

BCMWorld

An Inside Look at BCM Global Ministries





BCM COMMISSIONS NEW PRESIDENT



The BCM global family and International Board of Directors (IBOD) are delighted to welcome incoming BCM president Dr. Rick Rhoads. An answer to much prayer over the past year of BCM's presidential search, Rick receives the baton of leadership from Dr. Marty Windle, who has served as president for the past seventeen years.

Rick comes to BCM with a wealth of life and ministry experience, including twenty-nine years in church, Christian higher education, and health care ministry settings. Rick holds a Doctor of Ministry in Global Leadership from George Fox Evangelical Seminary and a Master of Arts in Leadership for Evangelism and Discipleship from Columbia Biblical Seminary & School of Missions. He is a licensed minister in Pennsylvania, USA.

Over his years of ministry, Rick's heart has been in serving both the local and global mission of God. Unique to his doctoral studies was an immersive research experience with church leaders in Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America, centering on burnout among ministry leaders in the digital age and seeking a corrective through Christian spiritual formation for healthy integration soul development.

Rick has served in leadership ministry at Lancaster Bible College/Capital Seminary & Graduate School since 2005 in a variety of projects, positions, and programs, most recently as chair of the Church and Ministry Leadership Department. He has also taught leadership, spiritual formation, and related missional courses on the global church at both undergraduate and graduate levels. An emphasis over his last decade of ministry has been on creating global networks, contextualized educational offerings on four continents, and partnering with individuals and multinational organizations to further the mission of God. Specific leadership initiatives during this time period have included:

- Providing key leadership/networking of pastors to the Pastor's Discipleship Network (PDN) centered in Uganda, which includes pastors from Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, and Ethiopia.
- Partnering to create a new educational site for theological and leadership training of pastors and church workers within the Pacific Rim region with a focus on South East Asia.
- Partnering and leading the creation of a new educational site for theological and leadership training of pastors and church workers in the global south, particularly Brazil.
- Helping sponsor and host at Lancaster Bible College such global children's ministry events as the Second Lausanne Forum on Children at Risk (May 2017).

Additionally, Rick is also a licensed radiographer and neurotrauma MRI technologist. Throughout his seminary years, Rick served as neurotrauma MRI technologist at Palmetto Health and the University of South Carolina's health system. During the COVID pandemic, he served as lead of neuroimaging division at Neurology and Stroke Associates, PC. He also works with the MRI neurotrauma team at Penn Medicine and Lancaster General Hospital, in central Pennsylvania, USA.

Rick has been married to his college sweetheart Naomi for twenty-five years. They have two adult children, Grace and Eli. Eli graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in architectural engineering and is currently

working in an engineering firm near the Philadelphia area. Grace is a sophomore at the University of North Dakota and is a theatre major specializing in technical theatre.

Dr. Rick Rhoads will begin his ministry as the seventh president of BCM International upon his commissioning on December 5, 2022. He expresses his own joy at joining the BCM global team. "I am honored and humbled to serve each of you and this beautiful movement of global disciple-making. My prayer for each of us is that God will continue to grow each one of us while in turn He uses each of us to transform others into the image of Christ."

Outgoing president Dr. Marty Windle adds, "Thank God together with me for this great answer to prayer. Pray for Dr. Rhoads as he leads us into the future. I have come to love each of you as we've worked together around the world these last seventeen years. I look forward to seeing and participating in BCM's next chapter of reaching children and strengthening the Church under the excellent leadership of Dr. Rick Rhoads."

Images page 2: Dr. Rhoads, right, serving in Uganda; Dr. Rhoads Below: Dr. Rhoads with wife Naomi and two children





ONE YEAR OF BCM UGANDA

By: Joshua Anguyo, National Executive Director

October 2022 marks one year of BCM Uganda ministry (see [Uganda Joins BCM Africa](#)). For various urgent reasons, our focus remains empowering and training church leadership in children's ministry. First, almost half of Uganda's population is fourteen and younger. Though eighty-five percent of the population identifies as Christian, children have historically not been considered a priority by the church. They attended adult services, and if there was a Sunday school program, few trained teachers or materials were available.

This story has changed greatly. With churches matching national population demographics, half of those attending are children, and larger churches may have hundreds and sometimes more than a thousand children in attendance. This has led to a great awakening in Uganda for children's ministry. Over the past year, BCM Uganda has been meeting that need in the following ways.

Trainings: In Step with the Master Teacher (ISMT) trainings were held in central, eastern, and northwestern parts of Uganda with a total of 713 children's ministry leaders trained. In May 2022, thirty-three trainers graduated from a nine-month course called Holistic Child Discipleship Mode (HCDM) that uses curriculum from Global Children's Forum (GCF) and BCM. In keeping with BCM's strategy of multiplication, 514 out of the 713 new children's ministry leaders were trained by these thirty-three graduates.

Camping: In partnership with Soroti Calvary Chapel and its branch churches in east Uganda, a three-day intensive children's camp brought together 525 children of different age groups. This was just the first of a partnership to help churches run children and youth camps based on BCM International camping ministry models.



Pastor Training: For generations in Ugandan churches, it was believed that children and teens weren't capable of genuinely accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior so there was no point in professing salvation or being disciplined until adulthood was reached. This too is now history, and the door is wide open for reaching and discipling children and youth. A major gap is that the course of study for pastors in Bible colleges and Christian universities focuses on all aspects of pastoral ministry except children and youth ministry. Together with Global Children's Forum (GCF), BCM Uganda is seeking to bridge this gap by partnering with Christian academic institutions in teaching clergy and pastors to understand God's heart for children and how to raise up a next generation that honors God.

Ongoing Pastoral and Leadership Training: Serving pastors through ongoing training in leadership, professional development, and other aspects of ministry is another priority. This year through the generous giving of HMK, a Christian donor agency based in Germany, in partnership with SIM Nairobi, BCM Uganda received one thousand tool kits for empowering church leaders. Each set includes eighteen books covering leadership, evangelism, marriage and family, discipleship, Muslim evangelism, ministry to young leaders, and other topics. A two-day conference teaches church leaders how to use the material, which they then take back to put into practice within their local congregations.

As a nation, Uganda presents BCM with huge opportunities for ministry. To do so effectively, it is vital to grow our ministry team by prayerfully recruiting more volunteer missionaries. As of 2022, BCM Uganda has a training team of seven members conducting training in central and lower Uganda and a team of fifteen in northwestern Uganda. Along with a central office in the capital city of Kampala, plans are moving forward to develop a mission base in Arua on the eastern border with the DRC

(Democratic Republic of Congo), where God has provided ten acres of land. This will support BCM ministry in Uganda, South Sudan, and DR Congo.

