

CONTACT

Meeting local needs

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CAM International, founded in 1915 by William Burton and James Salter, ministers in DR Congo, Zambia, Ethiopia, Mozambique and the African diaspora.

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COVER PHOTO

MEETING LOCAL NEEDS

One of the many services provided at Nyangombe is a medical clinic for both adults and children (See pages 6-7)

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GUIDANCE FOR THE YOUTH

by Gordon McKillop

170 students from secondary schools in the district signed up to attend a Scripture Union Youth Camp at Nyangombe at the end of June. These annual camps began in 2001. Scripture Union is still strong in many schools, and the number of students wanting to attend always exceeds the availability of sleeping places. Travel to, and from, the Youth Camps is always a challenge. This year a bus was booked, but at the very last moment a government official commandeered the bus, and it was back to improvised transport.

Dinner and dishes

As anyone who has been involved with camps would know, work behind-the-scenes is an important aspect of any camp. In this case, the local women spend long hours from early morning till late at night making sure that food is on the table at the scheduled times. Each camp has six groups named after Old Testament Prophets, so, 'Isaiah' may be on kitchen duty today when they serve the cooked food and wash up afterwards.



▲ Local ladies hard at work



▲ Playing volleyball



▲ Heavily laden trailers transport the campers



▲ Enjoying a meal together

Coaching and conversation

The focus of the Camp is to impact the youth with the Gospel, presented in a way that they can grasp and understand. Some visitors from Cornerstone Church in the UK joined the teaching team, together with some very experienced Zambian speakers and youth leaders. The subject for this year was, 'Putting on the full armour of God' and was very appropriate, bearing in mind the extreme temptations facing young people today in this technological age, with its widespread use of mobile phones and the internet.

Many were challenged as the Holy Spirit, through teaching, impacted them. Whilst we are always reluctant to quote numbers, it was clear that the Lord was working in many hearts, as dozens were counselled and guided to follow Christ. Discussion sessions allowed for questions, and for guidance to be given to all.



▲ Wearing 'the armour of God'!



▲ A discussion session

Fun and farewells

During sports and games, teachers and 'senior friends' become approachable to students and relationships are built. The students respond to this, and it also has a major bearing on how they listen to teaching during the more serious sessions. Basketball, volleyball and football were the main activities this year, and all could either participate in their teams or cheer them on to gain points for their group.

All too quickly the days pass, and time comes for tearful goodbyes, and students requesting to stay for another week! They climb back on trucks and into vehicles and sing all the way back to their respective schools. Our prayers go with them, that the sovereign Lord will complete the work He has begun in many hearts, and that in future years many will recall 'Camp' as a milestone in their spiritual journey.

How can a young person stay pure?

By obeying Your Word.

Psalms 119:9



▲ Goodbye Youth Camp!



HOPE FOR MARLENE

by Dr Gloire

(Head Doctor at Lwamba Hospital)

Marlene is a 20-year-old girl who, since the age of puberty, had never had a period. She suffered from a condition known as Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndrome (MRKH). This condition causes the vagina and uterus to be underdeveloped or absent. She does, however, have normal fallopian tubes and ovaries. Each time Marlene was due to have her period, she had pains in her stomach.

Searching for a cure

Marlene had consulted hospitals and traditional healers (witchdoctors) in several health areas. She had spent a lot of money to try to find a cure or a solution.

When she came to us at the hospital in Lwamba, we carried out examinations and an ultrasound. She had a small uterus which was not connected with the vagina. We decided to operate, which was a lengthy procedure, and then watched to see how her body would respond.

Freedom from suffering

Today, Marlene is menstruating as normal, and it is painless. She is now engaged, and she hopes to have children. Praise the Lord!

We are thankful to God that, at our rural hospital, He enables us to bring good health and provide hope to people like Marlene.



▲ Some of the Lwamba hospital staff



▲ An operation in progress



▲ Operating on a man having a goitre removed



THE BODY OF CHRIST AT WORK

by Robin Kretschman

'For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.' Romans 12:4-5 NIV

Water and electricity

Electric water and ram pumps fill water towers, while water flowing from the river through the canal feeds the turbine which generates electricity at the hydro-electric plant. This, together with a backup diesel generator and a bore hole with some of the cleanest water in all of Zambia, allows Nyangombe Christian Training Centre (NCTC) to be off-grid and self-sustaining in the remote bush of the north-western province of Zambia.



