



*THE OTHER UNREACHED
PEOPLE GROUP*



*REACHING THE
AMERICAN HINTERLANDS
FROM SOUTH AFRICA*

mercy

IS NOT OPTIONAL



HAITI—FINDING HEALING IN HARDSHIP
ONE CHILD'S MISSION REACHES ANOTHER
"I SAW THE FACE OF A WOLF"

Ministry Can Change the
Trajectory of a Life—a Family—a
Culture

BY: KAY BURKLIN

Ministry Can Change the Trajectory of a Life—a Family—a Culture

IS NOT OPTIONAL

Mercy is about new beginnings. And Thilo desperately wanted one. But I need to begin with a seamstress in central Germany.

About 100 years ago, a sweet older lady, whose name we don't know, loved the Lord but wasn't sure how to serve Him. She wasn't a teacher, a Bible scholar, nor did she have any special skills. But she could sew. So she started a little class and while these young girls were sewing, she told them about Jesus. One of those little girls was Lina. For the first time, she was introduced to the love of Christ, and to the amazement of her family, went to England to learn English and then became a missionary to China. This woman was the grandmother of my husband, Heiko.



Thilo was fascinated by this story. As one who was raised in deeply atheistic East Berlin, a culture that is so far removed from religion that it is said they have “forgotten what they have forgotten,” he was surrounded by splintered families. His mother was now on her third husband and Thilo longed for a different path. He was watching the relationships and marriages on our church-planting team, in awe not only that we remained

married, but that we actually liked each other. And our lives and relationships were built on a solid heritage of biblical principles—that of kindness, goodness, sacrificial love.

Thilo spent a lot of time with Jeff, one of our colleagues. Jeff told him of Jesus, of reconciliation, of mercy. One day, Thilo said, “I believe. I believe.” And there it began. He said with eyes shining, “Maybe, like Heiko's grandparents, I can be the beginning of a line of followers of Jesus. It can start with me.”

Hope restored in Berlin. Mercy, a new beginning for people like Thilo. Lives changed because of what you have given.

And there was Sasha. Sasha went out for coffee with a friend in Bulgaria and woke up in a brothel in Greece. After days of horror, she somehow escaped back to her hometown where she encountered MTW missionaries. Through prayer, discipleship, and companionship, she has been loved into wholeness, redeemed by the love of God. She said, “I am a picture of what was impossible and what has become possible with God.”



Mercy, a new beginning for people like Sasha. Lives redeemed in Bulgaria, in Greece, in Mexico.



Kay Burklin, director of mercy ministries for MTW, has deep experience in missions and mercy. She and her husband, Heiko, most recently served as church planters in East Berlin, Germany, in a partnership with MTW.

Marcello never saw another life for himself. In his mind, he was “an insect, that when it was thrown on the floor, made a terrible sound.” Beaten and abused by his mother, he came to the MTW StreetChild drop-in center in Acapulco a very confused, lost, and abandoned little boy. But there he was hugged and loved and told about how special he was. Educated in part with the help of sponsors here in the States, and through the testimony and love shared through national believers, Marcello is a different child. One who came to know the Lord as Father—the Father he never had.



Hearts repaired in Mexico. In the Philippines, Honduras, and Ethiopia. Mercy, a new beginning for people like Marcello. Lives changed because of what you have given.

They came in wheelchairs, hunched over, pain etched in their faces. Deformed bodies, damaged souls, shunned and rejected by society and often by their families. Yet they were lovingly cared for by dedicated MTW medical teams on a trip to Eastern Europe. Parents’ guilt was assuaged as they heard for the first time that their children were not a bad talisman, a result of sin in their lives, but rather that their children were gifts from God, loved and precious in His sight. One father, when saying goodbye to the team, said, “I don’t know your God, but I have seen Him work.”

They will know we are Christians by our love. Pastor Kalvachov, of the MTW church plant there, said that four people who began coming to church because of the medical ministry have become believers.

Families reconciled in Bulgaria, in Bangladesh, in Peru. Mercy, a new beginning for people in wretched pain. Lives changed because of what you have given. 

MTW’s Mercy Ministries consist of ONEChild sponsorship, Disaster Response, and Medical Ministry.

More than 50 children are waiting for sponsorship.

ONEChild

MTW’s ONEChild* sponsorship program provides for the urgent care of impoverished children around the world. Children who can’t go to school, children who don’t have enough to eat, children in desperate need of medical care. And children who have never heard of Jesus.

