

# The Center for Medical Mission's *e-Pistle* August 2013

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It seems like forever since I put together an *e-Pistle* for you. However, you will be pleased to know that the reason you did not receive an *e-Pistle* in July was because I was involved in the pre-field orientation of 55 new medical missionaries. I wish you could have been at one of the conferences. It was so much fun to hear the stories of these newest missionaries and to contemplate the lives that will be impacted as they join you in the field. One couple and their four boys have already reached their field. A nurse heads to Southeast Asia in just a few days. Several female physicians are heading to North Africa and one young couple is going to a place I never thought I would hear of missionaries going. I hope you will join us in praying for these newest servants. While we tried to prepare them, you know that there will be major adjustments once they reach their fields of service.

In just a couple of weeks, we will again be hosting the Medical Mission Summit for representatives of mission sending agencies. Our goal is to encourage your agencies to prioritize whole person ministry, including medical outreach. There will be at least 33 at this year's meeting—several more than any other year. We will be focusing discussion on medical evangelism, but we will also look at connecting those preparing to serve with those already in the field and will even spend some time looking at how agencies can better support their medical missionaries. The Summit will take place in Charlotte, North Carolina on September 5-6. Thank you for praying for this meeting.

Hopefully you do not need a reminder that the [Global Missions Health Conference](#) is fast approaching. It will be November 7-9 in Louisville, Kentucky. As always, CMDA booths will be in the center back of the main floor exhibit area. I hope you will stop by to say "hi" or even introduce yourself if we have not met. This is a meeting that also needs your prayer support. The Lord uses it to call many to the harvest fields.

Do you think I will have the revised International Rotation Handbook available before the end of September? That is the goal I have set for myself. Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey and gave us information that will be useful in recruiting students and residents to your ministry. At his request, I've had a volunteer review and edit all of Scott Reichenbach's work on the handbook so everything should be ready to compile. Now if I can just get to it.....

I have had so many things to include in this month's newsletter that I've put at least half of it in September's folder. Even though I told you I would be doing the *e-Pistle* every other month, I'm going to do a September version to get on a different schedule than the *Your Call* e-newsletter. I hope you will take the time to check out all the various

articles this month. I think you will find every one of them beneficial. Here is what is included in this month's *e-Pistle*:

[Cura Animarum - Wanted](#) by Rev. Stan Key  
[Opportunity For Men Who Are Working Cross-Culturally](#)  
[So Many Opportunities To Share Your Story While On HMA](#)  
[Things You Should Know](#)  
[Fixing Things](#) - CMDA Devotional  
[Generational Differences](#) by Dr. Ron Koteskey

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**Cura Animarum**  
by Rev. Stan Key

## Wanted!

An ad appeared in a London newspaper around the year 1912 announcing an expedition to Antarctica led by Sir Ernest Shackleton. Though the exact wording is now lost, the ad went roughly as follows:

Men wanted for hazardous journey. Low wages, bitter cold, long hours of complete darkness. Safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in event of success.

Sailing on the ship *Endurance*, the expedition aimed to put a group of men ashore to traverse the continent on foot, stopping at the South Pole along the way. No one had ever done this before. Shackleton needed 27 men. He received 5,000 applications!

Shackleton understood what many of us forget. The deepest yearning in the human heart is not for security, prosperity and comfort. It is rather for significance, meaning and purpose. Why would anyone want to play it safe when the opportunity exists to go where no man has gone before?

Jesus Christ understands the human heart far more than Shackleton ever could. Indeed, He knows us better than we know ourselves. Life is more than eating, sleeping and working. We are hard wired for significance! Jesus invites us to abandon our petty pursuits and embark on the great adventure of doing the will of God.

Wanted: Men and women who will follow Christ on a mission to change world.  
Qualifications: Forsake everything. Wages: Minimal. Working conditions: Terrible.  
Chance of survival: Slim. Benefits: Out of this world!

Wall Street may be languishing, but the economy of the kingdom of God has never been better! Good jobs are plentiful. Exciting opportunities exist today all around you: in evangelism, in medicine, in education, in agriculture, in technology and more. Whether the call of Christ takes you across the street or around the world, say yes to His will.

*“I tell you the truth,’ Jesus replied, ‘no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields – and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first” (Mark 10:29-31, NIV 1984).*

You have only one life. Don't waste it. Risk it all for the sake of the call.

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## **Opportunity For Men Who Are Working Cross-Culturally**

If you're a guy who serves internationally, please keep reading. If you're married to a guy who works cross-culturally, please keep reading.

