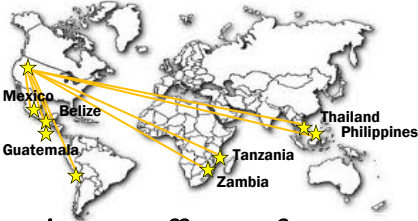


Mission Projects, Inc.



MPI Update

Making a Difference for Eternity

March-April 2012



*Sylvan, Diana, Priya, & Mya Roberts
Tribute to Sylvan Roberts page 3*

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Giving of Ourselves in 2012



Waiting for My Dad

*Guest Editorial by Priya Roberts
with Ix-Chel Poot*

Priya and Sylvan Roberts

I woke up this morning waiting; I'll go to sleep tonight waiting. I am waiting for the clouds to burst open and Jesus to come; I am waiting for my Dad. As I wait, I would like to share with you the beauty of his life and tell the world just how much I loved him and he loved me.

My parents, Diana & Sylvan Roberts, were married for seventeen years and my Dad was a dad for thirteen years. It might not seem that long but it is long enough for me to know that I had an exceptional Dad. My sister and I share in his legacy and heritage with the names he and mom chose for us; I am Priya Kalyani, which means love and wisdom; my sister, Mya Kamalini, represents tender hearted and compassionate. I remember my Dad in the many roles he played: his life at home, his life at work and his life at church; each one makes up a unique part of the man he was.

Life at home was funny, happy, and secure. My Dad built his dream house for us and spent countless hours around and about the house enjoying my mother's cooking and his alone time in his "office." His office (my parents' bedroom) was his favourite hiding place; a sanctuary from his hectic life at the hospital. The curious thing is, he would always let us in so he was never really locked away. In my mind's eye I can still see him sitting in his white chair in his "office" at home munching down on something (usually something sweet) in front of the TV as he watched football, volleyball, or basketball. He loved watching sports almost as much as he loved playing sports.

My Dad was great at his job but sometimes at home he missed the mark completely. My mom remembers asking my Dad to buy paper plates for a Sabbath school craft activity. Well, Dad went to the store and instead of coming home with paper plates he brought mom cheese and cookies for himself. There was no paper craft in Sabbath school that Saturday and we all had a good laugh at his mistake. That was my dad; always happy, always smiling. Nothing ever really broke his good spirit or disrupted his good mood, except when my sister and I were fighting or being disobedient.

Dad kept us together as a family; he made sure we worshipped every morning before we started the day. We spent all our birthdays and special celebrations together and he made sure we took family vacations every year. My father loved fishing, although I can safely say fishing didn't love him. He always seemed a bit clumsy at home, he would bump into things or break things regularly.

Dad was one of the pioneer ultrasound technicians in Belize and we like to think that he was the BEST one in the entire country. A lot of the



time it would seem that Dad and mom didn't just work at La Loma Luz, it seemed that they lived there and so we lived there too. The halls of the hospital seem so empty without the sound of his steps and I am sure that members of the staff still look up expecting to see his smiling face and hear the laughter in his voice. Life at the hospital will never be the same since he left; not just for the workers but for the patients as well.

People would come from across the country and ask to see him by name. Dad wanted to be a doctor but it seems like God had bigger plans for him as an ultrasound tech. Every day he was able to comfort people, to help them, and encourage them. There are countless stories of the strangers he helped in one way or another and

we will not hear them all until Jesus comes but we keep the ones we know close to our hearts because they show the kind of man Dad was. People always remembered the way Dad made them feel; he made them feel important, that someone cared, that someone was listening, and that everything would be all right in the end.

God blessed Dad with a special gift; my father was never mistaken about the gender of a baby! If he said it was a boy, get ready to buy blues, if he said it was a girl, pink was the color you needed to get; and if it was too early in the pregnancy to tell well . . . all the patient had to do was to wait for the next visit!

For the last two years Dad not only worked at La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital but he worked at the Western Regional hospital in Belmopan, the capital city, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. People would line up for hours to see him, and would wait just as long. Sometimes he left the Western Regional hospital after 7 at night, insisting on seeing every patient before he left. He always put his patients' needs first. My father served the country of Belize and because of him many lives have been made better. His death is not just a loss to our family, or our church, but a loss to our entire country.



