

ACTION



For 60 Years...

Ordinary Men on an Extraordinary Journey

"As I reflect on this adventure into Haiti ... what I remember most are the faces of those who believed and the tearing in my heart as some walked away in disbelief."

—Larry Sewell

Ordinary Men on a Journey of Firsts

By Warren Hardig
MFM Executive Director

Since its inception in 1954, Men for Missions has been on the cutting edge of OMS growth — ordinary men on a journey of firsts.

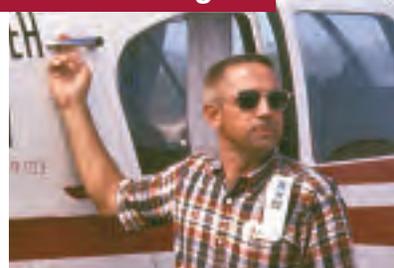
ELDON TURNIDGE, an investor and pilot from Las Vegas, was not only the first president of MFM, but also the first MFMer to be the director of an OMS field. Appointed to Haiti, he gave outstanding leadership and as a pilot, expedited the transport of supplies, equipment, and personnel for the various ministries. Later named vice-president of international ministries, Eldon provided liaison and expertise for all the OMS fields.

DICK CAPIN, CPA from Mt. Carmel, Illinois, pioneered the launching of MFM in Korea. Later, he took the lead in developing and expediting the logistics for moving OMS headquarters from Los Angeles to Greenwood. Dick's financial expertise has guided OMS through several financial crises and ECFA accreditation (an organization that Dick also helped pioneer). Dick's leadership has served OMS and the Kingdom well through the years.

DOUG LEROY, a farmer from Highland, Illinois, was the first MFMer to become an OMS missionary. Hearing testimonies of other MFMs in 1959, he wanted to be part of the developing saga. A short-term stint in Colombia evolved into a clear call to return with his family as full-time missionaries. His daughter Gail Leroy continues the missionary legacy. She served in Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay, and currently is field director of the OMS work in the Dominican Republic.

MORE stories in *Still Sharpening* >>>

Eldon Turnidge



The history of OMS in Haiti demonstrates the close, fundamental tie between OMS and MFM. In 1957 William Gillam, as a member of the OMS governing board, recommended that OMS study the feasibility of assuming ownership of Radio 4VEH in Cap-Haitien. At that time the owners, East-West Indies Bible Mission, had proposed selling its Haiti operation.

The OMS board appointed a study committee to evaluate this unique opportunity. It consisted of J. Byron Crouse, William Gillam, and Eldon Turnidge. They had to make a hard decision. Other OMS fields were tightening their belts; surely it was not time for OMS to take on additional responsibilities.

The committee visited Cap-Haitien; explored the possibility of owning, operating, and maintaining a radio station; and reviewed OMS ministries on the island. After much deliberation, they decided in favor of the move. The report to the OMS board was approved in June 1958, to a great extent because several MFMs promised sufficient cash to help make the purchase. The first MFM project was in Ecuador, the second in Korea. By voice vote, the MFM cabinet (1958) adopted the Haiti radio undertaking as project number three.

The first MFM witness team went to Haiti in February 1959, and hundreds of teams have followed. In June 1960, Eldon was appointed to the position of Haiti field leader.

This was certainly a milestone for validating the principle that laymen can and must have an active part in the Great Commission.

Dick Capin



In 1961 God laid upon the heart of Dick Capin, a CPA from Mt. Carmel, Illinois, a willingness to join OMS missionaries in Korea. Soon he and his family were headed for the Orient. Dick's responsibilities would be OMS business administration in Korea and to monitor OMS interests throughout the Far East. Dick had a personal agenda as well, he wanted to introduce the genius of MFM throughout Korea.

During the early 1960s, MFM scheduled numerous teams to Korea led by its new international executive director, Harry Burr. Dick realized the vast potential thousands of Korean laymen could have for Christ. Constantly nourishing the idea of starting such a movement, he began to share his ideas with the Korea missionaries, then select men of the OMS-affiliated Korea Evangelical Church. Dick found the approval he was seeking. God provided a committed Korean layman to work with him.

Dick and Elder Kim Won Chul (pictured) visited church after church, each time challenging men to a missionary vision. Sammy Lee became MFM's official interpreter and the coordinator of all MFM activities in Korea.

The idea of organizing laymen for the purpose of soul-winning spread

like wildfire, and MFM councils sprang up throughout Korea.

The program, operated by the Korea Evangelical Church, continues to grow and today includes tens-of-thousands of laymen.

Doug Leroy



"The work on the mission field isn't just for pastors and teachers. I was glad to discover that a farmer could make a contribution, too," said Douglas Leroy, an experienced Illinois farmer. When Doug arrived at the 1959 OMS Winona Lake Convention for MFM Day, he didn't realize what would happen in a few short hours.

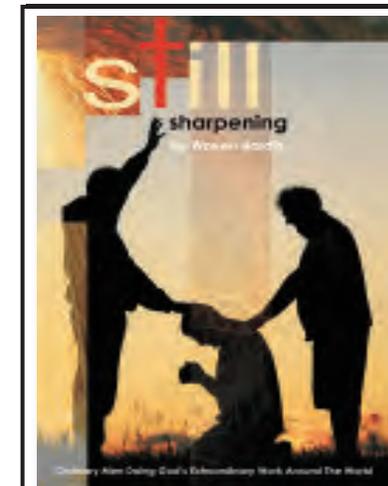
He was challenged by listening to other laymen describe how they had helped OMS on mission fields. But what could a farmer do? The answer came like a thunderbolt when he heard about the farm at Cristalina, Colombia. With help from the Highland (IL) Council, Doug was soon in Colombia.

His job was to work the farm, help enlarge the Vocational Bible Institute, and teach conversational English. With the assistance of wonderful neighbors, his wife, Julie, kept their farm and the home fires burning.

