

A Publication of Mission Helps, Inc. Volume 32 · 2024 · www.missionhelps.com

# Highlighting Ministries of Mission Helps

More than Meets the Eye





## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Will Byler, President

### That Was Easy

What comes to your mind when you hear the name Mission Helps? Construction crews traveling on mission projects to other countries? A fleet of vans for missionaries on deputation or furlough? The Rope Holders Prayer ministry with its hundreds of interceding prayer volunteers? Or perhaps just a vague assortment of volunteer services that assist missions and missionaries in spreading the Gospel.

Yes, Mission Helps does offer holiness missions a wide range of construction skills. Our fleet of well-maintained vans is actively providing reliable transportation. A host of praying intercessors faithfully engage the promises of God and prevail in prayer to win great victories.

Mission Helps, however, is much more...more than first meets the eye. Missionaries have access to Medical Services, the Rest and Lodging Network, Tech Services, Loaner Equipment, Bible College Mission Scholarships, Ambassador Churches, Vehicle Repair Sites, Media Care Packets, General Services. These are all provided by dedicated volunteers who care and are linking arms with missionaries to help ease their load.

Missionary ministry, while rewarding, requires sacrifice. It is demanding, challenging, and faith-stretching. How could you reach out to a missionary you know to help them in taking the Gospel to lost men and women?

Several years ago, a well-known office products chain promoted the phrase, "That Was Easy," calling attention to its stream-lined efficiency in serving customers. It worked.

At Mission Helps, our passion is two-fold. First, to serve the men and women on the front lines of missions by caring, listening, observing, serving, and easing their ministry load (CLOSE) in even the smallest things. And second, to serve so effectively that after engaging our services missionaries will look back and think to themselves, "Mission Helps – That Was Easy!" **Board of Directors** 

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**Sevent** is an annual communique to inform the general church body about happenings within the ministry of Mission Helps, Inc.

PR Director: Rex McDowell main@missionhelps.com Graphic Designer: Heidi Hoffman *HJH Photography and Design* Email: hhsmiles4u@yahoo.com

Mission Helps, Inc. is a non-profit ministry-based organization which provides practical, logistical help to conservative holiness missionaries utilizing a network of volunteers.

All monetary gifts to Mission Helps, Inc. are receipted for IRS tax purposes.

Inquiries concerning the various ministries of Mission Helps, Inc. may be directed to the Home office: P.O. Box 254, Lititz, PA 17543. Phone: 717-627-2976 E-mail: main@missionhelps.com

Ministry is demanding, challenging, and faith-stretching. We want to serve missionaries effectively.

## **Rest & Lodging**

Roberta Miller, Manager

The Rest & Lodging Department of Mission Helps exists to help holiness missionaries find free lodging while traveling in the United States. Our volunteers offer missionaries room in their homes, private cabins, guest

apartments, dormitories, or travel trailers, for overnight or short-term stays. These places are listed in our Hospitality Directory which is given to missionaries and their organizations. The directory currently lists 68 hosts located throughout 26 states and one Canadian province, but more volunteer hosts are needed, especially in the southern and western states. For a host application, please contact Mission Helps, Inc., PO Box 254, Lititz, PA 17534, or Roberta Miller at restlodging@missionhelps. com, Ph. 336-660-2893.

At our request, two missionary couples and a host shared with us their experiences using Rest & Lodging services.



We have used the Mission Helps Hospitality Directory quite often. When traveling in the US, it has saved us a lot of money. It is nice to think that the people who have their names in that directory WANT to have missionaries come to stay with them, so it makes us more comfortable in asking them for a place to stay. One time we had a lastminute change, so we called someone from the book to ask if we could come that night. When we called them, they were so excited and said that no one had ever called them before, even though their name was in the book for a long time. That started a wonderful friendship with that couple, and we have been back many times not only to stay with them, but also to visit their church. We have made life-long friends with many families because of the Mission Helps Hospitality Directory. The people who put their names in this directory are a wonderful blessing to missionaries. We have been called to be missionaries, but there are other people who are called to be missionary helpers. Thank you to all those who bless missionaries with the gift of hospitality.

