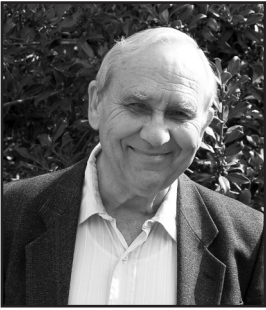


Tribute



Irv Monteiro

Irv never stopped learning, never stopped serving, and never stopped introducing people to Jesus.

Irving Stewart Monteiro October 16, 1925, to July 27, 2010

Irving Monteiro was born in San Diego, California, on October 16, 1925, and was a US Army medic in France during World War II. He later committed his life to God and missions. Educated at Seattle Pacific University and Moody Bible Institute, Irv and his wife, Zora, served as teachers with The Evangelical Alliance Mission in North India during the 1960s. Irv continued to teach in Christian and public schools when the Monteiros returned to the United States.

Irv and Zora joined Action International Ministries in 1981. Over the years, Irv was ACTION's Travel Coordinator, making travel arrangements for short-term and career missionaries. Zora assisted with this task until she went to be with the Lord in 1996. Irv also began a part-time ministry to immigrants, ethnics and internationals in 2000. Some of those he ministered to were students at the University of Washington. They came primarily from China, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam and included Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, and Shintoists. Irv found it challenging and thrilling to find that some of these people were voluntarily seeking to know more about Christ.

Irv moved to Sedro Woolley, Washington, in 2004 to live with his daughter and family, but commuted to his Bible study in Edmonds and to the ACTION office each Wednesday. Irv

maintained missionary travel updates weekly from his home computer.

Irv never stopped learning, never stopped serving, and never stopped introducing people to Jesus. He was always ready to tell people about the Lord! Irv constantly lived with Christ before him and heaven in view.

Joy, his daughter, told about the only regret voiced by Irv in his last days. He so wanted to be called up to meet Christ in the rapture. "Oh well," he sighed in resignation. After a moment of contemplation he exclaimed, "I will be there! Just coming with Christ from the other direction!"

Irv passed away on July 27, 2010, in Everett, Washington.

More than 200 people, including family and loved ones, gathered at the First Baptist Church in Sedro Woolley to celebrate Irv Monteiro's life on July 31, 2010. Irv planned his own memorial service to guide those in attendance in worship and praise of his Great Redeemer and King. Recounted in the many tributes given were Irv's love and longing for Christ and his godliness, humility, gentleness, kindness, compassion for the weak and needy, perseverance, joy and never-ending smile.

These lines are from his poem "Is this Resurrection Morning?"

"Have I died? Am I in heaven?
Or, but dream I of this place?"

"Oh, yes, I have come to heaven
For I see Christ's lovely face!"



Worldwide News Briefs

by Andrea Johnson

Africa

Malawi

A new church has been planted in a remote area of Malawi just south of the home of Chet and LeAnne Burns *in* Lilongwe. It is the only place of worship within an hour's walk, and yet the pastor has no Bible training, no study materials, and never even received a high school education. He tends a farm during the week to support his family because the people of his congregation are too poor to pay his salary. In spite of all these difficulties, this pastor has tremendous love for the Lord and a strong desire to serve his congregation. Chet says that this story, with minor alterations, could be repeated several dozen times throughout this region of Malawi. Virtually all pastors in these remote villages are untrained and unpaid.

There has long been a desperate need for a biblical training school in this region of Malawi! The Pastors' Training Center, a free school that reaches out to rural untrained pastors, has recently opened in direct response to this need. Led by Pastor Matthews Phiri, its first class has 36 students in attendance. The students attend class once a week and have homework and practical assignments to complete between sessions. The current courses are "How to Study the Bible" and "Old Testament Survey." Please pray that God will use Pastor Matthews Phiri and the Burns to effectively train these pastors to be able to better share Christ with their congregations.



Zambia

A driving force of ACTION Zambia's ministry is the passion and commitment to train leaders who will train future leaders. Steve Allen says, "We at ACTION Zambia want to work ourselves out of jobs! As I was talking to one of our pastors involved in ACTION Pastors' College, he told me that I will no longer be needed after he starts his own training program utilizing the teaching he has received.

"We recently took a huge step toward the transition to local leadership as we held weekly three-hour conferences to teach preaching skills. I asked five Zambian pastors to assist in teaching other local pastors. I spent the first hour each day giving an overview of the structure and skills of preaching and then the Zambian pastors delivered sermons to their fellow pastors for the next two hours.

"I was delighted that local pastors reviewed sermon structures each week, explained principles, answered questions, shared about the importance of daily Bible reading, and passed out certificates of achievement at the graduation ceremony. I am encouraged to see Zambian pastors who understand the deep responsibility they have before God to train the next generation of church leaders."

