

OUTREACH **ONLINE**



transitions

growth

shifting

development

progress

advancement

adjustment

conversion

passage

change

adaptation

transformation

¡Cambios Hay!



I spent several years serving as a missionary in Spanish-speaking countries. During that time, I often heard the phrase “*Cambios hay*,” which basically translates, “Change happens!”

People used this similarly to the French phrase “*C’est la vie*,” usually when they were tempted to cry, shout in frustration, or even throw their hands up in defeat. I have found that adopting a *cambios hay* attitude works best for surviving circumstance shifts. First, I acknowledge that change is part of life, then I decide to embrace it, enjoy it, and sometimes even look forward to it!

In my nearly 19 years with One Mission Society (OMS), I have experienced God’s faithfulness through several changes. This issue of *OMS Outreach* highlights a few global transitions. One of the biggest updates is the passing of the presidential baton from our current OMS President, Bob Fetherlin, to our President-elect, Jeff Edwards. On July 1, Jeff begins his role as the 11th OMS President in our 121-year history! That is pretty remarkable.

I look forward to seeing how God will continue using Jeff and OMS to multiply disciples around the world.

Susan Loobie

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Outreach Online equips Christians to make disciples of Jesus Christ through informative, inspiring, and involvement-driven articles, which leads to deeper missions participation by serving, giving, and praying.

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For Everything There Is a Season

It's hard to believe that nearly eight years have passed since God led Esther and me to One Mission Society (OMS). From our first days at OMS' World Headquarters in Greenwood, Indiana, God gave us an immediate love for its wonderful people, its rich history, and its clear purpose: spreading the Good News of Jesus to as many people as possible and helping new disciples grow into disciple-makers. We feel truly undeserving of the gracious welcome and the honor of serving the Lord through OMS during these years.

In Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon declares, "For everything there is a season." Esther and I sensed God's clear leading to OMS in 2014. In the same way, as we sought the Lord's wisdom and guidance through our current season, we became confident that the time had come to pass the OMS presidential baton to a younger, well-qualified couple with the gift of leadership.

So, we rejoice that, with strong OMS Board affirmation, this sacred baton will pass to Jeff and Laura Edwards on July 1. We're confident that the OMS family will rally around them with support through much prayer and encouragement.

As Esther and I transition, we're thrilled to continue with the coordination of the Billion.Global vision, led by OMS, and will always have deep gratitude for eight wonderful years at OMS. Visiting OMS signatories, fields, seminaries, partner churches, Board members, and partner ministries will forever be held in our hearts as an incredible privilege. Thank you, Lord ... and a warm, hearty thank you to the OMS family!

We hope you enjoy this issue of *OMS Outreach*, highlighting other exciting transitions and changes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob'.

Bob Fetherlin



Boldly We Obey

| By Jeff Edwards, Executive Director of Global Ministries

Everyone experiences transitions. Some are instant, while others are gradual. Take travel, for example. When my parents, Max and Dixie Edwards, and my family moved to Brazil as OMS missionaries in 1970, it took us 12 days on the ocean liner *Leonardo da Vinci* to transition to Brazil. Today, new missionaries leave their home countries and enter unfamiliar lands in a matter of hours.

I witnessed my parents modeling bold obedience through life-altering transitions when I was young, and this helped set the pattern in my own life ... to boldly obey the Lord in all my decisions.

Before my wife Laura and I went to Brazil as career missionaries with OMS, we stepped into parenthood, a massive transition in any couple's life. Then, as we served for 22 years there, we experienced other ministry transitions as we pastored, taught at the OMS Bible college, mentored, served on boards or in administrative roles, counseled, preached, disciplined, planted a daughter church, and led couples retreats. In each of these roles, one consideration was al-

ways at the forefront of our decisions—to boldly obey God.

We raised our two girls, Katie and Kendra, in Brazil. They now have their own families, and we are blessed with five grandchildren.

In 2008, when Laura and I returned to the U.S. from Brazil, we went through a period of loss. We left one newly married daughter in Brazil. Our other daughter was starting college, so we were adjusting to an empty nest. We left an entire life of ministry in Londrina, and we lost our comfortable context of friends and a known environment. OMS asked us to serve as regional directors for Latin America/Caribbean, but we were still praying about accepting that role. I was a "practitioner," not an "administrator." However, by the spring of 2009, we accepted this role, confident that God would grow us into his calling if we would boldly obey. Around this time, Laura started her own transition toward a ministry to students in the academic world.

