

March 2023

MISSIONS



Missions Aviation in INDONESIA

Bible Memorization
in the **Philippines**

A Family's Practical
Ministry in **Zambia**

Missionary Kids
Education Assistance
Fund at **CMML**



THINKING IT THROUGH

BY ERIC BARTON

Strangers and Pilgrims

Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage. (Psalm 84:5)

In 1 Peter 2:11, the apostle earnestly pleads with the Jewish believers of that day to “abstain from fleshly lusts.” In this case, Peter does not limit his exhortation to just one area of their lives but applies it to every craving that is rooted in the flesh, is contrary to heaven, and ultimately robs God of glory. Interestingly, the reason is linked to their status as sojourners and pilgrims on the earth. In Peter’s estimation, their citizenship should have a profound, lasting affect on every aspect of their lives—every desire, every decision, and every action.

The Lord’s desire for His followers remains the same today: He wants us to be a people with hearts set on pilgrimage. Like the patriarchs of old, we should confess we are “strangers and pilgrims on the earth” and run our race aligned with that truth.¹

Fortunately, we need not despair in the face of such troubling times.

We should remember our days on earth are like a shadow—here one minute and gone the next—and exert ourselves with focus and purpose.² Our manner of life should glorify God and reflect His righteousness and holiness.³ Earthly pursuits should be secondary to heavenly ones, and our minds should be oriented toward heaven.⁴ By faith, we should lay up treasure in heaven rather than on earth, knowing that our hearts follow accordingly.⁵

Sadly, the Christians in the modern-day North American church seem more and more like settlers than sojourners. To the unbeliever, our lives are virtually indistinguishable from their own; we’re just busy on Sundays. We have lost the appetite to be strange—not in an awkward, rude, or self-righteous way that draws undue attention to ourselves but in a way that promotes curiosity in others and leads them to Jesus. We have forgotten

the terms of discipleship the Lord Jesus laid out and lost sight of who we are in Christ.⁶ We allow our culture and social media to inform our children’s worldview rather than the implanted Word, which can save their souls.⁷ And, to an outside world looking in, they see a church that seems more interested in enriching itself than serving others and being “rich toward God.”⁸

Fortunately, we need not despair in the face of such troubling times. We belong to the One who has overcome the world.⁹ The Lord Jesus is still building His church, and no obstacle can hinder that work—not even the gates of hell.¹⁰ Where there is decay, He restores the years the locusts have eaten.¹¹ His Word remains a lamp to our feet and light to our path.¹² When needed, He forgives 70 times seven and restores us to useful service.¹³ And He continues to be true to His word by blessing those who choose to find their strength in Him and set their hearts on pilgrimage.

My friends, God’s task of seeking and saving the lost remains unfinished. With a world population exceeding eight billion, the harvest is great, and the laborers are few. Amazingly, the Lord has appointed us as His ambassadors and delegated to us the task of making disciples.¹⁴ Personally, I feel the weight of Paul’s exhortation in Romans 13:11–14 when I consider this responsibility: The time is short, and there is work to be done. As such, it’s time for us to wake up, cast off the works of darkness, put on the armor of light, walk worthy of His name, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh as we journey through this world. Thankfully, we are not alone and without help in this great task; we are strangers and pilgrims with the Lord Himself.¹⁵ This wonderful truth gives us confidence, and we count it a privilege to invite others to join us on our way to our destination, “the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”¹⁶ ■

Eric Barton is a CMML director.

¹ Hebrews 11:13. ² 1 Chronicles 29:15. ³ 1 Peter 2:12; Ephesians 4:24. ⁴ Colossians 3:1–2. ⁵ Matthew 6:19–21. ⁶ Luke 9:23–25; 2 Corinthians 5:17. ⁷ James 1:21. ⁸ Luke 12:13–21. ⁹ John 16:33. ¹⁰ Matthew 16:18. ¹¹ Joel 2:25. ¹² Psalm 119:105. ¹³ Matthew 18:22; John 21:15–19. ¹⁴ 2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 28:18–20. ¹⁵ Leviticus 25:23. ¹⁶ Hebrews 11:10.