▲ The turbine at the hydro-electric plant

With this infrastructure, NCTC provides community services such as a hammer mill and a rural health post. These services give people in villages around Nyangombe access to resources that make a real difference in their lives.

Equipping young people and children

The primary thrust of NCTC is Bible teaching, where practical Christianity is taught within the framework of Lunda culture. NCTC is a Christian campus where skills training in carpentry, building, metal fabrication, mechanical fitting, IT, dressmaking and design, agriculture and animal husbandry are taught to equip young men and women in gaining either future employment or to earn an honest living through the utilisation of skills acquired.

A great deal of planning and logistics management is required to sustain the work of NCTC. Every member of our staff is important to the work. The team exemplifies one body with many roles for one mission.

As the day starts, smoke swirls up from behind each of the houses at the compound. Breakfast is maize porridge. Children set out for school, hiking down the rocky road to the primary school



▲ Children collecting fresh water

on the edge of the property; the children from the nearby villages bring their empty water jugs to be filled with clean water from the borehole placed across from the primary school by World Vision in partnership with us. As the children head back home later in the day, their jugs will be full of clean water for their families.

Today the Good News Club will run for the 5th graders at the primary school. They will hear a story from the Bible of how God loves them, and do a fun activity. The hour will end with a real treat, a lollipop!

A flurry of activities

The teamwork of those called to NCTC is truly amazing: one body, many different roles. This morning there is a flurry of activity at the kitchen as food prep is done for the meals that will be served to the students today.

Young men are slashing the tall grass, a task they will not need to do during the coming dry months. Others are filling water buckets to give a needed drink to the mango and guava trees that were planted as part of the fruit tree farm project.

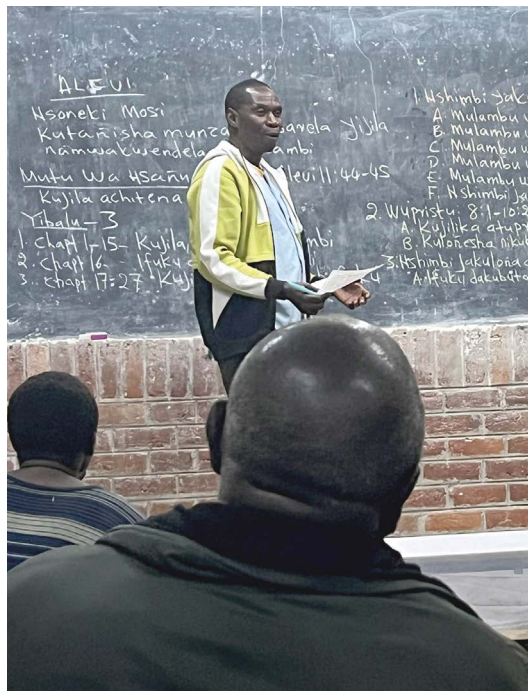
The trainee carpenters and masons begin their day with an arithmetic course. Some started with no education and could not count. Today, they are

adding, subtracting and converting millimetres to metres and centimetres. Their faces light up when they pull their rulers out and can find the right numbers to measure the wood they will be cutting. The clinic staff are busy cleaning, restocking supplies and doing their daily check lists in preparation for patients, the first of whom will be seen at 9:00am. Today, there are already eight people waiting for the clinic to open. Somewhere between 800 and 900 patients will be seen this month.

Working together

Last week all the chalets, dorm rooms and teaching facilities were prepared for the arrival of new guests. They will need to be prepared many times throughout the 2024 Bible School Programme. The students have gathered at the Bible school. Their session has opened with prayer and praises in song and their teacher is taking them through God's Word, His truths, and how to live a transformed life.

All are working together, with one calling, through the power and direction of the Holy Spirit.



▲ A Bible school student practising teaching



SERVING THE WILL OF GOD

by Daniel Habtey

Living according to the will of God, particularly His perfect will, is truly unparalleled in life. While it can be challenging, the fulfilment and rewards that come with it are unmatched.

Inspiring testimony

In 2009, I had the opportunity to attend a conference in Nottingham where a young lady shared a testimony that deeply resonated with me. She spoke of her childhood dream of becoming a physiotherapist, which was ultimately fulfilled by God. Despite having achieved success in her profession, a home, and financial stability, she felt a sense of dissatisfaction. Upon seeking guidance from God, she realised that His dream for her was different from her own. This revelation led her to embrace God's purpose for her life, which ultimately brought true fulfilment.

