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4 CORNERS

MAGAZINE OF UFM WORLDWIDE | SPRING 2017

WEST PAPUA

Reflecting on a wonderful
work of God



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HAVE YOU FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE LORD JESUS?

Have you ever met a man or woman who has clearly been transformed by knowing Jesus? I had the privilege of sitting between two such women recently in church on a Sunday morning. On my right was a lady in her 20s from a closed Muslim country. As she took communion, she wept silently with a heart full of thanksgiving at what Christ had done for her. On my left

was a lady from China who told me with a huge smile that she had been a Christian for half her life. Talking with these women made me reflect on how God used Christian women to reach them and fill them with the hope of glory. Jinjing¹ became a Christian through the witness of an American English language teacher 22 years ago. Dori is meeting with a British lady as she reads the New Testament in

her own language for the very first time. To me it seemed as if they both had fallen in love with the Lord Jesus.

UFM has about 90 women serving as missionaries. They are involved in a huge variety of ministries, student ministry, medical ministry, children's outreach, mercy ministries, IT ministry², and both established and pioneering church work. Some do work that men could also do, but some are involved and committed to ministry that can only be undertaken appropriately by women. A woman in an Asian culture needs a Christian woman, moving in areas that are restricted to men and relating in a culturally sensitive way, to come alongside her to build a friendship and share the gospel. A female Muslim background believer needs to be helped to apply God's Word by another Christian woman, as together they count the cost of following Christ. A woman who has suffered personal loss in Uganda needs a Christian woman to sit with her and listen to her express her grief, showing her the comfort and love of the Lord Jesus. A mother struggling to bring up her children in a village in the Andes of Peru, benefits greatly from an older Christian woman studying the Bible with her, praying and directing her to God's Word for the answers that she needs. Debs Prisk who serves with UFM in Lagny Church just outside Paris said in a recent interview "The greatest joy in my work is seeing women and young people discover truths in the Bible for the first time: whether it is a teenage girl who has never previously understood

the Gospel, or an older lady who is learning for the first time how the Old Testament points to Jesus"³.

Of UFM women in mission, 60 are married and serve alongside their husbands, 30 are single. They have each made sacrifices to serve in mission in line with Romans 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship". Such sacrifices involve leaving their extended family, home churches, friends and culture. They each show tremendous resilience and strength as they seek to honour the Lord and walk with him day by day. They want to be faithful in ministry and look to the Lord to bring fruit. They have been gifted and equipped and want to use their gifts in serving the Lord. When the going is tough they need help to, "Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always". (Psalm 105:4)

Married and single women can experience different challenges in missionary service. When I asked a woman missionary recently about her singleness, she replied, "Honestly it's a struggle, but I live in a culture where it is unusual for a woman to be happy and single and, so, with God's help I try to show that this is possible." A married woman with children expressed, "There are not enough hours in the day! Please pray for us/me as we try to work out how to create more time". She is being pulled in lots of different directions and needs the Lord's help to discern his priorities.

Please pray that God will meet the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of our women missionaries.

As I write, I am reflecting on the life of Dr. Helen Roseveare, WEC missionary to the Congo, who went to be with the Lord on 7 December 2016 at the age of 91. Her suffering and service for the Lord, and her honesty of her struggles in ministry, have inspired Christian women to be willing to serve the Lord through trials. In an interview in 2010 she challenged those listening with the question, "Have you fallen in love with the Lord Jesus, not just as Saviour and friend, but as Lord and Master? Is He the all in all to you?"⁴

Such a question is a challenge to us all; if the answer is "Yes" there will be consequences in the way we live and the choices we make. Please pray that the Lord will specifically call more women into mission – women whose calling is recognized by their sending church; women who are able to adapt to a different culture; learn a language; love people; keep their eyes fixed on Jesus and share the Gospel with others so that many, many more people come into God's



kingdom and "fall in love with the Lord Jesus."

**ELINOR
MAGOWAN**

1. Names have been changed

2. <http://100fold.it>

3. <https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/melissakruger/2016/02/02/womens-ministry-around-the-world-interview-with-deborah-prisk/>

4. www.youtube.com/watch?v=agnjz4RRn6M&t=14s

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORK AMONG THE HUPLA PEOPLE

God's work amongst the Hupla people of West Papua is part of his plan to speak into every nation, tribe and language. In December 2014 the Hupla Church celebrated as they received the whole Bible in their own language. This was the third completed Bible out of the 276 languages spoken in Papua. In May 2016, the Papuan Churches of the interior celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Gospel coming to them. God has done great things in Papua and, in it all, his power and his Word have been central.

The Gospel comes to the Hupla at Soba

From 1954 there were phenomenal changes in the Baliem Valley, now dominated by the growing interior city of Wamena. Dr Myron and Margery Bromley, missionaries

with the CMA, began opening airstrips. They walked to villages, surveyed languages and presented the Gospel message for the very first time to warring and animistic groups. Myron analysed language, grammar and culture, among all the groups in the area. People began believing the Gospel message, influenced by the conversion of a very influential chief. Myron entered the Wet valley next to the Kayo valley where Soba is situated. The Hupla, who lived in the Soba area, were traditional enemies of the Wet people. But in May 1966 two believers from Tangma area, Petrus Hesegeg and Supen Wetipo, bravely walked into the Kai Valley and, amazingly, received a friendly welcome from two men, Miniet Siep and Pindot Itlai. Most Huplas look back to this event with great emotion and pride.

They told Miniet and Pindot that God created the world. They talked about 'eternal life' and repeated the well-known mythical story, related from generation to generation, about the bird and the snake who had a race, and the bird won. If the snake had won eternal life would have been secured, because the snake could change its skin, but because the bird lost, death came. Eternal life was gone and the bird was covered in the mud of mourning. Miniet and Pindot were listening! Then Petrus, who is still alive today, taught them John 3:16 and God spoke through his Word.