Three months of helping OMS missionaries at Cristalina made lasting impressions on Doug. Life in the U.S. suddenly lost its appeal, and in

a series of miracles, including divine healing, God opened the way for the entire Leroy family to return to the Cristalina farm as OMS missionaries. A job that Doug knew he could do had become the call of God to his heart. Doug Leroy was the first MFMer to become an OMS missionary. His daughter, Gail, is now an OMS missionary.

More accounts of ordinary men on an extraordinary journey.



Still Sharpening By Warren Hardig

Men for Missions is a ministry that has brought the men of this book together to use their skills and talents to change lives around the world. In that process, just as iron sharpens iron, each man has learned the value of *Still Sharpening*.

Still Sharpening: Accounts of ordinary men doing God's extra ordinary work around the world.

Price: \$9.95 + \$3.00 shipping.

To order: Contact Warren at 317.881.6752 or e-mail: whardig@onemissionsociety.org

Your Life-Changing Journey

Every member of Men for Missions is on a journey to share hope at home and around the world. May these reports from across the globe inspire each of us to walk as Jesus, changing our lives and the lives of those we encounter.



ACTION

Volume 55

No. 3/2014

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Men for Missions (MFM) is a ministry of One Mission Society (formerly, OMS International). Through MFM, thousands of men from multiple church affiliations and every walk of life have found a channel for harnessing and releasing personal skills and abilities in practical, direct missionary involvement. Participation with overseas witness and work teams has fired them with new zeal for soul winning at home as well as abroad. No dues are required and membership is open to any man who pledges:

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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ACTION (ISSN 07440375) is published three times annually by Men for Missions, a ministry of One Mission Society (OMS), 941 Fry Road, P. O. Box A, Greenwood, IN 46142-6599, USA. All correspondence and changes of address (please include old address label) should be sent to the Greenwood address above.

Ordinary Men on an Extraordinary Journey

For MFMers the journey is a destination — not just a quest to hopefully one day discover personal purpose and fulfillment. They look forward to fully immersing themselves in each day's opportunities to change a fallen world, and experience personal change in the process. John McLaughlin interviews a few men about their life-changing journeys...



Neil von Arb



I'm from Kansas City, Missouri, and my journey with MFM started with a web search for short-term mission opportunities. That led to contacting Kent Eller and later a meeting with Kent and Warren Hardig in Kansas City. About a month later, I was in Moscow with Kent working on the Moscow seminary director's house. I've been in construction my whole life, and I was looking for an organization that could use those abilities, not just for minor repairs, but major projects. MFM is involved in many major construction projects that fit my gifts and interest. The organization has certainly given my life-changing journey real direction and purpose. I now serve on the MFM Cabinet when a few years ago I found them on a website. Getting to know OMS and MFM, and experiencing the Lord working throughout the world has really given me an appreciation for the body of Christ. Some experiences have

been unique, like being caught in a civil war in the Congo. But for the most part, my life-changing journey and desire to serve seems to focus on ministering to missionaries and their unique needs.

Al Johansen



In 1976, I made my first mission trip to Colombia. There were five of us on the trip. Wally Yoder from Indiana was to meet us at the Miami airport for orientation and get us on the flight. Wally got called back to Indiana, the plane to Medellin, Colombia, was delayed and rescheduled to land for the night somewhere else in Colombia. There we were, five guys in a foreign country without the language or a leader. This was truly a learning experience. It wasn't what we were going to do, but what would God do? On the plane from Miami to Colombia, the seating placed a missionary to Venezuela squarely in the center of our team. He knew the language, the culture, the air-

port, and most of all, the Lord. He was God's angel to our group. So I learned on my very first life-changing journey that we are never alone. OMS missionary Max Edwards used to tell us, "our commitment precedes God's provision." I've learned that every time I step out in faith for God He assures me of His presence.

Bill Shirley



Well, the journey has taught me a lot. I do make donations to missionaries that I probably wouldn't have before. And I discovered that we can do a lot more through OMS and MFM than we ever thought we could do for missions. My life-changing journey has certainly changed every aspect of my life and made me a part of something that I was never part of before.

Douglas Wolfe



I'm from Connecticut, and I got involved with MFM in 2007 when John Schultz and Red Haskins arranged for a men's breakfast at our church. That's when I learned about short-term mission trips. I wish I had known about this exciting adventure earlier in my Christian life. My first trip was an MFM work team to Bogota,

Colombia, in 2008. Since then, I have gone on medical teams, prayer teams, and more work teams to Ecuador, Colombia, and Japan. With John Schultz's guidance, we started an MFM Council in 2008. But it was that first trip to Colombia to work on painting and repairs of the Inter-American school that has had the greatest impact. I was able to use my musical ability as ministry to teach, to witness, and to make lasting friendships. My life-changing journey has been one of personal obedience and discipleship. I'm deeply grateful to MFM for the opportunities to be obedient to the Great Commission and to serve the Lord.

Bob Fetherlin



I believe in laymen and their high impact potential for Christ and his Kingdom. But I really think that laypeople are the sleeping giant in so many of our Evangelical Christian churches, and I want to see that giant awakened and engaged as fully as possible in God's work. So, as I think back in history, I think of men and women who were not clergy, but who God used for tremendous impact both here in our country and literally around the world. I want to see that multiply. With more than ninety-nine percent of the church population being laypeople, we clearly can't count on the one percent clergy to get the work of Christ's mission completed. The potential of laypeople is overwhelming. I'm excited to join MFMers who have awakened, who are engaged, and who are on a life-changing journey to further the mission of Jesus Christ.

