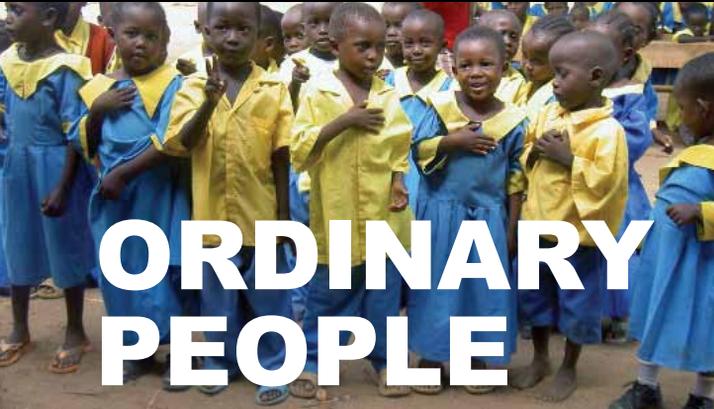


april 2014

connection

DOVE INTERNATIONAL NEWS



ORDINARY PEOPLE



MAKING AN



EXTRAORDINARY DIFFERENCE



STORIES
from the DOVE family
around the world

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CONNECTION

Connection links the DOVE family of churches and ministries with church related news and relevant topics.

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ORDINARY PEOPLE

MAKING AN

EXTRAORDINARY DIFFERENCE



Building Kingdom Communities

Have you felt pretty ordinary lately? I certainly have. Here is the Good News for us: God loves to take ordinary people and use them to make an extraordinary difference



in the world around them.

The religious leaders in the book of Acts were amazed by the early disciples: Ordinary guys changing the world because they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13). Everyday living for thousands changed as the disciples gathered together from house to house in Kingdom communities filled with life. The disciples changed their world. We have the same privilege today.

What is kingdom community?

These believers who met from house to house experienced community focusing on the Kingdom of God. The word “community” usually refers to a social unit of any size that shares common values. Jesus said, “The Kingdom of God has come.” He modeled Kingdom community with his disciples—ordinary men (Mark 1:15-20). A group of women were also a vital part of Jesus’ Kingdom community (Luke 8:1-3).



All kingdoms have a king. The Kingdom of God refers to our King—Jesus—and His rule and reign over his Kingdom. We are all a part of the Kingdom of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

People living in a kingdom do three basic things:



1 THEY HONOR THE KING
We honor our king through worshipping our Lord Jesus, reading His Word, praying and placing Him in first place in every decision.

2 THEY SERVE THE KINGDOM
We serve the kingdom as his sons and daughters and practically live this out through Kingdom communities. Local church congregations and house churches are usually larger Kingdom communities made up of smaller relational discipleship groups and small cell groups where true Kingdom community is experienced.

God is building Kingdom communities and He calls us to become spiritual fathers and mothers who disciple and mentor others. Taking a younger believer under our wing and helping them grow is fulfilling our call to build Kingdom communities.

3 THEY EXPAND THE KINGDOM
We expand the Kingdom every time we embark on a new discipleship relationship, lead a person to faith in Christ, start a new small group, plant a new church or start a new Kingdom business or initiative.

Our God’s Kingdom will continue to expand. Daniel the prophet prophesied about a stone “that became a great mountain and filled the whole earth” (Daniel 2:35). He was speaking prophetically about the future expansion of the Kingdom of God.

This *Connection* magazine is filled with real-life stories from ordinary people in the DOVE family throughout the world making an extraordinary difference. From the transformation of Kadawa Village in Kenya to changed lives in Fortaleza Brazil, to a converted Muslim baptized in Mysore India, to a new Kingdom business in the Philippines, to reaching young moms for Christ in Peterhead Scotland, to newly saved believers in Christ in Haiti and to building healthy marriages in the USA—the focus is all about Jesus building Kingdom communities through us—ordinary people making extraordinary differences in our world.

