

Open Heart, Open Home



by Emily McCandless,
MELFORT, SASKATCHEWAN

PLEASE PRAY for the **Spanish women** who the Lord has given me as friends to share the gospel with in rural Saskatchewan. Since last August I began meeting with “R” sharing the gospel with her through *“The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus” (El Forastero)*. We quickly became friends, which went beyond our weekly, or twice weekly studies. Her husband works away for weeks at a time, so when he returns we put our studies on hold. She became a dear friend, sharing her tears and struggles of living through the long quiet winters in Saskatchewan, unable to work, as she waits for her residency paperwork to be approved. Her English is limited, making it more difficult to connect with people in the community.

This past winter a woman knocked on her door during a blizzard and “R” let her in for a visit. She is a Catholic missionary. They began a friendship, and in May (with one week left in our book study), “R” told me she no longer wanted to continue our studies. It was heartbreaking as I had watched the Spirit of God reveal pieces of the gospel to her throughout the year. We maintain contact, and I hope to continue to spend time with her socially, although more recently she has been spending a lot of time with this missionary friend. “R” and I have a mutual friend, who is also a Christian, and she has encouraged me to be patient as “R” has shared with her things that we learned together in our studies. Please pray that the spirit of God will strive with “R”, and that she will come to know Christ as her personal Saviour, and for my own encouragement.

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PLEASE PRAY -

from Sandra Turkington
BARRANCAS, VENEZUELA

Thank you for praying for Tatiana, Keiber’s mom. She was released from prison two weeks ago. It was a quick release compared to most. We have had innocent brethren in jail for up to a couple years at a time. Also, she was released in time for his 5th birthday. Please continue to pray for her salvation. ■

PLEASE PRAY -

from Brenda Bachert
MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

From Nicaragua with love: Mark and I both contracted Covid just days before our travel plans for the summer. We are very thankful to the Lord that we had mild cases and that our children did not get sick. We were able to fly a couple weeks later and have enjoyed a few weeks of rest and visiting family and friends in the United States. We are now returning to Nicaragua. It is with heavy hearts as we hear news of Christians we know and love suffering with Covid, as the cases have increased tremendously in the last month. A dear brother who was saved several years ago passed away and he was a great help in the assembly in Jalapa in the North part of the country. Others continue to struggle through difficult Covid symptoms. Please pray for the Christians that are sick and for their families. Please pray for the assemblies, that they will be encouraged and continue to be effective in the Gospel. ■

During the summer months women come from Mexico to the rural town where I live for the purpose of working in an apiary. This is my 4th summer having a **Bible class** with some of them, and fortunately through Whatsapp we are able to keep in touch throughout the year. This year four of them have joined. Their Bible knowledge is varied, and they seem enthusiastic to learn. My home is open to them to come even for a visit during the week when they need somewhere to go. It is my desire to host a **BBQ** later this summer for many of the Spanish speaking workers in an hour and a half radius, with whom I have had contact over the last four years. I'm hoping to put together a gift bag with Spanish gospel literature for each of them who attend this event. Please pray for the pieces to come together to host this event. ■



PLEASE PRAY –

from Joan Harvey,
SAN LUIS RIO COLORADO,
MEXICO

When the Canadian Border decided to lift the quarantine restrictions on vaccinated citizens Dan and I and our youngest son Thomas made plans to travel back to visit both sets of parents on the East Coast as well as our siblings and their families. On June 24th our first grand baby arrived and so we decided to stop and meet him on our way to the East Coast. After an enjoyable week together as a family we did our COVID test to travel and Dan's came back positive. He had been very tired, with flu-like symptoms but we never suspected COVID because we were all fully vaccinated. As a result, we had to cancel our plans to travel to Canada, stayed until the state department declared him free from further spreading and we headed back home to Yuma. Thankfully, Thomas and I have been tested and were both negative. It made me think of the verse "**Hope deferred makes the heart sick**" PROVERBS 13:12.

Although we were disappointed we were unable to go home to see our extended family, we are so grateful for the healthy arrival of our new grandson, Rowan Harvey, and time we got to spend with him and our children. We make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps. (PROVERBS 16:9) We thank God He is in sovereign control even when the change in plans is disappointing.

