

BCMWorld

An Inside Look at BCM Global Ministries



UBUTEGETSI
bwa hano
burahanije
gutya umwami
ngaha, uwuzo
gutwa azoha-
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Kw'izima mu
Ntambiro
g'Umwami
Mubanyi



TAKING THE LEAD

By: Jeanette Windle

With half of Africa's population under the age of fifteen, reaching and discipling the next generation who are the future of both Africa and the African church cannot be done Lone Ranger-style. Multiplication and cooperation are the key. Such was the vision behind Mobilize Africa last February in Nairobi, Kenya (see [Mobilize Comes to Africa, BCM World, Spring 2019](#)), which resulted in twenty-one new Lead Trainers (LT) of BCM's In Step with the Master Teacher (ISMT) training program from denominations representing tens of thousands of churches across seven African nations. Each new LT was a chosen leader already involved within their national church denomination or a Christian organization that reaches children.

Mobilize Africa ended with a commitment of new Lead Trainers to take this training back to their own regions. Seven months later, global director for ISMT and BCM Africa children's ministry leadership training director Pat Govender share exciting reports they've received from new LTs across Sub-Saharan Africa.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Since 2014, BCM has partnered with the Église du Christ au Congo (ECC), or Church of Christ in the Congo, an association of more than sixty evangelical denominations, to help train children's ministry leaders throughout the DRC (see [Keeping a Promise, BCM World, August 2017](#)). BCM missionaries Pat Govender and Dr. Djawotho Kisa have held several trainings across the DRC in the intervening years, but with sixty thousand churches and twenty-five million members in ECC churches alone, this barely scratched the surface of the need.

Among new Lead Trainers in DRC, Stephanie Sudman, Rilega Pierre, James D'Jadri, and Mado Mfumunguyo wasted no time upon their return home. In April, James and Stephanie traveled to northern DRC near the Uganda/Sudan border to hold trainings in two of ECC's sixty-one districts. More than two hundred-fifty pastors, Sunday School teachers and directors, and theology students from eighty-eight ECC churches attended.

"Of the core sessions, teachers really appreciated

Developing a Discipline Plan," reports Stephanie. "We could have talked for HOURS on this one subject." She adds with a smile, "I've heard from my little spies (children from three churches whose teachers attended training) that they have enjoyed Sunday School these last weeks because the teachers are making it more interesting."

In May, James, Pierre, and Stephanie took advantage of a holiday weekend in Bunia, a key city in eastern DRC, to hold a two-day training with a total of fifty-one participants from fourteen churches as well as Samaritan's Purse. The trainings were so well received that Pierre and Stephanie were invited to present ISMT to the leadership of all ECC theological training institutes. The group now has numerous invitations for further trainings around the DRC. Another DRC Lead Trainer, Mado Mfumunguyo, held a training with seventeen evangelists, then was invited to teach the core ISMT program for a school chaplains training program across DRC educational provinces in October, November, and December.



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1. Ephraim Ngendakuriyo leads training
2. Pat Govender, (left) w/Ephraim & Luydwin (wife) Ngendakuriyo
3. New trainee presenting lesson
4. New trainees
5. Practicing children's music
6. Visual aid assignment

UGANDA

Lead Trainer Joshua Anguyo, field coordinator with Scripture Union Uganda, began sharing the vision of reaching children as soon as he returned to home, including within two of the thirty-seven dioceses of the Church of Uganda (Anglican Communion), which has almost nine million members. In one diocese with over seven hundred churches, he was given an entire Sunday service in the central Anglican cathedral, a congregation of about three thousand, to teach in all three services to challenge parents and teach basic ISMT principles of raising children in the fear of God.

Other teaching opportunities include a two-day event with two hundred church leaders, a one-day training for the entire staff of a Christian school, a weekend training course for children's workers in Arua, a major city near the DRC border, and an ongoing training for eighty-six children's ministry leaders in a district that is more than 85% Muslim. He has also shared the program with eight other Scripture Union field coordinators and with them has begun an overall strategy to teach the curriculum throughout the country of Uganda, above all, training more LTs to meet the need.

KENYA

By the end of April 2019, one new Lead Trainer, Pastor Judy Anabwani, had trained fifty children's ministry national leaders at Redeemed Gospel Church's annual leadership conference, over three hundred teachers from the African Independent Church of East Africa denomination, and three hundred church leaders in the RGC's Thika Town district, including the bishop and numerous pastors. Another trainer, Pastor Terry Fundi, has taught the ISMT course through her church. Lead Trainer Jackie Wegoki from Nairobi spearheaded multiple trainings with the Nairobi diocese of the Anglican Church. More than two hundred-fifty participants attended at three different centers over the month of June with two more trainings in other centers during July.

BCM missionaries Dr. and Mrs Josphat Yego (see [Bringing Home the Good News, BCM World, Fall 2016](#)), who participated in Mobilize Africa, have been booked solid with training seminars and conferences virtually every weekend since. This has taken them from their own home area of Eldoret and Kapsabet in western Kenya to as far south as Mombasa on the Indian Ocean and as far north as Kitale near Uganda with hundreds of new trainer children's ministry leaders. They are thankful to have several other LTs to help carry the load, including Rev Jacob Kipsang Kogo, who now oversees training in the Eldoret region and Rev. David Rhono, responsible for ISMT training in over one hundred-thirty area churches.

MALAWI AND MADAGASCAR

Lead Trainer Velegita Chamadenga from Malawi shares of training and evangelism in eleven different locations with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian denomination, including a deaf school and orphanage. Beyond the training, more than three hundred-fifty people accepted Christ during these outreaches,

including Muslims. She also presented ISMT to United Pentecostal Church of Malawi leadership. In Madagascar, BCM missionary Sahondra Ralivony has held two trainings and is seeking to meet with church leadership to present the vision of children's ministry.

