

BCMWorld

An Inside Look at BCM Global Ministries



BCM CELEBRATES NEW USA MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

By: Elizabeth Byler

New USA Ministries director Marc Hoyle was born into a missionary family in France, instilling in him a heart for missions and the French people. But by age seventeen, he wanted to be an architect more than a missionary. Meeting a missionary who also worked bi-vocationally as an architect changed his perspective on how his passion for architecture could also be used in missions. Marc earned a degree in architecture from Temple University, then worked as coordinator of the Planning & Design Ministry with Helps International Ministries, specialized in helping mission agencies and ministries around the world with their design and construction needs.

By this time Marc had married his wife Elizabeth, who had served as a missionary in Taiwan for three years. His love of the French people and missions led Marc with his wife and family back to his birthplace in 2006. Marc's original intention was to continue using his architecture degree in missions. But after just one year, the Hoyles transitioned to camping ministry. Other than occasional design trips and evangelism in the local villages, camping was the focus of the Hoyles' ministry over the following decade.

By 2016, Marc knew God was calling him to a new ministry challenge. He wasn't sure what except that he wanted to continue working with children and teens and to use the experience he'd gained in camp ministry. He had heard of BCM International while still an architectural student, including their global children's and camping ministry. But it was a general web search that brought him across a job posting for BCM USA Ministries Director, its requirements precisely his own ministry experience.

"An internet search!" Marc smiles now. "Can you believe God would use that to open a door?"



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1. The Hoyle family early ministry years - France 2. Christian camping ministry - French Alps 3. Combining architecture and missions - France 4. After-School Bible Club in school library - Michigan

In November 2016, Marc and Elizabeth moved back to the United States with their two children, Isaac, 22, and Kathryn, 15, where Marc joined the BCM International team as USA Ministries director. As director, Marc oversees BCM USA children's ministry along with six camps and retreat centers extending across ten states with a total of seventy-four missionary family units. Marc enjoys the fast-moving nature of this work and the variety of needs that require his skills.

"There's nothing boring about it," he states.

Marc used his first year, 2017, as a year of discovery, intentionally spending time getting to know the various BCM USA missionaries and their work. He has also been able to use his architectural knowledge to benefit some of the BCM USA camp projects. His vision as USA Ministries director is not to focus on a rapid increase in numbers, but on quality. He uses the analogy: "We want elephants, not rabbits."

Marc identifies three values he would like to continue encouraging within BCM USA:

1. Being Christ-centered and Bible-based. Marc sees these as going hand in hand; when you have one you have the other. From his observations, this is already happening in BCM USA, and he looks forward to seeing this continue.

2. Encouraging one another as one family. One way Marc sees this being implemented is through establishing relationships between missionaries, not through adding another level of oversight, but through direct support and accountability.

3. Being excellent in word and deed. A self-described perfectionist, Marc does not feel like things are done until they reach a high standard, a perspective he uses to be constantly improving quality.

Marc sums up his personal vision for serving as BCM's USA director with a scripture verse: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).



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A HERITAGE OF FAITHFULNESS

By: Marc Hoyle

BCM volunteer Yvonne has been teaching Release Time Bible Clubs to second and third grade girls in Warren County, PA, for eighteen years. She admits to slowing down a bit now that she is 89 years old. Every Tuesday and Thursday in two different locations, she arrives two hours early to set up her Bible Club room. The attendance chart is on a table with stars waiting to be affixed. Small prizes for verse recitations are unpacked. Large flags lean on their poles in the corner, ready for the pledges. Oversized blue and red plastic clips hold together several layers of Bible story backgrounds, a Lord's Prayer poster, and the pledge to the Bible.

Throughout the lesson, the entire group sits on the floor. Little hands shoot up when a volunteer is needed to hold a song poster. A retired school teacher, Yvonne impacts forty-six hearts every week, despite the time pressure of a school day. She hopes younger volunteers will step forward soon to take on the task and meet the need.