After arriving home, we did another COVID test and when they came back negative we headed to Mexico the following day. We kept in touch through text messages and phone calls while we were away, but our physical presence seems to give them a sense of security and relief when we return home.

Some of the men who have been rescued off the streets have left the Rehab Centre and gone back to addictions. Many times we go and seek to encourage them to come back - some return and others decide to go back to their old life. We are reminded over and over again that we are powerless to produce the needed transformation - that is God's work and we are called to be faithful to what we feel He is asking us to do.

Having said that, it's really hard, and discouragement is real. There are days that you feel you have very little to show for the time, money and effort you have put into the work we have sought to do. But we remember God's patience and long-suffering with us before *and after* salvation, and we seek to encourage ourselves in the Lord and keep going.

Our son Thomas registered today for Grade 11 and school starts August 4th. Our son Mark, who is working and going to school in Phoenix, starts University in the middle of August. He is presently off work for two weeks as he tested positive yesterday for COVID. He is feeling miserable but doesn't feel he needs to come home for his Mom to take care of him. Our oldest two sons

are married and living in the North East of the US along with our single daughter who just started a nursing position in New Jersey a few months ago. I often get asked how we are transitioning to having an empty nest. In 2015 we had five children living in the home with us here in Yuma and now there is one. It has been a big change but we focus on the Lord's goodness to us and our family and use our "extra time" to serve the family of God in Mexico. ■

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- For **Dan and Cristian** as they focus more time in the center, preaching, teaching and discipling the men in the program and less time on the streets rescuing new men.
- For **God to send or raise up men** who would devote time to working with these men.
- For **our little local assembly** as it meets to break bread, fellowship, preach and live the Gospel. We long for a spiritually/emotionally healthy church.

PRaise

- **Catarino** told us yesterday that he is feeling healthy and stronger after his recent cancer treatments. Thanks to all of you who are praying
- Thankful for continued open doors with the border to **travel to and from Mexico daily** with no restrictions.
- Thankful for **our health** to serve the Lord and the health of the believers in Mexico.

03. EDUCATION

“MOMMY, MOMMY, CAN I GO TO SAKEJI?” our seven year old daughter pleaded. “When are you and Daddy going to decide if I can go?”

Sakeji School is a missionary-run boarding school located in the Northwestern province of Zambia, and my husband and two of our children had recently traveled there to collect a medicine order for the clinic in Biula, Angola where we lived. The weekend they spent there happened to be a fun-filled “fair” at the school, and our daughter got to participate in the event. Back in Biula, our extroverted girl was excelling in her schoolwork, but socially she was struggling and desperately lonely for friends. Through a couple of difficult incidents, despite our conscientious supervision and care, we had to face the fact that our growing white-skinned, blue-eyed, blonde-haired only daughter was not safe to be out of our sight in the Angolan society where we lived. As parents we knew that at some point in order to meet her developmental needs, likely in her pre-teen years, we would have two options: return to Canada or send her to boarding school. We had not expected to be faced with the boarding school decision quite so soon.

Missionary mothers (and fathers) face decisions regarding their children’s education that are often difficult and rarely straightforward. One size does not fit all. Practically speaking, decisions are impacted by the country where one is serving and whether one is living in a rural or urban setting. In some countries it may be appropriate to consider sending children to a local school, but that presents more considerations; what is the language of

education, the academic standards, and the style of education and discipline? Is the education equivalent and transferable to one’s passport country? A local education could be an excellent connection to the local culture and community, but missionary parents must consider the potential stresses this could pose for an expatriate child. Private day schools or Christian schools may be an option. Three of our children were blessed by attending a private international Christian school in Lisbon, Portugal for a year. This in turn blessed me with the opportunity of engaging in full-time language study – something that missionary mothers, especially of younger children, often don’t have the luxury of doing. We were thankful for the Lord’s provision for our basic needs, however, schools like this are not free and the tuition fees stretched us financially.

Home-education has been our primary choice of education, and it has been an excellent fit for our family. Again, there are many considerations with this type of education. In a place where there is ready access to internet, options broaden, but in the places we lived, we could never depend on internet. At times, I had to plan and purchase curriculum for five children three years in advance. Costs of postage and unreliable or non-existent mail services necessitated this foresight. Despite being skilled at organizing, planning, and understanding our children’s varied learning needs, I found this task daunting. As a mother living overseas, homeschooling in a setting where I never had readily available outside resources or support (aside from my husband who got better at remembering to cheer me on),

I felt a huge burden of responsibility for our children’s education. I have heard the same story from other missionary mothers, too.

