



# MISSION MISSIVE NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER ISSUE 2015

### PICTURED ABOVE:

**MISSION STATEMENT** *Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*  
- NIV Matthew 28:19-20

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the Summer 2015 Edition of our Missions Missive Newsletter. Summer is well under way in Ocean Park with record setting dry weather through most of May. The summer flowers are showing their full colour everywhere, and we give thanks for the ministry of St. Mark's gardeners! Let us also remember those in our own community who may not have shelter, food or clothing over the summer, and continue to support St Mark's Community Outreach, the Bales for the North through ACW, and the Nightshift box for clothing at the church driveway.

In this issue we have an article from Morny White on the global Christian Blind Mission which started over 100 years ago by a German missionary in Turkey. We have an article from Kathryn Smith about the ongoing knitting project for babies in poverty and we will hear more about this Mission from its founder Hilary King on June 10. We also have our annual announcement about our Vacation Bible School "SonSpark Labs" which will again be co-ordinated by Linda Zeal. It sounds really exciting and will be held at St. Mark's August 24 – 28 in the Church Hall. Our VBS has become extremely popular over the past few summers, with last years VBS having 75 children registered, 9 youth leaders and 21 adult leaders. We encourage you to register early as VBS fills up quickly and registration is limited by the size of the hall.

***The Missions Missive is co-ordinated by Toni Wallis (604) 541-9533, and Brian and Barb Walks (604) 538-3568. We welcome any contributions on any mission or outreach related topics.***

St. Mark's Community Outreach Ministry.

You can support outreach activities of this group by sending donations in envelopes marked "Community Outreach" to **St. Mark**-Ocean Park.

Contact Barb Grantham for more information.

### **Mission and Community Events:**

Vacation Bible School = August 24 - 28  
Salmon BBQ = Sept. 19 (Sat.)

Thanksgiving Sunday = October 11  
Holly Berry Fair = November 28 (Sat.)



...Because nobody should be forgotten.

CBM is a Christian International development organization that has transformed lives by valuing everyone as Jesus does. CBM was founded just over 100 years ago in the Middle East by Pastor Ernst Jakob Christoffel, (a German by birth), to care for children and families trapped in poverty by disabilities. After attending Evangelical theological seminary in Basle, Switzerland, Ernst and his sister Hedwig came to Malatya, Turkey in 1908, to help primarily blind people.

Originally CBM was called Christian Mission to the Blind in the Middle East. It was in Malatya, where 20,000 Armenians, still suffering from the effects of the pogroms (organized massacre) of the 1890's lived, and it was here amongst Kurds and Turks that the brother and sister began their work with the blind. However, it all changed on the spot as children with other disabilities came begging for help. It was inconceivable to turn them away and it became a governing motto in Bethesda, the first home for blind people that he established in Mayatya, Turkey, and later in the homes he was to establish in Persia – "NO NEEDY PERSON SHALL BE TURNED AWAY". By 1914, 85 people lived in Bethesda House.

So it was that Ernst Christoffel founded homes in the beginning in Malatya, Tabriz and Isfahan for blind children, orphans, physically disabled and deaf people. Then the horrors of World Wars I and II impacted the work that Ernst was trying to undertake and in 1943 Ernst Jakob Christoffel was arrested and detained for 33 months until June 5, 1946 when he was permitted to leave the prison camp in Hamburg, Germany. While in prison he provided pastoral counselling and took great comfort from the words in Psalm 42:5.

*"Why are you so downcast, O My Soul?  
Why so disturbed within me?  
Put your hope in God,  
For I will yet praise him,*

*My savior and my God."*

Following the end of the Second World War, Christoffel established in 1949, an evangelical home for the blind in Numbrecht, Germany, and today the Ernst Christoffel Home is a state-of-the-art facility for blind persons. However Christoffel wanted to return to Persia and in 1951, at the age of 75, he returned and started anew. He passed away in 1955, but **his legacy** lives on!



*"Now I can See!"*

1956 – The "Christian Mission to the Blind in the Middle East" renamed itself "Christoffel Mission to the Blind."

1961 – The construction of the Berlin Wall divided the mission into West German branch in Bad Sachsa, and an East German branch in Potsdam

1966 – CBM performed its first cataract operation

1967 – Work began in Ethiopia, Tanzania and India

1968 – West German CBM moved into larger buildings

1969 – CBM supported a braille printing press for the first time, followed by talking book libraries for the blind

1971 – “Sight by Wings” – a flying eye doctor service started operating out of Nairobi, Kenya

1972 – CBM for the first time supported a home for the blind in Arequipa, Peru, thereby extending its services to Latin America

1974 – Ophthalmic services were expanded at CBM-supported hospitals starting in Zaire and Pakistan.

1975–1999 – “On the threshold of the next millennium, CBM supported 1095 aid projects in 109 countries.

**2014 – CBM received over \$21 million** which was used to provide **sight to 363,448 people** through surgery and preventing diseases causing blindness; provide **livelihood training to 4,148 families; healing care for 1,233 children** with disabilities; provide training for **224 future surgeons**.



This article was provided by Morny White, who together with her husband Alan, have been supporters of CBM for 13 years. Their individual loyal support has provided sight restorative surgery for 433 people, enabled 16 children to have medical and community-based services, and given 41 families a healthier and more hopeful life. Morny has provided for St. Mark's church library several pieces of information about this remarkable Christian Mission including a **Library Only** copy of the book on the Biography of the life of Ernst Christoffel "Following in the Footsteps of Ernst Jakob Christoffel. She has also provided copies of the 2015 CBM Prayer Diaries, and 2014 Impact Reports "Changing Lives with Love". Please help yourselves to these leaflets, and contact Morny at (604) 536-1561 to discuss this wonderful Christian Mission.

## Embrace Rwanda Society



On June 10<sup>th</sup> 2015, at 7pm Hilary King will be visiting St. Mark's to talk about her mission in Rwanda to help babies that until recently were wrapped in newspaper to be sent home from the hospital. Everybody is welcome.

It only takes one to make a difference! One day a boy walking along a sea shore saw hundreds of stranded star-fish. Every few steps he would kneel down, pick one up and throw it back into the sea. As he continued his journey, a man coming the other way asked him "What are you doing that for?" "There are so many star-fish. It won't make any difference." The boy looked into his eyes, smiled, and as he threw another one back into the sea, simply said, "It has made a difference to that one!"

The same can be said for a baby born to a mother who lives in extreme poverty with nothing to give the child except love and care, so the hospital will wrap these babies in newspaper to be sent home. These babies are everywhere in poorer parts of the world: many African countries, Peru, Sri Lanka, India, Haiti, Mongolia, and many more places.

In British Columbia, the Diocesan ACW has undertaken the making of tunics and hats for these babies, to help protect the baby from the sun and the cold night temperatures. The need is overwhelming but we can make a difference by knitting one garment for one baby who will feel the warmth, not only of the wool on its tiny body, but the warmth of the love of the person who made it, just like the star-fish.

From St Mark's we have sent in 320 tunics and hats. Everyone who hears the story wants to help. The project is ongoing, the garments are small enough for any age to tackle, and it is a perfect opportunity to use up all those bits of wool you haven't thrown away. Contact Kathryn Smith.

