

BCMWorld

An Inside Look at BCM Global Ministries



75 Years
Still on **TARGET**

Celebrating with BCM Canada
---see page 2---





BCM C

75 YEARS OF REACHING CHILDREN

By: Lauri Barrette

Each country served by BCM International faces its own unique challenges. Some countries have artillery pointing at their borders. Some missionaries face incarceration and great persecution for sharing their faith. In Canada, where BCM recently celebrated seventy-five years of ministry (1941-2016), our challenges are much more subtle.

Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms allows for freedom of religion, of beliefs, of peaceful assembly. Living in a land of relative freedom and peace is a blessing. At the same time, it has lulled many, including Christians, into complacency and even apathy. Battles waged for these hard-won freedoms are a distant, hazy memory. Freedom is taken for granted. Among Christians, a sense of urgency to share the gospel, to support missions, or to serve in the local church is often lost.

These days, Canada is frequently referenced as being in a post-Christian era. What this denotes is a societal shift from the country's historical Judeo-Christian values. The

Canadian government has introduced physician-assisted suicide and is removing the terms "mother" and "father" from all government forms. A mentality of openness to anything and anyone but Jesus has become mainstream. Until the 1990s, public school students would be given a Gideon's New Testament when they reached fifth grade. No longer. And gone are the days of repeating the Lord's Prayer after the national anthem at school. Instead, people seek out psychics, mediums, tarot card readers, and Eastern mysticism to find direction and spiritual guidance.

BCM Canada's ministry has been directly affected by this culture shift. For decades, missionaries in Ontario were allowed to teach Bible classes in the public schools. Then in the early 1990s, new provincial legislation cast a shadow on anything that could be construed as proselytizing in the classroom. One by one, BCM missionaries were told by school administrations that they could not continue. With courage and faith, they refused to let this setback deter them. Instead, they chose to be good stewards of their freedoms and focus on what they could do for God,





ANADA EN AND SERVING THE CHURCH

not what they could no longer do. Many developed after-school Bible clubs that continue to this day.

BCM Canada's tagline is "Reaching Children—Serving the Church". Our missionaries are increasingly aware of the enormity of the task of reaching Canadian children for Christ amidst ever-increasing darkness. To achieve this goal, BCM Canada's vision is to build partnerships with the local church in order to establish children as the next generation of kingdom disciples who know, love, and obey God. The good news is that in Canada we still have the freedom to do so. As a mission, BCM Canada helps train and mobilize the body of Christ through such endeavours as teacher training events, Kid's Missions Conferences, and making available BCM's excellent and biblically-sound Christian Education resources. Our stated goal is to become the greatest friend and best children's ministry resource the church in Canada has, and we are seeing this happen step by step, little by little. Churches are reaching out for training and resources. Children are coming to Christ through Bible clubs and camps. Meanwhile

our BCM Canada missionaries are committed to keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

In Canada, BCM does not only mean Bible Centered Ministries. It also means Because Children Matter. And they do, more than ever!

(Excerpt from our national anthem)

God keep our land glorious and free.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!

Photos top left to right: Early BCM Canada children's missions (China) event; First Crusaders Bible Club Camp-1946; Early girls camp; Campers first Mill Stream Camp-1946

Photos bottom left to right: HandiCamp games; Adopt-a-School art class; Horseback riding at camp; Campfire service - Millstream; Training - E2 Conference



TEN THINGS YOU DIDN'T K



WE ARE SMALL, BUT MIGHTY FISH IN A REALLY BIG POND!

Canada's population is estimated to be 36,286,425 people. BCM Canada has twenty active missionaries, which gives us one BCM missionary per 1.8 million people. Our country is 9.985 million square kilometres, which works out to one BCM missionary per 500,000 square kilometres. In actuality, our missionaries are located in just four of the ten provinces.

2 IN CANADA, WE REALLY SHOULD BE SPELLED "BIBLE CENTRED MINISTRIES"

You know, the Queen's English and all that! While not our favourite way to spell, we honour the American spelling because BCM ministry did originate in the land where the colours of the flag are red, white and blue.