A dedicated and spiritually gifted national board is also in the process of drafting a five-year ministry plan and governing policies that go beyond children's and youth ministry to compassion ministry, education, health services, and socio-economic community transformation. As BCM Uganda moves into our second year of ministry, we ask for prayer in the following areas:

- God's guidance in developing partnerships with Christian universities, Bible colleges, and other strategic ministry partners.
- Financial resources to sustain the ministry, meet needs of BCM Uganda missionaries, and develop the mission base infrastructure that will aid ministry within Uganda and surrounding region.
- Wisdom, clarity, and God's perfect will for the board, missionaries, national executive director, and his wife in determining the direction and priority needs of BCM Uganda ministry over the next five years (2023 – 2027).

Images top, left to right: Children's camp group session; Clearing land for BCM Uganda mission base; Leadership training; BCM Uganda chairman giving handing out tool kits; Young ISMT graduate





BCM NEPAL AFTER COVID

By: Rabin Kaji Baidhya with Jeanette Windle

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit in early 2020, BCM Nepal was still dealing with the aftereffects of a 7.8 earthquake that destroyed their central facility, Milestone Church, along with six hundred thousand other buildings in the capital of Kathmandu and surrounding region. For over four years, they met in a tent, then a temporary sanctuary built of scavenged brick (see [Standing Firm in Nepal](#), BCM World, November 2019). They had purchased property to rebuild when Covid restrictions shut down much of the world, including Nepal.

Two years later, they give praise for all God has done during the pandemic and new ministry that has opened up since. Though many churches and Christian organizations closed down permanently, the BCM Nepal team has seen their ministry and the central Milestone Church congregation grow exponentially. This includes six full-time missionary families along with numerous church planting pastors, lay leaders, and volunteers participating in children's, youth, women's, and family ministries along with street evangelism.

Despite restrictions, the BCM Nepal team held some in-person events during Covid-19. This included a 2020 children's ministry training, blood drives, and a baptism for nine new believers. Thanks to video/Zoom conferencing, leadership meetings, prayer meetings, Bible teaching, counseling, and evangelism were carried out throughout the pandemic. The BCM Nepal team also distributed regular food relief to more than a hundred needy families. During one three-day outreach event, more than four hundred and fifty people living and working on the streets received emergency rations.



In September 2021, Milestone Church reopened services in the temporary sanctuary. The facility has been packed out since with in-person ministry renewed across Nepal. One annual event that continued even during the pandemic was committing as a church to fifty days of fasting from Easter Sunday through the Day of Pentecost.

“Praise God many people are coming to Christ through our services,” shares BCM national director Rabin Baidhya. “We also expect to baptize fifty new believers this year. This is really a miracle and God’s faithfulness towards us.”

In June 2022, two BCM mission trips reached one hundred and fifty people with the gospel. During this same time period, national director Rabin Baidhya was able to facilitate four leadership training events with a total of 107 pastors and church leaders as well as a global leadership summit for youth with 354 young people attending. Another discipleship training program brought youth together from Milestone Church and neighboring congregations, graduating seventy-two new “Next-Gen” young leaders.

In the first week of October, the BCM Nepal team carried out a mission trip to the Jhapa District in the far southeast of Nepal bordering India and another to the Sarlahi district in south-central Nepal. Plans are to follow through with planting new church fellowships in both these regions as well as two other districts of Taplejung in the far northeast bordering China where BCM Nepal already has Christian families on the ground.

Rabin asks for prayer for a number of ministry events on the schedule for the 2022-2023 calendar year, including a three-month missionary training school, In Step with the Master Teacher (ISMT) children’s ministry training, youth camp, and women’s conferences. In total, they expect to be sharing the gospel with upwards of five thousand people at these events. Financial prayer requests include:

- Remaining funds needed to rebuild Milestone Church now that construction is once again permitted, including a worship hall, training center, and ministry offices.
- Funds for monthly support of BCM Nepal’s six missionary families as well as church planting pastors. Full financial support for a ministry family is \$100-150USD for rural/village missionaries and \$200-250 for urban missionaries.
- Funds for at least three two-wheelers (small motorcycles) for transport of BCM Nepal missionaries to ministry locations.

“Nepal still has 108 unreached people groups,” Pastor Rabin shares. “And only 1.4% of the population are Christian with 81% Hindu, 9% Buddhist, and 4.4% Islam. Please keep praying with us and for us as we preach the gospel across Nepal until all these people groups have been reached for Jesus Christ.”

Images page 6, top down: Milestone Church children’s special; Youth Bible study; Home church service; Youth baptismal service
Page7: Youth training graduation



TRUSTING GOD'S HEART, NOT OUR PLANS

By: Lauri Barrette,
BCM Canada HandiCamp Coordinator

A movie or book with a plot twist makes the story so much more interesting, doesn't it? Just as you've figured out how the story will end, whoops! You discover things happening in the background that take the story in a whole different direction.

Plot twists are nice, but not when they bring upheaval to large numbers of people we care about. With Covid restrictions finally easing, the BCM Canada team looked forward to resuming in-person ministry after almost two years (see [BCM Canada in Covid-19 Times, BCM World, July 2020](#)). This included our annual HandiCamp at Millstream Bible Retreat Centre in Omeme, Ontario, scheduled for the first week of August 2022. As details came together, we felt buoyed by a sense of God's presence. God provided needed staff, including nurses. Medical supplies were stocked and Covid protocols updated. Bible lessons came together beautifully. Needs from devotional books to Covid rapid tests were donated. Campers excitedly registered. As staff arrived for training began July 30th, all their Covid screening tests were negative.

Then a sore throat Sunday night, July 31st, led to taking a rapid test. POSITIVE!!! Because masks hadn't been worn during staff training, the heartbreaking decision was made that the risk of possible exposure was too great for our medically fragile campers. Calling families one day before campers were scheduled to arrive was such a hard thing to do. Many campers were already packed. Parents had made plans to get away for a time of respite.

While not a story ending any of us could have predicted or chosen, one dear staff member reminded that God doesn't owe us any explanations. It brought to mind lyrics from a song by well-known gospel singer Babbie Mason: *"When you can't trace His hand, trust His heart." While our finite minds can't comprehend why this happened, we can trust that God does and that His plans are always good.*

Thankfully, God has blessed in many other ways as a lifting of Covid restrictions across Canada has permitted a return to in-person ministry. Below is just a snapshot of what God has done this summer through BCM Canada.