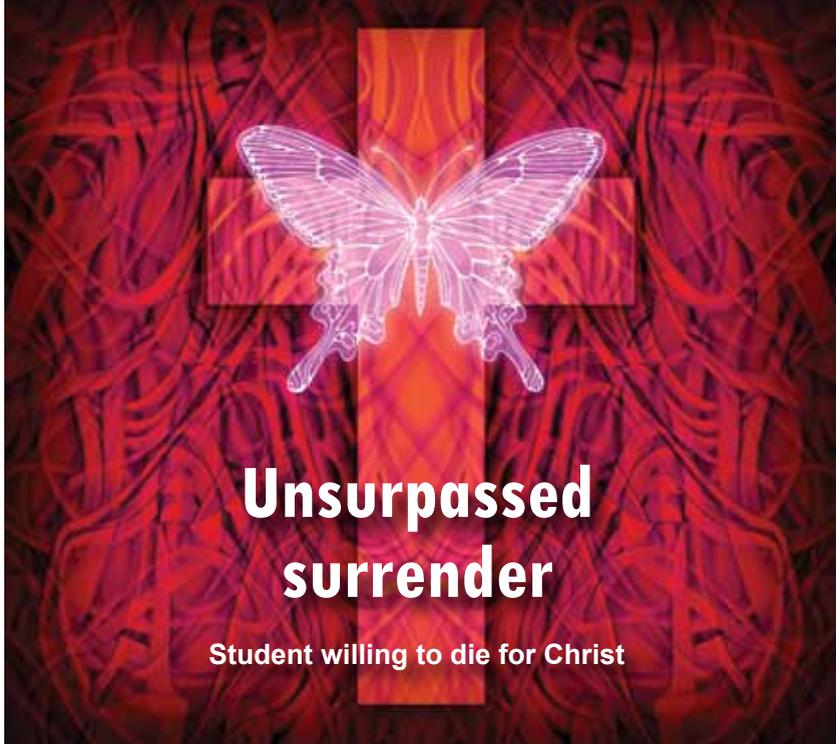
—Larry Kreider, International Director of DOVE International.

Read and sign up to receive Larry’s blog at www.dcfi.org

 Like Larry and LaVerne Kreider on facebook

What is God calling you to do to build His Kingdom?





Unsurpassed surrender

Student willing to die for Christ

While traveling through southern India, Greg Linnebach, DMI associate, attended the baptism of a university student. Ten years earlier, the student had become a Christian when she was twelve years old. She longed to be baptized, but her family was Muslim. In the country where she lived, she and her family could be harmed if her decision for Christ became public. She said,

“I am not afraid for myself and would gladly give my life for Christ.”

“I was not afraid for myself and would gladly give my life to for Christ, but my family could have been jailed or worse because of me.”

When she arrived in India to study at a university, she began attending Destiny Center, a DOVE church mostly attended by college students. Finally, she could be baptized. Her euphoria at being bap-

tized after desiring it for so many years intrigued Greg.

She told him that after she attains a university degree, she will return to her country. With a professional degree, she could easily receive permission to enter many other, safer countries, including the U.S. The young student explained that although it could mean the end of her life, she wanted to return home to lead others to Christ. Because she is now an adult, the penalty for leaving Islam for Christ would not fall on her family, but only on herself. She said that she may not survive long after her return home, but believes that the Lord wants her to be committed to studying hard in the pursuit of her degree.

Challenged by her godly commitment caused Greg to pray, “Jesus, renew my heart to rise to new heights in You. Help me to leave behind fear, doubt and anything that holds me back from total surrender and dedication to You.”

PHILIPPINES TYPHOON UPDATE

As it swept ashore in central Philippines on November 8, 2013, one of the worst typhoons ever to hit the planet reduced almost everything in its path to rubble. The devastating storm killed at least 6,190 people, leaving 1,785 missing and four million either homeless or with damaged homes.

The DOVE family has churches in the Philippines. Money was entrusted to DOVE leaders whom we know and trust to help in the rebuilding process. Pastor Buddy Gallo continues to oversee a team that is building houses for roughly \$1,700 per house. These are small houses with only 430 square feet but sufficient for the families in the area. The houses are made of concrete walls and metal roofing. In addition to overseeing the building projects, the Philippines’ team is starting a business to make cinder blocks to be used in reconstruction.

One of our DOVE church buildings was completely destroyed by the typhoon. The members desire to rebuild the church farther inland so that the risk for typhoon destruction is lessened.



DOVE has already provided \$1,700 for purchase of the property. After clearance is attained, construction will begin.

A medical and dental team also traveled to Tacloban to help victims.

Please Pray!

Please continue to pray for our DOVE family in the Philippines to thrive and grow in the power of God.

God transforms desires, lives, village



Answering God's call is key for newly-appointed International Apostolic Council member

Recently appointed to the DOVE International Apostolic Council, Hesbone Odindo knows what it is like to depend on the Lord alone. Growing up in an alcoholic family in Kenya, Hesbone surrendered his life to God when a high school teacher invited him to a Christian weekend challenge. From that moment on, Hesbone started praying and fasting for his parents and nine siblings.

After high school graduation, Hesbone worked as a school teacher and participated in an evangelism team that preached the Gospel in many different areas. One day, the team ministered in Hesbone's village where his parents and his brother received Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Doors soon opened for Hesbone to study in India. On the flight to India, Hesbone cried out to God, "Oh, Lord, You have put a poor village boy in your plan. If you keep me safe and make my studies successful, I will serve you for the rest of my life."