4 BCM CANADA MISSIONARIES USE A VARIETY OF TOOLS TO REACH OTHERS FOR CHRIST.

Carol Eagles in Sarnia, ON, takes along some of her own after-school clubbers when she leads Walk Thru the Bible events for children. Some clubbers have put their trust in Christ as a result. Helen Harrison from Stratford, ON, encourages local churches to reach out through "Adopt-a-School", a ministry that helps churches build bridges into their community schools. At least five schools have been adopted by churches in the Hamilton area alone. Gloria Burns of Port Franks, ON, communicates Christ's love through writing and presenting dramatic monologues from the point of view of biblical characters.



3 WE CALL OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER TRAINING CONFERENCES "E2 CONFERENCES".

This stands for "Envision 'n Energize". Enthusiastic children's ministry workers drive up to three hours to attend these conferences, hosted by churches all across Ontario. That's dedication! In Step with the Master Teacher (ISMT) seminars were also held this year at BCM Canada headquarters in Hamilton, ON. Most recently, our ISMT trainers joined BCM missionary and street evangelist Tony Schaapman in Montreal, Quebec, to train eighteen ministry leaders from three different churches how to reach and teach children to know God. These teacher training sessions also provide opportunity to showcase available BCM curriculum and other resources.



NOW ABOUT BCM CANADA

5 IN SOME AREAS, DOORS REMAIN WIDE OPEN TO AFTER-SCHOOL BIBLE CLUBS!

Clubs in Sarnia, Caledonia/Oneida, Essex County, and London, ON, continue in full swing, limited only by the availability of volunteers. Judy Hiebert attended a BCM Bible club as a child. Now a BCM Canada missionary, she has far more opportunities for new Bible clubs than she has time or available personnel. Fay Johnson of London, ON, faces a similar situation. While there is still time and opportunity, please pray that “the Lord of the harvest will send workers into his field” (Matthew 9:38).



6 CAMPING MINISTRY IS ALIVE AND WELL IN CANADA.

Mill Stream Bible Camp and Retreat Centre, an hour northeast of Toronto, celebrated its seventieth anniversary this year. This summer alone, twenty-five campers received Christ. One new program is Beginning Camp, a half-week residential camp for ages 5-7. Camp administrators Larry and Cindy Chupa have seen 80% of these children return as full-week residential campers once they are old enough. Larry Chupa reminds that camp is not just for campers, but has been used by God to train, shape, and empower young people to become future leaders of the Church. Over the past fifteen years, forty Mill Stream staff members have gone on to attend Bible school, and eight have entered full time ministry. Many were also campers there as children. Mill Stream also partners with Daniel and Lauri Barrette one week each summer to direct an overnight camping program for young adults with disabilities called HandiCamp Canada.



Mark and Debbie Taylor oversee Mount Traber Bible Camp and Retreat Centre in Nova Scotia, founded in 1965. This summer ten campers confessed Jesus as their Saviour. BCM Canada's two newest missionaries, Angela MacDonald and Ethan Parker, also serve at MTBC. The camp is building relationships with the local community by offering an affordable children's day camp as well as participating with pony rides and other activities at local festivals and exhibitions. Equally important is relationship-building with the local churches. MTBC staff know that showing up for an annual report on camp is not enough. By making themselves available year-round to work with children and youth, they help area churches recognize how camp can be an extension of the discipling and evangelizing churches want to see happen in the lives of their youth.



7 BCM CANADA IS ALSO A SENDING MISSION.

Among Canadians serving overseas with BCM is Isabelle Leatch, with thirty-two years missionary service in Spain. Lorna Ralston, along with her husband Michael, who recently passed away, served for two decades in Italy. Mary Den Boer served first in Hamilton, ON, then for many years in the Netherlands. John Zembwe, who immigrated to Canada from the Democratic Republic of Congo, has returned to Africa with BCM to assist in training children's ministry leaders.



MANY RETIRED BCM CANADA MISSIONARIES KEEP SERVING AND SERVING AND SERVING.

