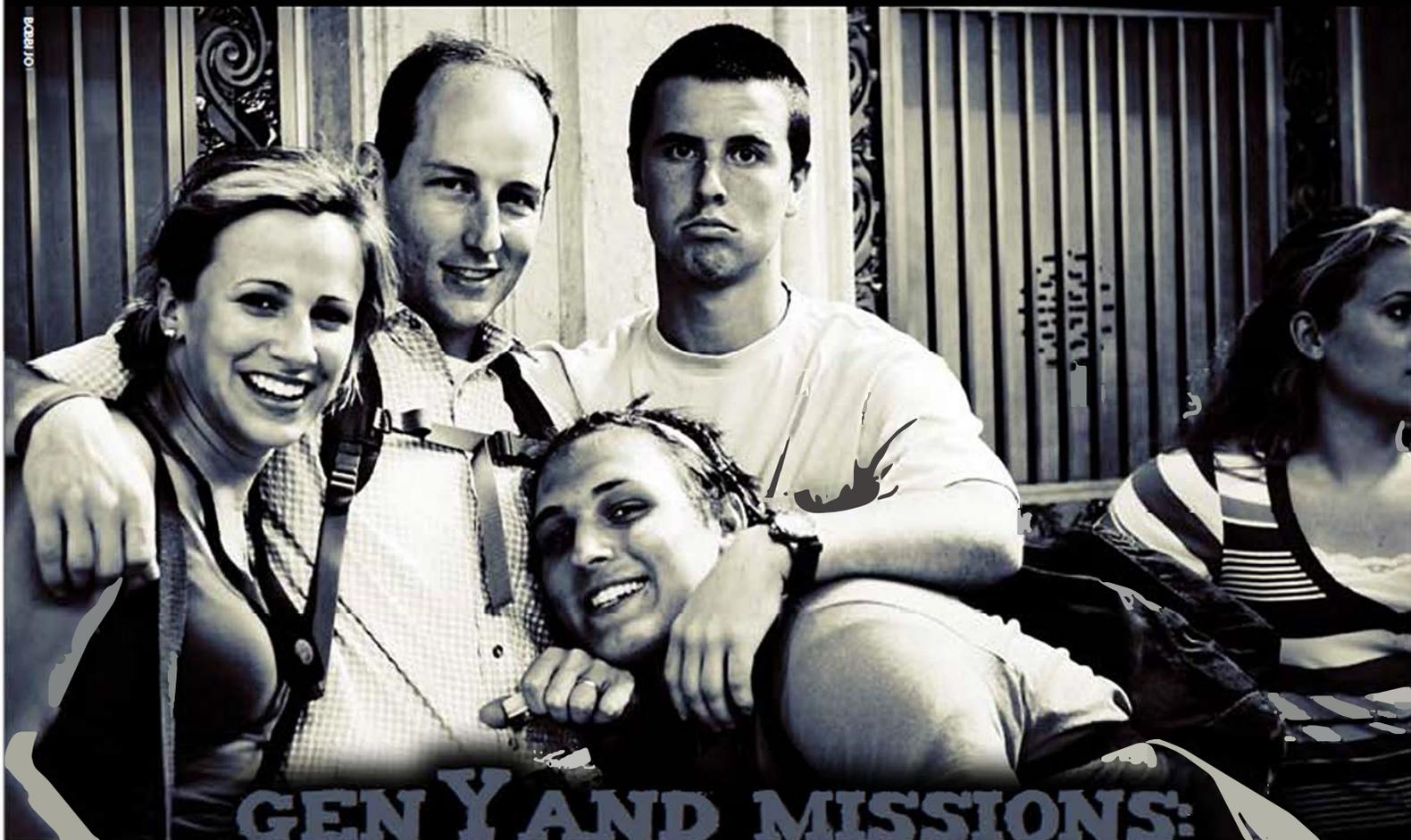




MISSION  
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## GEN Y AND MISSIONS: Focusing on the Future

by Melissa Kelley

One 28-year-old MTW worker is demonstrating a tangible benefit of serving as a Generation Y missionary on the field.

"Being younger and less experienced has allowed me to come under our national pastor to be mentored," said Micah, who has served with his wife, Blair, in Southeast Asia for the past two years. "I'm on the ground getting my hands dirty with him and his church. This is building trust in our team's relationship with our national partners and also communicates our respect for their leadership."

The ability of Generation Y (late teens to early 30s) to dive into ministry headfirst and learn on the ground is one

of its unique strengths, according to Brian Deringer, MTW's director of Global Support Ministries. "Generation Y Christians share a number of common characteristics, including creativity, a willingness to take risks, and a desire to get their hands dirty."

