



Tonya Kucey Resigns to Follow God's Call

The NMI Office recently received word that Rev. Tonya Kucey, the Global NMI Council representative for the Canada Region, was resigning her position on the Council. Tonya, her husband, and two of her three children will be moving to the Mesoamerica Region where they will serve as Mission Corps volunteers.

Global NMI Director Daniel Ketchum had the following to say about their assignment:

Rev. Tonya and Darin Kucey have been praying several years about serving the Lord and the Church on the mission field outside of the USA/Canada Region. I participated in their interview with Dr. Bustle and Global Mission colleagues and have been praying with them these years.

How the call took place is an interesting story, and the Kuceys will need your prayers in the coming weeks and months. Following, in the Kuceys' own words, is how they all arrived at this call.

Kucey Missionary Call and Profile

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' and I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' He said, 'Go....'" Isaiah 6:8-9.

Wow! What a scene—the prophet Isaiah having a private, personal, powerful encounter with the holy and majestic God and immediately experiencing change.

Like Isaiah, we have seen and heard the voice of the Lord saying, **"Whom shall I send? And who will go with us?"**

Karissa heard the call of God to serve in missions while listening to a song by Downhere called, "Here I Am." She expressed her desire to obey God should He want her to serve Him as a missionary in another country.

Cory heard the call to go at six years of age when he met Evie Gardner, Nazarene missionary on the African Region. As Evie visited

his Sunday School class and invited the children to consider serving God as a missionary, Cory said, **"Here I am. Send me!"** In recent years, he has "test-driven" his call by serving and supporting Work & Witness teams to Sri Lanka and Zambia, as well as serving with Harvest House Ministries while evangelizing in Nova Scotia.

Darin progressively heard the voice of God calling him to the mission field over a period of years. The "wooing" of the Holy Spirit eventually became too powerful to deny, so Darin submitted saying, **"Here am I. Send me!"** His deep desire is to make a difference in the lives of others to the glory of his Lord.

Tonya started sensing God's call to missionary service during her role as a local Nazarene Missions International (NMI) president. Like Darin, the call progressed as she served as the Canada Atlantic District's mission call coordinator and when she was elected to the Global NMI Council in 2007. Intermingled with these roles were several Work & Witness teams, as well as her role as senior pastor of a local congregation.

This time the call to serve as missionaries on the Mesoamerica Region is a family call. Like the song goes, **"If you say... 'go'... we will go."**

Our family can't do this alone! We prayerfully covet the prayers, support, and encouragement of others. Paul put it this desire so effectively when he wrote, **"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."**

Prayer Requests

- Our son, Ryan, who will remain in Canada, attending Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. A praise report is that Ryan is continuing to recover from his near fatal car accident and is doing exceptionally well at University.
- Raising finances. Tonya has resigned her pastorate position. While we are confident that this is God's plan for our family, we are left without 2/3 of our monthly income while the expenses stay the same.
- Friends left behind, as well those we hope to meet in Costa Rica. This burden is especially keen for Cory and Karissa.
- Family and friends who will pray on our behalf.

- Those who live where we will serve and how we can effectively serve.
- Cory was shot in the eye with a pellet gun in early January. Due to an excess build-up of blood, the back of the eye has yet to be fully assessed. Until the doctors are able to see beyond the blood, we will not know the full extent of the damage done to the eye or what the real threat is to his eye sight. We have also been in contact with the household where Cory was shot, and now there are lawyers involved; something that we pray will not add to the burden of the situation.
- Tonya has been invited to speak at a local United Church (similar to a Methodist Church found in the U.S.A.), and we recently had a Skype interview with a Nazarene Church in British Columbia. Please pray that the Lord would bless us and make us a blessing in each of these opportunities to share.

“Lord God, here we are. Send us and send help our way!”

Are you willing to be an answer to our prayers?

FAQ

1. **Where will you live?** We will rent an apartment at the Nazarene Seminary in San Jose, Costa Rica.
2. **How will you be funded?** We will be serving as Mission Corps missionaries. This means that we are not funded by World Evangelism Funds, but will need to raise our own funds for travel, passports, vaccines, rent, food, education for Cory and Karissa, etc.
3. **How long will you serve there?** Mission Corps missionaries usually sign contracts for 3, 6, or 12 months at a time. We expect to be in Costa Rica for the minimum of 12 months and re-sign following the first year based upon the ministry demands on the Mesoamerica Region.
4. **What will you do?**

Darin will volunteer in the Mesoamerica Regional Office in the Communications/IT Department overseeing the development of the Region’s Web site. He will also probably assist in the development of English multimedia material for the regional and global church.

Because of the need for both English- and French-speaking IT personnel, Cory expects to serve in the regional office, using both his French and computer skills to be of service to the French-speaking areas of the Caribbean.

Tonya has not been given an official assignment by the Region but feels that God has given her the assignment of supporting Darin’s ministry roles and responsibilities, as well as helping to homeschool the children.

5. **What about Ryan, your oldest son?** Ryan attends Saint Mary’s University in Nova Scotia. He will not relocate, but will look forward to visiting his family during various college breaks.

6. **Where will you go to church?** We will attend a Spanish-speaking Nazarene Church approximately 20 minutes from the Seminary
7. **When will you leave for the mission field?** The official date of departure has not been determined but is expected to be early in 2012.

Quotes from the Kuceys

DARIN

“Over the past several years, God has longed and calling to use the gifts and abilities that He has given me to further His kingdom. He has given me a growing desire to make a difference in this world for Him, instead of working for man. To leave good jobs, a beautiful home, beloved pets, a safe stable environment, and step out into the unknown as a volunteer missionary is a big leap of faith for our family. But, we know that, where God sends us, He will be there before us and with us. I trust He will provide all our needs.”

TONYA

“I am in awe as I look back over the years to see how the Lord has been faithfully leading me to this time and season of service. He was preparing me as a missionary before I even realized the call. I am so grateful for His grace, and I trust that His faithfulness and grace will continue to be with us as we step out in obedience to His call to serve Him in Costa Rica.”

CORY

“I have always really known that God wanted me to be a missionary, ever since I was six years old. Nothing has changed. I am ready to leave Canada. I am ready to go to Costa Rica and serve Him with my family. It is not just gonna be my parents working for the Lord; it is gonna be me and my sister serving too. I am looking forward to the adventure of serving Jesus in a different culture.”

KARISSA

“I feel really excited about being a missionary to Costa Rica, but I am a bit nervous about leaving Canada. I wish I didn’t have to leave home, but I am looking forward to starting new friendships, especially with the other missionary kids. It is gonna be fun to serve Jesus with them, too.”



The Kucey family—(top row from left) Tonya and Darin (bottom row from left) Cory, Karissa, Ryan

Richard L. Bahan Elected to Represent Canada

Effective 1 February 2012, Richard L. Bahan will represent Canada on the Global NMI Council, succeeding Rev. Tonya Kucey who served in this role for five years. He was elected by majority of ballots cast by the five district NMI presidents in Canada.

Richard, the son of a Nazarene pastor and former district superintendent of the Canada Atlantic District, was born in Red Deer, Alberta, and graduated from high school in Victoria. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Victoria, a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia, and completed a Masters of Administration from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

Richard has been employed in education for 29 years—12 years as a teacher and 17 as a high school vice principal and principal. He retired from education and is now employed as owner/operator of a residential and light commercial renovation company in Calgary, Alberta.

Richard and his wife, Patricia, met at Canadian Nazarene College in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and have been married 38 years. They live in Calgary and attend Calgary First Church of the Nazarene, where Richard serves as usher and until recently served on the church's Staff Wellness and Human Resources Committee. The Bahans have four adult children—two of whom are married—and two grandchildren.

Missions has long been one of Richard's passions, especially Work & Witness and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. He has led numerous local missions projects, as well as global projects in Honduras, Ecuador, and Haiti.

For three years, he has served on the Canada West District NMI Council as a Calgary area representative and currently serves as vice president of the District Council. Last year, Richard was coordinator for a Work & Witness project to one of the district's churches.

"I heard Richard speak on the Canada West District and found him to be exceptionally passionate—one of the most passionate men for missions I have encountered," says outgoing Global NMI Council member Tonya Kucey. "He was engaging and clearly moved with great emotion for Christ and Nazarene missions."

Richard succeeds Rev. Kucey, who resigned from the Global Council in December 2011 to serve with her family as Mission Corps missionaries on the Mesoamerica Region. The NMI Executive Committee moved immediately to elect a Canadian representative to enable Tonya to transfer information to Richard. The election will also enable Richard to attend the February Global Council meeting.

We encourage you to write Tonya Kucey at <tck@qcpc.ca> to express gratitude and to assure her and Darin of your prayers for their family as they prepare to move to their new ministries in Mesoamerica. We also encourage you to write Richard Bahan at <richbahan@me.com> to welcome him to the global NMI leadership team.



Richard L. Bahan