BURUNDI, RWANDA, BACK TO KENYA

Over the month of September 2019, BCM Africa ISMT director Pat Govender traveled to three countries represented by Mobilize participants—Rwanda, Burundi, and Kenya, both to encourage new Lead Trainers and follow up with additional training. During the four weeks, Pat had five of ten Lead Trainers in those countries teaching with her while six new LTs were able to put newly acquired skills into practice. A specific goal was to respond to requests from major church denominations to train Lead Trainers who in turn can train Sunday school teachers across their denomination.

In Rwanda, Scripture Union under leadership of Ezechias Ntiringanya partnered in several different trainings, the first with thirty-four participants. Then the team traveled to a mountainous area on the DRC border known for its gorillas and volcanoes where they held training in two locations, one with sixteen pastors and forty-four Sunday school teachers from twenty denominations, the other thirty-three Sunday school teachers and pastors from six churches. Three women also completed the course to be appointed new Lead Trainers.

In Burundi, Lead Trainer Ephraim Ngendakuriyo from Kick Off to Hope ministry hosted the preparation of twenty-three new LTs from six denominations.

They are now forming a team to continue this program throughout the country. Since Ephraim is also involved with children's and youth sports outreach, they are also using ISMT as part of the training for volunteers to learn how to reach children with the gospel as well through sports.

Then it was off to Nairobi, Kenya, which included refreshment training for current LTs, who also participated in teaching sessions for new children's ministry workers. For these, the Kenyan Lead Trainers will be following up to complete their practical teaching.

Pat Govender then headed to Eldoret to meet up with the Yegos to hold a course for twenty-three new trainers at Kao La Mani (Place of Peace) Bible College as well as several trainings with the Africa Inland Church denomination. This has now provided a large enough group of trainers that plans are underway to hold trainings throughout the four million membership of AIC churches.

Pat summarizes just why she feels this Lead Trainer program is having such an impact. "Partnership brings multiplication. We can do things together that we can't do alone. I am so encouraged and praise God for all that He is doing across Africa."





NOBODY SHOWED ME HOW!

Contributed by Oremonta Murphy, BCM West Indies

For Oremonta Murphy, BCM missionary in the island of Antigua, West Indies, reaching children with the Gospel can take her far afield from the Caribbean (see [Sharing, Loving, and Caring in Cameroon, BCM World, December 2016](#)), This summer was no exception as a team of children's ministry leaders from Grace Baptist Church, where Oremonta's husband David pastors in Antigua, along with Oremonta's son Dillon Abbott, an evangelist serving in Barbados, flew to the island of Mindanao in the Philippines May 9th-June 14th for a month of children's outreach.

Their schedule was packed, beginning with ministry in Davao City as well as the outlying town of Kabacan, where the team held children's ministry in the streets and crowded slums along with door to door witnessing. They also ministered to young girls in three homes for abused women and children.

They then took a nine-hour bus trip to Malaybalay to stay

and minister in Nehemiah House, a home for abused girls ages ten to fifteen. By the end of the week, it was difficult to say goodbye as the team and girls had bonded closely. The team spent an additional two days ministering in two facilities for boys ages twelve to sixteen who had been incarcerated for offenses such as rape, theft, robbery, and even murder. As the team shared the gospel with these boys, God opened their eyes to His mercy and grace, and amidst tears, a number of the boys surrendered their hearts to Christ.

That same weekend, the team headed to a new neighborhood for children's ministry. The adult members of the community turned out as well. Oremonta taught the plan of salvation, and many prayed to accept Christ. One young village boy saw the gathering and approached Oremonta to ask what was happening. When Oremonta explained about Jesus, he took a New Testament from his pocket.

"I knew what I read in this book was true!" he said excitedly.

"Do you know Jesus as your Savior?" Oremonta asked him.

"Nobody ever showed me how!" the little boy answered.

Oremonta led the young boy through the plan of salvation. He accepted Christ as Savior and is now a child of God. He is just one of many new children of God as a result of the last month of ministry across Mindanao.

Oremonta asks for prayer for each child and adult who has come to Christ during this past month that they will be faithful in continuing their new walk with God. Above all for the young girls and boys in the group homes the team visited that God will heal these from the abuse and darkness of their past, transform their lives by the power of the Holy Spirit, and give them a future of hope and new beginnings.

"What a wonderful, powerful month this has been serving with our Lord and Master," Oremonta sums up.

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1. Lead Training - Rwanda 2. Negotiating Davao streets
3. Children's ministry outreach

WOMEN BREAKING FREE IN DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

By: Lisa Biegert

In South Africa, August is hailed as Women's Month. BCM missionaries and volunteers used this opportunity to host the first South African BCM women's camp August 23-25, 2019, at Pennington Camp James on the south coast of Durban, South Africa. The retreat focused on Romans 8:1 ("Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,") with the theme of "Breaking Free."

Sharm Ramaiah, wife of BCM South Africa pastor Michael Ramaiah, had attended other women's camps and was inspired to host her own. Under leadership of BCM Africa director John Peter, she organized the event and served as program director.

Sharm explains, "It was only after attending a different women's camp about ten years ago that I realized what difficulties women are facing each day. We often meet at church or in social gatherings. But at a camp specifically for women, we are able to express ourselves more fully and discuss individual situations. Many of us don't even realize we are all facing difficulties at home, at work, in the community, and even spiritually. To have an event dedicated to 'breaking free' was truly a theme from the Lord."