Asia

Cambodia

Daren and Jodi Beck serve with ACTION in Phnom Penh where they are involved in evan-

gelm, discipleship, and development. Daren shared an insight into cultural adaptation in a recent newsletter:

"When we arrived in Cambodia in 2003, I felt like a stranger and alien in a distant land. Nothing seemed normal! As we were on home assignment this past summer, I realized that I felt out of place in my own culture. Family, friends and churches extended great love to us, but I realized that my home is not found in my culture or even in my country. My citizenship belongs to the household of God.

"It has been a special blessing to see how God has cultivated and preserved a desire for my family to call Cambodia 'home' even while knowing that we are strangers in a foreign land. We are excited to see what God is going to do in this next season of ministry in Cambodia."

Philippines

Paul and Pat Ellis teach a 22-lesson Life Discipleship course for Christian workers, especially poor pastors, in the Philippines. Paul and Pat are currently involved in the weekly discipleship of three groups of 12 members each. One woman, a Christian social worker named Gema, recently finished the Life Discipleship course and wrote a note to Paul and Pat expressing her thanks.

Gema wrote, "Thank you for all of the things I have learned from you. I praise the Lord for sending you to teach us these lessons. The training that I received from you built a foundation for my life; I plan to continue to learn biblical counseling. I now see that my task as a Christian social worker is to bring people to the Lord.

"I thank God because I have experienced the effectiveness of counseling based on God's Word. My personal journey with God was strengthened and I was encouraged as I

learned more about the Bible. I will now apply what I have learned in my life and ministry. I have committed to embrace biblical practices in my personal and professional life and pray that God will help me to depend on Him for mercy and grace."

Latin America

México

A team from ACTION USA recently spent two weeks on the Yucatán Peninsula in México helping with two summer camps and a daily Vacation Bible School (VBS) in a Mayan village. Members of the team were Donna Carlaw, Catherine Carlaw, Angela Boucher of Orcas Island, Washington, and Rob Taylor, ACTION's Information Technology Director and puppeteer. The camping program is run by ACTION missionaries Gamaliel and Ligia Canul.

Catherine wrote, "Camp was great; there were about 80 kids at the children's camp and 120 at the youth camp. We also did a VBS in a town called Buctotz. The camp we used had a swimming pool which the kids enjoyed a great deal. The town is very closed to the gospel and there is a huge problem with drugs so it will be exciting to see what God does in the lives of these children. Some of the people we worked with in the Yucatán are establishing a church in Buctotz. A property has been purchased and they are building a parsonage so that the founding family can settle down and really get to work. This family is from another village and commutes every weekend so it would be great if they could settle on-site. Thanks for your prayers!"



The Beck family—back l to r Mikeala, Jodi, Daren, front l to r Drew, CJ and Kamryn



Gema, a social worker who attended an Ellis seminar

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North America

USA

Paul and Jean Goodner, along with their children Rachel and Stephen, recently returned to the Seattle area after serving in Bulgaria for six years. The Goodners have joined ACTION to work with the USA Office in the areas of recruitment and representation.



The Goodners previously served in Sofia, Bulgaria, where they were involved in starting the first Bulgarian Free Churches, leading an English fellowship, ministering to youth, beginning the first AWANA program in the country and assisting with the translation of AWANA materials into Bulgarian. Four churches in Bulgaria are implementing the AWANA program this fall.

The Goodners are currently meeting with churches in the Greater Seattle area to encourage pastors and congregations regarding global missions and ask them to consider becoming involved with various ministries of ACTION. In the future, Paul also plans to assist with the sustainable church planting ministry of ACTION. The Goodners are additionally interested in helping overseas churches begin AWANA programs.

Paul and Jean say, "When the Lord called us to Bulgaria, we were not sure how He wanted to use us, but we experienced the wonderful privilege of being used by God as we were available for His leading. In the same way, we have now come to serve ACTION in the various ministries to which God has called us."



... The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37, 38).

Prayer Corner

Please Pray:

- That the 35 pastors who are studying at the Pastors' Training Center in Malawi will grow in knowledge and love of the Lord and will effectively share their learning with their congregations.
- That Zambian pastors will continue to train their fellow local pastors and together reach the nation of Zambia for Christ.
- For the Becks as they continue their ministry in Cambodia after a short visit to the USA.
- That Gema and other students in the Life Discipleship course will practice what they have learned in their daily lives and ministries.
- That the church plant in Buctzotz, México, will thrive and that the founding family will be able to move to the parsonage soon to continue work in the town.
- That God will continue to guide the Goodners to the ministries and opportunities He has for them.

—Andrea Johnson

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