These children come to us through the ministries of MTW missionaries around the world. ONEChild connects the needs of these children, the missionaries, and generous sponsors. Just \$1 a day can make a huge impact in a child’s life—a child like Yonus:



Yonus, a young Ethiopian, lost his mother to HIV/AIDS. Sponsorship provided resources for him to enter college this year. He has participated in a weekly Bible study that challenged him to consider a gracious and loving Savior.

“The families and children that we work with would never be able to achieve high levels of education without the ONEChild program’s assistance. There are children going to college, the first in their families to do so,” said Emily Hendrix, ONEChild project administrator. “That’s an incredible life change!”

A monthly donation of \$35 provides a child with food, basic health care, educational opportunities, and the chance to hear about Jesus. Sponsors receive two letters each year from their sponsored child, annual updates on the child’s progress, and tax-deductible receipts from MTW. 

One dollar a day. One child at a time. Such a small investment, with giant returns. 

Please visit www.mtw.org/ONEChild, email ONEChild@mtw.org or call Emily at 678-823-0004 x2365 for more information.

* StreetChild has been folded into the name ONEChild.

Disaster Response Ministry

MTW's Disaster Response Ministry (DRM) trains and mobilizes medical, counseling, and engineering professionals to serve in the wake of natural disasters around the world.



In recent years, DRM has responded to the massive earthquakes in Japan and Haiti, the tsunami in Indonesia, and Hurricane Katrina. It is a unique area of ministry that is both physically and spiritually demanding, according to Christina Davies, DRM operations and training specialist.

Working alongside national relief workers and long-term MTW missionaries, DRM volunteers assist with medical, spiritual, and construction needs after a disaster strikes, hoping to use the opportunity to establish relationships and support church planting.

“We partner with church planters already in the field to strengthen church plants and gain access to areas that may not have been previously open to the gospel,” said Davies.

Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in post-earthquake Japan. “People are shaken to the core”—this is how an MTW missionary to Japan described the degree to which the earthquake and tsunami have affected the Japanese people. “Many are asking important questions which our missionaries delight to answer. We believe our missionaries and Japanese believers may be positioned at a critical juncture in the history of Japan.” MTW teams are still

responding to the earthquake/tsunami affected area in Japan.

BY: MELISSA KELLEY

To prepare volunteers for the rigors of the field, a weeklong Disaster Response Training course is offered regularly. Volunteers are trained in both classroom sessions and “in the field” hands-on exercises to work safely and effectively and to serve those suffering from shock, pain, trauma, illness, and dislocation. 

The next course will be offered in Chattanooga from October 16-21. For more information, contact response@mtw.org.

MTW Medical Department

MTW's Medical Department provides medical outreach worldwide and shares, through the practical gift of medicine, the truth of the healing power of Jesus.

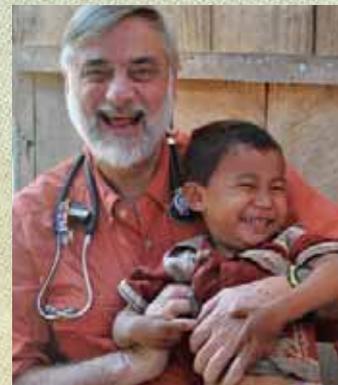
An MTW missionary in Haiti reported on the care provided by MTW medical missionaries following the devastating 2010 earthquake: “According to testimonies that I receive from people whom we have served, MTW’s medical teams are the best and the most appreciated in this camp. They say we show that we care for them.”

Medical missionaries weave the gospel and discipleship into their relationships with patients, community health workers, and national partners. Short-term medical teams of doctors, dentists, therapists, students, and non-medical personnel work alongside these missionaries to assist them in growing their ministry and the local church.

The Medical Department also works closely with medical school, nursing, and physical therapy students. “Our trips provide an excellent opportunity for individuals to get a taste of medical mission work in action,” said Dr. Ted Kuhn, co-director of MTW’s Medical Department. Past medical teams have included students from Emory University, Vanderbilt University, Wake Forest University, and Georgia Health Sciences University.

MTW regularly offers Advanced Medical Leadership Training (AMLT) to help medical professionals lead teams in the developing world. Clinical workshops and practicums range from safe food preparation to water purification to the utilization of mosquito nets.