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FRONT COVER: Mission flight in Indonesia—Daniel Gammelsaeter BACK COVER: ©AdobeStock



Ask a Missionary?

Missions work around the world is unique—different from what friends and family at home encounter day to day. So, to learn about life on the field while getting to know our missionaries better, we asked them to share their firsthand experience or advice.

QUESTIONS: What are the advantages of raising your children in a different culture? What is one challenge that we can pray for?

COLOMBIA

Christian Ramirez



Language acquisition is a big plus. Missionary kids get to learn at least two languages very naturally as they live in another culture. A big challenge for MKs is identity; often, they do not feel completely American, nor do they feel completely part of the culture they're living in.

FRANCE

Matthew & Sylvie Glock



Raising children in another culture provides the opportunity to clearly see our original culture and allows us to see how we should live as followers of Christ, who are not bound by our cultures. One challenge our children face is that they never feel fully at home in one culture.

BRAZIL

Jeanne Lipsi



There are many advantages, some of which are being bilingual, meeting many Christians from different locations and of varying ages, and participating in many meetings, conferences, and camps. The biggest disadvantage may be living far from relatives, including grandparents.

THAILAND

Abigail Harrell



Every culture has wisdom and tools for raising children, and we love learning parenting tips from our Thai friends. For example, older children are taught to share their snacks with younger children as a way of teaching the value of taking care of others.

One challenge we'd cherish your prayers for the Lord's wisdom on is how to handle the "paparazzi"—strangers who want to pinch the cute Western toddler's cheeks, take photos, and so forth. It's not a black-and-white issue, and we must rely on the Lord's leading in each encounter.

URUGUAY

Dirk Hinnenthal



Missionary kids grow up with a wider horizon with regard to culture and, especially, languages. Early in life, they can appreciate how different people, climate, economy, schooling, and social relationships can be in another part of the world.

On the other side of the same coin, there can be confusion in them about identity. Our three children have shown three different ways of solving this. Please pray that no experience would cause any lasting blockade for their developing lives.

ASK YOUR QUESTIONS! Visit [CMML.us/askamissionary](https://www.CMML.us/askamissionary) to submit your question—it might be selected for a future issue!



A PENCIL FOR A VERSE

Bible Memorization Brings Physical and Spiritual Blessings

BY PATRICK & KAREN CARDER

"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9) We have been serving the Lord on the island of Romblon, Philippines, for the last 10 years, and we have witnessed the truth of this verse many times. When we began serving in Romblon, our goals were to evangelize and disciple adults, both men and women. We thought a ministry with kids would be impossible since we were heading a pioneer work—serving in an area with no other missionaries—and had limited help. But God had a different idea.

An unexpected ministry develops

Hundreds of kids would pass by our gate four times per day. First, they would pass by on their way to school and, then, to and from lunch. Finally, we would see them again on their way back home. The kids would walk up to two miles each way, and we could see they were poor.

One day, we decided to give each one a cup of *lugaw*, which is chicken and rice soup, as they passed by. The children enjoyed it, so we continued the practice. Some days we offered them *champorado*, which is a chocolaty, milky rice. As we offered this food and the children accepted it, we started to get to know and love them.

One day, we decided to give each one a verse to memorize, and we offered a prize to anyone who could recite it. When the time came for them to recite the verse, we offered pencils, paper, other school supplies, and small toys as rewards. We noticed that no one took a toy. Then, we realized that their families couldn't afford school supplies. The kids chose the prizes that met their needs. So we added more school supplies.

God works positive changes

Over the years, we've grown from 20 to 180 participants. Many kids have memorized more than 200 verses and whole chapters of Romans. We love that they are hiding God's Word in their hearts (Psalm 119:11). We share the Gospel through the verses and through presentations. The verse "recitals" and gospel presentations take place in our multifunctional hall—a building with a *nipa* ("grass") roof that was built in 2015 for children's and adults' outreaches.

