

# ACTION



*"What is  
desirable in  
a man is his  
kindness..."*

– Proverbs 19:22

# KINDNESS in ACTION

# Editorial

*"I have personally witnessed kindness countless times in the misty eyes of real men in desolate places; calloused hands on the brows of dirty, hungry children; trained hands tenderly ministering to the sick."*



## MFM is Kindness in Action

By Warren Hardig  
MFM Executive Director

I may not be "the sharpest knife in the drawer" capable of parsing the literary nuances of the Book of Proverbs. But with a student's heart, a few translations for comparison, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I can know what the book says, what it means, and how to apply it.

A proverb is described as a truth so universally obvious that simply uttering it at the right time can resolve a discussion.

Through the years, the words of many proverbs have become so much a part of my thinking that they come to mind and are rolled out into a conversation before I can check their appropriateness at the lip-gate.

Such was the case when a discussion about manliness and kindness triggered and launched Proverbs 19:22: *What is desirable in a man is his kindness and better to be a poor man than a liar.* (NASB)

There it was, the right proverb at the right time right from the

Word of God. Discussion closed, or so I thought.

Imagine my chagrin when asked later by someone who had apparently done some personal digging into the same verse, "Who is it that desires kindness in a man? Is it that God desires kindness in a man, a man desires it in himself, or others desire it in a man? And what do poverty and dishonesty have to do with that kindness?" All good questions.

The facts of the verse seem straight forward. Every man should have the desire within himself to show the trait of kindness. Others desire to see that trait in a man; in fact, they expect to see it in a man of God. And God expects the trait of kindness in all His children.

I have personally witnessed kindness countless times in the misty eyes of real men in desolate places; calloused hands on the brows of dirty, hungry children; trained hands tenderly ministering to the sick. That, to me, is manly kindness in action

and a desirable trait that every real man ought to always exhibit and frequently experience.

Proverbs 19:22 may also be a warning to a man obsessed with only a human desire to show kindness. He may give away more than he intends leading to poverty — or less than he promised making him dishonest. A man is ultimately accountable to God, not his emotions, to decide how, when, and where to vent his kindness. Sometimes an act of kindness is hard work, not motivated by warm feelings but by raw obedience to God. That's called "tough love."

There is, however, something missing with that straight-forward interpretation of the verse. At issue is the word "kindness" in the version that I memorized and effortlessly quote. In most newer versions the word is translated "loyalty" or "faithfulness" from a Hebrew word, *hesed*, meaning "loving kindness," a basic virtue of God.

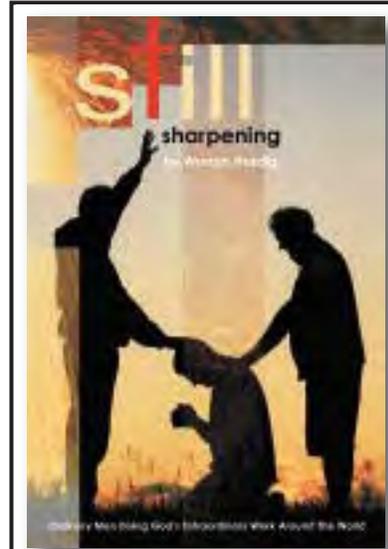
With kindness redefined as loyalty I'm left to further wonder

and ponder the biblical implications of manly kindness. There is evidently something in a man's loyalty to God and God's loyalty (loving kindness) to a man that result in a trait admired by God and all, the virtue of kindness.

The meaning and challenge of Proverbs 19:22, in any translation should be clear. The virtue that makes a man attractive is God's loving kindness shining through his choices and actions as loyalty and faithfulness; a man who keeps promises to himself, to God, and to others. Once his word is given he will keep it, even if it costs him everything, rather than being a liar to himself, God, and others. *Loyalty makes a person attractive. It is better to be poor than dishonest.* (NLT)

The verse may also be a warning to a man about making promises to himself, to God, and to others in the passionate, heart-felt emotion of the moment without considering the cost, or the need for trust in God's undergirding, guidance, and provision. Perhaps the verse is speaking to a man who once made promises and now is struggling with the choice of being a man of his word or dishonest. A promise very familiar to men active in Men for Missions comes to mind...

*I will do, go and give whatever God asks.*



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# ACTION

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*I will do whatever God asks me to do; I will go wherever God asks me to go; I will give whatever God asks me to give.*

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# Millie and the Twelve Disciples *in Colombia*

By Edward H. Griem

At my church in Benton, Kansas, I listened to Millie Young share about the Colombian people and their great need for Jesus. God spoke to my heart that I should go on one of the mission trips to Colombia. At first I had doubts and fears because I had just started a computer business, and wondered, "What would happen to the business? How could I afford to go? What about my wife? How could God use me?"

I told Millie that I felt God was calling me to go to Colombia and shared some of my fears and lack of finances. A couple of weeks later Millie shared a letter from Medellin, Colombia, that they needed someone with technical experience to assist them with many computer issues. I told Millie that I was willing to go, but God would have to provide the finances.

The following weeks Satan threw multiple temptations and hardships at us. Three weeks prior to leaving, my wife and I were in a serious car wreck on an icy bridge. Our Trail Blazer was totaled; my wife, Susan, suffered four broken ribs; and I had a head full of glass from hitting the windshield. We know that God spared our lives.