Two years ago, OMS asked me to move into the role of executive director

of Global Ministries. Once again, after seeking God, Laura and I agreed that this was God's call, trusting that he would continue growing us into his calling if we would boldly obey.

Now, as before, we are at the edge of one more transition. It followed a similar path to the previous transitions: an unexpected request, prayer, surrender, acceptance, bold obedience, and God's absolute faithfulness. Although life is full of change, we rest in the one unchangeable constant in our lives ... God. That is why I look to the future as OMS' 11th President with hope and optimism. God is already there, and we trust him explicitly.

In John 17:21-23, Jesus called his church to unity. Our name, One Mission

Society, reflects that priority. I often write ONE Mission Society, emphasizing this God-given mandate for unity. I look around our OMS world, and I see signs of increasing unity, whether that's on a field with a missionary team, a connection between signatory leaders, a camaraderie between itinerant and residential missionaries, or a joint effort among various partners in a given region. Unity does not mean uniformity, but it does mean rallying around shared purposes. And those shared purposes have not changed since OMS began in 1901 as we still prioritize working with partners to multiply disciples, churches, leaders, and missionaries. ▲



photo, page 4: Jeff (in red shirt) Edwards and family served in Brazil from 1970-1983. photos, page 5, left: Jeff and Laura's immediate family top: Jeff and Laura served in Brazil for 22 years. bottom: The Edwards family in 2015, before Max passed away.





We Do Not Walk Alone

| By P*, Asia/Pacific Regional Director

It is hard for people who have mainly lived in one country to relate to culture shock. Really, “culture shock” is not a great term for what happens. “Culture stress” may be a clearer representation. The experience can be a steady buildup of confusion and anxiety.

After the exciting “honeymoon phase” of landing in an exotic new place, an unsettling feeling comes. You realize you don’t really understand what is happening around you. You become more aware of your lack of control and feel the humiliating sting of being illiterate and unable to communicate. People smile with pity at the blundering foreigner. Sometimes,

they stifle a giggle as you bumble along. Sometimes, they don’t.

Beads of sweat build on your brow as you line up to buy a simple bag of chips at the corner store; your brain frantically rehearses the words you need to say. The little boy in front of you effortlessly pays for his snack and orders a slushy. You envy his ability to speak. Finally, you arrive at the counter, and your tongue contorts, trying to make the sounds necessary to purchase your chips. Then, you open your wallet, which is filled with strange coins and bills. Like a toddler, you hold it up and trust the clerk to only take what you owe him. That is when

you remember how you used to communicate easily and when going to the store on the way home from work was nothing.

This has been my story.

As I returned home after a particularly frustrating day, lost and out of place, my mind wandered down a lonely path. On this path, I met another man who had wandered the way of an outsider. I walked with him for some time, saying nothing but comforted by his presence. "I am a Canadian, born in Germany, who lived in two Asian countries before being forced to leave. I am now adjusting to my third country," I ventured forth. "I have taken on jobs that I was not trained for and moved from a rural town of 250 to live in a city of 14 million. How is that for feeling out of place!" I felt better having said my piece and displaying the vast chasm I was straddling. It was like a trophy. "See what differences I am trying to overcome," I was saying.

The man looked at me with a gentle, loving smile. "I am the King of the universe, Creator of everything. I was born in a barn and placed in a feeding trough." he said. "Though I am eternal, I became limited by time. I am Spirit, but I became flesh. I am God, but I became a child."

I absorbed his words and pondered.

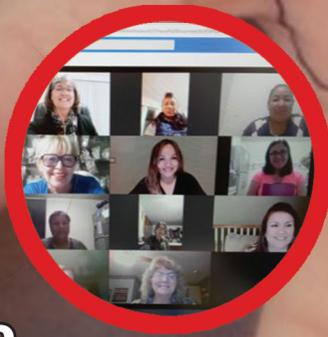
The great God of everything became a man, one who was rejected and despised. He was the epitome of an outsider. If anyone could relate to culture shock, it was Jesus. Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin." I marveled at the thought. Even in culture shock, that odd malady faced by those who live in foreign lands, God understands far more than we will ever know. What an honor to have such a High Priest.



photos, pages 6-7: Typical street scenes in Asia

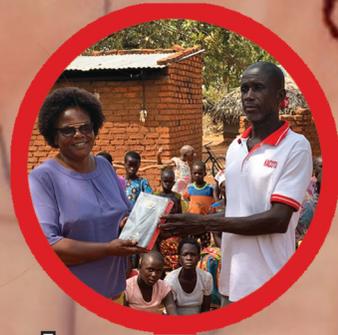


Around the World of One Mission Society



Mexico

From August to December 2021, OMS' Dynamic Women in Missions (DWIM) ministry, in coordination with several OMS ministry leaders, led eight Mexican women in an eight-week virtual class. It was worth two credit hours at the OMS seminary in Mexico, SEMBIMEX. OMS missionary instructors included Fiona Richardson, Rachel Coleman, Susan Brabon, and Colleen Weaver, with DWIM leaders and volunteers helping make it a fruitful experience.



