



Thinking It Through

REX TROGDON

Now Appearing

Easter is a celebration for believers because our Savior lives. We should “live as though Christ died *yesterday*, arose *today*, and is coming back *tomorrow*!”¹ Those three days represent the past, present and future. The writer of the book of Hebrews also refers to the three tenses of time in Hebrews 9:24–28 set forth in the three appearances of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Usually we keep the past, present and future tenses in that order, but in Hebrews 9 the present comes first. The past is foundational in that, “He *has appeared* to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (Hebrews 9:26); and the future is wonderful because, “He *will appear* a second time, apart from sin, for salvation” (Hebrews 9:28); but the present is practical for *He now appears* in the presence of God for us (Hebrews 9:24). Consider some of the blessings of our risen and living Lord in His present appearing.

First, it is *Christ* who appears. He is the eternal Son of God, “The One who is and who was and who is to come.” (Revelation 11:17) He came into this world as a man, born of a virgin, lived among us, was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. Numerous times after His resurrection He showed Himself to be alive by many infallible proofs. It is *Christ* Himself, who is alive forevermore.

Having established *who* He is, next consider *where* He is. He is in heaven. “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are* copies of the true, but into *heaven* itself.” (Hebrews 9:24a) He spoke with His disciples on the Mount of Olives and “while they watched, He was taken *up*, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.” The angels’ words echo from Olivet, “This same Jesus, who was taken up from you *into heaven*....” (Acts 1:10–11) How blessed to know that our Savior is exalted in the heights of *heaven* with the Father.

*“Jesus takes the highest station;
O what joy the sight affords!”*²

Knowing *who* He is and *where* He is, consider now *when*. Timing is everything, they say. This is especially true when it comes to God’s timing. Christ is alive in heaven *now*. He is the *I Am*. He said of Himself, “Before Abraham was *I Am*.” (John 8:58)

He is the eternal God who lives in the eternal, ever present. That makes Him, as the Psalmist said, “*a very present help in trouble*.” (Psalm 46:1) Since He is the great *I Am*, we can be assured that *He is*—right *now*! When we call upon Him there is no delay. He is always and ever present *now*.

Have you ever wondered *what* He is doing? He is *appearing*, but not just for the sake of appearance. He appears for a reason. He appears in the presence of God as One who represents us in His advocacy (1 John 2:1). He died to save us and lives to keep us. It is God’s so great salvation seen in the past, present, and future. We are saved in the *past* from sin’s penalty through the death that Christ died for us. We will be saved

“Live as though Christ died yesterday, arose today, and is coming back tomorrow!”

in the *future* from sin’s presence when He comes again for us. Right *now* He lives to save us from sin’s power. Romans 5:10 declares that we are “saved by His life” and Hebrews 7:25 adds that we are saved “to the uttermost... since He always lives to make intercession for us.”

So, He is praying for us and wants us to pray to Him. He said, “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:38) He lives now as the “heavenly missions field director” to complete the mission He Himself began. To do this He empowers us by His Spirit, equips and enables us with spiritual gifts, and sustains us with the promise, “Because I live, you will live also.” (John 14:19)

Lastly, we read the two words that grab our attention like no other words can—for *us*. This is *why* He lives. One so great as He, so high as heaven, so present as now, so active as appearing, *for us*. How marvelous to be loved by Him who ever lives *for us*.

*“Because He lives I can face tomorrow;
Because He lives all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.”*³ ■

¹ Theodore Epp; ² Thomas Kelly; ³ William and Gloria Gaither

Home with the Lord

Ruth Ross Hanley

Missionary to Special Areas • July 11, 1930—January 13, 2014



Ruth was born in 1930 in Ontario, Canada. Church and Sunday school were important to her and her family, but it was at a family camp that she consciously trusted the Lord Jesus for salvation.

Her unshakeable ambition was to be a missionary nurse, but she had a congenital bone deformity of the left ankle and had increasing difficulty walking during her teenage years. One of her uncles, a Christian doctor, heard of a surgeon in Toronto who was pioneering an operation to stabilize an ankle like Ruth's. The operation was successful and five years later Ruth earned a nursing degree from the University of Western Ontario. During this time her spiritual life was nourished by Bible reading and prayer, morning and evening.

