



Update from Jean Johnson

WMA Senior Consultant



Jean Johnson

When I arrived in Cambodia in 1992, there were more land mines than people! As soon as the de-miners would detect and clear a certain section of land, the Khmer Rouge—a communist rebel regime, replanted the mines in that same location. Removing the land mines proved futile because the Khmer Rouge simply re-laid the mines.

Part of what I do is to facilitate local leaders and churches in different parts of the world to move towards self-support—mobilizing their own local human, spiritual, and material resources to make disciples in their context and beyond. When local entities move towards sustainability, they refrain from relying on outside funding so they can mobilize the resources which are close at hand. However, if missionaries continue to import outside resources into these mission fields, they are in essence re-laying land mines that were already cleared. In other words, the desires and efforts of locals Christians trying to move toward sustainability become futile because outsiders keep undermining their efforts.

With this in mind, I spend a great deal of time providing training for mission-sending organizations, missionaries and sending churches in the USA on how to promote sustainability through their efforts. Troy Groves, a musician and husband of Sarah Groves, a singer and song writer, attended such a training. The Groves have been involved in the Katrina relief effort, economic development in Rwanda, and benefit concerts for Food for the Hungry and International Justice Mission. Troy wrote the following statement about the training:

It is becoming clear that sustainability and unhealthy dependency in missions needs some serious evaluation. Stories of a single international church being painted six times in one summer by short-term missions teams, meaningful indigenous traditions being replaced with non-contextualized Western traditions, and endless financial support of ministries that never transition to an operation of self-reliance are set-backs to furthering God's Kingdom ways here on Earth.

Our church missions team had felt a stirring to take a closer look at our missions involvement. We called upon Jean Johnson. Jean's research, field experience and Biblical training make her an authority in this arena. She teaches with gentleness and respect while not holding back the truth of these very difficult, sensitive situations. The training we have received from Jean has been absolutely invaluable. The curriculum that Jean has developed brings the broad scope of these complex issues together in one fantastic, Kingdom centered program.

With the help of Jean's coaching, we feel that we can proceed now with a better understanding of not only what it means to serve the poor and bring the Gospel to the world, but to do it in a way that is beneficial to the givers and the receivers.

-Troy Groves - Missions Council, Cedar Valley Church, Bloomington, MN

It is to God's glory that I am permitted to be involved in such an important task as this. Every affirmation from Troy is directly traceable to God's grace. God has granted me the opportunities to research, train, and gain experience in mission models that avoid unhealthy dependency. He has opened doors for me to serve as a mission coach and consultant, both in the USA and internationally, as I join forces with World Mission Associates.

Sustainability is not an end in itself, but rather it is a component to "bring the Gospel to the world in a way that is beneficial to both the givers and receivers," as stated above.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

COMING SOON...

Keep an eye out for our NEW website!!!

Including...

- Interactive web tools, including blogs
- Videos on unhealthy dependency
- User-friendly layout & design

How can WE minister to YOU?

Please contact us if you have consulting needs ...

A training curriculum and handbook have recently been developed by Jean Johnson. Please let us know if we can make a presentation to your church missions committee or if you need personal consulting in your own ministry. Let us minister to you and promote the message of healthy, spirit-led self-reliance!



PERSPECTIVES

600-C EDEN ROAD, LANCASTER PA 17601 • phone: 717.299.1427 fax: 717.299.2943
wmausa@wmausa.org • www.wmausa.org

September 2011

Things I Would Do If I Had the Time

Glenn Schwartz



Glenn Schwartz

Recently I have been thinking about what I would do if someone would come along who could do WMA fundraising and administration. Within the last few weeks this person has been found and has joined WMA ministry. His

name is Jim Kelly, and he will be introduced to you later in this newsletter.

If I had the time . . . my highest priority (and privilege) would be to mentor those who have come to WMA ministry as associates or like-minded bearers of our ministry philosophy. The most effective way for me to duplicate my energies is to pay attention to them. The importance of this is two-fold. First, they will go to places that I will never go. Second, the future of the self-reliance emphasis is dependent upon raising up proponents who will continue to carry this message long after I am no longer able to do so.

One of the most effective ways we discovered to mentor others is through interactive forums where people, often representing several different ministries, come together to discuss sustainability issues and problems they may be facing. These have proved to be quite effective. We have had three such forums so far at the World Mission Resource Center, and there are requests from others who would like to have this kind of interaction in their own area in other parts of the USA or overseas.