Uganda

Chuck Rapp, OMS regional director for Africa, and our Africa Village Church Planting leaders visited a Ugandan church in Kirimwa village in late January. More than 300 worshipers gathered; some walked more than six miles to get there. The man pictured above is a local government official. He and six young girls committed their lives to Christ! Praise the Lord!

Ukraine



On February 24, Ukraine's capital city, Kyiv, heard the first explosions of Russia's attack on Ukraine. This is the largest European invasion since World War II. OMS had five family units ministering in Ukraine. The four serving in Kyiv safely evacuated to Hungary and the UK. The other couple resides in Lviv in western Ukraine and has evacuated to Poland.

Our OMS Europe/Middle East team is actively serving at the borders to offer food, water, and other essential supplies. To learn more and donate toward this relief effort, visit www.onemissionsociety.org/UkraineRelief.



South Korea

In early February 2022, 36 theological educators and church leaders from India, Japan, South Korea, Nepal, the Philippines, and the U.S. joined with leaders from Seoul Theological University on Zoom for a homecoming day. These former participants of the Wesleyan Holiness Summer Study Program shared what they had gleaned from the program, which was held from 2013 to 2019 but canceled the past two years due to COVID. Seminary leaders in these and other countries have implemented what they learned and include it in their schools' curriculums to pass on to next generations. We praise the Lord for lives and ministries transformed through the program.



New Zealand

A belated but warm welcome to Stephen McCurdy, OMS New Zealand executive director. Stephen, with his wife Bex and their two young children, joined OMS in February 2021. Stephen was born in Texas and met his Kiwi wife in the U.S. Soon after meeting, they married and started their family. On a visit to Bex's family in New Zealand, Stephen realized that is where God wanted them. We celebrate Stephen and family joining OMS!



A Family Calling

| By Naomi Johnston,
OMS Hungary Missionary

I remember clearly the moment that I felt called into missions. For some people, the call becomes a gradual pull in that direction. For me, it felt immediate and powerful. I'm no stranger to impulsive decisions, but the external motivator that lit the fuse also made an impact.

Over the last decade, I have poured my life into media and becoming a better craftsman of good media. So, it was fitting that a movie sparked my conviction to serve in missions. I was watching a movie based on real-life events around human trafficking in Europe. It was particularly hard hitting, and by the end, I found myself questioning how God allowed these things to happen to people who had never heard about him. When I expressed this to my dad, he said, "I'm not sure exactly how it all works out, but

I am sure that Jesus commissioned us to go and do something about it." Well, that settled "slowly" into my spirit ... for exactly two days. And I decided to go.

My husband Glyn's call was more of a journey.

We have always moved at different paces with different agendas, and I've often said that our relationship has been like two parallel lines; we're never on the exact same track, but we're usually headed in the same direction. For a few months, we felt the tension of one of us being called to missions before the other. It was an incredibly confusing time. I had to learn to be quiet and let God talk to Glyn. Those who know me well know that this is no mean feat, but as I became still,



I saw God work on Glyn's heart. When we finally agreed that moving overseas and doing missions was our calling, it felt unbelievably rewarding.

Then, we had to think about our daughter Minna.

I gave birth to Minna in early 2017 while we were well on the path to domestic family life in New Zealand. She was 18 months old when we took our first short-term trip to Hungary to see if it was the right fit for us. By the time we moved to Hungary, she was 4 years old. Along with us, Minna had to say goodbye to best friends, special things, memorable places, and loving family members. The difference is that she did not choose any of this. Minna was born into it, while Glyn

and I could wrestle with our callings and our desire to move overseas. We hold that tension every day. But God knew what he was doing when he gave us Minna. She is the most content, adaptable child I know, and she has a wildfire in her that sparkles out of her eyes. God knew our child needed to be just as called as we are, and she definitely is.