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— Bob Fetherlin
OMS President

Warren Hardig



The greatest adventure of my life-changing adventure is, of course, Men for Missions. It is always a thrill to see people's lives changed. I've had the opportunity to pray with people in many strange places; in the dirt outside a Haitian jail and in an airplane over the Pacific Ocean. These are adventures you can't put a price tag on. My life was dramatically changed in Haiti, when I saw the lives of Haitians changed by the Gospel, and realized God's offer wasn't only to white English speaking people. I came home changed, and my prayer life changed. God has given me a world to pray for, and a list of people with names hard to pronounce. There is nothing the same for me, except maybe the outer shell.

Gary Glabe



I'm currently living in Texas, but lived in Illinois most of my life. I was introduced to missions as a young boy. My father was a pastor, and we had OMS missionaries come to the church. It changed the church completely. Many people got saved. I went to Haiti the first time in 1969 and now my wife and I have been back several times on work teams and as a host couple. I just appreciate OMS and MFM opening my eyes to ministries around the world. Many churches in America focus on what's going on only in their communities. There is so much more happening out there. Personally, my wife and I feel called to missions, and we want to spend more time going to the mission field.

— Continued on next page.

Maury Graham



I'm a retired banker from Montana. After my wife died in 1994, I began looking around for what the Lord might have for me to do. At that point, I was thinking that it must be something different from what I'd been doing. So, I went to

My Life-Changing Journey

— Continued from page 5.

David Long



As the former president of OMS, it's a pleasure to share briefly about Men for Missions. It is impossible to calculate the contribution MFM has made to the Kingdom in its 60 years of existence. If you consider the effectiveness of men coming together and working together, there is nothing that I can point to that is better than MFM that is having Kingdom impact of changing the world. I would commend MFM to you without hesitation and with praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. If you are looking for a meaningful involvement in missions, MFM can be your life-changing journey.

as Lord before those who had prayed for me. He made me a new man, a worker in His Kingdom, an ambassador for God, His disciple! Now it is my privilege to walk with hundreds of MFMers on their life-changing journey in Haiti.

Bill Glace



I'm a businessman from Sabetha, Kansas, involved with home and commercial bulldozing. One of the real aspects of the change in my life and my life's journey is involvement in missions that began with OMS and MFM a number of years ago in Haiti. It's been such a blessing now to be a part of a life-changing journey for others, and to see people involved in the short-term mission trips change because of what they experience.

Bill Anderson



My life-changing journey with MFM has taken me from Scotland to many places in the world and through countless experiences; being baptized in the pool at the Rock of Horeb Camp in Spain, seeing a miracle worked before our eyes in France, and attending the opening of a new church in Mozambique. But the one experience that stands out for me is being in a country in South Asia (a country 'closed' to the Gospel), witnessing the expression of faith from

men and women who heard the Gospel and responded to God's call, and assisting in the baptismal service in a river. Their expressions of peace and tranquillity will stay with me for a long time.

Jerry Mattocks



I'm from Pennsylvania and been involved with MFM for almost 25 years. Probably my greatest life-changing journey began in 2001. At OMS conference, my wife and I decided to get more involved in missions. We accepted the challenge of coordinating efforts to pray for the missionaries and the national workers in Ecuador to move the work forward. It's been a life-changing journey.

Don Smith



I'm a farmer from North Dakota, and my life-changing journey began with OMS and MFM in 1982 when I went to Spain and worked at the camp. I guess the thing that really got hold of me was it didn't matter if I was sweeping the floor in the dining hall or laying bricks, I was doing it all for God. I have been able to take my family to Haiti and my daughters have gone to Haiti on their own. My entire family is involved in missions, and we realize that it is something that we can do. It impacts our lives, and through missions we can impact the world.



Beginning the descent, Steve is leading the team, mere steps away from an unexpected event on his life-changing journey.

Photo by Daniel Bertolet

“Lord, Help Me Down this Mountain!”

By Steve Bertolet
Washington, Illinois

When my mother passed away in 2003, gifts given in her honor were directed to OMS to underwrite the installation of the Radio 4VEH downlink station on the Isle de la Tortu to reach northwest Haiti. In August 2004, I went to Haiti with a team comprised of family and friends to place a bronze plaque at the station in her honor.

In my mind, the plan was to simply go to Haiti, place the plaque, and return home — but this is Haiti. I was not prepared for what lay ahead on my life-changing journey.

I had nearly canceled my participation with this trip because I knew from previous mission trips that it would involve some rugged walking. An auto accident in 1999 caused bone fractures in my right foot that wouldn't fully heal and developed traumatic arthritis which required an orthotic insert and special shoe. Medically the solution was to fuse the bones. Flat terrain walking was normally painful, running was out of the question, and a long walk on steep or rocky roads would be all but impossible.

It remains difficult to share the many events of that week, and some might scoff, but I will share only a few.

Emmanuel Felix travelled with us in Haiti so there was always an evangelistic emphasis wherever we were, handing out literature, distributing radios, and sharing a personal witness. While in Port-de-Paix, we were in the company of members of a church that was attempting to go door-to-door in an area. They reported that every time they attempted to go out that a violent storm would pop up. There was a large turnout that day and just as teams set out a huge black thundercloud suddenly appeared, literally out of the blue. I had never witnessed an obvious spiritual power encounter before — but this is Haiti. Discouragement settled in, but at Emmanuel's request, we gathered and earnestly prayed. The storm disintegrated and vanished as quickly as it had appeared! The workers went out with a sense that God Himself had intervened.

When the day arrived for our personal family reason to be in Haiti, we traveled from Port-de-Paix across the bay to the Isle de la Tortu (also known as Tortuga in pirate lore). The downlink station is located at a high point on the island. The road to the station was rocky and steep, a long walk from the dock. So a truck was hired to transport us there and the time set for its return so that we

could be back at the dock for the departure time of the boat back to Port-de-Paix. We mounted the plaque at the downlink site, had lunch, and waited in vain for the truck to return. It became painfully apparent that to make it to the dock and off the island before dark, we would need to walk! Quickly! On rocks! All downhill!