At these forums, each participant is a presenter. They get to tell their story and interact with all who are present. This means that everyone is a listener, learner and presenter. One of the things I plan to do is make myself available, along with Jean Johnson, to facilitate more of these forums. Encouraging the development of a network of prime movers in church, business and mission circles is something I consider to be an important use of my time and energy in the days ahead.

Second, I would like to take time to think, read and pray about how to best use the time and energy the Lord gives me in the days ahead. Some of the things I anticipate doing are challenging and will need careful reflection and prayer. To be involved at all in this kind of ministry is humbling and a privilege that I do not take for granted. I teach often about the role and importance of prayer. It must become a part of my ministry just as much as those with whom I interact.

Third, there are a series of things related to my book that need attention over the next year or two. This list is not in any order of importance:

- I have only a few hundred English copies of my book left in the current printing. Before reprinting, I need to decide if or how it should be revised and/or shortened.
- The Russian translation of my book

has been well received in Russia and is already out of print. I need to work with people in Russia to find a way to do another printing just to meet the current requests they have received.

- Both French and German translations of my book are in process at the request of church leaders in Switzerland and Germany respectively. If these translations are to be completed and published, I will need to give time and effort to working with those volunteering their time to make them possible.
- A Spanish translation of the book has been requested. A Portuguese version is currently stalled for lack of attention by me and the translators. Each of these requires attention.

"Encouraging the development of a network of prime movers in church, business and mission circles I consider to be an important use of my time and energy in the days ahead..."

Fourth, due to contemporary advances in communication through the internet, there are many opportunities waiting to be seized. Several capable volunteers are standing ready to assist in preparing written materials and DVDs, etc. These are things that can be



(Continued from page 1)

uploaded or prepared for distribution. One project is the possible creation of a combination of a video lecture and a color Power Point presentation that proceeds as the lecture is given. Beneath all of this is a place where notes can be typed in as the listener follows the lecture. The process is only one of the many options available to prepare WMA materials in a twenty-first century format.

Fifth, I have been asked to consider making WMA's message about sustainability available to the secular community in North America. This suggestion has come to me various times over the years, the latest as a result of a presentation I made recently at a medical conference near Washington, DC.

Sixth, the medical community continues to show interest in what I have been saying about the sustainability of Christian medical institutions. For some time I have been involved in discussing plans for a training program for those preparing for a career in Christian cross-cultural healthcare. I will also continue to teach in courses and conferences designed for this audience as the Lord gives me opportunity.

Seventh, I will continue to write for publication as I now do for the bi-monthly publication *Mission Frontiers*. I would also continue responding to the many e-mails that come to me each month. Some of them are serious requests for help in dealing with problems that arise where unhealthy dependency has a foothold.

Eighth, one of the more daunting challenges I face comes out of my experience in Central Africa since I first went there as a missionary in the 1960s. I have written and spoken extensively about unresolved issues in the Christian movement in Central Africa. Contrary to the best of intentions, there has been a resurgence of immorality, witchcraft, ancestral veneration, unresolved dependency issues and even death threats among church leaders. I have been asked to consider listening, learning and sharing what I have learned about this kind of challenge. I do not take a challenge such as this lightly!

Ninth, I plan to continue to speak in conferences, seminars and Perspectives classes while doing consultations for individuals, mission agencies and small groups inquiring about issues of sustainability. This is one of the more rewarding parts of what I do.

Tenth, I will continue to carry my part of being a member of the WMA team. I hope to stay in dialogue with those in Africa, Asia and elsewhere who have declared an interest in the Global Self-Reliance Network and are carrying out significant ministry on the front lines.

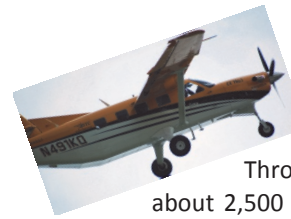
Being relieved of the administrative side of WMA ministry will set me free to do some of the things closest to my heart. I am humbled at the many opportunities that lie before me! I covet the prayers of those who know about my ministry and are willing to continue praying for me and supporting the work I do.



Missions Fest Lancaster Update



www.missionsfestlancaster.org



Thank you to those who attended the third annual Missions Fest Aviation Fair! Throughout the weekend this year, we had about 2,500 attendees. The Smoketown Airport turned into a sea of people coming to experience missionary style airplane and helicopter rides, interact with missionary and other Christian agency exhibitors. It was also an opportunity to introduce children to the world of Christian missionaries and the impact they have particularly through missionary aviation.