So, while each person in our family experienced the call to missions differently, God has been knitting us together through it all. Challenges that brought up chaos and strife have also cultivated unity and strength in our family.

Moving to the mission field is undoubtedly the hardest thing we've ever done, but I wouldn't change it for the world. ▲



Leaning Into the Change

By Chris Williams, Latin America/Caribbean
Regional Director

My wife Heather and I, along with our three children (a 10 year old and 8-year-old twins at the time), arrived in Medellín, Colombia, without ever stepping foot in the country. As we traveled the twisting road from the international airport, down the Andes Mountains, and into the city of Medellín, both Heather and I questioned our decision. Heather later confessed her thoughts on that one-hour ride: “I felt like I was being swallowed into the belly of a beast and felt so small.”

The following days, weeks, and months were a whirlwind of activities, with new sights, smells, experiences, and relationships. We had said goodbye to many things and people to answer a call that God laid before us ... an experience countless predecessors have also known. But this time it was *our* experience, not merely stories of others. The time seemed to fly as we became more involved in min-

istry, made friends, and began a normal, albeit different, life. Slowly, Colombia became home, and its people became friends and even family!

Fast forward almost seven years later, and we are entering another transition, but in reverse! On July 1, I will begin a new ministry assignment as the executive director of Global Ministries at the One Mission Society (OMS) World Headquarters. Heather will serve as the director of OMS Short-Term Mission Trips. We find ourselves thinking in those familiar patterns, questioning our decisions, and being swallowed by a beast (overwhelming emotions). Nevertheless, we have learned so much from this walk with Christ, and we know that he will sustain us through these changes. The whirlwind of activities, new relationships, responsibilities, challenges, and a plethora of things to learn will become our reality for a period.



But we will lean into the strong arms of God and thrive as a tree planted by streams of water.

We have tried to live open-handed before the Lord so that he can provide what he wants to give us and take what he wants us to give up. As he closes this chapter of our service in Colombia, we are somewhat broken and sad, and we feel the loss. But we know that he is placing something else into our open hands: new friends, opportunities, and experiences of his grace toward us. I continue hearing in my mind the phrase Isaiah said to God, “*¡Heme aqui! ¡Envíame a mí!*” (“Here I am, Lord! Send me!”)

I am excited about where God is leading us and am praying for his blessing over OMS. While God leads our family to serve in a different position and place, we are excited to see those he will call to

step into the roles we will leave in Colombia and the Latin America region. Another will hear the Lord’s voice and respond, “Here I am, Lord! Send me!” The transitions that come from obedience to the Lord’s voice are the ones that excite me to the core of my being! May we all be so led by him!



photo, page 12: The Williams family, along with Juan, a close family friend photos, page 13, top: Helping people in need, like this woman, comes naturally to Chris. middle: Beautiful Colombian children bottom: Heather, with a few friends in Colombia

The Only Constant Is Change

By Chuck Rapp,
Africa Regional Director



It's been said, quite accurately, that “the only constant is change.” One Mission Society (OMS) is experiencing several changes in our Africa ministry region.

Within the past six months, we have seen several transitions in the Mozambique field. We have a new team leader, and we have two new missionaries who arrived shortly after the first of the year. We praise the Lord for this!

Jeff Acton graciously accepted the role of team leader for Mozambique. He brings a collaborative style of leadership to this multi-national, multi-cultural team. Lots of changes are underway there. Another significant change is the transition of the everyday leadership of Christian Academy in Mozambique from OMS to Teach Beyond. This is going well; OMS still has representation on the school board, while Teach Beyond now has responsibility for staff, curriculum, and operation of the school. This frees up our missionaries to focus on their areas of calling in alignment with the updated OMS framework.

New OMS missionaries Eli Filho and Kara Lantrip have begun their service in Mozambique. Both persisted through many governmental complications while trying to get to the mission field during a pandemic. We rejoice in their talents and obedience.

Meanwhile, our Village Church Planting (VCP) ministry is also thriving in the midst of many transitions. VCP has expanded into several new countries over the past two years, bringing our total number of nations to 31 (out of 54 countries in the African continent). The number of training centers has increased to almost 600. We have made major updates to both the VCP curriculum and the training methodology. A completely new curriculum is being written under the leadership of veteran OMS missionary Dean Davis. We are implementing a training methodology whereby adult students will learn more effectively because they learn from one another.

At this point in the process, five of eight terms of training materials have been completed in English. Translation teams are also working to make these materials available in French, Swahili, Amharic, Chichewa, and Portuguese.