Everyone who talks about Dad remembers his smile and the laughter in his voice; you couldn't talk to him without laughing or feeling better

than you had when the conversation began. He was always asked to do the welcome for church on Sabbath mornings and you could feel the smiles and joy after that was done. It was like he invited the Holy Spirit to touch everyone present and light up the day's service.

Dad cared about our church and spreading the gospel. He supported the church's activities and in 2011 he became the leader of the first Men's Ministry in Cayo. And even though he was unable to be there for their second big program on New Year's Day, Dad would have been proud of all the members of the men's ministry for carrying on the work. Although his work schedule was demanding and he often left service to go see a patient or attend to an emergency, Dad was always present to support our church activities. He made time for Pathfinder's camp, made time to take us where we needed to go.

Sometimes during service, my younger sister would fall asleep and Dad would have to pick her up and carry her out when the service was over. That's kind of what he did for all of us. He would pick us up and carry us through things, take care of us, and protect us from all the things around us.

December 23, 2011 was a Friday evening. It is possibly the best and worst Friday of my life. Dad had time off work and we were finishing our



Christmas shopping, he was laughing, happy, patient; it was like he was enjoying every moment of the day. During the hours of that day my life was perfect. There is not a moment I would have changed. As we settled into the Sabbath, we had worship. We usually sing the first and last stanzas of the hymns from the hymnal, but that night Dad wanted to sing all the verses of "Angels We have Heard on High;" he even had me play it on the keyboard. As usual, we got ready for an early night. Mom later told us that Dad secretly told her to let us open our gifts, which were study Bibles for my sister and me, that night before going to bed so that we could take them to church the next morning. Mom suggested that we wait because she was already in bed, never expecting that there would not be another tomorrow for us as a complete family.

I can't tell you where my memory of that night begins or where it ends . . . it was raining heavy drops of rain that seemed to beat down on the earth and the night was so dark the rain clouds hung like a dark sheet blanketing the world. As we slept, masked men cut through our fence and shattered our window to enter our house. Dad went out to see what had caused the noise, never expecting to be met by armed gunmen. He turned to try and protect Mya and mom and had his life taken from him. The rest of that night is a nightmare that will haunt us for the rest of our lives. His work on earth was done that night and God saw it fit to take him that night.

My father's life ended too soon; there are many things I wish I could have said, many questions I wish I could have asked. Mom has told us to feel blessed that God has chosen us be used for His purpose because we believe that "All things work together for Good for those who love the Lord." And Dad loved the Lord and we love him too. We have learned to pray and believe like never before that God has everything in his hands and under his control and while the days and nights are so long and seem so hard, we are waiting. We wait because my Dad will be restored to us when Christ returns and we will never part again and there will be no more tears. You see this is not the end of our story as a family, it's just a very dark chapter, so we will wait and we will work while we wait.

I don't know where you will be in your life when you read this story. I know that I had never imagined that I would write these words, but what God brings us to He will bring us through. I want to invite you to get to know our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gives us the strength to smile when we want to cry. I want to invite you to wait with us for His return so that one day you can meet my Dad and know that God does not forsake those who love and serve Him. It is in our darkest moments that Christ shines forth His brightest light. Wait with us; God is waiting for you.



*Who can count the tears we have cried?
How we wish life could change and he hadn't died.
Who gives us strength when we are weak?
Who breaks the silence when we cannot speak?
It is in the earnest moments of prayer
That God steps down and holds us near
He wipes the tears and calms the fears.
God gives us hope and a song to sing
He pours out blessings and resolves all things.
The days seem dark and black as night
But we wait for the glory of Christ's returning light
When the heavens open and the angles' sing
Jesus and Dad will find us waiting. . .*

(by Ix-Chel Poot)



Ix-Chel Poot

Dear Priya,

We all miss your father as well. He was an inspiration to all of us. May God continue to bless you and your sister and your Mama. We all look forward to Christ's return when all of our families can be re-united. Your friends from Mission Projects

Belize Bible Stories: Ms Pinky

By Wentworth Chang

Greetings in Jesus' name,

February 14, 2012

We had our first study with Ms. Pinky as she is affectionately known, and prefers to be called. It was about 10am. I got to Belmopan a little earlier as planned, so I walked to her home from the terminal.