In postmodern Berlin, another MTW Gen Y couple is helping pioneer new methods of reaching young German families. Through initiatives like community arts events, family festivals, and "Brunch with God," (low-key Sunday morning gatherings that attract the unchurched) they are finding ways to build



*Community arts festival organized by MTW Berlin team.*



community and further the kingdom within a culture generally closed to Christianity.

"No matter what culture or context you're working in, people are longing for authentic community—that's what God has created us for," he said. "Everything is so individualized and me-focused in the younger generation that the concept of community is refreshing."

In fact, their success and the Berlin team in reaching its neighborhood resulted in a positive article about them and Christianity in a secular local magazine. "A community leader told us, 'We're so thankful you're here and for the impact you've had.'"

## **"NAVIGATING THE WORLD AS INSIDERS"**

Through a number of its ministries (see sidebar), MTW is focusing on the importance of reaching and equipping the next generation. "Soon, a majority of the world's population will be age 25 or younger," said Deringer. "We want to mobilize Generation Y and reach them—who better to reach young people than young people?"

Eric Larsen, who serves as the director of MTW's Global Youth and Family Ministry, sees huge opportunities within this sphere, and a responsibility to seize them. "Reaching the next generation is a must for the church—and the church should always have that orientation. We see in the Bible that God is always reconciling generations to one another, and that the burden is on the older to reach out to the younger—not the other way around."

One of Gen Y's greatest strengths is its natural cross-cultural bent, says Larsen. "Those in Gen Y have grown up in a globalized culture and have a global perspective. They feel deeply connected to people around the world. Because of this, they can have a great potential to impact [their contemporaries] in other cultures, and navigate that world as insiders."

He also sees a natural fit between Gen Y's hunger for meaning and purpose and the underpinnings of missions. "Missions is a life calling—the gospel gives us a grand redemptive narrative. It infuses each person's part of this story with great weight and significance. This is really compelling for those in Gen Y."

## AN EYE TOWARD THE FUTURE

MTW coordinator Paul Kooistra has frequently linked a passion for missions with youth. In a recent interview he says, "Some of our most enthusiastic, missions-minded people today in the PCA are those in the new generation coming up."

As Gen Y believers move forward, the church is challenged to prepare them for eventual leadership. "We must invest in them to prepare them for the succession of leadership," said Larsen. "We need to welcome Gen Y and disciple them into greater areas of responsibility. We can learn so much from one another." □

*The PCA Global Missions Conference partnership with Covenant College this fall (see pages 8-9) is just one way MTW is engaging the next generation:*

- MTW's new **EDGE** program (see page 13), designed especially for Gen Y participants, will allow those who desire a stripped-down missions experience to live more closely with those to whom they minister. Featuring lower support costs and hands-on ministry, EDGE is a two-year missions experience that will be offered in addition to current intern, short-term, and career missionary tracks. [go@mtw.org](mailto:go@mtw.org)
- MTW and **Reformed University Fellowship** (RUF), the PCA's campus ministry, are partnering to reach, teach, and equip college and university students. MTW provides opportunities for RUF students to participate in missions through short-term trips, and RUF provides a base of students to go on these trips, with the hope that some will eventually discover missions as a calling. [opal.hardgrove@mtw.org](mailto:opal.hardgrove@mtw.org)
- MTW's new micro website, "**Go Global**," showcases young people who are engaging in missions. Viewers can read comments, watch videos, and stay abreast of the latest opportunities for Gen Y. <http://GoGlobal.MTW.org>
- "Reaching the nations and the next generation." That's the mission of **Global Youth and Family Ministry** (GYFM), which provides support and care for MTW missionaries and their children, and ongoing training for those seeking to influence global youth culture. [www.gyfm.org](http://www.gyfm.org)



*Christmas Eve service in Berlin team's Family Center.*

**“What I leave behind will benefit missions at home and abroad.”**

– MTW Partner Bill Nardin



MTW Partner Relations helped Bill Nardin create an estate design that helped him avoid taxes and make a lasting gift to his church and the ministries he supports. To learn how we can help you create an estate plan that provides for your family and ministry, contact us at [estatedesign@mtw.org](mailto:estatedesign@mtw.org) or 678-289-0004, ext. 2291.

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MTW Global Support Ministries

# The “M” of HMA

by Judith Newland Birkey



HMA. Home Ministry Assignment.

What is the “M” of HMA? What is the ministry to which I am assigned this year?

Sometimes it is standing in front of a church, being their eyes and ears, recounting what God is doing in Japan. Sometimes it is joining in on family devotions, showing pictures, and explaining the spiritual needs of Japan in a kid-friendly way.