This year we need medical providers for teams going to South Asia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Trinidad, and Juarez and Acapulco, Mexico 



For more information, contact medical@mtw.org.

you

have an opportunity to change the world ...
attend MTW's Disaster Response Training and prepare
yourself to be Jesus' hands and feet around the globe.



Disaster Response Training

October 16-21, 2012 • Chattanooga, TN • www.mtw.org



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85	7.8%

For more information
contact us at
678-823-0004 x2291
or estategift@mtw.org

Gift annuities are not available in all states and rates are based on
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Native American Vision Days— West Coast

Over 1,200 Native American people groups live in North, South,
& Central America. Among these people there is much emptiness,
anger and heartache. If you are a pastor or missions leader for
your church, please be our guest in Bellingham, WA on September
14-15, 2012 to hear from Native mission leaders on how your
church might serve alongside them in Native ministry.

Contact John Carter at MTW for more details.

Email: John.Carter@mtw.org • Phone: 678-823-0020, ext. 2305

ALL PLEAD FOR ONE THING: THAT GOD WOULD RAISE UP A MINISTER TO GO AND LIVE AMONG THE LUMMI, PREACH THE WORD OF GOD, AND LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL DAILY SO THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED.

Reaching the American Hinterlands

Amy Robinson grew up in France as the daughter of MTW missionaries and served with her husband in China.



In May of 1995, a small group of believers in Seattle, Wash., was moved to pray for the Lummi people, a tribe of Native Americans who have lived in the northernmost reaches of Washington since long before the recent development of these United States. The team had been ministering among various tribes just south of the

From South Africa

Canadian border on short-term trips for several years and each time they left for their homes, the Lummis' deep need for the gospel weighed heavily on them. All plead for one thing: that God would raise up a minister to live among the Lummi, preach the Word of God, and live out the gospel daily so that they might be saved. As they prayed, on what they would later know was precisely the same evening, an engineer and father of five, born and raised in Cape Town, South Africa, was kneeling on the floor in his home, encountering for the first time a distinctive call to the indigenous tribes of North America.

MTW missionary Michael Wadhams describes that night 20 years ago with a kind of giddy awe, and his light, distinguished South African accent thickens and brightens to tell the tale. Months of uncertainty had driven him home that night, intent on pleading with the Father until his path was made clear. Michael and his wife, Lindie, had married with the plan of ministering to the Amazonian tribes or some set of unreached peoples in the wild expanse of South America. But as Michael prayed, pleading for direction, there came of a sudden what he now calls, "a picture in my mind's eye." Before him stood an elderly man, bearing upon his ancient head a full warrior's headdress that fell all the way to his feet. Michael had no doubt that this was a chieftain of a Native American tribe, but this great warrior stood with his arms crossed and he was weeping.

Within the year the Wadhams had visited the U.S., and by the end of three years they had uprooted their life in Cape Town and

settled their family on the Eastern Band Cherokee Reservation in North Carolina. What followed was more than a decade of culture shock and rebuilding, refinement and preparation, and a steady progress toward the final focus of their ministry. Among the Cherokee people, the Wadhams children explored their new calling as a missionary family using friendship, acceptance, and fun to establish a bond with the community. Lindie, whom Michael describes with great emotion as both the "glue" of the Wadhams family and as "dynamite," found that her particular gifting in psychology and education met hidden needs in the community.

BY: AMY ROBINSON

It was only recently that the particular call to the Lummi tribe in Washington came—spoken by the lips of the tribe themselves. The short-term teams who had prayed for the Wadhams more than 15 years earlier continued to minister among the Lummi year after year. As they did, the tribe began to ask for more—more teaching on this strange idea of sin, of the Creator God and our separation from Him. More teaching to heal their families, dispel the darkness, give them hope. Michael himself was on one of these short-term stints of preaching and door-to-door ministry when a Lummi woman came running out of the house after them, crying, "Please, will you come back? Teach us!"

Back in May of 1995, when Michael Wadhams first approached his wife with the news that their family was headed to the United States to minister to the Native American tribes of that continent, she laughed and said, "That's nice for you, dear." And then joyfully, painfully, obediently the family came to this country, their providential home. When asked what paved the way for this steady trek from the southern tip of Africa to the northern tip of the western United States, the Wadhams answer: "Consistency, dedication, and love—but above all, prayer." 