I had been managing with ibuprofen and some good hiking boots with the orthotic insert, but the ever present swelling had worsened and become more painful over the previous two days. Still, when the decision was made to start walking, I volunteered to carry some of the water which added even more weight. As I observed my companions, it was obvious that the day's heat and exertion had been hard on all of us, but with the exception of my screaming foot, I was in better shape than some others.

I looked down that steep descent. “Lord, help me down this mountain! There are others here who also have physical concerns, and they don't need to worry about me, too.” That was my prayer.

After we had navigated ruts for a few hundred feet, the pain became too difficult to endure, and I stumbled off the road and landed hard on both feet, barely avoiding a deep ravine to my right. I felt instant relief! My right foot was completely numb clear up to the knee. At the time I considered that an answer to prayer. The long walk proceeded back to the dock and was completed before dark. We met the boat and returned to Port-de-Paix where I collapsed onto a hotel bed.

God was not through with His lessons. He never under delivers, and we often receive more than we ask. I was concerned that I not be a burden to others on the trip back. I simply prayed to make it down the mountain and I did. The next morning, however, I expected the worst and gingerly put my foot on the floor. The feeling was back but there was no pain! The foot was not swollen and there was no sign it had ever been injured! God had completely healed my foot! After four years and eight months of daily pain, it was simply gone and with no physical reminder of the injury. It remains so ten years later.

I have no answers for why God does what He does or His timing. Since that time, I have learned to pray and trust that He will always do what is best for me as I fit into His plans. It is truly a continuing life-changing journey.

What's Your Excuse?

By Rev. Steve MacInnis
Coordinator of Church Ministries for
The Emmaus Fellowship of Churches

I am an itinerant missionary to Haiti and work with the pastors of more than sixty churches. On a recent trip to Cap-Haitien, I worked with two pastors of the Emmaus Fellowship and joined a team from Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, for four days of evangelism and radio distribution. We each had an opportunity to share the Gospel and invite people to Christ. Over the four days, more than 70 people made a personal decision to trust Jesus.

As a part of the effort to share the Gospel and aid in follow-up, solar powered radios were distributed to new converts. The radios have the New Testament in the Haitian language and are fix-tuned to Radio 4VEH with Christian programming.

On the fourth day of the evangelism trip as we hiked up a mountain, I knew that I was not going to physically make it to the top. So I asked to stay behind while the others climbed on. The Haitian pastor with our team made arrangements for me to stay at a home nearby. One of the team members, Kylie, decided to stay with me. We promised to pray for the team as they climbed on.

True to our promise, we prayed for the team's safety and success in

their mission. In between times of prayer, the lady of the house and her friend sat with us. With our limited understanding of the language, we attempted to communicate with smiles and gestures.

Kylie and I didn't know many Creole words, but we felt the need to try to share the Gospel in spite of our limitations, and so we did. We didn't know if they understood our feeble attempt to share the Gospel, but we prayed and gave it our best effort. Somehow, after a while we all ended up kneeling in the dirt praying to Jesus for His salvation.

Later that day we were united with the team that had made it to the top of the mountain. They shared their experiences of a fruitful time of ministry. We later learned from the pastor who had accompanied us that the family we visited



Woman who trusted Christ at the hut.



The humble hut at the base of the mountain.



The fix-tuned radios with built-in recording of New Testament in Haitian Creole language.

and witnessed to had in fact made a commitment to Jesus and had attended the first worship service held at the top of the mountain two weeks later.

Those four days were incredible, and I have spent much time reflecting on the experience. Here are some of my conclusions:

1. The calling of every Christian is to "go and make disciples." If you don't speak the language of the person you are trying to share the Gospel with, that would seem to be a good excuse to not witness. But God isn't looking for an excuse, only the effort to obey Him.
2. No excuse is ever good enough to not "go and make disciples," not even being physically challenged to go to the top of the mountain. There are plenty of people that need to hear the Gospel at the base of the mountain and at all places in between.
3. Everybody seems to want to be on the mountain, especially at the top. But eventually everybody spends time in the valley, the place of hard decisions. Let us not hold out for the mountaintop at the expense of God's calling and blessing in the valley.

Uncharted Waters in Haiti

By Larry Seawell

Sometimes I sense that the Spirit of God is leading me into uncharted waters. Often it is during a deep dive into the Scriptures as they reveal God that insight is gained. It also happens in prayer when I have exhausted all my known alternatives and reach out in complete dependence on God. And, it happened in Haiti as we watched many believe the Gospel. This story begins as the team mounted the back of a flatbed truck.

Many heard the Gospel and believed. Some declined offer.

Driving in Haiti is unlike driving in the developed world. It is hard to avoid a sense of adventure riding in the open air toward a remote mountain village. The gravel and asphalt roads wind up then down the mountains without guardrails to obstruct the breath-taking island beauty. The idea of lanes is only a weak suggestion, but traffic seems to flow in its own chaotic way. It is obvious at every turn that Haiti is one of the poorest nations on earth. Most homes are very small and made of sticks, mud, stone or block. Yet the people are surprisingly well dressed.

At the end of this two hour trip, we were welcomed by the members of a small local church. Their building had crude trusses with a tin roof and nothing but tarps for walls. The inside was decorated with flowers and streamers. Many people from the local church came to sit on wooden benches to pray for us as we went out to share the Gospel in their neighborhood. They prayed for three hours as we walked home-to-home presenting a personal witness and distributing radios. These Haitians believe in prayer.

Our team, which had members from churches in Indiana and Ohio, was divided into four groups, each group paired up with a translator, a member of a local Haitian church, a representative from Radio 4VEH, and a pastor from another local church. Emmanuel Felix, the 80-year-old evangelism director at Radio 4VEH, remained behind to meet with a large group of children.

