

Department of International Missions  
acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Simeon Nzishura  
*Conference President*

**BURUNDI**

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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Bertin Mwanza  
*Conference President*

**DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

## Bertin Mwanya

**title:** Conference President  
DRC AC Conference

**in office since:** 2007 (Reg. Superintendent)  
2005 (Conference President)

**lives in:** Lubumbashi, Katanga, DRC

**family/birthdays:**

Bertin – Dec. 12  
Genevieve (wife) – Jan. 1

Paul  
Louis  
Marthe  
Bertin  
Esther

Bertin Mwanya is a busy man. He serves the Lord as President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) AC Conference. He also is pastor at Eden Advent Christian Church in Lubumbashi.

In his former role as Central Africa Regional Superintendent, he organized our Tanzania churches' affiliation, taught "Farming God's Way" techniques in Malawi, contributed regularly to our Advent Christian online E-News and advised our Central Africa conferences.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English, Journalism and in Theology, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He has been an English teacher, broadcast journalist and business manager.

## Simeon Nzishura

**title:** President  
Burundi AC Conference

**in office since:** 2006

**lives in:** Bujumbura, Burundi

**family/birthdays:**

Simeon – Nov. 12  
Nizigiyimana Mary (wife) – July 7

Divine – Dec. 18, 1985  
Stephen – July 18, 1988  
Esther – June 4, 1991  
Noella – March 12, 1992  
Johnathn – July 5, 1995  
Samuel – Jan. 23, 2003  
(plus four orphans living with them)

Bishop Simeon Nzishura's native Burundi has been in civil war off and on since 1965. In response, he has initiated peace endeavors and conferences in Central Africa. Simeon also visits refugees who have fled to the West, to serve as a link with their families in Burundi.

In the 1990s he started the African Protestant Evangelical Elim Church, a fellowship of 45 churches.

Today he serves as leader of our Burundi Advent Christian Conference. He conducts an extensive financial accountability seminar in his churches.

In 2006, when Simeon approached Advent Christian General Conference with a request to affiliate, he wanted his work to be a part of an international family. His passion for the second coming of Jesus was the deciding factor in his choice of the Advent Christian family.

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Peter Motende  
*Conference President*

KENYA

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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Moses B. Gbaa  
*Conference President*

LIBERIA

## Moses B. Gbaa

**title:** President  
AC Conference of Liberia

**in office since:** 2015

**lives in:** Buchanan, Grand Bassa County,  
Liberia

**family/birthdays:**

Moses – March 11  
Nancy (wife) – January 6

Naomi – March 26, 1992  
Sarah – April 18, 1996  
Jairus – December 20, 1999  
Darius – November 2, 2002  
Christian – April 28, 2006  
Monee – September 6, 2008

Moses was the former vice president of the AC Liberian Conference before accepting the position of president of the conference in July 2015.

Moses is Bassa by tribe, and married to Nancy Hodges Gbaa. Together they have six children.

Holding an "AA" educational degree from KRTTI College, Moses' profession is teaching.

After receiving a certificate in pastoral leadership from Jesus Evangelistic Ministry Theological Bible Institute in 2004, he began pastoring the Buchanan AC Church in 2009. Other offices held: SS teacher from 1996 – 1999, director of Christian Education from 2000 – 2004, and conference secretary from 2005 – 2011.

In 2022 he received a diploma in ministerial training from Better Way Bible Institute.

## Peter Motende

**title:** President  
Kenya AC Conference

**in office since:** 2010

**lives in:** Kilgoris, Kenya

**family/birthdays:**

Peter – Dec. 30  
Alice Nyomenda Motende (wife)

Peter Motende was a youth leader in his local Catholic church. Walking to the shopping center one day, Peter encountered an Advent Christian church crusade. In talking with the crusade leaders he became acquainted with AC doctrine.

Peter joined the Advent Christians in 2004 as a lay pastor. He held the post of church planting then was overseer of five northern region churches.

In 2010 Peter Motende assumed the post of President of the Kenya Advent Christian Conference.

