

STORIES OF GRACE

Feature: Our missionaries that we support share some Stories of Grace
Linda Mensinger served with Encompass World Missions



I was born in Yakima, Washington to Enid and Neil Paden. I grew up in the Yakima Valley, in a little town called Harrah, which was located on the Yakima Indian Reservation.

My mother started taking us to church after the birth of my brother (3 years after I was born). We attended an American Sunday School Union Sunday School. At this point my father didn't attend church, but a returned missionary from Africa by the name of Curtiss Morrell (he at that time was the pastor of the Harrah GBC) kept coming into my father's grocery store and invited my dad to attend the Harrah Grace Brethren Church. My father started attending the Harrah GBC and soon after my mother, brother and I began attending that church. At this point, my mother had become a Christian and

soon afterwards so did my father.

My mother led me to the Lord when I was 5 years old. I was baptized and joined the Harrah GBC when I was 7. It was at the Clear Lake Brethren Church Camp that I dedicated my life to the Lord when I was 9 years old. I graduated from White Swan High school and then attended Grace College for 2 years. It was at Grace where I met Eddie Mensinger, who was a year ahead of me in school. After two years, I left Grace and went into Nurse's Training at the Methodist-Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota. In June of 1961, I graduated from Grace College with a BS in Nursing degree. Later on that summer I graduated from Nurse's Training. Four days later I married Edward Mensinger at the Harrah GBC. That was August 31, 1961. Eddie had a year of seminary left. So we moved to Winona Lake, Indiana for a year.

After Eddie's graduation in 1962, he took a new church plant in Arvada, Colorado. We were there for 2 ½ years and during that time we felt as a couple the call to the Mission Field in the Central African Republic. We were accepted for that field of service in 1964 and left Arvada to begin to raise support. We left for our first term of service the spring of 1965.

A little bit more information:

I felt the first tug towards Africa when I was a child. Pastor Curtiss Morrell had a daughter, Elaine, a couple of years older than me. We became friends and she told me many wonderful stories of Africa. I had Africa in my mind all through my childhood and even into college. I was rather concerned when I started going with Eddie who wanted to be a Home Mission Pastor. Ernie Bearinger, The National Youth Director, called me into his office one day to talk to me. He wondered how our relationship was going? I told him about feeling the Lord wanted me in Africa and Eddie wanted to be a Home Mission Pastor. Ernie's advice was this: "If you both want to serve the Lord let Him work out the details." That was excellent advice and soon after our marriage the Lord began to nudge us more and more towards the African Mission Field.

(See our missions news for a Story of Grace that Linda shared of her ministry in the CAR.)