God is faithful, and He supplied the finances for the trip in several wonderful ways. I was able to provide for the needed finances for business expenses — actually, God supplied all the needs for the business. Then several of my computer customers found out I was going to Colombia on a mission trip, and they gave. Friends from California gave a large amount and many from my local church gave. God was faithful, and there was money left over for gifts for the Colombian children.

On January 8, 2011, the team left for Medellin, Colombia. Upon arrival several church members met us with a bus and went to the Seminario Biblico de Colombia. We stayed in the seminary dorm rooms since the students were on spring break.



The Kansas team in Medellin, Colombia.



Sunday morning worship in Medellin.



Pastor Gustavo and several church members gave us a tour of Medellin.



Several church construction projects were completed.



Ceiling tile was installed in several remodeled rooms.



The team with Millie and many new friends at the church.

Sunday morning we attended worship service at the Iglesia Cristiana Confraternidad La Floresta, where we later worked. Although most of the songs and preaching were in Spanish, and we did not always understand the words, our hearts and minds worshiped. God's presence was so strong, at times our physical bodies vibrated and sweet warmth swept over us. The other men confirmed this experience. We questioned Millie, "How can this be that God's presence is so strong and close?" She said, "Many times it is because there is a lack of things and the Colombian people are able to concentrate more on God, and God strongly manifests himself." I confess that I long for God's presence here in the U.S., like it is in Colombia, when believers gather to worship Him!

Pastor Gustavo and several church members gave us a tour of Medellin. Although the worship services and God's presence were great, the majority of the Colombian people do not know Jesus. Poverty is wide spread. Sometimes you see nothing more than a sheet of tin on top of a few boards to make a house. Others have nothing and live on the streets. Many sell fruit, candy, or other handmade items on the streets to make a living.

For the next several days, we worked at the church to complete several large projects. We installed a ceiling, remodeled several rooms, tore down and built concrete walls, remodeled the sound-booth room, built a baptistry, painted and fixed computers. Even though Marco translated some Spanish to English for me, God helped me to install operating systems and multiple programs on over a dozen computers in Spanish (and they all worked).

It was a blessing to watch Millie interact with the Colombian people. Over many years, several generations of families have come to know Jesus because of Millie's missionary work. The list is endless of all that Millie continues to do in Colombia (even though she is retired); ministers to children, raises funds for seminary students, and keeps the seminary going to help train more pastors to reach more people with the Gospel.

Millie has great love for the Colombian people, and now she has passed that on to twelve disciples. I long to return to Colombia! God is in Colombia and he is doing great things!

# Walls of Opportunity, Joy and Hope *in Colombia*

By Glen Lederman – Canada

**Though mission work was in our future life-plan,** God surprised my wife, Gail, and me by giving us the opportunity to serve—me in Medellin, Colombia; and Gail in Pallatanga, Ecuador.

Colombia was presented as an exciting place where God is working through the prison fellowship with an opportunity to work on a church building project. After reading the promotional brochure, I knew in my heart that this was where God wanted me to go.

Upon meeting the other men on the short term mission team, I knew that it was going to be an amazing journey with God. Especially the way we bonded and worked as a team.

**Building a retaining wall.** Our first undertaking was the Olaya church building project. Aposento Alto is a tiny church in the mountains of Medellin. Our task was to assist the contractor on site. We were to build a retaining wall at the back of the church and rebuild the structure into three stories. The basement is to be used for Sunday School, the first floor is to serve as the sanctuary, and the third floor the pastor's home. When we arrived holes had been dug for the side and rear support columns. The back retaining wall had been started and was about waist high. Some helped tie rebar and laid concrete block in the retaining wall. Others passed down the block or concrete in buckets or helped make the concrete by hand. We also poured foundations and support for the side and back columns.

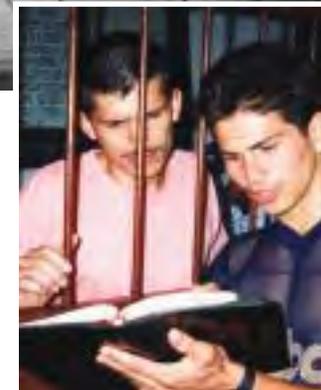
**Behind prison walls.** I read *The Lord of Bellavista* by David Miller before I left for Medellin. However, it did not prepare me for the testimonies of the men who have come out of the most violent prison in the world. God is using them to minister and change the hearts of the men in prison. Murder, drugs, trafficking and violence were in the hearts of the men of Bellavista when they entered the prison, but God is changing the hearts of the

*“The day we entered the prison walls we could hear the men joyously praising and singing as they worshiped. Never have I been so moved in my heart.”*



**Making concrete at the Olaya church project to build retaining wall at edge of 20' drop-off.**

prisoners in Bellavista to love, joy, peace, and praise for Him. The day we entered the prison walls we could hear the men joyously praising and singing as they worshiped. Never have I been so moved in my heart. I felt their love and joy in my spirit. Later we went to Patio Eight where at least 200 to 300 men called home and where some of the worst atrocities of Bellavista occurred. In the open court, we gave out new testaments, and within seconds, we were totally surrounded by prisoners. Never have I seen a hunger for the Word like that. I felt no fear or anxiety even though there were no prison guards on the inside of the gate. We visited the school where the men come at 6:00 a.m. each morning to pray, study God's word, and learn English and guitar. We moved on to the inner cells, which were full, and the walls were lined with men. Bellavista was built to hold 1500 prisoners but now holds over 6000 men. As I entered a cell, I had to turn my body to fit into the doorway. I



**Behind the towering walls of Bellavista Prison, God is at work changing the hearts and lives of Colombia's most violent criminals.**

stepped over a prisoner asleep in front of the doorway, which was his living space. The cells are not large and contain a bed on each side (enough for two prisoners) with another on the floor, and two or three in the small space above the cell. I am told that the ACCA prison fellowship has purchased this cell for the Christian prisoners.