The retreat ministered in total to forty women from a variety of churches, married and single, from all walks of life, and ranging in age from sixteen to seventy. After their arrival Friday evening, the





group enjoyed the campground's beautiful gardens while socializing with other attendees. On Saturday morning, Vijay Peter, wife of John Peter, led a devotional. After breakfast, the group heard from Christian counselor Ingrid Hall. The afternoon session was led by Mrs. K. Reddy, another counselor, who spoke on social challenges.

Both Ingrid and Mrs. Reddy offered their counseling services Saturday afternoon to any who had need of them. During a social time Saturday evening, Jane Appadu, a retired nurse, spoke on health issues relating to women and girls. Sunday morning, the women participated in a praise and worship time led by a group from Sharm's church. Then Ingrid Hall taught another session. The group also enjoyed a dance performed by young ladies from Sharm's church as well as fellowship, prayer times, and good food.

One camper expressed, "I have never been to a ladies' camp before, and I must admit it was a life-changing experience. I grew so much spiritually. I learned how to pray effectively and how to intercede for my family and my home. My faith is firmer and stronger in the Lord."

Another shared, "When I arrived, I was very depressed and had no peace. I felt God had forgotten me and my family. Family situations were difficult, and even though one family member responded to an altar call, I was not satisfied. I just knew God had more for my family. On Sunday, I was disheartened when I discovered we only had one session left. I desperately wanted God to give a word to my family. Ten minutes into the pastor's message, the pastor called out my family, who needed to reconcile, and prayed for them. They gave their hearts to the Lord right there and are working on repairing the family and are attending church. All praise to God who did not let me down!"

"We were so blessed at the women's camp!" a third camper summarized. "The Holy Spirit was truly in control. I wouldn't want to miss another opportunity of attending another camp in the future. I just desire God's touch again on my life."



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1. Time of worship 2. Vijay Peter sharing a devotional 3. Woman's camp session 4. Meal time 5. Woman's camp session



MAKING A DIFFERENCE SUMMER 2019



BCM International reaches approximately 35,000 children in camping, mostly in the summer months. But there are other BCM summer children’s ministry outreaches happening, including backyard and sidewalk Bible clubs, Vacation Bible School, and children’s missions conferences. Here are a few up-close glimpses to what God has been doing to reach children through BCM this summer across North America.

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1. Water sports at Camp Streamside
 2. Judy Hiebert teaching Bible lesson - BCM Canada
 3. Backyard Bible club games



UNREPORTED HEROES EFFECT TRUE CHANGE IN NORTH PHILLY

Contributed by Marc Hoyle, BCM USA Director

“Six Philadelphia Police Officers Shot During Gun Battle!” This news headline on August 14, 2019, briefly turned national attention to North Philadelphia. No attention has been given to a van parked every Tuesday in a neighborhood not far from the shooting. Belonging to BCM volunteer Sandy, this van is the venue for an afternoon Bible Club that takes place every week during the school year.

Every Tuesday after school lets out, Sandy and BCM missionary Lisa drive into North Philadelphia, first picking up one child, then driving on to a home where several other children live. Inviting any nearby children to join them, they hold an outdoor Bible Club. Attendance shifts constantly. On one afternoon, a large family that usually attends is missing, but a small boy standing nearby gets drawn in by the story and joins the group.

What about when it rains? Kids and Bible club teachers pack into the van, up to a dozen people! Songs, activities, Bible story, and snack are all carried out inside the van’s tight quarters.

In the chaotic urban realities of our current society, people constantly demand an answer to such senseless violence as the gun battle that wounded six Philly police officers. The answer is right there in that van on the street—changed hearts! Imagine the impact if every church sent a van out on the street to hold an after-school Bible club or welcomed a Bible Club in every public school. We may look to government for security instead of the God of the Bible. Yet it is through people like Sandy and Lisa that God is accomplishing his everlasting purpose.

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1. Philly Bible club snack time 2. North Philly Bible club van 3. Bible club Philly 4. Sammy doing craft - BCM Canada 5. Pam Rowntree teaching missions story



A SECOND BIRTHDAY FOR SAMMY

Contributed by Pam Rowntree, BCM Canada

All week long, six-year-old Sammy sat with rapt attention, listening to the continuing five-part missionary story of Hamid, a small boy in Morocco who faces danger and trials as he tries to save his blind two-year-old sister from an evil master (*No Darkness at All*, adapted from *Star of Light* by Patricia St. John). He doesn't know where to turn when he meets an English missionary who helps the two children and shares with Hamid the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Sammy was attending this summer's Vacation Bible School at the home church of BCM Canada missionary Pam Rowntree. From a broken home, he lives with his single mom, but a Christian grandmother had taken the time to bring him each day to VBS. Pam taught the missions hour throughout the week, a topic she sees as a continued priority for children's ministry, not only to introduce them to global missions, but because missions stories themselves contain the message of salvation from darkness and fear and the knowledge of a loving, caring God. The five-chapter format brings children eagerly back each day of VBS to hear the "rest of the story."

On the third day of the story, Hamid discovers God's forgiveness and accepts the missionary's invitation to ask Jesus to be his Savior. Hamid proudly shares that he now has two birthdays since he has been born again into God's family. As Pam told the story, she challenged the children

about their own lives. Were they sure they had a "second birthday"? Were they part of God's family? Could they put a second candle on their birthday cake as Hamid could?

The very next day at the end of the missions hour, Sammy waited behind to speak with Pam. Excitedly, he told her, "Now I have a second candle 'cause I'm part of God's family."

"How did that happen?" Pam asked him.