When news of this reached Ninia, Stan Dale, with some Yalis, walked over into the Soba Valley and taught the people; again God spoke to the people. The Hupla Church began with these small steps. Small groups met regularly to learn Bible verses and grapple with the changes coming, burning fetishes and other paraphernalia related to their animistic beliefs.

The Word of God takes root despite opposition and setbacks

Young Yali believers, Dongla, Foliek, Aralek and Erariek, were sent from Ninia to Soba to teach God's Word and prepare for building an airstrip. The Soba airstrip opened in March 1969 and



greatly facilitated Word ministry, education and medical services. These ministries showed God's care and love to the people. The murder of Stan Dale and Phil Masters in 1968 was a major crisis which slowed the developing work in Soba. In 1972 Graham and Dr Elizabeth Cousens came to Soba to set up medical work and teach God's Word. Seeing the greatness of the task they advertised for help. Following Indonesian language study, I arrived in Soba early in 1979 to work alongside the Cousens in medical and church development ministries. All agreed that the key to progress in Soba was to have the Word of God in the Hupla language. I had begun learning Hupla and was invited to join the translation team. This was a huge challenge for me but in my sense of inadequacy, God provided. I was humbled and carried along by the people and their vision.

When the Cousens left in 1980, Mike and Vi Webb arrived. Mike taught the growing group of church leaders and Vi made literacy books. I did medical work, taught church leaders' wives and worked with the translation team. This was a great time; language learning, beginning translation, reading in Hupla, and teaching the deep truths of the Word. There was opposition and power encounters with big chiefs who felt their control slipping.



What have I observed, experienced and learned?

I lived in Soba from 1979 to 1997 and saw God powerfully working through his Word of God. I learned so much more from the Hupla people than I ever taught them. They believe God's Word is powerful, take God at his Word and practice it. God's Word has transformed them, although the process still continues.

Their faith has challenged me so often. They became family and mentors to me. Their faith is so sincere and genuine it always pushed me to examine my own and so to grow.

When they pointed out things in my life and attitude I had to ask did I really live according to God's Word? I also had input into their lives as new truths struck them as we studied God's Word together. Over the years the Huplas themselves trained many of their own people in their Bible School and some from other neighbouring tribes as well.

From 1997 to 2016 I lived in an urban context in Wamena and experienced challenges created by the rapid changes being experienced by the Huplas, and other emerging

tribes, in government, the AIDS epidemic, education, inter-tribal tensions, family breakdown, money, aspirations for freedom and being in charge of their own place. They have been both losing much and gaining much.

The process of God building and equipping these young churches continues. All the answers, and the power they need, are found in the Word of God. Pray the Huplas will really dig down into the Word in their own changing contexts and find answers. There is a new generation of leaders, traditional villages are emptying and many are living in the developing towns; Wamena, Dekai, and Eleliem. Young people are preparing for ministry; some are sons and daughters of the first believers; this is encouraging. One Hupla family has volunteered to be missionaries with the GIDI Church's missionary sending agency and are being trained through the Otto Kobak Mission Centre. I thank God for the great privilege of walking alongside my Hupla brothers and sisters for the past 36 years.

SUE TRENIER

DISCIPLING AND TRAINING FUTURE CHURCH LEADERS IN GREECE

What need does Greece have for cross-cultural Gospel workers? It was, after all, in Greece that the Gospel first came to Europe. The New Testament was originally written in Greek. Over 90% of the population call themselves Greek Orthodox Christians, and, at Easter, even buses proclaim “Christ is risen!” instead of displaying their final destinations.

However, for many there is a disconnect between the public Greek Orthodoxy of churches and icons and the repentance and faith necessary in a personal relationship with the Lord. There are believers within the Greek Orthodox Church, but the average Greek hasn’t yet encountered Jesus in Scripture and is apathetic

about the Gospel. This is especially true amongst the younger generations.

We live in Volos, Greece’s sixth city, serving students here and in nearby Larissa (the fifth city). Almost 400,000 people live in these two cities, where there are just three evangelical churches, two pastors and at most 100 evangelicals. There is a huge need for cross-cultural Gospel workers to get alongside these churches, and to help local Christians both share the gospel and be salt and light. We are doing just that, focusing mainly on university students, a strategic demographic containing Greece’s future pastors, church planters and evangelists, and the future influencers of society.

We work with ΣΧΕΦ (IFES Greece) in what is a pioneering location, supporting a small Christian student group in Volos, of just 10 students, and starting a new group in Larissa. We know a few students here who are actively seeking to live and speak for Jesus on their campuses, but most keep their heads down at university. It is socially costly to be known as an Evangelical in Greece.

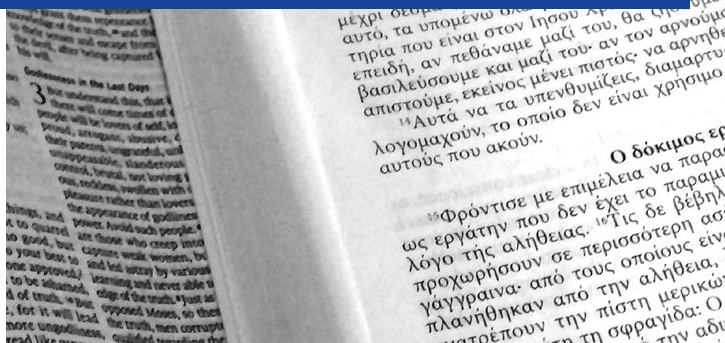
We often feel overwhelmed by the scale of the task! We regularly fall into the trap of thinking that, if only our Greek was better or we were more outgoing, we would see fruit quicker. Yet, time and again, we are reminded that the power for change is in God’s Word, wielded by the Spirit, shared by God’s people.