--Valera and Maude Motovilov HIM missionaries in Czech Republic In recent months, Jonathan and I have been grateful for Mission Helps Hospitality hosts Brent and Nicki Woodard in Rapid City, SD. Over and over they have willingly opened their home or RV to us when we needed a place to stay overnight because of delayed or cancelled flights or needing extra time to shop for materials for projects for SIM. Just this last weekend the Woodards welcomed not only my husband but also the team from Gospel Publishing Mission who were poised to distribute gospel literature at the Sturgis Bike Rally. Something we've appreciated is the Woodards' flexibility with sometimes providing breakfasts or sometimes just letting us stay overnight and slip away as early as we needed to. May God bless each Mission Helps hospitality host!

--Jonathan and Anna Lucas SIM missionaries in South Dakota

When Faith's mom passed away, we made a decision to dedicate her apartment as a missionary retreat. Through the years, we have been honored to host missionaries such Rochunga Pudaite from Africa through Child Evangelism Fellowship as well as missionary friends representing Wycliffe Bible Institute. There have been many other wonderful missionaries that have passed through our doors. In 2012 or 2013, we joined Ropeholders and hosted the Motovilovs from Russia, Ed Durhams serving in Europe, and most recently a PR group representing Hobe Sound Bible College. As of now, the apartment is being rented out by a retired missionary couple that served in Mexico. They do travel often, and we have other rooms in our house suitable for guests. Please keep us on your hosting list, as we enjoy serving in this way.

--Dean and Faith Hirschy 260-273-8131

Your missions ministries are a blessing beyond words!! Thank you so very much, and may the Lord bless you pressed down and running over.

Yours for Souls, Delbert and Shelia Howard, Jr. Brazil

#### Dear Folks,

Just a note to say Thank You for all you do for missions and missionaries!

Thank you for helping the churches know what is happening and how we can pray for them! May God bless you all!

In Christian Love, Diana Gray Zoarville Christian Chapel Dear Mission Helps Friends,

ank

Thanks so much for the USB. I'm listening and watching today, a snowy day in northwestern New Mexico. Also, thanks for the encouraging letters with Scripture and godly admonitions – and for your faithful prayers. We appreciate all.

Yours in Christ, The Randy Dimmetts New Mexico

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Wish You A Happy & Prosperous Ne

Friends at Missim Hel

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#### ENCOURAGE A MISSIONARY

One of the best things you can do to encourage a missionary is to send them a hand-written note. It reminds them that they are not forgotten and can really lift their spirits!

#### Join the Encouragers!

Maybe you can't go or give money, but you can make a big impact on a missionary just by writing to them!

Verne Asbury, director of Encouragers, will provide you with addressed, stamped envelopes, and stationary.

#### For more information:

Verne Asbury 15 South 3rd Street Elwood, IN 46036 or text or call Verne at: 765-602-1304 Email: verne661974@gmail.com

4 Servant 2024

# Equipment Services Ken and Joyce Ruhl Managers

By Will Byler

 ${\sf M}$ issionary deputation — that recurring chapter in a missionary's life when they come home from the field to represent their work and share what God is doing.

Missionary deputation is a big deal. It involves hours of preparation, miles of travel, engaging with countless people, and visiting churches to convey a missionary's mission, vision, and passion for reaching other cultures with the Gospel of salvation and holiness.

Mission Helps vans provide the transportation for missionaries on deputation. Lodging Services offers a network of homes for overnight stay. However, additional resources are needed to ensure that deputation goes smoothly.

Equipment Services fills an important role in this by offering loaner equipment without cost that includes digital projectors, screens, wireless speakers, GPS navigation units, Kindle readers, and Christian-themed audio adventure stories that help to keep traveling MK's occupied.

Digital Projectors and Screens serve as valuable tools when missionaries present their work. These visual aids help to bring mission ministry to life by vividly portraying the work, culture, geography, and mission life.

Compact Wireless Speakers provide quality sound so the entire congregation can clearly hear and understand the mission presentation. These powerful speakers come in small cases and set up quickly, bypassing the time-consuming process of connecting to the facility's sound system. Missionaries love them!

