

ONE AMBITION

"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known" *Romans 15:20a*



It Began with the Cows

By Ruth Cassidy

When three cows died one after another with no apparent connection between the deaths, Peter Snider stopped to ask, "What are you trying to teach me Lord?"

Cows mattered to him. He was a dairy farmer in Woodbridge, Ontario with a wife and five young daughters to provide for. To top it all off, it was the early 1950s when the dairy board was passing new regulations that would eventually put many under-capitalized dairy farmers out of business. These were very difficult days.

Margaret, his young wife, knew the answer to his question. She was convinced that the Lord wanted them to start tithing.

But as yet, she had not been able to convince her slim, blue-eyed husband of that fact. That is, not until the crisis with the cows.

They made the decision together to give ten percent of their income to the Lord, whether they had dead cows or not. Fortunately they had a little income from the pigs to begin their tithing journey. However, they continued to struggle under the heavy cost of the new regulations until finally they decided to sell the farm.

But even in this, Margaret could see God's hand at work. She had noticed how Peter would stand in the field watching longingly as trucks glided by. She knew that he wanted to ride the open road too. And so he did. With the farm gone, Peter turned to trucking.

Peter's new career brought with it new ministry opportunities for both of them. Through the Open Roads Chapel, they gave spiritual support to fellow truckers. In part, this fulfilled a dream that Margaret had had as a young girl -- to be a missionary. Her dream had been cut short when

her father became ill and she was forced to drop out of school to help the family.

Shortly after Peter's career move, the Sniders attended a Wycliffe Bible Translators missions conference at church. ***Upon hearing about their work, Margaret responded immediately by promising to give five dollars a month.*** She had no idea where the money would come from, but was willing to trust God for the funds.

God worked through unusual circumstances to provide the necessary funds promised to Wycliffe. Here's how it happened. While visiting a chiropractor, Margaret noticed the nurse had brought her newborn baby boy to work and had placed him in a basket on the floor beside her desk. The nurse had done all that she could to get the baby to sleep and others had taken their turn trying to console him but to no avail. Then Margaret arrived. She picked the baby up and he stopped crying immediately. For over an hour, he slept peacefully in her arms. The nurse then knew that Margaret was the right person to provide daycare for her son.

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Giving daycare to the young boy provided the Sniders with the funds they needed to honour their pledge to Wycliffe. In the 1950s the going rate for childcare was five dollars a week. Over the eleven years that Margaret cared for the boy, her income increased to twenty dollars per week. **As her income increased, so did her pledges in support of missions.**

It was not until much later, while watching 100 Huntley Street on television, that they became intrigued with supporting ministries to unreached people groups in the Arabic-speaking world. The program featured highlights about Christians, Israelis and Arabs working together to share the gospel. **The Sniders were captivated by the potential of the gospel to bring peaceful relationships between people from rivalling cultures.** They responded by promising financial support to Arab World Ministries. After the merger of AWM with Pioneers in 2010, Peter and Margaret

continued their support of the ministry, by giving monthly to Pioneers' Strategic Priorities Fund.

“Support” to Peter and Margaret means more than giving a donation. It means praying daily for the work. On their kitchen table, they keep a collection of prayer letters from each missions organization they support. Their custom is to pray for one person in each letter every day. In this way, they also provide the spiritual support that is crucial for these ministries.

What began with the cows turned into a lifetime habit of faithfully giving to the Lord. Margaret says, **“Since we started tithing, the Lord has cared for us, and we are thankful that we were able to care for the Lord’s work”.**

 **Can you relate to Peter and Margaret’s story? Perhaps you have your own story of God teaching you about giving. Or perhaps you too are involved in missions through prayer and financial support. What has this journey been like for you? We would love to hear your story! Please contact newsletter@pioneers.ca and share with us! ■**



Director's Message

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul thanks the church in that city for the financial help that they sent (Phil. 4:10-19). In the opening of that letter, Paul tells of his affection for the Philippians by stating that in all of his prayers he remembers them because of their partnership in the spreading of the gospel (Phil. 1:3-6). He goes on to say, “It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, **all of you share in God’s grace with me**” (Phil. 1:7). In this same way, all of you, our faithful donors and prayer partners, share in what Pioneers missionaries are doing to expand the Kingdom of Jesus around the world.