There is another area of education that I have been constantly aware of in our life overseas. This is the area of our children’s Biblical and spiritual education. As missionary parents we cannot depend on Sunday school classes, Bible hour scripture memorization contests, or accurate gospel preaching on a weekly basis in our children’s mother tongue to meet this need. We have lived in situations where our children do not speak the local tribal language and the gospel preaching and teaching is poor anyways. It has been the responsibility of my husband and I, aware of our weaknesses, to prayerfully depend on the Lord for help to consistently live Christ before our children and teach them His Word. We are convinced that we cannot claim a ministry of bringing Christ and His good news to the Angolan people in our community if we do not first do it within our own home to our own children.

Personally, sending a child to boarding school was the hardest sacrifice I have been asked to make on the mission field. It left me with such a deep ache and sadness, but along with that the Lord gave me His profound and unmistakable peace. Our daughter left for boarding school shortly before her eighth birthday with a bag full of neatly pressed and labeled clothes, a special bedspread we had chosen together, an album of family photos, and a love letter from me, her mom. Thanks to the internet and email, I was able to write her a newsy letter every night for the five terms she was away. I am

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deeply thankful for the outstanding love and care of the staff at Sakeji and for their dedication as they endeavour to meet the academic, emotional, and spiritual needs of the students. We knew our daughter would get homesick, so our stipulation was that when she went, she would have to stick it out for a full school year of three terms. After a year and a half, she developed separation anxiety

that increased to such a point that we decided it was best she return home for schooling. Now, almost a teenager, she can differentiate between the hard experience of going away to school far from family and the positive experiences she had at boarding school.

As we anticipated when our daughter was only seven, we are now back in Canada. My husband and I are

parents who have many shortcomings, however, many years ago, we committed to making our children's needs, including their educational ones, a priority over our overseas service. As a missionary mother, this has involved marked responsibility and sacrifice for me on a number of levels, but it is a commitment I will never regret. ■



Missionary mothers who are raising school-aged children overseas need your consistent, prayerful support. Are there practical needs you could offer to meet to encourage one of these mothers? Consider sending a gift to MSC Canada specified for the **MK education assistance program (meap)**. MSC Canada distributes these funds annually to overseas workers with grade school and high school aged children based on their estimated educational costs.



PLEASE PRAY –

from Pam Ronald
SAKEJI MISSION SCHOOL,
IKELENGE, ZAMBIA

School has closed for the month of August and Lord willing will re-open in September for the final term of the school year. That is, if the school closure orders due to COVID are removed. It is difficult planning when often we don't know until a day before whether or not we will be able to open. COVID is hitting the country a bit harder at this time

than it has since the beginning of the pandemic.

Zambia's presidential elections will be held this month and we appreciate prayer for peace, safety, and ongoing ability to freely present the Gospel message in our school, community and country.

Sakeji still has a need for more missionary staff - teachers, dorm parents, and a caterer. We appreciate our two Zambian co-workers that have come to help, relying on the Lord to meet their needs; and we pray for others like them. We also are always thankful for young people and others that come to help even for

a term. Thanks for praying for this need. And if you are interested in coming to serve at Sakeji, **please send an email to: headmaster@sakeji.com**.

And one final personal note - Mark and I are in Canada just now helping to prepare for our daughter's wedding on August 21. Shoshanna will be marrying Nathanael Poidevin who also grew up in Zambia. Caleb and Naomi are both working at this time. Naomi is looking at different possibilities for further education. Mark and I plan, Lord willing, to go back to Zambia at the start of September. Always a bit difficult leaving family behind! Thanks for praying!! ■



Click [HERE](#) to watch the May 17 session recording - if you missed it or want to see it again!

Save the Date! Our next online session is tentatively planned for **September 20**. Mark your calendar, and in the meantime, stay updated on our Instagram page, and through this monthly newsletter!

Give... If you would like to financially support these women or others on the field, you can do so securely through the following websites:

WWW.MSCCANADA.ORG

WWW.GOSPELTRUST.CA

PROVERBS 16:9 ESV

The heart of man
plans his way,
but the Lord
establishes his
steps.