This testimony served as a profound message for me and was the highlight of the conference. It reminded me of the importance of aligning our lives with God's will, even when it diverges

from our own plans. Though the journey may not always be easy, trusting God and living in accordance with God's will is undeniably rewarding. I think this is the reason Paul pleads with us in Romans 12:2. 'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.'

Praying and pondering

About 16 years ago, I was in Newcastle upon Tyne. After leading an Eritrean community church successfully for three years, I made the difficult decision to step down to prevent a potential split in the church. It was not an easy decision, and for about two years, my heart was broken. During that time, I waited, prayed, and pondered on what my next step should be. To be honest, I found it hard to discern exactly what to do. My soul was troubled, not because I couldn't find something to do, but because I sincerely wanted to follow God's will for my life.

▲ (top) Daniel's testimony in his autobiography

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.'

Romans 12:2

My wife encouraged me to become a medical doctor, reminding me that I had already studied health assistance and worked for six years in a hospital in Eritrea. Another friend from the USA called me and mentioned that nurses and health assistants earn a significant amount of money there, urging me to consider moving. Despite these options, my soul remained restless. I struggled to choose the right path for my life, knowing that God had called me for a specific purpose since 1996, and knowing that I had been very productive back home in Eritrea.

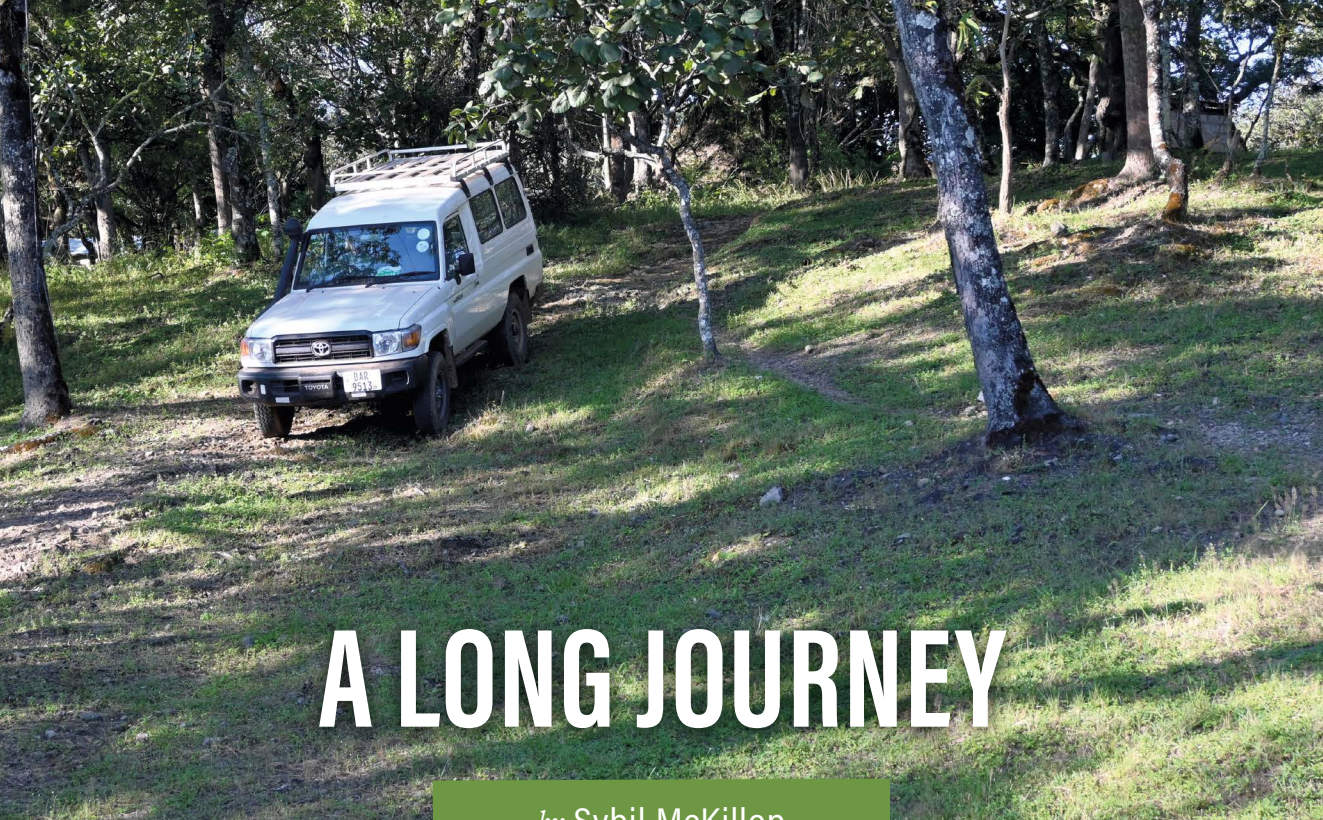
God's pleasing will

Eventually, an American friend invited me to the conference in Nottingham mentioned above. There, God spoke to me through a young woman who was sharing her life testimony. Even though she achieved her dream job with a great income, nice house, etc, God called her to be a missionary in another country. She accepted God's calling gladly, and now leads a joyful life, despite having less money.

After the conference, I prayed and sought the will of God for my life. In 2010, I moved to Huddersfield Elim Church. My journey with Elim eventually led me to work with CAM International. I truly believe that this was God's plan for me, allowing me to preach the good news and equip saints for the work of God. What a joy, and I can attest that this is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God for me.



I believe that this is what truly matters: achieving God's vision for us and living according to His will. This, ultimately, is the most fulfilling and rewarding way to live.



A LONG JOURNEY

by Sybil McKillop

A long journey, over four days and many hours of air and road travel, brought us from Scotland to Nyangombe.