"Well, I just told God I wanted Jesus to be my Savior and be in his family, and my words went right from inside of my head," Sammy pointed to his head, then upward. "and right straight up to God! I KNOW it! I could feel it! They went right up to God!"

Sammy was even more excited to realize that as part of God's family, he was now "related" to Miss Pam. Though only six years old, it was clear talking with Sammy that he was very certain of what he had done and that he now belonged to Jesus. A reminder that we never know what is going on in the heart and mind of a child sitting in an audience we are teaching. Sammy's grandmother was a believer and had brought him to church, so this wasn't the first time he'd heard about Jesus and salvation. But this time Sammy was ready to take the step of receiving Jesus as his own personal Savior, becoming part of God's family, and adding that second candle to his birthday cake!



CAMP SONSHINE TURNS FORTY

By: Norman Wray III, Director Camp Sunshine

Camp Sunshine celebrated an important milestone July 21-27, 2019—its fortieth consecutive summer of camp! Eighty-three campers ranging from ages 7-17 gathered at Camp Tel Hai in Honey Brook, PA, for a week of Bible teaching and lots of great outdoor fun.

Camp Sunshine was founded by BCM missionary Eleanor Manzullo, who worked with children and teen Bible clubs in South Philadelphia (USA) and served at Camp Sunshine for thirty-three year (see [The Call to Camp Ministry Continues, BCM World, August 2015](#)) Today many Sunshine campers and staff are children and grandchildren of the original Bible club members and campers, traveling from across Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey to continue the legacy of Camp Sunshine.

Each morning began with raising the American flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, then doing some stretch exercises before heading to breakfast. After morning chapel came a wide selection of activities, including horseback riding, zip lining, wall climbing, archery, riflery, human foosball, volleyball, basketball, street hockey, soccer, fishing, obstacle course and miniature golf. Camp Tel Hai is on a beautiful seven-acre lake, so there was swimming, canoeing, paddle boats, and kayaking as well, especially appreciated since the

heat index topped a hundred degrees Fahrenheit. When tired of outdoor activities, campers had plenty of arts and craft options, including ceramics. A favorite evening activity was playing capture the flag with flashlights.

This year's theme was Seeking God's Wisdom. Our Bible study focused on the life of Daniel the prophet, and our memory passage was Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Our theme and these verses reminded us to stop each day and make sure we've committed our day to the Lord instead of taking matters into our own hands. Daniel was a great example of a steady walk with God, not conforming to the ways of Babylon, which included the worship of false gods. God was with Daniel to protect him, and reward him with great talents for serving kings and his nation in a way that honored God. Our study of Daniel finished with a humorous drama performed by campers. While bringing laughter, it ended with a challenge from Scripture for each camper as they headed home to remember that God is our Provider and Deliverer and to stand firm in our faith to God.



CHRISTMAS IN SUMMER WITH BCM CANADA

Contributed by Judy Hiebert

Where do Christmas and summer go together? South of the equator—as well as this summer’s BCM Canada backyard Bible clubs in Essex County, Ontario.

BCM Canada missionary Judy Hiebert grew up going to school-year and summer-time backyard Bible clubs so Bible clubs are dear to her heart and a main focus of her ministry with BCM. When she met BCM missionaries from Peru, she learned of their Pennies for Peru program, a street ministry that reaches thousands of Peruvian children each year during the Christmas season, which in Peru is the height of summer.

For two full weeks in December, BCM Peru missionaries and volunteers head out to different districts to hold evangelistic outreach in the streets, including puppets, songs, games, and a gospel presentation. At the end, children receive a Christmas treat of hot chocolate and panetón (a traditional Peruvian Christmas cake filled with jellied fruits and candies). Sunday school classes across Peru and North America collect pennies and other coins to help purchase the panetones and other supplies, hence the name Pennies for Peru.

What a wonderful opportunity, Judy recognized, for children to reach other children while hearing the gospel themselves. Christmas in Summer became the theme for her 2019 backyard Bible clubs. Along with collecting coins for

panetones, the children learned about the birth and life of Jesus, Christmas customs in Peru, and the needs of children there. They even learned a Christmas carol in Spanish, “Navidad, Navidad, hoy es Navidad” (sung to the tune of Jingle Bells).

The Christmas in Summer program was a great success with a record attendance of 185 children ages kindergarten to sixth grade over five different Bible clubs along with a record number of 37 volunteers, including many teens. One teen alone volunteered at twenty-four out of twenty-five days of Bible clubs. When Judy asked her if she had trusted in Jesus for salvation, the teen volunteer replied yes. In fact, she’d accepted Jesus at an after-school Bible club. Like Judy, she is now passing on what she received to the next generation.

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1. Camp Sunshine group shot 2019
2. Ceramics craft
3. Chapel at Camp Sunshine
4. Life of Daniel drama
5. Backyard Bible club - BCM Canada
6. Game time at Bible club
7. Teaching Spanish Christmas carol



BCM's Streamside Camp and Conference Center recently finished its 2019 summer season with almost three hundred campers over a period of five weeks. Camp is usually filled with joy, smiling faces, and laughter as the children and teens have fun, learn new skills, make new friends, and experience God's love lived out in their counselors' lives. But not always. We also see tears, sadness, and anger.

Tears come when our campers begin pouring out their life experiences. Many have already experienced at a young age great hurt and disappointment in their lives. Camp may be the first time they have been in a safe environment where they felt comfortable enough to share and to cry without ridicule and judgment.

And to vent anger as well. "I hate my father!" was a sad phrase heard far too many times this summer. What would cause a child to say this? While many of our campers have wonderful fathers with whom they have great relationships, this is sadly not the case for others. Many have been abandoned by their father at an early age. Others have been victims of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. Some are struggling with the reality that their father is in jail or prison.