It is God's Word that makes the not-yet-believer "wise for salvation" and the believer "competent for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:15-16). So, with individuals and in groups, with believers and not-yet-believers, we seek to read the Bible and help believers to do likewise with classmates. Excitingly, in Volos three not-yet-believers attend group Bible studies. Two of them also read the Bible with us, and the third with a believing friend.

It is God's work - not ours - to change hearts. Like Paul in 1 Corinthians 2, we cannot do ministry with "lofty speech or wisdom" and we, too, often feel weak. Our Greek is improving, but we speak like children! However, as Paul explains, it is the Holy Spirit who ultimately imparts and interprets God's truth to Greek students. When we feel out of our depth, this is a great encouragement to pray and persevere!

This ministry is by God's people, not just us. Part of being in ministry is equipping those in the church to do that ministry. (Ephesians 4:11ff) Like Priscilla and Aquila, we do this by taking under our wings some Apolloses (gifted young Christian students) with whom we study the Bible and mentor as Bible teachers, evangelists and leaders. Our prayer is that they will become disciples who go and do this with others, continually making other disciples long after we leave. It is a joy to see them already starting to do this.



Our main highlight so far was the evangelistic event that the Volos students recently organised. It was the first ever public proclamation evangelism event held by students in Volos. We were ill in the run up, so weren't able to help much. The students did it all: organising, inviting, and sharing the Gospel. An Athenian student (whom UFMers Jonathan & Dawn Clark are discipling and training) gave the evangelistic talk. This is what our ministry here is all about: helping believing students to reach the thousands of not-yet-believing students they study and live alongside.

*Time and again,
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We do that confidently, knowing that the power for change is in God's Word, wielded by the Spirit, shared by God's people.

TIM AND NICKY SANDELL

Tim and Nicky Sandell are serving with UFM, supporting the work of ΣΧΕΦ (IFES Greece) in Volos and Larissa, Greece. They moved to Greece in early 2014, and are partners of All Souls Langham Place, Christ Church Cambridge and Christ Church Central, Sheffield.

THE £999 BOOK

I have on my desk a book that is valued at £999 and I think that it might just prove to be a priceless tool in helping Muslims follow Jesus. Let me explain. I live in a British town that is very diverse with people from almost every country of the world. This includes about 70,000 Muslims. There are sometimes tensions but, in general, people get along. This seems to be because, in the main, people of different races and religions tend to stick together and only mix when strictly necessary.

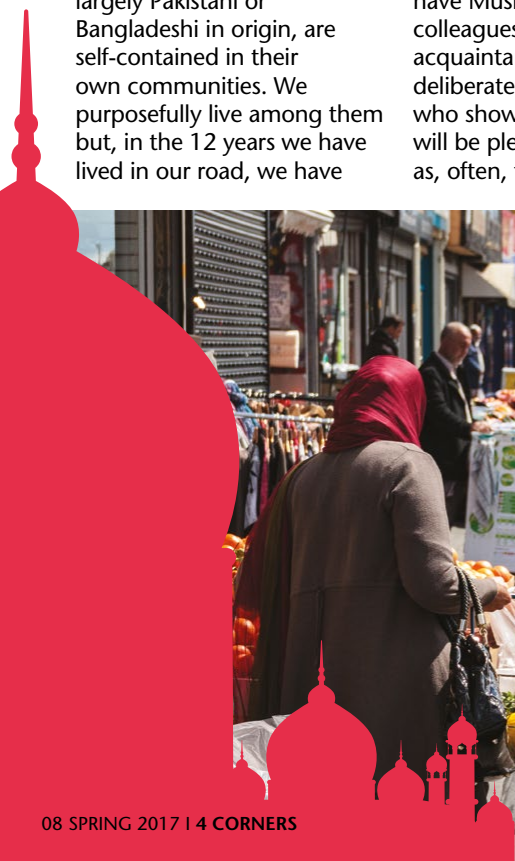
Our Muslim neighbours, largely Pakistani or Bangladeshi in origin, are self-contained in their own communities. We purposefully live among them but, in the 12 years we have lived in our road, we have

seen the numbers of non-Muslims drop significantly. The neighbours need the Gospel, but they don't know that. They think that they have the greatest and final religion and that Christianity, at best, is corrupted. How then can we reach them with the wonderful good news of Jesus?

There are lots of answers to that question. Most revolve around just one word "friendship." It takes time and patience to build real friendships but it can all start with a simple greeting or act of kindness. If you have Muslim neighbours, colleagues or passing acquaintances make a deliberate effort to be the one who shows kindness. They will be pleasantly surprised as, often, they experience

indifference or even hostility. Without much effort on your part it will be easy to explain that you follow Jesus, but don't be surprised if they try to tell you how they love Jesus too. They will probably explain that you have got it all wrong but that can be the start of a friendly conversation.

This has been the primary pattern of Christian/Muslim engagement in the UK for decades. Variations include Christians who aggressively argue that Muslims are wrong but this approach rarely wins any friends. I don't know anyone who was saved because they were brow beaten by an argumentative Christian. At the opposite extreme are kindly Christians who do good works for Muslims but never actually get around to explaining the



Gospel. That approach short changes Muslims who need help but who also need to know the real Jesus.

Since the aggressive tactic and the kindly yet Gospel-avoiding tactic don't work, what about the friendly but directly-sharing the Gospel approach? I personally believe that it is a more biblical method, but does it work? In some cases it does. Where people are seriously seeking, perhaps because they are disillusioned by events in the Islamic world (for example, the oppressive results of the 1979 Iranian Revolution or the violence in Syria) then friendly and bold Christians showing the truth in love by word and practical action can be effective. But what about the people of my town? Most are not seriously seeking and, while happy to discuss with Christians, are rarely listening to what we say.

