

MEMBER MISSION NEWSLETTER

#71 – Ways – New and Old

May 2009

For the richest spirituality of all, find and join what God is doing in each part of your life!

This month's features:

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- Help to Plant Member Mission in Tanzania

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STORIES

A History of Model Railroading

Keith writes about the historical side of model railroading for Railroad Model Craftsman. He's been doing so monthly since 1982! Among recent articles, he told the story of vintage HO gauge rolling stock. His current work is the first of a series of three about Walther's O-gauge parts from 1932 to World War II. Walther made kits and ran a catalog supply house.

Keith's father aroused his interest in trains by giving him a Marx train set, a 1941 Commodore Vanderbilt that had three freight cars, an engine, track, and a transformer. He put it under the Christmas tree, a practice Keith continues. Since that time, Keith has collected cars and engines. His twenty-six years as an industrial designer support his writing and collecting. He worked on the art end: trade show exhibits; packaging; graphics; a pool table; and a molded bathroom sink.



Contact Information:

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STORIES (continued)

How do you see God at work in your writing?

“Inspiration! It gives readers a sense of history. It gives a sense of where we have come from. It gives an appreciation of where we are today.”

How has God helped you in this writing?

“God has given me the creative drive to do research and to write. The research leads to the writing. Why do the research if you don’t share it?”

For his monthly column, subscribe to Railroad Model Craftsman for \$37.95 per year at <http://www.rrmodelcraftsman.com/> and click on the magazine title; or phone 973-383-3355.

Contact: membermission@aol.com

Doggedness and Faith in China

Twenty years after China's military crushed dissent around Tiananmen Square, the details are still fresh in Qi Zhiyong's mind. The student-led protests in the heart of the Chinese capital had gone on for weeks. It was an extraordinary call for political freedom and an end to government corruption. But late on June 3, 1989, the government lost its patience. Qi Zhiyong vividly remembers the acrid smell of tear gas, the people run down by tanks and the dizzying pain when a bullet tore through his left leg.



“I saw people being run over. Blood sprayed everywhere,” says Qi, then a 33-year-old construction worker. “The tanks kept moving, as if the people weren’t there. My hair stood on end. I was chilled to the bone.” Witnessing the crackdown and losing his leg transformed Qi from a loyal Communist Party supporter into an activist with a simple goal: speaking out about the events which the leadership has all but erased from history. His efforts cost him his job, his wife and his freedom.

But a newfound Christian faith and pure doggedness have kept him going. “The young generation, they eat hamburgers and wear famous brands. But when June 4 is mentioned, they only have a very vague understanding of what happened,” Qi says. “Democracy is for all the people, and we need to talk to people and bring the idea to them.”

Over the years, Qi, a handsome, square-jawed man who walks with the help of metal crutches, has given interviews to foreign media and overseas human rights groups. He has been detained many times. Security agents follow him and keep watch over the 135-square-foot home he shares with his second wife, and their 12-year-old daughter.

“Many people who have been persecuted since 1989 have tried to speak up, but Mr. Qi is one of the most persistent,” says Renee Xia, international director of the rights group Chinese Human Rights Defenders. “He not only tries to get justice for his own loss, but speaks up for others For this, authorities have targeted him for harassment and retaliation.”

(From Audra Ang, Associated Press writer)

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STORIES (continued)

Help to Plant Member Mission in Tanzania

On February 26, Rev. Dundas J. Gamama in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania found our website and its notice of the Member Mission Leadership Institute in Santa Barbara, CA in October.

He wrote, “Is the Conference open to Christians of all denominations? If yes, I am a pastor in local ministry in Dar es Salaam of Tanzania in East Africa and willing to learn more under your mentorship. I have been impressed and blessed by your website. Will you offer me a scholarship, since we live in a low income country? Your training will bring great impact in my country and congregations here. Please don’t hesitate to contact me for more details.”

Dundas serves as a pastor at the Vision for Life Ministry Church with 56 members that was founded in 2000. He finds "that the principles and vision of your Ministry is helpful to bring many souls to Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. That is why we need your materials and spiritual support in the field of God, our Lord. I am / we are aware that attending to and having your teachings and workbooks will change a great gospel situation in our communities." The church is part of the Victory Chapel International that was founded in 1990 and has 25 churches in Tanzania. Its founder, Rt. Bishop C. Mpumbe commends Dundas and describes their beliefs thus: “We believe in the gifts of the Spirit and allowing the Lord and Savior to direct our lives.”