Sometimes it is listening to someone who has a heart for the world but is not sure what to do with that heart. Sometimes it is sitting in the recruiting director’s office, understanding more of the process from MTW’s perspective, and helping him understand more of what it’s like on the field.

Sometimes it is sharing my journey with potential candidates at a vision retreat.

Sometimes it is playing with children, as they teach me how to make origami frogs, knowing that they will pray for me over the next five years without seeing me.

Sometimes it is examining budgets and finance reports and exchange rates and then praying and determining where and how to seek to build the financial support team necessary for returning.

Sometimes it is planning trips, making phone calls, arranging logistics, and putting together the jigsaw puzzle that is my schedule for HMA.

Sometimes it is driving all day to get from here to there. Sometimes it is breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, and dinner in four different states. Sometimes it is a different bed every night.

Sometimes it is calling AAA to come unlock your keys from your car, and being unable to answer the question, “Where are you?”

Sometimes it is sitting around a dining room table with a family that has given sacrificially each month, sharing in their end-of-the-day stories, answering their questions, saying “thank you,” and growing in our sense of being partners together in what God is doing in Japan.

The “M” of HMA is varied. The “M” of HMA is not a 9-to-5 desk job. The “M” of HMA requires sensitivity to the Holy Spirit’s leading to know what that “M” should look like today.

The “M” of HMA is very different from the “M” the other four years, but “M” it remains. The “M” of HMA would not exist if it were not for the past four years. And were it not for the “M” of last HMA, the past four years would not have existed! ■

***Judith Newland Birkey served as an MTW missionary to Japan for 16 years. She was recently married and now lives with her husband on a farm in Illinois.***

# BUILDING HOPE IN HAITI

by Carter Davis

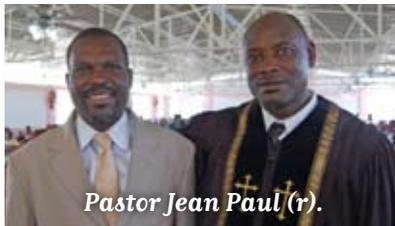


PHOTOS BY MARTIN HAWLEY

For the country of Haiti, the relationship between its people and the ground upon which they live has always been a tenuous affair. Rife with harsh terrain, devoid of much in the way of natural shelter, lacking necessary infrastructure and leadership, the delicate spit of land that's roughly the size of Maryland is constantly on high alert for natural disasters.

On January 12, 2010, an already difficult relationship between inhabitants and surroundings became infinitely worse when a magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit the already resource-starved region. Now, nearly a year later, little has changed; bodies still lie rotting among the rubble and few structures have been rebuilt. Safe shelter and clean drinking water are scarce, and even the best efforts have yielded less-than-optimal results.

However, in the middle of the chaos, one structure has indeed been rebuilt: the Reformation D'Espoir/Souls Winning Ministries Church, completed through a partnership—of finance, planning, and sweat equity—between MTW, its U.S. partner Reformation Hope, the people of the Haitian church, and Jean Paul, the church's pastor.



Pastor Jean Paul (r).

"People see this building and they see hope," Jean Paul said. "[Before the earthquake] people were hopeless, but [after the earthquake] things were truly bad. But, by the grace of the Lord, we were able to rebuild."

And so, without saying a word, the church's members have sent a powerful message to others in the region.

"In the whole Port-au-Prince area, we are the only congregation that has started and finished [rebuilding]," Jean Paul said. "People see this. They recognize that we didn't do this alone."

As a result, the church has inspired hope among many locals and, according to Jean Paul, the rebuilding has helped to strengthen the faith of its congregation. But the work is far from finished.

## Sharing Hope

According to Sam Haupt, MTW's assistant director of Global Support Ministries, he's seen firsthand how Jean Paul's congregation has stepped up to provide for their friends and neighbors. In fact, many congregants have taken in fellow Haitians who are even less fortunate than they.

"That they've taken ownership is affecting our mission as we move forward, which is exactly what should be happening," Sam said.

MTW had a support team on the ground in Haiti within 10 days after the earthquake and has been working to begin, complete, or conceive a number of projects in the time since.

"We've been sending and continue to send medical teams," Sam said, "and in April we began broadening our efforts to focus on transitional shelters and rebuilding. We partnered with Medair in that, and we've been able to achieve some remarkable results with them." Medair provides emergency relief and rehabilitation across the globe.

Additionally, MTW is partnering with Eagle Ranch Christian Children's Home, a Georgia-based organization that uses a house-model approach—one houseparent with 12 children—and is working to apply the same model in Haitian orphanages.

