

# BCMWorld

An Inside Look at BCM Global Ministries



ALABARÉ A JEHOVA CON



BECAUSE YOU PRAYED



## ***“NEITHER RAIN NOR HEAT . . . NOR FLYING BULLETS!”***

By: Jeanette Windle with Lorraine Stirneman

The Friday afternoon offered a perfect ending to a five-day open-air Bible club. No summer downpour had necessitated scattering to shelter. As teenage volunteers taught the final Bible story, children listened avidly, eager to win prizes in the review game that would follow. A few parents listened as well in the background.

The first loud *crack* could have been a clap of thunder. But as more shots followed, the volunteers realized that two young men had entered the park and were shooting at each other—over the heads of the gathered Bible club participants! Screaming, children scattered for cover. So did the volunteers. One female volunteer found her arm grabbed by a woman in Muslim garb. At first frightened, she quickly realized the woman was pulling her to safety within her own home.

Within minutes, police had arrived, and calm was restored. But too late to finish the Bible club. One big disappointment was not being able to hand out the prizes kids had earned. No matter. The next day the volunteers returned, handing out candy and other prizes house-by-house.

The volunteer team in question were members of a church youth group visiting Philadelphia as part of BCM’s annual inner-city

summer outreach program. The 2014 shooting incident was certainly terrifying enough to dampen the fervor of youth group teens or their leaders. But instead of throwing in the towel, this particular youth group was back the summer of 2015, leading Bible clubs in the very same housing project.

If flying bullets are hardly typical, running a BCM summer Bible club program in inner-city Philadelphia is not without adventure—or rewards. The Bible Club Movement, now BCM International, was birthed in Philadelphia in 1936. Almost eighty years later, BCM children’s ministries have spread across five continents. But one constant has been the outreach to neighborhoods and housing projects, often among the poorest and crime-ridden, in urban Philadelphia. And like the well-known postal service creed, neither rain nor heat nor the occasional flying bullet stays BCM summer volunteers from their Bible club rounds.

Philadelphia Area Ministries, or PAM, is the umbrella organization under which BCM serves inner-city Philly. During the school year, PAM holds weekly Bible clubs in homes across Philadelphia as well as adult Bible studies and discipleship. A scholarship program also permits hundreds of Philly children and youth to attend

BCM's Camp Streamside in the Poconos each summer.

Following more than a decade as a missionary in Africa (see her biography [To Africa and Back](#)), BCM missionary Lorraine Stirneman has been working with PAM since 1980. Today she heads up a team that includes BCM missionaries Christine Wigden, Lisa Lambert, Bea Stocker, Lorraine Stirneman and regular volunteers Laura Short, Doyle Gray, and Alice Schubrick in training hundreds of youthful volunteers for summer children's outreach.

The annual program begins with BCM missionaries scouting out neighborhoods, housing projects, parks, or just a strip of sidewalk. Lorraine Stirneman explains, "We look for places where we see the most children playing."

Once an address has been noted, missionaries will visit the area, handing out invitations, and letting parents know which week a Bible club team will be arriving. For many neighborhoods this has become an annual tradition. Lorraine Stirneman shares that she is now seeing grandchildren of the first children she taught showing up at Bible clubs.

By June, youth mission teams begin arriving from all around the United States. The majority come through an organization called Center for Student Missions, which partners with BCM and other ministries in youth mission projects. Other churches have been bringing their youth groups to volunteer each summer for many



BCM missionaries Lorraine, Christine, Lisa, Bea

years.

Volunteer teams are divided between four weeks of Bible clubs. Early Monday morning, each new group arrives at Calvary Fellowship Church, a Philadelphia church which hosts the program, for a training session headed up by BCM missionaries. Volunteers learn to teach the week's Bible lessons, lead games and songs, and children to Christ. By mid-afternoon, the group is ready to head to their first day of Bible club.

Volunteers are divided into groups of three, each containing one adult as well as teens. Each group receives a map to a scouted location. Once there, volunteers initiate a game time that includes water balloons, relays, and other activities. As playing children see the games, they come running to participate.



BCM Missionary Christine Wigden leads volunteer training

Game time over, the volunteer team spreads out a large tarp on the grass or sidewalk. The children learn quickly that the tarp is their “classroom”. Attendance and contact information is taken, and each child receives a name tag. Bible clubs may range from half-a-dozen children to forty-plus. The volunteers lead the children in singing songs and learning a Bible verse, then teach a Bible lesson, followed by a review game that rewards the children with prizes for how well they have listened.

During the 90-minute Bible club period, Lorraine Stirneman and other BCM missionaries drive around to each of the week’s locations, checking that each Bible club is running smoothly and also providing a sense of security to the volunteers. For many teenage participants, the poverty, dismal living conditions, drug use and even violence they encounter is a shock. The BCM missionary team makes sure someone is always nearby to respond in case of emergency.

Lorraine Stirneman acknowledges that neighborhoods reached by PAM’s summer Bible club program are not always the safest. She adds, “If we as Christians say we can’t go into these areas because it’s dangerous, and yet these children have to live there, how can we claim to have faith? Praise God, we’ve never had any volunteers hurt. God has always protected us.”

Help comes sometimes from other sources. At one 2015 Bible club, volunteers noticed a group of adults, including three policemen, praying together down the street. They were Christians holding a prayer service concerning violence in the neighborhood. They in turn came over to thank the Bible club volunteers for what they were doing.