In western Michigan, Rick is in his early sixties and still working. Once a week, he picks up a church van along with two other BCM volunteers, Rachel and Sandy, both retired, then heads over to the school. Despite being regulars, they must go through security protocols and sign-in sheets. Then the two women enter the school while Rick waits in the van just outside the front doors. School lunch break is staged in three time slots. When the first one starts at 11:20 a.m., Rachel goes from class to class, rounding up registered Bible Clubbers and sending them to the lobby. There Sandy checks each one in on the official list.

Finally, the front door is opened, and the children eagerly

join Rick in the van for the short two-block ride to a nearby church, where they are kindly welcomed by additional volunteers. BCM missionary Mary Lou Heyboer teaches a short Bible lesson. Just thirty minutes later, there is less eagerness to rejoin Rick for the ride back to school.

Meanwhile, Rachel and Sandy stay behind to gather the 12:00 p.m. lunch group, then the 12:40 p.m. group. As one group re-enters the school lobby, the next pack bursts out excitedly to be warmly greeted by Rick for their short ride to Release Time Bible Club. By 1:20 p.m., Mary Lou has taught the lesson for the third time, and the final group is back in the school. Rick returns the van to its church parking lot and goes on with his day.

An after-school Bible club has no need for buses since its home is the school library. Over fifty children sit on the floor while BCM volunteer Bonnie Miller takes pictures of two new participants. Every child has their own attendance card with their picture on the front. The small teaching board holds a picture of a candle with seven squares to fill in around it. The first three are already filled in with the words Obey, Forgive, and Deny. Under the candle is a question: What did Jesus teach us to do?

Sitting upright in a straight chair, Bonnie controls the room with her quiet voice. The children bow their heads for the opening prayer, then hands fly in the air as they compete to recite memory verses. Success is rewarded with a piece of candy tossed across the room. Two girls and a boy are chosen to hold laminated song posters while the group sings a chorus. Then comes today's Bible lesson. A flannelgraph figure on a white background sheet asks, "What shall I do to have eternal life?"

As Bonnie tells of Jesus's response to the Rich Young Ruler, the children lean forward to listen. Bible Club ends with every child getting a cookie, putting on their coats and backpacks, then lining up at the exit door to head for their bus. See you next week!

These are just a few examples of BCM Release Time and After-School Bible Clubs as well as the countless volunteers who make this ministry possible. Then there is Philadelphia, not only the birthplace of the United States, but also the birthplace of BCM International. More than eighty years later, BCM missionaries along with dozens of volunteers offer an unusual Christmas outreach to inner-city children who participate in neighborhood Bible clubs during the school year.

Buses pick up the Bible Clubbers at various rendezvous points around the city, then bring them to a church where volunteers have been preparing for hours. Two rooms are set up as stores where beautiful gift items have been priced at a low cost between 25 cents and \$2. A dozen volunteers have pre-cut squares of colorful wrapping paper and are ready for the onslaught. More volunteers are in the kitchen preparing a hot supper for a couple hundred mouths. Others are making last-minute preparations for a Nativity performance.

The buses arrive, and suddenly 160 excited children fill the church. While some are choosing gifts for their family members, others are gathered in small groups around two Christmas trees where they are told the story of the Gift of Jesus. Then each child receives a personalized gift of their own. The children also enjoy singing traditional Christmas carols and the stage performance of the Nativity. Time flies, and soon the children are being called by bus grouping. They head off home with their hands full of gifts for their family members to open on Christmas Day.

Today BCM USA ministries reach children in over twenty different locations across ten states, in addition to BCM USA's six camp and retreat centers in New York, Pennsylvania, and Montana. Over one hundred BCM USA missionaries with the help of hundreds of volunteers are presenting Jesus Christ to thousands of children every year. City children, rural children, disabled children, broken-family children, immigrant children, parent-in-prison children—the more today's culture claims to care for the children, the greater the need seems to be. Pray that young and old will work together to tell the next generation of the saving power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Participate in making disciples by joining a Bible Club or camp effort near you!