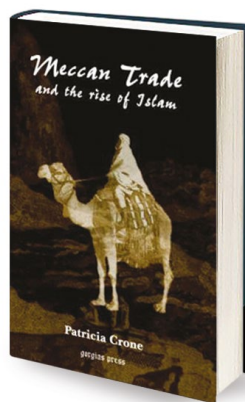
How then can we help these people to be real seekers of truth? Back to the book. I tried to buy a second-hand copy on-line and £999 was the cheapest price I found. The copy I have is borrowed from a library.* It was published in 1987 by Patricia Crone and it is called *Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam*. It isn't a Christian book and perhaps the title doesn't set your pulse racing. However, it raises some interesting questions about Muhammad and the early history of Islam. The questions are not new but, bringing them together, Crone, and others, have ignited fresh interest in the subject of Islamic origins.

For example, Crone points out that in the Qur'an (37:133-138) there is a strong implication that Mecca is close to the Dead Sea, not 800 miles away in modern Saudi Arabia. There is much more like this from Crone that casts doubt on the traditional ideas of Mecca and Mecca is, of course, a vital ingredient of Islamic practice. She and many others since have continued to research early Islamic history and, increasingly, it seems that what we see as Islam today is less from Muhammad and more the work of later scholars. The issue for us is how can we use all this research material now available to us?

The temptation is to use it to argue back with the many Muslims who like to cast doubt on our beliefs about Jesus, the Trinity and the Bible. But this will only widen divisions. As we have seen people are not usually won to Christ because we argue with them. Besides, if we present the research crassly most Muslims will simply refuse to believe it. There is research that suggests confronting people directly with truths that challenge their beliefs can simply reinforce their false belief. Also, there is evidence that some Muslims who do accept that there are problems with their history reject everything and become atheists.

However, if we share wisely and sensitively with

people with whom we have already built friendships, what then may happen? By God's grace we may be able to help them to strip away all the later dubious traditions that have been added to their religion and become not atheists or blind followers of falsehood but real seekers. What will be left of Islam? Not a lot, but there will still be monotheism and a belief in prophets including Abraham and Jesus. Can we then help them to see a better path than following a dead man about whom very little is reliably known? We should try to show them the true message of Abraham and the prophets; there is someone who is the promised God-given Saviour, fully God and fully man and following him is the way to eternal life.



*Those wanting to read the book can now purchase it from Amazon: Kindle version £7.36, Hardback £69.56

If any readers have comments about this article, you can contact the writer via the Swindon office.

A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY



Four years pass by so quickly, and yet so much seems to have been squeezed into my time in **Sierra Leone** so far. There have been painful experiences and discouragements, but there have been many more encouragements and good memories made along the way. I have been upheld by an amazing team of supporters - people who pray, give sacrificially, and send messages of encouragement. Supporters have been integral to the work, and I wouldn't be able to serve in Sierra Leone without their partnership in the Gospel. God's faithfulness has been unfailing. I am so thankful to be God's child, and to have him guiding my footsteps, and equipping me for all he asks me to do.

The last few months have seen change in the team: Phil Schlener, a 'retired' man from America joined us in

August as a short-term missionary; Lamin and I got married in November; and Pastor Paul and Theresa were married in December. When I first started working alongside Lamin in 2013, I could not have imagined that I would now be his wife. I was very content serving God as a single person, but then God has every right to bring us down a path different to what we would plan for ourselves. I am so thankful God has blessed me with a husband who is rich in understanding, patience, and compassion, and someone who is so

passionate about Jesus. We had already been serving God together within the team, and our regular ministries have continued since our marriage, but being married has also provided additional opportunities for ministry. We are both committed to having a missional marriage - a marriage that points others to Christ through the love we have for God, each other, and others. Humanly speaking this is impossible, but with God at the centre, we know that he can use our relationship to be an example to others, and God will help us to have a home which is a focal point for ministry. We really enjoy opening our home to people from lots of different backgrounds.

Sierra Leone was declared 'Ebola-free' in November 2015. The resilient Sierra

Leonean people have survived another trauma – damaged of course, but keen to move forward. The country is still in recovery mode, but the same challenges in health, education, economic and political systems still exist. Corruption is, sadly, still the order of the day, and the spiritual undercurrent of animistic practices and evil secret societies continues to keep people bound.

Sierra Leone remains a place full of opportunities for ministry. At the heart of all we do as a team, is the aim of proclaiming the Gospel to unbelievers, and strengthening the national Church. This happens through various ministries: children's Bible clubs and evangelistic outreaches; practical help – meeting physical needs; witnessing to Muslim friends and neighbours; being part of a local church and assisting where needed; supporting students; pastoral care visits; 1-1 and group discipleship; supporting pastors and evangelists; Bible teaching at the part-time Tyrannus Bible School; children's ministry training; and being salt and light in everyday life.

Alongside opportunities, there are also challenges. There are 30 "people groups" in Sierra Leone, and 14 of those people groups (46.7% of the population) are "Unreached." There is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to engage this people group in evangelism and church planting. Often, these groups live in remote, inaccessible areas, and there



are many barriers to being able to reach these people. Sadly "the Church, the structure given by God to reach out to the lost, is often characterised by spiritual darkness, false teaching, and a fascination with worldly and material prosperity rather than the Gospel. There is always the challenge of not allowing myself to get too busy doing things "for" God, that my relationship "with" God is then neglected.

As Lamin and I continue to go through processes of transition, evaluation of ministries, and seek God about possible future opportunities, please pray that Isaiah 30:21 would be our reality: "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left." We want to be vessels that are clean, empty of self, and available to God.

JAYNE SMYTH DUMBUYA

We are both committed to having a missional marriage – a marriage that points others to Christ through the love we have for God, each other, and others.



INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM

William Brown has been head of Personnel since 2012. He engages with those applying to serve with UFM and their churches and has visited many of our missionaries. In this interview he highlights key challenges and opportunities in missionary service today.

What kind of people is the Lord calling into cross-cultural missionary service today?