**Building another retaining wall.** Another project was at the seminary where a retaining wall was collapsing, and we were asked to take it down and rebuild it. Taking the wall down was fairly simple, but rebuilding it with the existing clay tiles gave us a challenge. The old tiles had to have the old mortar cleaned off before they could be reused — a task easier said than done — but we were able to complete the job on time before we had to leave.



**Above: Concrete retaining wall being built at rear of church.**

**Breaking down walls.** On Sunday we worshiped at the Olaya church where we had worked. The people at this humble church were full of the Spirit of God. It was breathtaking to experience their passion as they praised Him. We worked 12 days with the people of Colombia and heard the amazing testimonies of the prisoners and how God transformed their lives. I want to work with the people again and hear new testimonies of what God is doing in Colombia, and I am already planning to return. Colombia is still a violent place and tomorrow is not guaranteed, but the people of Colombia have captured my heart for their love and joy for life.



**Left: A finished retaining wall.**

# Do We Matter?

**Decades ago my earthly parents sowed the seeds of love and kindness;  
Now the harvest is in the hands of my loving Heavenly Father.**

By Steve Rehner

**Do we matter?**

This story began nearly 50 years ago, and the lingering blessings of God remain today.

In 1960, my parents, Wally and Betty Rehner, left home, country, and family to begin missionary service with One Mission Society (then known as the Oriental Missionary Society). After studying Spanish for a year in Costa Rica, they arrived in the port city of Guayaquil, Ecuador.

My older brother, Tim, was five; my sister, Helen, was almost two; and I was three. I don't remember too much about those years except that Guayaquil was blazing hot and that we lived on a small compound with other missionaries. We went to a German school where we were taught in German, Spanish, and English. Of the three languages, I did the best in English! We finished our first term in Ecuador and returned to the United States.

After that one-year assignment, my parents continued their ministry in Medellin, Colombia. My Father was Dean of the Biblical Seminary of Colombia and taught in the seminary.

Mom and Dad also helped start a church in Laureles among the middle and middle-upper class of the city. That was unique as the other OMS churches were in more economically deprived areas.

I have fond memories of living on the seminary compound during my pre-teen years. I had many MK (missionary kid) friends as well as Laureles church friends.

I remember going down the river for days in an open air launch. We spent nights in small villages so isolated I



Steve Rehner family: Jonathan, Emily, Steve, Allison, Pam, and Daniel. Steve is joining the MFM staff.

could not see my hand in front of my face. We endured 8-12 hour train trips to the OMS Bible Institute (the length was determined by how many rockslides had covered the tracks that day). It was during these years, after one of my Dad's sermons at Laureles, that I made a clear and firm decision to follow Christ.

After four years in Medellin we again returned to the U.S., and my Dad worked on his Ph.D. at Michigan State

University, planning to return to the seminary in Colombia.

**One Sunday night in April 1970**, we went to bed just like we did any other night. We were 15, 13, and 12 years old. However, that Sunday night was not like any other! While we slept, Mom and Dad were returning in a small private plane along with the pilot and his wife. In the pitch black of night, near the Lansing Airport, a bad storm caused the plane to crash into a cornfield. We were awakened at

dawn by a policeman who told us there had been a tragic accident and our parents were dead.

That is where my life dramatically veered away from South America. Since then I have lived many years in the U.S., served with my family as missionaries in South America, and had the opportunity to interact with my OMS family (a relationship for which I am grateful).

After sharing this historical summary over the last 45 to 50 years, I would like to ask, "Do we matter?"

**In 1961, Dad pastored the Berea Church** in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Sergio Gonzalez asked him for a job to earn some money. Sergio's good work ethic earned him a

regular job around the mission compound. As time went by, Mom and Dad cleared out a storage room at our house, and he moved in for the last couple of years we were in Ecuador. Whenever my parents had to be gone in the evenings, Sergio stayed with us.

We hadn't heard from him until recently when, a few weeks ago, Sergio tracked us down through Facebook. It was such a blessing to read about the impact my parents had made in his life. I want to quote some of what he wrote to Helen.

*"Your father gave me an opportunity to earn some sucres for my expenses that day by washing cars, cleaning the garden, painting some walls. He saw my job and offered me more work to do. I told him that I was a homeless and jobless young man recently arrived from another city in the Ecuadorian highlands. He had compassion on me and invited me to be closer to his family and he made a place in the storage room for me to move in. As time passed, I got to know more closely your parents, your mom Betty, your brothers, Tim and Steve, and you. Your parents led me to know Jesus, as my Savior, your dad baptized me, and I became an active member of Berea Church in the youth group. Many times while your parents used to be out at night for church or mission work I stayed at your home babysitting you, and taking care of your brothers."*

Sergio married Piedad in 1965, and over the years they had four children. He now lives in New York close to his oldest daughter. A son lives in Quito, Ecuador, a daughter lives in Mexico, and a son in Spain. He wrote another short excerpt of how God has used him in service to the Lord over the years.