Along the way sister Pot, a faithful Seventh-day Adventist, who is both a grandmother and the personal ministries director of her Church in Belmopan, had called me notifying me of her plan to be there a little earlier. I told her I was on my way, and had expected to meet her there since she resided in Belmopan. Nevertheless, I got there before she did. Ms. Pinky as we'll refer to her for right now, welcomed me inside, and bid me the time of the day; then introduced me to her grandson who was in and out of the house attending to something outside.

The previous week Pastor Angelo Dominguez & sister Pot had introduced me to Ms. Pinky as one who was afraid of the book of Revelation. She had gone to an Evangelistic campaign done by one of our Pastors, Guy Nembhard, and had heard many things from the Bible, particularly the Revelations, but she couldn't find herself reading it with contentment and peace. I was asked by Pastor Dominguez to assist with this particular study. He didn't ask if I thought I was able to do it. I guess he was impressed that I could. I didn't say no, but to be honest I had never really done a Revelation Bible study before. I mean, she wanted to understand & like the book that she so much feared.

Nevertheless, with faith in God and the little experience I've had as an elder in the church, and being Bible worker for some time now, I decided to use a PowerPoint presentation I had used at my local church about a year and half ago. I thought this would be the best idea for format; and the use of pictures would help both her and the bright little 2-year-old grandson of sister Pot, who knows how to pray and holds conversation with big folks with ease, to better appreciate such deep study. I modified it a little and decided to trust in God's blessings!

However, when I got there Ms. Pinky was burdened with some cares that she said the doctor had told her was the cause of her sickness. She is, by the way, suffering from lung cancer and diabetes. Please keep her in prayer. Sister Pot came shortly after. We took some time to encourage her, sang a chorus, and with the short childlike prayer of the little prodigy we began the study.

The study was focused on the attributes and watches of God's care over His children, based on Revelation 1, 4 and 5. In short, she said she enjoyed the first study, and with tears expressed an interest in further study.

Your brother in Christ,
Wentworth



I Trust That God Will Heal My Illness

By Ubaldo Guzman

I can remember when we first visited Mrs. Rosanna Guerra to arrange Bible studies with her. She was very happy to welcome us inside her humble house. She has been battling with Diabetes which has taken control of her body. Due to her poor health I sometimes have to postpone her studies, but she would always have an eager desire to learn new things from God's Word.

These studies have been helping her a lot with her health because we have been sharing health tips with her. I am praying that Mrs. Rosanna will continue to follow God's health laws and that she will recover from her illness, because she strongly believes and trusts that God will heal her.

I ask that you join me in prayer so that Mrs. Rosanna will make up her mind to follow Jesus Christ all the way and be ready for baptism very soon. ♦

God Has Helped Me to Forgive Others

By Ubaldo Guzman

I pray that God will help the Moh family to find in their heart to forgive others. I was knocking at the Moh's family gate one Thursday morning when I was approached by the mother who shared her problems with me.

The family had gotten into altercation with members of another family who inflicted a chop wound on her eldest son who was in critical condition in the Belize City hospital. She also told me that her family needed lots of prayers and that if I would study with her younger son by the name of Jessie. I told her that I would be happy to do so.

During the month of November I have been meeting with Jessie, praying and studying with him. The elder brother has been doing much better and I've learned that he also wants to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. I am happy that Jessie Moh and his family has found in their hearts to forgive those who have wronged them.

Please pray for this family and also pray that God will lead me to the right places where people are in need of Jesus. ♦



You are invited to attend:

What: MPI Board Meeting
Where: 175 Canyon View Road
Bozeman, Montana 59715
near Mount Ellis Academy
When: Following Montana Camp Meeting
Sunday June 17, 2012

One Day Church Building Blitz!

MPI is hoping to assemble several groups that will participate in erecting a container load of One Day churches this fall!

If you are a builder or would like to present evangelism, vacation Bible school, or medical programs, please let us know of your interest.

More information will be coming; watch this spot!

If you would like to receive updates as they are forthcoming, please drop an email to: mission.projects.inc@gmail.com

LATEST: We are considering January 21 to February 4, 2013 for dates for this mission trip. It looks like it will be either Belize, Nicaragua or Brazil.

MPI Update by Email

If you prefer to receive your MPI Update by email instead of by "snail mail," just send a note to:

mission.projects.inc@gmail.com

to let us know. You can help us save time and money, and you will still receive your receipts by postal mail.