GPS navigation units are in high demand by missionaries traveling on structured deputation schedules. This valuable travel aid displays the best routes while providing step-by-step audio-visual directions, time to destination, traffic information along the route, and much more. Since GPS operates independently of cell towers, it offers reliable navigation when cell service is unavailable for smartphones.

Families with children love the ample collection of Christian themed stories and drama loaded on thumb drives and placed in Mission Helps vans. Onboard USB players that sync to the van's FM radio play these captivating adventure stories that convey Biblical life principles, helping to keep traveling MK's occupied for hours. With the producer's permission, these stories have been transferred from obsolete cassette tapes to USB drives. Your outdated Christian drama cassette tapes could be a great blessing and are always welcome!

Thank you managers Ken and Joyce Ruhl for working together to maintain, assemble, and deliver tech-equipment packages as requested by homecoming missionaries.



Nichole Barr, missionary to Mongolia, used a MH van for deputation in 2024.



Daniel Kuhns enjoyed listening to many hours of dramatized stories as his family traveled in deputation this year.



Monica Collins, missionary to South Africa, using one of Mission Help's vans and GPS units.



Tim and Sharron Teed, ministering in Slovakia, used a MH projector as they traveled with a Mission Helps van this summer.



Byron Manners' van on the left and Eric Kuhns family using the van on the right.

# Start here

This month pray for.

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#### MISSIONARY REFRESHMENT

in personal and family devotions

through rest and relaxation as a family

by a renewed sense of God's peace and presence

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### MISSIONARY STRENGTH

**Physical strength** for the demands of ministry

Spiritual strength to fight temptation

**Emotional strength** when lonely or overwhelmed

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## **MISSIONARY KIDS**

that they would: desire to serve God

have peace and not be fearful

be guarded from bitterness

choose good friends

## Do you have a minute?

If we each pray one minute a day it would total over 17,500 hours of prayer in a year!

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#### MISSIONARY WISDOM

to solve difficult problems

to understand cultural differences

to make wise decisions

# This prayer guide is also available at missionhelps.com.

Feel free to share with your church, family, and friends.

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### MISSIONARY FRUITFULNESS

that the eyes of the spiritually blind will be opened

that God's Word will take root in needy hearts

that Christ may be lifted up and draw all men to Him

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### MISSIONARY PROTECTION

from harm as they travel

from the enemy's attacks

from illness

from uprisings and danger

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### **MISSION HELPS**

Guidance for the Board of Directors

Renewed vision for each manager

Outpouring of God's love flowing through each volunteer

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#### MISSIONARY COMPASSION

to serve with the love of Christ

to reach out to those in need

to find practical ways to build relationships

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#### **MISSIONARY EMPOWERMENT**

to be filled with the Spirit for service

to proclaim God's Word without fear

to have wisdom when giving spiritual counsel to others

## Join the one-minute-a-day challenge!

Even if you are unable to pray everyday, please remove these center pages and post them where you will be reminded to pray regularly or cut them out individually and tuck the little calendars in your Bible, or place them on your refrigerator, mirror, or car dash. Find a place where you spend a minute or longer and put these little reminders there. Spend some time asking our Heavenly Father to help our missionaries, their families, and their ministries.

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#### MISSIONARY CONSISTENCY

maintaining biblical truth

keeping a steady, Christ-like walk

remaining faithful through hard times

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#### **MISSION ADVANCEMENT**

that obstacles would be removed

that new doors would open

that cultural barriers would be bridged

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

### MISSIONARY PROVISION

for adequate funds

for daily health

for special grace

for spiritual discernment



HELPS

2024 Servant



## Medical Services Manager: Hannah McDowell, RN, CNM

The Medical Services department of Mission Helps is a network of medical professionals—a doctor, a nurse practitioner, a certified nurse midwife, a certified lactation consultant, two dentists, and a chiropractor—who make selected services available to qualifying holiness missionaries at reduced rates or without charge. Depending on the medical need, missionaries may receive consultations while serving in a foreign country.