When leaving family in Scotland, one never knows what exactly is coming. Gordon and I are always glad when we are checked in and have our boarding passes, and then it hits us. We try to lessen the pain and tears of separation by having a coffee and chat together, but everyone knows the hurt of separation is waiting at the top of the stairs and will reach its zenith as soon as we pass through the security gates.

Broken sleep and flat batteries

After saying our goodbyes to family in Glasgow Airport, we proceed by plane to Dubai. Seven-and-a-half hours later, we are in Dubai Airport, with an eight-hour stopover until the next flight taking us to Lusaka, Zambia. Broken sleep on a chair leaves us feeling less than alert when we are again waiting at the departure gates. Arrival

at Lusaka is surreal, as the baggage carousel snakes past us with no sign of our travel-scarred suitcases. One appears, and hope rises until all six are safely on trolleys with wonky wheels, and minds of their own, which want to go everywhere we don't!

On arrival at our overnight accommodation, Gordon hurries off to get the Land Cruiser loaded with cases but finds the battery flat! After an hour, a friend arrives with jump leads, and soon the Land Cruiser is working again and loaded for an early start next day.

Rob Woodhouse is travelling with us from Lusaka to Nyangombe. He gives two months of his time every year to teach the trainee carpenters, for which everyone involved is very grateful.

We travel ten hours to Chingola, where we sleep overnight and have a meal with friends. Some Lubumbashi colleagues from years gone by are there, and we reminisce until late.

▲ (top) Arriving back at Nyangombe at last!

Gordon grabs the case out of the vehicle, much to the amazement of the three Chinese men who cannot speak English.

Serious shopping

The next morning at 5:30am we drive to Solwezi to do a big shop - it needs to last for the next four months. This is quite a change in attitude as, when in the UK, I had become used to being able to go to a supermarket any day if needed. Now, visitors coming to Nyangombe in May, June and July must be considered, boxes filled and made secure for the bumpy trip to Nyangombe.

A 'short' detour!

A friend's suitcase did not arrive on her flight to Solwezi, and she asked Gordon to collect it for her. On arrival at the airport, Gordon learns that it has been taken to a large copper mine in Solwezi.

Gordon being Gordon, he goes to the mine and manages to get the manager's phone number, who gives him unusual access to the mine. He tells him to go quickly to the 'Acid Plant' where he has been told visitors have arrived from Solwezi Airport. Gordon has a photo of the suitcase, and sees it being loaded into a pick-up truck by some Chinese visitors going to a distant mine. Gordon grabs the case out of the vehicle, much to the amazement of the three Chinese men who cannot speak English. Five minutes later and the suitcase would have been lost forever and only identifiable by a group of Chinese men wearing Beth's clothes! Gordon returns, and immediately begins loading the shopping into the vehicle.