President Motende is married to Alice Nyomenda Motende. God has blessed them with a family of three boys.

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imissions@acgc.us



Cliff Isaac Maclean  
*Conference President*

MALAWI

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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Samuel Kasakatira  
*Conference President*

MOZAMBIQUE

## Pastor Samuel Kasakatira

**title:** Conference President  
Mozambique AC Conference

**in office since:** March 2020

**lives in:** Marka, Malawi

**family/birthdays:**

Samuel – May 6  
Grace(wife) – May 23  
Gift – Jan. 9, 1990  
Mack – June 4, 1994  
Regina – May 3, 2001  
Blessings – June 20, 2004  
Margret – April 16, 2007  
Docus – April 7, 2011  
Jessica – Jan. 12, 2016  
Samuel Jr. – Feb. 25, 2019

Pastor Kasakatira attended Nyachilenda Full Primary School. Raised by a single mother, financially he was unable to continue his education. At 13-years-old, he attended an evening prayer service at a friend's church, he repented and confessed, asking Jesus to be his Lord and Savior.

Samuel became a pastor in 2003 under the leadership of late Bishop Paul Sosono (former Malawi AC Conference President). Believing in the doctrine and the powerful teachings, he joined the Mozambique Maranatha Advent Conference to teach and preach the gospel and win souls for Jesus.

In 2010, he founded the Faithful Church Ministry, which has now grown to nine churches. Samuel desires to minister to the unreached people groups in remote areas who have not heard the gospel and share with the Muslims in several districts that Jesus is Lord.

## Cliff Isaac Maclean

**title:** President  
Malawi AC Conference

**in office since:** 2017

**family/birthdays:**

Cliff  
Annie Lizanyanda (wife)  
Joana  
Chikumbutso  
Bridget  
Cliff Jr.  
Joseph

After the death of Samuel Sosono in July 2017, his older brother was chosen as his successor. Cliff is currently in administration, working in public education for 30 years, and currently holds a principal's position at a major high school.

Cliff is currently living approximately five hours away from the nearest AC Church, but is planning to retire from his current position within the year and move to Nsanje to be able to better carry out his duties as president and to care for his aging mother.

Cliff gave his life to the Lord in Sunday school as a youngster. His father was a Christian leader and played a larger part in his spiritual growth.



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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Imoh E. Akpan  
*Conference President*

**NIGERIA**

Department of International Missions  
acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Amos Komanya  
*Conference President*

**TANZANIA**

## Amos Komanya

**title:** President  
Tanzania AC Conference

**in office since:** 2018

**lives in:** Masanza Village, Ilemela District,  
Mwanza Region, County Tanzania

**family/birthdays:**

Amos – Dec. 4, 1979  
Scholastica (wife) – Sept. 10, 1989

Jacqueline – 2005  
Irene – 2007  
Daniel – 2009  
Allen – 2012  
Esther – 2015  
Debora – 2021

"I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my savior at the age of 23. I met the Lord after nearly drowning in Lake Victoria while on a fishing trip. Six others died. I and a sailor were the only survivors. I was taken to a hospital where I was unconscious for two days. One month later, I heard pastor Mrisa preaching in an open-air crusade about God's grace and love. At that crusade I decided to receive Christ as my savior.

"I started going door-to-door to pray for the sick and those who in the bondage of the power of darkness. When I saw so many healed and set free I recognized that God was calling me into full-time ministry. I received my Bible training at a Bible School College called KBBA, receiving a diploma/certificate after five years. I continue to grow as I study and read Christian books.

"My wife started a Christian nursery school in Masanza Village."

## Reverend Imoh Emmanuel Akpan

**title:** Conference President  
AC Conference of Nigeria

**in office since:** 2020

**family/birthdays:**

Imoh – 1978  
Esther Imoh Emmanuel (wife)  
Gospel Imolity Emmanuel (m) – 2005  
Success Imolity Emmanuel (f) – 2007  
Testimony Imolity Emmanuel (f) – 2012

"According to my parents I was called by the Lord while I was yet in the womb. I was first aware of the Holy Spirit's call upon me at 3 years of age."

