



September 2010



# Southeast London Newsletter

The occasional newsletter of the Southeast London Fellowship of Operation Mobilisation

P.O. Box 660, Forest Hill, London SE23 3ST  
Ph: 44 (0)20 8699 6077

## 50 years ago this very month

**Drena and I arrived in Spain.  
We had been married 7 months.  
Little did we realize all that God had in store.**



I have just returned from another great ministry tour in the United States. I am glad that we arrived back in time to attend the funeral of our dear friend and team member, Carole Clifford. You can read about her home going on the next page.

All of us are grieving over the killings in Afghanistan and the floods in Pakistan and other horrendous things going on around the world. We are standing on I Corinthians 15:58.

**“Therefore, my dear brothers (and sisters), stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”**

In our Special Projects ministry we are in the middle of a great matching fund to help with key needs and projects around the world – a total of £100,000 or \$150,000. We want to thank all of you who have responded no matter what amount you have sent. We are almost at the **one-third** mark. We have produced a new leaflet about Special Projects. Please let us know if you would like a copy.

I am typing this in the home of Peter and Win Maiden in Carlisle where I have come to speak to the staff... and what a fantastic staff and base of operation they have here. If you are ever up this way please do try to give them a visit.

In the afternoon I will also visit STL, the literature ministry we started in London 47 years ago. It has been separate from OM for about 25 years, but now is totally owned by another Christian organisation. I look forward to meeting some of them tomorrow. We really do pray for them and wish them good success. It is not easy days for Christian books here in the UK.

Peter and Win and their team and co-leaders around the globe really do need our prayers. The monthly newsletter that Peter produces is one of the best pieces of communication you can get about OM. You can request it from:

**Operation Mobilisation  
The Quinta,  
Weston Rhyn  
Shropshire  
SY10 7LT**



## From the world to London

The Southeast London Fellowship is a close-knit group of committed Christians, most of whom are with Operation Mobilisation, working in London or on behalf of other areas of the world. Some SLF members are former OMerS engaged in their own ministries but driven by the same values and commitment to Christ. At the heart of the Southeast London Fellowship is the ministry of Special Projects and George and Drena Verwer. The office team in Forest Hill is currently led by Mike and Linda van Vuuren.



## tributes to a special member of our fellowship

Carole, the girl from Croydon, a life given to Christ, becoming a Clifford in her love for Dennis and subsequently the family. She was committed to the fellowship at Cranmer Hall, a dedication to children in teaching and then a concern for children and their families in the wider world. A life well lived! *(Mary Brinkley)*

I always had to be there for prayer or I knew that Carole would not be pleased. You always knew that she was the headmistress, but you also knew deep down that she had a heart of gold. Proverbs 31:30 comes to mind: 'Charm is deceitful, beauty is fleeting, but a woman who honours the Lord is to be praised.'

*(Ho May Huay)*

During Carole's last few years she became a student in the school of suffering. Those around her saw an example of quiet trust and steadfastness in the face of pain that we will never forget. Our dear friend and fellow team member has now graduated, *summa cum laude*. We will miss her lovely spirit amongst us! *(Debbie Meroff)*

When Malou arrived single and alone from the Philippines to join OM, it was Dennis and Carole who took her under their wings, acting almost as surrogate parents. Over the years, whenever Gareth has spoken at Cranmer Hall, every meeting was preceded by an excellent meal cooked by Carole.

*(Gareth and Malou Bolton)*

When Carole was Office Manager we had adjoining offices. If there was a problem we would find a solution together. I always appreciated her wisdom. We shared about our families, and she was a good friend. Dennis and Carole had true servant hearts. When we had events of any kind, they would always volunteer to help, and were willing to do whatever task we asked them to do. *(Dave and Pam White)*

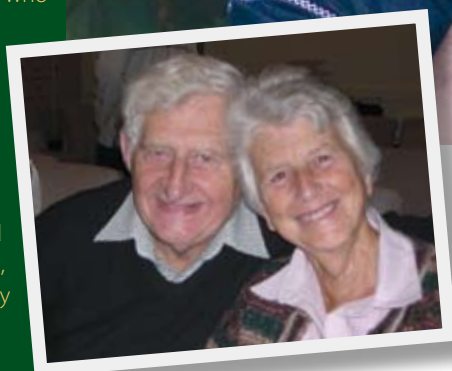
Carole combined a deep strength of faithfulness with the beautiful spirit of gentleness. To encounter her in the office, or on the ship, or in the street, was to feel warmly loved and encouraged. She will continue to be deeply missed here, but what a wonderful warm welcome she must have received as she finally came home to her Lord!