Mission candidates come in all shapes and sizes! From technical geeks to Bible teachers! Since I started my role in 'Personnel' in 2012 it has been thrilling to see God calling people from different backgrounds and with different skills. Some have left well-paid jobs and good career prospects. Others have already gained invaluable ministry experience here in the UK before joining UFM. It has been a privilege to partner with sending churches in preparing people to take the Gospel to the nations!

What changes are there in cross-cultural missionary service since you and Rosalind served in Ivory Coast?

One of the greatest changes is communication. When we first served in Ivory Coast we didn't have a phone or email and depended mainly on 'snail mail'! We didn't have social media and the opportunity of sending quick prayer updates without going out to make a phone call. Looking back, one advantage was that we did not have the distractions of constant news feeds from home, or any pressure to send frequent updates on our daily lives. This helped

us to focus on integrating into the culture and cultivating friendships where we were.

Today urgent prayer requests can be communicated almost instantly around the world and it is easier to keep in touch with family and friends. Sending churches now often have their missionary share live from their country of service via Skype or Facetime. This is undoubtedly a blessing.

Travel was probably more expensive than it is now, so it was not so easy to plan a short trip home. When we had home assignments, they lasted a full year, meaning big educational changes for the children and a lot of adjustment at each end.

Many of our missionaries now find that it is less disruptive for their families and ministries to return home for shorter and more frequent home assignments. This means that they are able to connect with their sending church and supporters more regularly.

What are the biggest challenges facing our missionaries today?

I think one of the biggest challenges is personal security with the increase of terrorism in some of the countries where we have people working. We have missionaries working in areas that regularly feature on the news due to terrorist attacks. This raises many questions: When is it right to take risks for the sake of the gospel? Where is the

line to be drawn between risk and recklessness? There are no easy answers and these are issues that some of our folk are currently grappling with.

Then in terms of ministry, there are challenges. Some are working through what it means to contextualise the Gospel in their local setting but without compromising the message. Finding the balance can be difficult! Passing on the baton and 'letting go' of ministry is another challenge. There is always a danger of holding on to the reins too long instead of seeking to equip and empower national Christians.

There are also financial challenges. This has been keenly felt recently by those working in the Euro zone. The weakening of Sterling against the Euro has had a significant impact on their support. It is always humbling to witness folk persevering and trusting God to provide for their needs.

What has encouraged you most as you have visited our missionaries?

Seeing whole families involved in ministry is so encouraging. Taking children into a cross-cultural situation is not a decision that parents take lightly. There is a cost involved and yet it is wonderful to see how God cares for and uses our children in His great plan. The perseverance shown by our single workers, too, is both inspiring and challenging.

Many have proved God's sustaining grace in hard places, and have made deep and lasting friendships in their local contexts.

What are the most important things we can pray for our missionaries?

It is important to pray for physical health. Many of our folk work long hours in demanding conditions which can have an impact on health. I could mention several other subjects for prayer but the most important one for any of us involved in ministry is maintaining a healthy devotional life in order to keep focused on Jesus! Staying fresh spiritually can only be maintained in spending time in God's Word and prayer. There is always the danger of being so busy in ministry that we neglect our own walk with the Lord. When this

happens we leave ourselves open to the schemes of the enemy.

What are your hopes for the future ministries of UFM missionaries?

UFM's vision has always been to take the Gospel to those who have the least opportunity of hearing it. It is so encouraging to see the advance of the Gospel even in recent years. But the job is not yet done! My hope for future ministries of UFM missionaries would be that by God's grace we would remain focused on the task of reaching each generation with the Gospel, continuing to grasp the openings and opportunities that God gives us. Paul put it more succinctly when he said "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some." (1 Cor. 9:22)

LOCAL CHURCH GLOBAL MISSION CONFERENCE

UFM is delighted to once again support the **Local Church Global Mission Conference**, on Saturday 25 Feb 2017 at Oak Hill College, London. The conference exists to encourage churches to be active in identifying, training, sending and supporting workers for cross-cultural mission. We encourage you to join other church leaders, members and mission practitioners and to use this day conference to give thought and prayer to your church's role in taking the Gospel to the nations. Steve Timmis of Acts 29 will give the Bible ministry and there will be a choice of practical seminars.

For further details and to book online, visit www.localchurchglobalmission.org
Michael Prest



BEING DIFFERENT IN A LAND OF CHANGE

What springs to mind when you hear of a motor biker travelling around South India, holding training workshops on environmental construction techniques focusing on earth buildings?

As a means of sharing the gospel in a country that is increasingly clamping down on open evangelism, the need to be creative is important. Sprawling cities dot the Indian landscape, these hubs are melting pots of India's diverse cultures creating ever-changing challenges, but also immense opportunities for the local church as people migrate to the wealth and bright lights that seem to offer hope out of their despair.

With a population of 1.2 billion and the world's second most populated city, with 25 million people, understandably the focus of the church is predominately in the cities. However, outside the cities are India's rural impoverished, home to most of the unreached people groups where a diverse, persevering, challenging and more



resource-sapping form of evangelism is required. Hinduism is India's dominant religion, and is practised by 78% of the population worshipping a virtually infinite number of Hindu deities. Islam is on the rise with approximately 180 million adherents, making it one of the world's largest Muslim populations.



Reports from India are of masses turning to Christ, many drawn by offerings of abundant blessings by prosperity tele-evangelists. Thousands of new churches are being planted, yet the reality is that only about 2.3% identify themselves as Christian and of which 1% are evangelicals. This Christian concentration is in South and North East India, but is awash with destructive heresies such as prosperity gospel, other false teachings, and widespread corruption.