Ron and Beth Benoit, Marilyn White, and Kathy Shaw continue to participate in Bible club ministry. Evelyn Plett, a long-term BCM missionary in Spain, now serves in her home church, while Carolyn Mapplebeck ministers to seniors. Gaetan McDuff, former director of Camp Promise for handicapped youth at BCM USA's Big Sky Bible Camp, with his wife Bev, is now active in prison ministry. Recently retired Dario and Becky Inocencio continue to minister to Filipino churches in the Toronto area. Sonny Acocoro, retired after forty-five years of church planting and leadership training in the Philippines and Ontario, has a new ministry called "Happiness Post", which shares by Facebook and email insights on Bible passages meant to encourage others to find their happiness in God and His Word. Former BCM Canada executive secretary Chloe Chamberlain is the artist behind BCM's new felt flannelgraph backgrounds along with volunteering in the national office.

8



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PHIL AND OLGA WHITEHEAD, PAM ROWNTREE, SALLY KLASSEN, AND LYNN LAWSON ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON.

They all work at the national office in Hamilton, ON, which is the hub around which BCM Canada revolves. Besides praying regularly for each BCM Canada team member, headquarters staff facilitate all that our missionaries and volunteers do across Canada. Without Lynn, mailings and correspondence would grind to a halt. Without Sally, all things financial would fall to pieces. Without Pam, publications would no longer be developed and training seminars would go off the rails. Without Olga, orders for curriculum and teaching materials would not be filled. Without Phil at the helm, this Canadian BCM ship would go off course. The BCM Canada missionary team is thankful for their passion, vision, dedication, and continued commitment for the glory of God through BCM.



10

RIGHT NOW WE ARE SORT OF "BCM CANADA OF NO FIXED ADDRESS!"

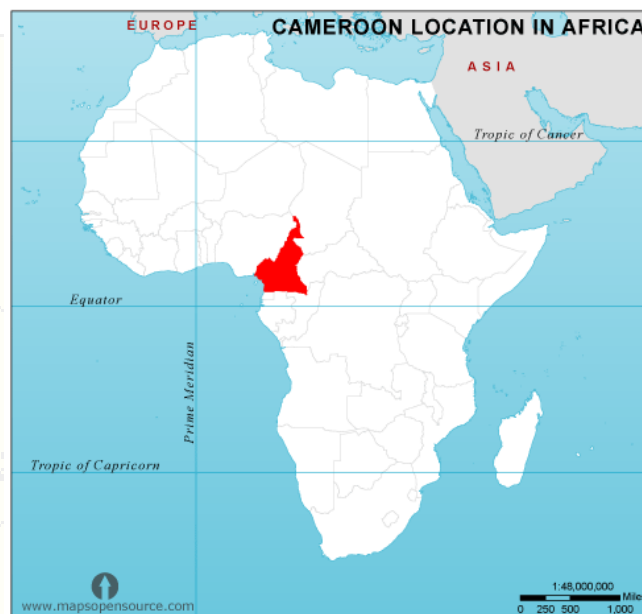
When BCM Canada's Emmanuel Bookshop, located in the national headquarters at 685 Main Street East, Hamilton, ON, closed in 2011, the building became too large for current purposes. In July, 2016, a "For Sale" sign went up, and within an unexpectedly short period, the building sold. The new owners have allowed BCM Canada to rent from them until a new building is purchased. We are trusting God to lead us to a new location of His choosing.

SHARING, LOVING, AND CARING IN CAMEROON

By: Lisa Biegert

Much of the West Indies island chain's population reached the Caribbean during the late 17th and 18th centuries on slave ships from West Africa, destined for labor in tobacco and sugar plantations. So how does a West Indies pastor's wife end up back across the Atlantic in Cameroon, West Africa? Simply put, to share the love of Jesus.

Orementa Murphy grew up in St. Vincent, largest island of the West Indies nation called Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, known for its yacht-filled harbors, millionaire-owned private isles, white-sand beaches, and the filming location for the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise. In her twenties, Orementa heard the gospel for the first time when invited to visit a church in her hometown. Convicted of her sins, she trusted Jesus as her Savior.