How do we respond to a child's tears and anger? First, our counseling staff does a great job at listening. Even if we can't change a camper's difficult circumstances, we can communicate understanding, care, and concern.

Next, even if a parent is less than ideal, we emphasize the importance of honoring and, if the parent is still in the home, obeying. We can't control what others do, but we can make sure we live our own lives in obedience to God even when the path is difficult. In a case where a child is currently at risk of abuse, we fulfill our obligation as mandatory reporters.

MODELING JESUS WITH A FAT LIP

By: Craig Vincent, Director Camp Streamside



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1. Streamside Camp chapel
2. Campers having fun at Streamside Camp
3. Campers at Streamside Camp
4. Roasting marshmallows
5. Game time

We can also help campers see their parents in a new light by focusing on what they are doing well or other redeeming characteristics. For example, when an incarcerated father seeks after Jesus while in prison, his children may have become eligible for Christmas gifts or a camp scholarship, including to Streamside.

We also do all we can to model biblical principles and godly adult interactions while our campers are with us, including gentleness, kindness, attention, encouragement, the setting of appropriate boundaries, honesty, reliability, and discipline. Just one example from this summer illustrates why the Christian camp experience is so powerful. A specific teen camper was struggling with both

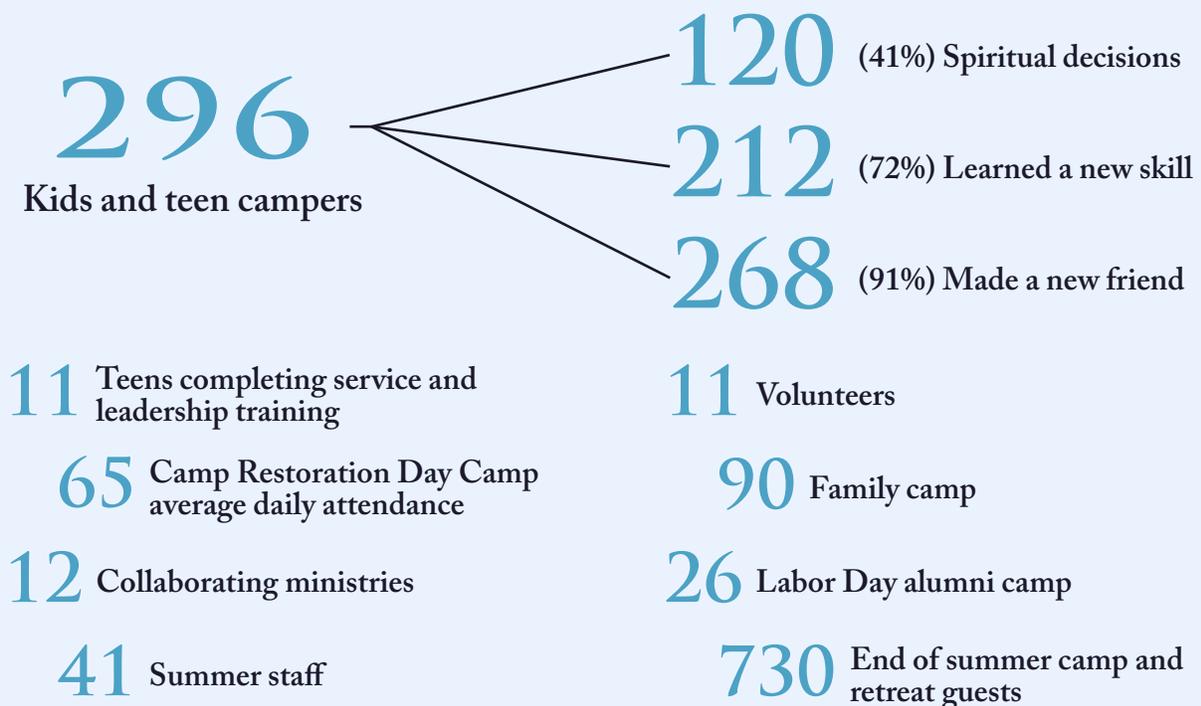
participation and behavior. We found out he didn't really want to be at camp, but was only there because his mother wanted him to come.

Then a single incident drastically changed the trajectory of his week. We'd been teaching the campers to play wiffleball. This teen carelessly threw his bat, hitting his counselor in the mouth. The counselor walked away, clearly upset, in pain, and with a swollen lip. Fearful of what would happen next, the camper apologized over and over. But the harsh reaction he expected never came. Instead, he was caught off-guard by his counselor's calm, forgiving response. From that point on, we saw a very different camper in both attitude and behavior.

Why the change? This camper was brought face to face with the character of God being lived out in his fat-lipped counselor. It was one thing to be told that God is gracious and forgiving but a far more powerful thing to see another person being gracious and forgiving because they are following after God.

Which brings up the most important response to our campers' tears, pain, and anger—introducing them to their heavenly Father who loves them unconditionally and can be everything for them a human parent may not have been. Not all tears are tears of sadness. We also see tears of relief, hope, even joy as campers come to understand how much God loves them and wants to forgive them.

We are thankful for the tears that come along with the joys of camp. We are thankful too for all the people God brought through Streamside this summer. Each number represents a person of value and worth to God. Here are a few of the numbers from Streamside's Summer 2019:



Each person represented came with needs to be met and a unique personality to be loved and accepted. Many came with service to offer and spiritual gifts to be exercised. We trust that all experienced God's power and were given a taste of God's character. Our prayer is that no one left the same person as they came.