The anti-Christian stance of the current coalition government renders the work of indigenous missionaries more vital as foreign missionaries are viewed with increasing suspicion. Public preaching,

that was once common place, is less tolerated in the current hostile climate. Friendship evangelism is becoming more important as Hindu nationalists attack open-air events. Indigenous missionaries with their intimate knowledge of local culture are best positioned for sharing personal faith in areas directly affected by opposition and attacks.

It is in this climate that I reach out by means of the topical environmental concerns that many share. Look for the door and knock, when it's opened it gives you the opportunity to share a much more urgent and important message of hope. Many middle-class Indians see a bleak environmental future for themselves and their children, and are looking for answers. Many poorer Indians are struggling to build homes without becoming so in debt that they lose hope. The opportunities are vast as many come to the workshops, learning new techniques in earth construction, and exploring appropriate environmental solutions to some of their problems during the day. The evenings are times for personal sharing and getting to know each other. Trust and respect is built up, opportunities to share about a personal faith in a personal God who cares for the individual are common place with many of these people, who otherwise would never take the time to enquire about Christian things.

It is increasingly hard to get into India other than with the restrictions placed upon a tourist visa. There are creative ways through teaching and training that one can get longer visas and the government seems to be open if you are offering something that benefits the people.

Another aspect of my ministry is reaching out to bikers. Using my love for motorbikes and adventure, I have made many friends globally while attending events in England, Ireland, India and maintaining contact across social media. This year I was asked to speak at India Bike Week where over 15000 bikers congregated for this annual festival in Goa. God used

that whole trip through a breakdown enroute as a means of reaching some; bikers, dealers, business owners and mechanics who may otherwise never listen to the message of hope. A simple breakdown that could make me become frustrated turned into an amazing journey of sharing my faith. "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15)

We are to be faithful to that end. It is not us but the Holy Spirit who convicts and converts. We need to be willing and prepared. The doors of opportunity are not closing; but they are changing.



Look for the door and knock, when it's opened it gives you the opportunity to share a much more urgent and important message of hope.





ONLINE BIBLE COLLEGE IN PERU

I returned to Peru in 2013 to be involved in theological education and pastoral ministry. Since then, I have been involved in pastoral ministry in a shantytown called “Villa el Salvador,” where I preach regularly. I am also involved in theological education by extension.

The Church is the light and salt of the world. A key element in the life and wellbeing of a local church is its leadership. Having pastors and leaders who are firmly grounded in the Word of God and who are able to preach and teach others correctly is vital for the development and maturity of a local church.

There is a crisis in pastoral ministry in Peru. It is true that the Gospel has grown rapidly over recent decades. However, the exponential growth of the Church is not reflected in the maturity of its

leadership. Prosperity and “Easy to Believe” Gospels are prevalent on one side of the spectrum of evangelicalism, with Liberal Theology on the other.

Praise the Lord, I have experienced fruitfulness over the past 4 years of ministry in Peru, but I am now more aware of the challenges we face. Some of these challenges are:

Geography: Peru has great geographical diversity. We have the Amazon jungle in the east, the coastal plain in the west and the Andes Mountains between them. It takes many hours, sometimes days, to travel from one place to another. There are many places in the Amazon and Andes, that are almost completely inaccessible.

Pastors: It is hard to give a precise percentage of the pastors with no

theological training. It is probably between 78 and 92%, meaning that there are thousands of pastors all over the country with almost no theological training at all and no access to books or other learning material.

Bible Teachers: There are few people capable of teaching the Bible to others; the need for such teaching is great. Sadly, the most capable Bible teachers usually migrate to other countries, often the USA or Europe, to teach in Bible Colleges there.

If we want to make an impact upon the next generation of pastors and leaders we need to do something different from what we have been doing. We need, not only to contextualise the curriculum, but also our methodology.

In order to address these challenges, we have begun an Online Bible College to

provide theological education using the Internet. This allows us not only to reach the provinces of the country, but also to involve Latin American professors from overseas in the teaching. It would be very difficult (and expensive!) for them to come and lecture in Peru, but they are able to do so online. We have around 65 students for our second term and we hope to reach a lot more over the next months.

We use the curriculum of Moore College, who have translated their distance learning curriculum into Spanish, with some adaptations to the Peruvian context. Using the Internet as a virtual classroom we interact with students from all over Peru and with Professors from all over the world. This helps keep the cost of the lectures very low, but with a high quality of content. In addition to that, the students need to complete set reading and watch video clips on the topic of the lessons before interacting with the Professors. You can watch a sample video clip here: https://youtu.be/_6e_c7TrPh0.

Over the last year we also began a blog, a journal and a fan page on Facebook in order to provide a place where Latin American Professors and theologians can write articles related to the Latin American context. The fan page is called 'Theology for Living', (Teologia para Vivir): <https://www.facebook.com/teologiaparavivir/>.

We are living in a time of Reformation in South America.

Printing presses were without doubt one of the key factors that made the Reformation possible in Europe in the 16th century. I think that maybe e-communications will play a similar role in the Reformation that Latin America is experiencing in the 21st century. We must contextualise not only our curriculum in missions, but also our methodology.

Perhaps the greatest need for the Church in Peru at the moment is solid Bible teaching for pastors and leaders. It is what we lack most. Perhaps the Lord is calling you to join us in order

to fulfil his global purposes for the nations? Perhaps the Lord is calling you to invest your life training those who will make a big impact on a nation? Please pray for us, and may the Lord bless you.

DANIEL CABALLERO

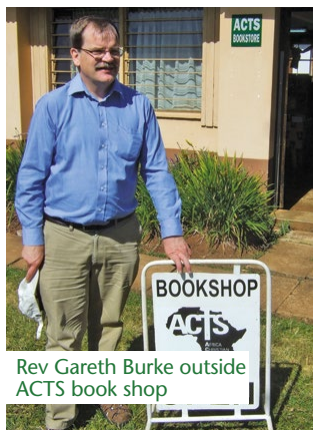
Praise the Lord, I have experienced fruitfulness over the past 4 years of ministry in Peru, but I am now more aware of the challenges we face.