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1. Riding the bus to Release Time Bible club 2. Bible Club shoppers listen to gift of Jesus at Christmas event in Philadelphia 3. Wrapping gifts for family at Christmas Event in Philadelphia 4. 89-year-old Yvonne teaches Release Time Bible Club - PA 5. Release Time Bible c=Club - PA 6. Baptising new convert 7. Baptism service - Desvres 8. Setting up for baptism





RESPONDING TO A NEW MACEDONIAN CALL

By: Lisa Biegert with Chuck and Cathy Powers

Tucked away in the north of France is a small town known for its beautiful pottery and quintessentially French countryside. But beneath its picturesque exterior, Desvres hides a spiritual darkness. The area is steeped in alcoholism and has the highest suicide rate in all of France. Unemployment is high, occultism rampant, and any gospel witness almost non-existent. For thirty years, one Desvres resident prayed faithfully that God would send a pastor to start a church there. She was 82 years old when she saw her prayer answered with the arrival of BCM missionaries Chuck and Cathy Powers.

The Powers, originally from the United States, had served as BCM France directors for more than twenty years in the city of Toulouse in southern France when they were invited to Desvres to conduct a funeral for a former homeless alcoholic the Powers had invited to an evangelistic outreach in Toulouse, where he received Jesus as Savior. Originally from Desvres, René returned home to be with family when he found out he was dying of cancer. When he passed away, his family asked Chuck to conduct the funeral.

“After the service, three unsaved women came up to Chuck and asked him to move there,” Cathy

Powers shares. “They said that the people needed the message of hope he had preached. It was as clear to us as the Macedonian call had been to the apostle Paul (Acts 16:6-10): the Lord wanted us to move to Desvres.”

They didn’t move immediately, as Cathy explains: “For a few years we went to visit and looked for a home that also had a building where we could plant a church. Each time we went, we held a meeting for René’s family. Finally we found the perfect place, and in February 2010 we moved.”

Churches of any denomination in that region were few and far between with minimal attendance.



1 A church in Boulogne sur Mer, a city thirty minutes from the Powers' new home, had been without a pastor for five years. They asked if Chuck would take the position. Chuck began preaching there Sunday mornings, returning to Desvres to hold a church service Sunday afternoons in a workshop behind their home. The Boulogne sur Mer church has now grown to thirty attendees, a good-sized church in France. Attendance has also grown at the "backyard church" to an average attendance of twenty, so much so that they have had to move services into a building ten kilometers away in the city of Samer. Another recent church plant in nearby Etaples is already averaging fifteen people.

After moving, the Powers began looking for a facility large enough for an evangelical protestant ministry center such as they had established in Toulouse (see Centre Sept, BCM World, Fall, 2007), since there was none in this part of France. In 2015, God provided just the place: a farm that had been turned into a trucking company

complete with renovated buildings and a large brick barn with lots of potential. In the summer of 2017, the Powers held the first English camp there with help of a supporting church from the United States. They explain their long-term goals for the property.

"We want to continue to have camps, but we first need to transform what was a trucking hangar into a gymnasium to meet French government standards for camp. We submitted a building request and hope it will soon be accepted. We would like to use the multi-purpose building for concerts, cultural events, sports, and camps. Already we have had three groups use the facilities for seminars."

English camp was an open door to getting to know neighborhood children. This developed into a weekly Bible club. Through the club, two families accepted Jesus as Savior. Instead of just inviting neighbors to attend church, the Powers have thought outside the box, inviting them into their home to try American cultural events like Thanksgiving dinner and Fourth of

July barbecues.

"Coming into our home for events like these makes it easier for people to then attend a church service," says Cathy.

The Powers knew they couldn't handle this growing ministry alone, so they were excited when their daughter and her husband, Michelle and Ben Hildebrand, also BCM missionaries who had served in southern France, moved up north to work with them. Both families now live on the center property. Michelle has started a ministry for mothers with small children she calls "Baby Gym." One young mom has already received Jesus as Savior through this ministry.