As my team came to a home, we would introduce ourselves and ask permission to share the Gospel. As other Haitians saw us, they would gather around to hear. We shared the Gospel through our translator using simple diagrams designed to help us clearly communicate cross-culturally. When asked if any-

one wanted to pray to receive Christ, many said yes. The Haitian team members would talk one-on-one with each person to be sure that they understood. Then we prayed with those who wanted to trust Christ as Savior. It was unlike anything I have experienced before.

Not everyone believed. Many had excuses or simply rejected the message. Some simply walked away. Others followed and listened to several Gospel presentations. Some were already believers, and we prayed with those who needed assurance or freedom from the influence of sin.

On Friday in Leroux Cachiman, there were 56 decisions to receive Jesus as Savior: Sixteen occurred among the teams; 39 came from among children who remained at the church; and one happened on the return trip right on the big truck. We pulled over to the side of the road as one of the translators prayed to receive Christ in the shade of a large tree.

On Monday in Dondon, there were 58 decisions: 39 occurred among the evangelism teams; and 19 more among the children with Emmanuel at Radio 4VEH.

Please pray for the local pastors who have the names of all those who were visited and those who prayed to trust Christ. To assist the local pastor, we left solar powered radios at each home we visited. Radio 4VEH will assist the local Haitian pastors by providing a 24-hour evangelistic voice in the Creole language.

As I reflect on this adventure into Haiti, there are many things I remember about the OMS work in Haiti. But what I remember most are the faces of those who believed and the tearing in my heart as some walked away in disbelief (see cover photo). I remember a 15-year-old girl who was quick to believe as I shared the claims of Christ, and I remember her best friend who rejected the Gospel.

Yes, Haiti is poor and lacks most of what we consider ordinary necessities in the developed world, but what I will remember is God's remarkable grace toward the Haitian people and toward me.



Larry Seawell praying with some who are professing faith in Christ.

Colombia Witness Teams: In Our Own Words

Compiled by Greg Carlson

Imagine joining Men for Missions and Every Community for Christ in Colombia on a team to evangelize with Saturation Colombia. Each team member partners with an interpreter and a local Christian to visit Colombians in their homes. Hear in their own words their apprehensions about evangelizing and how God uses ordinary people with little practical experience or training.

Common apprehensions.

"I always thought evangelism was a gift learned over time to be effective. I was so wrong." —Jeff Shepple, accountant, Indiana

"I don't like evangelism because it makes me nervous. It's not so much a fear of sharing my faith, but of knocking on the door." —Micah Carlson, 17, Indiana

"I was definitely nervous in the days leading up to the trip as it was my first time doing evangelism. However, as soon as we began going home to home, my apprehension faded and God filled me with confidence and peace." —Jared Stuart, 18, Colorado

God's mighty deeds.

"One lady was cooking and couldn't listen, so we moved on. When we were near the end of the street, she came running, eager to hear what we had to say. Excitedly, she prayed to accept Christ and then shared the message with her son."

—James Vernot, youth director, Indiana

"My Colombian partner, Dylan, and I came to a broken man cut off from almost all contact, struggling to break free from drug addiction. Dylan came alive and engaged the man in deep conversation. Before accepting Christ, Dylan had been involved in a nearly identical situation! If Dylan had been unable to connect on such a deep level, the man may have never opened up to God's message." —Brennan Stuart, 16, Colorado

"I saw an elderly gentleman sweeping his stairs and asked if we could get his attention. As I shared, he continued to sweep. I thought, 'He doesn't care about what we're saying.' However, when I began to share the gospel, he became very interested. Even though a security gate stood between us, he listened. He never opened the gate, but it did not stop him from opening his heart to Christ! He was the first person I had ever led to Christ!" —Maddy Carlson, 14, Indiana

"A lady standing outside brushing her teeth was quite annoyed when we walked up, but she begrudgingly agreed to listen. Her arms were crossed and she was very disinterested as I explained how much I needed Jesus in my life. God helped me display compassion to this woman, and her disposition changed. In tears, she told us her son had become mixed up in a gang. We prayed for her son, and the local church will support her. I was in awe how God used my team to lead this heartbroken woman to Christ. I could have never imagined having an impact like this." —Michael Stuart, human resources, Colorado

Personal impact.

"The trip was life changing. God was on the move in Colombia, and our team was a piece of that amazing story." —Michael

"There is no greater pleasure on this earth than to see someone turn to Christ." —James

"Some people will accept God and some will not. We had to surrender and put everything in God's hands and let him work through us."

—Wesley Stuart, 13, Colorado

Messages to readers:

"I strongly encourage you to go on an evangelism-focused trip to Colombia. Although it may seem stressful the first day, God is with us." —Wesley

"Many think, 'I could never go to Colombia and evangelize. It's just not my gift.' Don't miss the opportunity to see God do the miraculous." —James

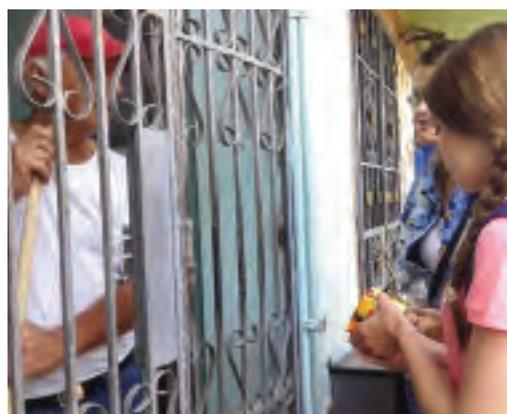
"Set aside your fear and apprehension and put your trust wholly in God. It will be one of the most incredible experiences of your life." —Jared

MFM has a date for YOU, too!

Join us in 2015 on a life-changing journey in Colombia:
March 14-21,
July 18-25 and
October 24-31.