BY: MINDY BELZ



The 10/30 Window will be the

The Other Unreached

Most of us know the 10/40 Window,

that geographic band between 10 and 40 degrees north latitude that's home to the largest unreached people groups—and the poorest and most spiritually impoverished—in the world. Its billions account for the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists.

Fewer of us have heard of the 10/30 Window, and I'm grateful for a recent orientation session from two experts, Eric Larsen and Jonathan Taylor of Global Youth and Family Ministries.* They believe missions are both geographic and generational, and they have dubbed the 2.4 billion of the world's population between the ages of 10 and 30 as the 10/30 Window. Taylor told me these youth constitute “the largest unreached people group in human history, larger than the 100 largest geographically defined unreached people groups combined.”

World population quietly hit a tipping point in 2010: Over 50 percent of people around the globe are now under the age of 25. It's perhaps not a coincidence that in the year following we saw youth rise up in Arab Spring revolts, and other less noted protests in China, Burma, Uganda and elsewhere have featured youthful roustabouts raging against aging, entrenched government leaders. I have seen too the sheer potency and discontentedness of youth in Afghanistan, where people under the age of 30 make up 75 percent of the population.

“We are calling on an entire adult population to turn its hearts to the young.”



Beyond the shifting demographics are two other guiding realities: The extension of adolescence, where puberty begins earlier (in 1900 its average age of onset was 14.5 years of age; today it is 10) and marriage and other signifiers of adulthood arrive later and later. And an emerging global youth culture in which youth around the world have more in common with each other than they do with the adults in their own culture. Theirs is a world shaped by media, by technology, and by the predominance of English as the language of the internet. A 14-year-old in Kathmandu is more likely to speak English and to use it frequently via Facebook and YouTube than his 40-year-old parents, who haven't had an English

one to watch in 2012

People Group



lesson since 8th grade and don't have much time for the internet while running a store. This, said Taylor, "at least blurs if not practically speaking obliterates the geographic boundaries that once divided previous generations."

Towering alongside these new trends is what Larsen calls "the systemic adult abandonment of the young." The very things that unite young people divide them from adults. They learn the day's conversation topics from a social media website, not the dinner table. They go to YouTube for direction on how to change the oil in the car,

not Dad. If they have a question about who took the first walk on the moon or what is an HPV vaccine, they're more likely to google it than to ask in the car on the way home from school.

And clearly parents have turned away from youth, particularly in the West (and often in pursuit of extending their own youth). Even in our Christian circles adults often are no longer a treasury of wisdom and experience for children but a directory of services. The Christian school or the homeschool curriculum educates and disciplines them, the youth group entertains them, and clinical experts are there to rehabilitate them when they fall.

"We used to guide our children into the pool and teach them how to swim," says Larsen. "But this is the generation of parents who walked away. We've pushed our children into the pool and we aren't in the water with them."

Larsen's plea is simple and direct: "We are calling on an entire adult population to turn its hearts to the young."

His plea is not only to parents but to what he calls a covenant community of adults who will recognize the value of training the next generation in all things at all levels—and not as in "we hire some people and we say we have done it."

Larsen believes it's significant that the Old Testament ends in Malachi with the promise of the prophet who will "turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers ..." (Malachi 4:6) and that the New Testament begins with the birth of a baby, an infant savior, Himself born to parents who today would be considered part of the 10/30 Window.



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* Global Youth and Family Ministries is a ministry of Mission to the World.

Finding Healing in Hardship



WIC Love Gift Helps Lay Foundation for Future in Haiti

The people of Haiti are no strangers to adversity. Mudslides, earthquakes, and hurricanes have visited Haitian soil with disturbing regularity, and in 2008 and 2010, the country was struck by a series of especially violent natural disasters. An already-ravaged country nearly reached its breaking point.

But, resilient as always, the Haitian people have endeavored to rebuild the country, piece by piece. The effort may be slow going but progress is being made.

Children's Home Planned

One such example is a planned children's home in Gonaïves, which is a joint venture between MTW, Eagle Ranch in Gainesville, Ga., and MTW missionary Esaie Etienne. The project has yet to break ground, but according to Sam Haupt, MTW's assistant director of global support ministries and director of disaster response, a 50-acre land purchase is imminent and basic amenities—a protective fence, a clean water source, and several buildings—could be completed within a year, thanks in no small part to a very crucial and unexpected piece of funding.