ACTS KENYA

To flood Kenya and beyond with good, biblical, relevant and affordable books" is the mission of ACTS (Africa Christian Textbooks); and especially to get such literature into the hands of pastors and theological students; which means trying particularly to get the books into Bible and Theological Colleges.

The main shop of ACTS Kenya is at Africa International University, just outside Nairobi, where I teach theology.



Rev Gareth Burke outside ACTS book shop

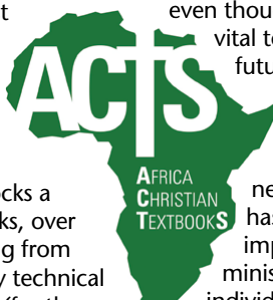
The university was started just over 40 years ago, partly under the influence of John Stott, to try to deepen the theological and biblical understanding of the church leaders and pastors of East Africa. In those days, it was called Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology – and began by just offering Masters courses; but now we have Diplomas, Bachelors, DMin's and PhDs as well.

The ACTS shop stocks a large range of books, over 2,000 titles, ranging from very basic to highly technical ones on semantics (for those doing the Bible Translation courses). If you are looking for commentaries to help you understand the book of Romans, you will find a very easy, straightforward commentary for £2, or a very technical one (with lots of footnotes!), for £20; and several other options between (e.g. The Bible Speaks Today,

by Stott – price about £5 in the shop). The prices are generally very good as many publishers give generous discounts (between 40% and 80%!) as they are sympathetic to what we are doing and know that theological students all over the world, are often short of spare cash for books – even though the books are vital to their studies and future ministries.

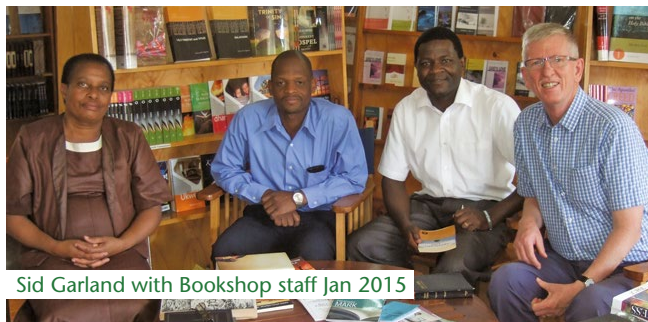
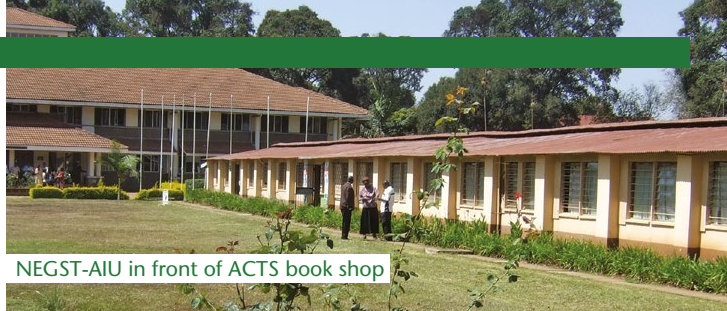
This literature work has been going on for nearly 15 years and has been having an impact in lives and ministries of many individuals as well as, increasingly we believe, on the Bible Colleges of East Africa.

ACTS has recently published several of its own titles, including "Prosperity: Seeking the True Gospel", a book trying to counter the false "prosperity gospel", that is so very prevalent in Africa. It has chapters written by various authors, including 3



Kenyan pastors, plus a chapter by John Piper and another by Wayne Grudem. Another book ACTS has published is "The Battle is God's", expounding the biblical view of spiritual warfare, in contrast to the traditional African view. Finally, there is "Jesus: Suffering Servant, Sovereign Lord" which is a series of sermons given at Pastors' Conferences on the Suffering Servant passages of Isaiah and the Christ hymn of Philippians 2. This book is so very rich in theology and exalts Christ so gloriously that I have used this book with every class I have taught, including doctrine of God, of Christ, of sin and of salvation. Repeatedly the testimony of the students has been "this has changed my life." One student was reading this book for an assignment and sent me a text: "I had to stop reading this book and say thank you. I am finding the book speaking to me directly and challengingly. The margins are now filled with questions about my ministry and short prayers I've penned while reading it." If you want a sample chapter, let me know and I'll send it to you by email!

What we would very much like to do is expand the publishing side of this ministry. First, a second volume about Jesus. This time studies from various key passages in the Gospels (Jesus' baptism, temptations, transfiguration, triumphal entry and cleansing of the temple). Also, a larger project: to produce a series of doctrine books (The "Theology for Today" Series), written at the right level (not too hard, not too complex English),



rich in biblical theology, and with each book practical (not ridiculously abstract and academic) and relevant to life and ministry, especially in an African context. So, Number 1 in the series would be "Theology of God" – or some more eye-catching title. Number 2: "Theology of Man and Sin". Number 3: "Theology of Christ and Salvation". And so on.

Now I must declare a personal interest in this. I have been teaching theology to pastors in Africa for over 30 years (15 in Nigeria, the rest in Kenya) and have repeatedly handled these basic theology courses. I love teaching them! So, the books would be yet another revision of the course notes I hand out to the students, which not only expound these great biblical themes, but give guidance on the best resources on the web, and the most helpful other books on the subject. The belief is that such a series of doctrine books

would be of great help to students, and also to lecturers. One lecturer I know was called on to teach a theology course at short notice and asked me for my notes so he could use them for his teaching. If we print 2,000 copies (initially) of the Jesus book and the three doctrine books, that would come to around £16,000. UFM has approved this as a project, so if you would like to support the project financially, you can make a donation.