Return to routine

Two days after arriving in Nyangombe, it is straight into teaching for 20 Sunday school teachers who have come for a Seminar. Gordon and Rob happily take whatever meals appear on the table! Five days after the Sunday school Seminar, a Ladies' Conference begins. Sadly, the numbers are lower than previous years owing to the economic situation affecting food and travel costs, but the presence of God is still with us in a very real way.

It takes only hours to settle back into life and routine at Nyangombe, and we wonder if our short furlough actually happened! We are praying that the lives of the children and adults we work with will be changed by the Holy Spirit so that they want to serve the Lord for the rest of their lives.



▲ A drink with family at the airport



▲ Gordon and Sybil



HOW TO HEAR GOD'S CALL

by Kym Delport

There have been several articles in recent issues of Contact referring to hearing 'the call' of God. As Christians, we want to be in the Lord's divine will and fulfil His purposes for our lives. But how do we position ourselves so that we 'hear' from Him? Below are seven Bible verses which give us clues...

1. Look around

Read *John 4:35* where Jesus asks us to 'wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.' When we open our eyes and look at the needs around us, it will make us aware of what is going on in the world. God speaks to us when we are looking. People need Jesus, He is preparing their hearts. To reach them He needs you and me.

2. Ask what His plan is for you

Read *Matthew 28:19-20* where Jesus says, 'Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit... And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Ask the Lord to show you what His commission is for you, remembering that He has promised to be with you whatever you do and wherever you go. So, you will not be alone, you'll be in co-mission – working side by side with Jesus!

3. Ask for His power

Read *Acts 1:8* where Jesus says, 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses,



▲ Gordon & Sybil McKillop : arrived on the Congo mission field in 1982



▲ Wanderley and Rosaria da Silva : with CAM in Mozambique since 2009

telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ God needs people everywhere, at home and abroad. Where does He want you to be carrying out mission? He’ll give you all the strength and resources you need.

4. **Speak to those who are experienced**

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1 ‘And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.’ The Apostle Paul is encouraging people to follow his example to do what is best for others so that many may be saved. It is a good thing to let God speak to you through His Word, but also come alongside missionaries, either previous or current. Their testimonies of God’s faithfulness and saving grace will help you to realise that you will never be alone while serving Him. Let their stories inspire and motivate you.

5. **See yourself through God’s eyes**

Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-28 God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Don’t underestimate yourself or think you are not good enough. If God could use Jonah to bring the people of Ninevah to Him –

he can use you and me! You may have tried and failed in the past. Don’t let those experiences hold you back. God will equip you when you submit to His will and trust His guidance.

6. **Don’t worry**

Read Matthew 10:5 and 9 ‘Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions... Don’t take any money in your money belts – no gold, silver, or even copper coins.’ Don’t think you must have large amounts of money saved before you can go on Mission. If God is really calling you, He will provide. He doesn’t expect us to be presumptuous, but He always provides when we hear His call and step out in faith.

7. **Trust God**

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:24 ‘He who calls you is faithful.’ As a mission organisation, we want to facilitate those who are called to serve God in foreign countries. If you have heard His call to do this, it means you are listening. Now remain in step with Him, keeping your ears open and attuned to His voice. Follow His call, trusting that He who calls you is dependable, trustworthy and good.



▲ Some of CAM’s earliest missionaries called to serve in Congo



▲ Carol Seymour : arrived in 1973 to teach in Congo



PRACTICAL THEOLOGY AT NYANGOMBE

by Dave Garrard

Back in Zambia, my country of birth once again, it is always challenging and rewarding to visit churches with which CAM International partners. Friends from Chingola met me at the Ndola airport after my long trip from Western Canada, and the next day I was on my way to Nyangombe. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the road has had a lot of work done on it. The bad surface of broken tarmac has mostly been replaced with laterite gravel that enables one to keep going at a good average speed. I had been invited to complete a course I started at the Bible school last year. All those attending the Bible school are active in ministry, mostly in the Northwest of Zambia, but some come from as far away as neighbouring Angola. There was a lot of interaction in the classes on Revelation, a most interesting and dynamic book which is often neglected by Christians because of its controversial and apocalyptic content. I really enjoy the questions, even if I don't pretend to have all the answers. They are indicative of the sorts of problems that are part of the everyday lives of the people who are participating.