WIC Love Gift Funds

Every year, the WIC (Women in the Church) Love Gift is presented to a different PCA agency, and 2012 sees MTW as the recipient of this outpouring. "The WIC Love Gift is certainly a big piece of the puzzle," Sam says. "It has opened up a lot of opportunities for us to get this project off the ground."

Though branded as a home for children, the ministry will find a broader focus by serving as more than a mere shelter for wayward and orphaned children. The home in Gonaïves will strive to provide its residents with career and technical training, which aim to directly impact the widespread lack of employment opportunities in Haiti and the underlying economic hardships as well.

"If a building doesn't have a good foundation, it will crumble," Esaie says. "It's the same thing for a family, a community, a city, and a whole country. The foundation is the key."



Esaie Etienne

A Resource for the Community

A crucial part of helping Haiti find long-term and lasting recovery, Sam says, will come through skills training and working directly with the Haitian people to give them the tools they need to provide for their families and repair their country.

"We can build a house; we can build a fence; we can build a well," Sam says. "If there's no future, and if they can't support a family when they come out, how much good have we really done? What I cling to is the verse in Isaiah that says, 'Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save nor His ear too dull to hear.' I believe that and I'm excited to see this project unfold for our brothers and sisters in Haiti." [n](#)

For a free DVD or bulletin inserts about the Gonaïves Children's Home, contact the PCA bookstore at 1-800-283-1357, email tschirm@pcanet.org, or visit www.cepbookstore.com to order items 8505 and 8506 online. Gifts can be mailed to CEP, Attn. 2012 WIC Love Gift, 1700 North Brown Rd., Suite 102, Lawrenceville, GA 30043-8122.

A Church-Planting Vision Becomes Reality

BY: KATIE WEAVER



Just a generation ago, church planting in the Eastern Bloc seemed like fantasy. Now the twelfth Reformed church has been established in Ukraine through the work of MTW.

On February 12, 2012, MTW and the community of Holy Trinity Reformed Church celebrated the dedication of a new church building in Kherson, Ukraine. The church is one of 12 Reformed churches established in Ukraine by MTW teams since 1993. Holy Trinity will soon be particularized and Pastor Sergei Kukushkin will be installed. This exciting transition from a church plant to one led entirely by nationals represents the culmination of 14 years of hard work by MTW church planters Melinda Wallace, and Mel and Cindie Pike.

“It’s very satisfying to see the church in its current condition,” says Pike. He feels the addition of this church building will go a long way to help expand the church’s gospel ministry in Kherson, as well as solidify their image within a culture that can be suspicious of evangelicals. “One of the advantages to having this building is that it gives a sense of permanence and legitimacy to the community,” says Pike.

Releasing the Work

When the Pikes leave Kherson within the next year or so, they will leave behind a growing, giving church body. Holy Trinity has 40 to 50 regular attendees who provide for the basic needs of the church through their tithes and offerings. They have a committed pastor, several outreach ministries, and Holy Trinity has a good relationship with the broader protestant and Orthodox community in Kherson. “The church is in a good situation,” affirms Pike.

Holy Trinity’s ministries are focused on children and youth and include a growing youth group, as well as an annual vacation Bible school and a youth camp. One of the church’s key community relationships is with a local orphanage. Through a

Sunday school outreach, they have several kids from the orphanage who are regularly engaged in church activities.

Training Program Planned

Pike hopes Holy Trinity can extend its reach further in the coming months and years toward the older children at the orphanage.



“When the children turn 16, they have to leave the orphanage,” says Pike, “and there’s very little for them to do.” The church

hopes to start a training program for the young girls so they are equipped with meaningful skills and not swayed toward the streets or prostitution, as so often happens.

With its new building, Holy Trinity should be well equipped to continue making an impact in the lives of its members and the broader community. “During [the church’s] construction,” recalls Pike, “Sergei [Kukushkin] and I were walking around ... and he noticed that we were going to have a lot of space for our small congregation.” The two of them talked through the plans God may have in store. Recently, Pike reminded Kukushkin of their conversation—to which the pastor confidently responded, “God is going to fill this place with people.” [📄](#)



One Child's Mission Reaches Another

My 10-year-old son Andrew was the most eager member of our congregation's missions trip to Honduras last June. Not only was he excited to travel outside the United States for the first time, but also he was honored to be the ambassador of our children's ministry to the children of Armenia Bonito, the community in Honduras we served.