URGENT NEEDS!

La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital in Belize Central America is in need of a full time **Ultrasound Technician/Sonographer**. Please contact Mr. Grant McPherson at mcperson_grant@hotmail.com, if you or someone you know might be interested in filling this position for a minimum period of three to four months or longer.

The hospital is also looking for Physicians for the following positions:

General Surgeon with Laparoscopy

Internist

Orthopedic Surgeon

But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; but he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man accordingly as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Cor 9:6,7

A Future Gift is a Planned Gift

Does your **present** financial situation seem to prevent you from supporting Mission Projects, Inc. this year? We have some good news; you can still support your favorite project through a **future** gift. Helping you make plans for a future gift is the essence of our Planned Giving Department. Let us show you how easily this can be done through one or more of the following methods:

- Name Mission Projects, Inc. as a beneficiary of your IRA or 401 (k) retirement plan
- Designate us as a dollar amount or percentage beneficiary of your will or revocable living trust
- Name Mission Projects, Inc. as a beneficiary of your investment/brokerage account or life insurance policies
- Transfer valuables such as stamp, coin or antique collections to us through a simple change to your documents

Perhaps you need more income now or for your anticipated retirement. We even offer **future** gift options that will pay you a generous, fixed income **now** for as long as you live, provide immediate income tax relief, and ultimately provide funds for Mission Projects, Inc.

To learn more, contact our Planned Giving department today at 866-356-5595.

Worthy Student Aid

This young man received MPI assistance last year and sent a note of appreciation. His English style has been retained.

The purpose of this message is to thank the help that was so willingly given to me. Your support was without a doubt the answer to my fervent but yet patient prayers to my God.

I have no doubt that your ministry is directed by God, given that your help was given to me exactly when it was needed. It was a divine blessing. By these means I was able to complete my inscription process and was able to study my third year as a Theology student, convinced that I was being called by God. If I could collaborate or help you, please don't hesitate to contact me, as I am very grateful with you.

Wishing the best to this ministry that you are partaking of, may the Lord's blessing and presence never leave you. So that you can continue being an instrument in God's hands.

Your friend and brother in Christ,
Uziel Bárcenas Saldivar



MEDIA SPECIALIST VOLUNTEER NEEDED:

Are you a gentleman with communications/media training?

Do you sense God calling you to use these gifts for Him?

We invite you to pray about whether the Amazon jungle of Peru might be the spot for you. You can find the official call at the Adventist Volunteers website www.adventistvolunteers.org/vm

Call number is SAD.PP.2011.01.

Or, contact Chris Borcharding at info@peruprojects.com directly.

Memorial Gifts

*Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of His saints. Psalm 116:15*

At Rest

Bechtel, Dave & Jim

By Ruby Bechtel

Bieber, Ed & Elsie

By Ruth Wiebold



Since there are many students needing assistance, your Student Aid contributions are placed in a General Fund & distributed uniformly among those with the greatest need and potential. Thank you!

MEMORIAL & SPECIAL OCCASION GIVING

Amount: \$ _____ Date: _____

Given by _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In behalf of: _____

Anniversary Baptism Birthday At Rest _____

Please send card to person below:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to: M.P.I. ♦ P.O. Box 504, College Place, WA 99324
Please note prior address is no longer valid.

Please send me additional memorial forms (Number) _____

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Giving of Ourselves in 2012

Mission Projects, Incorporated (MPI) is a supporting organization of the Seventh-day Adventist church, dedicated to spreading the Gospel by way of medical, educational, and evangelistic endeavors.

MPI works in complete harmony with local Conferences and Missions, does not accept tithe, and is a member of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) and Outpost Centers International (OCI).

YES—COUNT ME IN!

Please return this card with your tax-deductible donation to:

M.P.I., P.O. Box 504, College Place, WA 99324

Indicate amount donated to each fund

Please note prior address is no longer valid.

\$ _____ La Loma Luz Hospital (Belize)	\$ _____ Church Building Projects
\$ _____ Bibles \$ _____ Literature	\$ _____ Church Roofs
\$ _____ Worthy Student Fund	\$ _____ Use where most needed
\$ _____ Lay Workers	\$ _____ Other

I'd like to make my gift by charge card: Visa MasterCard

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Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____

Home Phone # _____ Change address to billing address