary personnel along with hundreds more volunteer lay-leaders and three training centers. More than 60 BCFI churches and BCM Camp Española are located among tribal groups in the Philippines' largest island of Mindanao.

So it was with great pleasure that a team of BCM International leadership flew into the birthplace of the Bible Club Movement to join BCM Philippines for their celebration of BCM's Diamond Jubilee from April 16-18, 2011. Participating in the team were keynote speaker and pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church in North Carolina, Dr. Ron Chaney; Union Grove church leader Mr. Henry Moore; BCM President Dr. Marty Windle; VP for International Ministries Dr. Vararuchi Dalavai along with his wife Veronica; and VP of Personnel Joe Dukes.

The celebration began in the Philippine capital of Manila. "Task Towards the Target" was the theme chosen by BCM Philippines, a reminder that even while honoring the past, the target of fulfilling the Great Commission by taking the gospel to all nations still remains a challenge for the future. Festivities opened Saturday afternoon, April 16<sup>th</sup>, with

a police-escorted motorcade through residential and business areas to BCFI's South Greenheights Church. Parade vehicles were covered with colorful balloons and banners announcing BCM's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and children among the spectators grabbed precariously to capture the occasional balloon for themselves.



About 500 gathered for that evening's inaugural celebration at South Greenheights Church. A youth music group, a children's choir, and an adult choral group contributed to an evening of vibrant worship. A highlight was the Kahayag Cultural Ministry team, who flawlessly performed a traditional ethnic dance that culminated with holding high candle glasses whose lit flames formed the number "75" in honor of BCM's Diamond Jubilee.

The main anniversary celebration on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, drew over 1000 in attendance from BCM churches around Manila. Children participated in a parade of flags and national costumes representing each country throughout the world where BCM undertakes ministry. The children then formed a choir to sing "The Mission" by Steve Green, a deeply moving song about the call and responsibility of the Church to take the Great Commission around the world.



After the Manila celebrations, the visiting BCM team flew to General Santos City on the island of Mindanao. First on the schedule was a visit to Camp Española, a beautifully secluded location amid miles and miles of pineapple fields where BCM Mindanao carries out a camp and conference ministry for area tribal churches.

More than 500 were in attendance for the closing celebration of BCM's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Philippines, held at the Family Country Homes Convention Center in General Santos City. It was very encouraging to see so many tables filled with delegations of young people from various BCM church locations around the island of Mindanao. The Kahayag Cultural Ministry team presented another demonstration of Christian ethnic dance. Also on the program were a children's presentation on the importance of the Bible and a colorfully dressed adult choir singing on the theme of commitment to the task of serving Jesus Christ.



were already branching out to another district without an established gospel witness to plant a church there.

Three members of the visiting BCM team shared in Bible teaching at each location. Keynote speaker Dr. Ron Chaney preached on the topic of "mystery" in Scriptures: the mystery of faith, mystery of iniquity, mystery of godliness, and how they intermingle in believers' lives and throughout history. Dr. Chaney also gave two seminars to groups of Philippine church lay leaders on the topic of "the whole Word of God to the whole person for the whole of life".

Dr. Vararuchi Dalavai challenged listeners to continue the task towards the target of completing the Great Commission. Dr. Marty Windle spoke of BCM's heritage and roots in the Philippines, reminding that BCM must not rest on this great legacy, but carry that blessing and faithful service forward into the future.

One exciting step forward already in the planning is a BCFI church plant in the same community where Miss Bessie Traber ministered to children in the 1930s, today still without an established church of its own. And with that project, Bessie Traber's heart for the Philippines and vision of reaching children and developing churches worldwide will indeed have come full circle.

From left: Dr. Martin Windle, Dr. Vararuchi Dalavai, Dr. Ron Chaney, and Mr. Henry Moore



Dr. Ron Chaney

During their time in the Philippines, the visiting BCM leadership team was able to visit 15 churches planted by BCM missionaries in locations around Manila and General Santos City. One special blessing was to hear a young pastor of a recent church plant with just 18 members share how they



# A Persistent Young Hero

by Dr. Mildred Yancey (BCM USA, Retired)

Back in the late 1930s when I was a teenager still in high school, I lived in Philadelphia, PA. These were the beginning years of the Bible Club Movement, and I began volunteering at a Bible Club taught by Mr. Millard Kilduff at the home of the Maxwells, a Christian family who lived on Paschall Ave. The Maxwells had offered to host the Bible Club for the sake of their son Richard, who at eleven years old was partially paralyzed so that he couldn't get around easily. Later on it would be discovered that he was a victim of Lou Gehrig's disease. But if he had limited mobility, he could still call friends and invite them to Bible Club. And so he did.



A 1930s Bible Club in Philadelphia

he felt going to camp would take care of that. Sure enough, Albert accepted Christ as his Savior, so Richard had an eternal reward sent on ahead instead of those books.

Not long afterward, shortly past his twelfth birthday, Richard went home to be with his Savior. Soon after, Mr. Kilduff had to give up the Bible Club, so he asked me to take it over. By then I knew God was calling me to be a missionary one day. But it was Richard's example — as well as his early death — that influenced me to minister with children. It made me realize that children could die and needed to hear the gospel. But also that even though young, children could share their faith and have fruit from their ministry that would go on with them into eternity. Since then I have had the privilege of leading a number of children to the Lord who did not live to grow up.