When Manor Presbyterian Church adopted the MTW Honduras Team as a missions focus several years ago, our children's ministry wanted to be part of our commitment as well. Not only do the children of our congregation regularly pray for specific children in Armenia Bonito, they also collect regular offerings for their support. Since Andrew was going to join the rest of my family as part of the 15-person team we sent to Honduras, he was asked to personally take the money his peers had collected and use it to buy food for the neediest families our team served.

Several days after our team arrived Mike Pettengill, the leader of the MTW Honduras Team, took Andrew shopping for groceries. Children from Manor had donated enough money to buy two bags of food for each of the 18 families chosen by three different local pastors in the community. Andrew had to carry a lot of bags the day it came time to give that food away!

BY: DAVID E. TATE

As we loaded the truck to take Andrew from one home to another with these gifts, Oneida asked if she could help. Actually, she didn't verbally ask to help. Oneida doesn't speak yet. Even though she is only a few years older than Andrew, Oneida's life has been quite different from his.

Oneida and her brother grew up in Armenia Bonito where they were regularly abused by their father and the broader community as well. Her lack of speech is not caused by any physical impairment; it's caused by the emotional trauma she endured as an outcast. When the MTW Team first arrived, she ran and hid from them like she hid from everyone else. But slowly, over time, their love coaxed her out of the shadows and into their arms.



Oneida has now become one of the happiest girls I've ever met, even though she still remains reticent around strangers. That's why I was surprised when she "asked" to help Andrew distribute the food he had purchased. He gladly shared the burden with her, and so began one of my favorite afternoons of all time.

My wife and I watched with joy while our youngest son learned to say, "Jesús te ama" (Jesus loves you) every time he handed food to another family. And our joy grew as we watched Oneida, perhaps the most economically-deprived

person in that community, take turns giving away food while her silent smile communicated Jesus' love in ways no language can express!

But he said to them, ***"I have food to eat that you know nothing about ... My food,"*** said Jesus, ***"is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."*** John 4: 32, 34 [n](#)

David E. Tate is the senior pastor of Manor Presbyterian Church in Cochranville, Pa.

2012 Children's Project: a heart for Japan

Just three days before the first anniversary of the Japan tsunami, a headline from the British paper, *The Guardian* read, "A year after the tsunami, Tohoku's young people need help to conquer their fear and guilt." And the accompanying photo showed a solemn young boy holding up a photo of what appears to be his grandparents.

It's always the children, isn't it? They are the ones who are most affected by loss, grief, and fear. That's why the aim of the 2012 MTW Children's Project is to take the love of Christ to the children of the tsunami. MTW's Children's Project is a video series designed to develop in children a heart for missions. This year the project will benefit an after-school program that combines what we think of as vacation Bible school with music education—a natural combination given that music is normally a key component of Japanese children's lives. The ministry is the vision of MTW missionaries Roger and Abi Lowther who just "happen" to be professional musicians as well as missionaries. And like many of MTW's Japan missionaries and Japanese church members, they have been ministering to the survivors since the waters of the tsunami receded.

The video, "A Heart for Japan," will teach your children about the people and culture of Japan, the damage and disruption of the tsunami, and how they can help reach out to children just like themselves with the love of Jesus.

To download the 2012 Children's Project video, order a DVD, or view the video online visit, www.mtw.org.

Gifts for the 2012 Children's Project can be sent to Mission to the World, P.O. Box 116284, Atlanta, GA 30368-6284. Designate account #96018.

Kids Missions Club

"Let's have a club!" Seems like a rallying cry of childhood, especially in the summertime, doesn't it? How about a club for missions? Really? Well, there's at least one group of kids who thought that was a great idea.



Kids Mission Club members from Pear Orchard Presbyterian in Ridgeland, Miss.

After hearing many missionary stories and tales of Christians who suffered persecution for the sake of Christ, Hudson Durfield from Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church in Ridgeland, Miss., decided they just had to do something! Soon a group of 12 young people from "The Kids Mission Club" was meeting once a month, making plans, working, and praying together.

Club members, including their families, raised funds, carried out missions projects, provided prayer and financial support for two missionary families, and sponsored a child through MTW's StreetChild program (now ONEChild). How did they raise money? They worked—raking yards. And as word spread in their church, they also got donations from others. In the first year alone, they raised over \$1,500.

Members hope to keep their club going, but what might be next? Hudson has a ready answer: "... our biggest goal is to go on a mission trip together someday!"

*"... our biggest goal
is to go on a mission
trip together someday!"*



“I saw the face of a wolf...”