At another club, a tall African-American man who was a neighborhood block captain showed up daily. “We need this!” he told the volunteers, explaining there’d been a shooting nearby just the day before. He thanked the team for offering his neighborhood’s children an alternative to the violence, drug-dealing, and other negative influences they witnessed every day.

Parents too often bring a chair out to listen and offer oversight. Many remember attending Bible clubs in their own childhood, and even those who do not themselves attend any church express gratitude for the positive



impact of the Bible clubs in their children's lives.

Other challenges involve both Philly's extreme summer heat and frequent downpours. Volunteer teams learn to pick out a nearby porch, overhang or abandoned building for shelter when it rains. On occasion, even the tarp each team carries becomes a shelter or the inside of a van. The summer of 2015 was particularly rainy. The BCM missionary team shares how on many days, the volunteers would gather to pray before heading out under gray skies, and the rain would hold off just long enough to finish the Bible club before the skies opened up. Not once did a Bible club cancel because of weather.

The Bible clubs run for five days, ending with a special closing program on Friday. But that is not the end for the children. The BCM missionary team follows up at each location, if possible, arranging a regular weekly Bible club during the school year and connecting local churches with children and families interested in follow-up.

During the summer of 2015, a total of 116 volunteers participated over the four-week program, holding Bible clubs in forty different locations. 659 children attended the Bible clubs, and 93 prayed to receive Jesus Christ as Savior.

The children who attend are not the only ones impacted by this ministry. Lorraine Stirneman shares, "I use to think our summer ministry was all about reaching children. Now I see it is just as much about the young people we are training. Many express how the experience has changed their life and that it is the first time they've led someone to Christ."

A note the BCM missionary team received from a 2015 participant sums up what many others have expressed: "I went into the Bible Club worrying about how well I could teach the children. Instead, they taught me. I learned so much from them, and I will be forever grateful."

Another writes: "Thank you for encouraging us to go way outside of our comfort zone."

It isn't too early to volunteer for the 2016 summer Bible club program. For information, contact Lorraine Stirneman at [lcstirneman@gmail.com](mailto:lcstirneman@gmail.com).



# NEW LIFE FOR “QUIRUMAS” IN



By: Shantal Artieda

BCM Peru first expanded its ministry to the city of Iquitos in 2005, reaching children through an evangelistic outreach known as Pennies for Peru. Training for children’s ministry leadership and Bible clubs followed, then camps for children and teenagers.

Its population around 400,000, Iquitos is a port city located right on the Amazon River in the heart of northern Peru’s equatorial rainforest. Tourism has caused businesses to flourish and the city to develop. With motorcycles and motorcars racing around the city all day long, and loud music at every corner, life in Iquitos seem fast paced. Its youth aspire to better themselves and get an education at the local universities.

In contrast, villages along the Amazon River and its tributaries live a much simpler way of life, dedicated

to sustenance farming and fishing. Villagers rarely have running water or electricity and use firewood for cooking. Transportation on the famous “peque-peques” (a long motorized boat) may take many hours just to reach the next village. Smaller villages barely reach a hundred inhabitants, and with families averaging 6-12 children, it seems everyone is related. Young people rarely have opportunity for a proper education, let alone to finish high school. Most begin working alongside their parents at a very young age. Teenage girls may find a partner by age fourteen and begin raising babies. So the cycle starts all over again.

Seeing the reality these young villagers faced, Carlos and Marion Odicio, founders and former directors of BCM Peru, felt stirred by God to begin a ministry that would help village youth escape this recurring cycle. The objective would be a boarding facility for village

# PERU'S AMAZON RAINFOREST



teenagers that would provide opportunity to complete their high school studies. This education would be focused on Christian values through discipleship and mentoring. BCM Peru's varied ministries in Iquitos would allow students to serve God with their gifts and talents and hopefully lead them to desire a life of service to God.

In 2007 this vision became a reality when God provided 14 hectares (35 acres) of virgin jungle in the small town of Llançama, an hour away from Iquitos. Mission teams from the United States helped construct the buildings that would become Quiruma Camp. The name Quiruma (kee-roo-mah) comes from a common word used in the jungle. It refers to the small stumps left when trees are cut down so that the tree will eventually grow back again even stronger and better. In essence, this was what the ministry would attempt to do in the lives of these young people transplanted from

their villages. So the teenagers living at the camp became known as "quirumas".

It is now eight years since Quiruma Camp opened under the leadership of Eliasib and Daniela Palomino, field directors for BCM in Iquitos. Guillermo Odicio, brother of BCM Peru founder Carlos Odicio, quickly became a father figure for the teen boys, living with them in the camp house and guiding them through everyday aspects of their new life. Part of his discipling included helping with their homework as the teens studied at the local high school, a fifteen-minute walk from camp.

Daniela Palomino shares about that first year: "In the beginning, getting the teenagers to come and join us at the camp was very difficult because their parents didn't trust us. When we came with our American friends, they believed the *gringos* [foreigners] would steal the faces of their kids! Since Eliasib and I

have no children of our own, they believed we wouldn't be able to teach their children. Or they thought Llanchama was too far away. Above all, they struggled with the village mentality of being content with their current circumstances of poverty and not pursuing a better life for their children."