Others have also joined their team. One Christian couple from Paris chose to leave their jobs to move to the area. He is an accountant so has taken over the financial side of the ministry. She is involved in the secretarial work. Together they lead the church plant in Etaples. Another teammate is a pastor from Wales who spends three weeks a month in Desvres. He shares with Chuck the preaching responsibilities



in Boulogne sur Mer and Etaples.

Another Christian couple from London, just a three-hour drive from Desvres via the Channel Tunnel, own a vacation home in the surrounding country side and began attending the Powers' church whenever they visited. They are now in the process of selling their London home and spending three weeks per month in Desvres. Their goal is to develop a ministry to handicapped in the area.

Chuck reports: "The ministry is exciting! Many of our church members are new Christians who have come from very rough backgrounds. For example, a couple who attended our church for five years just recently received Jesus as Savior and were baptized. The husband was an alcoholic and his wife had severe emotional problems. We have suffered much with them over the years, but what joy there is in seeing their transformation!"

The area is so steeped in depression and occultism that the Powers and their team are in constant contact with people who suffer severe problems. They are

well-aware that this ministry is a long-term marathon, not a quick sprint. Many spouses of those attending their Boulogne sur Mer church are unsaved, another challenge. Recently, one important government member has begun to attend church. As the only Christian in his family, he was thrilled when his wife recently came to church with him for the first time. The Powers continue to pray for her salvation as well.

Among the many stories of pain, there are also encouraging testimonies like that of Sylvie. Cathy shares: "Four years ago, Sylvie lost her eighteen-year-old son in a tragic accident and fell into a serious depression. She developed a terrible reputation throughout this small town. However, when she came to know Jesus, her life was transformed. She was baptized in early 2017 and is no longer known by her deep depression, but rather her joy. She loves to share her faith with others. Her testimony has drawn her brother David to accept Jesus as well."

Chuck and Cathy have more

opportunities for ministry than they know what to do with. Currently, they are working on getting the building permits for the property as well as praying about starting a Christian school and developing an art and media center. Their prayer is that this charming, scenic area of France will not be a place of just external beauty, but that its residents will come to know and radiate the beauty and hope of Jesus Christ.

The Powers are in need of about \$150,000 US for the next phase of the Desvres area ministry center. If you would like to give towards this project, you can do so at www.bcmintl.org/desvres-ministry-center/.

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1. Baby gym ministry 2. Worship team at Boulogne church 3. Bible study cell group in Desvres - Cathy Powers center 4. Chuck Powers joins capture-the-flag game - English Camp



SNOWFALL PLACES NO DAMPER ON



SNOW BOWL COMES TO MANDAVILLE

Winter programming for BCM's Mandaville Camp & Retreat Center in upstate New York near the Canadian border wrapped up with a free family snow day Saturday, January 13th, and three separate overnight Snow Bowls, each welcoming a different age group. For younger ages, these events last twenty-four hours from Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon. A teen Snow Bowl over school break lasts three days. The Snow Bowls are designed to reconnect with summer campers as well as to welcome new arrivals. Along with Bible lessons, worship, small group discussion, great food, and virtually NO sleep, campers enjoy outdoor activities like tubing, sledding, or building snowmen and forts. When cold, they can retreat indoors for foosball or board games.

The first 2018 Snow Bowl for 4th-7th graders January 19-20 ran smoothly with great tubing conditions. Then came twenty-four energetic, 1st-4th graders February 2-3 with no male counselors to be found. This resulted in a crazy, exhausting weekend, especially for Mandaville director Bob Emmett as he led programming, singing, taught three Bible lessons, and counseled. Another staff member, Dave, pitched in with counseling in between cooking meals. Despite minimal sleep, the kids were all out sledding by 7:30 am! But for all their energy, they listened attentively as Bob shared about three

different children mentioned in the Bible whom God used in big ways.