We also conduct Bible studies using the Emmaus courses and show the *King of Glory* movie in the Filipino language. We open these outreaches to children and adults. We have more adults in the Bible studies than kids, but some of the young people have completed many of the Emmaus courses. Our vision is to show the Filipino *King of Glory* in every village on the island.

The ministry encourages us, and we pray for the salvation of these kids. We've observed positive changes in many of them. While much of what we do is different than what we expected when we first arrived, God is working on the island of Romblon. Please pray for the people of Romblon. ■



From top: These children memorized their verses; Several kids choose their prizes; The Carders offer school supplies as rewards—items the children need and want.



Patrick and Karen Carder are commended from the Bible Chapel of Shawnee in Shawnee, Kansas.

A Well-Oiled Machine

Missionaries
Provide
Practical Support
in Zambia

BY JOEY & KAITLIN SPEICHINGER

The Lord's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8). The Lord's will may be clear at times, but often, the challenge is discerning His will from ours. Overseas missions work has always been a passion and calling for Kaitlin and me. With the Lord's help and provision, we obtained technical skills—nursing for Kaitlin and aviation maintenance for me—to use as tools to spread His Word and love. However, we wondered where we would serve, using our skills to bring Him glory. The Lord made the answer clear in August 2014, and by November 2014, we were settling into life at Chitokoloki Mission Hospital, a mission station on the sparkling waters of the Zambezi River in Zambia.

Since 1914, the busy mission station and hospital have served people from nearby villages and cities, areas across Zambia, and even neighboring countries.

Like the body of Christ that the apostle Paul talks about in Romans 12, our team's purpose is to use our God-given gifts and abilities to help one another and teach God's Word to the people who come to Chitokoloki. Each

missionary plays a unique role in spreading the Gospel, whether through school, medical, or village ministries.

A flexible maintenance team

Maintenance is a major part of our ministry. The maintenance work is broad because it entails many areas: aviation, hospital, automotive, and facilities. Chitokoloki Mission Hospital is more than 100 years old; therefore, over the years, many buildings have needed either a remodel or a complete rebuild to continue being useful. Since the mission station is large, the missionaries rely on multiple tractors, vehicles, quad bikes, and an airplane to accomplish their ministries.

A typical day may involve almost all these areas, each of which seems to take priority sometimes. The challenge is deciding which to tackle first while allowing enough time to fix the other problems. My daily goal is to keep the equipment working so the team can use each piece as a tool for spreading the Gospel. Our maintenance team comprises approximately 14 staff, whom we have trained or are training.

The villages surrounding the mission are developing, so people bring their ox cart or motorcycle to the maintenance shop for repairs. During the season for farming cultivation, people frequently bring in their hoe or oxcart for welding. I use this opportunity to practice my local language learning as



Left (from top): Sometimes, the mighty Zambezi River, seen here from an airplane's cockpit, floods; The Cessna 206 airplane leaves the hangar at Chitokoloki Mission Hospital. **Right:** The diverse maintenance work at Chitokoloki once involved the construction of a water tower.

I try to talk with them in Luvala. Despite having so little to work with, regarding tools and parts, the local people manage so well; it can be humbling to see. On the other hand, I thank the Lord for His protection over the people who use the vehicles or other modes of transportation since safety is not a concern. There's a learning curve to making parts multipurpose and much stronger than their original intent. And the roads test the vehicles beyond what they were designed for.

Recently, we had to install a rebuilt transmission in the mission's semitruck while we troubleshooted the problems with the former one. We primarily use this truck to pick up the goods shipped in containers from overseas eight times per year. The pickup site is about 350 miles away from Chitokoloki, or a 13-hour drive. Occasionally, the semitruck will also transport building supplies for some of our large-scale building projects.

Another major project was the final stage of our two-year avionics upgrade on the mission's airplane (a Cessna 206). Not only is the new equipment more up to date, but it also allows the pilot to use more tools while flying, increasing accuracy and safety.