If you (or your missions organization) applied to Mission Helps and were approved as a qualifying holiness missionary or mission, Medical Services are available to you! Send an email to main@missionhelps.com and put Medical Services in the subject line to contact me as the manager. I will work with you to determine if your medical need is one with which our providers can assist and to make the necessary connections. (If you are not on Mission Helps' qualifying mission/missionary list, request an application via the same email address.)

For example, when a missionary in another hemisphere needed a surgery this year that was too complicated to be tackled in the country where she served, I was able to get her an appointment with a top surgeon in a Pennsylvania hospital. I acted as intermediary to get her referral and test results from her country of service to the surgeon's office and then to pass the instructions for on-

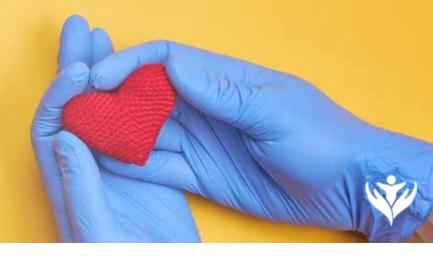


line registration to her. She later traveled to PA and underwent a completely successful surgery. Thank the Lord!

If you are a health care professional and God is nudging your heart toward the type of ministry to missionaries I have described, contact me. I will be delighted to discuss with you the opportunities available to you through Mission Helps' Medical Services!

Hannah McDowell, RN, CNM Medical Services Manager

# Serving with HEART



We would like to congratulate and thank Missions Helps for their excellent support to missionaries. In March 2024, we contacted Hannah Mc-Dowell, Mission Helps' Medical Services manager, asking assistance in finding a pediatric nephrologist in Pennsylvania for our daughter, Sophia, who was born with a genetic kidney syndrome. Our Brazilian nephrologist's concern about Sophia's continuing medical care during our upcoming deputation travels motivated our communication with Sis. McDowell.

It wasn't as simple as just finding a nephrologist in

the USA since we first needed to move our residence from New Jersey to Pennsylvania. That meant we would have to apply for new state health insurance in PA, but before then, we had to get PA driver's licenses. It seemed like an impossible situation to resolve from overseas, but Sophia's need for medical care once we were in the USA was a time-sensitive matter because her medication is regulated by routine blood work. We submitted the whole situation to God, did lots of research, and reached out to someone we trusted.

Sis. McDowell assured us of her willingness to help and quickly set about seeing what she could find out. Within a week, she had located a pediatric nephrologist in PA who was willing to assume Sophia's care. After many phone calls and many prayers, all the faxes, paperwork and referrals were sent to the right places, and Sophia was given an appointment within the first month of our deputation travel! We were also fully approved for PA state health insurance before we even stepped on USA soil—another miracle! We give all the praise to God and a big THANK YOU to Sis. Mc-Dowell for all the footwork she did for us.

In the middle of the above challenges, Mission Helps helped us with another medical situation. In April, after one of Sophia's hospitalizations, her central line site was not healing correctly, and tissue was protruding out of the wound. Again, I contacted Sis. McDowell for professional advice. She contacted Medical Services volunteers Dave Boardman, DO, and Daryl Hobbs, FNP, who both recommended

another surgical procedure to correct the issue. Because the advice was given on the weekend, we planned to return to the hospital that had placed the central line first thing on Monday. That Saturday, Sis. McDowell asked if Bro. McDowell, Mission Helps' Missions Ambassador Program director, could send a specific prayer request for the situation to Ambassador churches through the semi-monthly Frontline Review bulletin. Of course, we agreed. On Sunday morning, when I changed the wound site's dressing, I was shocked! The protruding tissue had disappeared overnight! God did the surgery!

Thank you, Missions Helps, for providing medical services that missionaries can access even from their field of labor as well as on deputation.

Stephen, Kezia, and Sophia Mills

#### 2024 Mission Helps Bible College Scholarships Brian Wilson Manager



Kaityln Gault Abigail Montero

**Emily Bailey** 

Elisabeth Hemmeter Joanna Troyer

Hobe Sound **Bible College** \$600

God's Bible School \$600

Hobe Sound **Bible College** \$600

Penn View **Bible Institute** \$600

Allegheny Wesleyan College \$600

Thank you so much for the generous financial contribution. We have a great beginning to the school year and your continued support will be a blessing to us and make a difference in the lives of our young people. Thanks again for partnering with us by using God's resources to train young people to become Christ-like servant leaders!