Bible Club in the 1950s

As I volunteered, I was deeply impacted by Richard. For one, because he had such a sweet attitude despite his disability. He loved Jesus very much and was always eager for Bible Club to learn more about God. He also cared deeply about other people. One of BCM's programs at that time was a scholarship for Bible Club members who'd memorized at least 300 verses to attend Camp Sankanac, BCM's first established Christian camp, located in the beautiful countryside of Pottstown, PA, not far from Philadelphia. Though he knew his disability would not permit him to attend camp, Richard decided he would like to memorize his 300 verses anyway. The BCM leadership told him that instead of a scholarship, he could choose books totaling in value the amount of a week at camp.

Richard did memorize the verses, and I had the privilege of hearing him recite them. The last hundred verses had to be recited at one sitting to a BCM representative, usually at that time Dorothy Scott. Richard successfully completed the final section. But instead of accepting his reward of books, Richard insisted we send one of his friends, Albert Ramos, to camp in his place. He wanted Albert to experience the joys of camp for him. But Richard was also concerned for Albert's salvation, and



# BCM UK: Going Beyond the Call of Duty

by Jan Aucompaugh (BCM UK, Retired)

My first impression of BCM UK as a new Bible Club Movement missionary from the United States was the selflessness of their volunteer leadership. I myself had grown up attending a BCM Bible Club in upstate NY. While in Bible college, I'd worked at BCM's Camp Sankanac, then became a missionary in Syracuse, New York. Oscar Hirt, BCM's president at the time, asked me to relocate to the UK as the Bible Club Movement's representative there. I arrived in the UK in 1971 and spent the next twenty-six years there in ministry with BCM all over the United Kingdom, managing the National Office along with being involved in camps and clubs.



Campers at Mullartown House, Northern Ireland



Early Bible Club in England

From the beginning, what impressed me most was the personal sacrifice and dedication of our BCM personnel across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland, in their commitment to reach the children of their nation with the gospel of Jesus Christ and raise up a new generation well-grounded in God's Word. Many were housewives who nearly emptied their living room each week to accommodate children for an hour of club. Others were working people, both men and women, who would go right from the office or factory to lead their clubs. Still others were young people who had been clubbers themselves and now wanted to assist their leaders.

Many of those early leaders did not own cars so had to walk or take buses to their clubs. I remember one telling of being newly married and asking God if He really intended her to invite a roomful of children onto her new carpet. But she did! The average home then in the UK was not at all spacious. A 12-foot square living-room would be filled wall to wall with children, hence the need to move out the furniture.

When it came to my first year of Bible Club Camp in the UK, I was amazed to find that here again the staff were folks who were giving up a week or more of their summer holiday to work at camp. Added to that, they also paid a fee to be there, albeit sometimes not the full fee the campers paid. Some wives stayed home with small children so that their husbands could work at camp. Or, where accommodation allowed, the little ones came along with their parents.

One of our most faithful camp volunteers was the mother of two boys who came to camp. Though already in the early stages of MS (multiple sclerosis), she wanted to help with the camp. She came the following year, then the next and for about 20 years following, 2009 being her last. Those last few years she came in her wheelchair, but she still managed to join in the program for at least part of the day. Even today she remains a keen supporter of camp, knowing the powerful spiritual impact it had on her boys.

It is no wonder that having grown up with leaders like these, quite a number of our BCM UK missionaries have emerged from the ranks of Bible clubbers and campers. Stanley and Irene Paget, Kate Macnab, and Angeline White are just some of the current missionary staff in the UK I can think of who "came up through the ranks."

Teen camp in southwest England





# Walking Where Jesus Walked

by Jeanette Windle

"I walked today where Jesus walked ... Bethlehem ... Galilee ... Mount of Olives ... I knelt today where Jesus knelt ... Gethsemane ... with Him by my side, I climbed the Hill of Calvary ... I walked today where Jesus walked, and felt Him close to me."

Somewhere in my childhood, I'd heard the lyrics of this classic Bill Gaither hymn. But I'd forgotten them until I had the privilege of participating this spring as journalist and team member of BCM International's second Holy Land Tour. On March 28, 2011, a group of thirty-three from across the USA and Canada boarded a plane in Newark, NJ, to fly to Tel Aviv, Israel. Giving leadership were BCM president Dr. Martin Windle, BCM International Representative Dr. Bob Evans, and well-known authority on biblical history, archeology and Hebrew, Dr. Homer Heater, president emeritus of Washington Bible College/Capital Bible Seminary.

For twelve days we toured Israel from Caesarea on its eastern seacoast to the Jordan River along its western border, from the Golan Heights and ancient city of Dan in the north to Israel's southernmost city of Eilat on the Red Sea, crossing the border there into Jordan to visit Petra. We saw Megiddo, stood atop

Mount Carmel, sailed the Sea of Galilee, visited the fortress of Masada and Qumran caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. For four days, we explored the sights, sounds, and smells of Jerusalem where Christ spent His final days. We prayed at Gethsemane and broke bread of Communion at the Garden Tomb.

Though I'd traveled in 30+ countries on five continents, this was my first trip to the Holy Land, an experience I'd never expected to enjoy in this lifetime. In truth, I never really considered that walking the physical setting of my Savior's earthly life would make much difference. After all, I had my Bible, a lifetime of flannelgraph lessons and a vivid imagination. I could visualize well enough.

Of course I couldn't. Those who told me before this trip that I'd never truly be able to describe it to others, that they in turn must see for themselves, were right. But I can say conclusively that a personal encounter with the Holy Land permanently changes one's perspective on Scripture, prophecy, even politics. As my team members would agree.