The third Snow Bowl for grades 7-12 was held February 22-24. These teens come from a wide area, and after getting to know each other at summer camps, they look forward to reuniting for a weekend. Warm weather conditions left more mud than snow, but that enabled the teens to experiment with new field games. One youth group from Plattsburg, NY, brought their youth pastor and two parents to help. An international Intervarsity chapter provided the Bible teacher, and a teen summer staffer returned to lead worship for his peers. All of which made the weekend more relaxing for Mandaville staff. Campers left with farewells of "See you in the summer!" The accompanying youth pastor summed up as he gathered his own group: "Our kids were very excited about coming out here again, and now I know why!"

"We are so thankful for all the prayer support, volunteers, and all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to make these events possible," express camp leaders Bob and Sharon Emmett. "Our campers are strengthened through God's Word, build healthy relationships, laugh, and have loads of fun!"

FUN AT BCM CAMPS



WINTER BLAST IN THE POCONOS

Winter Blast seems to be an appropriate title to this year's winter season, one blast after another! A special Blast took place at Streamside, BCM's Camp in the Poconos February 9-11, but not a cold one. One hundred thirteen teens, plus leaders and volunteers, gathered to experience the warmth of God's Word along with a lot of chilly fun indoors and out.

Streamside director Craig Vincent and soccer coach Glodi Konga recreated real-life conversations over the phone, on a golf cart, sitting around an imaginary campfire, around the biblical principle in Psalm 37:4: "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." In follow-up discussion groups, campers took an honest look at what they wanted most, learning that if they delight first in God, God will either endorse those desires or replace them with his own desires. On Saturday evening, teens enjoyed a concert from Christian hip-hop artist Humble Tip (aka Jason Lewis). An eight-member band from NYC, Submerged Worship, led worship for the weekend.

Along with the usual sledding and tubing, Streamside's new Urban Outreach program director James Forte organized a new twist on a TV classic, "The Amazing Race to Christ". Along with standard fare of outdoor winter sports, he offered opportunities to each team to help dig a

golf cart out of the snow (see picture), find lost keys, and pick up a sudden mess in the dining room. As competing teams discovered how many points they missed by ignoring those needs, they understood they'd been running the wrong race! Overall, the weekend was a wonderful time of discovering that God wants what is best for us and what will make us truly happy, as the event motto sums up: *"I want . . . what God wants . . . and I love it!"*

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1. Mandaville winter panorama
2. Middle School Snow Bowl - cardboard sled competition
3. Middle School Snow Bowl - tug of rope
4. Teen Snow Bowl Devotional
5. Teen Winter Blast concert with Christian hip-hop artist, Humble Tip
6. Sledding at Winter Blast
7. Devotional hour with Craig and Glodi



REMEMBERING THE PRISONER IN THE NAME OF JESUS

By: Jeanette Windle with Freddy Chavez

“I truly am a sinner and deserve this punishment,” confesses Prisoner M to BCM Bolivia missionary Freddy Chavez. “None of my family knows I am here in prison. I come from a place a day’s bus ride from here. I need someone to visit me because I am forgotten here. No one brings me supplies, and I have now been here five years without a trial or receiving a sentence.”

Prisoner M is not unique in San Pablo Prison, one of several prisons in Bolivia’s highland city of Cochabamba. An estimated 70% of inmates in Bolivia’s prisons have spent years behind bars without any formal charges, trial, or sentence. Which means they also have no idea when, if ever, they will be freed. Current prison occupancy is at 300% capacity. In San Pablo, more than four hundred male prisoners are crowded into a total area of 600 square meters, of

which only a portion is actually allotted for prisoners. Yes, the math is accurate—less than a square meter of living space per prisoner.

To complicate living conditions, prisoners are expected to supply their own food and other needs, so those without family members to bring them meals, toiletries, fresh clothing are left in dire straits. There is a prison carpentry shop, but only long-term prisoners are allowed to work there, so hungry newcomers scrub laundry or find other odd jobs to earn their next meal. But life is not completely bleak. Regular visits from spouses and children are permitted. And outside organizations are permitted to host festivities on special days such as New Years, Father’s Day, Mother’s Day, Day of the Child, etc.