Ruth developed a strong concern for the Muslim world's spiritual needs and knew she must be adequately prepared. This burden was confirmed as she spent the next four years at a Bible college in Columbia, South Carolina. Her future co-workers asked her to add midwifery to her medical skills, and for that it was necessary to cross the Atlantic and spend a year studying and working in England.

In August 1961 Ruth sailed to Aden (South Yemen) to join in the medical work and evangelism taking place there. In 1962 she crossed the Red Sea to work in Eritrea (a province of Ethiopia in those days).

In July 1963 Ruth and I, John Hanley, were married in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, and began work in Massawa on the Red Sea coast. We spent each morning seeing to the medical needs of sick women, children and leprosy patients. We also looked after a bookshop belonging to missionaries who were away on furlough.

The next five years were full of dramas, joys and dangers. While we were at Arabic language school in Amman, Jordan,

the Six-Day War broke out. Our house was only a few hundred yards from buildings targeted by Israeli jets. Ruth persuaded our son Jonathan, three years old, and baby Heather that it would be fun to lie *under* the bed while listening to the "fire-works!" We were evacuated by the American army and the Royal Air Force through Iran and Cyprus. The following year, 1968, we began to work among North African Muslims in France and again had to flee to England because of rioting in the streets. That was the only time we smelled tear gas! Ruth took all these events in stride and made sure our three children (Jonathan, Heather and Cathy) were happy and well-nourished.

During the subsequent 30-plus years working in France, Ruth loved raising her children and seeing her grandchildren grow up, but there was always time for other children of all ages! They loved her for it. One of our friends, an Arab Muslim lady, who was waiting for an operation, said, "If I die in this operation, will you look after my daughters?"

We moved to Scotland in 2004 but kept returning to work in France approximately twice a year. In 2012, however, we became aware that Ruth was losing her physical strength, and in February 2013 her illness was confirmed as motor neuron disease. For the next 10 months there was a rapid decline until she was totally dependent on her family and caregivers.

It was a great sadness to witness her gradual loss of physical abilities and finally even her speech. However, Ruth showed great patience and courage and learned to use a range of technology to help overcome some barriers to daily living and communicating.

We are grateful to the Lord that Ruth slipped away peacefully during the last night of her earthly life.

She is sadly missed by her family and friends.

BY JOHN HANLEY

Ediciones Crecimiento Cristiano

An Interactive Bible Study Program Makes an Impact in Argentina

BY JOE YOUNG



The seed was planted for Ediciones Crecimiento Cristiano (ECC) approximately 35 years ago when I was teaching in a local Bible school. At that time there were few schools in the country, and we could accommodate only a limited number of students. They were from a variety of provinces including some from Chile.

However, we realized that the Bible school had a weakness—so many of those who needed help were held back by work, family or other responsibilities. So it seemed logical that the solution was to take the Bible school to the churches. We first experimented with seminary extension materials, but they require teachers and we wanted a program that would not depend on us. That also eliminated correspondence courses.

From my own experience with InterVarsity many years ago, we felt that the small group inductive study would be the most effective tool. It is a method each church could apply without further intervention from us. Here, in our area at least, very few believers go beyond listening to sermons. Many don't even read their Bibles. It was frustrating a while ago to attend a "Bible study" where no one even bothered to take a Bible. The interactive Bible study breaks that mold.

Our motto from very early has been: "The task is not to teach, but to help others learn." We want believers to dig into their Bibles, hunt for answers, and think through what they may have been hearing for many years. The small-group discussion study is ideal for that.

It has been a long process. At first we translated some courses, but I also began to write and we eventually aban-

doned translations. A friend who works with limited-capacity children wrote an excellent manual on how to help them. Another friend, concerned with the situation of older people, prepared a study guide to awaken consciences on how to serve them. Another, who has worked with children, created materials for Sunday schools that cover a five-year cycle of classes. So working together we have built a varied program. We presently offer 70 courses, covering almost all the New Testament, some books of the Old Testament, and a good variety of themes related to the Christian life.