In 2013, BCM missionaries James and Violeta Flores took charge of Quiruma Camp. They are now parental figures for eight teenagers currently enrolled in the program. In total, the camp has received more than twenty boys and girls. The ideal age to receive them is 11-13 years old, so they can enroll from the very first year of high school in Llanchama. The current goal is to receive four new "quirumas" each year and have them stay the full five years of high school studies (equivalent to 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade in North America).

Getting the teenagers to Quiruma Camp has been a difficult endeavour, not only because of the fears of parents and teens themselves, but the distances to their villages. Many times camp leadership travel anywhere from eight to eighteen hours on a "peque-peque" to reach a village where they might find potential "quirumas".



River Travel in a *peque-peque*

James Flores comments, "Usually we talk to pastors who have contacts among the small villages along Amazon River tributaries. This way we get in touch with the families beforehand to make arrangements and do the necessary paper work. Sometimes we go all the way to pick up the kids and find they've changed their mind. Because they are so young, they are scared and don't want to leave their families."

In contrast is Rider, a 16 year old who joined Quiruma Camp just last year. As soon as Rider's father heard about this ministry, he contacted Eliasib to ask if his son could join the program. Although already 15 years old, Rider was accepted. His father shares, "I saw the education my children were getting in our town. Sometimes the teacher didn't come. He wasn't responsible, and my children couldn't get more education. Rider is my oldest son. He is smart, and I wanted him to learn more."

While BCM camp leadership believes the education teenagers are receiving is important, ultimately they want to impact their spiritual lives. James Flores explains, "We want them to know Jesus as their Savior since most are not saved when they come to us. We want them to love God and learn to obey Him. We want them to learn the Word of God through discipleship and our own testimony and to serve God through ministry opportunities we provide."

As BCM camp missionaries and teens share their day-to-day lives, they become a single large family with all this implies. A schedule helps navigate life together. The teen get up early every day, have family devotions, head to school, come back for lunch, do their homework, do chores around camp and enjoy leisure time. In the evenings, there is discipleship, and on some week nights, they have their own prayer meetings together. There are regular fun nights with special themes, so missionaries and "quirumas" can enjoy just being together and getting to know each other. Although this might seem like a normal family life, for these teens it is very different from what they've known, even having three meals every day.

The teens also accompany the BCM missionaries once a month to take part in outreach ministry around Iquitos. They participate in Pennies for Peru programs and evangelistic campaigns, including doing skits, dressing up as clowns to share the gospel the children, and leading songs.

This discipleship and daily living together gives James and Violeta Flores opportunity to work individually with each student. As Violeta explains, "We build relationships with them to be able to better assess their lives, and as we continue to work with them, we understand more about them and their struggles."

As “parents” and mentors to these teenagers, James and Violeta hope to continue growing the ministry and improving the camp so that their “children” might have better opportunities for personal development. Violeta shares. “We want to equip the students with useful skills for their lives. Something that seems very distant to them is learning how to use a computer. We’ve had a few classes to teach them and would love to implement a computer room. Their school has computers, and we trust in God’s provision to acquire some for the camp. But at this point we still don’t even have electricity except a few hours at night when we start the generator.”



Training teenagers to follow God’s paths is a difficult process. But over the years, Quiruma Camp leaders have been able to disciple their charges in godly Christian living as well as help them with their studies. Several “quirumas” have not only finished their high school education, but continued on for ministry and theological training at the BCM Peru’s Bible Seminary in Lima. Next year, the first Quiruma is scheduled to graduate from Seminary. What a glorious celebration that will be!



As Iquitos regional co-director for BCM Daniela Palomino tenderly puts it, “It seems that it is so little what we do. But at the same time it’s so much, and it is for the glory of God!”



Pictures Top to Bottom: James-Violeta Flores & children with teens; Mealtime; Chapel service with Quirumas

# FIELD BRIEFS: *BECA*



**UKRAINE UPDATE:** Since BCM missionaries Tymofiy Anokhin (Tima) and his wife, Natasha shared the needs of Good Samaritan children's home (see [Good Samaritans Still Needed in the Ukraine's War Zones, BCM World, December, 2014](#)), tensions remain high in the Ukraine between Russian separatist and Ukrainian government forces. Due to

continued shelling in the area, the Good Samaritan orphan children remain evacuated from the children's home in Mariupol to Novovolinsk in western Ukraine. Tima offers praise for a wonderful summer with the children, including a successful summer camp, attended not only by the orphanage children, but more than a hundred at-risk children, including war refugees, children who've lost parents in the fighting, and children from broken/difficult home situations. Tima also gives thanks for two children recently reunited with their parents after a long rehabilitation.

But needs remain. While children have been safe in Novovolinsk, summer's passing requires heating, firewood, warm clothing and other needs before the harsh cold of a Ukraine winter sets in. A number of the children are dealing with persistent sickness, also worse in winter. **Pray** for God's provision of medical and physical needs. An additional need for Tima and Natasha is a larger apartment to accommodate addition of two foster children to their family. **Pray** too for safety and an end to hostilities with Russia. Above all, Tima and other BCM Ukraine missionaries ask for prayer that Ukrainians will turn to God in the midst of current hardship and danger.