Imoh attended World Harvest Bible College and Seminary. He was ordained and certified as an Evangelist in April 1999, was ordained to pastoral ministry in 2010, and is presently enrolled in a master's degree program in religious and cultural studies at the University of Calabar, Cross Rivers State, Nigeria.



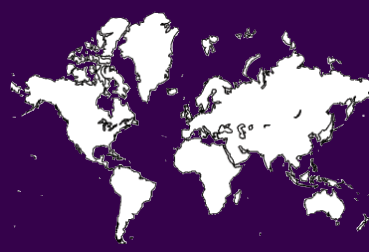
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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



**Bryce Whiting**  
*Area Director*

**AFRICA/EUROPE**

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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



**Erwin & Rowena Cabrizos**  
*Directors of Agape House Ministries*

**WORLDWIDE**

## Erwin & Rowena Cabrizos

**title:** Directors  
Agape House Ministries Worldwide

**in office since:** 2007

**live in:** Mati, the Philippines

**family/birthdays:**

Erwin – Jan. 7

Rowena – June 11

Shori – Nov. 5, 2005

Zoe Aiji Rei – May 2, 2013

Rei Anne Charis – July 14, 2015

Rowena Baylon met Erwin Cabrizos when they were active in music ministry in their native Philippines.

In 1999, Rowena went to Japan to pursue a doctorate in mathematics. The Lord led her to open an Agape House with the help of two Japanese AC pastors.

She married Erwin, attained her degree, and they worked in Japan for three years, overseeing four Agape Houses, starting a homeless feeding ministry, developing leaders and discipling.

In 2004, they returned to Mati, Philippines, and opened Agape House Ministries of Pujada — making disciples, providing medical and dental missions, educating and feeding children, aiding parents, and sheltering orphans and abandoned and abused children.

Rowena and Erwin oversee a growing Agape House ministry worldwide. They have three children: Shori (daughter), Zoe (son) and Charis (daughter).

## Bryce Whiting

**title:** Africa/Europe Area Director  
AC International Missions

**in office since:** Jan. 2013

**address:** 523 West St.,  
Bristol, CT 06010

**phone:** (860) 314-0633

**e-mail:** bwhiting@acgc.us

**family/birthdays:**

Bryce – July 8

Barbara – August 11

Bryce holds a BA from Berkshire Christian College and a MA from Wheaton Graduate School.

He pastored AC churches for 10 years in Newport Center, Vt., and Loudon, N.H., before he went back to school in response to a call to international ministry. He and his wife, Barbara, then joined Youth With a Mission serving in Switzerland and Togo, West Africa, until 1995. In 2000, he returned to the pastorate and presently serves in Bristol, Conn.

Recently, Bryce has visited the DRC, Mozambique, Croatia, Malawi, Liberia and Tanzania. Many of these visits mean pastoral training for our church leaders.

He has three daughters and three grandsons.

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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Jeff Walsh

*Director of International Missions*

WORLDWIDE

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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Ray & Ledy Marco

*Cristo Salva*

HONDURAS

## Ray & Ledy Marco

**title:** part-time missionaries  
Honduras

**in office since:** 2007

**live in:** Miami, Florida

**e-mail:** pray@cristosalva.org

**family/birthdays:**

Ray – Oct. 2  
Ledy – Oct. 6

Ray Marco remembers as a boy rolling fabric strips into bandages for our missionaries in India. He says it "touched (his) heart deeply."

God nurtured Ray's heart for missions, taking him from Peace Dale, Rhode Island, to Berkshire Christian College, to Miami, Florida, and finally to the poverty-stricken nation of Honduras.

Ray has pastored Oak Grove ACC, Miami, around 40 years. He and Ledy lead mission trips to Honduras four times yearly, to a medical clinic and ministry he founded in 1991, Cristo Salva. He and Ledy met through Cristo Salva. She was a school teacher and committed disciple of Christ.

Along with their Oak Grove and Cristo Salva ministries, Ray and Ledy represent AC International Missions in Honduras.

