



Jean Clark (1910-1997)

- **1910-Birth.** Jean was born on September 29, 1910 in Arbroath, Scotland to Thomas and Helen (Buick) Clark. She had four siblings: Margaret, Jenny, Joseph, and Thomas. Her mother died at her birth and her father died when she was 10 years old.
- **1920.** Arrived by ship to Paterson, New Jersey to be raised by her aunt.
- **Education.** Eighth grade, then went to work in a factory.
- **1930.** Attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, graduating in 1932.
- **1935.** Naturalized as an American citizen.
- Ministry included conducting Vacation Bible School and Sunday School classes
- **1997-Death.** October 14, 1997 in Missoula, Montana

Hazel Simonton (1912-1997)

- **1912-Birth.** April 10, 1912 in Paterson, New Jersey to Walter and Mattie (Van Loo) Simonton. Brothers: Charles and Neilius. Sister: Jean Wyka.
- Attended Columbia Bible College in South Carolina
- Graduated from business college in New Jersey.
- **During WW II.** Worked as a telephone operator for Curtis Wright Propeller Company.
- **1997-Death.** January 3, 1997 in Missoula Montana.



Together, They...



Early days as missionaries

- **1944.** Accepted as a Bible Club missionary with the Bible Club Movement (BMC International Inc.) Jean and Hazel were introduced and assigned as a team. Together they were charged with starting Bible Clubs for children. They had no income as their mission was called a “faith mission” which meant they trusted God to speak to people to give. They arrived with \$40 per month pledged between the two of them, numerous financial gifts given to them before they left, and ration cards that were being used during WW II.
- **December 1944.** Arrived in Missoula, Montana. They had been in Montana for several months. They first arrived in Billings and worked their way westward until settling in Missoula.
- **January 1945.** Established first Bible Club. Clubs were held in homes, community centers, and churches. Eventually clubs were conducted in schools also. The program consisted of songs, teaching a Bible verse, having a Bible drill (to see who could find the verse the quickest), and teaching a Bible lesson using a flannel board and flannel graph pictures.
- **Clinton.** One of the places where they held Bible Club was in the Women’s Clubhouse in Clinton. Children would come there after school. Eventually they began holding Sunday services there. Clinton Community Church is an outgrowth of that work and today they are in the process of constructing their own building.

- 1947.** The summer camp program began on a friend's ranch at Salmon Prairie in the Swan valley. Then they rented camps on Flathead Lake each summer until they felt led by God to purchase their own BCM property. With just \$100 down on a piece of choice lake property near Bigfork in 1961, they embarked on this new journey in their mid-50s – Big Sky Bible Camp. Within a few months they would need a sizeable payment which would come from donors all over the country. Friends rallied and the money came in every year to make the annual property payment. Donations were provided for building materials and volunteers gathered to begin building the first building. The first camps were held in the summer of 1962. Since then, Big Sky Bible Camp has continued to grow on the shores of Peterson Lake, not only in buildings, but programs, which include a wilderness program, two weeks for campers with disabilities, and for several years sponsored a nine month Bible College level institute.
- Today.** Bible Clubs continue in the Missoula, Kalispell, and Bitterroot areas. Both ladies lived full and productive lives. They taught many children the Word of God and changed their lives. Both women went "HOME" to their God and Saviour in 1997 only a few months apart from each other.



Jean Clark and Hazel Simonton, missionaries who truly lived the life of faith. They came to Missoula as young women with no money, touched the lives of countless people, and grew the Bible Club Movement into a renowned organization in this area.



Information and photos provided by Karen DeVries , their apprentice and now Missionary with Bible Club Movement Inc.