*"In April 3, 2011, I will be 67 year old. I got your parents' legacy as well by being a missionary to North West Texas in the 1980s, a preacher to indigenous people in my country, a full time church planting pastor in Ecuador, church planting in Argentina, Sunday School in Spain, and now elder preacher in Yonkers, New York."*

I was back in Medellin, Colombia, in February as part of the Board of Directors of the Biblical Seminary of Colombia. It was wonderful to see how the institution has grown. I also spent some time with the Gomez family and childhood friends from the Laureles Church. It brought joy to my heart to hear Leonardo Gomez say, "Your parents were our spiritual parents and brought all of us to Christ. We have all continued to serve the Lord over all of these years".

**Do we matter?**

The seminary is doing a tremendous job of training leaders for Colombia and other parts of South America and has been recognized as a university, which adds accreditation to the education received by Christian leaders. There are many more dorms, buildings, and students now than there were in the 1960s.



Les and Pat Ike, retired career missionaries with OMS, served in Japan and Greenwood. In the early 1970s they also served as loving parents to the newly orphaned Rehner children.

Mom and Dad taught, labored, prayed, and mentored students, at the Biblical Seminary of Colombia, many who are now probably retired. But if we could hear their stories we would know of how their lives made a difference.

**So ... Do we matter?**

In 1971, Les and Pat Ike, career OMS missionaries, felt led to open their home to the three Rehner orphans. Quite a challenge when they had three children of their own, the youngest who was the same age as Tim. Uncle Les and Aunt Pat have substituted for our parents as God's blessing to all of us over more than 40 years. They are grandpa and grandma to our kids, and have loved us and cared for us through the years. Yes it matters!

I have shared this testimony to encourage you. We have been strategically placed by our Heavenly Father in places where the hospitality, words of encouragement, words of witness, and our lifestyle impact the people around us. Unfortunately, we don't always know the impact we make.

It is important for us to live each day with an eye to impacting the lives of those we come into contact with. We must strive to lovingly and kindly reflect Christ to them in such a way that they will be drawn closer to our Lord and Savior.

I'm thankful for the godly heritage my parents (biological and substitute) have passed on to me and my family. My life has also come full circle as God has lead us back to ministry with OMS, joining the Men for Missions staff. Please pray for my family and me as we raise our prayer and financial support team and prepare for our new role. If you feel as though the Lord is directing you to support our ministry, please contact Men for Missions for more information. Please call 317.881.6752 or email Kent Eller at keller@onemissionsociety.org

**We DO matter!**

Yes, our lives do matter, as we are faithful witnesses to a living Lord. We sow the seed; the harvest is in the hands of our loving Father.

# Haiti Villagers Hear a New Voice Resounding Hope with Radio 4VEH Solar Radios

By Kate Michel

Marketing Director for Radio 4VEH

As we approached the first house, Pastor Joseph Deusma pulled me aside and whispered, "A witchdoctor lives here." Though we couldn't see the red and blue flags usually identifying where a witchdoctor lives, there were other objects, including a decorated bottle hanging from a tree (used in voodoo ceremonies to ward off spirits).

So there we were, on the frontlines of the spiritual battles that rage across the earth. This time in Kayemit, a village in northern Haiti.

About 800 people call Kayemit home. But in the eyes of Emmanuel Félix (Medson), Radio 4VEH's Extension Ministries Director, this was 'virgin territory.' With no real church presence in the community, the voice of influence belongs to the witchdoctor. Until today.



The voice heard now in this village is the one that speaks about Jesus: Radio 4VEH. Photo credit: Kate Michel

Visiting missionaries from Community Church of Columbus, Indiana, along with local evangelists gathered under a tree. Emmanuel explained the key to sharing the Gospel in communities where most identify themselves as Christian. 'Ask about Jesus. What position does Jesus hold in your life?'

The witchdoctor was not at home. But we spoke with several members of his household, as well as another man visiting. We left a solar radio for the household, and one for the witchdoctor.

Next door, the witchdoctor's niece combed through her daughter's hair. When asked about her own faith, she replied that she's a good Catholic, and also dances at the voodoo ceremonies held regularly by her uncle. She wasn't ready to accept Christ as her personal Savior.

By the end of the outreach, 51 radios were given out after 70 people heard personal presentations of the Gospel. Three people prayed to receive Christ as their Savior, and 37 people refused Christ.

The global prayer resource *Operation World* explains Haiti's complex religious context: "The Roman Catholic Church's role as the state church ended in 1987...Haitians overwhelmingly identify themselves as 'Christian'...An estimated 75 percent of Christians are also actively involved in voodoo, a development of West African Spiritism and witchcraft."

But now there's a new voice of influence in Kayemit—Radio 4VEH, The Evangelistic Voice of Haiti—the voice that speaks about Jesus through all kinds of radio programs.

Pastor Joseph says, "Even though people here don't have a church where they can worship God, they can now hear the Gospel. The radio receivers will help them to hear the Word of God. Listen, you can already hear people listening to the noon prayer program on their little radios!"

I know it's a seed that's been planted. And God will bring those

seeds to fruition. He will produce the fruit. As we left we knew that God will do the rest.

Please add the village of Kayemit to your ongoing prayer list and intercede for the people.