LEAMINGTON AREA BIBLE CLUBS WITH JUDY HIEBERT

God gave four wonderful rain-free weeks this summer for a total of five Backyard Bible Clubs, including a morning and afternoon program in separate locations one week. Six adults and four teens ministered to a total of one hundred-sixty-two children gathering in backyards, under shade trees, and garages. The Bible focus was learning to “listen up” to what God’s Word has to say as our ultimate authority in life. The children had many questions such as “Where is God? Does He give us what we pray for? If God is somewhere else, how can He hear when I pray?” To see their hearts just wanting to know and understand more about God and prayer was a blessing. Another great blessing after two years of restrictions was receiving permission to offer After School Bible Clubs again in area schools where we hope to continue teaching God’s truths to many of these same children.

SARNIA AREA BIBLE CLUBS

BCM Canada missionary Carol Eagles stayed busy this summer teaching four separate Vacation Bible Schools. Over the past school year, she’d taught an online club, several home Bible clubs, and one at her church. She invited all of them to VBS. One week, she found that almost every child was someone she’d taught in a Bible club. With two years of pandemic, many had never attended VBS and were surprised that it wasn’t “boring” at all.

With a two-year hiatus, this fall also kicked off the After School Bible Club season with three clubs reaching children from five Sarnia area schools. Over half of those attending were in one of the Vacation Bible Schools Carol taught this summer. Especially satisfying has been welcoming in-person some of the children from last year’s online club. A fourth club meets midday in a public library attached to a school. The first meeting started with no children. Then one mother called to register her daughter. This girl invited friends, and several eager girls showed up for the next club meeting. A fifth club is held on Wednesday morning with home-schoolers.

Image page 8: Millstream campfire

Page 9: Leamington After School Bible Club with Judy Hiebert; Leamington Bible club game; Camp games



MOUNT TRABER BIBLE CAMP, NOVA SCOTIA

MTBC directors Mark and Debbie Taylor and Daniel Grubb had a fruitful summer of ministry with a total of three hundred campers. Though not without some challenges. Lifeguards have become difficult to find, so the first week of camp necessitated improvising with water games instead of the scheduled swimming program. Thankfully, two lifeguards were found to share responsibilities, permitting the swimming program to move forward for the remaining weeks.

Summer ended with family camp. Then retreat season began with a very big hiccup. Hurricane Fiona paid a visit to Nova Scotia, leaving numerous downed trees, power outages, and damaged camp buildings. While the first fall event had to be canceled, camp generators came in handy to keep food from being wasted. Retreats, homeschool days, and “Teen Turnout” events are now back on track. A Trunk or Treat event is scheduled for October 31st. For more info on MTBC, go to www.mounttraber.org.



MILLSTREAM BIBLE CAMP CELEBRATES SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS.

On Saturday, September 10, 2022, camp directors Larry and Cindy Chupa hosted a celebration for the seventy-fifth anniversary of Millstream Bible Camp and Retreat Centre. The first camp was held in 1946 on a rented property in tents (see [Triple Celebration for BCM Canada](#), BCM World, Spring 2011), so if you do the math, it will be clear the celebration was delayed a year due to the pandemic. With a theme of “God’s faithfulness,” a seventy-five-year time-line displayed Millstream’s history while all the usual summer camp activities were made available for attendees to experience camp life. Old friends were united and new friends made as camp alumni as far back as forty years arrived to celebrate.

This summer was also the first back in operation since the pandemic with a total of one hundred campers. God blessed in providing a new crop of counsellors. Health inspections and pool repairs were both completed just in time for camp to begin. Numerous retreats are already booked for the fall season.



Images top down: Millstream campfire; Millstream 75th anniversary display; Reliving camp during the 75th celebration



MOBILIZE GOES VIRTUAL

By the ISMT International Team

Mobilize is the highest level of BCM's children's ministry training program (see [Mobilize Comes to Africa](#), BCM World March 2019), equipping Lead Trainers as catalysts for ministry to children in their region. This includes not just multiplying teachers through training events but advocating for children's ministry in churches and networking with like-minded organizations.

Under normal circumstances, Mobilize is a seven-day intensive in-person training. COVID-19 moved many such events online. But how does one translate face-to-face conversations at meals or networking after hours into screentime? Shifting a seven-day in-person training into an online event wasn't a major challenge. BCM's ISMT coordinator for Africa, Pat Govender, had been conducting trainings online since early in the pandemic (see [Locking Down ISMT](#), BCM World, July 2020). Losing that building of community was the biggest concern.

But as the pandemic continued, so did a clear need for more Lead Trainers. In October 2021, BCM-Europe held a three-day online conference with six hours each day screen time. This gave a parameter of the maximum amount of screentime attendees could effectively process. Home assignments before, during, and after the event would complete the normal hours of learning for a seven-day training.

The first virtual Mobilize was held Jan 31st-Feb 4th, 2022, with six new trainees. One major advantage of a virtual training was being able to invite faculty from all over the world to teach different sessions, providing a global flavor as well as modeling the importance of teamwork. Online training days (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) alternated with home assignment days (Tuesday, Thursday).



Images top down: Mobilize virtual session; Trainer from BCM Philippines teaching virtually

Positive feedback from the first virtual Mobilize led to holding a second one September 12-16, 2022, for ten more trainees. Between new Lead Trainers and faculty, a total of ten countries on four continents were represented. All participating expressed amazement at the level of networking and community building that proved possible through intentional screen interaction. This has continued as the newly graduated Lead Trainers encourage and pray for each other via a WhatsApp group.

The BCM global children's ministry training team is looking forward to a renewal of in-person conferences after two years of pandemic. But experiences with online training for all three levels of *In Step with the Master Teacher*, *Train the Trainer*, and *Mobilize* have also demonstrated the benefits of continuing virtual training events as well. Among those benefits are the cost effectiveness of bringing trainees and faculty together across large distances without need of travel and lodging expenses while still being able to foster a sense of family and mutual support as we serve together in God's kingdom.



CELEBRATING IN TROUBLED TIMES

By: Meashed Liyanage, BCM Sri Lanka Country Director

Hope is one thing the BCM Sri Lanka family has been holding on during the turbulent times of these past three years. The current crisis began with the April 2019 Easter Sunday bomb attacks on Christian churches. This was followed by two years of the Covid pandemic (see [Life for a New Season](#), BCM World July 2020).

Then in July 2022, the worst economic crisis since Sri Lankan independence in 1948 led to widespread protests and the resignation of the president, prime minister, and several cabinet members, all members of the same powerful political dynasty, under a cloud of corruption charges. Urban poverty levels have tripled in months while daily life remains impacted by power blackouts as well as shortages of fuel, cooking oil, and food. Many who can have fled the country. Those who remain often feel hopeless, especially as they see their families going hungry.

In the midst of these calamities, the BCM Sri Lanka ministry team gives thanks to God that we've been able to weather these storms and continue advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ across our nation. We are also thankful for a lifting of Covid restrictions that has permitted a return to in-person ministry. Below is a summary of what God is doing through BCM in Sri Lanka.