*(Peter and Melanie Mead)*

I first met Dennis and Carole during *Love Europe* in Germany 1992. They were very loving and helpful when I was having a difficult time. In 1995 Carole was office manager and I found her to be an amazing person to work with. She was a gentle, loving and a godly woman. Bob used to do airport runs for Carole whenever she needed help. Carole will be missed and we grieve with Dennis. *(Bob & Molly Cook)*



Carole Clifford



## The homegoing of a quiet saint

Carole and Dennis went for a holiday on the Queen Mary cruise ship at the beginning of August and on the first night of the cruise, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, Carole went to glory in her sleep.

She and Dennis joined our team after taking early retirement from life-time careers in teaching. Not content to put their feet up, they committed themselves to a further 25 years of active Christian service. Carole became office manager for the OM International Coordinating Team in London, and an important part of the team.

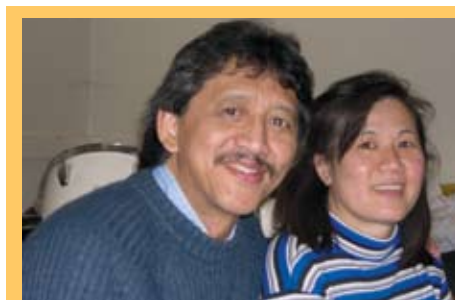
This led on to a ministry as senior advisors of the children's education programme in OM Ships. Dennis and Carole were tireless in recruiting and training staff and ensuring a high standard of education on the ships as well as in other missionary schools around the world. They paid regular visits to the OM ships and were always welcomed by both staff and children.

Seven years ago when ICT moved to Carlisle they remained part of our South-east London Fellowship. They rarely missed a prayer meeting, though in recent years, as Carole began to battle with cancer, this became increasingly difficult. They finally handed over their responsibilities for the educational programme to younger, qualified people.

The funeral and memorial service were held in Croydon, South London on August 25<sup>th</sup>, attended by many friends and members of Cranmer Hall Christian Fellowship where Carole and Dennis have worshipped for many years. OMerS came from Carlisle, The Quinta and Mosbach to pay tribute to a godly wife, mother, grandmother and team member.

Pray for Dennis and the family: Helen, Mark and John and their spouses and children. You can write to Dennis at:

**14 Birch Tree Way, Croydon  
Surrey CR0 7JY (UK)**



### Kenny and Bee Lee Gan

Many have been praying for Kenny Gan, who developed severe ill health, weight loss and problems in his kidneys and his ears. His recent scan revealed no signs of cancer and no signs of liver cirrhosis. He continues to travel and preach and recover lost energy. Bee Lee also has some health complications and they request continued prayer for grace and strength for every day. God is good.

# From London to the world



## Gofer's reflections\*

### Greetings from Zimbabwe...

So began Mike van Vuuren's recent news email from his homeland. Mike, with his wife Linda, is now leader of the team at Forest Hill. He is on a one-month visit to Zimbabwe and South Africa, where his daughter is living. His son Brian is with the family in the UK.



I arrived on an over-full Air Kenya flight full of Chinese and walked straight into the happy Zimbabwe life — no water, no electricity, and no internet.

This is the first day I have all 3 and it is Friday. But the people are friendly and there is a hint of optimism in the air again. The economy is still struggling and the talk in the street is full of expectation of wealth that the Murenge Diamonds will bring, but we know too well from our past experience that, when minerals are found in Africa, Africans die!