Orementa moved to Barbados, where she met her husband, David Murphy, a pastor who in the past three decades has ministered in the islands of St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and, most recently, Antigua. While in St. Lucia, the Murphys attended a children's ministry leadership training led by BCM missionaries. In 1995, Orementa attended BCM's missionary candidate school in the United States and was appointed a BCM missionary.

In 2002, the Murphys took a pastorate in Antigua, a Caribbean island east of Puerto Rico that is only 87 kilometers in circumference and home to 80,000 residents. Also an acclaimed tourist destination, the island is known as the "land of 365 beaches". There Orementa began leading children's Bible clubs and ladies' ministries in their own church as well as other area churches. She first came in contact with Cameroon through one of her ministry partners, Shirley, a deacon's wife from the church David pastored. A missionary friend of Shirley's who worked in Cameroon had shared with churches in Cameroon's largest city, Douala, about Orementa's and

Shirley's ministries in Antigua and other West Indies islands. These churches extended an invitation for Orementa and Shirley to speak at their annual women's conference, called SHALOCA, an abbreviation for "Sharing, Loving, Caring".

If Antigua is the "land of 365 beaches", Cameroon has been categorized as "Africa in miniature" due to its diversity. On the west coast of central Africa, it shares borders with Nigeria, Chad, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Republic of Congo. It has five geographic zones, exhibits all of Africa's major climate zones, and has hundreds of dialects, with French and English being its official languages. Northern Cameroon is mainly Muslim, and the country drew international attention in 2014 when the Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram kidnapped 276 school girls in neighboring Nigeria and smuggled some into Cameroon.

Orementa and Shirley spoke at the Douala women's conference in both 2013 and 2014. On their second trip, they also visited an orphanage in the capital city of Cameroon's western

region, Bafoussam. It was against this background that Orementa and Shirley returned to Cameroon in June, 2016, for a six-week ministry trip. Three other teammates included Orementa's own son Dillon, her daughter-in-law Rhoda (married to son Johanan), and youth pastor Robert Williams.

Flying into Douala, a port city on Cameroon's west coast, the team then took a nine-hour bus ride to Bafoussam. Cameroon buses are notoriously over-crowded and packed to the hilt. This one was repeatedly stopped to check for stowaways, falsified documents, and possible Boko Haram captives. The team's translator was needed in order to explain travel documents, where the team was headed, and what they were doing. All a stark contrast to traveling across tiny, safe Antigua!

While in Bafoussam, Dillon and Robert had opportunity to speak concerning the biblical role of husbands and fathers. For many young Christian men in Cameroon, this is new information and sparks a lot of questions since the biblical description of a man's role in the home is in stark

contrast to local culture, where women are treated as property and men have the right to beat their wives. Dillon, Robert, and Rhoda continued this conversation via a local Christian radio station that transmits all across Bafoussam, answering questions from callers, most of which concerned the roles of husbands and wives.

The Antigua team also visited the orphanage Orementa and Shirley had visited in 2014, where they presented a donated computer to orphanage director and founder Rose. A former nurse, Rose serves as both mom and dad to the home's twenty-four children, sharing God's love with them while also providing a solid education. The team also presented each child with some essential supplies.

The next leg of their trip was a three hour ride to Bamenda, capital of Cameroon's northwest region. In Bamenda, the team worked closely with a branch of the Douala church, beginning with Dillon and Rhoda speaking to a choir group on the meaning of true worship. The team ministered to teens, ladies, and children before the local pastor took them to Bali, a city close to the Nigerian border that is becoming progressively more dangerous due to the increased presence of Boko Haram.

Orementa explains, "Bali is a very spiritually dark place, but the light of Jesus has begun to shine through. We visited two cell groups in homes and were able to pray with a widow of one of the deceased [tribal] kings of that region. She had trusted Jesus as her Savior and now leads a cell group in her home. Despite the rain and darkness outdoors and the spiritual darkness of the area surrounding us, we were encouraged that God used us to be a source of encouragement to these people."