While studying for a Bachelor of Commerce with an accounting option, Hesbone led an international students' fellowship in North India, and with other students founded a fellowship in Punjab University and planted four other celebrations.

One evening while traveling on a bus to the crusade, the Lord spoke to Hesbone. "I have called you to go serve my people."

Bargaining with God

God's call did not comfort Hesbone. He said, "My intent was to work and make a lot of money to support other ministers. I prayed, 'Lord, please give me ten years to work, build a house for my mom and myself and buy a car, then I will serve you full time.'"

Hesbone said that God was very patient with him. The more he fasted and prayed, the clearer the call unfolded. When the time came to return to his home country, Hesbone prayed the Lord would lead him to a church that would use his gifts to extend the kingdom.

God did. In June 1993, Hesbone felt a confirmation in his spirit when he visited a Sunday celebration at DOVE Nairobi. He said, "I became part of a vibrant youth fellowship where I met the love of my life, Violet." The couple married in 1995 and started a cell group in their home. Hesbone was appointed an elder and later became an associate pastor under the leadership of Ibrahim and Diane Omondi.

God transforms

Although busy combining a career in hospital administration with ministry, Hesbone could not forget God's call to full-time ministry. He also could not forget his village, which was being ravished by disease. In 2005, a medical team visited his village. The population was diagnosed to have more than 40 percent with HIV/Aids. One of the leaders told Hesbone, "If nothing is done, this village will be wiped out within ten years."

Hesbone knew only a holistic ministry could save his people. In 2006, Hesbone attended the DOVE International Leadership Conference. The theme that year was "Occupy and Expand." On the last day of the conference, the Lord instructed Hesbone to start a cell group in the Kadawa Village where he grew up and visited monthly. Hesbone started the cell in his mother's home. Seven months later, thirty people were members and agreed to help start a Sunday service.



Hesbone and his wife moved to the village to be in full-time ministry.

He said, "Our departure was not easy because we had bonded so well with our spiritual parents. It was made even harder because we did receive monetary support from DOVE Nairobi."

In retrospect, Hesbone says, "We have come to learn that was the good part, because it made us dependent on the Lord who is Jehovah Jireh."

The first service was held in 2007. Two services are held in the original church every Sunday and seven more congregations have been planted. That numbers about 2,000 who love Jesus. Hesbone said, “The Lord is delivering drunkards, prostitutes, drug addicts and stopping cholera as people are taught hygiene. HIV/Aids is declining. Malaria cases have been reduced through mosquito net distributions. The latest demographic shows life expectancy has improved from 37-40 years to 45-60 years. Twenty-eight female orphans are attending a boarding school. Destitute widows are being cared for; wetlands are now productive farm lands.”

As a result of prayer, the Kenya government has made electricity affordable for some people. In addition, neighboring churches are being transformed

through hearing what God is doing.

“The transformation of Kadawa would not have happened without the prayer and financial resources of the DOVE family,” Hesbone said. “We trust the Lord to plant fifty celebrations by 2030, and to build a school of excellence for students from kindergarten through high school.”

In addition to traditional school curriculum, they plan to add trade courses such as business training, carpentry, electricity, dressmaking and tailoring and information technology.

Like her husband, Violet is a gifted teacher of the word. She has a mercy ministry that operates a feeding program for forty-five children and ministers holistically to many widows. The Odindos are blessed with four children: Levi, Faith, LaVerne and Jadon.

Early in our marriage, Mary and I realized that in conflict, we could either fight and argue or pray and agree.

Disagreement is powerful. Even more powerful is agreement because scripture tells us that if two persons agree in prayer, they will receive.

From our experience, we recognized that our major financial disagreements centered on the fact that Mary was a “spender” and I was a “saver.” We had a tight budget because we were in missions, but it doesn’t matter whether or not couples have a lot or a little money—those with opposing values clash. Instead of focusing on who was right or wrong, Mary and I learned to ask God for direction and discernment.

A scripture in James 3 really helped us. Two types of wisdom are examined: earthly and heavenly. Earthly wisdom can be full of selfish ambition, but heavenly wisdom is peace-loving and submissive, full of mercy. James 4 reveals that fights and quarrels result in desiring something but not receiving it. James tells us to ask God (pray and agree) without selfish motives.

In other words, whenever I wanted one thing and Mary wanted another, we learned to seek the Lord. He enabled us to see our partner’s view more quickly. God helped us to see that the words “spender” and “saver” cast a negative view on each other. God gave us new definitions: Mary was a “giver” and I was a “planner” for future needs. Both views have positives and negatives.

As we prayed and agreed over our financial needs, we discovered a place of power. With fewer arguments or the fear of disagreement, it became easier to

FIGHT AND ARGUE



OR PRAY AND AGREE?

work on a budget and to stick to it.