Lin shares, "I'm a visual learner. Now when I read the Bible, I have a sense of the entire country of Israel, how close things



View from Mount Carmel

are to each other, how small the space is in which so much happened.”

Diane adds: “It’s brought history to life for me. I’ve always hated studying history, but this is living history, HIS-story.”

Pennsylvania resident Inge Sabo who has taught BCM Bible Clubs for decades, sums up: “This trip has been the ultimate Bible Club Lesson, an incomparable object lesson never to be forgotten. I hope to share my new understanding of Scripture with those I come in contact with, and by His grace bring someone to the saving knowledge of Christ.”

Words don’t exist to communicate twelve incredible days. But here are a few tour high points:

**Israel:** Such a small country for its rich and tumultuous history! Smaller than the state of New Jersey, only 424 kilometers (263 miles) from north to south, averaging less than 50 miles wide. With more than half its land area a waterless desert, Israel is only a diminutive blot on a map of the Middle East. Why did God choose such a tiny backwater, instead of the mighty Roman, Babylonian, Persian, Greek empires, in which to step into human history? Perhaps because within the microcosm of such a small nation, one single Life walking its dusty paths, speaking and healing in its small villages and towns, turning upside-down its social, political, and religious structure, could have a far greater impact than in an empire’s capital... A life-changing impact that would multiply until a small nation’s borders could no longer contain it, and the world as we knew it would be changed forever.

**Sea of Galilee:** It sits in a basin 700 feet below sea level, lush, green hillsides rising steeply from its banks to create a natural amphitheater. So when Jesus “went up on a mountainside and sat down” (Matthew 5:1), fishermen, villagers, and farmers all around the lake could see crowds gathered up on the slope and hurry around on foot or boat to hear Jesus preach and bring their sick to be healed.

**The Dead Sea:** Okay, floating in the Dead Sea truly is indescribable. The closest comparison is being a multi-limbed beach ball.

**Jerusalem:** Driving up from the desolate wasteland of the Negev and Sinai peninsula into the forest-clad peaks, ridges, and valleys across which modern Jerusalem now sprawls, I

grasped for the first time how beautiful this land must have appeared to the tribes of Israel after forty years of wilderness wandering. The ruins of David’s original walled city still climb steeply up the flank of Mount Moriah (Zion) with remaining stones from the Temple crowning its summit. Now I understand the Psalms when they speak of “let us go UP to the house of the Lord.”

**Mount Carmel:** I’d always pictured a mountaintop, not a high tabletop mesa rising in the middle of Jezreel’s vast, flat plain. Meaning that when Elijah faced off with King Ahab and 400 priests of Baal, his companions on Mount Carmel weren’t the only spectators. Towns and villages across northern Israel would have witnessed that lightning bolt with which Yahweh proclaimed victory over Baal.

**Mount of Olives:** This favorite retreat for Jesus and His disciples offers a spectacular view of the Temple Mount, all Jerusalem, the plains of Judah, Samaria’s hills, and even beyond Israel’s borders. Suddenly Jesus weeping there over the city of Jerusalem, then later telling His disciples from that same vantage point to take His gospel to “Jerusalem, all Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” has a much richer meaning. And why Christ would choose this beautiful spot for His return to earth (Zechariah 14:4) makes total sense.



Garden of Gethsemane

**Gethsemane:** The olive grove where Jesus prayed His last night on earth is now hemmed in by modern Jerusalem, its walkways crowded with tourists. But a few ancient, gnarled boughs still bear witness to the Son of God laying down his own will to take upon Himself the cross. Team member Don was deeply impacted by Gethsemane:

“I thought of the agony Christ went through. Not just the physical agony, but the agony of taking on my sin, humanity’s sin. This is why He prayed, ‘Let this cup pass from me.’ But He loved us enough to take our sin upon himself.”

**The Garden Tomb:** Is it the actual tomb where Jesus lay? If we can’t really know this side of heaven, it certainly fits the description. As Corrie Evans shared, “What matters is that the tomb was empty, because Christ is risen indeed!”

BCM’s Holy Land Tour did not focus only on the past.

The modern state of Israel is as fascinating as its ancient ruins. Nineteenth century travelers to Palestine, a province then of the Ottoman Empire, uniformly describe a desolate



Place of the Skull (Gordon's Calvary)

and deforested wasteland. As a child, I'd read of reforestation projects and reclamation of wastelands pioneered by the returning Jewish *aliyah* in decades prior and following Israel's independence in 1948. So I was personally curious to see how those projects had developed.

The sheer extent of change was unexpected. Thick forests of pines, oaks, eucalyptus, olive orchards, and fruit-bearing trees cloaked every mountainside. Flat plains that had been swamps a century ago are now filled with wheat, barley, vineyards. Ledges carved up cliff-sides were planted with rosemary, sage, mint, and other herbs. Even in deep desert, we drove past kilometer after kilometer of tall date plantations and greenhouses made possible by drip irrigation, salt water desalination, and other cutting edge hydro-technology.

"The Bible promises that Israel's deserts will become fertile fields (Isaiah 32:15)," comments team member Pam. "Driving past all those date palms, greenhouses exporting flowers and vegetables all over Europe, we were witnessing those Scriptures coming true."

Perhaps a bigger surprise was the lack of tension and invisibility of security measures our group encountered. Passing from Israeli territory into the West Bank was a pause at a highway intersection. The Arab neighborhoods of Ramallah overlooking our Jerusalem hotel were no less prosperous-looking or accessible than those on the Israeli side. We saw far more Israel Defense Force (IDF) recruits on educational tours at biblical sites than on duty.