BCM 85th Celebration: While finding cause for celebration may seem difficult in this tragic situation, we are reminded how the ship's band on the Titanic played Christian hymns to keep passengers calm and focused on God as the ship sank. So we chose the annual Children's Day, October 1st, 2022, to celebrate eighty-five years of BCM global ministry and all God has done through BCM to reach children, plant churches, and raise up godly Christian leaders here in Sri Lanka. Children from our BCM church network and Bible clubs gathered in various regions of the country to celebrate. Among the day's highlights for each group was a Bible lesson that included memorizing the Ten



Commandments as well as games, songs, crafts, and food. Later in the day, one particular game involved taking the Ten Commandments they'd memorized and placing them in the right order and correct wording.

Reaching the Next Generation: Bible clubs and other children's ministry continues to expand with more than four thousand children participating annually in Bible clubs, Sunday school, and regional children's gatherings. Many of these children come from very poor, vulnerable communities. Through local Bible clubs, we have also had opportunity to provide educational aid, tutoring, and free classes, covering topics such as English and mathematics as well as discipline and good values with a goal of raising up these children to be good citizens within their country.

BCM missionary Pastor Prem carries out one such ministry in the central hill area where there are many tea estates. Many in his congregation are laborers on the tea estates, Due to extreme poverty, they have minimal resources or access to schooling. Pastor Prem's ministry has been able to educate and help many of their children.

Training leaders for children's ministry is another priority. BCM regional director Pastor Sumith has a great vision for raising up a godly next generation. Workshops he organizes in his central BCM church of Warakapola have provided skilled children's ministry leaders to many locations around the Warakapola region.

Church Ministry: Each Sunday, over thirty-five BCM churches gather for worship in different regions of Sri Lanka. On a grass roots level, numerous additional groups of believers not yet organized into full churches gather in homes or other facilities for Bible study, prayer, and worship. It is our great joy to see many people accepting Christ as their personal Savior and following His command to be baptized.

Food and medical aid: The severe economic crisis has also greatly affected BCM missionaries around Sri Lanka as well as their congregations and villages. Almost three thousand families for a total of over ten thousand individuals have received aid through the BCM church network, including urgent medical assistance at a time when the country is facing a major shortage of essential medical supplies and pharmaceuticals.

INVOLVED

The BCM Sri Lanka deeply appreciates your ongoing prayers and support toward this ministry amidst the current crisis. Our ministry team comprises of twenty-plus full-time missionaries, most of these church planters, along with fifty-plus lay leader volunteers. All are significantly under-supported, making day to day survival for their families a challenge. A day laborer earns approximately \$280USD a month, and many of our missionary families are subsisting on less than that. At this moment, a shortfall of \$5500USD monthly support is needed to provide basic support for the entire team.

Most BCM church facilities are also too small to hold their current congregations, much less accommodate continued growth. But no new construction has been possible for the past five years due to lack of funds, the pandemic, and current economic crisis. An additional goal is to raise funds to expand inadequate meeting halls as well as build church facilities for congregations who don't yet have their own. Likewise for pastoral and children's ministry training seminars in rural areas too distant to attend current training events.

Beyond financial assistance, there are openings for on-the-ground volunteers as well as participating in or sponsoring specific building or training projects. If you would like to learn more about how you could get involved, please contact BCM International (www.bcmintl.org) or contact BCM Sri Lanka directly at: meashed@hotmail.com.

Images page 12, top down: BCM Sri Lanka 85th anniversary celebration; Ten Commandments game; Baptism
Page 13: Bible club; Distributing school supplies



HOW YOU CAN GET

EXPANDING TERRITORY FOR BCM LATIN AMERICA

By: Marion Odicio

In December 2021, a candidate orientation (CO) was scheduled at BCM Peru's Lima camp for missionary candidates from several Latin American countries. Less than a week before the planned dates, the Peruvian government closed all land borders due to renewed Covid restrictions, making it impossible to enter the country except by air. While four candidates from Ecuador and Bolivia were able to fly in to join Peruvian candidates, it became clear a second CO would be needed.

This became a reality August 2022 in Bolivia's lowland city of Santa Cruz. Seven candidates arrived from different regions of Bolivia along with two married couples from Venezuela and Ecuador, respectively, and two Brazilians. A Leadership Development event (LEADS) was scheduled for the same week to take advantage of BCM personnel and faculty already present. Personnel from five BCM Latin America fields worked together on sharpening their ministry vision, planning strategies, and leadership skill development sessions.

One new missionary candidate couple, Victor and Yunny Rojas, have opened up an entire new field for BCM—Venezuela. Victor graduated from the Baptist Biblical Institute of Venezuela as well as the Universidad Pedagógico Experimental Libertador (UPEL), specializing in social science. He has served for over a decade as professor of theology at Vida Nueva Bible Institute in northwestern Venezuela as well as professor of social sciences for several educational institutions. He also pastors Vida Nueva Baptist Church. Yunny graduated from New Life Baptist Bible Institute as well as completing a Bachelor of Nursing from Rómulo Gallegos University.

In 2019, the Rojas founded a children's ministry called "Sowers of Seedlings," which provides churches with teacher training workshops in the areas of Sunday





School, children's evangelism, leadership, hermeneutics, and homiletics. They have already taught these courses in more than sixty churches across Venezuela as well as churches in Colombia, Ecuador, and Bolivia. This outreach led to contact with BCM and the recognition that BCM's vision for children's ministry was fully shared by the Rojas and their ministry. After completing BCM candidate orientation, they are looking forward to formalizing BCM Venezuela as a field.

Both the LEADS event and CO were held in the guesthouse of Hebron Theological Seminary in Santa Cruz, where BCM president Marty Windle taught for many years while field director of Gospel Missionary Union (now AVANT) in Bolivia. Marty also gave workshops and a keynote address at a missions/leadership conference of the Unión Cristiana Evangélica (UCE), one of Bolivia's largest evangelical denominations, with some five hundred leaders attending. His keynote was broadcast live on local Christian radio. A special blessing was reconnecting with Bible Institute and seminary students from Marty's teaching days in Bolivia and even Quechua church leaders he knew growing up as a missionary kid in the Bolivian highlands.

This participation has already led to requests from the UCE to partner with BCM in training children's ministry leaders for Sunday school and outreach. At a breakfast meeting with Hebron Theological Seminary's current director, much interest was also expressed for BCM to train current and future HTS students in effective ministry to children. Another newly-appointed BCM Brazil missionary and chairman of the BCM Brazil board, Kennede Soares, is president of AMESPE (Academia Memorial de Ensino Superior de Pernambuco) Seminary in Recife, a city of over four million in northeastern Brazil, as well as regional director of discipleship of Samaritan's Purse. He is working together with the BCM team to promote a much-needed vision and training for children's ministry among his seminary students as well as throughout the churches and pastoral teams he partners with across northeast Brazil.