In the future, MTW team members will train at Eagle Ranch's facilities and take that training to Haiti where the need for organized orphanages is dire.

## "The Lord is Amazing"

As MTW and other service organizations continue to work on rebuilding Haiti, many in the media have expressed frustration over the pace at which the country is (or isn't)

recovering. But, as Reformation D'Espoir has proved, God is at work in the region.

"This was a terrible thing to happen," Jean Paul said. "But, we are seeing a lot of good coming out of it. In our church, we are seeing what the Lord is doing here and praising Him for it, but elsewhere people are without hope. We are trying to show them that there is reason to hope. The Lord is amazing. We know this, and we want the people of Haiti to know it, too. Soon they will." ■

**To learn more about MTW's efforts in Haiti, or to give, visit [www.mtw.org/haiti](http://www.mtw.org/haiti).**

## SEEDS OF HOPE: 2011 Children's Mission Project

The 2011 MTW Children's Mission Project will focus on an agricultural project in Haiti which will provide food for an orphanage sponsored by our ministry partner Reformation Hope International and their missionary Jean Paul, pastor of Souls Winning Ministries Church. Funds from the 2011 project will go toward seed and other costs related to growing fruits and vegetables for the children. Agricultural machinery has already been delivered, and work has begun on acreage provided by the Haitian government for this purpose. The video will be available online by mid-November. To learn more, contact [info@mtw.org](mailto:info@mtw.org) or check the tick box on page 15.



After the reporters and celebrities have left, **Haiti** will still be hurting and **MTW** will still be helping administer the life-saving gospel in word and deed. In the next few months, giving and interest will drastically decline for **Haiti's disaster**. But the crisis won't be over. **MTW** is offering PCA churches and members a **direct route to meet the physical and spiritual needs of Haitian people**. Will you join with **MTW** in meeting needs, helping with recovery, and building the Church in Haiti? By committing to give monthly or quarterly for one year, you will ensure we're there ministering for the long haul.

Go to [www.MTW.org/Haiti](http://www.MTW.org/Haiti) for more info and online giving.  
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Address/state/zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Connecting with THE 2010 PCA

For the first time, Covenant College is joining Mission to the World to co-sponsor the 2010 PCA Global Missions Conference, November 5-7 in Chattanooga, Tenn. Several hundred students are attending this year's event, including more than 100 serving as volunteers. Here, several Covenant staff members discuss the relationship between Covenant and missions.



**Christiana Fitzpatrick**  
Mentoring Coordinator

"Many students at Covenant are looking for ways to put their faith and classroom knowledge into

practice," says Christiana Fitzpatrick, Covenant's special programs and mentoring coordinator.

The desire for hands-on experience is a common theme among Generation Y Christians. "Students want to be a part of the global church reaching out in the world and helping people holistically," Christiana said. "They want to know and learn from people from other cultures, to address issues of identity and human dignity with the truth of the gospel, and to partner with organizations who are working with communities to address these issues."

This year's Global Missions Conference offers students the opportunity to explore global missions through face-to-face interaction with missionaries and national leaders, and through seminars geared toward their unique interests.

"Exposing students to global leaders, cross-cultural workers, and international opportunities is essential as they consider their future work in the global church," Christiana said. "Whether or not they become career missionaries, they need to be in a better position to understand and be a part of a multi-ethnic church."



Aaron Messner, chaplain of Covenant College and emcee for the Global Missions Conference (GMC), considers Covenant's partnership with MTW to be a strategic one. "Every year hundreds of our students are involved with MTW internships and short-term missions opportunities," Aaron said. "I'd love to see that number grow. But more importantly, I'd love to see all Covenant students

# th Covenant: A GLOBAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE

by Melanie Benedict



Covenant's annual "Culture Fest"

## Aaron Messner Chaplain

graduate with a heart for missions. We don't see this partnership as having a narrow focus of just getting students to become missionaries, but rather of building in them a heart for missions that they can take into the life of the church. I tell students, 'Even if you're not immediately interested in missions, you're going to be involved in a church, and global missions is at the heart of what a healthy church is about.'



## Julie Moore Director of Student Life

"There's something very moving about watching a father drop his daughter off at school and then get on a plane to fly back to Africa," says Julie Moore, director of student life at Covenant College. "I love getting to live life with these students."

Julie is referring to Covenant's Third Culture Kids (TCKs), many of whom have grown up on the mission field. College life for them is not the same as it is for students who have grown up in the U.S. "They have a unique background," Julie said. "They're cross cultural. Their home is overseas."