Dundas, aged 47, married with three children, worked as a manager for the Brooke Bond Tea Company before receiving an Advanced Diploma in Theology from studies at the Nassa Theological College (1998–2000) and has served in full-time church work since then. His continuing education includes a course in Discipleship and Church Multiplication in 2006.

To demonstrate his commitment to the member mission approach, he and his teammate have agreed to complete and submit all of the worksheets for their daily mission fields by June 15; and, on their return home, to conduct two groups using the worksheets; to include prayers for the daily mission fields every Sunday; and to use the approach of the worksheets in preparing newcomers for baptism and membership.

Rev. Gamama wants to bring a lay leader with him to share implementing what they learn back home. Their costs: \$4,600 Air fare – round trip Dar es Salaam to Santa Barbara, CA for two; less \$1,000 from his bishop who will ask 20 members to contribute \$50 each; less \$1,200 from Member Mission. Total NEEDED \$2,400.

Will you help? Send checks to Member Mission Network, Inc.; 10 Jubert Lane, Plattsburgh, NY 12901-6442 or [click here to donate online](#).

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RESOURCES

Getting Back to Basics

Basics: are not the laity the most effective agents of God's mission today? The laity are living out their daily missions in their homes, at work, in the local community, in the wider world, choosing their leisure -- as well as deepening their own spirituality and their role in their church's life and its outreach. When their congregation supports them in their daily missions as its primary purpose – or one of its primary purposes – their ability to make a difference multiplies exponentially! Make this your story too. [Click here for more information.](#)

Come to the Member Mission Leadership Institute.

Dinner, Sunday, October 11 through breakfast, Friday, October 16, 2009.

La Casa de Maria Retreat and Conference Center, 800 El Bosque Road, Santa Barbara, CA.

Registration: per person \$350; \$300 in teams of two or three \$350; up to 50% travel reimbursement provided.

Deadline: September 15, 2009. Contact Wayne Schwab at 518-561-1184 or membermission@aol.com.

[Reserve your space today!](#)

Religion & Ethics Newsweekly

News, interviews, and commentary of all faiths airs on public television. This award-winner offers a 30-minute show weekly; a weekly email; and a rich web site featuring aspects of the week's topics. Google Religion & Ethics Newsweekly; click *When's it on* under the brief description about it; and up will come the date, time, and channel for your area.

Bill Moyers' Journal

Bill Moyers holds one or two in depth interviews each week on issues from government to culture to entertainment. Each program is available on transcripts, CD, or VHS. Check public television listings; it usually appears Friday nights 9:00 - 10:00 PM.

Go to <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/index-flash.html>.



MEMBER MISSION PRESENTS

Four New Stories on YouTube

- [Liz volunteers to tutor 3rd and 5th graders](#)
- [Michelle: helping families of Navy seals](#)
- [Burt: God helps a pilot](#)
- [Peggy: a second language mission](#)

Click the links above to watch these stories and learn more about the personal impact of Member Mission. To see more [MemberMission Presents videos](#), go to www.youtube.com/user/MemberMission.

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Get On Facebook Too!

On your home page, in the Search box at the upper right, type in Member Mission Network. Join me in sharing fresh insights arising from the member mission vision – all of the baptized on mission wherever they are.

FOR MEDITATION

C Sharp Minor (look again)

That woman in the alley
collecting glass and tin,
would give us riches if we'd listen,
and teach us humbly, once again,
the nakedness of being poor
in spirit and meek in coin.

That man in ragged clothing,
who causes us to look away,
as we pass by annoyed
would gladly offer up his meager coins,
to buy a cup of coffee,
for a tablespoon of words.

That minstrel playing for alms
with an open violin case in the tenderloin
is more than what he seems,
he offers more than just a melody
and works for more than just his means.
Look again. After all God goes hungry for a living.

Catherine Lark Lane

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Tell us about your work with member mission at membermission@aol.com or phone / fax (518) 561-1184.
(You continue on this list because of past interest and / or work together with the member mission vision.) If you missed or lost any past newsletters, you will find them on the website under Making the Vision Work > Newsletters.
To be dropped from the list, just write us at membermission@aol.com

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