REACHING A UNIQUE COMMUNITY IN SURINAME

By: Linda Smit

For decades and across five continents, BCM has been committed to reaching children for Christ through a wide spectrum of ministry—Bible clubs, camps, school release classes, VBS, puppet ministry, and more. In the small South American country of Suriname (formerly Dutch Guyana), the International Academy of Suriname (IAS) has been committed to reaching children for Christ by providing an accredited English-language Christian education. A partnership between BCM and IAS is now making possible to more effectively reach a unique community with the gospel.

THE MISSION OF IAS

Located in a suburb of Suriname's capital city of Paramaribo, the International Academy of Suriname has a student body that varies between 100-130 students from pre-kinder through twelfth grade. Accredited by the Middle States Association and a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the curriculum of IAS is designed to prepare students to attend college in North America or Europe. This attracts expatriate families from all over the world as well as Surinamese wanting a quality North American-style education for their students. Parents of students may be diplomats with one of the embassies, United Nations personnel, members of an NGO (non-governmental organization) or Christian ministry organization, employees of an international

corporation, as well as local government ministers and other dignitaries.

Because of this very diverse background, the student body comes from Muslim, Hindu, Buddhists, atheist, and completely non-religious backgrounds with a minority coming from Christian homes. This makes IAS school is a true mission field in and of itself. Most students come into IAS with minimal Bible background nor even having heard common Bible stories such as Noah's Ark or Jonah and the Whale. Still, parents are aware that IAS is a Christian school, and regardless of religious background, all IAS students are taught Bible, both through a daily Bible class and integrated with their other subjects, along with a weekly chapel service.

HISTORY OF IAS

The International Academy of Suriname was founded in the 1960s by SURALCO (the Suriname branch of Aluminum Company of America) to provide an education for the children of expatriate employees. The West Indies Mission (now World Team) in cooperation with other mission agencies also operated an English-language school for missionary kids (MKs). After ALCOA downsized in the 1980s, they sold the property to the missionary community, and the two schools were merged in 1984. From that point, faculty was provided by mission agencies with Wycliffe Bible Translators (SIL) contributing the majority of staff until their withdrawal from Suriname in 2001. After their departure, IAS leadership decided to continue as an independent Christian school.

With teachers no longer provided by the various mission organizations, this meant that faculty had to be recruited via other means, notably from Christian colleges and job boards focused on Christian teachers. While this strategy brought in some excellent teachers, the desire of IAS leadership was to find teachers whose primary goal was leading their students into a relationship with Christ with education as a secondary purpose. In other words, IAS wants all the teachers to be actual missionaries to the children.

BCM-IAS PARTNERSHIP

In 2010-11, IAS board chairman Ted Jantz, a broadcast engineer, volunteered his professional film production skills to produce documentary ministry videos for BCM's 75th anniversary. As he traveled to BCM ministry fields on several continents, he witnessed a cross-section of BCM's work around the world with children, youth, schools, and leadership training. The impressions he gained during that experience led him later to propose a possible BCM/IAS linkage, an idea fully embraced by the IAS board.

In the summer of 2018, BCM president Marty Windle traveled to Suriname to meet with IAS leadership about a possible partnership. He saw that "both BCM and IAS are committed to the children and their being impacted by Christ." He also saw the value of reaching a very influential segment of society that would not be reached through typical mission outreach. That meeting became the first step towards a partnership to help bring IAS into the



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1. International Academy of Suriname (IAS) campus
2. Paramaribo
3. IAS grounds
4. New BCM associate missionaries - IAS faculty



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next phase of its movement toward the goal of recruiting and vetting of missions-minded teachers.

BCM has not only helped with the recruitment of new faculty for the 2018-2019 school year but provided an interim director—Don Crowder, BCM’s Minister-at-Large for Member Care. A skilled administrator, Don set immediately to work to help IAS accomplish what needed to be done, including recruitment of the first teachers under the new system. Six new faculty were hired, five via BCM as BCM associate missionaries and one through another mission agency.

This led to BCM’s first candidate orientation in Suriname to give training and welcome the five new associate missionaries into the BCM mission family. The new BCM Suriname associate missionaries include:

- Sarah Mork (middle school math and science)
- Vivian Garcia (secondary school English)
- Aaron Ristino (fifth and sixth grades)
- Katelyn Kime (second grade)
- Jean Charley (first grade; not pictured)

Through this new venture, the BCM Suriname field has now more than doubled their number of missionaries! While new faculty will be under the direct management of IAS, as BCM associate missionaries they will also

be under the guidance of BCM country director Imro Smit and the Evangelische Zendingsgemeente Berea (Evangelical Missionary Church Berea), BCM’s central church in Paramaibo.

God works in wonderful ways to carry out His plan and purposes, and through this partnership of two ministry organizations with the same passion to reach children for Jesus Christ, the potential for continued and improved ministry to this unique community of children and families has been greatly enhanced. Please pray for much fruit among the IAS students as they come face to face with Jesus Christ through the teaching of God’s Word.

ADDITIONAL FACULTY NEEDS FOR IAS:

- Director
- Fifth grade teacher
- ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher
- Middle school English, history, Bible teacher
- Physical education teacher



1 2 3 4 5

1. IAS classroom
2. Panorama photo of Paramaibo
3. Missionary Cobie Viljoen recovering in hospital
4. Durban hospital bed
5. Viljoen family photo





BRINGING THE CHURCH TO DURBAN'S HOSPITALS

By: Lisa Biegert

Lying in a South African hospital bed in 2014 recovering from a serious fall, BCM missionary Cobie Viljoen looked up to find himself surrounded by hospital staff working to keep him alive. As a youth, God had placed a missionary calling on his life. He knew now this call included hospital chaplaincy.