At other schools, TCKs might be lost in the crowd, but at Covenant these students have support. Lara Ward, a professional counselor, Covenant graduate, and a missionary kid herself, leads a counseling group that helps students explore the confusing feelings that accompany their unique background. And every February, Covenant's Cultural Diversity Program sponsors "Culture Fest"—an opportunity for students to present the traditional dance, dress, and food of their ministry culture, and for Covenant to celebrate the kingdom of God collectively.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Anna Wiersema,**  
a junior at Covenant, spent two months this summer in Ukraine as an intern with MTW.



### Was there one relationship in particular that impacted you on the field?

One of the ladies I was closest to was [MTW missionary] Mary Miner. I spent lots of time just talking to her, hearing about her life, and telling her about what was going on in my heart this summer. She was very gracious and really helped me process everything I was learning and all my culture-shock and turmoil. It was really special for me to see what her life was like as a woman on the mission field and how God had worked through her and was working in her.

### What was a typical day of ministry like in Ukraine?

A major component of our ministry was building relationships with Ukrainian students through English camp, English Bible classes, and weekly meetings on campus. Students were very receptive and willing to grapple with the gospel and the Word of God. I loved that as we built relationships with the students, we were helping the team.

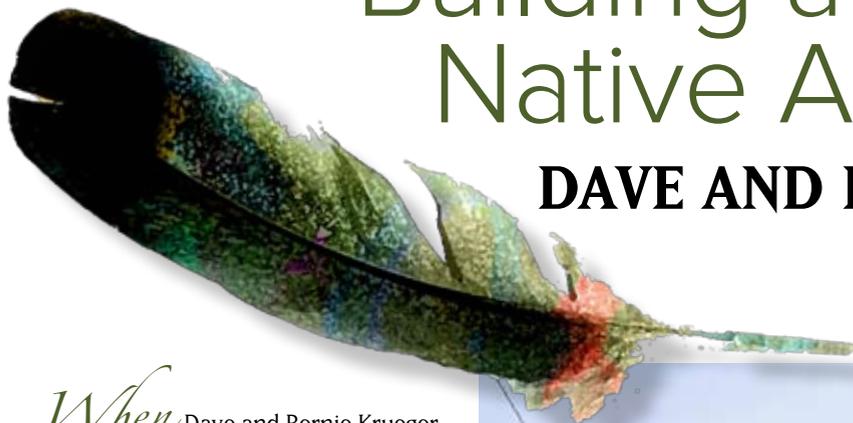
### What would you say to someone considering an MTW internship?

I would tell them to just go. It's such an excellent time to really experience missions and what it means to live cross-culturally. It helped me to get to know God better.

# Building a Bridge to Native Americans:

## DAVE AND BERNIE KRUEGER

by Melanie Benedict



*When* Dave and Bernie Krueger first took a short-term missions trip to Cherokee in 1992, he was a retired industrial designer and she was a retired medical receptionist. But God used that trip to spark in Dave and Bernie a love for Native Americans that would ultimately put retirement on hold for 18 more years.

Dave, a project administrator in MTW's two-week department working with Native American ministries, and his wife Bernie, who works alongside Dave as a volunteer, started working two days a week for MTW in 1996. The two days quickly grew into two positions.

"Dave and Bernie have been invaluable to MTW," said Opal Hardgrove, director of special projects for MTW. "Dave has built a huge bridge between the white world and the Native American world."

Part of the key to the Kruegers' success in Native American ministry is a factor many might find limiting: their age. "Native Americans respect white hair," said Dave, pointing to his head. The respect Dave and Bernie have engendered among Native American leadership has helped them cultivate opportunities for many MTW teams to serve on the reservation.

"We ask them for names of older people who might need construction work done and can't do it themselves," says Krueger. "We also do other types of mercy ministry: construction, VBS, and music programs where we go into convalescent homes or prisons." He told the story of one grandfather living in poverty taking care of his



*Helping those in need on the reservation.*

grandchildren in a tiny room with a leaky roof and dirty mattresses. "The MTW team came in and fixed up his place and gave them new mattresses. He couldn't read and write, so he didn't know he was eligible for Social Security."

When asked why ministry to Native Americans is important, Dave rattles off an extensive list of issues. "It's a need because of alcoholism, abuse—both physical and sexual—drugs, unemployment, despondency, depression, a high suicide rate. It parallels what you might find in the inner city."

Bernie shakes her head as she considers the magnitude of the problem. "The children grow up in it and then repeat the cycle," Bernie said. "They don't know how to parent

because they weren't brought up with parental supervision."

After nearly 15 years of faithful service, Dave and Bernie Krueger plan to retire from MTW at the end of 2010.

