

# Mission Possible

## You May Have Noticed...

I am sure you have heard of the changes taking place in the Pillar of Fire Missions International.

For those unsure about these changes, I would like to give a brief overview.

Rev. Arlene Konkel, who served as director, bookkeeper, and treasurer for many years, has finally taken a well-deserved retirement. After tirelessly serving the missions alongside her husband, Bishop

Wilbur Konkel, Rev. Arlene Konkel continued the work after her husband's passing in 1992.

At the 1998 camp meeting, Rev. Bernard Dawson was appointed Missions Director by the Central Board of Pillar of Fire.

Rev. Dawson lives with his wife, Gale, in Hendon, London. They manage our facilities there, and conduct church services and Bible pro-

grams.

In January 2002, Cheryl Snyder, bookkeeper for the Pillar of Fire, Denver, accepted bookkeeping responsibilities for the Missions as well. A new treasurer has yet to be named. We will let you know when one has been elected.

The current Mission Board members are listed on the back cover of this newsletter.

## Mission Possible

“Then He (Jesus) said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”  
Luke 18:27

Our goal is to publish a newsletter quarterly. Regular articles will include: information from our worldwide mission fields, a highlight or testimony from one of our missionaries, and budget updates.

We hope this information will guide you in your prayers for our mission efforts. And as always, please ask God to guide you in donating to Pillar of Fire Missions International.

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### Special points of interest:

- After many years of faithful service, Arlene Konkel has retired.
- New receipts for donations (Don't be too surprised if they are different.)

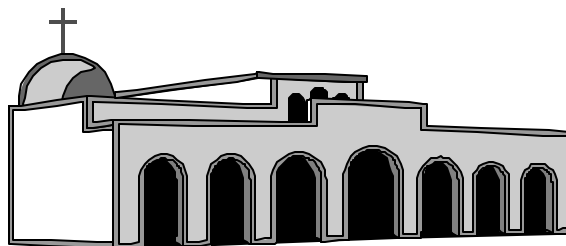
## From the Field

### Hendon, London

Gale Dawson was diagnosed with cancer in July 2001. She suffered greatly from chemotherapy and various complications. She lost 60 lbs and battled severe depression. Thanks to God's gracious mercies and the prayers of many, we are pleased to report that a CT scan shows Gale to be cancer free. Her energy level is approaching normal and her appetite has returned. Gale and Bernard thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and e-mails.

### Cartago, Costa Rica, Central America

Jose Monge Navarro, a native of Costa Rica, was led by the Lord to start a Christian work in the city of Cartago



Churches are being built and the gospel is spreading around the world.

where he lives. As the work grew and new congregations were added, he saw, for the sake of training and accountability, the need to be part of a denomination. He initially contacted the pastor at Pillar of Fire in Zarephath, New Jersey, who consulted with the Missions Director and the

Central Board. After thoroughly interviewing Jose and visiting the work in Costa Rica, they decided to accept him into the Pillar family. This was in 1998. With the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the blessing of the Pillar of Fire International, he opened Ministerio Pilar de Fuego C.R. (lit. Ministry Pillar of Fire Costa Rica). With the help of his father, a church and multi-use facility was built. The congregation continues to grow. And they invite you to come see for yourself the many ways in which God blesses them.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Special Need/Special Thanks

A special need was realized in January. The teachers in Liberia are among the lowest paid of our missionaries. They were receiving \$12.00/U.S. per month.

As you know, Liberia is still struggling to recover from many years of civil war. Jobs are scarce. With no other way to provide for themselves or their families, many turn to theft and robbery.

Our school in Buchanan hired security guards to protect the students and premises. One security guard was badly beaten during a robbery.

It was recommended that salaries be increased to enable us to retain our talented teaching staff and skilled workers. Estimates indicate this will cost an added \$320 per month. As yet, we do not have the funds to accommodate this request.

Joe Gross, principal of Alma Heights, volunteered \$80.00 per month from his school to support this need. The offer of one school to another touched my heart.

We often complain about the school system in America—large class size, the

emphasis of sports over academics, immoral values being flaunted, drugs and gangs, but things are far worse in Liberia.

There the average class size is 40. Students have no textbooks. Few have desks or chairs. As I mentioned earlier, many parents are unemployed and can not afford to send their children to school.

Teachers copy information from a few textbooks or from memory to the blackboard.

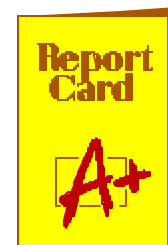
But students are learning, **and achieving exceptional results!** The 9th grade students of our school at Buchanan had the highest national scores in the Standardized Completion Test, which must be taken before continuing further in schooling. Our teachers are very competent!

Our Liberian schools offer free education to all church members, with the expectation that they attend services. Better

funded schools are nearby vying for these teachers. Their offers of better pay have caused us to lose some of our staff already.