To bring in the ripe harvest among the children of Latin America, it is vital to equip, train, and empower more workers. Providing training in Bible schools and seminaries is one effective way to do this. There is great hope for the harvest as the growing BCM Latin America team continues to prepare more teachers, strengthen churches, and reach children for Christ across the Spanish-speaking world.

Images top down: Commissioning new BCM missionaries; Rojas family photo; Candidate orientation session; BCM candidate orientation group shot



TAKING THE GOOD NEWS TO PAKISTAN

By: Brian Hampshire with Jeanette Windle

Brian and Sarah Hampshire have served as BCM missionaries since 1989 through Bible Clubs, teacher training, music ministry, and other avenues. When physical challenges in more recent years necessitated slowing down, Brian searched for other ways to reach out with the Good News. For more than fifteen years, he had developed numerous video and PowerPoint series, which he made available through a [YouTube channel](#) and Facebook. These included Attributes of God, Jesus's "I Am" statements, the Armor of God, a basic Bible knowledge series, and sketch-board-style evangelistic presentations. He has also produced numerous sermon videos, Bible songs he'd written, and gospel "magic" presentations that illustrate principles of God's Word.

These various online series have been used by God in several countries. Then just this past year as Brian was praying for more doors of ministry to open, he was contacted by Pastor Daud Younas of Lahore, a city of over eleven million residents in the Punjabi region of Pakistan. Less than two percent of Pakistan is Christian, including Protestant, Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Anglican. While they often face persecution, they also have more freedom to worship and preach God's Word publicly than in many other Muslim nations.

Along with a small team he has trained, Pastor Daud ministers to the poorest of the poor in and around Lahore. At least forty percent of the population live in slums or low-income housing developments where running water, electricity, sanitation, medical care, and schooling are extremely limited. Over half of Pakistan's population live on less than two dollars a day. A large percentage of Pakistani Christians are from the Dalit class, descendants of lower-caste Hindus who came to Christ during the British colonial era. Under Pakistan's fundamentalist Muslim administration, discrimination in both employment and education has kept them largely deprived of economic opportunities and often doing jobs Muslims and higher-caste Hindus will not touch such as cleaning sewers, garbage removal, street sweeping, and other sanitation jobs.

Because these believers have no church building, Pastor Daud and his team hold worship services in the streets as well as in some homes. The team travels two hours each week to minister to one particular group of people identified as "people of the brickyard." Many of these are employed at a nearby brickyard, and initially their employer permitted Pastor Daud to hold services there. But the brickyard owner is Muslim and soon forbade the group to meet on his property, so the services were moved into a back alley in a slum where many of these believers live.

Pastor Daud has a theological degree and a deep passion to reach his country for Christ. But finding good biblical teaching material hasn't been easy, especially when a majority of the believers he is reaching are illiterate and those who aren't have no Bibles in their main language of Urdu. So he was excited to discover Brian Hampshire's YouTube videos and other online teaching material. Reaching out through Facebook and Skype, he asked Brian about using his PowerPoint presentations and translating the various series into Urdu.

Thus began what has become an ongoing ministry partnership. It soon became clear that live teaching was far more practical than using the online videos. A small generator, PowerPoint projector, screen, and laptop permit Brian to teach his material live through Skype with Pastor Daud translating into Urdu. His first session was with the "brickyard" congregation. Brian used a gospel "magic" illustration to preach a salvation message. He was deeply moved at how eager the audience was to hear the Good News after having worked a fourteen-hour day in the brickyard, even young children.

Along with preaching at a number of "street" and "house" churches, Pastor Daud is also working to obtain Urdu audio Bibles as well as a literacy program to teach the believers to read the Bible for themselves. Monsoon flooding and other disasters have impacted food availability, causing many of these families to routinely go to bed hungry. So raising funds for food aid has been another priority. Along with providing seventy-five "street church" families with additional food supplies, the team was recently able to help ten desperate Muslim families. Their prayer is that these families will be reached for Christ along with receiving physical aid.

Brian's ministry partnership recently hit a bump when Pastor Daud's computer died. The goal once a new computer has been obtained is for Brian to preach regularly to the street congregations, including plans for a full evangelistic crusade in Lahore. He has also been asked to help train more teams virtually so this ministry can be duplicated in other locations around Pakistan. With his health making travel for in-person ministry increasingly difficult, Brian counts it a great blessing and privilege to be able to use his preaching, teaching, and video tech skills to reach people on the other side of the planet with the gospel right from his own home and computer screen.

"I'm looking forward to continue serving with Pastor Daud in this way," Brian expresses. "He has such a great heart and huge vision for reaching Pakistan with the gospel. Many have come to Christ through this ministry. They are believers in a Muslim country. Please pray for these precious people as we seek to bolster their faith and reach out to the lost in nearby areas."



Image page 16: Pastor Daud Younas street evangelism
Page 17: Street church outreach

GOD'S ABUNDANT GRACE TRANSCENDS COVID

By: Paul Padmakar, Director BCM India

The coronavirus pandemic severely affected our country, spreading from just three cases on February 8, 2020, to almost forty-five million people across India. More than half a million deaths have been reported, though unreported deaths could push that total much higher. With the country on lockdown, BCM India ministry was severely affected since churches were closed and children's Bible Clubs couldn't be held due to school shutdowns and other restrictions.

The pandemic also had a great impact on BCM missionaries and pastors, not just ministry limitations but an extreme scarcity of finances and health services. A total of thirty-six BCM missionaries, church planting pastors, and board members suffered from this deadly virus. Thankfully, all were recovered except BCM missionary Rev. Sake Isaac, who passed into God's presence on May 18, 2021.

As of June 2021, BCM pastors and missionaries have been able to resume ministry throughout despite some ongoing Covid-19 ordinances. BCM India ministry currently includes sixty-seven missionaries and one hundred-eighty-seven pastors as well as numerous children's ministry volunteers serving across fifteen states in South and North India. Top ministry objectives included church development, reaching children, Christian education, socioeconomic development, and aid programs. The following summarizes overall ministry this past year since the end of Covid lockdown mid-2021.



Church Development and Dedications: Over two thousand new believers underwent baptism through our churches in South and North India. In August 2022, four new BCM churches were dedicated to God's glory in the villages of Sanbarsa, state of Chhattisgarh, Chetangudi, state of Jharkhand, Warangal and Kadriga, state of Andhra Pradesh. We thank and praise God for donors who provided financial and prayer support for these congregations. A team from BCM South Africa, who provided generous funding for these building projects, travelled to India to participate in the dedications, including BCM Africa director John Peter and missionary Vernon Govender.