## Jeff Walsh

**title:** Director of International Missions  
Advent Christian General Conference

**in office since:** 2012

**address:**

PO Box 690848  
Charlotte, NC 28227  
**phone:** (704) 545-6161  
**e-mail:** imissions@acgc.us

**family/birthdays:**

Jeff – June 18  
Rhonda (wife) – Dec. 26

Ben – Apr. 29, 1997  
Isaac – Mar. 1, 1999  
Ethan – Sept. 5, 2002  
Joshua – Aug. 16, 2011

Jeff first sensed God's call to missionary work as a teen in Hickory, North Carolina.

After college and marriage to Rhonda, Jeff was at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary when God reestablished his call to missions.

The Walshes filled in at the AC Mission and Oro Bible College in the Philippines for 15 months. Back home, Jeff finished seminary and pastored Margaretville ACC in New York. In 2005, Jeff, Rhonda, and family returned to Oro Bible College, serving through 2011.

Jeff accepted the Directorship of International Missions in January 2012. He and Rhonda and sons Ben, Isaac, Ethan and Joshua moved to the Charlotte area in North Carolina.

As Director of International Missions, Jeff oversees a thriving AC Great Commission ministry, reaching more than 30 countries.

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imissions@acgc.us



Miguel Arellano  
*Legal Representative*

MEXICO

Department of International Missions  
acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



John Gilbert  
*Area Director*

LATIN AMERICA

## John Gilbert

**title:** Latin America Area Director  
AC International Missions

**in office since:** 2009

**address:**

1802 N. Imperial Ave  
Suite D #355  
El Centro, CA 92243

**phone:** (760) 791-0289

**e-mail:** jdgmexico@gmail.com

**family/birthdays:**

John – July 19  
Bonnie – June 18

John was just finishing a 27-year U.S. Navy career, when, in December 1995, God called him to serve in Mexico.

John and wife, Bonnie, started with Mexican Medical Ministry in San Diego and were assigned to San Felipe, Baja California, Mexico in 1997.

In 2000, the Lord led the Gilberts to form 99 Plus 1 Ministries. It aids pastors and ministries who develop in others a heart to serve the Lord.

In 2001, John was appointed Mexico Ministries Team Leader for the Department of International Missions of Advent Christian General Conference. Now John serves as International Missions Latin America Area Director.

## Miguel Arellano

**title:** Legal Authority & Power  
Iglesia Evangelica de la  
Comunidad  
(AC Conference of Mexico)

**in office since:** May 2004

**lives in:** Tecate, Mexico

**family/birthdays:**

Miguel – Sept. 29  
Maria – Aug. 7

Pastor Miguel's passion has always been teaching and reaching others with the compassionate love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After marriage to Maria he became director of Jericó Bible Institute in Tecate. In 1983 he returned to his alma mater, Seminario Teologico de Baja California (STBC), and still teaches there.

Pastor Miguel formed his present church "Iglesia Emáus" in 2001 in Tecate.

In May 2004, Pastor Miguel assumed the position of president of Iglesia Evangelica de la Comunidad.



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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



**Dr. Ezhil Christadoss**  
*Mission Manager*  
*Yesuway Jeevan Mission*

**INDIA**

Department of International Missions  
acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



**S.D. David**  
*Advent Christian Conference*  
*of India President*

**INDIA**

S.D. David

**title:** President  
AC Conference of India

Dr. Ezhil Christadoss

**title:** Mission Manager  
Yesuway Jeevan Mission

Department of International Missions  
acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



A. Jerald  
*Fellowship of Blessed Hope  
Conference President*

INDIA

Department of International Missions  
acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Motoichi Masuda  
*Conference President*

JAPAN

## Motoichi Masuda

**title:** President  
Japan AC Conference

**in office since:** November 2020

**family/birthdays:**

Motoichi – May 21  
Kotomi (wife)

Rev. Motoichi Masuda was born on May 21, 1964. He is a son of Rev. Shinnichi Masuda, former senior pastor of Kayashima Christ Church, founded by beloved missionary Bro. David Osborn. He and his wife Kotomi don't have their own children, but both have worked for denominational camp meetings and have borne many spiritual children for years.

