

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

August 2015

“Antarctica Mission Revisited”

Recently I was invited to speak at a conference in Cambodia about our MCM World Missions Trip to Antarctica December 2002/January 2003. The conference leaders wanted me to address certain myths. They were also interested in how this mission came about and what has resulted since then. After working on my response, I thought you would be interested as well.

It is true that it is unusual to be called to Antarctica. There is a saying that below 40 degrees south there is no law; below 50 degrees south there is no god. When I was in Singapore on a mission trip over Good Friday-Resurrection Day, I was in the midst of preparing for the Antarctica mission. Our host there queried why I would go to Antarctica. "Why would you go to Antarctica; to preach to the penguins?" I answered, "Yes, I will preach to the penguins if they would be the only ones there to hear, but in fact there are scientists and engineers and others there--not too many compared to the crowds gathered around other ministries, but..." The fuller answer is that I was called to go there, and I'm just the messenger.

It is a myth that no one lives in Antarctica and that it is uninhabited. While we're not talking millions of people, it is a very active place. It's not a myth that Antarctica is the harshest and most hostile place on earth. Dry Valleys, Antarctica is considered the driest place in the world.

Antarctica is inhabited. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Antarctica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Antarctica) The first documented person I could find to land on Antarctica proper was in 1675. A total of 30 nations have stations there, some operating year round. Esperanza Base is an example. Fifty-five people live there at Hope Bay. The first known birth of a human being there occurred in 1978. There is a church and a school. Their motto is “Permanence, an Act of Sacrifice.”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research\\_stations\\_in\\_Antarctica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research_stations_in_Antarctica). Another year-round base is Chilean Villa Las Estrellas.

It is a myth that scientists there have no interest in God or religion. Since most of the Nations having stations there are Roman Catholic or Orthodox or Russian Orthodox, the Roman Catholic

churches proliferate. However, at McMurdo Station, Antarctica's largest station established in 1956, there is a Christian chapel, the Chapel of the Snows. Services are held regularly.

Since we were in Antarctica in Dec.2002/Jan. 2003, a website has been developed to encourage church planting. While most of the Nations having stations in Antarctica are Roman Catholic and Orthodox, McMurdo Station does have a Protestant witness. There has been interest in Christians going to Antarctica: I know, because I get phone calls and e-mails from pastors and others with a heart for missions desiring to go there. So may those who hear the call to go there heed it and obey, trusting in God's grace to "make it so."

<http://www.meneatburritos.com/2011/04/church-planting-in-antarctica.html>

<http://www.churchatthemall.com/antarctica/>

<http://antarcticaedu.com/religioninantarctica.htm> (This one is very interesting.)

## Religion and Antarctica

by **Klaire Berlinsky**

-University Peak, Ant.

**ABSTRACT.** The idea for a seminarium on religion in Antarctica, to be done in 2015, was originally generated by a wide array of professors and students. It was proposed in response to the trend on campus of neo-religiosity centered on Jesus as the Word that was always with God- made flesh- 2,000 years ago.

This is not a new idea- it comes from the Gospel of John. Yet, why the new trend to believe it among scientists who are usually agnostic or a-theist, students who are less religious than the elderly, and professors who are less likely to be religious as a cohort in general, and Antarctic natives who traditionally practice shamanic mystery religions? The trend in Antarctica for the last five years has raised many eyebrows. This symposium is consecrated to finding out why it is happening, as well as where Antarctica fit in the themes of great world religions. There are no Biblical passages related to Antarctica, so they were not consulted. Nevertheless, it seems overdue to study what amounts to a new Antarctic belief-system within the Christian tradition.

The purpose of this seminarium is to recognize and understand this belief-system.

<http://www.waponline.it/ChurchinAntarctica/tabid/65/Default.aspx> (Interesting log of churches and some history)

There are seven churches in Antarctica:

Chapel of the Snows, Antarctica, a Christian chapel used by several denominations, at McMurdo Station, Ross Island;

Trinity Church, Antarctica, a Russian Orthodox church at Bellingshausen Station, South Shetland Islands;

Chapel of Santisima Virgen de Lujan, Antarctica, a Catholic chapel at Marambio Base, Seymour Island;

San Francisco de Asis Chapel, a Catholic chapel at Esperanza Base, Antarctic Peninsula;

St. Ivan Rilski Chapel, a Bulgarian Orthodox chapel at St. Kliment Ohridski Base, South Shetland Islands; the first Eastern Orthodox edifice in Antarctica, and the southernmost Eastern Orthodox building of worship in the world.

Santa Maria Reina de la Paz Church, a Catholic church at the Villa Las Estrellas, South Shetland Islands;

A permanent Catholic chapel made entirely of ice at Belgrano II Base, Coats Land.[1] - the Southernmost place of worship.[wiki]

I received the call to Antarctica prior to August 29, 2002, but not the specific commands concerning it (my obedience). We went there fulfilling Acts 1:8. This began in March 1999 with a call to Jerusalem (see online at MCM world missions). MCM has been to Jerusalem,

Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts (ends) of the earth being a witness to Jesus Christ and bearing the gospel. As of today, MCM has been to 83 nations on all seven continents in response to the call to go to the nations and call them to repentance, resurrection, and restoration.