"We kinda got two for one," Opal said, referring to Bernie and Dave. "They have a real heart and love for Native Americans, and have been such prayer warriors for them. They've been very sacrificial in how they minister to Native Americans." ■



*Dave and Bernie Krueger*

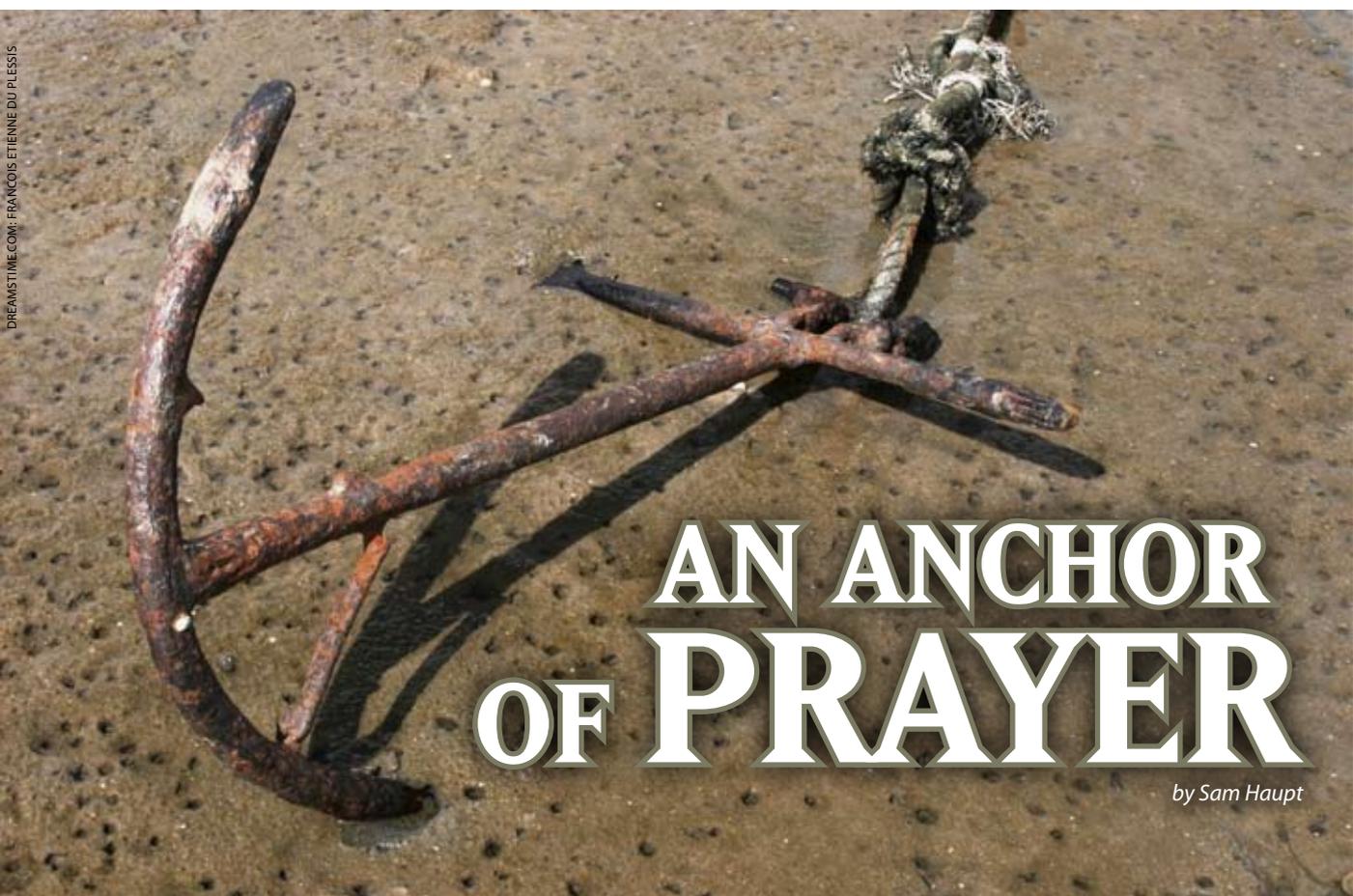
*As the intensity* of the hurricane increased, I was struck by the irony of the sounds around me. Although we were taking shelter in the casino of an exclusive resort, I heard no bells or laughter. No lights flashed, no slot machines whirred. Out the grand window facing the ocean, I could see only small flickers of light reflected off the ocean waves that were overwhelming the sea wall.

As I walked around with the structural engineers I was traveling with, we heard a low frequency

In the end, he succeeded in cutting the membrane loose, the roof stayed in place, and the hotel survived.