At 5am, the team boarded another crowded bus for an eleven-hour trip back to the coast, this time to Limbe, which has been nicknamed "the town of friendship" due to the abundance of tourists it welcomes each year. Limbe lived up to its name as the residents proved most amiable when the team went door-to-door, sharing the gospel.

"Many people had lots of questions!" Orementa describes. "We met one young, married mother who had previously trusted Christ as her Savior and was attending a church. But she stopped going when her father began to demand she return to his [Catholic] church. He has the authority to not only beat her into submission, but to exile her. I was able to encourage her, and that very night, she returned to her church and rededicated her life to the Lord."

Another woman had been a singer before a horrific car accident left her unable to walk and with very slurred speech. Orementa shares, "She had stopped coming to church because she was so angry. My son [Dillon] encouraged her to return to church and to begin to sing again. She came that night—and sang a song she had written!"

While in Limbe, the team visited another orphanage, where they presented the children with necessary food items and school supplies. They also taught courses on evangelism and effective children's ministry. The team then returned to Douala, where Orementa and Shirley spoke once again at the annual women's conference. This year's theme was "Experiencing the





Miraculous Transformation of Christ". Orementa spoke twice, using as examples such biblical personages as Mary Magdalene to demonstrate Christ's transforming power. Shirley also spoke during the week, and Rhoda was a guest singer.

Open-air meetings were part of the program in Douala as well. Orementa describes: "Specific areas of the city were chosen for these meetings due to the known spiritual darkness there. When we arrived for the first meeting, none of our equipment worked, so the event was delayed. After much prayer, we had a sudden break-through and were able to begin. People would stop their vehicles and bikes just to listen."

Dillon was the keynote speaker both evenings. On the second evening, he spoke on the woman in Luke 8 whose issue of blood was healed by touching the hem of Jesus' robe. A woman in the crowd turned out to be dealing with the issue. After the meeting, she came forward and made herself known. She, along with many others, trusted Christ as her Savior, then came to the church for additional help.

Then, as quickly as it had begun, the trip was over. The team returned to Antigua tired, but blessed. Spent, yet encouraged. The harvest in Cameroon is still plenty, and there remains much work left to be done. Churches begged them to stay longer, and before the trip had even ended, the team had requests from five additional churches to please come and do ministry in their areas. Though the next trip isn't even on the calendar yet, a waiting list has already been started.

"All glory goes to God alone,"

Orementa sums up their time in Cameroon. *"Not one team member could afford this trip financially. The call was obviously from God because He supplied our every need."*

She adds, *"I've been very often asked why I do this or if I would do it again. My answer remains unchanged. Because the love of Christ motivates me. He left heaven for me which is much further than going to Cameroon. Yes, I will do it again as long as He goes with me."*



Pray for Orementa Murphy, a BCM missionary from the West Indies sharing the love of Jesus in West Africa.



Photos -

1. Orphanage director Ruth, center, orange, with team & orphans; 2. Dillon preaching open air; 3. Christian radio program with Robert & Dillon; 4. Orementa speaking with Shirley; 5. Orementa & David Murphy

FROM PERU TO THE POCONOS

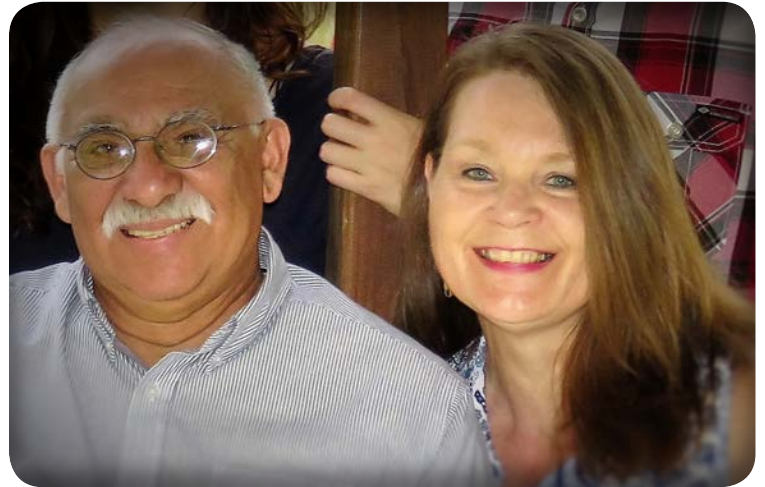
By: Marion and Carlos Odicio with Jeanette Windle