The event began on Friday evening with a showing of the movie "Beyond the Gates of Splendor." Steve Saint amazed the audience with personal insights on the movie. The Friday movie night is in its second year and we have received much positive feedback regarding movie showings. Stay tuned to find out the movie title for next year's fair!

On Saturday, the day started with a delicious "hit the spot" breakfast consisting of pancakes, sausage, bacon, orange juice and coffee. It was cooked and served by members of Calvary Church in Lancaster. They worked tirelessly to provide breakfast for hundreds of people. Many attendees enjoy coming to the fairgrounds early for breakfast, then staying to explore the rest of the fair.

We were blessed to have thirty-four missions-related exhibits and four excellent special speakers: Grace Fabian, Peter Spahr, Jason

Miller and Richard Snook. Each of these speakers shared their individual perspectives and stories in a thought provoking presentation. Fair attendees were given a chance to hear our speakers at multiple times throughout the course of the weekend. New to the fair this year was the silent auction. Missions Fest Lancaster received nearly a hundred donations, and some items were turned into door prizes. Thank you to those who donated to Missions Fest in this way. We hope to have another auction next year. If this is something to which you wish to contribute, we will be collecting items beginning in April 2012.

Every year the children's area is an important priority for us. This year we received exciting news that 20 children dedicated their lives to the Lord as a result of the missions activities tailored to them. Children are gifts from God and we wish to create an atmosphere where families can come together and have a learning experience with an eternal purpose. The children's area included creation stations, bounce houses, balloons and barrel train rides.

We wish to thank all of our dedicated volunteers, donors, and sponsoring churches. They make MFL activities possible! We hope that you will come to next year's fair! Please keep on your calendar our upcoming events. Each month we have monthly luncheons at the World Mission Resource Center, a major missions conference in February, and a Women's Luncheon in the spring.

WMA Welcomes Jim Kelly to the team

We are pleased to welcome Jim Kelly to the WMA family. Jim assumed responsibilities for WMA administration and promotion as of August 2011. His training and experience in management and accounting will be great assets in this new role. Jim, his wife Barbaranne, and their five children live in Cumru Township, Berks County, PA which is only about a thirty-minute drive from the WMA office.

Jim has had global experience living or working in Eastern and Western Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa, South America, and the Caribbean. As a member of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, he comes to us with deep spiritual convictions. He has a passion for the sustainability of the church around the world. Most recently, he completed a master's degree in Leadership and Ethics at Duquesne University. Jim has also taken the course Vision for the Nations produced by the US Center for World Mission.

Please pray for Jim as there is much to learn in this position. Pray for Glenn Schwartz as he works with Jim during this time of change.



WMA Annual Promotional Banquet

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The annual WMA promotional banquet is planned for Friday, September 23rd beginning at 6:00pm at the Four Seasons Banquet Facility near Landisville, PA. If you are not signed up to attend, phone the WMA office at (299-1427).

Save the Dates!

LANCASTER MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

3rd Friday of each month

12:00pm-1:30pm

- **October 21:** Glenn Schwartz, World Mission Associates
Topic—"Investment vs. Charitable Giving"
- **November 18:** Dan Hollingsworth, International Network for Leadership Development
Topic: "Effective European Missionaries: Who is Really Getting the Job Done?"
- **December:** No LMF due to holiday

If you are interested in attending our next Lancaster Missionary Fellowship, please **RSVP** by calling our office or sending us an e-mail. All luncheons are held at the World Mission Resource Center on Eden Road.

Also, please let us know if you wish to be added to either the e-mail or "snail" mail LMF reminders list! We will send you a monthly invitation detailing each monthly meeting.

MISSIONS FEST LANCASTER

Upcoming Events

February 17-19, 2012

Missions Fest Lancaster Annual Conference
Lancaster Mennonite High School
Lancaster, PA

May 11, 2012

Women's Spring Luncheon
Four Seasons Banquet Facility
Landisville, PA

Watch the MFL website for more information coming soon!

www.missionsfestlancaster.org

PERSPECTIVES ON THE WORLD CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

Spring 2011

January-April 2011

World Mission Resource Center
Lancaster, PA

www.perspectives.org

Contact Information:

(717) 299-1427

wmausa@wmausa.org