



# Center for Medical Missions

*A ministry of Christian Medical & Dental Associations*

## August 2012

Welcome to this month's newsletter. This is Susan writing. Daniel is taking some time off to repair a house that flooded earlier this month. I know he will appreciate your prayers as he works to repair the damage.

I didn't realize I would be the one putting this newsletter together until just the other day so I haven't been collecting articles. Translation – this newsletter will be shorter than normal, but I hope it will be an encouragement to you.

Thanks so much for praying for our 2012 Orientation to Medical Missions which was held July 20-22. We had 31 participants and most of them will be in the field by January 2013. The participants unanimously agreed that the conference was extremely beneficial and the networking was an added blessing. If you don't have missionaries you are regularly praying for, will you pray for this newest class of medical missionaries as they finish their preparations and head to the field? Two things come to mind to pray about. First, will you pray for their families? It is often hard for parents to release their children to the unknown and it is hard for the missionaries themselves to say goodbye to family. These are especially true when children/grandchildren are involved. Your prayers will mean a lot. Secondly, will you pray that they will trust the Lord to help them pack? Packing seems to come at a new missionary with overwhelming speed and continues for weeks. Questions: What will we need? What can I purchase in country? How do I pack to get the best advantage? What do I get rid of? What do I store? Where do I store things? Prayers for packing will be a huge blessing.

Remember, Daniel and I are here to serve you. If you have any questions about missions you think we might be able to answer, please don't hesitate to ask.

Susan

**In this edition:**

[Announcements](#)

[Think About This](#) by Rev. Stan Key  
[HELP PLEASE – International Rotation Handbook](#)  
[A Magnetic Gallery](#) by Judy Palpant

---

### **Don't Forget – Global Mission Health Conference 2012**

If you have not yet registered for the 2012 [Global Mission Health Conference](#) that will be held at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY on November 8 – 10, I hope you will do so soon. Remember, if you register early, the church can provide housing for students.

### **CMDA National Convention – May 2-5, 2013 in Ridgecrest, Tennessee (near Asheville)**

Put it on your calendar now to attend the [CMDA National Convention](#). Would you set a goal to attend your first convention? Invited three friends – conventions like this are so much more fun when you are with others you know. Can we make this the largest representation of young people ever at a national convention?

---

### **Think About This**

by Rev. Stan Key

Many of us spend our lives asking the wrong questions. Consequently, we remain stuck in our spiritual ruts. The questions we love are those that are easy to answer and, frankly, have little power to transform our lives. Such questions are “safe.” One of our favorites is this: When did you “say the prayer” and ask Jesus into your heart?

To be honest, I've almost stopped asking this question completely because I find so often it misses the point and diverts us from the real issue. Now, I find another question gets a more meaningful response. Let me ask it to you this morning. But be warned, this question is not “safe.” It may rock your world. When did you surrender your will to His will?

Go ahead, answer it. I'll wait....

Many of us have believed a “gospel” that asks nothing and demands nothing. We've been told that salvation is free and have drawn the faulty conclusion that nothing is required in return. Think again.

As a pastor, I tremble for your soul if you cannot answer this question. Like a horse that has never been broken, if you cannot describe the time when Jesus became Lord of

your life, you will be of little service in the Master's kingdom...if indeed you are really in His kingdom! Wild horses may be beautiful on the outside. But until their will is broken, they are ego-centric rebels on the inside.

*There are only two kinds of people in the end; those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "Thy will be done."* (C. S. Lewis)

Dear friend, your will is the only thing you really possess. Your health, wealth, talents, abilities and possessions are all on loan. But your will is your own. But here is the rub: your will is the only thing God really wants. He is not really interested in your time, your gifts or your talents. What He wants is you!

Has God conquered your will? This is where the battle is lost or won. I urge you, raise the white flag of surrender. Give Him the keys to the inner fortress of your will. This is the only way to experience freedom, joy and power!

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until my will is one with Thine, To do and to endure.  
(Edwin Hatch)*

---

#### **HELP PLEASE – International Rotation Handbook**

Every two years we update the International Rotation Handbook we make available for students and residents who wish to do a rotation in a mission setting. It is time to tackle this update once again. I hope to increase the number of places listed where a student/resident can get this kind of experience. I need your help if I'm going to accomplish this goal. Will you share the name of the place where you did your international rotation – if you had a good/great experience? If your experience was not one that you wish to repeat, you can ignore this request. It will be most helpful if you will send the name of the hospital/health clinic along with the address and a contact person to [susan.carter@cnda.org](mailto:susan.carter@cnda.org). Thanks so much!