Yet Israel is so small that we stood at times on hillsides where we could see at once into Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, a reminder that the country is ringed by enemies that seek its annihilation. While we were there, a missile from Gaza blew up a school bus in another part of Israel from where we'd traveled. An Arab-Jewish spokesman whose first-century virtual reconstruction of the Temple we'd just watched was murdered by Islamic extremists for teaching peace to Arab school children.

A reminder of this world's only true Source of peace. We were privileged to visit Bethlehem Bible College. A prosperous West Bank city under control of the Palestinian Authority, Bethlehem today bears no resemblance to any Christmas

pageantry. But sharing with present-day followers of Yeshua Messiah who carrying Good News to the land of Christ's birth proved far more inspiring than exploring the medieval Church of the Nativity.

What made this Holy Land tour different than others?

Team member Dan sums up what so many tour participants have expressed, "A common love in Jesus Christ is a sense of community I've never experienced while traveling before."

Earl adds, "I've been on other such trips. This has been so different because we've eaten, talked, fellowshiped together in that mutual bond we have in Jesus Christ."

Nor was BCM's 2011 Holy Land Tour only about enjoying each other. As Elliot shared, "We're ambassadors for Christ wherever we are. While in Israel, we talked with IDF recruits. I shared with one woman who was deeply afraid for her future. Every time we make contact (with guides, hotel personnel, local citizens), we are encouraging them by our own behavior, either toward Christ or away from Christ."

Did I personally come back from Israel changed forever? I couldn't really say. But impacted profoundly? A definite yes. I will never read Scripture in the same way. I will never hear the news in quite the same way. I come back with at least some small understanding of the passionate love and pride Israelis have for the soil they've reclaimed. The complexity of this small nation's problems and place in world history and politics. The impossibility of true solutions until hearts are changed on both sides and brought into reconciliation, Jew and Gentile, through the love of Yeshua Messiah, Jesus Christ.



The Garden Tomb

Above all, I come back with a fresh burden on my heart to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May the peace of God transform the hearts of its inhabitants. May the sheltering arms of El Shaddai protect its neighborhoods from enemies. May the day come soon when it will truly be what it was meant to be, but has yet been in its history: a place of peace, of worship, and a light to all the nations of the earth.

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**SAVE THE DATES!!! Due to popular demand, there will be another BCM Holy Land Tour April 16-28, 2012. To reserve your place now contact Jan Smoyer at [jsmoyer@bcmintl.org](mailto:jsmoyer@bcmintl.org).**

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# Junior Missions Takes Wings

by Joyce Murray and Eleanor Riker (BCM USA, Retired) with Jeanette Windle

Not all children's ministry is confined within the walls of a church. For one group of Pennsylvania grade-schoolers, it took place in the cabin of a USAir jet.

BCM USA missionaries Joyce Murray and Eleanor Riker had already served together in children's ministry for more than three decades when then-president of BCM International, Oscar Hirt, asked them to consider a new children's outreach ministry beyond BCM's historical Bible Clubs, camping, and released-time classes. The new program included Bible Adventure evangelistic campaigns for children, Vacation Bible Schools teacher training, and Junior Missionary Conferences, designed to run simultaneously with a church's regular missions conference for adults.

Still active with BCM, Joyce Murray and Eleanor Riker share one of their most unforgettable memories of the JMC program. It was just two days before a JMC they were scheduled to teach in Wallingford, PA, when Joyce and Eleanor received a call from Bob Evans, BCM missionary and Missions Chairman of Grace Bible Fellowship Church where the conference was being held, that Philadelphia International Airport had given a "green light" for a very special event. That Sunday, November 10, 1992, fifty-six 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders gathered with their adult leaders in the church parking lot where they loaded into vans for a half-hour drive to the airport's Terminal B.

At the terminal the group was met by USAir personnel, who took the children on a tour of ticket counter, baggage conveyer, baggage waiting zone and other aspects of an air passenger experience before leading the group to a waiting area reserved just for them. There Joyce and Eleanor held the JMC session. Each child received a special passport and ticket. Passengers all along the terminal turned their heads to listen as the children sang, "Have You Heard the Good News?" and "At the Name of Jesus Every Knee Shall Bow."

Then the children were instructed to look at their ticket and notice the flight number 1615, referring to Mark 16:15: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." After reciting the verse aloud, the children listened to a missionary biography, *The Hand of God*, about a Wycliffe pilot. Then Donna Robbins, a visiting missionary from Mongolia, shared a brief testimony of her work in that country. It was exciting to see waiting passengers as well as the tour guides intently listening.



For the children, excitement rose when they were invited to board an actual USAir jet. There they were served regulation airline snacks of orange juice and peanuts. They listened carefully to instructions about seatbelts, trays for serving, and reclining seats. Each received a decal of USAir wings and a hand puppet of a plane. The high point was visiting the actual cockpit in groups of three.

The USAir personnel seemed to enjoy the tour as much as the children. When it was over, they commented how well behaved the JMC group had been. For the children, it was a great learning experience and one they would remember many years into the future, perhaps when one day they themselves are boarding a real flight to some far-off land where they will be used by God to share the gospel with others.