“When I came to this country, I brought all my saints [statuettes of various saints believed to answer prayer] with me in my suitcase,” shares one attendee of a Spanish-language Bible study taught by Carlos and Marion Odicio of BCM USA’s new Hispanic Ministry outreach. “Now that I’ve found Jesus, I don’t need them anymore.”

Carlos and Marion Odicio founded BCM ministry in Lima, Peru, in 1994. Twenty-plus years later, that ministry is reaching thousands of children annually across Peru. A new generation of energetic, creative leaders trained at BCM Peru’s SEBYM (Bible and Ministerial Seminary) have capably taken over leadership. All permitting the Odicios to take on a new challenge God had laid on their heart—millions of Hispanic immigrants across the United States as much in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the people of Peru.

“We felt God guiding us to be the proverbial answer to our own prayers for Hispanic immigrants to North America,” shares Marion. “God confirmed this call by granting us temporary religious worker visas. But we needed a place to land in the USA, since we do not have family here. We asked God to lead us to a place where we could begin a ministry with Hispanics.”

Arriving stateside in 2012, Carlos and Marion accepted an offering of housing from BCM’s own Camp Streamside, located in the Pocono mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania. Little did they expect to find a growing Hispanic population there or that this would prove to be their new mission field. The Pocono area around Stroudsburg, PA, is often called New York City’s sixth borough with many locals commuting to the



city for work two hours each way. The Poconos are filled with “Anglo” churches, but few are equipped to reach Hispanics.

“Several pastors I’ve met in the area are empathic about the need as they see the demographics changing,” shares Carlos Odicio. “One older Mexican seasonal worker, already a believer, walked into one of these churches looking for fellowship. The pastor called me right away, and I started meeting with this man and two younger Mexican workers on a weekly basis. The older man had been a lay pastor in his village back in Mexico and greatly missed his family and church. He expressed how greatly encouraged he was by our fellowship. The other two young men accepted Christ as their Savior and were baptized in the church.”

Around this same time, God led the Odicios to two other Christian Hispanic families who had expressed their desire to serve God. The Odicios began mentoring the two families. Together they planned a block party to meet other Hispanic neighbors. This led to a bi-monthly



Bible study under the auspices of the same local church that had first contacted Carlos about their seasonal visitors. But after just three Bible studies, the attendees began pleading to meet every week.

“That’s what we have been doing ever since,” Carlos adds with a smile.

The weekly Bible studies provide a place of fellowship and spiritual growth for primarily first generation immigrants coming from as many as twelve Latin American countries, though some second generation Hispanics attend as well. Several have already come to know Christ as their Savior through these meetings. The Odicios have found among this group both a hunger to know God’s Word as well as to be involved in God’s work. While still in Peru, Marion Odicio had worked extensively with training puppetry and mime teams. One of her first outreaches after moving to the USA was to begin training a group of Hispanic Christian youth in this ministry.

“It is a great way to involve teens in ministry and to evangelize,” Marion elaborates. “Our group is eagerly taking advantage of the many fairs and festivals across the Poconos to set up a booth. We usually do a show in English and in Spanish, because even if Hispanic fairgoers understand English, as is certainly the case with most of the children, we find that when they hear Spanish, they are much more likely to come and see what’s going on. This allows us start up a conversation and invite them to our Bible study group. We also distribute gospel tracts and water as well as offer face painting, crafts, and ministering through music.”

Among the puppetry team members is the Odicios’ own daughter, Laura, age 18. Born with Down syndrome, she has not let this impede her from serving God. She has developed her own mime ministry called One-Up, which receives invitations from all over the Poconos to perform in churches, banquets, and camps.

“People sit upright in their chairs when this teenager with Down syndrome comes up to perform, drawing attention through her mime to the message the song delivers,” explains Marion. “It blesses them to see her willingness to serve in spite of, but also through, her disability.”