We started off with a mimeograph (unknown to the younger generation) and eventually graduated to offset printers. Presently, with modern electronic printers, we can print on demand. Our first attempts were not very attractive. A number of years back at an international event for evangelical publishers, an agent from a distributor did not even bother to look at our



Above: Course covers. Right (from top): The ECC building; Our bookstore.

materials. The reality is that eyes are drawn to an attractive cover. It is satisfying to us that our present covers are more attractive than many commercial publications.

For most of the way, it has been all cost but little income. It was the generous giving from many believers that allowed us to continue. But from the very beginning, my proposal was to make the project self-supporting. And I now realize that I will not be with the project much longer. As a good friend once said, "projects started by missionaries often don't survive after the missionary is gone." We are presently incorporated as a nonprofit organization under Argentine law. I was the board president for many years, but now a very capable Argentine has taken the reins. A good-sized group of us meet monthly to evaluate our progress and to pray.

It has been hard to maintain the balance between ministry and a "business." Wages, rent, lights, phones and a number of other bills must be paid. We have a small bookshop and do some printing for others since the income from courses is not enough to cover the needs. One reason income is low is that we have tried to keep prices down as much as possible. To buy a course is one thing, but when you want study guides for 30 people, it is another. Of course the solution for many is to buy one course and photocopy the number they need. This is a very "normal" practice here, especially among students. It has been a struggle but finally ECC is able to function without outside help. The danger is that we have never been able to build up a reserve fund in case we have to replace a major piece of equipment.

We have an excellent work team; Lilian, a mother with grown children, handles the administration. Ruth, a young mother, does the design and coordinates the production. The covers you see here were designed by Ruth.

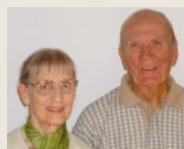


Getting ourselves known has been slow. When possible, we set up book tables at major events. But churches here are not used to the small-group participative form of Bible study. There are many churches with small groups but they

are not interactive. Two of our major promoters have been the Internet and the Argentine Bible Society. Email is a quick and easy way to share updates with our contacts. The Bible Society offers our materials along with theirs, and they reach almost every corner of the country.

Introducing courses into the States or Spain has long been a problem. The U.S. has the largest Spanish-speaking population in the western hemisphere, and often the majority of visitors to our Web page (edicionescc.com) are from the States. We feel we could meet a real need since there are many study guides offered in English, but very little in Spanish. However, postage costs have a stranglehold on us. It often costs more to send a package outside the country than the actual value of the package. The solution, something I have been working on for some time, turned out to be Amazon.com. Bit by bit we are getting our courses listed. Amazon gives us an outlet both in North America and Europe. You can find them by putting "edicionescc" into the Amazon.com search box.

A secondary benefit of the ECC program, though it really is not very secondary, is the fellowship it provides. The "normal" church experience for the majority is to sit and listen. But the interactive study provides space for sharing and for questions. I have often heard the words: "I have always wanted to ask..." For example, I have a small study group from a church where I had sat with them for months of meetings. We knew each other and were on friendly terms. But after a few weeks studying together we became *real* friends. ECC has cost many years of work and often frustration, but now that we see the effect that it can have in believers' lives, we are satisfied. ■



Joe and Mary Young were commended in 1963 by Northgate Gospel Chapel, Seattle, Washington.



Above left (from left): Our administrator Lilian; Our designer Ruth. **Above right (from top):** A camp Bible study group; The conference stand.

MAY WE INTRODUCE

Joel & Kaleigh Griffin Outgoing Missionaries to Angola



Joel's Testimony

It is always a privilege to recount the grace of God experienced in one's life. My parents raised their family of five sons and one daughter in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. I thank God for a sheltered childhood in which I was taught the fear of God and the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a young boy of nearly six years, I was worried about my standing before God and was afraid of eternity in hell. I repented before God and asked Him with childlike faith to save me. The Lord Jesus said, "Unless you are converted and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3) I was baptized in the Keswick Stream when I was 14 years old, and about one year later I became a member of the local church that meets at 109 McAdam Avenue in Fredericton. I enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere created by the believers and appreciated the care of the elders who lovingly challenged me to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. I followed in my father's footsteps and pursued a career in mechanical engineering. An internship with Hitachi as a student engineer took me to Saskatchewan where I met my future wife, Kaleigh.