Rev. Masuda was baptized in 1979. He studied at Kwansai Gakuin University (B.Th) and graduated Kobe Lutheran Theological seminary (M.Div). He started his ministerial work in 1987 as a youth pastor at his home church, Kayashima Christ Church. In 2007, he became the senior pastor there. Now, while serving as senior pastor of Kayashima Christ Church, he also teaches Old Testament at Osaka Bible College.

## A. Jerald

**title:** President  
Fellowship of Blessed Hope Conference (FBHC)

**in office since:** June 2016

**lives in:** Senthil Nagar, Chennai, India

**family/birthdays:**

Jerald – May 1  
Hepsi Anusuya (Anu) (wife) – Oct. 26  
Chrisma – Oct. 5, 1996  
Chares Coline – Sept. 14, 1999

Rev. Jerald studied at the Fellowship of Blessed Hope Churches' College of Evangelism at Kodaikanal from April 1991 to August 1994 and formally graduated with a BA in January 1995.

He joined the FBHC as pastor at the Senthil Nagar (suburb of Chennai) Church in October, 1994 and has ministered at the church since that date. He was ordained on May 18, 1997, and was elected to the position of president of the Fellowship of Blessed Hope Churches on June 21, 2016.

Jerald is married to Hepsi Anusuya (Anu) and they have two daughters: Chrisma and Chares Coline.

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imissions@acgc.us



Timothy, David,  
Kenneth, Joseph  
*Conference Presidents*

MYANMAR

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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Nely Gamayon  
*Oro Bible College Director*

PHILIPPINES

## Nely Gamayon

**title:** Director  
Oro Bible College

**in office since:** 2000

**lives in:** Cagayan de Oro, Philippines

**family/birthdays:**

Nathaniel – Jan. 8

Nely (husband) – Aug. 10

Nely Asequia was 14 when she accepted the Lord and was baptized by AC Missionary Rev. George Teshera and Pastor Gerundio Sarillana.

Beginning in 1984 at Oro Bible College (OBC), she was active in campus Christian ministry. There she met Nathaniel Gamayon. They married and now have three grown children and one grandchild — Kerryn.

With education as her passion, Nely became a licensed teacher in 1986. Nely continued to work on her own education as she served as dean and instructor at OBC. Having earned her PhD from the Xavier University, she became director of and professor at the college in April of 2000.

OBC strives to achieve higher educational requirements set by government regulations.

## Myanmar Pastors

**title:** Conference Presidents  
(yearly rotating basis)

**in office since:** March 2005

**live in:** Myanmar (various locations)

**Conference ministries includes:**

1. Bible Schools
2. Church Planting
3. Evangelism & Literature Distribution
4. Orphan Care (Approx. 300 orphans)
5. Prayer Groups

The AC Myanmar Conference was established in 2005 with four independent Christian groups who agreed to work together as one conference.

A cruel military junta seized power of the country in 1962 with one aim, "There shall be no home where the Christian religion is practiced." Recently, there has been some progress towards true democracy; however, Christians continue to minister under very difficult conditions. In 2012 some leaders experienced difficulties and harassment from the authorities. In some cases, the pastors risk their liberty and lives as they share the message of Jesus Christ.

Pray for the safety of our Myanmar AC Conference and for its workers and members of the churches of the conference. Pray the country will continue to move towards true democracy.



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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Efren Miranda  
*Conference Bishop*



PHILIPPINES

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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Christian Mission  
Ban Naratchakwai



THAILAND

## Christian Mission (Maeo Middlewood)

**title:** Ministry Leader

**lives in:** Nakhon Phanom, Thailand

**family/birthdays:**

Maeo – June 29

**Ministry leaders:**

Maeo  
Boontaa  
Ploy  
Parn  
Lita  
Job  
Guitar

As an American stationed in Thailand, Maeo's late husband, John Middlewood, developed a love for the Thai people. After they married, John and Maeo went to work serving the Lord. They started a faith mission in 2001, with the establishment of Christian Mission Ban Naratchakwai.