Yes, change remains a constant in the OMS Africa region, all with the goal of bearing much eternal fruit in our kingdom labors. “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples” (John 15:8).



photo, page 14: African women enjoy market day. page 15, top: Commissioning prayer is held for Jeff and Courtney Acton in Mozambique. middle: Students pose at a VCP training center in Uganda. bottom: Ugandan VCP students worship on Easter Sunday under a jackfruit tree.

From Anywhere to Everywhere

| Compiled by Lydia Gard, Associate Editor, Communications

Early in One Mission Society’s (OMS) history, OMS cofounder Charles Cowman wrote, “Japan will never be won by foreign missionaries (alone) but rather be brought to Christ by her own sons and daughters.”

OMS has always operated based on this foundational understanding—not just in Japan but for all 75 nations where we serve—and thus has made training national believers a high priority since the beginning. We now share a few exciting transitions throughout the OMS world where countries that traditionally received missionaries are now sending missionaries! We asked Susan Truitt (ST), missionary with OMS Korea; Rev. S. Duraiswamy (RD), who serves with OMS’ partner ministry, the Evangelical Church of India (ECI); Mônica Cristina (MC), missionary with OMS Mozambique; and Chris Williams (CW), regional director of the OMS Latin America/Caribbean region to share about such transitions.

OMS Outreach: Susan, how have you seen God working through your OMS field as it transitions from receiving missionaries to sending missionaries?

ST: The Korea Evangelical Holiness Church (KEHC) currently has more than 500 missionaries serving in about 60 countries. The Evangelical Missionary Training Center (EMTC) [in South Korea] is a training center for KEHC missionary candidates. It is exciting to see so many Korean missionaries being used by God to serve in various countries.





national believers need to be prepared to move within their country to reach the unreached for Christ.

Outreach: Reverend, how has ECI transitioned from receiving missionaries to sending missionaries?

RD: ECI started a missionary division in 1974 to send missionaries to different parts of India. We have both cross-cultural and national missionaries working with the Indian Missionary Movement (IMM) ... 1,250 missionaries serving across the country. Through the work of IMM, ECI has 20 churches and 22 missionaries working in the Jawadhu Hills region of India as well as 35 students enrolled in Bible school.

Outreach: How do you think OMS can help more national believers to serve outside their home countries?

RD: Things have changed these days because India can't have full-time missionaries from other countries. So, the



are many things related to oral communication that are difficult to understand, such as the dialects ... On the other hand, people are very hospitable and kind.

Outreach: Mônica, how did God connect you to OMS?

MC: I came to know about OMS through my home church, the Central Missionary Church of Maringá, in Paraná, Brazil, which was founded by OMS missionaries in 1953.

Outreach: Why did you want to serve in Mozambique rather than remaining in Brazil to minister?

MC: I truly believe that God pointed me to Mozambique. He confirmed this direction to me in many ways. My adaptation to Mozambique has been challenging in several ways. Even though the local language is Portuguese, there



are many things related to oral communication that are difficult to understand, such as the dialects ... On the other hand, people are very hospitable and kind.

Outreach: Chris, how have you seen God working through the OMS fields as we transition from receiving missionaries to sending missionaries?

CW: We see God working in and through the national churches to ignite a passion for the nations and for unreached and under-reached people. The global church is obeying the Spirit's leading, even when it begins to break from the traditional mission models of years past.

Outreach: What are your dreams for OMS in sending more national missionaries in the future?

CW: I dream of a day where sending missionaries in OMS is less like a one-way street (from signatory to field) but rather becomes a multidirectional highway system. I would love to see fields that are receiving and sending missionaries so that we will be part of the "from anywhere to everywhere" solution that the Great Commission demands.

In Memoriam

In 2021, One Mission Society lost several beloved missionaries. We honor and remember these OMS missionaries who served with distinction for 10 or more years.



Tim Bell became an ordained minister shortly after marrying his wife Nancy. They joined OMS in 1993 and served in Mexico. In 1996, Tim transferred to the Northeast region in the United States, where he was the director of Regional Ministries, connecting missionaries with speaking opportunities in churches, camps, and conferences. Tim was an active OMS missionary when he passed away.



Sylvia (Knapp) Ellis began her career with OMS in 1962 in Taiwan and China. She taught English and music, and she challenged believers to share their faith outside of the classroom. Sylvia also hosted visiting missionaries. She returned to the U.S. in 2005 and worked at the OMS World Headquarters in Greenwood, Indiana, then briefly returned to Taiwan in 2007. Sylvia retired from OMS after marrying Bob Ellis.