Citrus and Sutures

My way of relaxing during the periods between classes was pruning the citrus trees in Gordon's backyard. It is encouraging to see how the trees are developing over the years and giving signs of much better fruit production. Another Canadian couple, from the Brethren churches in

Ontario, were visiting at the same time as me. The McAfreys had been missionaries in Zambia some years previously; she is a nurse, and he is someone who fits in and does what is necessary wherever he happens to be. He used to work with grafting fruit trees, and he spent some time showing Chris Kretschman how to graft various types to benefit from the best stock available. He also helped finish putting glass in all the windows of one of the new buildings, which had been put up by the masonry students, for the new nurse who will oversee the clinic at Nyangombe.

It amazes me how much the McKillops manage to get through every day. I felt sorry for Sybil especially, having to feed all the company that turns up unexpectedly, as well as those who are planned for. She really does an amazing job of hospitality together



▲ Home for the new nurse



▲ Bible school students studying between classes

with the other folk who live on the mission station. It is not uncommon for there to be twelve suddenly around the table, and often without as much as an hour's warning.

One morning while I was at Nyangombe, a delegation including doctors and administrators from Mwinilunga, the provincial district headquarters for the Northwest of Zambia, suddenly turned up just after we had finished our midday meal. They had not come for a meal but were desperate for sutures for their hospital surgery. They needed to operate on several people urgently but couldn't go ahead without supplies. Sybil was able to pass on the necessary materials to them and the next day they contacted her to inform everyone that the operations had gone ahead safely, and all had turned out well.

Gordon has since been able to arrange for a steady supply of new sutures to be constantly available. How is that for practical theology?

No wonder the work at Nyangombe is so appreciated in all the many spheres it touches upon in this out-of-the-way area. Not only do the Bible courses impact the spiritual lives of the people, but the wider ministry also helps facilitate many different areas of daily life that bear witness to the care and love of Christ for everyone.

Wonderful hospitality

Please remember the work Gordon, Sybil and the entire team at Nyangombe are involved in 365 days a year. And thank you, Gordon and Sybil, for your wonderful hospitality. For me, it was like being home away from home.



▲ Dave with Gordon



▲ Sybil providing necessary treatment



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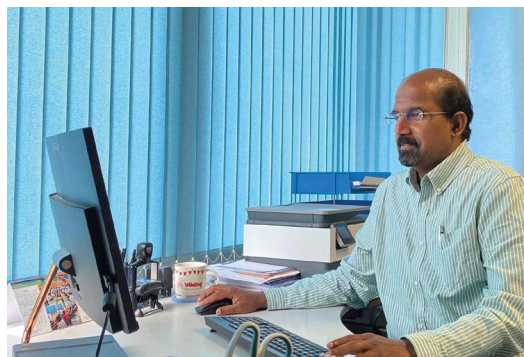
GIVING 100%

by Kym Delpont

Every month, Rajan Joseph works in the CAM office to record all the gifts received by CAM International, either for the specific work of CAM missionaries, or for the general running of the Mission. At the end of each month, I put this information into reports which I send out to the trustees so that they are fully aware of the income and expenditure. We are always amazed at the generosity of our supporters, as well as the faithfulness of the Lord to meet all our needs.

We want you to know that 100% of your gift goes to the field/ministry/project you donate to. In addition, the fields also benefit from gifts given 'for wherever the money is needed most'. The only funds we keep for administrative running costs are a percentage of general, non-specified gifts. Obviously, we do need to be able to operate, so we are extremely grateful for the latter. We work hard to ensure our running costs are reasonable, so always manage to meet the monthly expenses – praise the Lord!

This way of working has always been CAM's policy, meaning that you can be assured that your gifts are reaching the designated people and projects,



Rajan recording your gifts ▲

and the work of mission is not hindered by high administrative costs.

In this issue, you have read some of the stories of what is happening through CAM International. THANK YOU, our faithful supporters, for:

- your interest in this Mission
- your prayers which make such a difference
- your giving to the essential running costs
- your financial support of the work carried out by our missionaries and partners

We remain eternally grateful.

May the Lord bless you 100%!

PDF version

Please note that the **Contact Magazine** is also available as a PDF version. This may be useful for those who travel, or who would benefit from enlarging the print on the computer. If so, please send an email to the CAM office and we will put your name on the PDF mailing list.

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