BCM missionaries Freddy and Lizet Chavez have been visiting San Pablo Prison for five years now. Their motivation is simple. “Scripture tells us

in Hebrews 13:3 to ‘remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison,’” Freddy explains.

Each visit follows a similar pattern. Gift bags are prepared with food and toiletry items as well as clothing, much of it donated by the congregation Freddy pastors in Cochabamba. Freddy and Lizet, their children, as well as other volunteers head to the prison. Everything they have brought is searched by guards to ensure no contraband is being smuggled into the prison.

Once through security, the team sets up make-shift tables in the prison courtyard, where they lay out gift bags and piles of clothing. One additional gift that is eagerly received is a stack of large plastic tubs, which recipients can use to scrub laundry in exchange for a few pesos or cooked meal. The courtyard itself has been cleared out for the event since it too is normally crowded with

a spillover of prisoners. The team launches into singing accompanied by Freddy's guitar. Then Freddy shares a Bible message. While supplies are being handed out, the team takes time to visit one-on-one with prisoners, praying and counseling with any who request it.

On the first visit of 2018, January 2nd, the visit is especially festive since Freddy and Lizet have petitioned the prison authorities to permit children and wives to join the male prisoners for a special Christmas celebration. While some of the children live with family, others are visiting from a nearby orphanage that houses children whose parents are in prison. At the Chavez' own church, a Christmas tradition is to prepare a goody bag of sweetened popcorn, candy, and cookies, plus a simple toy for each child. So the team has prepared similar bags for prisoners to be able to give to their visiting children. The children sing Christmas carols, then receive a Christmas message directed to them before their fathers line up, children in arms, to receive their Christmas treat.

How has this outreach impacted San Pablo Prison? Only God can truly judge. But a prisoner recently told Freddy, "Pastor, I've seen great changes since you began visiting us. Many of the prisoners have stopped drinking smuggled-in alcohol. We now are holding our own church service here in the prison. Some of the young men are learning to play worship songs on the guitar, and more are attending the services. And there is more friendship and companionship among the prisoners."

For Freddy and Lizet Camacho, this is motivation to keep returning to San Pablo, despite their own busy schedules. But Freddy sees a need for a much deeper involvement if touched hearts are to bear fruit. Their team's long-term goals are two-fold:

1. Introduce practical skill courses into the prison to provide more opportunities for prisoners to earn a living as well as to help pass the days locked up in such a crowded small area.
2. Provide correspondence courses for ongoing discipleship of prisoners who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ.

Ongoing needs are more volunteers and finances to continue supplying necessary food items and others needs for prisoners.



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1. Prisoners and children line up in courtyard for Christmas gift
2. Exterior of San Pablo prison
3. Distributing donations to prisoners
4. Shoes donated for prisoner's children

GROWING FRUIT ON OTHER'S TREES IN ROMANIA

By: Lisa Biegert with Sandy Barber

"It's amazing how fruitful our lives can be if we allow God to grow the fruit on other people's trees!" exclaims BCM missionary Sandy Barber.

Nearly twenty-five years ago, Bob and Sandy Barber were introduced to a Romanian ministry, New Hope. New Hope produces and distributes children's material for churches across Romania. New Hope translated BCM's Sunday School curriculum *Footsteps of Faith* into Romanian (see *BCM World*, June 2014). But their ultimate goal was to see the Romanian people empowered to multiply their own ministry to children. So when the Barbers introduced BCM's children's ministry training curriculum *In Step with the Master Teacher (ISMT)*, New Hope immediately offered to translate and publish it.