#### Pray:

- for the few believers in this village, that their faith may be strengthened as they listen to Bible studies, practical advice, worship music, and more on the 4VEH solar radios.
- for the workers including Emmanuel Félix, Pastor Joseph Deusma, and many others.
- for Radio 4VEH presenters whose voices will be heard every day in this village and across Haiti.

#### How You Can Help Bring Resounding Hope in Haiti:

Please join us now to place 160,000 new solar radios in the hands of Haitians, reaching another million people with the ultimate in Good News.

**Pray** for the life-changing impact of this evangelism and radio ministry.

**Give.** A radio sponsorship of \$60 puts a solar radio into the hands of a Haitian household and helps provide daily broadcasting to hundreds of thousands of listeners. Please mark your gift: Resounding Hope #407870.

**Go.** Join an evangelism and radio distribution team to work alongside Haitian believers as they share the Gospel in communities across Haiti.

**Network.** Share this vision in your church, small group, or community and invite others to join.

**Visit [www.resoundinghope.org](http://www.resoundinghope.org)** to learn more about this new initiative, or contact Kate Michel at [kmichel@radio4veh.org](mailto:kmichel@radio4veh.org)

## What is MFM?

Men for Missions (MFM) is a ministry of One Mission Society (OMS), a faith mission headquartered in Greenwood, Indiana, serving Christ in 57 countries. MFM is comprised of laymen for the purpose of helping more than 400 OMS missionaries evangelize, plant churches, develop Christian leadership, and eventually partner with the national churches that evolve.

MFM accomplishes its task through men from every walk of life who are willing to make this spiritual commitment:

- I will do whatever God asks me to do;
- I will go wherever God asks me to go;
- I will give whatever God asks me to give.

The commitment between an MFMer and God manifests itself through a variety of MFM opportunities. Missionaries are served within the U.S. through MFM area representatives and MFM Action Groups (formerly called Councils). A local Action Group is comprised of MFMers who meet periodically to pray for missionaries, help support their projects, and acquire greatly needed items. They also financially assist their members to join teams heading to foreign mission fields of OMS.

Men for Missions is One Mission Society's life changing journey, asking men to do, go and give whatever God asks. MFM nationally has organized and helped over 25,000 men and women serve on OMS mission fields during its 57-year history. A current team list appears in this issue (see list at right).

MFMers help missionaries by releasing their personal skills and abilities in a variety of practical, direct ways. Included are work and medical teams, teams which help with local evangelism, teams that go to pray and distribute literature, and other opportunities for those who are prepared to teach. Teams are often involved in one or more of these ministries.

MFM has no dues nor formal trappings. We exist to serve Christ by assisting OMS. Our mandate is compassion, pure and simple. Our priority is establishing the Lordship of Jesus Christ in each man's life, and our goal is to provide opportunities for personal obedience to the Great Commission. For more information contact the MFM office in your country (page 3).

## About ACTION Magazine

MFM's *ACTION* magazine mailing list and readership continue to grow. We've been successful in keeping this unique missions-focused men's publication coming to you without a required subscription fee because you've consistently helped in its production and mailing. Please designate gifts for *ACTION* to proj. #444520 and send to the office in your country (page 3).

Our goal is to make the *ACTION* worthy of its message and welcome in your home. As MFMers share their experiences, you can better grasp the magnitude of God's use of laymen throughout the world and also keep informed of major events, which impact OMS, MFM, and the Great Commission.



Warren Hardig  
MFM International  
Executive Director

A world of opportunity awaits you at  
[www.menformissions.org](http://www.menformissions.org)



MFM Homes for Haiti work team (see opportunities below).

### 2011 World Ministry Teams

Dates	Field (Project)	Depart	Cost
09/09	09/24 Japan, Tokyo (Work)	S Bend	1600
09/09	09/29 Rwanda (Literacy)	Phily	2750
09/10	09/17 Haiti (Work)	Erie, PA	1450
09/17	09/24 Haiti (Work)	Erie, PA	1450
10/04	10/13 Hong Kong (Prayer)	Indy	2550
10/19	10/26 Haiti (Evangelism)	Indy	1450
11/08	11/17 Haiti (Work)	Franklin, PA	1350
12/01	12/15 Haiti, SW (Prayer/Evang)	Raleigh	2400

### 2012 World Ministry Teams

01/10	01/19 Haiti (Work)	Portland	1550
01/14	01/22 Haiti (Homes 4 Haiti)	Charlotte	1250
01/17	01/27 Hong Kong (Women)	Indy	2600
01/19	01/26 Haiti (Work/Med)	Columbus	1450
01/31	02/09 Haiti (Work)	Erie, PA	1450
02/02	02/19 Haiti, Cap & Port (Work)	Pittsburgh	1550

MFM Ministry Teams for 2011 and 2012 are constantly forming or changing.

- Work Teams
- Evangelism Teams
- Prayer Teams
- Medical Teams
- Homes for Haiti Teams

Call MFM at (317) 881-6752 for the latest information.

Please send info about Team to \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

My Gift for *ACTION* budget: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Proj. #444520)

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Please make checks payable to OMS and mail to the office in your country (page 3).

## Excuses and Escalators *in Ecuador*

By Doug Tankersley

You may have heard that an excuse is a skin of reason stuffed with a lie. Excuses are what we had. We felt, as a corporate employee and a public school teacher, we were too busy, too financially bound, or too tired to do missions. Oh, we had been very active in our local church and loved serving the Lord AT HOME since 1990, but found every excuse not to go on a short-term mission trip.