A very special gathering called Traction is coming, near Interlaken, Switzerland on September 21-27, 2013, designed to encourage North American and Western European cross-cultural workers who serve in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Traction is led by Dr. Daniel Hahn of Catalyst Int'l ([www.catalystintl.org](http://www.catalystintl.org)), a ministry founded in 2004 dedicated to supporting Christian leaders in highly challenging global environments.

Traction will deal squarely with issues guys contend with:

- Balancing leadership and soul care
- Navigating difficult relationships
- Persevering in the face of challenges
- Family life
- Confronting sexual compromise
- Recovery from failure
- Learning to develop a lifestyle of worship

All of this will be approached within the context of life on the field as an international worker, whether you are single or married. The mornings at Traction are given to exploring these issues while the afternoons are free for counseling appointments, medical consultation, outdoor activities and personal reflection.

Imagine six days in the Alps, surrounded by a community of men who really understand. Imagine taking time to restore your soul, refuel your passion and refresh your body. Check it out at this secure link and then register soon as space is very limited. I hope to see you there in just a few weeks!

To learn more and/or register for Traction, please go to this secure link: [Traction Conference](#)

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## So Many Opportunities to Share Your Story While On HMA

The following is a note that Dr. David Stevens received from a medical missionary who is on Home Ministry Assignment. You can likewise have a valuable ministry if you will let us know when you will be in the U.S. and available to share. A future colleague could be waiting to hear from you and even if he/she does not become your colleague, workers are surely needed around the globe. Here are the names and contact information for the Regional Directors who will be the ones to help get meetings scheduled:

Northwest: Scott Boyles [scott.boyles@cmda.org](mailto:scott.boyles@cmda.org)

South: Will Gunnels [south@cmda.org](mailto:south@cmda.org)

Midwest: Allan Harmer [cmdamw@cmda.org](mailto:cmdamw@cmda.org)

West: Michael McLaughlin [west@cmda.org](mailto:west@cmda.org)

“Several years ago at the CMDA conference in Thailand, someone mentioned a need for home leave medical missionaries to speak to the CMDA medical school chapters concerning medical missions. When we came back from B→\_ngl\_d\_ sh last July, I wrote Scott Boyles that I would be willing to do this. He sent out a notice of my availability and within two weeks I had received some 10 different invitations.

“The following is a brief report of the various medical schools I visited this past fall and winter.

*‘So far I have spoken at Penn State in Hershey, Philadelphia College of Osteopathy, Jefferson, Pittsburgh, Upstate New York in Syracuse, NY Medical College, Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harlem and Howard U. in Washington, D.C. I was scheduled to speak at the Osteopathic School in Erie but this was canceled because of a snow storm and they were not able to reschedule for this year. They have contacted me concerning coming next fall as has the University of Maryland. This has been a great experience and opportunity for me. Each group has been very different but all have been very interested and responsive with a number of individuals following up by email with questions or for more information. I have been very impressed with the student leadership in each of these groups. In Pittsburgh there were excellent, meaningful relationships between the faculty and students.*

*‘My wife has gone with me each time which has added so much in her being able to give her perspective, answering questions directed to her, and talking to individuals afterwards.’”*

Bob Bowers

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## Things You Should Know

Doug Lindberg (Nepal) [lindberg.doug@gmail.com](mailto:lindberg.doug@gmail.com)

1. We had our volunteer base expand exponentially after building a high quality website that included a blog with updates about once a month about patient stories, hospital development, etc. This requires some work and maybe some expense, but it paid big dividends for us in what it brought in.
2. MedShare - a group that sends containers of donated supplies all over the world. Very useful and user friendly approach. Receiving organization must pay for shipping, which is not cheap (\$30k to Nepal), although you're paying about 10 cents on the dollar for what you're getting.
3. Americares - Another group that sends supplies, usually via container. A lot more selective and a more lengthy application process, but they do cover shipping which obviously makes a huge difference.
4. UpToDate - International humanitarian gratis subscriptions available (application process required).
5. Try to make connections with Rotary International. They are highly service-oriented and can often help with volunteers, project funding, etc. If you haven't gone overseas and have some time left at home, it would be worth making the effort to join a Rotary chapter.
6. LifeBox - Can provide free or reduced cost high quality pulse oximeters for use in developing world.
7. Universal Anesthesia Machine - Designed for use in austere settings with built-in O2 concentrator and easy to use and durable interface. If qualifications are met, they sell at cost, and although this is a secular organization, they prefer to work with faith based organizations because of past experiences.
8. GHD Online - A list service with several subgroups (e.g. surgery and anesthesia, HIV, IT, etc.) geared toward healthcare in the developing world. Some very experienced and well respected members in these groups. A great place to float questions and get input from colleagues around the world.
9. Foundation Center – An online database of foundations and grant opportunities. A great place to go if you're looking for project funding.