**To give a one-time donation to Good Samaritan children's home or become part of Tima and Natasha Anokhin's support team, click [here](#).**

Pictures above top to bottom:

- Ukraine War Refugees Summer Camp
- Mariupol Orphans-Ukraine

# BECAUSE YOU PRAYED



**NEPAL UPDATE:** Our last BCM World issue shared the 7.8 Richter scale earthquake that struck Nepal's Kathmandu region Saturday, April 25, 2015, and its devastating impact on BCM ministry in Nepal, including the destruction of Milestone Church (see [God's Church Still Stands in Earthquake-Shaken Nepal, BCM World, Spring, 2015](#)). After-shocks continued for weeks after the original earthquake, making reconstruction difficult. The Milestone Church site remains condemned. But a temporary meeting place has now been completed on rented property nearby (see photos). BCM Nepal director Robbin Vaidhya expresses thanksgiving to the BCM global family whose donations have made the temporary hall possible. He also ask continued prayer for the far greater long-term financial cost of a new permanent church building.

Robbin Vaidhya writes: "We know all cannot be made the same again, but your help is very big. In the middle of our problems, you encouraged, supported and prayed for us. I want to praise God and say thank you once again for all your kindness and being a part of our ministry. Our believers also give their thanks. Please continue to pray for us. Without your prayer and support, we will be like fish without water. Since we are on opposite sides of the globe, when we sleep, you can pray, and when you sleep, we can pray for you all as our family. Our concern is God's kingdom, which is rapidly growing here in Nepal; our prayer and hope is Christ's Second Coming; our labor is to fulfil His will on earth as it is in heaven."

**To donate to the BCM Nepal Relief and Reconstruction Fund, [Click Here](#).**

Pictures above top to bottom:

- Church Service in Milestone Temporary Hall
- Front of Milestone Church after earthquake

# ***GOD IS NOT DEAD IN BOURGES, FRANCE***

By Jeanette Windle with Tony Schaapman

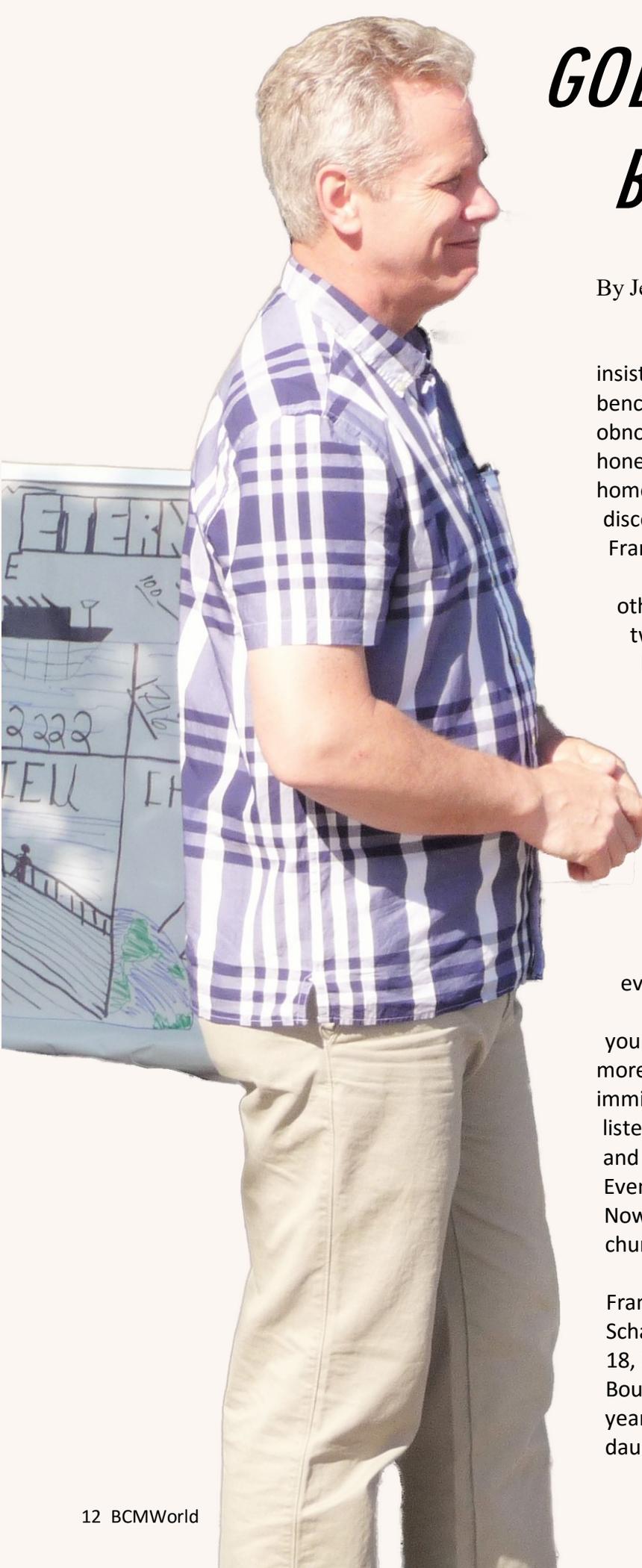
“God is dead,” Madam Louise repeated insistently. The French woman who’d paused on a park bench to answer a few survey questions was not being obnoxious nor difficult. She was simply reiterating her honest conviction. A conviction not uncommon in her hometown, the BCM street evangelism team discovered by the end of their week in Bourges, France.