More than a decade later, my hurricane experience almost seems like another lifetime. Except that this experience reminds me of the needs of our Haitian brothers and sisters. The people of Haiti are still in a storm, struggling to survive a calamity. They know they can't make it alone. They need people to go and help. And most importantly, they need someone to hold the rope of prayer.

DREAMSTIME.COM; FRANCOIS ETIENNE DU PLESSIS



# AN ANCHOR OF PRAYER

by Sam Haupt

drone that indicated a problem. The senior engineer knew immediately what the sound meant. The wind had worked its way under the membrane of the casino roof. He informed us that if the membrane was not cut loose, the roof would blow off and all the walls of the hotel would collapse.

One of the men knew exactly what to do. Retrieving a large knife and a long rope, he said: "Let's go." As we reached the roof, he tied the rope around his waist, and headed out to cut the membrane loose. Next thing I knew, I was charged with holding the rope that kept him alive as he worked in the storm to save the rest of us. He shouted out instructions for me to give way, pull up, or hold the rope. On that night, I did all three to ensure that my new hero came down from the roof successfully.

Will we hold the rope of prayer for the people of Haiti? The men and women of Haiti are out on the roof, struggling to save their homes, their cities, their way of life. Will we endure as anchors in prayer until they have successfully come down off the roof? Or will the intensity of our prayer and offers of help fade as time passes and our attention turns elsewhere?

The story of my hurricane experience is a reminder that the anchor is essential to the rescue. The story of Haiti's survival of its "storm" will be written by the Church. It will be written by you and me. Will we provide the anchor that they need? ■

**Sam Haupt directs MTW's efforts in Haiti and serves as MTW's assistant director of Global Support Ministries.**

## VIEW FROM THE CHURCH: Adventures in Asia

by Sonja Sray

*Imagine this:* 165 gallons of paint, 15 bags of cement, 10 pieces of 4x4 glass, 36 tubes of caulk, 20 4x10 gutter pipes, 12 faucets, playground equipment built and repaired, one week of art classes for 120 kids.

That laundry list of supplies used and tasks accomplished doesn't tell the tale. Having read much on the dangers of the "institutionalization" of children, I was prepared for heartbreak at the children's home we visited through MTW in South Asia. Our church sent us as a construction team to help repair a decrepit school, but I was in no way prepared for what we found.

I wasn't prepared for the difference Christian staff can make. I wasn't prepared for the children's megawatt smiles. I wasn't prepared for the children to tell us with joy on their faces how much they love living at the home, or to be serenaded with an impromptu concert of "As the Deer Pants for the Water." And, I certainly wasn't prepared for the way the art class I co-taught grew from the 15-20 children we'd been told to expect, to 120 children!

Founded in 1945 by missionaries, the children's home we visited cares for the children of those with leprosy. Parents voluntarily enroll their children. Because poverty and long-term exposure put the children at risk of contracting leprosy, they live at the home year-round. Caring for around 450 children at two locations, missionaries provide oversight for the home, and Christian staff—many of whom grew up in the home themselves—care for the educational, social, and spiritual needs of the children.

Our team went there to paint and repair buildings, but instead, the kids watched us, then took over. While we were doing roof repair on the girls' dormitory one day, the girls surged onto the roof to be taught repair techniques. I asked one who was chiseling away at crumbling concrete if she was tired (temperatures were 100+). She replied, "Yes, I'm tired, but I'm also interested," and she kept right on chiseling. We provided materials and support, and these amazing, vibrant young people took ownership of the projects. Looking at their faith and gifts, the future here can indeed be a bright one.

I left part of my heart in South Asia. Leaving was painful. But, I believe God is shaping me to be more like Him, for there are pieces of His heart all over His creation. I am still a jumble of grief and joy. I grieve the scope of the need at the children's home, but rejoice that some are filling it. God is able. God's kingdom is advancing in South Asia ... even so, come Lord Jesus. ▣

**Sonja Sray traveled to South Asia in June with a missions team from Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church in Suffolk, Va. To learn more visit [home4children.com](http://home4children.com).**

# MISSIONS ON THE EDGE

by Katie Weaver

MTW's newest ministry venture is seeking those who desire a deeper degree of authentic, missional living. Brian Deringer, director for MTW's Global Support Ministries, admits that the aptly-named missions experience, EDGE, "will take participants to the extreme in terms of personal sacrifice."

What are the extremes that embody EDGE? Participants will live among indigenous peoples for a minimum of two years. They may be isolated from contact with other MTW missionaries by choosing this path. The missionary will embrace subsistence living in order to connect more meaningfully with communities, eating what they eat, and living where they live so as to minister more authentically.