New Hope distributed ISMT along with *Footsteps of Faith* to Romanian Christian book shops. They also presented it at Christian publishing events, seminaries, teacher training colleges, gatherings of pastors, church leadership teams, denominational gatherings, and individual churches. But just making ISMT material available wasn't enough, so a program of week-long teacher training camps and conferences was born. Attendees were carefully chosen from key leadership across Romania with the goal of equipping them to return home and teach the other teachers in their churches and communities.





Sandy Barber expounds, “We were encouraged to see the careful thought that went into who the Romanian Christians invited to attend training events; it was never numbers just for the sake of numbers. We recall that one of the conferences we held in Romania had very highly-motivated participants representing four different geographical locations across the country and three different mission organizations.”

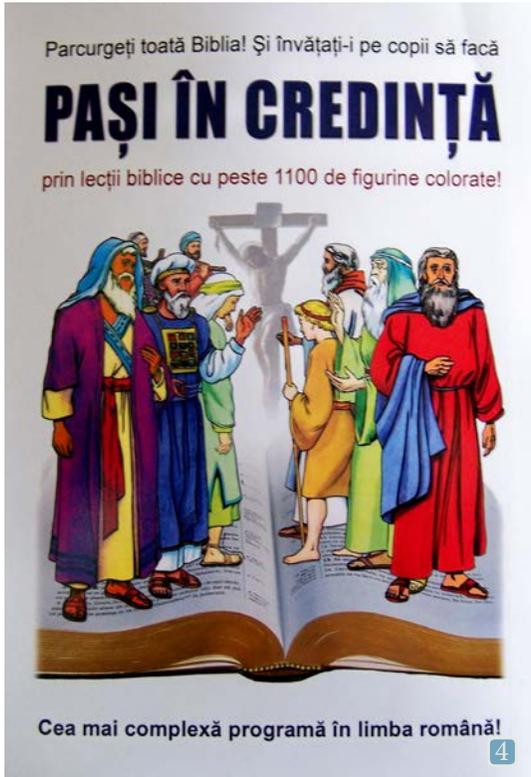
One New Hope publishing partner, Tavi, explains: “In children’s ministry there is always a need for training since there is a constant flow of new teachers. So this is a strategic ministry and one that will have great impact in the years to come.”

ISMT’s impact and concept of multiplication began in Romania as a spark among just a few pastors and organizations. Twenty years later, that spark has caught full flame and not just among Romanians. One Romanian church shared the training with their entire congregation, a conglomeration of people representing 25-30 nationalities. A two-day training conference in Bucharest had representatives from Sudan, Ethiopia, DR Congo, Chad, Nigeria, Uganda, and Ghana.

Tinu, who heads up BCM’s publishing partnership with New Hope in Romania, adds: “We are constantly amazed at how this valuable resource is asked for again and again—not only by those ministering in Romania, but also by a significant number of Romanian communities across Europe. These churches are also asking for help in training Sunday school teachers for ministering to children. The In Step with the Master Teacher comprehensive teacher training curriculum is ideal for this situation.”

Within Romania, one pastor’s wife taught nine others, who in turn each took what they learned to reach children in surrounding villages. Another pastor’s wife, responsible for 200 Sunday School teachers in 120 churches whose programs reach up to 2500 children, has now made ISMT and Footsteps of Faith part of the program in each of those locations. Then there is Erika, who was challenged through ISMT to train as a teacher of Religious Education in Romania’s public school system.

The Barbers are the first to say that the outcome of New Hope’s translation and publication of BCM curriculum in Romania more than twenty years ago is far more than either party could have accomplished in and of themselves. It is a beautiful testimony of followers of Christ from different organizations working together in a spiritual harvest. Sandy Barber sums up: “We truly thank God for our partnership with New Hope in Romania, which has resulted in innumerable children’s workers being trained and equipped for ministry. How blessed and fruitful that partnership continues to be!”