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## Fixing Things

CMDA devotional

***“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust’” (Psalm 91:1-2, NIV 1984)***

Sunday morning rounds before church. Two patients near the end of their lives taught me how to live more fully in the middle of my life.

The first I visited in his home where he understood he had but a few months to live. He is an agnostic but had allowed me to pray with him for his healing. It was now apparent that healing wasn't coming. I asked him if he had any fears that I could address. He paused and sat there thinking, so I added: "I know you have never been a man of faith. But I can tell you that God is here and He loves you."

The second patient was unconscious in the ICU and near death. I comforted the family and had little else to say. As I was silent, his wife asked me, "Would you mind praying with us?"

What good is God if He is not fixing things? Why do we seek God when we have no more to gain from Him?

God was not going to correct the tragedy in either life that Sunday morning. Yet, in one instance I encouraged the patient to seek the Lord; in the other, the patient's family urged me to reach for Him in prayer.

There must be something more to God than "the One who fixes things."

As I reflected on these encounters, both of which reached out for the presence of God, I looked at my own life and understood:

There is no day so futile that I do not need the presence of God.

There is no day so hopeful that I do not need the presence of God.

Even when life is going well for me and I perceive no need for God to intervene, I should seek Him; even when life is going badly, beyond the fixing of things, I should seek Him.

It's obvious to most of us as Christians that we need God's presence when life seems futile, just to keep us going. What is becoming more and more clear to me as I grow from experience is that I also need God desperately when life is going my way. When life is going my way, I tend to coast on my own dreams and drift toward my own fulfillment. When life is flowing in line with my dreams, that's when I most need **His** vision for life, not my own. Especially when life is good, I need my God to drive me forward toward **His** kingdom purpose so that I do not waste this short time on earth seeking my own. I need Him close when all is well to protect me from the sins of pride, greed, envy and apathy. It's precisely when I see no need for God to fix things in my life that I desperately need Him to fix the things that only He can see.

***Dear Father,***

***Please come to me in my times of trouble and especially be here to guard me***

*from myself when times are good.  
Amen*

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## **Generational Differences**

By Dr. Ron Kotesky

A dozen years ago at the turn of the century I wrote about three generations: builders, boomers and busters. At the time they were the only three generations involved in missions. However, since then a new generation, the millennials who matured as the new millennium began, have begun serving as missionaries. At the turn of the century, on the basis of the results reported by the Barna Research Group, I concluded that differences between the generations were basically cultural.

However, during the first decade of the new millennium, the Pew Research Center has done major research on the differences between the generations, and this research revealed that those differences include far deeper issues, those of morality and religion. These differences can compromise cooperation and cohesion between missionaries of different generations.

### **What are the generations?**

Although they differ on the exact years and disagree on the names used to describe them, most researchers consider a generation as covering about 20 years and name that generation after something that happened during that time.

- Builders (Also called the silent generation). Born before 1945, most builders are now 70 or more years old and are minimally involved in missions.
- Boomers. The many people born during the 20 years following World War II (1945-1964) were called the “baby boomers.” Now 50 or more years of age, the boomers were born into prosperity. They became well-educated, questioning, protesting, idealistic and tolerant of many different lifestyles. As missionaries, they brought specialized knowledge, a desire to continue their personal and professional development and an emphasis on family.
- Busters (also called Generation X). People born during the next two decades (1965-1984) were called the baby busters because there were fewer of them. Now 30 years of age and older, the busters grew up in a world different from that of any previous generation. Many who came from broken homes and were victims of violence felt alienated, forgotten, cheated and disillusioned with life. As missionaries looking for meaning in life, they were interested in spiritual things, open, honest and aware of their needs. As such, they make good team members.
- Millennials (also called Generation Y, Generation We and Generation Next). People born between 1985 and 2004 were called millennials because they were the first generation to come of age in the new millennium. They grew up in the

digital age with computers available to many of them. They communicate through cell phones, Skype, Facebook and texting. They have high expectations and are characterized as confident, connected and open to change.

