



GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION

of the Evangelical Congregational Church
Empowering National Churches • Facilitating Mission Workers • Ministering to the Marginalized



Marcia Hopley

Spiritual journey: Under the impact of two Sunday School teachers who had a small club I came under conviction to follow Jesus Christ, the alternative being an eternity in hell.

At the time no one disciple me but I gave in to Christ on my knees at my bedside, rather a reluctant, afraid of hell convert at 13 years old. It was only in hind sight that I understood what had happened to me. From the time of sixteen at a Christian camp I made a full surrender to follow, if he wanted, into “mission” which again not realizing all that meant. But to me it meant that my relationships (with boys) and preparation must be geared to the ministry on a mission field wherever God led. My minister and his wife, Case Stafford and Harriette were my models for marriage (they argued and laughed a lot and there were books everywhere) and mission as she had grown up in a tent as an MK in a tent.

I went into nursing as that seemed a helpful occupation to use. I had two years of Bible school in the Bible/nursing course and met Thom Hopley there. After and up and down courtship we married on May 6, 1961 and sailed to Kenya on a freighter on May 26, 1961. I completed my B.A. papers and mailed them from Mombasa. We went to Kenya to adapt a boy’s program called in the states, Christian Service Brigade (in Kenya, CS. Battalion). Thom was a teacher and a disciple of men. Two of our children were born in Kenya. We ministered and became family with the Africans in the AIC. But because Thom was prophetic, quite ahead of the time we were not popular with AIM.

We ministered under AIM in the city of Newark, NJ with Africans who were in the states and tried to answer the question “How is it with the American Black?” the query from the African church. We saw the bond between Africans and African Americans and that has influenced my direction ever since. In 1976 to 1978 we ministered in IVCF as urban specialists and raising the level of consciousness in the leadership toward cultures. Thom went on to higher things in June

of 1978 and I was left with the baggage...a call to black leadership, four children from 14-3, a strong relationship with the Evangelical Church through Rev. Cattermole, and involvement in IVCF and urban context.

God, in his marvelous grace reemphasized my call to mission and promised his supply. Of course it was my weakness that I found that supply plentiful; the children accepting Christ, some Christian school experience, a home without a mortgage, my continuing in Christian work and four college educations, oops I mean five as I attended the center for urban theological studies in the evenings and have a master's in missiology.

I am presently serving in three capacities in IVCF: as a staff for Graduate Fellowship (which has internationals), Black Campus Ministry (BCM) and most recently the last 2 years on Black Scholars and Professionals (BSAP) I am an intercessor and bridge person between the groups. My African mission experience fits very well in these contexts and I am still involved with my Kenyan "family". I mentor, disciple and speak. I am involved with some Christian Artists who have studios in a church together and an actress. I have taken groups of Black Americans to Kenya.