



Dear Purpose-filled Partners

August 2010

A Short Story

As background to this story I should tell you that When Barbara and I went to Australia in 1970 we had never visited there. We had never even left the USA before that—not even to Canada! That kind of missionary hardly exists anymore.

Several years ago I was asked to lead a prayer group of about 7 or 8 men at one of the Retreats MTW does for its missionaries. To introduce the men to each other I asked each one to tell what led them to their field of service. As they went around the circle the opening words became almost monotonous, “I went on a short term trip to...” I was the only one who did not use those words. It made me aware of how important short-term missions is to the process of recruiting new people.

One Year and Eight Weeks

Joshua Jacobs finished high school three years ago. He decided that he would give one year to mission work before he entered university. He chose a mission group that had a program in England. They sent him to work in one of the worst areas of Manchester, England’s 3rd largest city. His living and working conditions were terrible. Friends of ours, who belong to Joshua’s church, asked us to invite him to Worcester for a weekend break. We did and showed him a side of England he had not yet seen. As we heard his story we were impressed. by a serious minded young man. We stayed in touch and Joshua chose to apply to MTW for the 8-week Summer Intern program. We arranged for him to work at Immanuel Church, Cardiff with Dr Peter Naylor. At this point Joshua believes God is leading him to prepare himself for ministry in the UK.



Rev Dr Peter Naylor and Joshua Jacobs



Rev Todd Matocha – Tom & Melody Hartman

Exploring Options for the Future

In our last *Cross Purposes* we wrote, “Tom and Melody Hartman, will be coming to Cardiff (Bethel Church) at the end of June for an eight-week summer ministry. This time slot fits into Melody’s summer break as a school teacher. Tom is an ordained Lutheran minister who is in process with the PCA. He is also a musician.” When we visited them the weekend after they arrived in Cardiff, we found that they were well on their way to a busy and useful summer. Tom had learned enough about the city that he was telling me how to find the restaurant we were looking for in center city. Tom was leading an Adult class in the Sunday School hour (adults don’t usually have Sunday School in Britain.) Tom has been leading a mid-week time for learning new hymns—remember the Welsh SING, loudly and well! They have also to worked with a Holiday Bible Club.

Eleven Month Adventure

Megan Hodge is a member of Peace Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Cary, North Carolina. while at university she attended another PCA church and in that time realized “how counter cultural following Christ is and how it brings together many diverse people.” When she thought about missions, MTW was her natural choice. Since then her hallmark has been flexibility. England did not appear in her list of country choices on her application. Since accepting an invitation to the UK the location of her ministry has had to change location from London to Cheltenham. – She arrived in July and will be here 11 months, mainly working to build relationships with students and young adults.

Personal Notes

Barbara and I are not sure what happened to the “quieter June” we mentioned in the last *Cross Purposes* but it came and went and so has July. In August Barbara plans to focus on her writing ministry—articles for two magazines, a contribution to an MTW training program and some biographical sketches for our church in Cheltenham. My usual preaching, mentoring and administrative tasks remain.—We close with the same words from the Apostle Paul as last time—*a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.* [1 Corinthians 16:9] – **Pray For Us!**



Rev Andrew Young shows Megan a map of her area of Cheltenham

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