Photos top to bottom-

Page 10: Carlos and Mario Odicio; Hispanic Bible Study Group-Poconos

Page 11: Night Puppet Show-West End Fair; Facepainting at fair; One Up Mime with Laura Odicio



One need for this growing ministry has been trained leadership. Carlos began meeting with a few pastors who shared his vision for starting a Bible Institute. The Community Bible Institute (CBI) held its first class September 20, 2016, at BCM's Camp Streamside with twenty-three students. The students are a mixture of Hispanic and Anglo, but all are fluent enough in English that classes can be taught in that language. Long-term goals include making this an itinerant Bible Institute to serve the greater Pocono region, focusing especially on developing Hispanic church leadership. The Odicios have also been partnering with two Hispanic churches in Reading, PA, to do teacher training, VBS, a youth retreat, preaching, as well as preparing one youth group for a missions outreach to the Dominican Republic.

"My vision is to involve Hispanics here in the USA in missions," shares Carlos. "Already we are seeing our people here desiring to partner with mission endeavors in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. They are also collecting an offering for BCM Peru's Christmas outreaches."

Carlos and Marion Odicio were recently approached by a pastor from Vermont, who shared how many Christian farmers there are employing Hispanic farmhands. The pastor invited Carlos and Marion to consider bringing a Hispanic short-term missions team next spring to minister to these workers and their families.

"We would appreciate prayers for God's leading in this," requests Carlos. "These are not seasonal workers, but year-round employees, so we need to plan for an efficient follow-up ministry for those who place their

trust in Christ."

For the Odicios, this request is just the tip of the iceberg. Fifty-five million at the last census, the Hispanic community within the United States is now the nation's largest ethnic minority with 17% of the total population. Carlos and Marion were recently granted their permanent residency in the USA, a fresh confirmation to them of God's calling to this ministry. They see within this growing demographic a tremendous potential for the church, both within the USA and globally.

"Many Hispanics in the US are unsaved. They need to know the Lord Jesus," Carlos sums up passionately. *"Many others are believers, but they are often lonely, discouraged, or confused in the dichotomy between the US and Hispanic realities in which they live. They need to be grounded in the Word of God and in how to use their spiritual gifts. Then there are many just waiting to jump to the opportunity to become leaders and make a difference in their world. These need training so that they may grow to their God-given potential and become a generation of godly men and women who help build the future of this country. And beyond! I am envisioning Hispanics here in the United States becoming a force in world missions. With God's help, we want to be part of making that happen."*

Carlos teaching CBI-Streamside





“DISCIPLE OR DIE!”



By: Gerlyn de Jesus
Director, BCM Philippines

The second Asia Pacific Youth Congress (APYC2), held in Bali, Indonesia, from October 17-20, 2016, brought together youth leaders, mentors, and children's ministry directors from twenty different nations across Asia and the Pacific. Among its seven hundred-plus participants was a team from BCM Philippines. The event's objective was to raise up Christ-like nurturers who will disciple the next generation. Why? Because discipleship is the only plan. There is no plan B!

I myself grew up in a Christian family. My parents served as ministers in a local church in Zamboanga City, Philippines. I was privileged to have access to God's word and to someone who could help me grow in my relationship with Jesus. I came to know Christ at the age of five, committed my life to serve God at age twelve, and served in both music and Sunday school ministries in my local church since my high school years until I finished college.

From 1991 until the present, I have been serving God fulltime in the country of my birth with Bible Centered Ministries International. Through BCM, I trained to become a lead trainer of In Step with the Master Teacher (ISMT), an effective training tool for children's workers, church leaders, and pastors. This training rekindled my passion for reaching and helping children, but also for training children's and youth ministry leaders to become effective agents of the transforming power of God's Word. Making disciples of the next generation

is an urgent priority, if we do not wish to lose them.