If you find yourself fighting and arguing more than praying and agreeing, try taking your request to God first and see how He can help you to find the power of agreement.

—**Steve Prokopchak**, *DOVE International Apostolic Council*. **Read and sign up to receive Steve’s blog:** calledtogether.word

REACH
SCHOOL OF SUPERNATURAL
RADICAL OBEDIENCE | SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTERS | PURPOSEFUL MINISTRY

Training dates and location
JUNE 9 25, 2014
Covod Academy of the Arts, New Holland PA
Sponsors: Dove International

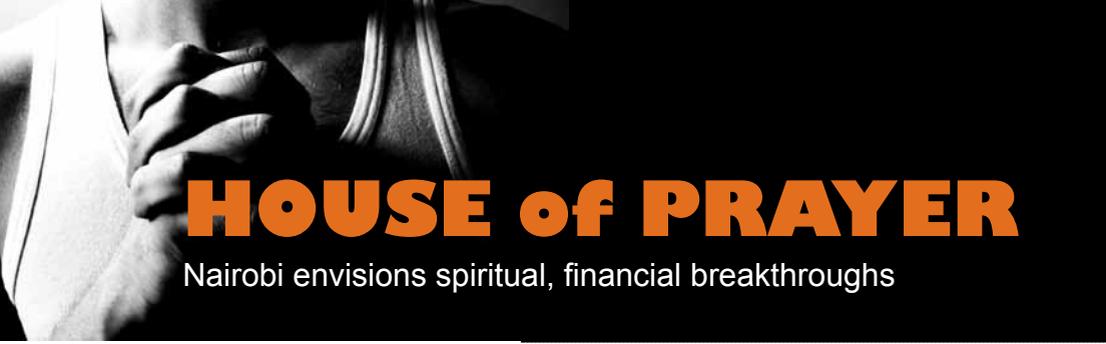
As part of the REACH program you will...
• Learn & explore the supernatural works of God
• Cultivate personal growth in God’s presence through prayer & worship
• Hear first hand stories from people who have seen God do miracles

Outreach dates and location
JUNE 26 - JULY 8, 2014
Cape Town, South Africa

• Develop effective strategies for local & cross-cultural missions
• Grow your faith through personal application & practical ministry

2014 SPEAKERS

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HOUSE of PRAYER

Nairobi envisions spiritual, financial breakthroughs

Seven years ago DOVE Nairobi acquired 1.3 acres of prime land in Nairobi. Since then, the vision for a Prayer Tower has been burning in our hearts. God has called us to establish an altar that will be called a “house of prayer for all nations” (Isaiah 56:7). To us, this means both a place where prayers are offered for all nations and a place where all nations gather to pray.

The tent on the property has cracks that do not keep out rain from the top and cold winds from the sides. Nonetheless, the tent is used regularly for early

morning intercession, lunch-time prayer gatherings, evening prayer meetings, all-night prayer vigils and individual intercessory interludes.

We envision that the House of Prayer will be part of a larger center, The DOVE Center will also serve the broader ministries of community transformation through a conference center, rental offices and a guest house. Income from these should generate support for the operations of the House of Prayer as well as other Kingdom ventures toward holistic and sustainable development. This model integrates our life-long passion for Africa to break free from the spirit of dependency and rise to a platform of both financial and spiritual prosperity.

PLEASE PRAY with us for a House of Prayer for DOVE Africa!

– **Diane Omondi**, DOVE International Apostolic Council. **Read Omondi's blog:** omondisinkenya.wordpress.com



TOGETHER we can transform our world

DOVE Global Partners helps train leaders in India, Kenya, Uganda and other nations. DGP provides educational resources to business persons and new believers. DGP helped rebuild from typhoon destruction in the Philippines and provide a motorcycle for a Haitian leader.

TO BECOME a DOVE Global Partner visit www.doveglobalpartners.com



Despite insecurity in North Kenya because of tribal clashes and bombings, God continues to sustain, protect and guide Kennedy and Metrine Karuri, DOVE

REACHING SOMALIS in Northern Kenya



Africa missionaries. They constantly trust God for creative ways to express His love and care.

In response to their concern for the young men who often turn to drugs and alcohol out of boredom, God gave Kennedy the idea to coach a football team. It reduces idleness and builds relationships.

A creative idea that offers women an escape from poverty and a source of hope developed after Metrine took a course in dressmaking. She began teaching ladies how to make their own clothes. After the first class completed the course, the women started selling garments in Wajir, the nearest larger town. Impressed by the business success of these graduates influenced 26 women to enroll in the current dressmaking class.



Another answer to prayer—available water. