



Commended Workers

Neale and Barbara Goetsch

God's word to the children of Israel who "found God's grace in the wilderness" was "I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" Jeremiah 31:2,3, which can also be rendered, "therefore I have continued My faithfulness to you" (ESV). That is our testimony both when He drew us to Himself and every step of our faith journey since.

We both trusted Christ as young children, Barbara through the loving witness of her grandmother and Neale, raised in a Christ-centered home, at age six. Wisconsin (Neale) and Maine (Barbara) met at Columbia Bible College (CBC) in South Carolina in 1963.

Married in 1967, in November 1968 we flew to Kenya where we expected to spend the rest of our lives in ministry among the Gujarati Indian community. Imagine our surprise to find the airport in London crowded with the very people to whom we were going! In the late 60's/early 70's, political changes in East Africa resulted in many Asians losing their work permits and businesses. Forced to emigrate, because many held British passports, thousands fled to the UK. We looked at one another and questioned, "Why are we flying to Nairobi? The Asians are all here!"

In 1973 we joined the exodus to Leicester, England, the largest concentration of Gujaratis outside India or South Africa. Over the next four years we rejoiced as numbers of college/career age young people trusted the Savior, and the North Leicester Bible Fellowship was born.

Our burden to disciple and train the believers resulted in TEA - Theological Education in Action - and when we returned to the States on furlough, the ministry was faithfully carried on by our new Indian brothers and sisters. When we re-

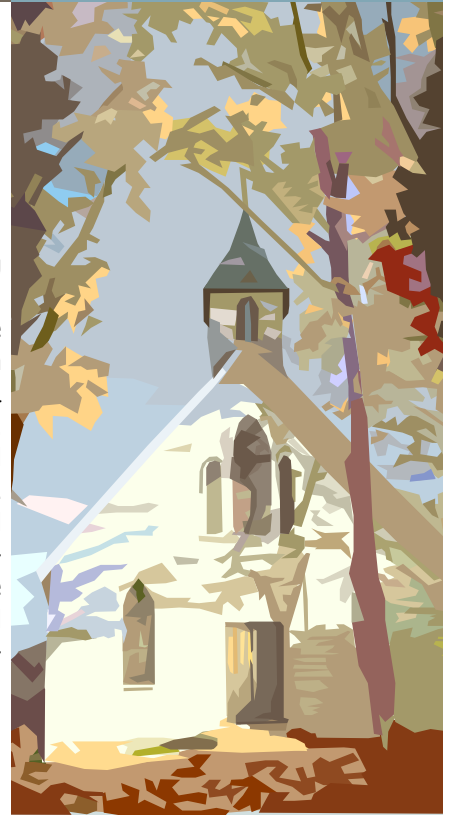
turned, 50-60 believers were attending regularly.

It was on our second furlough that we were introduced to a brethren assembly in Boca Raton, Florida. Barbara, hearing a former CBC teacher on the radio one day, phoned a number given and discovered we lived just blocks from him and his wife. Neither of us had previously fellowshiped in an assembly; we later said to one another, "This is exactly what we've seen the Lord do in England as we simply followed the pattern of the early church as unfolded in Acts!"



Returning to England, we initiated outreach to Gujaratis in Loughborough, a university town, where outreach through International Teas and Bible studies drew Iraqi, Egyptian, Bengali and Chinese students and families. Visitation, distribution of Bibles and annual Scripture text calendars to every international home, summer camps and Bible clubs (VBS), an Awana-type children's ministry, and home Bible studies which grew too large for English living rooms, led to the formation of the Loughborough International Bible Fellowship.

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Cambridge University TEFLA certification (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), enabled outreach to university students' wives. Combining teaching English with a Bible study, some trusted Christ. Meanwhile, the dear saints at Central Hall in Stapleford, Nottingham (now Pastures Community Church) commended us as full-time workers in 1993; commendation here in the States was added on our next furlough in 1996.

After reestablishing residency in the USA at the end of 2007, we returned to spend 4-5 weeks each autumn and again mid-winter in England. Many students who came to faith in Loughborough have returned to China; others are scattered throughout the UK and it has been joy to visit them and find them actively serving in local fellowships. A Chinese sister works for a mission organization in Beijing, and two Indian brothers minister regularly in English fellowships.

The saints at Bethany Chapel in Columbia, SC are a very special blessing to us both. English language/Bible studies here have resulted in a Korean couple ministering full-time in China.

Barbara's Alzheimer's diagnosis has curtailed further trips the past three years. The very generous ministry of Stewards Foundation in supplementing healthcare needs has been a special encouragement to us. While acting as full-time caregiver, Neale is able to continue teaching Bible studies via zoom with scattered internationals in the UK; an E-Message goes out each week to those even more widely scattered in Europe, Asia and USA.

His great, everlasting love and unending faithfulness, is our daily portion.

Commended Workers

Phil and Edna Guikema

Both Edna and I were saved as children by the influence of our families and assemblies. I was so convicted by my sin after a children's craft class that I could not sleep, so I woke my mother, and she led me to the Lord. Sleep was immediate after that prayer! Edna remembers praying for salvation after Sunday School at the Gospel Center in Durham, North Carolina.

We both attended Emmaus Bible School in Oak Park, Illinois and were married after graduating. Uncle Sam called me into the U.S. Army and we were stationed in Germany. Upon returning Stateside, we were commended to the Lord's work in 1974 by Hiawassa Bible Chapel in Orlando, Florida to help establish a newer work in northwest Orlando. As the work grew, Stewards Foundation was a blessing

in financing the buildings.

Witnessing homelessness in many communities across our nation is not unusual. It is quite common to see the street corners in Orlando, Florida with the homeless, begging for money and food. However, to witness homelessness among children was a real eye-opener to us. Although we had no intention of ministering to such families, we find some of the families in our Christian School are in this state of difficulty.

We saw this situation previously when conducting Child Evangelism "Good News" clubs in public schools. Because about half of the students attending one public school in Orlando were homeless, we knew this situation was very real in our area. Most of these homeless children lived in cars with a parent, or in an inexpensive hotel.



Since Florida adopted a universal scholarship policy, the private school population has been quite full. We seek to provide needed education without the added burden of additional fees, as some schools charge more than what scholarships provide.

One family was not able to provide transportation for their children to attend our school because they had no car, and no money for this purpose. We began transporting them to school, but discovered they were in a different hotel every other day. Sometimes we had to meet them at a pre-determined intersection.

This mother with five children, and grandpa and grandma, were homeless. Though they could pay for a room most nights, as soon as it was discovered that there were eight people in a room, they were evicted. One afternoon after dropping these children off at a hotel, I was talking to

IN STEWARDS THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL”

the mother when she suddenly said, “Oh no, it looks like they just evicted us.” There was a large black trash bag in front of their door that contained their possessions. No place to stay that night! What would they do?

So, the assembly and individuals rented a two-bedroom suite in a converted hotel for one month, including the needed deposit, to give this family a place to live. They have been able to financially sustain the suite, enabling the children to have a place they call home.

The end result is that our Sunday School classes have expanded and professions of salvation have been made. Other families in our school have similar needs offering our assembly and school ongoing opportunities for ministry.

Education is a real need as many children, even up to 5th grade, cannot read due to lack of school attendance. Praise God for the staff of the school, John and Mae Krogh, Dinna Tienzo, Darryl and Florene Jachens, Trudy Guikema, and my wife, Edna Guikema, who have a heart to minister to these pressing needs.

This has been just one aspect of our ministry.

Besides this local work, we spend our summers ministering in camps, conferences, and Vacation Bible Schools throughout the United States as well as in the Bahamas. We have seen many professions of salvation each summer as we minister the Gospel to young people, to the Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I do handyman work to help support us as I never have taken a salary from the school or chapel making the financial help for our healthcare needs from Stewards Foundation a blessing over the years.

As we have labored for the Lord over the years, He has opened doors and led us into ministries that we would have never thought possible. No wonder we will cast our crowns, if we receive any, at our Lord’s feet, for He has done it all!

News You Can Use

Supporting HCAP

The Loan Program continues to be the fundamental reason for Stewards Foundation’s existence, but supporting the Lord’s servants through the Health Care Assistance Program (HCAP) remains an important part of our service.

Currently, the annual HCAP gift is only available to workers commended by assemblies that have a loan with Stewards Foundation. Eliminating this requirement would open the door to HCAP for more commended workers. However, increasing the number of workers in HCAP without additional funds would noticeably diminish the gift to each worker.

Stewards Foundation is offering Member Assemblies the

opportunity to help generate the funds required to enhance the HCAP gift, and to add workers commended from a Member Assembly - irrespective of a loan - to HCAP.

Traditionally, the 100% Pass-Thru Fund has been the only source of revenue to supplement loan proceeds in funding HCAP. Now, there are two additional ways available to Member Assemblies to directly participate in enhancing and expanding HCAP:

- **NEW** - Demand Note Program: Modeled after the original concept for Stewards Foundation, this Program establishes a channel for funds to flow from assemblies willing to invest in the Lord’s work to those serving Him. Member Assemblies that invest in a Demand Note benefit from knowing that the investment is helping the Lord’s servants in HCAP while receiving a return on their investment.
- **NEW** - SF HCAP Support Donor Advised Fund (DAF): Member Assemblies that place funds in a DAF will have the benefit of knowing that the proceeds from their donation are being used to support the Lord’s servants in HCAP with the anticipation of receiving a modest return from their donation.
- **EXISTING** - 100% Pass-Thru Fund: Established in 2009, the 100% Pass-Thru Fund permits assemblies and individuals a means of directly supporting HCAP. These funds are deposited into a separate account established specifically to supplement the annual HCAP gift. Each year, the funds in the 100% Pass-Thru account are added to the HCAP gift from Stewards Foundation’s net income.

Please contact Stewards Foundation at 972-726-6550 for more information on these HCAP support opportunities.

Psalms 126:3, “The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad”

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