The team’s trip to France had begun on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean where for more than twenty years BCM missionary Tony Schaapman has headed up a ministry that reaches the streets of Montreal, Quebec, with the gospel of Jesus Christ while training up young people in the skills of open-air evangelism. Such skills include learning to use a survey questionnaire to engage passersby in conversation and using chalk art, sketch-boards, and gospel illusions to gather an interested crowd for a Gospel presentation.

“Our goal is to show friendship to strangers,” explains Tony Schaapman, “all the while, telling them the truth of the gospel. I call that friendship evangelism.”

Over the years, Tony has trained hundreds of young people to share their faith and seen hundreds more come to Christ. He recalls one young Mexican immigrant in particular named Manuel who stopped to listen to a Gospel presentation. Manuel received Christ and began working himself with the evangelism team. Eventually, Manuel became a street evangelist himself. Now living in France, he shares the Gospel and trains churches in open-air evangelism all across Europe.

But it was another pair of friends’ move to France that precipitated the arrival of Tony Schaapman and team in Bourges the week of May 11-18, 2015. Canadians Steve and Laura Cyr had arrived in Bourges, France, as church-planting missionaries a year earlier in May, 2014. The task facing them was daunting.



In the dead center of France, Bourges is an ancient city dating back to 54BC with a current population of around 70,000. Among its claims to fame was the coronation of King Louis VII at the spectacular Bourges Cathedral in 1137 AD. Once a bastion of Catholicism, today Bourges is staunchly secular with minimal religious attendance of any sort and just two other small Protestant churches. After a year, the Sunday services held in the Cyr's home still numbered less than a dozen in attendance.

"People have referred to France as a missionary grave yard," says Tony Schaapman. "Certainly Bourges, like much of France, is a spiritual desert land."

So it was not only with a goal of street evangelism that Tony and his team boarded a plane in Montreal, but also to encourage, equip, and help grow this new church plant in Bourges. The Montreal team consisted of six in total—Pastor Sebastien from Tony's own home church, and experienced street evangelism volunteers Nat, Sarah, Isabelle, and Mireille as well as Tony himself. Joining them in Bourges were six French Christian couples, for most of whom this would be their first experience at evangelism.



Hitting Bourges' Night Streets to Share Gospel



Bourges Church Planters Steve and Laura Cyr

First priority upon the team's arrival on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, was a prayer walk around the center of Bourges. But by that evening, the team had hit the streets, using a simple ten-question survey as a conversation starter. Questions were designed to bring the conversation around to spiritual issues: According to you, what is the purpose of life? Do you believe God exists? Why? In your thinking, is there something after death? If so, what? In your view who is Jesus? What was the main mission he came to accomplish?

"The goal was to explore what they believed and why," Tony Schaapman explains. "Then when we were done, we would ask permission to share what we believed and why. Using the survey helps us really understand what people believe, which in turn helps us in developing ways to effectively share the gospel. But beyond that, since we've taken time to really listen to them, they in turn are now favorable to hearing us out too."

Despite the city's reputation as spiritually closed, the team found the people of Bourges approachable and open to conversation. Being strangers did not prove a disadvantage.

"The moment we opened our mouth, they could tell we were from Quebec," shares Tony. "This was a great advantage as the French love Quebec, and it opened many opportunities for us to share the gospel."

The next few days alternated with evangelism training sessions for the French Christian volunteers and putting that training into practice throughout shopping centers, parks, and streets of Bourges. Several encounters stood out. One girl took the survey very

seriously, explaining that she was more of a Buddhist in her beliefs.

Tony disclosed to her that he too had once embraced Buddhism. "I shared that the reason I went Buddhist in my youth was because it fit well with my spirit of rebellion, as it did not require me to change anything about my life and it was cool.

"That is exactly why I chose it!" The girl responded. Her honesty paved the way for the team to share Jesus Christ with her.

Another couple in their late forties first identified themselves as atheists, cynical towards the Catholic Church as well as French culture in general. But after some discussion, they admitted they were actually more agonistic, then as the conversation advanced, showed themselves very open to hearing the Good News.

"We must pay our debts and live life," they responded when asked the purpose of life.

Despite ample material possessions, the couple admitted an emptiness in their lives and real fear of death. But though the team shared how they could have eternal life in Jesus Christ, the two of them did not at this point make any further response. The team continues to pray that the seeds planted in their hearts will one day give fruit.

How different the response of another woman named Laura. On Thursday evening, the Cyr's church group and visiting team hosted a special meal and testimony time to which those the group had met during their outreach were invited. When Laura accepted the invitation, she confessed she normally suffered from high anxiety when around an entire group of people. But that evening she displayed only



Bourges Church Team Member Shares with Passersby

enjoyment as she shared a meal and listened to testimonies given by team members.

Once the event was over, Laura expressed her desire to accept Jesus as her Savior. When asked why, she replied, "Because I am stained."

From Bourges, the team headed to Paris, three hours travel, where they spent two more days sharing the gospel on the streets of France's capital city before boarding a flight back to Montreal on May 18th. While Laura was the only respondent to make an open confession of faith during the team's time in France, the Cyr's fledgling church plant in Bourges has been left with many contacts to follow up and a newly trained street evangelism team of their own.

Another consequence of the trip is that the facility rented near Steve and Laura Cyr's home in Bourges for the testimony evening event has now been made available for holding a weekly Sunday service. Tony Schapman sums up, "This is a real praise as such facilities are not easy to come by nor very affordable. God willing, we will return to Bourges next year to do more of the same outreach."