Daniel P. Durkee, President **PVBI** 

Dear Friends of Mission Helps,

Thank you so much for making this scholarship available for Joanna Troyer. God bless you in your labors. It's wonderful to be able to work together for the Kingdom.

Daniel Hardy, Sr. President Allegheny Wesleyan College

# Introducing the New Mission Helps Logo

We are excited to unveil our new Mission Helps logo, a vibrant representation of our commitment to serving holiness missions and missionaries. This redesign reflects our dedication to the great commission and our desire to uphold the men and women who are giving their lives for Christ and the Gospel.

The person pictured in the logo embodies our focus - the missionary men and women who are serving around the world in challenging situations. The surrounding hands represent Mission Helps' commitment to serve.



This refreshed design not only modernizes our logo but also reinforces our core values for caring, listening, observing, and serving to ease the load.

As we move forward, we hope this logo inspires both our team and the holiness community, reminding everyone that empowered by God and serving together we can make a meaningful difference for the kingdom of God.

We invite you to join us on this journey as we serve missions and missionaries. Thank you for being part of the Mission Helps family!

# **Tech Services**

Denisa Stetler, Manager

"Technology is best when it brings people together." Matt Mullenweg It is the goal of Mission Helps Tech Services to support missionaries' technology needs as they serve others and share Christ and the Gospel.

In 2023, Denisa Stetler, assisted by her husband Brent, began managing Mission Helps Tech Services and built a team which includes Phil Schuler, Benjamin Stetler, and Luke Witt. As a team, they have assisted missionaries with video editing, furnished a laptop through the Tech Funding services, reviewed options for Kindle Readers to support educational needs, and conducted research to provide recommendations for international phone services.

The Tech Services team's experience includes a wide variety of expertise which plays an important role in our ever-changing digital world and ensures that systems remain functional, secure, and optimized. By offering these services, we enable mission organizations and missionaries to harness the full potential of technology. It is our privilege to support missionaries serving around the world.



A Publication of *Mission Helps, Inc.* WISSION P.O. Box 254 HELPS Lititz, PA 17543

Dear friends,

Thank you for again printing a monthly prayer guide with specifics for praying for missionaries.

It is so beneficial! I keep my copy with my prayer cards and each is covered specifically.

May God bless each one in your many spheres. May each gift of time and expertise be blessed and multiplied to fill each need as were the loaves and fishes which Jesus blessed.

Etta Franklin

Dear Christian friends,

We appreciate your faithfulness in sending out the Ropeholders prayer letter each month.

May God continue to bless you in your work.

Sincerely, Miriam Weaver

Dear friends of Mission Helps and Rope Holders,

Thank you...for your many years of service and faithfulness. Thank you also to each of your

staff members who serve day by day with willingness and perseverance.

I appreciate so much the kindred spirit we share.

Blessings dear ones, Dorthy Witter Former HIM Missionary JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'RE APPRECIATED

Muy Bot rickly bless you for your generosity and kindness. The naw & equipment were a great blessing! Discerely, Et& Heather Durham

#### Greetings

to you from Romania! I just wanted to write and let you know that I loved and appreciated receiving the USB of everything! It was a great encouragement, and I loved the CD on that of the Stetler Trio!

Julia Ann Bange Romania



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE USB WITH SERMONS AND MUSIC! IT IS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO RECEIVE A PACKAGE FROM THE STATES AND THE CONTENT IS A BLESSING! GOD BLESS YOU! RACHEL STEESE

I just wanted to thank you for the envelope I received which contained the wide variety of encouraging and helpful materials. Thank you so much for these loving and useful provisions. The flash drive certainly has much for me to enjoy and profit from. Please thank the Stetlers and Lee's for their letters. The Outdoor Scavenger Hunt is quite an innovative idea! Thank you for including us. Please include us in your prayers when you think of us. Many thanks!

Sincerely in Christ, Gabriel Mancino England