“All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth” (Phil. 1:6). The gospel of Jesus Christ is being preached among the Buddhists of Thailand, the Atheists of France and Spain, the Muslims across North Africa and the Middle East, and other unreached peoples of the world. But if you were to sit with some of our missionaries and hear their stories, you would learn that they do not consider this work their own. They are thankful for the ministry partners that make what they do possible, just like the Apostle Paul. It takes the entire Church to reach the whole world.

That is why we are focusing on you in this issue of One Ambition. **You, our donors, church partners and prayer warriors, are a crucial part of taking the gospel to those who have very little opportunity to hear it. Thank you for your often sacrificial and generous gifts!** May you be blessed as you read these articles.

In His Mercy,

James Kim
Executive Director ■

thank you



Missionary Care and Development

As I get to walk with God's servants who are serving cross-culturally, I recognize more and more how unnatural it is that they live in such isolation from God's body. And yet God has called them to it. It is because of this that I am committing time to ensure that they never need to feel like they are walking alone. I consider the picture of Moses supported by Aaron and Hur and all of them supporting those who were fighting the battle. I am convinced this is God's intended pattern. Thank you for your part in this. Thank you for joining with us so that together we can lift up drooping hands and strengthen weak knees (Heb. 12:12).

- Betty-Anne



Security Training and Support

When we lived in Central Asia, our family had to keep a bag packed. It was there for whenever regional unrest presented a dangerous potential. Walking by that bag - filled with emergency clothes, gear and documents - reminded us daily that we lived with uncertainty; leaving our home and local friends could be imminent. Now, as I serve at the Pioneers office, I can relate to the necessity of helping our workers stay prepared.

We have asked all our workers serving in high-risk locales to receive Security Training from qualified organizations. This training helps alleviate fears by teaching participants how best to respond in a violent encounter, and how to avoid one altogether by identifying compromised situations. Your support of the Strategic Priorities Fund helps subsidize the cost of this training, so that all our workers who need to take it can afford to do so. By giving them the tools to live safely in their host country, you are helping to prolong their presence there, so that they can continue to bring the Good News. Thank you for making possible this vital initiative.

- Michael

A special thank you goes out to our donors who go that crucial extra mile and contribute to our Strategic Priorities Fund. Your giving enables Pioneers to send, train, and care for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing Christ with unreached peoples! With gratitude, we would like to share this sampling of how lives are being affected through this fund to the glory of God.



Recruiting

I remember my first phone conversation with Amber, a young lady filled with passion for helping war torn children and ladies in the Middle East. She knew that God had gifted her with musical abilities and wanted to use these skills in missions but she didn't know how. How could music help war torn children and widows? How could music help people come to the Lord? I didn't know the answer myself, but I knew God was leading her to the field. With both of us trusting in the Lord, I connected her with one of our teams in the Middle East.

That was almost 2 years ago. Last week I met up with her for coffee. She had just come back from a one month "vision trip" with that same team! During this time, the Lord directed her path to cross with, not one, but several music professionals, who each confirmed to her some options for returning long term! As we sat in the coffee shop, I marveled at what God was teaching her, what she saw Him orchestrating in the Middle East, and how she could be a part of it.

My role is to meet with people, pray with them, and mentor them towards missions, but all of this is part of the bigger picture of God raising up His workers for the harvest field. You should know that your gifts to the Strategic Priorities Fund play a big part in that too. Recruiting more workers like Amber is one of the priorities that this fund supports. And that means that you are helping more missionaries find their path to where God is calling them to serve. Thank you for your ministry of giving!

- Joe

 If you would like more information about the Strategic Priorities Fund, call us at 866-268-8778 and we can tell you more examples of how God is using this crucial behind-the-scenes support to train, recruit, and care for missionaries around the world. If you would like to become a Strategic Priorities Fund supporter, you can call us, donate online, or fill out and return the enclosed reply card. ■

Inherited Missionaries

By Lauren Kim

What would you say to your mother if she came to you and expressed a desire to will the support of missionaries to you and your siblings?

This was exactly the situation that Candace found herself in a few years before her mother's death.

Candace's mother expressed her burden and affection for the missionaries that she had been supporting for many years. She informed Candace of her intent to include in her will the support of these missionaries to each of her four children. ***Candace remembered some of those missionaries with fond memories, as her parents had hosted many of them in their home.***

Although she understood her mother's desire, Candace did not think that putting the support of missionaries in a will was a good thing. So, she encouraged her mother to pray to see what God would say about that.