Kaleigh's Testimony

Kaleigh was saved on the eve of a Bible camp when she was eight years old. She recalls sitting with her mother in the living room reviewing Gospel verses and, after considering John 3:16, she accepted its truth for herself. Kaleigh was baptized when she was 15 years of age and joined the fellowship of the local church in Taylorside, Saskatchewan, about one year later. When we met, Kaleigh was studying nursing at the University of Saskatchewan. We were married in 2009 and set up our first home in Fredericton, my hometown.

Together

After we were married, Kaleigh worked as a nurse in a hospital maternity ward while I finished a master's degree in mechanical engineering. Around June 2011, while anticipating my graduation planned for spring 2012, we began to pray that

the Lord would clearly lead us concerning where we should live, work, fellowship and raise a family. (Our first daughter, Elysia, was born in March 2011, and our second daughter, Svea, was born in May 2012.) We knew that moves made early in one's career and during young married life often set the tenor of one's life for many years to come. We didn't want to make a flippant decision, and we earnestly desired God's guidance on the matter. We prayed to God that He would open our ears to hear His voice and give us hearts to obey.

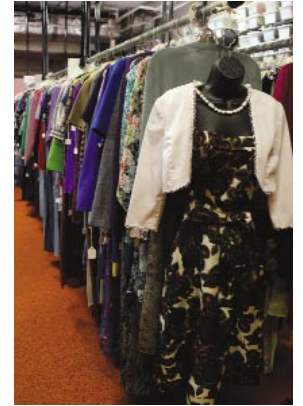
It was in the autumn of 2011 that the Lord set us on our journey to Angola in His name. The Lord, in His unmistakable and sure way, used the Word of God (specifically 1 Kings 19:19–21 and Psalms 90 and 91 for Joel, and Luke 12 and Jonah for Kaleigh), a bold challenge from a fellow Christian couple, a timely meeting with a missionary who works in Angola, the counsel of respected believers, and a God-ordained meeting with a Portuguese Christian painter, to firmly convince us that we should move toward missionary activity in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in Angola.

In September 2012 the Christians at McAdam Avenue Gospel Hall commended us into the grace of God. In October 2012 we attended some brief training at Mission Training International in Colorado Springs concerning language acquisition and cross-cultural ministry. In November 2012 Joel performed a survey visit to Angola with Brian Howden an experienced British missionary in Angola. January 19, 2013, we arrived in Portugal to begin learning the Portuguese language (Angola was a Portuguese colony for more than 400 years, and Portuguese is Angola's official language). Lord willing, April 2014 will signal the end of our full-time language studies, at which point we will apply for visas to enter Angola. We anticipate a one-year waiting period for these visas to be granted.

We praise the Lord for His faithfulness and goodness. Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom and help as we seek to follow His lead and that He would richly bless the Word of God sown in the great nation of Angola, for His glory alone. ■



CMML Clothing Center Calls You!



BY MARIE MYERS

If the walls in the lower level of the CMML building could talk, this is what you would hear—

"Oh! All the beautiful clothing!"

"Everything I need is here!"

"I can choose these items for free?"

"I never imagined what a blessing the Clothing Center would be for my entire family!"

Each year more than 75 families visit us to be outfitted from head-to-toe, and yes, free of charge. Some are returning from warm climates; others are going out to cold climates. Many times it has been years since they were home. Regardless of their situation, they all need to be clothed.

Our missionaries represent the Lord and we want them to be well dressed. You are the people that provide this service for them! What an enjoyable privilege we have to meet visiting missionaries, get insights into their ministries, and develop life-long friendships as we help them.

Time to purge! As the new year unfolds, search your closets, drawers, and boxes for new, or clean gently-used items that you no longer need. **Time to purchase!** "Sale days" are here again at all the stores. This is your chance to find great sales; the size doesn't matter, one of our missionary families will be thrilled to discover it at CMML. **Time to pack!** Perhaps your fellowship or friends can get together to "bring treasures—sort items—pack boxes" for the CMML Clothing Center. **Time to post!** You can send packages to CMML's street

address: 2751 18th Avenue, Wall Township, New Jersey 07719. What a great fellowship time serving our Lord. One family had a "Clothing Center party," asking all in attendance to bring an item. We have an account for the Clothing Center at CMML for people who prefer to send a monetary gift.