Erica Fiorenza and her husband Eduardo began serving with OMS in Latin America in 1971 after years of church ministry. Erica's roles included local church assistance, focused on women and children. Eduardo and Erica retired from OMS in 1986 but continued sharing God's love by raising funds for OMS seminary scholarships and ministering through their local church.



Kristine (Kris) Fitch and her husband Ken were accepted as OMS missionaries in August 1984 and were commissioned by the end of that year. They spent most of their years of service in Brazil and Florida. Kris was gifted with administrative skills and worked as a treasurer.



William (Bill) Glace served with his wife Janie in Haiti from 1978–1983. He played a vital role in developing roads for OMS ministries in Haiti. Bill also served as a member of the OMS USA Board of Trustees for 16 years. He regularly volunteered with MFM, leading dozens of MFM short-term trips through the years. Bill was serving on the Board when he passed away.



Dottie Nealis went to Brazil with OMS directly out of college in 1956. She met her husband Grant at an OMS conference, and they served as OMS missionaries in Hong Kong for 22 years. Dottie's servant heart thrived when she helped others. She advised young missionaries, taught in rooftop schools, and served as a nurse when needed. After leaving Hong Kong, Dottie and Grant worked at the OMS World Headquarters until their retirement.



Kent Ragsdale and his wife Linda began their missionary service in 1959 on the OMS compound in Vaudreuil, Haiti. Kent worked as a radio engineer. He mentored Haitians, held crusades around Haiti, and often provided sound and recording equipment for other ministries. He regularly fixed a variety of appliances and machines for both missionaries and other radio stations. Kent and Linda served in Haiti for 47 years.



Eudene Snyder and her husband Myron served at the OMS World Headquarters. Eudene, a humble woman who gave glory to God in all she did, started as a keypunch operator and expanded into other areas of office support. Eudene and Myron retired from OMS after serving for 22 years.

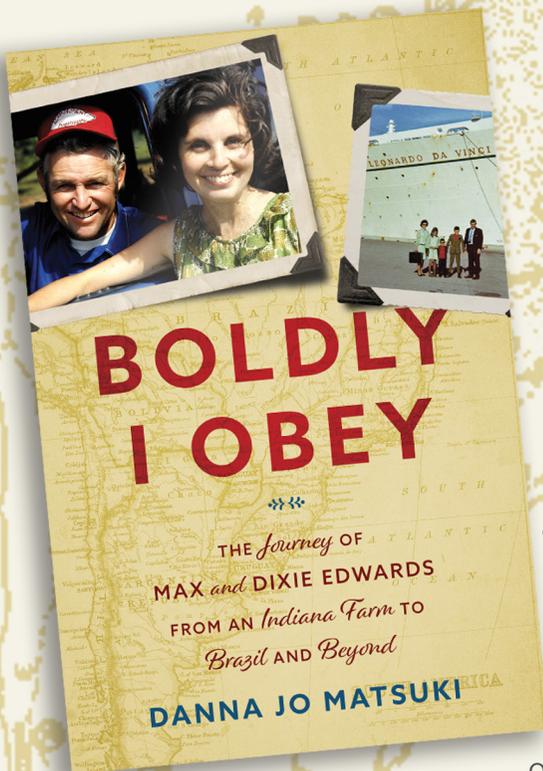


Art Shelton and his wife Carol joined OMS and sailed to Japan for missionary service in 1953. The couple had an open-door policy and welcomed many OMS missionaries, students, and other visitors into their home. They also served at Tokyo Biblical Seminary and visited every Japan Holiness Church. They retired after 40 years of faithful service in Japan but returned occasionally to help OMS ministries.

Get to know the next OMS President!

BOLDLY I OBEY

*The Journey of Max and Dixie Edwards
From an Indiana Farm to Brazil and Beyond*



From obedience in everyday decisions to uprooting his whole family, Max Edwards strove to obediently accomplish whatever God would have him do. Following God's call, he, his wife Dixie, and their children (including OMS President-elect Jeff Edwards) left all that they knew to go to Brazil as OMS missionaries. Through many adventures, uncertainties, and opportunities, Max and Dixie boldly followed God. They experienced his faithfulness, from developing camping ministries to spreading God's light in places overrun by spiritism.

Cost: \$14.00 plus shipping

Order your copy from OMS today by contacting Lydia Gard at lgard@onemissionsociety.org.