It was while I was in a men's Bible study when the words jumped off the page in James 1:22, *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.* At the next opportunity, I jumped at the chance to participate in a short-term evangelism mission trip to Guatemala. We were warned that the experience could radically change our lives, but I proceeded and Cindy supported from home.

The warnings were correct! I came home with a call on my life to serve in full-time missions. However, Cindy did not receive the same call. Even though she encouraged me to pursue a missionary career, I decided that I should wait until Cindy was also called to full-time missions.

Over the course of the next three years, I was very active in developing a short-term mission vision for our local church. I returned to Guatemala with a team of men from our church and continued mission work while serving as chairman of the missions committee.

During the 2004 annual church mission's conference in Gibson City, Illinois, Cindy felt a call on her life to serve in full-time missionary service. At that point we were greatly encouraged by MFM's Kent Eller to pursue a career with One Mission Society. In 2005, we were accepted as missionary candidates, led a prayer team to Ecuador, and spent the year preparing to serve overseas. We sold our home and furnishings, resigned our jobs, attended Spanish classes, and raised support for our first term.

As we were preparing for service, the Lord gave us a picture of an escalator in which you couldn't see what was at the top. We recall that God wanted us to be willing to take one step of faith. God wasn't at the top enticing nor was He at the bottom pushing. He wanted willing, obedient children to take ONE step of faith and trust Him to move the rest of the way. It was one of the



The Tankersley family: Jonathan, David, Cindy, and Doug. Doug and Cindy are Regional Directors with MFM.

most important steps of faith that we have ever taken, and God was faithful and able to do so much more than we ever expected or anticipated.

In 2006, we left our small town roots for ministries in Quito, Ecuador. Cindy served as a first grade teacher at the Alliance Academy International, and I served as a District Liaison, partnering with 14 national churches. We were able to experience first hand, the support that can be provided through Men for Missions short-term teams. This included support to the local churches as well as to the missionaries on the field. I had the privilege of closely working with MFM construction, medical, and evangelism teams.

We served four years in Quito, and at the time of our first furlough, we were challenged with the needs of our family. Not wanting to sacrifice family for ministry, we recognized the need to pursue a stateside ministry. It was difficult to leave ministries that we loved; however, after much prayer and seeking, we accepted the position of Regional Directors with Men for Missions for our next term of service. We are excited about promoting, preparing, and leading short-term teams for service and following up with teams after they return to keep their vision and passion for missions alive and bearing fruit. Our home office will be in central Illinois, and we are seeking opportunities to serve churches that desire to increase their mission vision. There are no more excuses when it comes to missions—only lots of escalators! Take a step of faith and watch God move!

MFMI ACTION

## Win-Win Situation Church Youth Group Volunteers at OMS

By Megan Platt – Houghton College Student and One Mission Society Communications Intern, Summer 2011

In the unusual scorching heat of Indiana's June, a team of 61 high school students and leaders from Gibson City, Illinois, braved intense temperatures with one goal in mind: to further God's kingdom.

From June 6-11, 2011, the team from Gibson City Bible Church came to One Mission Society's World Headquarters in Greenwood, Indiana, — for the third time in five years — to complete a number of work projects. Despite temperatures ranging in the 90s all week, major tasks such as resurfacing two parking lots, building a retainer wall and landscaping the entire property were completed. But even more valuable than the work that was accomplished in the short time they were here; lasting relationships were built between One Mission Society missionaries and the young volunteers.

"We want our time here to be a win-win for both us and OMS," stated Dave Hohulin, Gibson City's youth pastor.

The combination of work and direct involvement with missionaries is a key aspect that keeps their high school- and college-aged teams returning yearly. The students had the opportunity to interact with many missionaries during the week. Each morning, a different OMS missionary shared a devotional thought, and throughout the week, especially at mealtimes, the team built relationships with the OMS missionaries and with each other. For many of the students, it was the first time they heard firsthand stories about serving God overseas. These personal discussions made it feel like they were not so separated from the missionaries their church supports. They are now able to pray for missionaries that they personally know.

"It's the best short-term trip every time over all the others," Hohulin said of why they return each year to OMS. "We want the kids to see that life is hard, but the Lord is enough." Many of the students were here for their second or third time. They said the OMS experience was one that they didn't want to miss.

"This trip helped me realize how hard the work is, but when you do it

with the right attitude, it's not as hard anymore," one student expressed.

The week challenged the Gibson City students to look at mission work with a new perspective. They faced unexpected obstacles, but they were able to overcome them with God's help. This reinforced the fact that even in the most difficult times, God's strength alone is enough to get you through.

In coming to OMS headquarters year after year, the overall goal of Gibson City Bible Church is to develop a long-term relationship with One Mission Society. In doing this, both communities are able to grow together in Christ, ultimately furthering His kingdom.

If you are interested in learning more about participating on a work team at OMS headquarters or somewhere else in the world, please contact Kent Eller at 317.888.3333, ext. 376 or [keller@onemissionsociety.org](mailto:keller@onemissionsociety.org)



Above: Repairing roof of house; building retaining walls and landscaping.

Left: Youth group on new wall in front of OMS.