Demonic Oppression vs. the Power of Prayer

For the last 13 years Ruben has gone to sleep with certain apprehension. He told me that during the night he often senses that someone is in the room with him, and then feels an oppression to such an extent that he cannot move his arms and legs, or even speak. Sometimes he feels a cool breeze. Then it passes away. He says to me that he is not dreaming... he is wide awake. Because he feared for his wife and children, he came to speak to me about what to do.

BY: KENTON WOOD

Ruben and his wife began attending our mother church in Guadalajara, Mexico, about two years ago and after a year gave their lives to Christ. The demonic oppression continued, and became even more intense. I asked if anyone in his family had ever been involved in the occult or if there were any items in his house tied to the occult. He said that there was a relative deeply involved, but that his house was clean.

Then I asked Reuben and his wife to begin praying in the name of Jesus against this oppression and to fast every afternoon for three days and see what happened. The next week he came back and said that the oppression had become more intense, and that one night when one of his children was in bed with him and his wife, he felt that presence next to him. As he extended his arm over his child to protect him, the presence leaped on him and he saw the terrifying face of a wolf.

Ruben is at war against the powers of darkness. He is not alone. Guadalajara is a very Roman Catholic city, but it is full of witches, palm readers, and all kinds of demonic practice. Many people in our church come from homes where the occult is readily practiced. Almost all those asking for help from demonic oppression have a parent or grandparent or an aunt or uncle who practices witchcraft. Quite frequently this opens a door that affects the extended family.

In the weeks that followed the spiritual attack on Ruben's family, Ruben and his wife continued to pray and fast, and gradually the oppression diminished. They now report that they have not experienced any demonic oppression in more than two months.

The demonic activity in Guadalajara is evident everywhere—in resistance to the gospel, in the 75 percent divorce rate, in much sickness in our churches, in the increasing crime and violence, and more. Paul reminds us that our struggle is against the vast spiritual forces of evil, but I take great encouragement in that



Ruben and his wife with church planter Kenton Wood.

God is at work breaking these bonds of oppression—that “He who is in [us] is greater than He who is in the world.”

1 John 4:4 [n](#)

Paul reminds us that our struggle is against the vast spiritual forces of evil.

Kenton Wood is an MTW church planter in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Mission to the World is the mission-sending agency of the PCA, helping to fulfill the Great Commission by advancing Reformed and covenantal church-planting movements through word and deed in strategic areas worldwide.

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FROM THE
COORDINATOR

Dr. Paul Kooistra



He loves us not
because we are
lovable, but because
He sees us in Christ ...

Covenant Baptism, Covenant Missions, and a Covenant God

Recently I preached in a Sunday morning worship service as part of a missions conference. This service included the celebration of covenant baptism, something not very common in a missions weekend, yet completely central to the mission and outreach of the Church.

One reason is that missions begins in Jerusalem—at home (Acts 1:8). And we are taught in Scripture that God is a family God. As our Heavenly Father, He has made a covenant that He will be faithful and loving to those of us who put our faith and trust in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He loves us not because we are lovable, but because He sees us in Christ, who is everything He loves. This love is rooted in an everlasting covenant, which is not only for us, but for our families as well. Hardly a day goes by that my wife and I don't thank our Heavenly Father for the fact that we have five believing children who are blessings of these same promises.

However, missions also stretches to the farthest reaches of the world. And so does the reality of His covenant—a reality I see at work in our evangelism and church planting efforts around the world. Recently MTW began a work in Vanuatu, the same

place John Paton carried on his work over 150 years ago. Today, 80 percent of the population of Vanuatu are believers. Because Paton was a Scot, 40 percent of those believers are Presbyterians.

However, later generations began to turn away from Christ, and many fell prey to a bizarre cult which began to grow in the 1930s. About 10 years ago, when the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu invited a village chief to send anyone he wanted to the Bible school on Santos Island, he sent his son. When that son returned four years later, he was a follower of Christ. God has worked through this young man so that MTW and the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu have deployed 21 pastor-evangelists to different villages on the island, and many people are coming back to the Church. The people had turned their backs on the God of Scripture, but as a covenant God, He did not turn His back on them.

Missions is the activity of a covenant God fulfilling a promise He made to Abraham that he would be a blessing to all peoples on the earth and that his descendants would be more numerous than the stars in the sky. God uses us to help fulfill these promises. 