

Memories of SABC by Dan and Peggy Crane



The Crane Family December 2012

In 1993, during a mission's conference at SABC, we both began feeling the tug of the Lord to consider serving Him in missions. By this time, we were 33 and 36. Our children were five, seven, and nine. We had each thought about missions some before. For Peggy, missions seemed pretty scary when it came to our children. What would it do to our children if we went to live in a foreign land? Would the experience of growing up somewhere other than the USA scar them for life and make them bitter? At the same time I WANTED them to be open to being missionaries if the Lord should ever lead them that way. A few months earlier, a singing group from BBC came to sing at our church. The singers each gave a short testimony. Each one was an MK. Each one

expressed their love for their life as an MK. Each one expressed a desire to serve the Lord in foreign missions. That had a huge impact on me! When God was impressing on us the needs in missions, He had already prepared me to trust Him with our kids.

The singing group had come sometime during that 1992-1993 fall or winter, and the mission's conference was in May. Dan's time with Pastor Walter, both as an "associate" pastor and again as the assistant/youth pastor were very influential in his own personal spiritual growth. He often referred to things he had learned from Pastor Walter while we were in Paraguay, and shared those things with others there.

Dan was saved after a Youth for Christ meeting in Binghamton. He had started coming to SABC to see Peggy and at that time the youth went to YFC most Saturday evenings. Dan was familiar with SABC because of Boy's Brigade. His dad wanted his boys to belong to some group but had grown disillusioned with the Boy Scouts, so he brought them here to Boy's Brigade. Also a book on missions was highly influential in Dan seriously considering missions.

I (Peggy) was saved during a DVBS at South Apalachin Baptist Church when I was young; I jumped the creek to go. I remember the youth leaders Jim and Lorraine Costly, Glen and Helen Barnhart, and Doug and Maxine Strope. I've probably missed some. The youth would do the Sunday evening service every so often.

Pioneer Girls was huge for me (Peggy). Helen Barnhart had a big impact on my life through SS, Pioneer Girls and as a youth leader. As a younger woman, she asked me to team-teach the high school girls SS class with her. That also was a great mentoring time. My Pal from Pioneer Girls, Pat Forde, is still friend! I remember a Pioneer Girl's overnight in Steven's cabin up on their hill and another in Myrtle Stone's living room.

Walt Bridges led Junior Church for a long time and he was always enthusiastic and wanted us to be as well.