Meanwhile, Tony and his team ask brothers and sisters in Christ reading this article to join with them in praying that seeds sown in hearts during their time in France will take root, grow and produce the fruit of lives transformed through faith in Jesus Christ.

**For more information about BCM open air evangelism ministry or possibilities of training or a short-term ministry team, contact Tony Schapman at: [tonyschapman@gmail.com](mailto:tonyschapman@gmail.com)**



France street evangelism team member shares with survey taker



# GOD'S CHOICE FOR BCM GERMANY

By: Lisa Biegert

On Sunday, July 12th, 2015, new BCM Germany director Waldemar Muks accepted the baton of leadership from retiring director Dale Sigafoos in a joyous celebration held at *Bibelgemeinde Nordrhön* (Bible Church of the North Rhine), BCM Germany's church in Huenfeld, Germany, a city almost directly in the center of Germany. Participating were BCM president Dr. Marty Windle, VP of Personnel Rev. Joe Dukes, and BCM Europe Director Mr. Richard Thompson, along with a packed house of BCM Germany leadership, church members, and family.

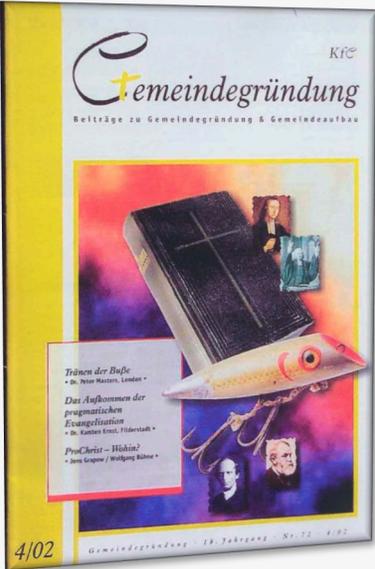
Dr. Windle brought a message during the morning service, and Mr. Thompson spoke in the afternoon. Church leaders laid hands on Waldemar and his wife Katarina, commissioning Waldemar as the new director. They also committed Dale, his wife Paula and daughter Sarah to God's blessing as the Sigafoos family return to the state of Ohio, USA, where Dale and Paula first served with BCM until they were called as missionaries to Germany.

Dale Sigafoos served a total of 45 years as BCM Germany director and as BCM Europe director for many years as well. Dale and Paula Sigafoos originally arrived in Germany in 1970 with a dream of

working with German children (see *Ordinary People Serving an Extraordinary God*, BCM World Fall 2007). They could not have envisioned then that BCM Germany would expand beyond children's ministry to church planting, handicapped ministries, publication, aid to refugees, youth and women's outreaches and much more. One lasting impact of their ministry is the Conference for Church Planting (*Konferenz für Gemeindegründung* or KFG).



Photos top of page to bottom: Germany Leadership Commissioning Group Shot; Waldemar & Katharina Muks; Dale & Paula Sigafoos with daughter Sarah



KFG magazine

Founded in 1983, KFG is an alliance of likeminded Bible-believing missions and ministries with the goal of founding and developing *freie gemeinde*, or “free churches”, which in Germany refers to churches not sponsored or supported by the government or state-controlled denominations. Over the years, more than four hundred churches have been planted by the KFG. BCM Germany’s church in Huenfeld houses KFG

to take over a now extensive ministry proved a daunting task, and after years of searching, no candidate had yet emerged, Dale shares, “The picture looked bleak, but we knew the Lord would provide.”

Some years prior to this time, Waldemar and Katarina Muks had begun attending the Huenfeld church. Waldemar grew up in a Russian German Christian family and attended children’s meetings where he was regularly taught the Word of God. His own brother led him to Christ at age 18, and he was baptized a year later. He was actively involved in his home church, a mixed German-Russian congregation, where he led youth and children’s ministry. From 1997-2007, he ministered as Home Director for the Siegwinden Conference Center, located between the cities of Kassel and Fulda, not far from Huenfeld. There he worked with at-risk teens and adults with addiction problems. He also worked with broken families, helping them to mend family relations.

While still working at Siegwinden, Waldemar and his wife Katarina began to attend the BCM Huenfeld church. As the Muks became part of the Huenfeld church, Dale recognized that Waldemar had precisely the ministry qualifications for which BCM leadership had been praying. When Dale approached Waldemar about the possibility, Waldemar and his wife spent a weekend seeking

headquarters and the publication of KFG magazine, *Gemeindegründung* (Church-Planting).

BCM Germany’s first church plant in the city of Mainz, where Sigafos ministered for decades, have also begun a medical missions outreach to Pakistan called *Life Line*. Financed by the Mainz BCM church plant and other German churches, *Life Line* pairs German medical teams with Pakistani health workers to provide medical care and God’s love in village health clinics.

After decades as director, Dale had begun praying with other field leadership some years ago for a replacement. Finding someone willing and able



BCM Central Church-KGF HQ, Huenfeld, Germany

God's will, then came back to share that God had them to accept this challenge. In June, 2014, Waldemar applied to become a BCM missionary. After finishing candidate orientation, he began working with Dale in BCM Germany leadership. Dale expresses with thanksgiving, "He proved to be the man of God's choice."

