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Bill and Rita Johnson



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"Let the children come."

February 2025 Newsletter

Please send offerings to: ICP, PO Box 2587, Texarkana, TX 75504 | Phone: 903.278.2648 | email: billjohnson@icplit.org



WORSHIP MUSIC IN MISSIONS OF THE WORLD

In our recent trip to Kenya, the guest missionary who accompanied us was unusually touched by the music style in worship of the churches. In that culture, the drum is the most commonly used musical instrument in worship. The people step lively to drummer's beats. Meanwhile, in the Philippines one can be excluded from church membership for using a drum in worship music. In America, tastes in worship music is very much a generational issue. As churches turn to "contemporary" worship styles, the piano has given way to the guitar and drums as the preferred instruments in worship. ICP ships pianos and organs to the Philippines because those churches are moving from the guitar to the piano and/or organ as their preferred instrument of worship.

I have always thought of music as an expression of one's heart to his or her god. Those who worship the true God are told to worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). The book of Psalms is filled with songs of worship used by Old Testament Jews who worshiped in the Temple in Jerusalem. Music is a very important part of our worship today.

Ephesians 5:18-20 describes worship in the context of praising and exalting God. "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I was especially touched last Sunday in worship when the special music consisted of a violin duet accompanied by background organ music. The important thing is that our worship honors God as the awesome Creator of the universe and Christ who paid the price for our redemption from the bondage of sin! "O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth" (Psalm 67:4).

—Bill Johnson

Work in Myanmar



These pictures show the students of the Missionary Training School in Myanmar (Burma) as they are in class. ICP Project Manager Jacob Tubal leads in this vital ministry. We are so thankful for the generosity of the churches in supporting the ministry, enabling ICP to provide transportation and food for the 39 men during the months of the special training. These men will return home and busy themselves in planting churches throughout the country.

We are still burdened for Jacob, whose parents have lost all contact with the outside world. Supposing that it is a hiding place for rebels, the army has surrounded their remote village. They are still in danger of losing their lives to the soldiers. Please continue to pray for them and for all the people of Myanmar as this four-year-old struggle continues to add special burdens to God's people in this beautiful country.

Work in Kenya

VBS In Kenya

Children of the world always enjoy Vacation Bible School. ICP VBS curriculum, "Lord of Kings" has become very popular with the children in Kenya. These pictures show just a few of the children attending a recent VBS led by ICP translators Moses Wanjala and Titus Matete. All of us at ICP praise God for the opportunity to help in the spiritual growth of each child!



Fifteen Hundred New Books Printed!

In preparation for a distribution in March, Moses and Titus have printed three hundred student books for each of three age groups of *Character Code for Life* materials. They have also printed one hundred teacher's books and visuals sets for each one, for a total of 1,500 books. The new (reconditioned) Konica/Minolta printer has been put to good use, making the work faster and easier. These books will be distributed among the churches as Moses and Titus plan workshops and training seminars in March. Thank you, Unity Baptist Church, Batesville, Arkansas, for the generous love offering to purchase the new printer.



New Office Space

We have also rented a second room for needed office space. We are always grateful to Missionary Ernie Hopper with whom we share the office in Nairobi. The work in Kenya continues to grow as the churches learn of the available of quality children's literature.

Work in the Philippines

Backpack Ministry Reports

Several churches have reported the result of their Backpack Ministry. Twenty churches each received backpacks for fifty children last September. Among those who have reported is the Green City Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Noel Lapuz. He reports good attendance and fourteen children making professions of faith. The Guagua Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Jomar Quito, reports sixty-eight average attendance for the eighteen weeks of *CCfL* studies conducted by each church. Pastor Quito reports a total of thirty-eight professions of faith. Pastor Marcelino Zabala, reports average attendance of nineteen children with fifteen professions of faith. Redeemed Missionary Baptist Church reports fourteen professions of faith with average attendance of forty-eight. This is just a few of the twenty churches! A total of one thousand backpacks were given to the children of the twenty churches.



The container that shipped in January has about 1,300 backpacks which will be distributed in May for churches to use in the Fall.



Container Shipped

We are thankful that the container containing so many things has been shipped. Among the items in it are the teacher's manuals and visuals for about 200 churches to be used in "The Master of the Sea" VBS. Thank you to Joel Campbell for shipping the container! Thanks also to all those who came to help load it, and for those churches and individuals who contributed in so many ways to provide backpacks, dresses, hymnals, chairs, pianos, and so many other items which will be a tremendous blessing to the churches in the Philippine Islands.

You can have a part in these ministries around the world by your prayers and offerings. The chart shows how many children can have printed *Character Code for Life* materials with your donation. We are praying that "God will provide," and that God will use His people in His provision.

Please send offerings to:
ICP, PO Box 2587, Texarkana, TX 75504



Number of Children	Printing Cost
1 class of 10	\$64
1 class of 25	\$130
1 class of 50	\$237
10 classes of 50	\$2,370