

# April 2009



**MBMS International**  
transforming lives in mission

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Alfredo &amp; Sandra Beltran</i>  MEXICO	2 <i>MBMSI Board of Directors</i>  Winnipeg, MB	3 <i>Cynthia Friesen</i>  THAILAND	4 <i>Laurence &amp; Leona Hiebert</i>  JAPAN
5 <i>Barbara Block</i>  INDIA	6 <i>Ken &amp; Marilyn Fast</i>  BRAZIL	7 MTI  Abbotsford, BC	8 <i>Lead Team</i>  Abbotsford, BC	9 <i>Baudouin &amp; Marie-Brigette Nsulunka</i> SOUTH AFRICA	10 <i>Blaine &amp; Michelle Warner</i> BURKINA FASO	11 <i>Otto &amp; Marjorie Ekk</i>  PORTUGAL
12 <i>Jim &amp; Marilou Nightingale,</i>  BRAZIL	13 <i>Otto &amp; Lidia Funk</i>  PERU	14 <i>Trever &amp; Joan Godard</i>  MEXICO	15 <i>Operations Team</i>  Abbotsford, BC	16 <i>J &amp; F</i>  RESTRICTED	17 <i>Kevin &amp; Karlene Klassen</i>  THAILAND	18 <i>Wendy Eros</i>  JAPAN
19 <i>Member Care Volunteers</i>  WORLDWIDE	20 <i>Russ &amp; Marj Speiser</i>  FRANCE	21 <i>Rob &amp; Judy Griffioen</i>  THAILAND	22 <i>Robert &amp; Anne Thiessen</i>  MEXICO	23 <i>John &amp; Evelyn Wiens</i>  UKRAINE	24 <i>Ernie &amp; Elfrieda Reimer</i>  LITHUANIA	25 <i>Samir &amp; Lewiza</i>  RESTRICTED
26 <i>Spring Adventure</i>  Abbotsford, BC	27 <i>Sandra Plett</i>  MEXICO	28 <i>Office Staff</i>  Abbotsford, BC	29 <i>Bob &amp; Christine Davis</i>  THAILAND	30 <i>Melvin &amp; Gudrun Warkentin</i> PARAGUAY		

*“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12*

Carol Bergen felt something electric inside of her when she heard Drissa pray. Drissa has been a long-time friend and trusted night guard for her and her husband Phil for the past 13 years. The Bergens are serving with MBMS International working with the Nanerige people group, translating scripture from the national French and Jula into their native tribal language.

Phil and Carol had invited Drissa over to their home for scones and tea. He asked Phil to teach him how to pray for his breakfast. Phil touched Drissa’s chest and told him to say what was in his heart – God would understand. And so Drissa prayed his very first Jula prayer in Jesus’ name.

The dominant religion in Burkina Faso is Islam, and of the 80 000 Nanerige people only a handful are Christians. But God is using Phil and Carol in an incredible way to bring the hope of Christ to the honest and hard-working Nanerige. The Word of God is shining through in power as it penetrates hearts, even the heart of Drissa, a man who was once very set in his Muslim ways.

Drissa’s interest in scripture came alive late in 2006 when Carol, along with MBMSI missionary Michelle Warner decided to try out the new Nanerige writing system. Drissa volunteered to read the translated text for them as they wrote and he enjoyed this task so much that he would come back daily to read for them. Drissa couldn’t stay away from the Word, and it was clear that the Spirit of God was working in his heart! After several months Drissa declared, “Someday I’m going to be teaching these scriptures!”

October 7, 2007 marked the very first church service in N’Dorola. It was a service of celebration. Drissa and Phil had spent the previous week in Orodara attending a seminar given by David Shenk on how Christians can relate to Muslims. Since Drissa has been a Muslim all of his life, the subject of the seminar could not have been more helpful to him! Drissa had the opportunity to meet a larger community of Christians, and when the seminar concluded he asked if he could meet with the church leaders and formally convert! Upon their return they held the first church service in N’Dorola with the new pastor and celebrated together what God was doing in Drissa’s life and among the Nanerige people!

One year later the church has grown to 35 people. 9 members, including Drissa and his wife, have stepped forward to declare their faith through baptism. Pray for the Nanerige people and ask God to continue to raise up people like Drissa who are excited about the transforming power of His Word!

The beautifully dressed family caught Ana’s eye every Sunday morning. She studied the parents and children from her apartment as they walked by the window week after week. One Sunday curiosity got the best of her. Ana called out to them, “Where are you going?”

“To church,” they replied. Her curiosity peaked.

Born in Mexico, Ana was a devout Catholic and spent six of her childhood years living in a convent. At 19 she moved to London, England to look after her sister’s children. She adored her church family in England, but when Ana married and moved to Portugal she experienced deep loneliness and felt disconnected from the church. She longed for the relationships she had in London. The beautifully dressed family would offer her just that.

As she came to know this family she learned they were missionaries doing language study in Portugal. When the time came for them to leave, new missionaries moved into the same apartment and continued a friendship with Ana. The relationship between Ana and the missionaries deepened, and loving-kindness was planting seeds of faith in Ana’s heart. As she studied their lives – patient, caring, and generous – Ana realized it was the kind of life she wanted to live. When one day the missionaries asked her if she would like to join them for a Bible study, she accepted. “This family was so kind to me. They never pushed their religion on me and they were always there with friendship and the ability to listen,” she says. The missionaries hired and paid for a babysitter to look after Ana’s two young children during Bible study. In time she accepted the Lord and was baptized.

When the missionary family finished their language studies and prepared to leave, MBMS International missionary Marjorie Ekk was asked if she would step in to take the role of discipling Ana. Marjorie has had the privilege of watching Ana read the Word hungrily and share her faith with her friends. Marjorie now meets with both with Ana and her friend to read and discuss God’s Word.

This small glimpse into Ana’s faith journey represents just a part of God’s steadfast pursuit of His people. With perfect grace, He lovingly wove Ana’s life together with three separate missionary families. As one family left, God faithfully carried out His work through the next, and what began as a simple glance through an apartment window ended with partnership in the Kingdom of Heaven.

*“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”  
Jeremiah 31:3*