Due to his experience in administration, Waldemar has been able to overhaul BCM Germany's entire bookkeeping system. He is also spearheading an upgrade of BCM curriculum *Footsteps of Faith* flannelgraph and other materials. God's provision for this project could only be described as a miracle. A European corporation had approached BCM Germany to request if they could purchase their website domain name—for \$50,000 Euros! BCM Germany shifted easily to an almost identical new domain name, and with the sale funds, they were able to acquire two commercial machines for publications—a commercial printer able to print on polyester material and a heat transfer machine that can fuse color, thus making it a part of the material so it cannot be washed out.

The result is flannelgraph figures and other materials that are far more vibrant and both more economical and easy to produce than the old-style flocking once required to produce flannelgraph. The system also makes it possible to print figures and material in any language, so that BCM Germany is now producing flannelgraph for other BCM fields like Greece and Italy. In fact, any country into which the materials have been translated can request such printing. Remaining funds from the domain name sale also provided for a professional German translator to complete translation of all BCM *Footsteps of Faith* volumes from English to German.

If Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, was a time of celebration for Waldemar Muks and the BCM Germany field, for the Sigafos it was a time of remembrance. An afternoon banquet was dedicated to their decades of ministry. Seated at a head table decorated with German and American flags, Dale and Paula received greetings from countless people to whom they'd ministered. A photo presentation included pictures taken throughout their decades of ministry.



Waldemar & team packing flannelgraph for Greece

Dale says, "It was an emotional time where many tears were shed, remembering all God had done through the years. After all the presentations, the church gave us a book made up of pages filled by people who had put pictures and memories in it. We will cherish this time and never forget it. It was a day of transition for us and the church as well as BCM Germany."

Among other activities was the commissioning of another new BCM missionary, Oscar Wentland. His appointment brings the BCM Germany field to a total of eight full-time missionaries along with countless volunteers. Oscar will be serving in the German city of Bonn, where he will head up the field's children's ministry leader training ministry, *In Step With the Master Teacher*.

After forty-five years in Germany, Dale and Paula Sigafos leave behind a thriving ministry, filled with potential for future growth and outreach, under the leadership of God's choice for their replacement, Waldemar Muks. They request prayer for Waldemar, his family, and the BCM Germany field as Waldemar leads this ministry into a new era and generation.

Dale sums up, "As to the future we are looking to the Lord to expand the ministry and bring to us new workers who can serve throughout Germany. There are open doors and the challenges are great."



## *THE CALL TO CAMP*

By Norman Wray, Camp Sonshine Director

I was eleven years old when I attended Camp Sonshine's first annual weeklong retreat the summer of 1980. A ministry of BCM International, Camp Sonshine was situated that first summer near an active corrections facility with just a lake between us and the guards who raised an American flag over the prison each morning. At that age, I found the shower facility with no privacy as scary as the nearby prison. Did I mention the cabins had canvas sides with no doors or mattresses? Yes, I was homesick! Each day, my counselor told me I could call my mom—tomorrow!

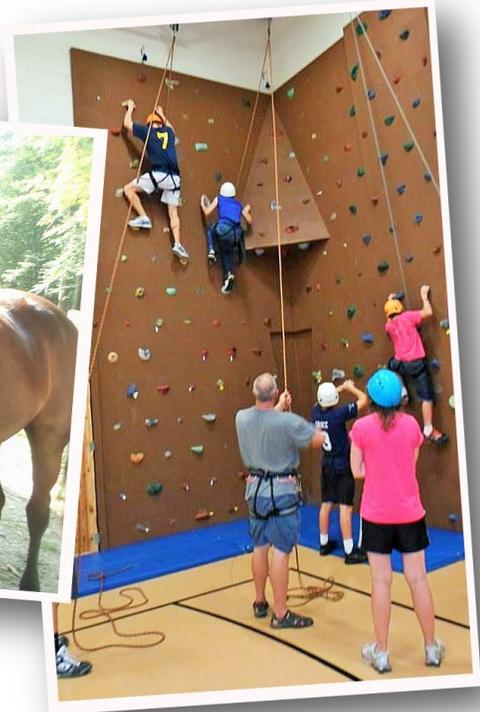
At that point in my life, I could not have dreamed of one day becoming director of Camp Sonshine. But I haven't missed a year's attendance since that first summer. The call to camp ministry from God to me has remained clear all these years.

I grew up in a Christian family, receiving Christ as my Savior when I was nine years old. My first introduction to BCM, then the Bible Club Movement, came in the late 1970s through my grandmother's best friend Miss Eleanor Marzullo, a BCM missionary who worked with children and teen Bible clubs in South Philadelphia (USA). Miss Eleanor began inviting children for weekend retreats at her country home in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. Eventually Miss Eleanor shared with friends and supporting churches that God was leading her to start a

weeklong camp retreat. These church families provided Camp Sonshine's first staff, including my own family. My grandfather, Norm Wray, Sr. was head counselor for many years. My grandmother was the music director.

The next summer in 1981, our director Miss Eleanor Marzullo announced that Camp Sonshine would be moving to a different facility out in the country with horses, a safer lake—and private bathing facilities! A year-round camp and retreat center located in central Pennsylvania, Tel Hai rents their facility to churches, and mission boards. Camp Sonshine has now used Tel Hai's camp facility every summer for thirty-five years. Campers travel





## MINISTRY CONTINUES!

from Philadelphia and its suburbs as well as New Jersey, and Delaware.