The church is growing and there is great hope for the coming National day of prayer on the 26th September:

<http://www.lovezim.org>

The OM Zim team are busy with Church follow-up after the World Cup outreach.

① I would appreciate prayer for my meeting with the United Bible Society. We need their co-operation to be able to produce Shona and Tonga Bibles for our Twin City Bible Project.

② Please pray for my Kundayi Support Group in Bantek — a group I co-formed in my OM Zimbabwe leadership days. These people are suffering with HIV/AIDS.

The group is trying to start a self help project to make candles so that they can become self sustaining and create employment to feed their families. We need funding of US\$1,000 to buy the candle making tool and first batch of raw material. It is definitely a good time to get into the candle making business!



\* The 'Gofer' in OM terms refers to George Verwer's annual assistant. Wikipedia has this to say about the 'Gofer': "The term originated in North America, with the phrase *dogsbody* being a similar British term... a junior member of an organisation who generally receives the most vexing and thankless work."

### Drew Letzerich



“ I praise the Lord for the past year. It has been a hard year but good from God — a military boot camp... intense, but worth it. It has made me sharper and better equipped for the battle. The picture (above) was taken at an orphanage in Cairo. These girls have no mothers or fathers, but they are in an environment learning how the true God is their Father, that there is hope, and they are being provided for. This has stirred my heart even more to live for others. What a privilege God has given us... Ecclesiastes 7:2-4 ”

### Daniel Mombartz



Daniel from Germany, the new Gofer, follows in the footsteps of Drew and 52 others who have devoted a year to helping George with his ministry.

“ My first seven days were pretty intense. We left on the second day for a five day trip through the UK. George was speaking in churches and the 'Souled Out' youth event and I was blowing up his big world globe. My personal goal this year is to be a great support to George, his wife Drena and Vera who coordinates his itinerary. Thank you for supporting me with your prayers! ”

### Did you know?

- Fewer than 5% of Europeans identify themselves as evangelical Christians, and 24 European nations have less than 1% of an evangelical presence.
- Islam is the fastest growing religion in Europe.
- The people with the highest rates of suicide in the world live in Europe: Belarus, Lithuania and Russia.
- Some 80% of Europeans aged 15 years or over, over a fifth of the adult EU population, report binge drinking once a week.
- 4 million abortions take place every year in Russia. 75% of pregnancies in Romania — 3 out of 4 babies — end in abortion.

Many people are unaware of realities like this in the continent of Europe. OM wants to raise awareness and spur Christians worldwide to more concerned intercession for this needy continent.

My research has taken me to parts of Europe that are seldom visited by tourists. In Bosnia I found a war-weary people whose wounds are far from healed. In Europe's poorest country, Moldova, I was shocked by the large numbers of children and old people

The OM European Area Leaders asked Debbie Meroff to write a book to 'put Europe back on the missions map.'



'left behind' by thousands of relatives who have had to find work in other countries. In Austria and Belgium my eyes were opened to the heavy population of Muslims and mosques outnumbering the tiny evangelical Church.

**The new book, scheduled to be out next year, will not only be a survey of Europe's spiritual situation but a practical guide for reader involvement.**



A street encounter in Belgium

# People & Places

## Rosemary Morris

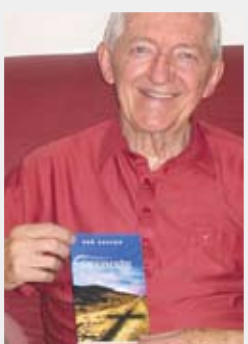
Rosemary and Molly Cook have been in India to attend the consecration of Alfie Franks as first Bishop of the Good Shepherd Community Church.

Rosemary writes: "In Bangalore I took part in a protest with the Dalits, and also met with the former Director General of Police and a prominent local businessman regarding the All India Christian Council. In Delhi, I met with John Dayal, secretary general of the AICC and stayed with one of the outstanding Dalit leaders and his family, Udit and Seema Raj."

## Gerry and Jean Davey

It is a busy family time for Gerry and Jean. Their daughter Jerilyn will be married on 11<sup>th</sup> September and they are enjoying a visit from Drena and her husband Mike from Tajikistan.