---

*I'm guessing everyone reading this has received at least one missionary prayer card. If not, you should pick one up the next time it is offered and ask the Lord to keep the individuals pictured in your heart and mind so that you can faithfully pray for them. Many of you reading this will one day be missionaries yourselves. Hopefully some of these stories will remind you then of just how important prayer cards can be.*

## **A Magnetic Gallery**

by Judy Palpant

*"He (Epaphras) is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured." (Colossians 4:13 NIV)*

Two fresh faces smile back at me from my refrigerator door. Young explorers, MKs (missionary kids) old enough now to strike out on their own kingdom adventures--one to Central Asia and the other to India. Their prayer cards overlap with those of young families serving in China, Estonia and Albania. An older couple serving in West Africa adds to the mix.

Even with email, Facebook and Skype connecting us to missionaries, prayer cards are ubiquitous. And for most of us, missionaries and magnets go together. Over time, they become part of the furniture. I often pass them without a glance. Such a fate--frozen in time and space on a refrigerator door.

What if they could be freed? Having escaped abstractions and one-dimensional presence, their visit would bring reminders of stories, joys and sorrows. We could join in the three-ring circus of their home as they fling the doors open to people coming and going.

Too far-fetched? What if prayer cards contained motion sensors? Consider the green ceramic frog in the garden shop that says "Ribbit!" This unexpected greeting grabs your attention. If prayer cards could speak, a great cacophony would rise from our gallery of pictures. Many times a day their voices would call us to prayer.

But even without motion sensors, prayer cards sometimes speak volumes and over a long period of time.

In 2011 at the CMDA-CMDE conference, we met a young nurse new to the mission field in Asia. As an eight-year-old girl in Sunday school, she heard medical missionaries speak. Afterwards, they gave each child one of their prayer cards and asked them to put it in a special place as a reminder to pray for them. She did.

"Now I work with those missionaries!" she told us with a smile.

Phil and Juli Fischer left Nyankunde in the Congo in 1991. In April 2010, their son Jonathan was sent there to help with a relief project. His hosts at Nyankunde did not know his arrival time so they weren't at the airstrip to meet him. After landing, Jonathan approached a gentleman to ask directions. As they walked, he noticed the man carried

a Bible. The old African removed it from under his arm, opened it and took out an old Fischer family prayer card.

In Jonathan's words, "I landed unannounced and walked up to a random stranger who happened to be carrying my family's prayer card at that very moment. Why was he carrying a 20-year-old prayer card? I was amazed at my parents' legacy."

Imagine the surprise and encouragement Phil and Juli felt when they heard this story.

While living there, they gave prayer cards to any of the nationals who wanted one. Some even ended up on walls in huts right next to the ever-present calendar. But this one found its way into a man's Bible. Long after their return to the U.S., long after their prayer cards fell off American refrigerator doors, this one remained and spoke of beloved friends, still remembered and prayed for by an African.

Postcards sent by missionaries also work as prayer cards. With just a few words hurriedly scribbled, they land in our mail box. Gladly, we receive them. I've propped some fascinating postcards in my kitchen window--historic bell towers from Eastern Europe or homes built on a steep hill in China--perfect prayer reminders while I wash dishes.

Last October I visited missionaries in Estonia. A few months later, when my husband and I traveled to East Africa, I carried some Estonian postcards. On the back of each one I wrote the name and prayer requests of missionaries serving in Europe. Then I passed them out to our African friends and asked them to pray for these servants in another part of the world.

Whether we are giving or receiving cards, we need to somehow keep those cards walking and talking in creative ways. Sometimes I take one prayer card off the refrigerator door and put it on the dinner table so we will pray for that missionary. A friend of mine puts her prayer cards in a small photo album. It guides her prayers during her quiet time.

Jesus said, "...My house will be called a house of prayer..." (Matthew 21:13, NIV 1984). Can we say the same of our homes? Many of our missionary friends call out for prayer from our refrigerator door. Find a creative way to animate their presence in your daily routines.