### **How do the generations differ?**

During January 2010, the Pew Research Center called a nationally representative sample of more than 2,000 adults through both landlines and cell phones. At this time, the millennials were 18-29 years of age. To be able to do a detailed analysis of them, the Pew study called more than 800 millennials and smaller samples of the other generations. The full report is available at <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2010/10/millennials-confident-connected-open-to-change.pdf>.

The Pew study found scores of similarities and differences. The major result that stands out is that the millennials are usually not markedly different from all the others. Rather, the differences are on a continuum, one in the order of the generations. For example, here are some questions about technology.

When asked, “Do you have a profile on a social networking site?” the percent answering yes is as follows (p. 25):

- Millennials: 75%
- Busters: 50%
- Boomers: 30%
- Builders: 6%

When asked, “Have you ever placed your cell phone on or right next to your bed while sleeping?” the percent answering yes is (p. 32):

- Millennials: 83%
- Busters: 68%
- Boomers: 50%
- Builders: 20%

Note that all the generations use technology, but some use it more than others. The same is true of nearly all of the questions asked in the Pew study, and the order of the generations is nearly always the same. Following are some specific ways the millennials are at one end of the continuum.

### **Technology (Chapter 4)**

- More likely to text
- More likely to have cell phone only
- More likely to connect wirelessly to the internet when away from home or work
- More likely to use Twitter



- More likely to text while driving
- More likely to play video games
- Less likely to read newspapers

Most of these are differences with no moral or religious implications, but they do have great implications about communication. If boomers primarily communicate via email and millennials do so through texting, they may miss important messages. All generations on a field need to agree on some way to communicate so that the information sent is always received.

### **Everyday Life (Chapters 5, 6 and 7)**

- More likely to have tattoos
- More likely to have body piercing
- More likely to quit/change jobs
- Less likely to marry by 30
- Less likely to have “old fashioned” values about marriage/family

Though most of these have no moral or religious implications, the differences in everyday life may have more emotional potential than the mechanical differences in technology. Teams would do well to discuss how important these are to each other.

### **Politics (Chapter 8)**

- More likely to be liberal
- More likely to approve of big government
- More likely to want government to solve problems
- More likely to approve of the way society is going
- Less likely to want religion in schools
- Less likely to vote

Political differences may be a minefield. Most people do not change their political views by discussion, so this topic is probably best left alone, just agree to disagree.

### **Morality (Chapters 8 and 9)**

- More likely to approve of abortion
- More likely to approve of homosexual behavior
- More likely to approve of pornography
- More likely to believe in evolution
- Less likely to think Hollywood threatens Christian values

Missionaries of different generations are likely to differ on whether particular actions are right or wrong. The above issues divide people in the U.S., and they may well divide missionaries on the field. It is best if each agency has positions on the most important issues, and then missionaries can decide if they can serve under those conditions. Such

question should be asked, and fields should know what moral positions people take before they begin serving.

### **Religion (Chapter 9)**

- Less likely to join church
- Less likely to attend services
- Less likely to say the Bible is God's Word
- Less likely to pray daily
- Less likely to say religion is important
- Less likely to have certain belief in God

Disagreements about religious beliefs and expected behaviors are central to the missionary enterprise. How can people who do not belong to a church and do not attend church services be church planters? How can people who do not believe in God and say that religion is not important be missionaries? Such issues must be addressed in the selection procedures of the agencies.

### **One interesting difference**

One question has been central to the missionary enterprise from the beginning. It is, "What must people do to be saved?" The church faced this issue soon after Paul and Barnabas returned from their first term of missionary service. Nearly the entire chapter of Acts 15 is about this very question. Missionaries and their sending church could not resolve the issue, so they sent a delegation to headquarters in Jerusalem. Everyone involved had "much discussion," and all sides presented their case before they made the decision. Then they wrote a letter back to the local church and sent a delegation to answer any questions.

When asked whether Christianity was the only path to salvation in the Pew study, the generations did not follow the same order as in the previous statements. Only 23 percent of the builders, boomers and busters (all very similar) agreed with the statement, "My religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life." However, 29 percent of the millennials agreed with the statement.

These findings have disturbing implications for missions. If nearly three-quarters of Christians believe that "many religions can lead to eternal life," one of the major motivations for missionary service is missing.

In addition, the Pew study notes that nearly three-quarters of the millennials agree with the statement, "There is MORE than one true way to interpret the teachings of my religion." It is interesting to note that they are more likely to say that Christianity is the only way to salvation but also more likely to say that there is more than one true way to interpret Christianity.

For other topics, please visit [www.missionarycare.com](http://www.missionarycare.com). Also please let your non-medical colleagues know about these free resources.

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