"We are glad to tell you of the recently published Mongolian edition of *Calvary Road* — our first project in this language.



Two more Roy Hession titles are now being translated:

*We Would See Jesus* and *Good News for Bad People.*"

## Gareth and Malou Bolton

As I write this from Kansai Bible Institute in Japan, we are thanking God we have recently been able to take a group with us to experience what God is doing among the urban poor in the Philippines. To learn what the Bible teaches about mission while experiencing a cross-cultural mission trip is potent. In a few weeks' time, we will take a number of friends to visit three of the projects AMEN is currently supporting in India. Thanks for your prayers for our team. For more in-depth news, visit:

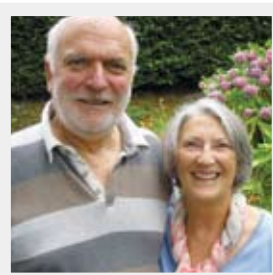
[www.garethandmalou.org](http://www.garethandmalou.org) (personal)  
[www.amentrust.co.uk](http://www.amentrust.co.uk) (charity)



## Werner and Cecilia Madlener

The Madlener's are a great answer to prayer, as they are now resident in Forest Hill and Werner is Operations Manager.

We are settling in Forest Hill. Our children are now registered in the local school, although Joshua is still on a waiting list. We are still paryign for the right church that we could join. We want to be a blessing in the area where live. Please pray for wisdom that we could have good relationship among the local people. We have visited our church in Germany and are grateful for the blessing they are to us.



## John and Jan Munroe

John and Jan ran the West Watch house for OM for several years. We met them again at Carole's funeral.

"We head off to Australia in October, where we will be on front line family evangelism from 5<sup>th</sup> of that month for the foreseeable future. Pray for us!"

## Peter and Melanie Mead

Peter and Melanie Mead and family have moved to Chippenham in Wiltshire in order to increase the number of Sundays Peter can be home with the family, as well as to launch Cor Deo. Peter has been at the OM new recruits conference in Holland.

"I have a session and a workshop on the Bible on Saturday, the Sunday morning meeting on the uniqueness of Christ, some involvement in Mission Possible on Monday, then two sessions on Grace and Integrity on Tuesday." For more news of them, see their websites:

[www.cordeo.org.uk](http://www.cordeo.org.uk)  
[www.pouredout.org](http://www.pouredout.org)

# People in need of Prayer

## Chacko and Radha

Chacko has been in India for six weeks and returns in September. He has been teaching at a Bible School in Siliguri and a conference in Nagpur. He is taking meetings in Meerut, where his nephew is a pastor, and Ghaziabad, where his brother is a pastor. He faces a biopsy on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

If all is well, Radha will then be able to visit her mother in Singapore, who is now living alone and in need of long-term care. **Please pray for them all.**



## Sara Langmead and Chris

Sara, the Office Manager at Forest Hill, will be married to Chris Govey on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Chris is hoping to land a new job in Croydon. Sara will remain in her job at Forest Hill – and they plan to live in West Wickham.



## Dave and Judy Stump

Manna House, the OM Hospitality Centre in Bromley and home of Dave and Judy Stump, faces an uncertain future. New safety regulations require considerable investment if it is to remain available as a guest house, and the Trust that owns the property is considering its future. Please pray for the Stumps, as their future is also wrapped up in the decision.

OM Southeast London Newsletter is an occasional letter of the Southeast London OM Fellowship, 39 Honor Oak Road, London SE23 3SH, UK • Phone: +44 (0)20 8699 6077 • Email: [info@spj.om.org](mailto:info@spj.om.org)

Operation Mobilisation UK Registered office: The Quinta, Weston Rhyn, Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 7LT.

Registered as a limited company by guarantee no. 2564320 and charity no.1008196 (England and Wales), and SC040988 (Scotland)

[www.uk.om.org](http://www.uk.om.org)

DATA PROTECTION: Your details will not be passed to any other organisation. However OM may like to send you other information of its work around the world. Please inform us if you would prefer NOT to receive this information.