# Because Children Really Do Matter!

by Jeanette Windle with Stephen King (BCM USA) and Olga Zaitseva (BCM Ukraine)

The Nigerian pastor was wrapping up his visit at a church member's home when he noted one of his host's young sons hovering nearby. He broke off conversation with the adults to greet him. "Hello, I'm your pastor."

But as he introduced himself, the boy only looked confused. "I don't have a pastor. Maybe you are my father's pastor. But you can't be mine. You don't even know my name."

The truth in that candid statement stung. Did the children of his church really feel they had no pastor of their own? The boy's words were still burning in the pastor's mind when he attended a half-day seminar for church leaders on January 18, 2011, taught by BCM missionary Stephen King on the urgency of reaching the 4-14 Window, that span between ages four to fourteen when more than 80% of all Christ-followers make their decision to accept God's gift of salvation. As the seminar came to a close, he stood up to share his experience with the boy.

"I am a leader of a district of fifty churches. But I see now how mistaken I've been in neglecting children's ministry." The district leader finished with a commitment to hire two full-time children's pastors for his district.

With almost 160 million people, Nigeria is Africa's most densely inhabited country, containing 20% of the continent's total population. It is also a very youthful country with over 40% of its population under fifteen years old. Though one of the world's principal oil exporters, the country has been

historically wracked by poverty, corruption, oppressive governance, and strife between a Muslim dominated north and a Christian majority south.

Still, the body of Christ is alive and growing in Nigeria. The ECWA (Evangelical Church Winning All) alone, established 115 years ago through the Sudan Interior Mission, today SIM International, has almost 7000 churches divided into 74 District Church Councils. With over six million members, ECWA is one of Nigeria's largest Christian denominations.

But though children make up a sizeable percentage of Nigerian church attendance, children's ministry has typically taken a back seat to the adults where it exists at all. Perhaps consequence of a high infant mortality rate, children in Nigerian culture are not traditionally considered a worthwhile investment until old enough to contribute to society. In contrast, music plays a high priority. So it is not uncommon for a Nigerian church to have hundreds enrolled in choirs and worship teams while a handful of Sunday school teachers struggle to control hundreds of children. Still, within ECWA leadership many are beginning to recognize the urgency of reaching their own 4-14 Window.



“We are losing our next generation,” one ECWA church leader admitted.

It was 2008 when ECWA leadership first invited BCM to address their need of well-trained children’s ministry leaders. BCM Canada missionary Marion Jean Grant and BCM Ukraine missionary Olga Zaitseva held two three-day training conferences, using BCM’s core training curriculum *In Step with the Master Teacher (ISMT)*.

A unique children’s ministry training program, *ISMT* covers 22 hours of culturally relevant instruction to help children come to know, love, and obey God. In its four-core teaching session, children’s ministry leaders learn how to make disciples like Jesus did by 1) modeling God’s truth, 2) building relationships, 3) teaching truth effectively, and 4) challenging for response. Through innovative use of visual aids, small group interaction and role play, teachers internalize new concepts and have opportunity to put new ideas into practice before the end of training.



By the end of those 2008 conferences, more than 900 Nigerian children’s ministry leaders had received certificates for completing the basic *ISMT*

training. But for ECWA’s 7000 churches, this barely scratched the surface of need. Requesting that BCM return to help with the training, ECWA leadership initiated a five-year plan for the development of ministry to children throughout their churches across Nigeria.

The first phase from September to November, 2010, was carried out by Olga Zaitseva along with BCM USA missionaries Stephen and Jane King. Returning for the second phase from January to February, 2011, were Olga Zaitseva, and Stephen King along with BCM USA missionary Pat Black and BCM South Africa missionary Pat Govender. Coordinating the project on the ground was ECWA children’s ministry national coordinator Rev. Yaro.

Over a total period of three months the BCM team held *ISMT* training conferences in ECWA’s nine major ministry zones, each comprising of 3-11 separate District Church Councils. This task was not without challenges. A typical Nigerian church is a single concrete hall with glassless windows open to rain and dust, tin roof, and often a dirt floor. Electricity for running the team’s data projector or a sound system was sporadic. With hundreds in a session, carrying out practice activities was difficult. Lack of vehicles and poor public transport made starting sessions on time equally difficult.

But such difficulties have made the Nigerian people infinitely flexible, and the expatriate team learned quickly. Jane King



SIM missionary Dee Grimes

remembers teaching one evening session when the lights suddenly went out. Immediately all over the crowded room, flashlights switched on. As those near the front focused their beams on Jane and her material, the session finished up without a hitch.

One disappointment church leaders expressed was that the BCM team had not brought with them the brightly-colored, Western-produced visual aid materials foreign ministry groups had so often donated in the past. Olga Zaitseva explained that this was not the way BCM worked. “We don’t want to train your people so that they have to depend on outside provision

BCM missionary Pat Black





to teach your children. We want them to be able to depend on their own resources.”

In the *ISMT* training, BCM personnel taught the Nigerian children’s teachers how to look around their own homes for visual aids to illustrate a Bible story. The baskets in every Nigerian kitchen could illustrate the story of baby Moses, Jesus feeding the five thousand, the apostle Paul being lowered in a basket down the wall of Damascus. A shawl could be a biblical costume or a litter for the four friends who carried their paralyzed friend to Jesus.

Within a few sessions, the ECWA leaders were no longer asking for visual aids, but introducing the BCM personnel proudly. “These people are like us. They teach our doctrine. But they also use our materials that we have around us to teach God’s Word.”