You may be asking, "What do missionaries need?" Just think about what you use on a daily basis. Missionaries need the same items as you do: socks, shoes, underwear, cosmetics and toiletries, dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and jackets. The list can go on and on, even used or broken costume jewelry for gifts or crafts are appreciated. In many countries these items are not readily available or inferior in quality.

These servants of the Lord appreciate your kindness and are so encouraged by your love shown in such a practical way. Perhaps you are not able to visit or join them in their field of service, but you certainly can serve in such a vital home ministry as the CMML Clothing Center. We are exhorted, "With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord..." (Ephesians 6:7-8) ■

Marie Myers is CMML's Clothing Center volunteer manager.



Right: Shoes collected at Judah Morris's birthday party for the Clothing Center. Photo by Jessica Morris. All other photos by Annie O'Connor.

SHORT-TERM OPPORTUNITIES

COMPILED BY BRIAN KRAMER

There are many open doors to work side-by-side with assembly missionaries, for a few weeks to a year or more, this summer and during the 2014-2015 school year (and even beyond). You can be a part of God's mission in calling "the ends of the earth" to remember and turn to Him and calling "all the families of the nations" to worship before Him.



Summer 2014

It's not too late to work alongside CMML or MSC missionaries this summer! You can help with camp ministry, construction projects, evangelism, or medical/dental work in rural areas.

Construction, Children's Outreach and Dental/Medical

Summer and Fall—ECUADOR

Bayardo & Melissa Arroyo (Day 24)

Construction: Opportunities for groups to work on classrooms, ministry kitchen, shop/storage area and office areas that all need to be built.

Evangelism and children's work: Children's Bible club, vacation Bible school and weekend retreats.

Medical and dental groups: Openings in church and rural village settings.

"If you would like to come as an individual, couple, family or group to serve with us, please let us know. We have beds for 10 visitors, lots of floor space and two large tents. Whether you are interested in children's ministry, work projects, medical or dental clinic, or a combination, you are more than welcome."

Email arroystrong@yahoo.com for more information.

Camp Work

August—PORTUGAL

Peter Cerqueira (Day 16)

Who we need: Camp counselors who are firm in New Testament assembly principles, particularly women leaders to lead and counsel young ladies. (Most young people understand English. Ability to speak Spanish or other Latin language may be helpful.)

What will you do: Teach New Testament assembly principles, as well as how to apply the Word of God in one's daily life, in a dynamic way to young people. Witness and lead to Christ unsaved individuals.

When: Exact August dates to be arranged. Duration will be for two weeks.

Email peterdc71@gmail.com for more information.

“All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For kingship belongs to the Lord, and He rules over the nations.” —Psalm 22:27-28

English Camp for University Students

July 2 to 16—EAST ASIA (Special Areas)

Encourage village churches and help with an evangelistic English camp for students. Looking for spiritually mature believers recommended by church leaders. Parts of the program are physically demanding so good health and fitness is a requirement. Cost: \$1,000 plus airfare and visas.

Email ecjuly2014@gmail.com for more information.

Construction

Late Summer—MEXICO

TeamWorkers Abroad

This is a construction project in Quiniatla (Rio Blanco), Mexico, working with missionaries Pepe Barrios and Tim DeJong. Cost: \$1,150 plus airfare.

See www.TeamWorkersAbroad.org or email Tim.dejong@teamworkersabroad.org for more information.

2014-2015 School Year

Many assembly missionaries play important roles at small Christian schools and are looking for others to join the work.

El Camino Academy

COLOMBIA

Mark Rogers (Day 24)

El Camino Academy needs school teachers. This could be a good fit if you are looking to use your teaching degree (or want to learn to teach using another degree) in an overseas mission capacity.

For more information visit www.ECA.edu.co/get-involved/potential-teachersstaff/current-needs or email mark.rogers@eca.edu.co.

The Hope of Bastion School

ECUADOR

Erin Hayes (Day 25)

The Hope of Bastion School in Guayaquil, Ecuador, is growing and needs English and/or instrumental music teachers. There are also many opportunities for Bible studies and discipleship. Some knowledge/fluency in Spanish and TEFL certification are beneficial.

Email erinraeh@gmail.com for more information.