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1. ISMT training - Romania 2. Preparing ISMT lessons 3. Romanian children reached through ISMT 4. Romanian *Footsteps of Faith* volume



From March 30th–April 7th, 2018, BCM International President Marty Windle and BCM Peru field director Jonatan Odicio joined BCM Guyana missionaries Ron Charles and Stanley Boodie for an Easter Christian workers conference in the town of Lethem near Guyana’s border with Brazil. Located between Surinam and Venezuela, Guyana was established as a British colony (formerly British Guiana). It remains part of the British Commonwealth and is the only country in South America with English as its official language. Its population of just over three-quarters of a million is predominantly East Indian, African, and indigenous Amerindian.

BCM Guyana missionary Ron Charles has planted more than twenty-five churches among indigenous tribal groups, including two across the border in Brazil, along with pastoring a central church in Lethem. Colleague Stanley Boodie serves as principal of a non-denominational Bible Institute in Guyana’s capital of Georgetown. Both missionaries are responsible for an annual three-month Bible Institute in the city of Lethem, which permits the students to earn a Bible Institute degree over the course of several years.

This year’s Easter conference was held at the main church/Bible Institute campus and opened on Saturday, March 30th, with the Bible Institute graduation. Nine graduates who had completed the

entire course of study represented at least four tribal groups, including Waiwai, Macusi, and Wapishana. By evening of Easter Sunday, April 1st, delegates from most of the twenty-five-plus church plants had traveled into Lethem for the conference, some having to travel by boat along jungle rivers for several hours just to get there. Over three hundred attended in total. Hammocks slung under tin-roofed open-sided shelters offered sleeping accommodations, while large pots over open fires provided curries, fish, rice, and other local delicacies for meals.





CELEBRATING EASTER WITH GOD'S PEOPLE IN GUYANA

By Shantal Artieda with Jeanette Windle

The conference theme was from Nehemiah 6:9: “O God, strengthen my hands” (KJV), and each morning of the conference, BCM president Marty Windle taught on biblical leadership from the book of Nehemiah. In the afternoons, BCM Peru director Jonatan Odicio taught a children’s ministry training course, In Step with the Master Teacher (ISMT). Due to the poverty of the region and lack of available resources, there has been a serious shortage of children’s ministry as well as trained Sunday school teachers in the indigenous churches.

“We wanted to stir up these churches and ministries to focus on children and give them some hands-on tools for children’s ministry,” explains Jonatan Odicio. “We just skimmed the surface, but it was good for them to see the importance of working with children in their churches and communities.”

More than a hundred church leaders attended the children’s ministry training sessions, and the conference ended with a request for further training. Jonatan summarizes: “People are seeing the necessity of working with children, but they don’t have the right tools, equipment, or know-how, so it is great to be able to share with them this training and the passion we have to help and train others to reach children for Christ.”

Evangelistic meetings were held in the evenings,

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1. Easter conference session - Lethem, Guyana
2. Hammock accommodations - Guyana conference
3. Jonatan Odicio preaching - evangelistic meeting



with BCM Guyana missionary Stanley Boodie preaching along with Marty Windle and Jonatan Odicio. The gospel was clearly presented and approximately twenty people came forward to make decisions to trust Jesus as Savior. The various churches had also prepared special presentations to share during the night programs. Adults, teens, and children from a single tribal community would come forward to sing songs of worship, do a mime performance, or offer theatrical presentations. Performances were done in several languages from English to Portuguese and various other tribal dialects, though all shared English as a main communication language.

A future vision for BCM missionaries Ron Charles and Stanley Boodie is to see a larger conference center built on the main church campus in Lethem. The current facility can crowd in at most two hundred people, so with over three hundred in attendance just at this Easter conference, many had to stand outside and listen through windows and doors. Pray for the raising up of funds to expand their current meeting facility. The current goal is to complete this project within the next 1-2 years. Pray too for these two BCM Guyana missionaries and their family as they take the gospel to Guyana's Amerindian people groups within South America's Amazon jungle basin.



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1. Dusty streets - flowering trees - Lethem, Guyana
2. BCM Guyana missionary Ron Charles with Marty Windle - Easter conference
3. Tribal children presenting special number - Easter conference - Guyana



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GO

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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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