Surgical marathons and home schooling

With our family growing rapidly in the past six years, most of Kaitlin's time has shifted from serving as a nurse in the hospital to caring for our four children (Owen, twins Corrie and Paige, and Faye) and providing hospitality for many of the visitors who come to Chitokoloki. However, every couple of months, an influx of surgeries—what we call a surgical marathon—will occur, and Kaitlin will assist with most of the cases.

Kaitlin is also involved in the shipping containers we receive from Canada, England, and Northern Ireland. Annually, we receive about eight shipping containers filled with supplies—including clothing—for the hospital and mission. We use the clothing to trade for produce, which the

hospital needs to feed its patients two meals per day. So the clothes are a huge help in cutting the hospital's food costs, and the people are happy to receive them since they are better quality than what they can buy in the local market. Kaitlin helps sort the items and make bags of "pay" to trade for the produce.

At home, Kaitlin home-schools our kids. In 2022, she finished teaching Owen, our oldest, kindergarten, and they are working on first grade. She is also teaching kindergarten to our twins, Corrie and Paige, and Jack Brundage, the oldest son of our missionary coworkers Chris and Allison Brundage (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 4).



Christ's diligent witnesses

In 2022, three young men and two girls were baptized and have since been growing in the Lord. They diligently tell their classmates about the Lord. Please pray their witness will continue and others will choose to follow the Lord. Recently, two boys in the children's ward of the hospital professed their faith. Please pray the Lord will use the work at Chitokoloki Mission Hospital—from maintenance to medical—to turn more people to Him. ■



Joey and Kaitlin Speichinger are commended from Believers Gospel Chapel in Augusta, Georgia.

Left: Joey and his coworker Chris Brundage work on the airplane's engine. **Right (from top):** Kaitlin home-schools her three children and Jack Brundage; Over the years, the Chitokoloki team has had the joy of witnessing several baptisms.

Education Matters

The Missionary Kids Education Assistance Fund

BY PHILIP C. PARSONS



Many missionary parents say that raising their children abroad is an enriching experience. Life on the mission field broadens their kids' worldview, fosters independence, and enables them to become involved in their parents' ministry. However, education can be daunting when living abroad. To help ease the financial burden of educating children from kindergarten through 12th grade and make more education strategies accessible, CMML maintains the Missionary Kids Education Assistance Fund (MKEAF).

Expanding the options

Most parents—including those serving as missionaries—want to provide their children with the best education possible. Like any parent, missionaries must wrestle with a multitude of schooling options while remembering that what works for one child may not work for another. Further, they must think beyond immediate needs and keep the future in their perspective.

National schools can help children adjust to a new culture and help parents establish relationships with other parents. However, parents must evaluate academic standards and religious, moral, and social issues.

Boarding schools prepare students for college and dorm life and enable missionary parents to focus on their ministry. But the time away from parents may not be ideal for every child, and boarding school is one of the most expensive school choices.

Home schooling is a popular option for missionary families. It builds strong family bonds, offers flexible schedules, and enables parents to integrate their faith into their children's education. Still, finding opportunities for social interaction outside of

the family can be difficult, and identifying the right curriculum for each child is time consuming.

Other options include online distance learning, international schools, and MK schools.



Supporting education costs

Cost is one common factor among the diverse school choices missionary families make. Many years ago, the directors of Voices from the Vineyard, the missionary service organization that eventually merged with CMML, recognized the burden cost placed on families. With the help of Workers Together, a missionary support ministry active at the time, and a legacy gift of \$50,000 from Samuella Cameron, a former schoolteacher in the Bronx, Voices launched MKEAF in June 1968.

MKEAF is a revolving account: CMML distributes the funds on hand, and gifts from individuals and assemblies replenish the fund. Annually, missionary families with school-aged children submit their schooling costs, and CMML proportionally distributes the available funds to the families in September and January of each school year.