Three new bore-wells were also completed at the new BCM churches in Sanbarsa village and Chetangudi as well as in the village of Erravaram, state of Andhra Pradesh. This provision of free, plentiful clean water will not only be a great blessing to the believers of these congregations but for other community members, to whom sharing this gift of water is a testimony of God's love and grace. Pray that through this witness many unbelievers will come to Christ.

Aid to BCM Pastors and Widows in Need: Many BCM pastors and their families were severely impacted financially during the pandemic since closure of churches has often meant no pastoral income or offerings (see [Doing Good Amidst Covid-19](#), BCM World, July 2020). For bi-vocational pastors, many employment places were also closed down due to Covid restrictions. This has particularly affected pastors serving in remote and already impoverished rural villages.

This past Christmas season, financial and food aid was extended to eighty BCM rural pastors. Ongoing support has also been provided for eight widows whose husbands served as BCM pastors and missionaries, mostly in rural areas, and who have no other financial support.

Christian Education/Children's Ministry: Once the pandemic lockdown was lifted and schools reopened, BCM missionaries and volunteer teams were able to restart Bible clubs and school release classes. The first in-person children's and youth camps were held at the BCM camp and retreat center in the southwestern state of Karnataka with an attendance of about two hundred-fifty children and youth.

Evening study programs are also reaching more than one hundred and thirty children in five separate centers in Telangana State. The children spend two hours in the evening studying under the guidance of volunteer teachers. Each child is provided with notebooks, school bags, and other necessary supplies, along with nutritious snacks. They are also taught morals and ethics and are nurtured spiritually. The children participate in Christmas and Vacation Bible School programs, through which they hear the gospel and love of Jesus Christ.

Church Planters Training Program: An ongoing priority of BCM India remains to plant new churches, especially in rural villages where none currently exist, and to prepare spiritually mature church planters for this ministry. A recent Church-Planters Training Program (CTP) was conducted by BCM regional supervisor Rev. Ful Chand Mahato at the BCM church in Amda, Jharkhand state. Twenty new church planters graduated from this training program. Each will be assigned to establish churches in remote, unreached villages, where we pray many more people will come to know Jesus Christ.

As we look back at this first post-pandemic year, we thank and praise God for sustaining us as a BCM India team and for permitting us to share His love with many thousands of people across the nation of India. We express our thanks and gratitude to all our donors and prayer partners for their enduring support to our pastors and missionaries.



Image page 18: Dedication of BCM Church with John Peter cutting ribbon and BCM South African team

Page 19, top down: Baptismal service; Children's camp activity time; Youth camp; Church planter training



KEEPING THE FAITH IN WAR-TORN UKRAINE

By: Jeanette Windle

Just ten months ago in January 2022, BCM Ukraine field director Tima Anokhin received the baton of leadership from outgoing director Igor Kotenko (read [Still Speaking Truth in Ukraine](#)). Covid-19 restrictions finally easing, excitement was high to resume in-person summer camps, youth outreach, and care for war orphans, the handicapped, and their families.

None then could have anticipated that within a few weeks the Russian war machine would roll across Ukraine borders from the north, east, and south, placing all of Ukraine territory under attack. Eight months later, the conflict has internally displaced seven million people with another six million taking refuge in surrounding countries. Entire cities and towns across Ukraine are in rubble from Russian missiles, tens of thousands of civilians dead or injured, with mass executions, torture, and other Russian army atrocities exposed on a daily basis. This has included shelling of hospitals, schools, children's playgrounds, and other civilian institutions.

How has this affected BCM Ukraine? Throughout the conflict, BCM leadership has stepped forward into danger zones to help those in need, beginning with the Mariupol orphanage where Tima and his wife Natasha have served long-term (see [Good Samaritans Still Needed in Ukraine's War Zones](#)). An early target of the invasion, over ninety percent of Mariupol's infrastructure has been destroyed, including much damage to the orphanage. A herculean journey through roadblocks and bombardments in constantly breaking-down vehicles eventually saw the orphan children evacuated to Germany, where BCM ministry partners have provided sanctuary. Meanwhile, the

Mariupol orphanage director and wife remained behind, caring for almost a hundred refugees within the orphanage grounds.

In the Ukraine capital of Kiev and surrounding towns, constant bombardment has destroyed many buildings while the Russian siege that followed resulted in further loss through looting and execution of civilians. While many residents, including evangelical congregations and pastors, have fled the zone, BCM Ukraine leadership remains on site (names withheld for security reasons). Initially, some wives with underage children were evacuated to other BCM ministry centers outside Ukraine while the men remained to continue ministry and aid distribution. Most have now returned.

This has not been without risk. One BCM Ukraine missionary family lost their home when a Russian bomb hit their apartment. Another shares of one of his seminary students whose entire family was murdered by Russian soldiers. Numerous local pastors and believers were arrested, some tortured and killed, under the pretext that being evangelical meant that they were pro-west and pro-American, therefore complicit in resisting Russian occupation. Another BCM ministry partner who remained in Mariupol to help with refugees was murdered by soldiers. Four others were killed when a missile struck their ministry vehicle, among more than twenty thousand killed in that city alone.

The Kiev suburb of Bucha, site of BCM summer camps and home to several BCM missionaries, was occupied by Russian troops. When they were finally driven out, ninety-nine percent of the buildings were discovered looted and



Images left to right: BCM Italy with aid for Ukraine; Kids bunkering in church basement; War destruction; Bucha church service

damaged, electric and water infrastructures destroyed, hundreds of bodies left rotting in the streets and mass graves, and landmines planted on the camp property and other areas. Those choosing to remain in Kiev and surrounding towns live daily with the blare of air raid sirens and thunder of missile strikes.

But as in Mariupol, these setbacks haven't deterred BCM Ukraine leadership from continuing to serve God and their countrymen. For months, almost two hundred refugees found sanctuary, food, and water in the basement of the Bucha church. Meanwhile, BCM ministries across Europe and around the world organized aid drives. The BCM Italy field alone collected more than twenty tons of needed supplies and organized a convoy to ferry the aid to the Ukraine border. Donations from the BCM family in North America and other nations facilitated the purchase of a second-hand van, which is being used to distribute aid in numerous towns, including Bucha and Mariupol.

More convoys have followed. And not just aid from the outside. In one village, itself facing great need, Christians and non-Christians came together to collect more than two tons of supplies for the BCM van to distribute in war zones. Western Ukraine churches and BCM personnel are also ministering to internal-refugee families, including outdoor and camp activities for displaced children, handicapped, and war victims, as well as helping board up and repair bomb-damaged homes.

