



## MISSIONARY CANDIDATES APPROVED

The World Missions Board met April 10 and approved 45 new missionary candidates who will go to 20 countries around the world.

God continues to call servants to “go into all the world and preach the gospel.” We are thankful for those who have answered God’s call.

Pray for these new laborers that God will bless them in raising their budgets and get them to their field of assignment quickly because the Lord’s return is soon.

## PFL PERSONNEL CHANGE

For six years Ray Drew served Personnel and Family Life as the processing coordinator for our missionary associates, and more recently, the applicants for our under-one-year MAPS program. On the personal side, Ray completed his undergraduate degree and has begun graduate work in

the field of accounting, with his interest in tax accounting. Ray left PFL as of April 2 to pursue a career in accounting.

Ray has personally handled a multitude of applications over the years and has made many friends. Because so many of you have appreciated the work and relationship developed

with Ray over the years, we would like to collect special notes of appreciation you wish to pass on to Ray and Linda. You may send these by e-mail to Janice Brison at [JBrison@ag.org](mailto:JBrison@ag.org).

## ISMK IS 35 YEARS OLD!

This spring is a great season of ministry for ISMK. In April the office will be ministering at the All-LAC MK retreat in Costa Rica. We expect around 70 MKs and 15 staff. The retreat is being held at a campground outside of San José. It promises to be a great time.

As soon as we return from that retreat we will attend the Missionary Kids Caregivers Conference. Approximately 35 different missions organizations send their MK specialists to this conference, and we are privileged to be able to attend. Although there are many fine missions organizations out there, we are so blessed with the leadership we have. I thank God that 35 years ago the directors of AGWM had the vision to minister to its MKs! What a

difference it has made throughout these three and a half decades.

The first week of May we will be flying to Barcelona for the All-Europe Retreat. At last count 172 MKs and 25 staff were planning to attend this conference. Our guest speaker will be Steve Pulis, who also accompanied me to the Africa Retreat in January. We are expecting God to do great things in all age levels!

I tell you these things to ask for your prayers. We believe in MKs, and we want to see God move at each event we attend. Please pray for protection and His divine anointing. For those of you who are sending MKs to these various functions, let them know we are excited to be with them.



Chad and Dargan Phillips

I have also asked Brenda Dickey to contribute to the ISMK news we send out. We will add portions of her articles here but will send out full versions to parents who signed up for our e-mail updates. You can sign up at the [ismk.org](http://ismk.org) Web site.

Blessings to each of you,  
Bwana Chad and  
Bwanita Dargan Phillips

### EARLY CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT *by Brenda Dickey*

Verbal skills begin in early childhood and are enhanced by exposure to reading, music, conversation, and other verbal activities.

Reading to children daily is an important routine for families to include into their daily family times. Reading aloud to children builds verbal skills as well as shows children by example that reading is valued in the home. Motivation for learning begins in the early years of childhood development.

When parents read to children and use language-learning games in play, they develop a real desire in the child to enjoy learning. The more parents read to children, the greater the impact of language learning on the child. Conversation with children is also really important to develop language ability in children.

The key to success in reading comes from a rich language environment. This environment includes reading stories, repeating nursery rhymes, singing songs as well as playing games with language. Reading books like Dr. Seuss books with rhyming words enhance language learning. Using rhyming words with children help them develop reading skills for decoding words.

## SPOTLIGHT on Mary Villa

Mary Villa is serving as a one-year missionary associate in Russia. She serves as the coordinator's assistant of Project Reach with missionary Norm Edwards. Here's an excerpt from her recent newsletter.

*Greetings from Russia! It's hard to believe we are already on the brink of another spring! Let me tell you a little bit about what's been going on around here.*

*I arrived in Moscow on November 22 and celebrated Thanksgiving Day with many of the missionaries here.*

*Walking down the street with a pot of Stove Top stuffing, I attempted a conversation in Russian with a woman who was staring at my pot. "Today is a holiday in America. This is bread." Not the most brilliant conversation I've ever had but definitely a step in the right direction. During the following weeks, the focus was on getting adjusted, finding an apartment, and learning how to get around.*

*"Watch and Copy" has become the motto for everything from buying cookies to entering and exiting crowded subway cars—no space bubbles here! Moscow is a very interesting city, and I love it. It's a giant*

*city/village where the modern meets the traditional, from towering buildings to little vegetable carts. And then there's the meat market! Rows and rows of meat and fish and cheese and more meat and...is that a cow tail?*

*Although the language and culture study are fun, educational, and a necessary part of life here, my main job is working with Project Reach, a ministry focusing on the unreached people of Russia—those who are still without an adequate representation of the gospel message. My role in this is growing, but I still have so much to learn! Norm, the coordinator for Project Reach, is currently in the States, presenting this opportunity in a variety of venues. Please pray with us that God will continue to place this area of need on people's hearts, sending laborers into His harvest!*

*I attend a really great church here called International Christian Assembly. We meet in a hotel since we're not able to own a place. The services are held in English with translation available into other languages. There are over 30 nations represented in the congregation. It's a great experience to gather with*



*people from all over the globe to worship the Lord. Some are ambassadors, but most are college students who are here to study medicine, foreign affairs, engineering, etc. Some have been attending church all their lives, and some are hearing about Jesus for the first time. If you're ever in Moscow, please come and join us!*

**PFL STAFF**

**Rick Johnson**

*Director*

**Sharon Graham**

*Administrative Coordinator*

**David Stanislaus**

*Office Manager*

**Kathleen Powers**

*Administrative Support Specialist*

**Susan Carroll**

*Events Coordinator*

**Janice Brison**

*Application Processing Manager*

**TBA**

*Support Specialist*

**Maureen Simpson**

*Candidate Processing Coordinator*

**Melissa Flokstra**

*Candidate Processing Assistant*

**Margaret Mapson**

*Candidate Processing Assistant*

**Jennifer Pulley**

*MA/MAPS Processing Coordinator*

**Angela Long**

*MA/MAPS Processing Assistant*

**Tiffany Stark**

*Northern Asia/ISM/Eurasia/AGWM General*

**Kristen McCabe**

*Africa/LAC*

**Joani Vander Molen**

*Asia Pacific/Europe*

**Chad and Dargan Phillips**

*MK Program Managers*

**Bethanie Skipper**

*MK Office Coordinator*

**Cristi Alexander**

*MK Correspondence Assistant*

**Kristi Arnold**

*MK Office Assistant*

**Brittany McConnell**

*MK Resource Assistant*

**Joyce Hubbs**

*Short-Term Minister Abroad Specialist*

**Linda Tasker**

*Medical Processing Assistant*

**Margo Long**

*Medical Processing Assistant*

**Amanda Hall**

*Medical Processing Assistant*

**SUPPORT STAFF**

**Joe Arnold**

*Visa/Travel Specialist*

**Lori Bailey**

*Medical Insurance Specialist*

**Daniel Buffington**

*MA/MAPS Financial Services Coordinator*