For the 2022–2023 school year, 46 missionary families (119 children) requested MKEAF assistance. Of those, 25 families (68 children) home-school their kids; eight families (23 children) send their kids to MK schools, some of which are boarding schools; seven families (14 children) utilize national schools; and six families (14 children) enroll their kids in international schools. The families reported a combined total of \$245,470 for school expenses. Following a needs assessment, CMML sent a proportional distribution of \$71,478 to missionary families in September 2022 and another distribution of \$71,822 in January 2023. Costs per family vary greatly, from minimal amounts to more than \$10,000 per year. The MKEAF subsidy covers only a portion of what is needed.

Although the original \$50,000 was expended many years ago, the seed God planted continues to yield fruit. We thank the Lord for the many individuals, assemblies, and women's missionary prayer groups that support missionary families through prayer and practical gifts.

The seed
God planted
continues to
yield fruit.

◀ Samuella Cameron (right) and her sister, Martha (left), championed missions and education, and Samuella's legacy gift helped launch the MKEAF.

Blessing many

Missionary families around the world appreciate MKEAF's support. Several shared the following notes and expressed gratitude to everyone who contributes to the fund:

“To be honest, I don't know how we'd be able to afford our kids' schooling while staying in country without this subsidy.”

“On the one hand, I know that God always provides what we need, and I have seen Him provide for us in some amazing ways. On the other hand, year after year, this subsidy makes it possible for us to pay the tuition to send our kids to an excellent school. I don't know what we would do without it.”

“We are extremely grateful that others are thinking and caring about our children's education and recognize the sacrifice of not having all schooling options available for MKs. MKEAF is such a blessing, and we thank God for your generosity and love for us and our kids.”

“This fund has helped relieve the stress and financial pressure of covering schooling costs that many missionaries experience. This fund has enabled us to focus on the work the Lord has called us to do, and we are so thankful!”

“Honestly, education options would feel very limited for us without MKEAF. I thank all the people who make it possible; the support frees us as missionaries from worrying about this issue so we can focus even more on the work of the Lord.”

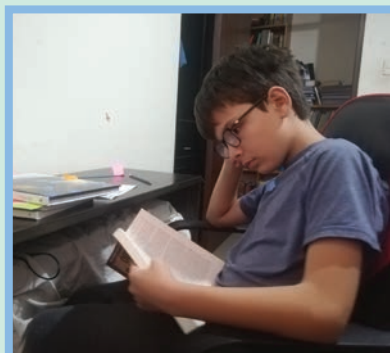
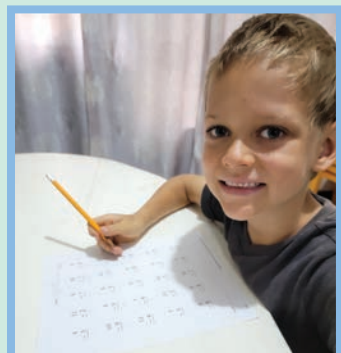


“MKEAF has given us more freedom to choose resources specific to the needs, interests, and learning styles of each of our children. If we did not have the generous financial help from MKEAF, we would mostly recycle everything from the first child on down. There is nothing wrong with doing so, but sometimes, what works for one child doesn't work for another. God has made each of our kids so unique. With this help, our kids can have more accountability and richer experiences through online classes, especially during their high school years. They have even enjoyed some electives, such as foreign languages and computer programming.”

“We home-school our kids, and MKEAF has allowed us to choose a well-rounded program with the academic rigor of an MK school!”

“Receiving the MKEAF help for our children is a huge blessing. It is an expense we don't have to worry about so much, and it allows us to choose a curriculum that might be out of our price range otherwise. Also, as a mom, home-school teacher, and a missionary very involved in service, I can choose a curriculum that is well planned out and save a ton of time on preparing lessons.” ■

Philip C. Parsons, CMML missionary care and security



▲ Anne Johnson (MPH Day 1), who appreciates MKEAF, home-schools her children, Lydia, Elijah, and Ruth.

◀ Elijah Johnson works on a math problem; Matthew Cacho-Hansen reads a book, part of the home-schooling curriculum his parents, Wilser and Nicole Cacho-Hansen (MPH Day 22), selected.