James Vernot and his team for the day share the plan of salvation using the EvangeCube in Rionegro, Colombia.



"This man never opened the gate, but it did not stop him from opening his heart to Christ!" —Maddy



Young evangelists in Medellín: Wesley Stuart, David Caraval (interpreter), Daniel Shepple, Jared Stuart, Brennan Stuart, Micah Carlson, Maddy Carlson.

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 70 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.



Warren Hardig
MFM International
Executive Director

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 MFMs 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 your life changing journey, that asks men to do, go, and give whatever God asks. MFM nationally has organized and helped nearly 30,000 men and women serve on OMS mission fields during its 60-year history. A current team list appears in this issue (see list at right).

MFMs 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 MFMs 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.



A world of opportunity awaits you at
www.menformissions.org



MFM Work Team building Homes for Haiti (H4H).

2014 World Ministry Teams

Dates	Field (Project)	Depart	Cost
10/10	10/17	Haiti (Work at School)	Indy 1125
10/10	10/18	Haiti (DWM-Radios)	Ninevah 1550
10/10	10/18	Dom Rep (U Indy Med)	Indy 1750
10/13	10/21	Colombia (DWM Evang)	Indy 1850
10/17	10/25	Mexico (Street Kids Min)	Tulsa 1250
10/25	11/01	Colombia (Evang)	Indy 1850
10/25	11/01	Haiti (H4H)	Waco 680
10/25	10/31	Haiti, Cap Haitian (Work)	Austin 1550
11/01	11/08	Haiti (H4H)	Indy 1550
11/08	11/15	Haiti, Cap Haitian (Work)	Portland 1750
11/08	11/15	Haiti (H4H)	Indy 1550
11/15	11/22	Haiti (H4H)	Indy 1550
11/15	11/22	Haiti (Radios)	Ada, OK 1750
12/06	12/13	Haiti, Cap Haitian (Work)	Portland 1750

2015 World Ministry Teams

01/10	01/17	Haiti (H4H)	Tulsa 1600
01/17	01/24	Haiti (H4H)	Tulsa 1600
01/24	01/31	Haiti (H4H)	Findlay 1550
01/31	02/07	Haiti (H4H)	Portland, OR 1750
02/06	02/20	Brazil (Ch Const)	Indy 3000
02/07	02/16	Haiti, Cap Haitian (Work)	Erie, PA 1775
02/07	02/15	Haiti (H4H)	Glasgow, MT 1850
02/17	02/24	Haiti, Cap Haitian (Work)	Erie, PA 1550
02/21	02/28	Haiti (H4H) New Providence	1750
02/28	03/07	Haiti (H4H)	Fargo, ND 1800
03/07	03/14	Haiti (H4H)	Canada 1750
03/14	03/21	Haiti (H4H)	Canada 1750
03/14	03/21	Colombia (Asbury U Evang)	Lexington 1850
03/21	03/28	Haiti (H4H)	Philly 1550
05/30	06/06	Haiti (H4H)	Cincinnati 1550
07/18	07/25	Colombia (Evang)	Indy 1850
07/20	07/27	Colombia (Evang)	Louisville 1850
10/24	10/31	Colombia (Evang)	Indy 1850

TBA=To Be Announced DWIM=Dynamic Women in Missions H4H=Homes For Haiti
Call 317-881-6752 for info on these or other teams in 2015

- Please send info about Team to _____ Dates _____
- My Gift for ACTION budget: \$ _____ (Proj. #444520)
- Please send ACTION to the names and addresses enclosed.
- Please remove my name from the ACTION mailing list.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Prov _____ Zip or Postal Code _____
Country _____
Phone(s) _____
E-Mail _____

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

Seeing Life Together Building much more than homes in Haiti

Jeff Walton
Olathe, Kansas

Synoptic and Myopic

Seeing things together trumps seeing things alone. I think God wired us that way. We recently participated in the Bon Repos project in Haiti with some of our dearest friends, small group members, and in-laws. Several years ago, our lives crossed paths with three other families and we've seen each other through a variety of difficult challenges.

This is not a commercial for small groups, but I'd like to share with you the dynamic of our trip in the hope that you will somehow see what we saw together.

The night before our first day of work, a friend said that he wanted to be intentional about seeing beyond the surface. A devotional from Ephesians challenged us to do more than just *look*, but to *see* beneath the surface and to see Haiti as God sees it. This theme found a way to follow us around all week. What follows is a chronicle of our improved eyesight one day at a time.

Day 1

Many of us saw only the big picture: Garbage, smoke, traffic, dented cars and rusty trucks, faceless bodies packed into tap-taps, vivid splashes of color, and crude depictions of Jesus on the sides of vehicles. If chaos had a picture in the dictionary, this would be it!

Day 2

The lens slowly panned out on this day: Chaotic movement became people and culture; individuals were either going or doing with a sense of purpose; merchants sold items of every description; young men waited for motorcycles to expedite travel; women eagerly waited at charcoal grills to buy food for the day. Everyone was on the move, living their normal lives — Haiti style!

Day 3

A paradox confronted us with a closer look at the chaotic culture and the demeanor of the people in it: Everyone hurried about, but with welcoming smiles, laughs, and waves; young men with boxes of slushy treats chasing potential customers and the looks of satisfaction when their efforts were rewarded; men pulling over-loaded carts politely pressing through the crowd; women with baskets and buckets on their heads, walking with perfect balance and grace; people cramming into tap-taps and onto motorcycles and bicycles without the slightest look of irritation because in Haiti "there's always room for one more." Today's view revealed to us that Haitians realize that they are all in it together.



Haiti, a paradox of beautiful people against a backdrop of chaos.