For this reason, BCM Philippines works in cooperation with other Christian organizations that focus on reaching children and youth, especially within the 4/14 Window (the time period between ages 4-14 when 80% of Christians accept Christ as Savior). So when I was asked to represent BCM and promote ISMT at the Asia Pacific Youth Congress 2, I said yes without a second thought.



Photos -

top: Group Photo APYC2

bottom: Gerlyn de Jesus presenting BCM ministry-APYC2

Three young volunteer leaders from three different BCM Philippines (BCFi) churches, Shekainah Dimanlig, Pauline del Rio, and Mark Timothy Aldaya, rounded out our delegation to APYC2. Highlights of the conference included keynote speaker Mark McClendon, who laid out technology's impact on the future church, when virtual realities will have become mainstream, and the internet will be the loudest voice in the room. Another keynote speaker, Dr. Bambang Buduanto, emphasized that discipleship is not an option, but the only plan to reach the entire next generation.

But the conference was not just a time to listen to inspiring and encouraging keynote speakers. Nor was it just a time to gather in breakout

sessions for a discussion of what is in God's heart for this generation. It was also a time of reflection. A time to renew our commitment to discipleship. A time to be challenged and be impacted. And a time to meet new friends from other nations who share the same dreams and passion, along with a common impulse to take home what God has taught us at this conference and share it with everyone.

For me, it was a time of sharing what God is doing through BCM. How we are reaching and making disciples of children. How we are training leaders and children's workers through In Step with the Master Teacher. At our BCM display table, we exchanged contact information with other delegates so that we may stay connected and help each other build

God's kingdom by becoming nurturers of this generation and the generations to come. We also considered what initial steps to take once we arrived home to implement what we've learned.

As we return now to the reality of daily life and ministry in the Philippines, we take a moment to consider the commitments we've made to the Lord, making prayer our top priority. The three young BCM delegates who participated in APYC2 were greatly impacted by the conference. They have committed to be a part of the 4/14 Window movement within the Philippines through discipling the next generation to become faithful followers of Jesus as well as by rallying other young people to catch the same vision.

"If we don't disciple, we are going to die. If we don't disciple, they will die, and the whole generation will be lost. To what degree are we willing to die? Why should we disciple? And what should we die for? For transformation to take place."

—Dr. Bambang Budijanto,
Compassion International,
Chairman 4/14 Windows Movement



“Because children are the cornerstone of our future. They are the solution of our global crisis and the hope of our nation!”

—Keith Cote,
Vice-president Lead222

Shekinah Dimanlig, age 19, shares her APYC2 experience: “As a third year college student, taking up a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education at the Philippine Normal University, I didn’t understand what my purpose was, why God permitted me to pass the [entrance] exam and why I was placed in that field.

Every term was a struggle, and I didn’t know how and why I was surviving it. Not until I attended the 2016 Asia Pacific Youth Congress. It was my first time to attend an international congress or leave my country. My emotions were mixed from excitement to curiosity to being scared. But from the moment we left the Philippines, I could feel God’s presence and His favor upon the four of us. Every day and in every session, God revealed so many things. In fact, He revealed Himself and what He can do in our world through us.

“As I said before, I didn’t know why I am in my course and even in my school. However, upon attending APYC 2016, I’ve learned that God placed me there for such a time as

this. I believe that God is going to work in children’s lives through me. I now know God’s clear and exact plans for me. Going back home, I am burdened to disciple the children and the youth of our nation. I came home with a vision that God has instilled in my heart, and through His power, I know He can use me to transform this generation.”

As God’s vision for the next generation becomes our vision, let us say all together with deep conviction, **“Disciple or Die!”**

Photos -

1. Checked in after long flight; 2. Pan-Philippines delegation-APYC2; 3. Keynote APYC2; 4. Yerlyn, Shekainah, Pauline, and Mark at APYC2



Get Involved!



PRAY

Please consider praying for the ministries not only featured in this issue but all of the ministries of BCM International. If you decide to make this a commitment, please let us know so that we can add you to our regular updates.



GIVE

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GO

Maybe God has laid on your heart to do more. We would welcome you to contact us about the possibility of joining our team or for just more info. There is much to be done! Contact us at reachndevelop@bcmintl.org

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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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