College of the Constant Lighthouse

MIDDLE EAST

Special Areas (day 28)

College of the Constant Lighthouse is a Christian, English-educating school for kindergarten to ninth grade. Along with the regular classes, there is chapel every morning and students have a weekly Bible class. The majority of the students come from unsaved homes, and there are excellent opportunities daily to reach out to the children and their families. Elementary teachers are greatly needed for the coming school year.

Email bjkramer@cmml.us for more information.

Working with Refugees

September to December 2014—SPECIAL AREAS

This is a unique opening to help with a ministry to Islamic refugees, teaching English or assisting with the home schooling of missionary children.

Email bjkramer@cmml.us for more information.



Be sure to visit CMML.us/involved/opportunities to view these and many more short- and long-term opportunities around the world.

Map ©iStockPhoto.com/tumpikuja

Home with the Lord

Mary Watson

Missionary to the Congo • October 1, 1921—October 22, 2013



All who knew Mary Watson would agree that her life exemplified what it meant to be the hands and feet of the Lord she loved. She was tender and nurturing, with a heart that beat to follow the Lord's calling to make a difference. With unwavering faith as her constant companion, Mary devoted her life to building schools halfway around the world, spreading her love to countless others in the process. She was highly intelligent and dedicated to everything she did, and there was nothing like one of Mary's stories. She fully embraced both the peaks and valleys of her life's journey, counting each pathway as part of God's perfect plan for her life.

On October 1, 1921, a young couple from Appleton, Wisconsin, was doubly blessed with the birth of twin girls. Mary Christina was one of five children born to her parents, Richard E. and Ella (Clack) Watson, and she was raised in the family home alongside her older sisters, Betty and Margaret "Peggy," her younger brother, Richard "Dick," and her twin sister, Grace.

Mary graduated from Wisconsin Teacher's College (now University of Wisconsin at La Crosse). With her education completed, Mary began teaching in Wisconsin and then South Carolina, but when her contract was up she didn't renew it, as she felt God was calling her to walk a different path. Mary followed His calling, which was to teach children to read and write while introducing them to the Lord Jesus. In 1953, she sailed for Belgium to perfect her French and to pass the colonial course that was required for her to teach in the Congo.

Mary arrived in the Belgian Congo in 1954 and learned the local trade language, Swahili. There were only three mission schools in the area, in addition to many village schools of first and second grades. Mary not only taught students but she also established schools, trained teachers, organized finances, and later inspected schools. Additionally, Mary was the hostess for the mission station, which meant that she was in charge of entertaining visitors.

Throughout her 38 years there, Mary made an enormous impact. She learned to be resourceful, to fix things, and to make do with what she had, including an old car and bad roads with a job that required a lot of traveling. Mary frequently had kids all over her yard laughing and playing, waiting to recite the Bible verses she taught them. Mary played board games with them after they got through their recitations. As an excellent linguist, Mary did a lot of translation work as many of the chil-

dren had sponsors from all over the world, which meant that there were numerous letters that went back and forth that needed to be translated. Toward the end of her time there, Mary was focused on setting up schools for the deaf. When she left in 1992, there were 52 mission schools that went all the way up to 12th grade, in addition to technical and high schools.

Family continued to be a priority to Mary despite being separated by so many miles. She wrote letters back home to family and friends, including weekly letters to her parents and monthly letters to her siblings. Later in life Mary talked to Grace almost every day. When coming home on furlough she spent time with her family, but these visits were rare as they were usually determined by political conditions in the Congo. When she returned to the United States for good, she stayed with her sister for a time.

With a desire to continue serving her Lord, Mary moved to Detroit where she worked with Christian Missions for the Deaf. She added sign language to her skills and continued translating as well.

Mary had an amazing memory and was active for much of her life, which meant that it was frustrating to her when her health began to limit her during her sunset years. In 2007, she moved to Rest Haven Homes in Grand Rapids.

Independent, passionate, and hardworking, Mary Watson was focused on completing the work that the Lord had called her to, and she viewed each new day as an opportunity to serve Him in every way. Her life is a testimony of the Lord preparing someone to do His work and the evidence of His guidance and care in her life.

LIFE STORY NETWORK, USED WITH PERMISSION