Day 4

One word describes the focus of what we saw — beauty. A backdrop of despair and poverty made the beauty we witnessed even more gorgeous, more pure: Beauty in a dad affectionately holding his son and kissing his cheek; beauty in a little girl attired in a white, perfectly ironed dress, stepping over a mound of trash; beauty in a young man with a hammer beating large rocks into small rocks who stopped, waved, and smiled to us like he'd seen old friends; beauty in the pride of their appearance; beauty in their acceptance of us; beauty in a young man smiling and doting on an infant orphan boy with serious physical challenges. We saw beauty in Haiti, and it was everywhere! I believe that this is what God wanted us to see, each soul is precious and beautiful to Him regardless of the country they call home.

Our team of friends helped build much more than homes in Haiti. We also built memories and bonds that will forever strengthen their relationships. Our hearts were broken and our eyes were opened.



Merchants closing sales.



Team in truck.

San se pa'm

Many things caught our eyes when driving through Port-au-Prince. Many walls displayed spray-painted graffiti in a unique script, "San se pa'm," (blood is mine). I asked what that meant, and was told, "Your blood is my blood" — we are all the same, rich or poor, white or black, American or Haitian, we all share the same blood. The backdrop in Haiti may be the antithesis of America, but we really are all much the same. Our cultures really define what is garbage, chaos, happiness, and beauty.

Our team of friends helped build much more than homes in Haiti. We also built memories and bonds that will forever strengthen their relationships. Our hearts were broken and our eyes were opened. But most of all, the recipients of the homes we helped build will transform and build lives for future generations.

Final thought

We are never more fulfilled than when emptying ourselves in Kingdom work. After all, to whom much is given, much is required. But for added joy and blessing, I recommend you don't do it alone. Do, go, and see it with those closest to you. That is how God wired us.



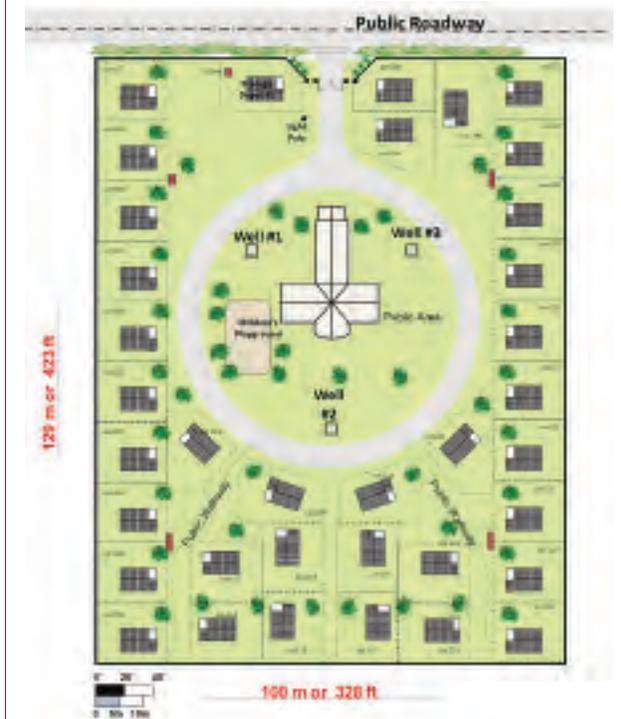
Team in front of home built at Bon Repos site.

The Project Plan

The **BON REPOS PROJECT** will help "the poorest of the poor" in Haiti.

The proposed community will be comprised of:
3.18 acres, 35 homes, a church,
a secure perimeter wall, and much more.

The Site Plan



Teams have built 13 homes and plans for the church are moving ahead as funds are provided.

What's Your Plan?

There are many opportunities to volunteer with MFM to help build one of these homes. If you are interested in participating on a trip (as an individual or a group), please contact Bill Evans at: bevans@onemissionsociety.org, call Bill at 317-881-6752, or register online at: www.menformissions.org.

“First, We Pray”

By Jeff Fritzen

“First, we pray,” insisted Weimar Guzman as we prepared to leave his apartment after hearing of his trip to the far southern reaches of Colombia, along the Amazon River where one can see Ecuador to the southwest and Peru to the southeast.

Weimar’s vision is to share with others the sports ministry model that helped him secure his faith in Christ as a youth and grew him into a disciple, leader, and evangelist with a missionary spirit. We had just shared ice cream treats with him and his family in their home, located within site of the front gate of the Christian Union Sports Club’s (CUSC) soccer stadium, office, and retreat center complex in Bello, part of the metropolitan sprawl of the city of Medellin.

He would not excuse us until he could pray for our labors as a Men for Missions work team at the complex or hear our entreaties to God to bless Weimar’s outreach far beyond the neighborhoods where the CUSC ministers. It was a joyful and convicting moment for our team from Central Illinois. Weimar worked his limited English as hard as he could, desperate that we grasp his desire to share Christ where He is not known.

Our familiarity with Weimar and others on the CUSC ministry team comes from a commitment to revisit Medellin, its people and its neighborhoods. A sixth trip inside a decade early in 2014 provided opportunity to continue our investment of labor and love in the sports ministry led by missionary Mark Wittig. It also triggered a change in our perspective.

Our team included three others who have made multiple trips to Colombia – Kevin Nussbaum, Jim Kennel, and Phil Halcomb – and first timers Dave Garrison and Randy Workman. Sharing meals in homes of those who coach, teach, and counsel in the sports ministry to youth throughout Medellin, worshiping in a church plant in the Acevedo sector, laboring to improve ministry facilities turned acquaintances into deeper relationships with friends like Weimar and Nelson Buitrago. Nelson is a CUSC coach, the pastor in the Acevedo church, and, like Weimar, seeking God’s lead after a recent investigatory mission’s trip to northeast Colombia near the Venezuelan border where there is a significant Muslim population.