Understandably, EDGE is not for everyone. "Some are gifted in a way that allows them to live right at the edge," acknowledges Deringer. For those who are, this extreme approach to field service could be life altering. In fact, MTW hopes to nurture a mentality and desire for a

lifetime of missions, making EDGE a potential springboard for those wishing to continue on to standard two- or four-year programs.

While EDGE's focus on immersion and subsistence living will present challenges for missionaries, it has many benefits, not the least of which is low cost. An initial study shows that the two-year costs for EDGE participants could be one half of a standard two-year program.

But EDGE is not just about a low-cost missions experience, or an extreme adventure. "Its chief goal," explains Deringer, "is to adopt the most simple, uncomplicated, indigenous lifestyle possible—and to use it as radical lifestyle evangelism." ■

**To learn more about EDGE, send an email to [go@mtw.org](mailto:go@mtw.org).**

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What are some creative ways your church supports and prays for missions?

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## VIEW FROM THE FIELD: He Knows My Name

Our students all have English names. At the beginning of their freshman year, students choose an English name to use in all their English classes, and sometimes even keep these names for the rest of their lives. This is due, in part, to the great difficulty of learning Asian names, since one must be able to read the characters to know how to pronounce them and because pronunciation of their true names is, in itself, a great difficulty. Even teachers fluent in the local language will only occasionally learn the true names of their students, and then only if they have established a pretty significant relationship.

This semester, I've tried to remember my students more frequently and to understand them in a more personal way by learning their real names. I've created contacts in my email program with pictures for each of them, with their Asian names listed right next to their English names.

I hadn't really thought of this as an important part of my work here until a very brief, but significant conversation occurred. I have developed a sweet friendship with one particular student this year. She's one of a few students who seems really interested in a friendship and not just a mutually beneficial acquaintance. I was showing her one of my language learning tools during a class break last week, and she asked if she could look up her own name in the

program to see how it interpreted the meaning. Without thinking, I nodded and began to type in her name to look up the result. She actually cried out in her astonishment! I looked up, suddenly self-conscious, and found her staring at me in utter disbelief.

"You know my name?" she asked.

I blushed and shrugged, "I'm sure I'm not pronouncing it correctly, but yes. I wanted to remember your real name."

Very quietly, she said, "Thank you."

We went on to look up her name (the transliteration of the meaning turned out to be "Strong Pear Tree") and class resumed shortly after. On my short walk home that afternoon, I received a text inviting me to hang out with Strong Pear Tree the following week.

Ever since that revealing conversation, a song we used to sing with fellowships in the United States has been stuck in my head: "He knows my name ... He knows my every thought ... He sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call ..."

He knows my name. And the true names of every one of my Asian students—whether I ever learn them or not. ■

***This piece was written by an MTW worker who teaches English in East Asia.***



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

## FAITH MATTERS

Those who seek to know God and serve Him must begin with a strong faith that embraces Christ's saving grace—a faith that produces repentance, humility, dependence, and a grateful heart that claims no merit of its own. This believing faith is the only solid foundation on which we can know God and serve Him.

The question is how such faith can be engaged in ministry. In 1797, William Wilberforce answered this question with the description: "with courage to attempt, with patience to endure, and with the power of conscience." With this perspective, Wilberforce and his colleagues established soup kitchens, lending libraries, and schools. They championed small pox vaccinations and workers' rights. They helped found institutions promoting art and literature, animal rights, and human rights. And, of course, their crowning achievement was the end of

the slave trade in the British Empire. They accomplished amazing advances through faith engaged with courage, patience, and the power of conscience.

I believe Wilberforce mentioned "power of conscience" last because he wanted to emphasize this quality of engaging faith in ministry. And I want to emphasize how important conscience is to MTW—we must be trustworthy. It is very easy in ministry to stray from right principles to pragmatism, but from God's perspective the ends do not justify the means. God is more concerned about our hearts than our accomplishments. A godly conscience allows us to trust God and believe that He will accomplish His will and His glory through our efforts.

The "courage to attempt" creates an environment where we are able to respond to challenges and opportunities that the Holy Spirit

shows us. We have a new StreetChild ministry in Honduras, a new evangelism ministry in Vanuatu, and we have added church planting to the AIDS ministry in Ethiopia. All required careful thought and evaluation. But at some point we have to say, "Let's try it and see what God will do."

Wilberforce said we need the "patience to endure." Those who make the largest impact for the kingdom operate out of principle with courage, and they are in the work for the long haul. A recent report showed how God is blessing our Japan mission in several ways. It would have been so easy to give up a long time ago. Praise God for the missionaries who gave their entire lives to the cause!

My prayer is that MTW will move ahead with the strength of a pure conscience, the courage to meet new challenges God gives us, and the patience to wait on God. ■