During his recovery, Cobie spoke with many staff who were unable to attend church services because of their hospital jobs. He felt a great urgency to minister to these people who'd been directly involved in his own miraculous recovery.

Cobie and his wife Annie are both originally from South Africa. Cobie's parents were missionaries from the same

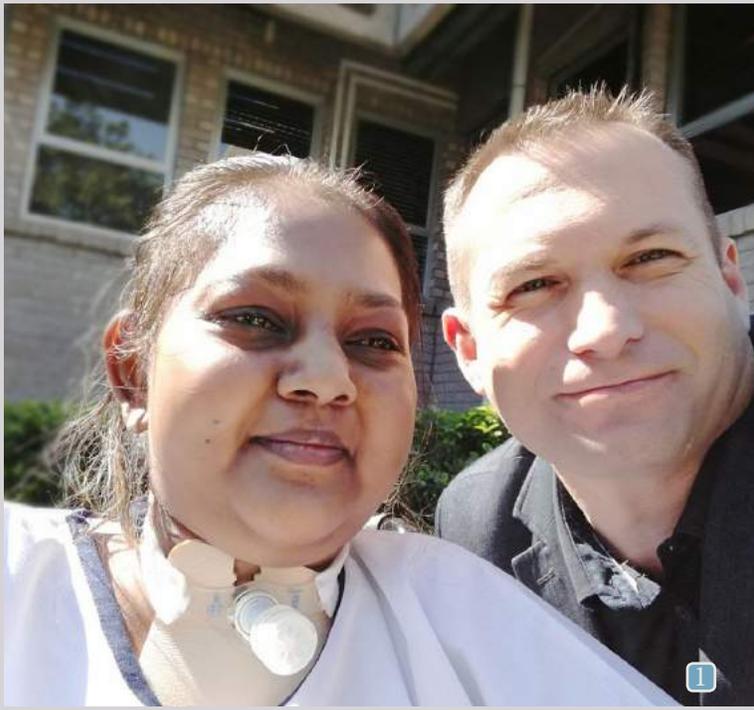
denomination with which BCM Africa director John Peter had been a pastor, and it was through Rev. Peter that the Viljoens were introduced to BCM. Married for eighteen years with two children, they minister as a team in the coastal city of Durban. A tourist mecca with its sunny climate and beautiful beaches, Durban has grown to over three million people.

This includes more than fifty hospitals. For the past five years, Cobie Viljoen has faithfully visited ten of them weekly. Hospital chaplaincy is not yet a profession in South Africa, so it is a rarity to find someone intentionally ministering to the staff and patients free of charge.

Cobie describes his ministry as "bringing the church to the

hospital." Most hospital staff work demanding hours while patients can't leave to attend services. Many are in critical condition, desperately needing hope. As families watch loved ones enter eternity or face serious diagnoses, they too need support through their trauma.

Since a church building is inaccessible to these people, Cobie has committed to bringing the church body to them. He says, "Every day is a clean canvas to be given to the Lord. There are new events, new patients, different staff on call, new family members, each with unique circumstances. Everyone we meet responds differently to the message of Christ. One may be open to conversation while another refuses any contact at all."



Dalareese was one such patient. Only twenty-nine years old, she arrived in the hospital seriously ill with many complications. Though she was a devout Hindu, no Hindu priests ever visited her. Through the witness of Cobie and his team, she began to see the reality of who Jesus is. She would ask them to be with her on her most painful days when the hospital staff would have to perform various procedures. Cobie would stay with her, praying for her and reading the Bible to keep her calm.

Dalareese turned thirty during her hospital stay. A celebration was held for her in the hospital cafeteria. Though Hindu, her family insisted Cobie and his team attend the party and asked Cobie to share a devotional. As hospital staff, friends, and family packed the cafeteria, Cobie openly presented the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The doctors and hospital staff began to notice the difference in Dalareese's demeanor when

Cobie and the team were with her, which contributed to the good relationship Cobie had built with the hospital staff. Nine months after Cobie began visiting, Dalareese passed away. Two weeks before she died, she finally gave her life to Jesus.

Cobie shares, *"It all started with one visit and not giving up for nine months, praying for her, encouraging her day after day. Praise the Lord, we will see her in heaven. She will always be someone that makes hospital ministry worthwhile."*

Cobie recognizes the important roles doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, and other staff play in a patient's life. But he feels strongly that hospital chaplaincy also has its vital role. "God has the final say, not us or even the doctors. We pray the doctors don't see us as a threat. We need them, but they also need us. They are the experts in their field, and we don't work against them. We desire to work alongside of them, ministering to the spiritual needs

as they treat the physical."

Which isn't to say God does not or cannot work miracles. Sixteen-year-old Ben was critically injured while playing in a rugby match. The injuries to his spine and neck were so severe that the doctors had no hope for recovery. Cobie joined with Ben's parents to pray. To care for Ben, the parents had to commute between home, work, and the hospital. Unfortunately, this led to Ben's mother losing her job.

After four months, the doctors encouraged the family to move Ben to a private medical facility outside of the hospital. Though Christians, the parents became embittered and angry with God. Cobie and his team continued to pray regularly for them. Then five months after Ben's injuries, God began to work.

"The doctors knew the medical reports and had seen the damage," explains Cobie. "Yet for no apparent reason, Ben began to move again, and a few days later he walked out of the hospital



with his parents beside him. This event was the shake-up his family needed. Their entire lives turned around, and they made a fresh recommitment to the Lord. Now they are active members in their church while Ben is a motivational speaker to schools in their area.”