Travel wasn’t easy either, and not just because of dirt roads and long distances. Nigeria was gearing up for hotly-contested elections while the team was there, tensions running high between Christian and Muslim political parties. Roadblocks were a constant. Pat Black shares how the team’s travel vehicle was pulled over at one police checkpoint, their driver arrested on the pretext of an expired tag. When they did not have the demanded bribe available, the officer finally agreed to take payment in the form of Bible teaching curriculum they had in the vehicle.

“It is your responsibility to teach God’s Word to your children,” the driver, a Nigerian church leader, told the policeman sternly. The officer agreed to do so before releasing the vehicle.

Muslim extremist attacks, always a problem, had reached new heights with the approaching elections with hundreds of Christians massacred across Nigeria in the month of January

alone. A large percentage of ECWA churches are in Muslim-majority areas. On Friday evening, January 29, 2011, the team was giving an *ISMT* conference in the central Nigerian city of Jos. The late session ran late, so the team could not get away to eat their evening meal at a restaurant selected by their ECWA hosts. Instead they decided to pick up some food on the way to their hostel. Later they discovered that just at the time the team was scheduled to eat there, the restaurant had come under gunfire from a Muslim mob. Several Christians were killed, more than thirty wounded.

“We were so hungry, I wasn’t happy about not getting to supper,” Olga shares. “But I’m glad now we didn’t. God was protecting us.”

In another town, the team had taught a seminar to around 100 pastors not long before returning to the USA. Shortly after the presidential elections in early April, a Muslim attack massacred more than 300 Christians in the same community where they’d taught.

But both the BCM team and their students would agree that the investment of time and effort was eminently worthwhile. In all, more than 1500 Nigerian children’s ministry leaders completed the three-day *ISMT* training.

“This has completely changed our views about what children mean to God and the value God has placed on them,” expressed one *ISMT* graduate.

“I now understand why my children can’t sit still for two hours,” shared another. A third had begged for help with lack of discipline in her Sunday school class. Investigation uncovered that this teacher was handling more than 100 preschool children! A high percentage of the *ISMT* participants were teaching classes of 50-100+ children spanning wide age ranges.



Visual aids, smaller groups by age, interactive teaching, drama, and games were all exciting innovations.

A key strength of the *In Step with the Master Teacher* training program is its emphasis on multiplication. BCM's goal is not to keep training more teachers across Nigeria, but to train trainers who can teach their own people. A Train the Trainer conference brought together 34 top Nigerian children's ministry leaders from across all nine districts, focusing on in-depth preparation to enable them to train future children's ministry workers themselves. Already the entire ISMT program is being translated into Hausa, a main Nigerian language, for use by Nigerian Train the Trainer graduates.

But the original 2008 ISMT training had made clear to both ECWA leadership and BCM that challenging pastors to see the importance of reaching children was as urgent as the training itself.

"The pastors have to realize they are pastors to the children as well as to the adults," shares Stephen King. "To achieve this, a three-prong mindset must be taught. We need to address

children's ministries in the seminaries and Bible colleges. The mindset of pastors needs to be changed. And techniques of teachers and children's workers need to improve."

To this end, the team taught numerous seminars for pastors focusing on the 4-14 Window and developing a biblical attitude about children's ministry. In all, more than 1000 church leaders attended these seminars.

"We are looking forward to returning to teach regional Train the Trainer conferences," sum up Stephen and Jane King. "But meanwhile we feel encouraged the Nigerians we've trained will continue the work of training children's ministry workers. During our last week we had to cancel a pastors seminar because of security issues. One of the leaders who'd been translating that seminar went instead, and we were told he did a great job teaching the very material he'd translated to over 60 pastors. Already a number of our trainees have been teaching the material they received in their own districts."

And for BCM's ISMT trainers, that is the measure of success.

# Give to Receive

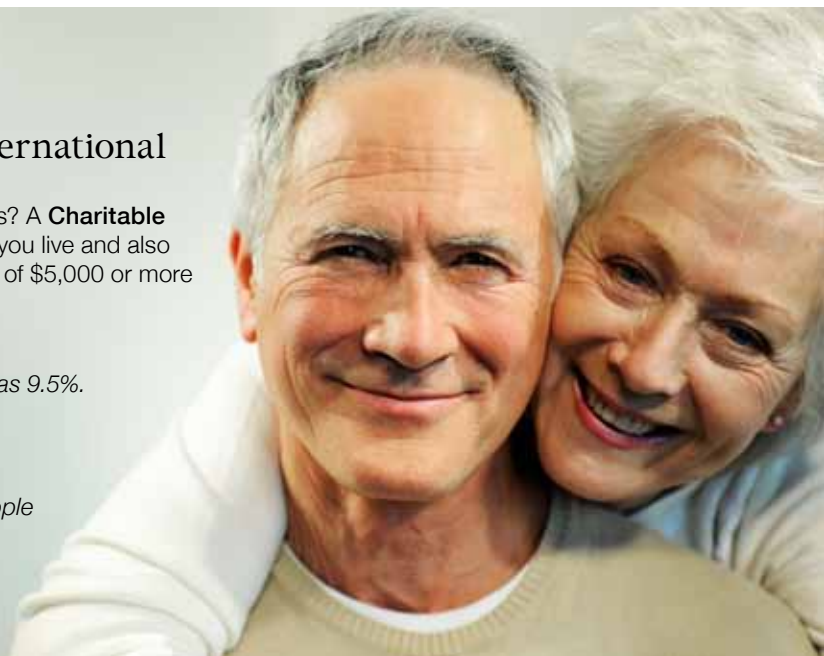
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# In Step with the Master Teacher

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# ISMT Goes to Kenya

by Esther Zimmerman, Director of International Children's Ministry

I was worried when laughter erupted around the classroom. Participants in the Train the Trainer (TTT) conference I was teaching in Nairobi, Kenya, were reading a case study I'd put together of a "small church children's ministry." The study described a Sunday school with 100 children between ages 3 to 16, only one teacher whose helper hadn't shown up, frequent canings, no resources and a poorly organized two-hour program. Was the case study too extreme? Had I offended this group of leaders?