We do ask people to pray that this literature ministry will not only bring blessing to many individuals, but will also bear fruit in the lives and ministries of many pastors, so that what is preached from the pulpits week by week will increasingly be truly biblical, God-honouring and Christ-exalting messages, resulting in changed lives and congregations that are established in the truth of the Word.

MARTIN BUSSEY

NEW TO UFM



100FOLD

Mark & Sharon Welch

Home Church: Fredericksburg Christian Fellowship, USA

Mark & Sharon have a strong desire to reach others with the Gospel. Mark is a qualified Accountant and will be using his gifts to work with 100Fold as their Finance Officer. They have six children: Blakeney, Elliot, Melonie, Jackson, Grace and Hudson.



Keith & Sarah Charlton

Home Church: Limes Avenue Baptist Church, Aylesbury

Keith grew up overseas, the son of missionary parents and came to know the Lord at a young age. He trained as a teacher and married Sarah in 1985. They have three adult children. Keith has had an increasing desire to support and help the training of pastors. Having worked short term with 100Fold, Keith has now joined the team long-term focusing on making resources available for others in Christian ministry.



BURKINA FASO

David & Liz

Home Church: St Neots Evangelical Church, Cambridge

David and Liz have previously worked in West Africa. In summer 2016 they moved to Burkina Faso where they are working in partnership with SIM. Initially they are spending time adapting to the culture and studying French. In the future, David will be involved in training and teaching and Liz is teaching part-time in a school for missionary children. David & Liz were married in 2002.



IFES IN PARIS, FRANCE

Susan Buchan

Home Church: Lennox Evangelical Church, Dumbarton

Susan grew up in France, studied in Edinburgh, and works with IFES in Paris initiating international student ministry and encouraging the GBU. Her ministry draws on her own experiences as a student in Edinburgh and summertime involvement with students in Paris.





SOUTH AFRICA

Gavin & Elaine Charlton
(Associate Missionaries)

Home Church: Emmanuel Church, Leamington Spa

Gavin is the son of missionary parents and was brought up in Africa. (He is brother to Keith Charlton). While living in the UK he met Elaine, and they married in 1982. Gavin is an ENT doctor. They moved back to South Africa with three young children, where Gavin works as a doctor. They have recently become grandparents!

15 years ago they set up the MusaweNkosi Project, which cares for orphans in the KwaZulu Natal area of South Africa. They run a children's home and are involved in local communities and a feeding scheme in a rural village. Elaine is the Project Manager for MusaweNkosi. UFM supports the work of MusaweNkosi by sending short-term missionaries and summer teams.



WEST AFRICA – working with ART based in the UK

Judy Luhombo

Home Church: Heath Evangelical Church, Cardiff

ART (Africa Rural Trainers) was formed to build up and strengthen the rural church in Africa. Judy is working with ART specifically to write manuals for modules that volunteer trainers can use in their teaching of rural pastors. The manuals are used to help the trainers adequately teach and effectively equip the pastors with the knowledge and the practical skills needed in order to be able to handle the Word of God correctly. Currently there are 8 training centres with about 250 pastors in training.



SPAIN

Rebekah Moffett

Home Church: Ladygrove Church, Didcot

Rebekah was actively involved in the CU at Manchester University at Manchester and stayed on to work with UCCF as a Relay Worker. During that year, the Lord put Spain very much on Rebekah's heart and she went to Madrid as a volunteer with GBU for 2 years doing student ministry.

In 2015 Rebekah became a staff worker with GBU, and is now working full-time in Madrid. She works with groups of university students in various universities in Madrid, teaching, training and helping them to grow in biblical knowledge, evangelistic skills and in their personal faith.



KENYA

Kip' & Rachel Chelashaw

Home Church: St Simon & St Jude Church, East Dean, East Sussex

Kip' is the assistant minister at East Dean. He is from Kenya, but has lived in the UK for almost half of his life. Rachel was born in Africa to missionary parents and spent much of her childhood there. Kip' and Rachel plan to return to Nairobi to lead a church plant. They are concerned for faithful Bible teaching. Kip' would like to give something back of what he has learned in the UK. They are currently raising the necessary prayer and financial support, and hope to go to Kenya in summer 2017. Kip' and Rachel married in 2010 and they have three children, Elijah, Ezra and Susanna.



WHATS ON

Called to Serve

18 March

Beeston Free Church,
Nottingham

A day conference for anyone wanting to know more about serving in mission and preparing for it.

For more information email debbie@ufm.org.uk

Irish Spring Conference

7-9 April

Seagoe Hotel, Portadown

Bible Ministry: David Johnston,
Hamilton Road Presbyterian
Church, Bangor

For more information email david.morrow@ufm.org.uk

Scottish Conference

21-23 April

Atholl Centre, Pitlochry,
PH16 5BX

Bible Ministry: Jonathan de
Groot, Sandyford Henderson
Memorial Church, Glasgow

For more information email iain@ufm.org.uk

Family Conference

24-28 July

Hothorpe Hall, Nr Market
Harborough

Bible Ministry: Steven Curry,
Bethany Baptist Church,
Bangor, Co Down

For further information email debbie@ufm.org.uk

SUMMER TEAMS 2017

In 2017 we are planning Summer Teams to:

South Africa 28 June-19 July
Holiday Bible Clubs and
working with the MusaweNkosi
Project KwaZulu-Natal.

France 1-15 July
Outreach based in
Guincamp, Brittany.

Thailand 31 July-15 August
Working with a local church
in Bangkok.



Greece 15-30 July
Outreach on Haldikiki to
University students, in
partnership with IFES.

For information on
Summer Teams 2017 email
summerteams@ufm.org.uk

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COMING

March

Richard and Terece to N Ireland

May

Tuangpi & Michaela to UK

GOING

February

6-8 William to Burkina Faso/
Ivory Coast

May

6 Jo McMillen to Brazil
8-14 William to Brazil for
MICEB Conf.