Fun activities include swimming, boating, shooting bows and air rifles, mini golf, wall climbing, zip lining, boating, and more. And no camper ever forgets the outdoor chapel from which praises sung to the Lord echo all the way up the cook's quarters on a nearby ridge. The final highlight of each year's camp is the Friday night talent show, followed by a testimony camp fire.

I myself spent two more years as a camper before becoming a counselor-in-training at age fourteen. Over the next years, I worked my way up to counseling in the teen boys' cabin

where my skills for teaching youth began to develop. I did a lot of growing up in those years under the wings of BCM International, learning life lessons on teamwork and forming friendships which still continue today.

After high school, I began working for a plumbing, heating and air-conditioning company and eventually opened my own business. I married my wife, Dr. Virginia Wray. Together we have two daughters. I became an active lay leader in our church and began working on a degree in psychology and Christian counseling. But every summer found me back at Camp Sonshine. In 2013, I was appointed camp director as well as a BCM associate missionary.

After thirty-six years of camp ministry, I tell our volunteers that we adult staff are the lucky ones to still be attending youth camp because it gets us and our campers away from work, school, and for some, time away from tough neighborhoods and rough family situations. I have seen so many lives, including youth and adults, changed because they came to camp and surrendered their lives to Jesus.

Today many of our staff grew up attending Camp Sonshine every summer, including my own children. Among the campers are grandchildren of the original camp staff. And in my own family, the cycle of generations continues. It is an honor to serve as camp director and Senior Bible teacher at Camp Sonshine. My wife is our music director and Junior Bible teacher. My oldest daughter, Veronica and her husband Brice, my youngest



Camp Sonshine 2015 Group Shot

daughter, my cousin Dave and his wife Melodie are among family who have accepted the call to camp ministry. Then there is Bob, Sheri, Robbie, Laura, Dawn, Anna and too many others to list here. But all our staff are volunteers, raising their own costs to serve the Lord at camp. Camp changed their lives, and they return year after year to give back what they received at camp. Seeing young people we've disciplined now leading children to the Lord is awesome!

This year four campers received Jesus as Savior. The week's theme was "Our God Is Able!" Bible lessons focused on the life of King David. Studying David's life allowed campers to view a man of strong faith who stayed in contact with God, but they also learned of David's mistakes and how these snowballed when he tried to cover them up. Campers learned about the consequences of sin, and how God truly forgives when we truly repent.

Evening chapel programs included chalk art with a message from a father/daughter team, Bill and Bethany Howell, as well as interactive Bible dramas. Pastor and comedian Gordon Douglas kept campers laughing while delivering a message from God's Word. One evening a traveling drama ministry, Maranatha Productions, put on a Bible drama with audience volunteers pulling on costumes to help in the reenactment. Not only did campers love participating, but they also remembered the Bible story well afterwards.

A popular nighttime activity was playing Capture the Flag with flashlights. Campers dressed in dark or camouflage clothing, painting their faces dark to stay hidden from roving guards with flashlights. In fact, their preparations took more time than actually locating their flags and bringing them back to home base. Each day

ended with evening devotions in the cabins before lights out, a special bonding time between campers and counselors.

This year's attendance at Camp Sonshine including staff was eighty-three. Over the years, our average attendance has been around a hundred, and we are praying for growth to reach that number again soon. There is no more critical time to get God's Word to our youth than now!

Feel free to get a closer look at Camp Sonshine by using the internet at <https://bcm21697.thankyouforcaring.org/campsonshine> where you will find ways to donate and links to contact information. Or go straight to [Camping Ministries](#) on BCM's own website, then click on **Camp Sonshine**, for more information, including a Facebook group link. For security reasons, please email first to Norman Wray at [wwraynorman@gmail.com](mailto:wwraynorman@gmail.com) requesting membership in Sonshine's Facebook group. You may also check out the camp we rent at [www.telhaicamp.org](http://www.telhaicamp.org) in order to see where all the fun is!



Above: Chalk Art Demonstration

Below: Junior Campers at Outdoor Chapel

# BCM INTERNATIONAL HOLY LAND TOUR

## Come to Israel!

You are invited to be part of a trip to the Holy Land that will provide a new and exciting understanding of the Scripture. Imagine sailing on the Sea of Galilee, visiting the city of Capernaum, walking the streets of Jerusalem, standing on the Mount of Olives or sitting by the Open Tomb. You will travel from North to South, from Dan to Beersheba. You will spend an entire day in the "West Bank", including the first places the Children of Israel walked including ancient Samaria, an area of Israel few tourists ever see. You will be in the places Jesus walked!

The tour host will be Dr. Marty Windle, President of BCM International. Dr. Bob Evans will be our tour leader. Our Bible teacher will be Dr. Homer Heater, a Bible scholar who has visited, studied, and taught in Israel many times. His practical insights and applications will make our touring come alive.

## Tour Details

**Depart from Newark, NJ: March 28, 2016**

**Return to Newark, NJ: April 9, 2016**

**Cost: \$3,998**

### Special Features of Tour

- Experienced Tour Leaders
- Quality Bible Teaching
- Outstanding Israeli Guide
- Cruise on the Sea of Galilee
- Float in the Dead Sea
- Warm Christian Fellowship
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To reserve your spot on this epic journey, contact Jan Smoyer at [jsmoyer@bcmintl.org](mailto:jsmoyer@bcmintl.org) or 717-560-9601, Ext. 219





Out of the rubble comes the Joy of Serving! Check out what God is doing through His people and your prayers.

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