This ministry offers children programs, "Soup of Love" outreach for villagers, worship services, musical presentation, senior citizen food giveaways, prayer groups, Bible studies and fellowship.

Maeo is assisted by Pastor Boontaa, who preaches at CMN's services, and the leadership team (Ploy, Parn, Lita, Job and Guitar) who plans, prepares and carries out various activities for the ministry.

This mission operates on faith, and God provides.

## Efren Miranda

**title:** Bishop  
Philippine AC Churches, Inc.

**in office since:** 2011

**lives in:** Iligan City, Mindanao, Philippines

**family/birthdays:**

Efren – June 18  
Deding (wife) – Aug. 17

Connie Fern – Dec. 4, 1986

Ronnie – Aug. 9, 1989

Efraim – Aug. 22, 1995

Bishop Miranda holds a Bachelor of Theology degree from our own Oro Bible College in Cagayan de Oro, Philippines.

He has held the roles of senior pastor, outreach pastor, church planter and council member with duties including directing the Public Relations Department of the conference. Pastor Efren also founded the New Life Bajao Community Fellowship.

During his term as bishop (president), the conference started an emergency relief fund called BEARS, and they adopted Vision 20/20, a discipleship effort that seeks to make each AC member someone who disciples — a goal of 20,000 disciplers by the year 2020.

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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Russell & Pohn Yoon  
*Independent Affiliated  
Missionaries*

THAILAND

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acgc.us  
imissions@acgc.us



Ernie Schache  
*Chairman of ACCONZ  
and ACMissionZ*

NEW ZEALAND

## Ernie Schache

**title:** Chairman of Advent Christian Conference of New Zealand and Advent Christian Missions New Zealand Trust

**in office since:**

2007-2017 (Asia Team Leader)  
2011 (President)  
2018 (India Consultant)

**lives in:** Auckland, New Zealand

**e-mail:** [ernie.schache@acmissionz.org.nz](mailto:ernie.schache@acmissionz.org.nz)

**family/birthdays:**

Ernie – Jan. 29

Ernie's partnership with ACGC started years ago, when he organized work teams to the Philippines and India and chaired the Advent Christian Missions New Zealand (ACMissionNZ) board.

Ernie and wife Helen had been preparing for missionary work when Helen fell ill. She passed away in 2001. Ernie was able to carry out this part of their dream when he moved to India in 2002.

In India, Ernie supervised ministry finances and worked with Indian nationals in building churches, parsonages and related projects. He helped church members establish micro-businesses to support their families. In 2007, he assumed the role of India Field Leader. For over six years, he lived on the American Advent Mission Compound in Guindy.

In 2009 Ernie returned to NZ, and as Asia Team Leader worked with our AC ministries in India, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand.

He is currently the chairman of Advent Christian Conference of New Zealand and Advent Christian Missions New Zealand Trust.

## Russell & Pohn Yoon

**title:** Independent Affiliated Missionaries

**family/birthdays:**

Russell – November 16  
Pohn – October 9  
Anda – January 1, 2012

Pohn is from the village of Naratchakhwai. Known as the "Isan" area, it is the most un-evangelized area of northeast Thailand. Through the influence of family members attending CMN, Pohn came to faith in Christ. Russell is an American from the Los Angeles area. He has worked in the marketplace for 45 years in various management roles. After meeting and marrying, the couple began planning to move permanently to Naratchakwai following Russell's retirement.

With Pohn's knowledge of the language and culture as well as her familiarity with the people of CMN, and with Russell's leadership experience, they complement each other in many ways for ministry. Russell is taking pre-field training through Wheaton College's Institute for Cross-Cultural Training. He is certified in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). They plan to use English teaching and music as major forms of outreach through CMN. Their focus is to help develop local leaders for ministry, and plant new Thai-led indigenous, self-supporting churches in northeast Thailand.