Below are some of the prophetic words I received from the LORD concerning Antarctica:

August 29, 2002

*You will come to the waters freely to drink at no cost. As you do the anointing on your life will increase and you will begin great exploits for the Almighty who is God alone and who alone saves. You will go to Antarctica, the ends of the earth, to proclaim the message of the gospel. You will release the creative power of the Word into the air, into the soil, and into the waters as to the very foundation of the earth. You will proclaim Jesus Lord, Psalm 24, and bless His holy name as you call in the whole earth as His inheritance. You will plant seeds that will sprout as others come to water and plant the Church of Christ.*

*The elect from every nation will come in and then the wrath of the Lamb shall be released upon those who disobey and disbelieve the Christ, the Child of the Holy Ghost. Many will blaspheme and mock the Holy Ghost sealing their destiny as children of wrath, even as preachers water down the gospel more and more, denying the lake of fire, denying Gehenna and any and all places of punishment. The people will be warmed into delusion so as no longer to despair of their sin and godlessness, lawlessness, and apostasy.*

*But you, preach the whole counsel of God. Guard the truth. Love the truth. Proclaim the truth; not according to the social constructs of man, but according to the construct of God. Hold fast to Him and to His Word in the hearing of itching ears.*

*As their doom impends upon them, they think themselves pure, okay, good, unworthy of such destruction for they see not their sin, their falling short. In diminishing the holiness of God, they judge Him and desire Him to be as they are. They are less than they should be and could be and so they desire to make God the Almighty less than He is and will be...*

Date unknown: before trip to Antarctica, concerning Mt. Erebus in Antarctica:

*Go to Mount Erebus as close as you can and proclaim Jesus Lord over death, hell, and the grave. Close the gate to hell to the elect of God and open the gate to receive the reprobate. Set twelve (12) foundation stones and proclaim Jesus Lord over all the earth. Pour spikenard into the seas and proclaim Jesus Lord over the masses. Pour salt on the earth and in the seas to establish the covenant of Jesus with all mankind and creation. Release the judgment against the nations, Matthew 24, and proclaim the Day of Vengeance of our God to begin now. Scatter and release the seeds of the harvest of souls to be saved. Release the light of the world, the joy of all nations. Command the glory of the Lord to cover the earth.*

When teaching spiritual warfare missions, I like to say, "The trip happens before the trip" because much spiritual and physical preparation, study of the area and its history, targeted prayer, and logistical details need to be dealt with. Another thing I like to say is that we measure our success by our obedience. "Did we fulfill the commission the LORD was giving to us?" Jesus Christ is Captain of the Heavenly Hosts. It is like earthly wars. People receive orders. They don't always know their particular place or function in the total war. As each one obeys his/her orders, the war is won. We do know that MCM's part is to do the battle in the air to make way for ground troops to follow.

Also, I follow the pattern seen best with Gideon and in the Great Commission: the call (general,

e.g. Go to the nations where I send you and call the nations to repent or perish, to resurrection, to restoration), the commission (GO...), the commandments (Do), and the Commitment of God (I will...).

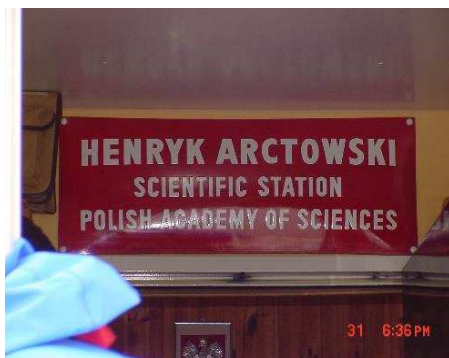
We have a certain point in our mission arrangements when "the trip is ON." At that point, we GO. At that point, many seem to rise up, well-meaning they are, and try to dissuade or stop the mission or cast doubt or make it seem impossible to carry out. Current events might speak of trouble in the area and get people worried about our welfare, etc. "No, the trip is ON. If the LORD desires to stop it, He will."



When we were there, joining a scientific expedition ship, we were told that it was considered a myth that one could see across from Deception Island to Antarctica proper. However, due to miracle weather provided by God, the day we were on Deception Island was so clear that scientists could indeed see Antarctica proper from Neptune's Window, a steep slope. They were so excited! God debunked the myth and proved it true on a clear day.



Because of our "miracle weather," we had an unscheduled stop at Neko Harbor. This was totally a God thing, allowing me to get to the mainland of Antarctica. We climbed through snow up to our knees accompanied by penguins marching along their penguin highways. There I released the prophetic word.



Antarctica is inhabited. When we were there, God changed the itinerary again so that the expedition ship pulled into a Polish science station on King George Island. There we were able

to talk and minister to the people. The people there love company coming! They are eager to talk. Their faith was Roman Catholic inasmuch as about 98% of Poland is Roman Catholic. However, since my son and I had been to Lublin, Poland, where the then Pope came from, they were eager to hear. It afforded a wonderful time of sharing the gospel and fellowship.

Something I wrote in my mission report, "Antarctica Mission," January 2003 bears repeating here.

I found this quote by an early explorer of Antarctica, **Henry Robertson Bowers**. Christ came to him and showed him why we are here and what the purpose of life really is. **"It is to make a great decision—to choose between the material and the spiritual, and if we choose the spiritual, we must work out our choice, and then it will run like a silver thread through the material."** (Thompson, David. Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen: Ambition and Tragedy in the Antarctic. NY: Thunder's Mouth Press, 2002, page 146, 148.)  
<http://www.marycraig.org/NewsViews/AntarcticaMission.htm>

One never knows what God has for the person that is prepared!

Grace to you all,

*Mary Craig*

Mary Craig, D.Min.



Pouring Spikenard into the seas and releasing the anointing of Spikenard per God's command into the waters off Cape Horn. "What is dead will die and what is alive will live. Jesus Christ is the Judge of what is living and what is dead." Proclaiming Jesus LORD over the masses.

*But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto Me,*

*Both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*  
*Acts 1:8*

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