Our specific tasks included constructing a brick wall to enclose and secure a storage area at the top of the soccer stadium; the beginning stages of the expansion of the complex’s water storage facility; and running water and sewer service to provide for future expansion projects. Construction work is always rewarding because of the tangible outcomes but even these took on new meaning.

Laying several courses of brick, pouring concrete, and digging ditches became more than a ministry of works to us. It became evident our projects aren’t just supporting the CUSC effort, but are every bit a part of Christ’s ministry to Medellin as the teaching, preaching, and relationship building others are regularly engaged in. The realization that our physical activities are part of the evangelistic outreach to some of the most difficult areas of Medellin made our evening visits to those places more precious than ever and strengthened the pull Colombia has on our lives.

There is more work to do. The CUSC facility has room to grow and the sports club’s ministry has souls to reach. The heavy lifting a work team does helps push the Gospel farther into the heart of Medellin and calls us back to minister alongside our Colombian friends.



Kevin Nussbaum presenting challenge to youth at sports complex.



Kevin Nussbaum, Jim Kennel working on the wall.



The MFM team in Colombia.



Petite Anse AM Restoration project:

The technical team from **Towers for Jesus** have begun work at the Radio 4VEH Petite Anse site to take down the old towers, erect two new AM towers, and install ground wire to restore the AM signal to again reach across northern Haiti where more than four million people live. **Please pray** for the Lord’s protection and help for this project to be completed. And **please pray** urgently for the broken AM transmitter to be fixed. Thank you.

Kate Michel
Marketing & Communications Director
Radio 4VEH, The Evangelistic Voice of Haiti | Resounding Hope Initiative

REPORT: MFM 60th Anniversary Celebration

Men for Missions 60th Anniversary Celebration was held at the OMS International Conference in Marion, Indiana (July 10-13, 2014). It was a great time of sharing of what God has done through common ordinary laymen over all the years.

People shared testimonies of how their lives have been changed from going on a short-term mission trip. Missionaries gave testimony of how MFM teams coming to help them with building projects, sharing through evangelism teams, prayer walking and praying against the evil ones strongholds, and medical teams had made an impact in their communities and ministries.

The Bon Repos home building project was a major focus for the weekend with the offerings going to help build homes for the poorest of the poor. It was great having our Haitian ‘Homes 4 Haiti’ committee at the conference with us, and money was raised to build 5 homes. Hearts of the youth were moved to help raise funds for the project. Of the \$25,000 generated at the conference for the Bon Repos project, the children raised more than \$10,000.

Bill Heubner, MFM Regional Director, and Randy Yoder, MFM Cabinet member, gave great challenges on Saturday night asking, “Will you get your hands dirty and help us reach a lost world for Christ?” We had a great time of celebration afterwards with cake and ice cream.

As we closed the weekend, we are thankful for our past, we are excited about the future, but its really about the present, asking the question, “What is God asking you to do, TODAY?”



Speakers, Bill Heubner and Randy Yoder.



Kids raised more than \$10,000 for Haiti homes.



‘Homes 4 Haiti’ committee at conference.



MFM staff in attendance at conference.



Listen to One Mission Society’s weekly radio program or podcast, featuring dynamic interviews with OMS missionaries sharing stories of God at work around the world.

www.onemissionsociety.org/radio
For our Indiana listeners, tune in to Indiana’s Freedom 95 radio station: 95.9 FM & 950 AM, Sunday nights at 7 pm.

MFM PRAYER MANUAL

REVISED • UPDATED • SIMPLIFIED

“To become mighty in prayer and effective in Christ’s Kingdom we must have powerful teaching and a Spirit-blessed example. This manual provides both.”

—Wesley L. Duewel

Excerpt from Level 4:

“Lifestyle intercession has more to do with perspective and attitude than with consciously looking for evil in the world in order to attack it. An experienced prayer warfare intercessor discovers that spiritual battles are won in the spiritual realm, not in the physical. Virtually no person anywhere in any situation is off limits for intercession, or out of God’s sovereign reach. Therefore, seeing God’s creation from His perspective allows an intercessor to pray always about everything and to actually *pray without ceasing*. Intercession can become a lifestyle.”

This manual is a serious 4-level study guide for intercessors, prayer warriors, disciplers, teachers, and small groups.

Please make checks payable to MFM, provide your mailing address, and mail Manual order to MFM, P.O. Box A, Greenwood, IN 46142.



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Homes for Haiti

Building on a Solid Foundation

By Carl Poynter

Having the opportunity to spend a week in Haiti with the youth team from North Carolina was like a breath of fresh air. I have to admit at first I had some concerns about being in Haiti with a large group of "kids."

However, seeing their maturity, compassion, respect, hard work, and most importantly the love they showed to each other and the people of Haiti, I quickly changed my mind. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each one. We laughed together, played together, cried together, and worked hard together. Why? Because we were unified as "One"— One Lord, One life, One calling — with a common goal in mind to build a home for a family in Haiti.

By God's grace and the work of our hands, that is exactly what we did. We mixed, and bucketed concrete for homes #104 and #105. After installing the ceiling, doors and completing the roof work, home #104 is now finished and can be occupied by a Haitian family.

I saw God "The Potter" turn a pile of clay (our team) into a beautiful masterpiece that could only be formed by His hands.

What was the common bond, the foundation of our team?

Like the Homes for Haiti Project, if we are building our spiritual homes on the Solid Rock and not sand then when the storms of life come (and they will come) our homes will be able to stand the test.

I am encouraged because of the foundation I saw set under the feet of this youth team from North Carolina. Because of them, I have a new found hope for this generation.

I saw piles of limestone and rocks become the foundation of a home, blocks set into place to form walls, stacks of 2X4 lumber turned into trusses to put a roof overhead, and soon a home was sitting in the place that was only dirt a few days earlier.

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 one million people came to know Jesus as Savior and more than 6,000 churches were planted 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.