As Candace's siblings gathered after their mother's passing, this very topic was brought up. This item had not made it into her mother's will after all. However, all four siblings shared memories of their parents hosting various missionaries; so they each volunteered to assume the support. That's how Jack and Candace came to partner with Pioneer missionaries—they "inherited" them.

Right from the start of their Christian lives, their hearts were tender for missions. Candace attributes this to a "seed planted by God". The church they attended supported missionaries. When the daughter of one of the church members was being sent out to Brazil, Jack and Candace committed to be part of the support team. They gave what they could financially and prayed faithfully for these missionaries. Over the course of more than 40 years, they added to the list of missionaries that they partner with and pray for, spanning the globe with their ministry.

Their tender hearts for God's work around the world, through prayers and financial support, have spurred them on to get their own hands dirty in sowing spiritual seeds. They have served on short term

missions in Africa and Spain, where they ministered to long term missionaries and their families. ***Through their relationships with missionaries over the years, they have come to realize that missionaries need care just as the rest of us do.*** They learned that, often, when missionaries return to Canada from the countries in which they serve, they find that Canada has changed considerably during their time away. They have also learned that missionaries need listening ears to process the struggles as well as the joys they experience. So, Jack and Candace make an effort to extend hospitality and fellowship when opportunities arise. Like Candace's parents before them, they find joy in hosting missionaries in their home and in providing friendship.





WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEXT SUMMER?

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN SOMETHING WITH LASTING EFFECT AND MEANING?

Check out our Edge program! The Edge is a 6 to 10 week summer missions internship for young adults. Work alongside field workers, begin to learn a new language and culture, and grow in your understanding of God, yourself, and His call on your life. Take the plunge into a bigger-than-life opportunity!

Want to know more? Email us at edge@pioneers.ca or check out the 2015 destinations on the Pioneers US website at www.pioneers.org/edge.

Jack and Candace are not currently able to travel overseas due to health concerns, but they continue to support missionaries through finances, prayer, and hospitality. ***The inheritance they received has increased greatly over the years as they have faithfully given of themselves to expand the Kingdom of God.***

 Jack and Candace inherited missionaries from their earthly parents, but Jesus' death and resurrection provided each of us with an inheritance as well, one that is "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" (1 Peter 1:3-4). As we rejoice in our inheritance from the Father, please pray with us that others around the world would be added into the Kingdom as heirs. ■

JOB POSTINGS



Do you know anyone who is interested in serving in the Pioneers home office in Dorchester Ontario?

Here is an opportunity:

Director of Communications

We are seeking a Director of Communications who will be responsible for planning, developing and implementing all of the organization's communications, both external and internal.

For more information or to apply, please contact hr@pioneers.ca.

ONE IN FRONT, TEN BEHIND

By Eunice Chung

“My work in Asia is not done alone; rather I go with the prayers of a multitude of saints”, explains Will.

Fostered by his travels around the world, *Will’s desire was to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who had not yet received it. For eight years, he prayerfully sought the Lord and waited on Him for guidance. During this time, **God filled his heart with the ambition to use his gifts and professional skills to serve among an unreached people group in East Asia.**

At last, in 2005, Will felt that the Lord confirmed three things: 1. He could live long-term in East Asia. 2. He was able to engage in meaningful relationships with the locals. 3. He could work alongside a family doctor there.

As Will began to prepare for his move to the field, he attended **Pioneers training and orientation for new missionary candidates**. In one of the training sessions, **he was challenged to form a support team**. So Will determined to connect closely with a group of people from his sphere of influence who would share in the Lord’s vision and mission for the people among whom Will was called to serve.

Will understood that this was not his journey alone. He knew that in Scripture, God paints the picture of the Body working together to accomplish His purposes. Just as no member of a body can function on its own, but each must live in conjunc-

tion with the others, Will knew that he had to stay connected with other believers, even as he moved to the other side of the world.

God has graciously placed in Will’s life a group of close-knit friends who would support him throughout his ministry overseas. Will’s team is composed of ten individuals, each with a specific task, a necessary role to fill. This group comes together to pray every second month.

One of these supporters, Alex, the prayer coordinator of the team, shares that he was more than willing to support Will when he discerned that Will’s decision to go to East Asia was really an act of obedience to God. Alex says, “This was not a flighty decision on Will’s part. He had counted the cost and was being a fisher of men with his professional skills”.