One deep concern of Cobie is when a patient considers him a supernatural healer or attempts to purchase healing from him. He makes sure every patient he encounters knows he is not the healer, but that he knows the One who is: Jesus. Cobie shares with them the Healer of not just their physical bodies but their eternal souls.

“We don’t heal,” he emphasizes. *“Jesus heals. We pray, and he takes over. Medication has its part, I don’t deny that. But Jesus has the final say.”*

Cobie is also a member of the Gideons International, a Christian organization that distributes Bibles for free. This has been a great help in the

chaplaincy ministry as they are able to distribute Bibles to any patient expressing an interest in owning one.

Cobie’s chaplaincy team fluctuates widely, sometimes two or three other volunteers, but often just Cobie and Annie. The reasons are many. Having to constantly face major trauma. The fear of being exposed to infectious diseases. The financial needs of having a reliable car and purchasing gas. Being available day and night. Safety in crime-riddled areas. Hostility from patients and staff. All of these make hospital chaplaincy a challenging, often stressful ministry. But that hasn’t discouraged the Viljoens from God’s calling.

“We are God’s servants who are willing to go where few want to go,” Cobie expresses. “We desire to not just be occasional visitors in hospitals but Christian missionaries whose purpose is to bless their occupants and staff. There are

Muslim prayer rooms in every hospital, but Christians chapels are few and scattered.”

Cobie and Annie ask for prayer that God would raise up a team to minister with them. They are also in need of additional financial supporters and God’s provision for basic necessities as well as a reliable vehicle.

“One more soul, Lord, one more soul!” is Cobie Viljoen’s most earnest prayer. Pray with the Viljoens that every encounter of the hospital chaplaincy team will result in one more person leaving the facility not just physically healed but spiritually.

To learn more or participate in the Viljoens’ ministry, contact BCM at info@bcmintl.org.

1 2 3 4

1. Cobie with hospital patient Dalareese
2. Sharing with hospital patient in Durban
3. Volunteer team
4. Cobie with hospital staff



STANDING FIRM IN NEPAL

Four-and-a-half years have passed since Kathmandu's historic earthquake of 7.8 on the Richter scale destroyed BCM Nepal's Milestone Church facility along with upwards of six hundred thousand buildings across Nepal (see [God's Church Still Stands in Earthquake-Shaken Nepal, BCM World Magazine, Spring 2015](#)). Aftershocks necessitated living and worshipping in a large tent for many months.

Eventually a temporary sanctuary built with scavenged brick from the original church was erected on nearby rented land. The faith and generosity of the Milestone congregation as they shared both emergency supplies and living space with Hindu neighbors affected by the earthquake led to many placing their faith in Christ. The temporary sanctuary was soon not large enough to hold the congregation. But continued geological instability made it impossible to obtain permits for building a new permanent facility.



This same time period saw stringent anti-conversion laws enacted by the Hindu parliament, criminalizing the sharing of personal faith as well as the personal choice to accept Jesus Christ as Savior. How has this impacted BCM ministry in Nepal?

Rev. Rabin Baidhya, BCM Nepal director and pastor of Milestone Church, shares that despite constant persecution and constant threat of arrest, BCM missionary pastors and church planters continue to faithfully preach the gospel. Church growth has been steady with many new believers and several new cell groups (satellite home churches) founded. In September 2019, Milestone Church held a baptism on a river sixty miles from Kathmandu with eleven new church members taking the courageous step of publicly proclaiming themselves to be Christians and followers of Jesus Christ.

With the region finally declared free of continued aftershocks, permission was obtained as well to replace Milestone Church's temporary structure with a permanent church building. And just in time as their current Hindu landlord has given Christian believers to

the end of 2019 to leave his property. A new property has been located (see photo) with half the purchase price of \$50,000USD raised to this point. Plans are to use much of the building material from the original church, already reused once for the temporary structure, to construct the new church. Local believers are giving sacrificially to raise funds for necessary additional materials. But the shortfall for the land purchase must be met before construction can begin.

"Praise the Lord for growing our ministries here between persecution, difficulties, and in crisis," expresses Rev. Rabin Baidhya. He adds, "Please continually pray for us."

1 2 3 4 5

1. New church property in Nepal
2. Baptism candidates
3. Baptism
4. Baptismal service at the river
5. Baptism

BCM Nepal shares their most urgent current prayer requests:

- ➔ Pray that our constitution may be changed in regards to the anti-conversion law.
- ➔ Pray for the remaining funds to buy land for reconstruction of the church hall.
- ➔ Pray for BCM missionary pastors/church planters and their families in great need of monthly support.
- ➔ Pray for two-wheelers (a small locally available motorcycle) to provide transport so BCM Nepal missionaries can reach their ministry outreach/preaching/cell group locations more effectively.

To donate to the BCM Nepal Church Reconstruction Fund, missionary support, or two-wheeler project, visit www.bcmintl.org/support-bcm-nepal.



Get Involved!



PRAY

Consider praying for all the BCM International ministries, not just the few featured here! If you decide to make this commitment, let us know so we can send you regular updates from around the world.



GIVE

Our missionaries and ministries are supported through people like you. Please consider giving towards the ministries of BCM International. You can give online at www.BCMINTL.org. Just choose [Donate Now](#) on the menu.



GO

Maybe God has laid it on your heart to do more. Contact us for more information or about the possibility of joining our team! There is much left to be done. Contact us at reachdevelop@bcmintl.org

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BCM International is a global Bible-Centered Ministry dedicated to making disciples of all age groups for the Lord Jesus Christ through evangelism, teaching, and training so that churches are established and the Church strengthened.

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