Meantime, in the midst of tragedy and violence, God has been working. The first BCM aid run into Bucha was celebrated with a worship service that had more than twelve hundred in attendance, a majority non-Christian. Every place the BCM Ukraine team takes aid, they also share the gospel. Many have accepted Christ, and many ask for Bibles along with their food aid. In fact, across Ukraine churches are seeing packed-out worship services as hardship and desperation turn many Ukrainians to God.

With no end to the conflict in sight, great challenges remain, especially as winter sets in. In many areas, there is still no electricity or running water. Firewood, warm clothing, and fuel for vehicles and generators are major necessities. Sickness is on the rise with much medical infrastructure destroyed and shortages of food and medicine. What is available is often too costly for purchase, especially with the high unemployment resulting from massive destruction and displacement. Dead bodies and lack of sanitation have led to cholera outbreaks. To add to the upheaval, the school year has started, but many Ukrainian schools have been destroyed or aren't able to open. Many displaced children are having to study in a shelter or online.

"We still have a war," expresses BCM field director Tima Anokhin. "Today more kids became orphans. More parents lost their kids. More people continue to die and disappear in occupied territories. We need your prayers. Please pray for those who are hearing God's Word and receiving food packets that God will touch their hearts. Pray that God will continue to protect us and provide for a hard, cold winter ahead. Pray for a return of peace in our country. Thank you again for your prayers and support. We lean on our heavenly Father as we continue to serve those in need the ministry."

To help the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, donations can be made at www.bcmintl.org/ukraine-crisis.



A PROMISE KEPT

By: Beth Wiegand with Jeanette Windle



On Tuesday morning, an excited text pops up on BCM missionary Beth Wiegand's cell-phone from Kaitlyn, asking excitedly who will be at Promise Club that Friday. As she does each month, Beth responds that she doesn't know for sure. But her answer doesn't discourage Kaitlyn, whose enthusiasm to see her friends is contagious.

Promise Club is an outreach program of Camp Promise, a BCM summer program for campers with special needs hosted since 1990 at Big Sky Bible Camp (BSBC) in Bigfork, Montana. The monthly club was first conceived during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic when in-person summer camps were cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions. The first club for adults with disabilities was hosted at BSBC the fall of 2020, bringing together special needs campers once a month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for outdoor activities, fellowship over lunch, and fun projects. This was eventually expanded to a second club for ages seven to nineteen. Two years later, Promise Clubs are also meeting in two other Montana cities, Great Falls and Missoula, as well as a virtual club held through Zoom.

As with all BCM Bible Clubs, each monthly meeting includes a Bible lesson and singing along with fun games and activities. But one different component of Promise Club is doing a project that allows clubbers to encourage others and give back to their community. Projects have included creating treat boxes for residents of assisted-living facilities, writing notes of encouragements on prepackaged snacks to be delivered to special needs classrooms, making birthday posters for Montana Children's Hospital patients, and helping prepare meals for the local warming shelter where the homeless and those without heat can take refuge during blizzards and freezing weather.



This summer, Camp Promise was able to return to a full roster of in-person camps. In fact, attendance was at an all-time high with 126 campers. These included over thirty brand-new campers traveling long distances from Pennsylvania, California, Colorado, Washington, and four other states along with local Montana campers. A return of in-person camps hasn't diminished enthusiasm for Promise Club. On the contrary, clubbers love getting together each month to see friends they made during summer camp. Those who live too far away to participate in an in-person Promise Club enjoy seeing their friends virtually through the online club.

Over the past two years, Beth Wiegand and her team of volunteers have traveled long distances to spearhead each monthly Promise Club. But the ultimate goal is to develop enough local leadership and volunteers for each existing club and even start new ones. Other innovative programs for this fall include Camp Promise's first weekend retreat for special needs campers aged twenty and older. Additional online clubs are also planned to disciple this summer's bumper crop of campers throughout the year.

But these are just a beginning. An exciting building campaign is currently underway at BSBC that will permit expanding Camp Promise attendance to around three hundred campers each summer. The campaign has been titled A Promise Kept because it is the fulfillment of a long-term commitment by BSBC/Camp Promise to provide a full ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant facility where special needs campers can learn from the Bible while experiencing new activities, making friends, and providing caregivers with a much-needed break. This includes a new dining hall and commercial kitchen to supplement the current facility, already more than sixty years old and of limited capacity, as well as an

ADA-accessible meeting hall and eight ADA-compliant duplex cabins.

Many generous donations from individuals, churches, and foundations committed to bringing God's love to the special needs community made it possible to break ground on Phase One of the project, the new dining/kitchen/meeting facility, in May 2022. This includes a grant from the Gianforte Family Foundation for \$50,000 and a grant from the Swenson Foundation for \$2,750,000, for a total of almost three million of what will be an eight-million-dollar project by the time all phases are complete.

Once the main building and four of the eight ADA compliant cabins are complete, Camp Promise will be able to run all summer in conjunction with BSBC's other camping programs. Also planned throughout the year are family retreats, conferences for the disability community, respite programs so family caregivers can recharge, and other fun, wholesome opportunities like Promise Club for those with disabilities to engage in Christian community.

Beth Wiegand has served as Camp Promise director since 2021 and as a volunteer since 2004. She shares, "This is an exciting time to be on the cusp of so much potential ministry to the disability community. Since COVID, our world has changed significantly. But the need for the gospel stays the same, and we are privileged to be a place where people with disabilities want to come to fellowship and learn more about Christ and His love for them."

To follow the progress of this project or donate toward remaining phases, check out latest updates and needs at www.bigskypromisekept.org.

Images page 22, top down: Camp Promise archery; Game time; Camp friends
Page 23: Camp Promise thanks Swenson Foundation



The above title may seem far too long and is certainly a mouthful to say. So what does it mean? Simply put, it describes a children's outreach that combines online and in-person elements with the components of Vacation Bible School and Backyard Bible Clubs. The online portion includes singing, puppet shows, and Bible teaching. The in-person portion includes crafts, games, snacks, handbook exercises, and small group discussion. As long as a computer and stable internet are available, participating groups can meet either at church or in a home. Put it all together, and you have Vacation Bible Club.

The idea originated from a five-day winter camp BCM missionaries in Asia were planning early this year for children who live in different cities. Their goal was to reach as many children as possible with their limited resources. After much prayer and discussion among BCM children's ministry leadership, it was decided that an online format would permit using already existing overseas faculty and programming such as puppet shows and Bible lessons while in-person activities such as games and crafts could be carried out locally.

So was born the Vacation Bible Club. The online team included BCM international children's ministry coordinator Sophia Wong and other volunteers from a Chinese church in the United States, who livestreamed songs, drama, and Bible teaching in Mandarin. For the in-person teams, each group of children had at least two adult Sunday school teachers or church volunteers coordinated by regional BCM missionaries. Written and craft materials were sent out to each group in advance.