Before each meeting, Alex takes time to prepare a prayer guide on behalf of Will. He believes that God has given us two weapons to fight spiritual battles with – prayer and the Scriptures. He shares, **“Will is on the front lines and so I have endeavoured to not only pray Scripture for Will but also to teach others how to pray Scripture for him”**. Alex’s passion to promote prayerfulness for Will is evident in his prayer guides, as they have encour-

aged and taught the other supporters to deploy God’s Word in prayer for Will and for the salvation and ongoing discipleship of people in Asia.

With support from his team of ten, Will is able to do what God has called him to do. They are holding the rope for him, and backing him up all the way.

“My support team has tangibly, generously, sacrificially and relentlessly reminded me that I am loved”, Will shares. The knowledge that people are praying for his ministry gives him strength and encouragement to continue moving forward.

Can you relate to something in this story? Are you friends with a Pioneers missionary? Do you give in support of a ministry? Do you meet with your church or family to pray? Then you are a “missionary supporter”, and your role is an incredible one! As Will says, no missionary goes alone, but with the support of a “multitude of saints”. Thank you for standing behind!

 **If you would like some helpful and creative resources on how to support your missionary, please contact us at newsletter@pioneers.ca or call us at 866-268-8778. ■**

**name changed for security*



AN EPIC journey

By James Kim
Executive Director

“Do you want to go on a road trip?” Lauren and I asked our three girls over dinner.

“Where are we going?” asked Zoe, our eight year old middle child.

“How about making a trek across the western half of Canada?” I asked with excitement.

“Why?” Our ever-logical ten year old asked.

“So that we can visit our missionaries and partners, and get to know Canada better. What do you think?” Lauren asked with enthusiasm and a smile.

So began our epic 15,000 km journey that lasted for 42 days in a minivan through 5 Canadian provinces. Along the way we saw amazing scenery attesting to God’s wonderful creativity and blessing over Canada. We also met up with Pioneers Canada missionaries, prospective missionaries, leaders of churches that we partner with, and other like-minded

organizations. The Lord truly blessed us with wonderful meetings, mostly over great meals. ***But what impressed us the most were the donors who have been giving sacrificially to Pioneers Canada, both to support our missionaries and to support the organization.*** Each person had a unique and amazing story of how the Lord moved their hearts to give.

We met one couple who had been supporting Pioneers Canada missionaries for a while, and as they read the newsletters and as the Lord moved their hearts, they committed to becoming missionaries themselves! Other donors were in business ventures with a desire to give much of their profits to reaching those with the greatest need for the gospel and the least access to it. We also visited several retirement communities where some donors are living out their last days on this earth, desiring to do just a little more for the Kingdom, sending in their financial support and praying for Pioneers Canada and our missionaries. At one dairy farm we visited, our dear hosts allowed our girls to participate in feeding the cows! This family had not had a vacation in decades, and still they wished that they could do more for the missionaries that they were supporting. I could go on and on with many more stories of the lives of those who are giving joyfully and often sacrificially of their resources and of their hearts for the sake of the Gospel. Meeting these people face-to-face was an amazing privilege for our family.

One thing that was common among these amazing stories was that each person we met valued their walk with Jesus above

all else. ***When we asked, “What caused you to start giving to missions, and what keeps you going?” The common answer was, “Because of our love for Jesus”.***

This reminded me of the first core value of Pioneers – Passion for God. In all of our work, our chief aim is to lead people to Jesus; and it’s wonderful to see this conviction affirmed in the hearts of our supporters.

Meeting these faithful donors, who sacrificially give because they love Jesus, reminded us, once again, that God is Sovereign; and He will continue to raise up those who live and work to see His Kingdom come to the darkest places in the world.

Our journey was not epic because of the distance that we covered, the grand scenery that our eyes beheld, the number of beds that we slept in, nor the fact that we were kept safe throughout the trip. It was epic because of the people we met! We are thankful for those that the Lord has raised up to do the tough work of praying and giving sacrificially to see the Mission of God accomplished.

 ***Is God stirring your heart to be more intimately involved in His mission?***

Perhaps He is calling you to take a leap and go to a place where the Gospel has not yet taken root. Is He asking you to become a financial or prayer partner with a missionary, or with the work of Pioneers? If He is nudging your heart, don’t delay. Call us at 866-268-8778, or email us at newsletter@pioneers.ca. ■

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the Cows

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