But one by one they exclaimed through their laughter, "This is a Kenyan church you are describing!"

Once the laughter settled down, the group got to work listing issues this Sunday school class was struggling with and how they might develop a plan to assist such a church in developing its children's ministry. After spending time later in several Nairobi Sunday school programs, I understood better their laughter—and challenges. One small classroom I visited alone held sixty 5-year olds with only two leaders. Most of the TTT participants were dealing with even more challenging ratios in their own regional churches.

I'd traveled to Kenya to meet with the regional Biblica (formerly International Bible Society) leadership and as BCM's representative to the three-day Now and Next Theological Conference on Children, held in Nairobi March 9-12, 2011. Sponsored by the Lausanne Movement and World Evangelical Association, this event brought together 105 seminary and church leaders from 31 nations to focus on the place of the child in Scripture and the urgency of reaching the 4-14 Window.

Based in Nairobi, Biblica Africa is currently partnering with BCM to produce *Footsteps of Faith*, BCM's Bible curriculum for children, for distribution in several African countries. At Biblica's request, I had coordinated my time there to conduct a Train the Trainer workshop, an intensive three-day program that prepares key national leaders to train their own children's ministry workers using BCM's *In Step with the Master Teacher* training curriculum. Around thirty trainers participated in the workshop held March 7-9, 2011, including the Biblica Africa personnel responsible for children's ministry training in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania as well as leaders representing other denominations and ministry organizations. On Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Biblica sponsored a one day ISMT training for local children's ministry leaders, showcasing the *Footsteps of Faith* curriculum.



I will be returning to Nairobi for a follow-up TTT workshop in October, 2012. But already the 2011 workshop is producing fruit in East Africa. Several of the new ISMT instructors have now conducted training courses in their own regions, while other ISMT workshops are already on the schedule in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Meanwhile, we've received exciting feedback from 2011 participants in both the TTT and ISMT workshops. Here is what just a few had to say:

"The course [*In Step with the Master Teacher*] covers all one needs to know as a Sunday School teacher and is especially helpful to the trainer as it is very clear and concise. I really appreciated the practical presentations."

"What stood out was the use of God's Word as the foundation for all the teaching. It's how Jesus did it!"

"The sessions on Building Relationships were especially helpful in the African culture where at times children feel they aren't valued."

"I was actually going to write a resignation letter and call it quits (from Sunday school) because my cup was totally dry. I have learned so much. God bless you!"



Esther Zimmerman with Kenyan TTT participant

# Chloe Chamberlain: Inspiring the Next Generation

by Marion Jean Grant (BCM Canada/Pakistan)

I met Chloe Chamberlain at my Canadian church while I was still in my teens. She was then serving as a BCM missionary teaching Bible in Canadian public schools. One day she took me to see what her classes were like. I was very interested in watching the students listen so attentively as Chloe taught the Bible lesson. I'll never forget that day and the fun we had in Chloe's little "bug," her Volkswagen car.

I too wanted to be a missionary teaching Bible to children. Chloe's example inspired me to work toward that goal. In 1967, Chloe Chamberlain became National Director of BCM Canada. Her faithful service encouraged many Canadian young people into children's ministry, including such BCM missionaries as Marilyn White, Kathy Shaw, Pam Rowntree, Lois Seibert, Sally Klassen,



Ron Benoit, Bill Ricketts, and many others. Several of us became overseas missionaries after serving with BCM in Canada—Isabelle Leaitch, Mary den Boer in the Netherlands, and I in Pakistan. After serving in children's ministry for 21 years in Pakistan, I returned to serve with BCM in Canada. The one thing that stands out in my mind is Chloe taking the time to introduce me to teaching Bible in the schools and teacher training.

After doing many teacher trainings in the Ontario area, I launched out into my own ministry area in northern Ontario. Today, more than fifty years after first meeting Chloe Chamberlain, I am still teaching Bible to children and conducting teacher training in Canada as well as other parts of the world from Nigeria to Pakistan. And it all started because of Chloe's heart to teach and train others, even a young teenage girl.

# Triple Celebration for BCM Canada

by Jeanette Windle

Overcast skies did not dampen the enthusiasm of crowds pouring into Mill Stream Bible Camp and Retreat Centre Saturday, June 4, 2011, in Omeemee, Ontario, for a triple celebration: Mill Stream's 65th Anniversary, BCM Canada's 70th, and BCM International's Diamond Jubilee.

BCM International's ministry in Canada began just five years after the Bible Club Movement's own birth in 1936 when BCM missionaries Jim and Nellie Hutchinson pioneered evangelistic outreach among children in Ontario. In 1942 the first Bible Clubs were founded in London, Ontario. By spring of that year, nearly 2000 children and parents packed a school auditorium for BCM Canada's first Bible Club Rally. Bible Clubs and school religious education classes taught by BCM missionaries and volunteers spread over the following years across Canada from Nova Scotia to the western prairies.