MFMI ACTION

# New MFM Staffer Shares... Lessons from the Town Drunk

**By Brent Morrell**  
MFM-U.S. Director of Ministry Teams and follow up

**“Who is that guy?”** He looks strangely familiar,” I said to Ines, my translator, pointing at a clean-cut man across the square in Matagalpa, Nicaragua. She pondered for a moment while I considered the events of the week.

On our short-term evangelism trip we crossed the paths of many interesting characters, some that

quickly responded to the call of the gospel and some that were reluctant to make the change. One man was obviously the town drunk. He stood there, barely holding himself up, slurring his words and reeking of alcohol. He talked about “Jebus,” not Jesus, but was not coherent enough for a deeper conversation. Ines and I prayed for the man: for sobriety and salvation, and then we left.

“That’s the town drunk,” wondered Ines in the town square. Now, I could see those similar features, but not the same demeanor. This man was in khakis and a dress shirt and had bathed. We approached him to see what had changed. He was sober, had received salvation, and was witnessing to the mayor of Matagalpa. What a wonder to me that the Lord had so quickly changed the direction of this man—and that he was interacting with others!

I was a freshman in college and this experience also altered my direction. The Lord was calling me to minister on a full-time basis. I considered camp, youth, and short-term ministry.

However, like the drunkard, I was reluctant. While I considered many types of ministry, my one constraint was that I would not raise support funds. I thought it a burden to request money from other people. Thus, I spent my college years fighting with the Lord, which resulted in bouncing around from job to job and struggling through school.

Yet, the Lord has his ways of getting to my heart. As a college intern, there were people in my path who showed me the blessing of raising support funds. From a missions pastor who had worked with Campus Crusade, to a college pastor who had been with Young Life (and the list goes on), there were several people who mentored me and demonstrated what a blessing support raising could be. Thus, with my mind open to the idea of full-time ministry in all



**Brent and Briyana Morrell.**  
Brent will be Director of Ministry Teams with MFM.

of its facets, I attended the Urbana missions conference in 2006. This ministry of IntersVarsity brings tens of thousands of college students with a heart for missions to St. Louis, Missouri, to grow them in ministry. There, I found that my heart for coordinating and leading short-term missions work had a place.

Between 2006 and 2009, I continued to work through college. Looking forward to the 2009 Urbana conference,

I contacted organizations with openings in this area and discovered OMS.

After my wife, Briyana, and I met Paul and Dawn Cox and learned about the ministries of OMS, we felt a call to join the ministry and began the application process. In December 2009, I signed on with Men for Missions as the U.S. Director of Ministry Teams and Follow-Up. I will work alongside Bill Evans in helping plan, train, periodically lead, and follow-up with short-term mission teams.

Through the process of raising support, I have learned that it can be a ministry. I have found that it helps those I meet understand how God works in His world, and how they can have a role in fulfilling the Great Commission. It has also opened doors to share about Christ with those who do not have a relationship with Him.

In the process, my wife, Briyana and I have learned to trust the Lord with a whole new faith that he will meet our needs. When faced with the cost of living while raising support, the Lord blessed my wife with scholarships and stipends, many of which were unexpected and unsolicited. While there have been times of frustration and feelings of rejection, we have learned that we must rely on the Lord at all times to provide for our day-to-day needs.

This summer, we are in the “home-stretch” of support-raising, as we have approximately 75 percent of our requirements met. Trusting the Lord to provide as he has so far, we plan on moving to Greenwood in the fall to commence work there.

Like the drunkard whose life was changed as the Lord worked through him, we have enjoyed seeing how the Lord has worked through our lives and the lives of our supporters. We look forward to seeing how our ministry with OMS, both domestically and internationally, changes the lives of people.

## In Action

### MAN OF THE YEAR Reggie Smith

The Jackson, Tennessee, Exchange Club’s annual Man of the Year award was given to Reggie Smith this year. Reggie is a long time MFMer involved in several projects that focuses on giving people new life in Jesus Christ. Like so many men climbing the ladder of success, Reggie experienced closed heart surgery as he experienced Haiti. A can-do-man, Reggie is always clothed in kindness, guided by his heart of compassion. He was a participant in Impacto ’79, a month long evangelistic outreach in Ecuador.

Reggie’s community involvement and service is wide spread from serving on countless boards, volunteering on countless projects, and traveling internationally to share the good news of

Jesus Christ. He is probably best known for the personal care, friendship, and generosity to people in need around him. Reggie’s respect for people, regardless of their social standing, and helping them meet their challenges sets him apart as a follower of Jesus.

He is a generous, humble, and caring friend and a worthy role model for all.



**Reggie Smith**

### Memorial to Red Haskins

April 15, 2011, God took Red Haskins home  
By Joel Jetta

Red Haskins was part of “The Greatest Generation” as told in Tom Brokaw’s book, of the same name. It is a generation of unselfish Americans who want to leave this world a better place than it was when they found it.

Over the years, Red introduced me to many faithful servants of God from that generation: Millie Young, Bob and Mary Sutherland, Bruce and Donna Hess, Tex Clark, Gene and Elaine Lain, Dave and Marilyn Shaferly, and many more people who leave faithful footprints.

Red was dedicated to mission work through One Mission Society and Men for Missions. He loved to tell about Haiti and got churches interested in short-term mission trips. When he was younger, he went to Colombia and met Millie Young, and God filled

his heart with a desire to serve for the rest of his life. He just had to find more workers for the harvest.