No one really knew what to expect or whether churches would favor this format. But the results turned out to be very encouraging. About one hundred and fifty children meeting in nineteen separate groups in ten cities participated. Meeting places included churches, homes, schools, and rented facilities. By the end of the week, twenty-two children had accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

So much positive feedback was received from participants that BCM Asia held a similar Vacation Bible Club in the summer. This time, over four hundred children in thirty-six groups from thirty cities participated. Forty-six children committed their lives to Jesus.

It became clear this format was an effective means of reaching more children with the gospel of Jesus Christ in this post-pandemic era. With the help of Shantal Odicio and Lisa Biegert the program was tested out in the United States July 2022. The Bible teaching was centered around the life of Joseph with the theme of "Know God, No Fear." Bible lessons taught by Lisa Biegert (BCM USA) and puppet dramas created by Shantal Odicio (BCM Peru) were prerecorded. Shantal emceed live sessions and led interactive singing while Lisa introduced her teaching videos and provided follow-up Q&A sessions. Sophia coordinated with churches and volunteers, designed handbooks, games, and scheduling, and provided tech support for online sessions.

A total of fifty children from four churches (Delaware, Indiana, Maryland) and a few families at home (Pennsylvania, Texas, and Peru) joined the VBC. While the number was less than hoped, it was a good start. Even better, twelve children placed their faith in Jesus.

Ultimately, this combination format has demonstrated many advantages. A major advantage is being able to showcase BCM's high-quality

ONLINE + IN-PERSON + VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL + BACKYARD BIBLE CLUBS= VACATION BIBLE CLUB

By: Sophia Wong
International Coordinator, BCM Children's Ministries

curriculum and solid Bible teaching to churches who may not yet know BCM. In the evaluation following this summer's VBC, all churches commented on the excellence with which BCM missionaries carried out the online elements of Bible teaching, puppet shows, and music.

Another advantage is the opportunity for children to interact with children from other cities, states, and even countries. On the first day, excitement filled the screen when different groups from Pennsylvania and Delaware all the way to Texas and Peru were greeted and introduced to each other. On the final day, each group happily shared their own presentation of songs, skit, or Bible recitation with the entire club.

This format also gives each group flexibility on when to start and the length of in-person activities. One group chose to start their activities before the scheduled online sessions. Another group extended their in-person segment to ninety minutes instead of the suggested one hour. As long as each group logs in for the online segment, they have a lot of leeway to design the rest of the program according to what best meets their needs.

With all the positive feedback received on the Vacation Bible Club program, the BCM children's ministry team is planning another VBC for next summer with the goal of making it available to more people. Our aspiration is to involve BCM missionaries around the world in making this a truly "BCM International" Vacation Bible Club that will permit participating children to meet missionaries from other countries and learn about God's work in each country.

**If interested in participating or in hosting a VBC
in your church or home, contact Sophia Wong at
swong@bcmintl.org.**

Images page 24: VBC group USA Chinese church
Page 25: VCB livestream session with Lisa Biegert;
In-person crafts





NEW LIFE FOR TINY STEPS

By: BCM Netherlands Team



The four-volume Bible curriculum *Tiny Steps of Faith* was created for preschoolers ages four to five by BCM missionary Lois Haas in 1956. The material is characterized by a single easy-to-understand biblical truth per lesson combined with a practical application for that age group. Over the decades, the material has been translated into numerous languages, blessing countless thousands of small children in many countries. Its excellent Bible teaching remains as relevant today as it was in 1956.

Same Message, New Structure

That said, almost seventy years since *Tiny Steps*' original release, its graphic design, accessibility, and supporting tools such as visuals and crafts have urgently needed a twenty-first century update. With previous experience in translating and revising BCM's *Footsteps of Faith* curriculum for elementary-age children, the BCM Netherlands team accepted the challenge and has been pushing forward on the revision since autumn 2020.

A core focus has been the development of new supporting tools such as puppet videos to accompany Bible lessons, games, and crafts. Some additional lessons have also been created to bring each volume to a total of sixteen lessons with three to four overall themes per volume. Along with writing and editing new lessons, various BCM Netherlands volunteers have also created a theme song for each volume and Bible memory verses put to music to help preschoolers remember God's truth more easily.

The curriculum also includes numerous teaching tips and other aids to help teachers effectively convey God's Word to such a young audience. Brightly-colored visuals, easy-to-use teaching material, and a wide choice of crafts and other activities make *Tiny Steps* uniquely attractive for preschoolers.

Thanks to modern technology and communication, it has been possible to make this revision a truly international team effort. Renowned Dutch illustrator Michel de Boer, known globally



for illustrating children's picture books like the Old Woody series and Uncle Walt's Christmas Box (Kregel Publications), has produced beautiful new graphics for each volume. Graphic designer Dorine Zandberg, from a church with close ties to BCM Netherland's camp De Herikon, has given the curriculum a modern-day layout. Puppet videos were produced by Jonatan and Shantal Odicio of BCM Peru while American BCM staff have been working on the English text simultaneously with the Dutch revision. Funds for the project have been largely raised through BCM International.

All materials have been made available online. This allows users to download a wide range of resources, including lesson books, illustrative storyboards, pictograms, crafts, games, coloring pages, and other activities for each lesson. Theme songs and memory verses put to music are available as MP3 files while puppet videos are accessible as MP4 files. Sheet music and Bible memory cards can also be printed.

Where Do We Stand?

As of autumn 2022, the first two of the four volumes are available both digitally and in print form for the Dutch-speaking public along with accompanying materials. Volumes three and four are scheduled for completion by mid-2023. The goal is to have the English translation complete as soon as possible after release of the Dutch publication. From English, the new revision can be translated into other languages. Requests have already been made for German and Spanish versions.

One great advantage of making this curriculum available digitally is that adjustments can be easily made to the material and new additions made immediately available to all users. Using editable graphics for visuals and activities permits easy translation into any language. While designed primarily for ages 3-6, the materials can also be used in primary schools, primary-age Sunday school programs, and as a devotional curriculum for Christian families.

More information, project updates, and a downloadable pilot lesson can be found at: <https://www.tiny-steps.org>.

Images top down: Tiny Steps music production; Renowned Dutch artist, Michel de Boer, with Tiny Steps illustration; Jonatan and Shantal Odicio with puppets



Get Involved!



PRAY

Consider praying for all the BCM International ministries, not just the few featured here! If you decide to make this commitment, let us know so we can send you regular updates from around the world.



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Our missionaries and ministries are supported through people like you. Please consider giving towards the ministries of BCM International. You can give online at www.BCMINTL.org. Just click [Donate Now](#) from the menu.



GO

Maybe God has laid it on your heart to do more. Contact us for more information or about the possibility of joining our team! There is much left to be done. Contact us at reachndevlop@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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