Originally named Crusaders Bible Club Camp, Mill Stream held its first camp at Greenwood, Ontario in 1946. Accommodations that first summer were just canvas tents pitched in an open field. In 1963, Mill Stream's current property among the beautiful Kawartha Lakes in south central Ontario became available. Area churches and volunteers worked together to build a dining hall, kitchen, chapel, cabins, and outhouses. A river flowing through the property added swimming, fishing, and boating to the camping program. On July 11, 1964, Mill Stream kicked off its first week of camp at the new Omeemee site.

Since then Mill Stream has grown to a full-service Christian camping and retreat centre covering almost forty acres with motel accommodations, spacious lodge housing, "chapelorium," gym, dining and kitchen facilities, in-ground



Jubilee Celebration in the "Chapelorium"

pool, office, infirmary, maintenance buildings, and horse barn. Hundreds of children and teens attend a full summer program of camps, while church groups and retreats make use of facilities during winter months.

For BCM Canada's triple anniversary, more than 300 children, teens, and adults braved an unseasonal downpour to enjoy a full day of activities, including many of their favorite camp experiences from canoeing to fishing and archery. Historic displays and photo montages allowed guests to explore the legacy of Mill Stream and BCM Canada ministries. By lunch time fervent prayers had been answered with sunshine, permitting younger participants to gather at 2 PM under a pagoda for a campfire celebration that included skits, music, games, and a special speaker.





Mill Stream Bible Camp today

Meanwhile adults congregated in the camp auditorium for a commemoration of God's faithfulness over the last decades of BCM ministry around the globe, in Canada, and through Mill Stream Bible Camp. BCM Canada Executive Director Bill Ricketts gave recognition to several generations of BCM missionaries and volunteers. Present among them was Miss Chloe Chamberlain (see article on page 17), who from her appointment in 1967 as Executive Secretary of the Bible Club Movement in Canada had given leadership to BCM's ministry there for almost four decades until passing on the baton to Bill Ricketts in 2005.

BCM President Dr. Martin Windle challenged the group to look to the future with the same vision and commitment that has characterized BCM Canada ministry over the last seven decades. "The extent of BCM Canada's ministry cannot only be measured by the passage of seventy years, but in the immeasurable number of lives impacted for Christ over that time."

Mill Stream Director Larry Chupa shared a visual overview of Mill Stream's own sixty-five year history from those first pitched canvas tents to today's commodious camp and retreat accommodations. He summed up, "Today we are at the receiving end of the faithfulness of so many who have gone before us, who poured their time, effort, commitment into this place. We want to give heartfelt thanks that they accepted God's call. Whether as missionaries, staff, counselors, volunteers, they have made a difference in the lives of thousands of men and women, boys and girls here at Mill Stream."

Among those honored were Len and Jean Manning, who had both been campers at that very first Crusaders Bible Club Camp in 1946. Many others in the audience were second and third generation campers. Jennifer Wilson, who led the worship team, shared how she began attending Mill Stream at age 8. She met her husband at camp. They have now been married 26

years and have been involved at Mill Stream ever since. Now a new generation of the Wilson family is contributing to Mill Stream as all three of their children have graduated from the camp program and gone on to work as camp volunteers and staff.

The Wilsons aren't unique. Many of today's Mill Stream leadership and volunteers are products themselves of camp. Twenty-year-old Christine O'Boyle relates how she and her siblings grew up attending Mill Stream summer camps all through childhood and adolescence. Once old enough, Christine began working as volunteer and counselor. Now attending Word of Life Bible Institute in Owen Sound, Ontario, Christine is back for the summer at Mill Stream as assistant program director. Her goal is to go into full-time camp ministry.

"Mill Stream Bible Camp gave me my beginning foundation in my walk with God," she explains. "Now I want to do the same in the lives of younger generations, giving back what I received."

A goal that sums up well the vision of BCM Canada in its past and for its future.





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# BCM 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## DOUBLETREE RESORT AT WILLOW VALLEY

### OCTOBER 28-30, 2011 · LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

#### About our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:

Join us in celebrating 75 years of reaching children and developing churches worldwide! Enjoy the beautiful accommodations and facilities of the DoubleTree Resort at Willow Valley. Our weekend celebration includes sessions on where BCM has been, what we're doing now, and where we see God leading us in future ministry. Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime event and be a part of our Diamond Jubilee!

#### Registration Fee: \$50

##### Full Conference Cost:

\$200 per adult

\$30 per child (ages 12 & under)

##### Sessions Only Optional Meals:

Breakfasts: \$10 each

Brunch and Dinners: \$20 each



To register, call 1-888-BCM-INTL, e-mail Jan Smoyer at [jsmoyer@bcmintl.org](mailto:jsmoyer@bcmintl.org), go online to <http://bcmintl.org/75/>, or scan the QR code to the left to register on your smartphone.

#### About our Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Marvin J. Newell has been director of CrossGlobal Link since 2007. He and Peggy served as missionaries for 15 years in Indonesia where, his main responsibility was teaching and administration at the National Bible College. Before assuming leadership of CrossGlobal Link, Marv served as Asia-Pacific Regional Director with TEAM for 6 years, and then Professor of Missions and Intercultural Studies at the Moody Graduate School for 8 years. Marv has a Doctor of Missiology degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and is the author of *A Martyr's Grace* (Moody Publishers, 2006) and *Commissioned: What Jesus Wants You to Know as You Go* (ChurchSmart Resources, 2010).