I met Red in 1995, after becoming a Christian. He came to our church and spoke about a mission trip to Port-au-Prince, Haiti.



**Red Haskins**

That trip was life-changing for me (as well as for the whole team) just as Red foretold! “When you first go out to do mission work, you never come back the same.” I knew on the flight home that I would “Do whatever God wanted me to do; Go wherever God wanted me to go; and Give whatever God wanted me to give” because of Red who worked hard to leave faithful footprints.

A few months later Red called to invite me to work with Bob and Mary Sutherland in Carboncillo, Ecuador, in the Andes Mountains. God led me to meet Bob and Mary. They also knew how to leave faithful footprints.

After Ecuador, I went with Red to Cap Haitian, Haiti. Red knew how to weld, I knew how to build, and those are skills desperately needed in third-world countries. While there, Red, a man of few words, gave a simple devotion and encouraged us: *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up* Galatians 6:9.

Red kept us concerned about the spiritual things. He arranged a few more mission trips to Haiti, and they were a great blessing to me.

In 2000, he led a mission trip to Spain where we painted a huge campus building. Red repaired a tractor and was so happy when that job was complete, but then the septic system for the whole camp broke down. We dug up the whole system and repaired it. It wasn’t just a coincidence that a water specialist was part of the team.

Red had a great way of sending me off to different places around the world: he saw a need, figured out a plan, and dispatched me. More often than not he sent me to Colombia

because he had such a heart for Colombia and Millie Young’s work. One day Red told me, “You need to meet this missionary who is doing a great work in Colombia.” Red was right. Millie is quite a person and she sure has lots to do.

Red was very instrumental in starting a Men for Missions Council in New Salem, Massachusetts. The council does various projects to raise money for sending people and materials to mission fields. Red would often ponder, “How can we get more people to go on the mission field?” Red helped promote Men for Missions at Iron Sharpens Iron conferences.

A while back, Red and John Schultz called Doug Wolfe and me in for a meeting. Red was burdened about his work and who would keep it going after God took him home. We discussed plans for mission trips in the future and told stories of how God is raising up men and women to keep Red’s work — supporting the Gospel to the nations — alive.

If it were possible, I would say, “Red, my friend, here are the ones that will follow Jesus in the next generation. God has shown us that your work will go on.” Two men in his church had just returned from Colombia before he died. What joy that brought to Red.

*And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one* Ezekiel 22:30. Red stood in the gap, and now we need to fill that spot, for the days are evil. It is up to you and me to keep Red’s work going. Please allow God to use you, and shape you to be a worker in the harvest — to stand in that gap, to not grow weary.



### URGENT NEED Church Multiplication Facilitators

If you are passionate about cross-cultural missions, training, evangelism, and church planting, and may find it difficult to be a resident missionary, then we have opportunities for you.....

Become an ECC Church Multiplication Facilitator to help plan, train, and implement church multiplication teams for reaching a people group or implement a church planting movement.

For more information, contact Paul Cox, director of Mobilization, at 317.888.3333, ext. 317, or by email at [pcox@onemissionsociety.org](mailto:pcox@onemissionsociety.org)

# Adversity and Kindness *in South Asia*

By John Cooper

**The storms that we've recently experienced** in the United States are a reminder of what others suffer around the world. In the six years of my involvement with prayer coverage for South Asia, there have been a number of major storms that have damaged the church facilities.

Sixty to seventy percent of the country is considered to be in a flood plain. Saturated soil and high water table do not allow basement construction for safety in stormy seasons.

Pictures show the storm damage at a boys school and training center. A new building at the site was unharmed by the storm and provided security for more than sixty boys and leaders at the school. The older perimeter walls are not as secure and some fell. There was significant sheet-metal damage to the temporary buildings, but the newer facilities are built stronger to withstand the storms.

I am reminded of all of the amazing things that were done in the clean-up effort after a tornado hit near my home in the U.S. We were glad that our home has a basement.

Adversity is not a new experience for the church in South Asia. But like here in North America, adversity brings out kindness in people. When we listen to God's voice in the midst of our adversity we find a new strength as He guides us through our difficulties.

Isaiah wrote the words in chapter 30 during the time when the small nation of Judah was being threatened by the armies of Assyria. Upon receiving the message from Sennacherib, King Hezekiah of Judah went to his knees and sought the Lord for provision and direction. God answered his prayer and delivered tiny Judah from the hands of a great adversary.

Your prayers on behalf of our friends in South Asia facing adversity is an act of kindness. God promises to hear and respond when we pray.

*For your  
Visit...*

**Simply check the list of MFM teams and the reply coupon in this issue.**

Men for Missions (MFM) has arranged a full slate of teams to go to One Mission Society (OMS) fields to work, observe, witness, and pray (page 11). Utilization of laymen is critical to OMS as it seeks to expand its ministry throughout the world. Last year alone, over 416,029 came to know Jesus as Savior through the efforts of OMS and its national churches.

Many laymen are now forming teams to go to the mission field. You can be part of this great movement of laymen as they seek to honor Christ by giving personal obedience to the Great Commission.

Call MFM at (317) 881-6752, or the national director in your country (page 3), for latest team destinations, dates, and costs.

Tax receiptable gifts may be mailed to MFM, P.O. Box A, Greenwood, IN 46142-6599.



**Collapsed walls.**



**Sheet-metal damage.**