God has called our teachers to their work, and He will bless them. God has called you, maybe not to Liberia or teaching. Have you answered His call? Are you a living testimony of God's love and grand design? This is my prayer for you.

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*These teachers and students are remarkable. The hand of God is surely there.*

## From the Field Continued

(Continued from page 2)

### Near Kiev, Ukraine

Leroy and Myrtle Adams are affiliated with Evangelistic Faith Missions. We are unable to support their ministry entirely, however, God has provided their needs in ways that we could not. Although not directly affiliated with us, they adhere to the Wesleyan Arminian theology and have remained dear friends of the Pillar of Fire. They hold church services and work with Kiev Wesley Bible College.

### Khammam, India

While the main office is in Khammam, this ministry is certainly not limited to this district. A list of all activities at this mission could comprise a book, and more

detailed information will certainly be given in further issues of *Mission Possible*. However, here is a quick summary of operations.

We run a children's home, a home for widows, a nursing home, numerous churches and schools.

Brother K. Azariah is the director of this mission. He has numerous people assisting in this extensive operation.

### Buchanan, Liberia

This mission is quite extensive as well. It is providential that reestablishment has been possible so soon after the civil war. Pastor Jacob Tequah is superintendent of operations in Liberia. Oceanview Christian School has 260 students, grades K-9.

The 9th graders taking the national exam, a comprehensive exam requiring rigorous preparation, were all successful. No other school in the city had this success rate.

### Charlie Town, Liberia

The church here is well attended and the school has 175 students, grades K-6. Pastor Enoch Gaadyezon is also the school principal.

### Po River, Liberia

This is where the Blue and Hodgson families worked for many years. The school here has more than 100 students, grades K-6.



The furniture in some classrooms consists of little more than a chalkboard.

## Message from the Director by Bernard Dawson, Mission Director written 7 July 2002

When we think of missions in the Pillar of Fire we think of Wilbur Stanton Konkel. Bishop Konkel caught the mission vision and did something about it. Across the years we have been tipping our hat to the late Bishop and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. He not only prayed about the residents of Africa and other foreign countries, he decided to go there and preach to them. He took the vision and added ambition, dedication, perspiration

and a hard shell hat as he walked and traveled from village to village to show he cared.

Bishop Konkel realized that an informed people would be a generous people, so he launched a buff colored paper affectionately called *Mission News Around the Globe*. He personally gathered information and photos and ran it through his grid in an effort to pass his

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burden onto the reader. This periodical was sent to all the Pillar of Fire branches and to interested individuals. The result was genuine interest, sacrificial giving and informed praying.

It is our prayer that *Mission Possible* will have the same success and that it will enjoy God's blessing.

## Message from the Editor by Heather Lavender

Pillar of Fire Missions International maintains and supports missionaries in Alaska, Costa Rica, England, India, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Russia, and Ukraine.

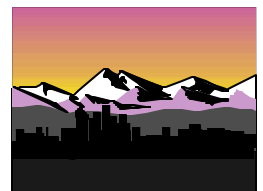
I will continue to gather information and give further reports in the next issue.

If you have any questions or interesting remembrances of our missions or missionaries, please share them with me.

My name is Heather Lavender. I have many reasons to feel compelled to help the missions. My mother, Cheryl Snyder is the new bookkeeper for the missions. My husband, Andy, is related to the late Bishop Konkel, founder of Pillar of Fire Missions International. During WWII, my mother-in-law, Edna, and her sisters, Olive and Marjorie, were put into the charge of the Pillar of Fire, Hendon.

This is my way to make a small contribution. I pray that it will be a blessing to you.

I look forward to hearing from you, and reporting more in the days and months ahead.



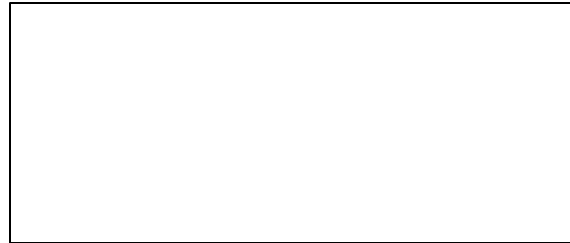
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*Save the Child, Save the Nation*



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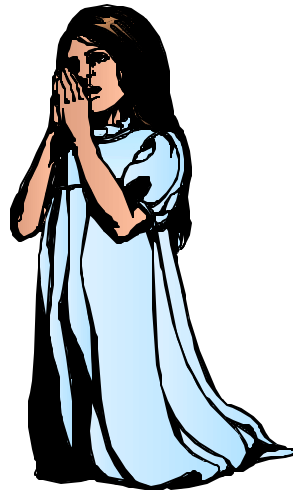
England

Gale Dawson

Dr. Robert Dallenbach

Dr. Gary Maxey

David Gross



*Save the child. Save the nation.*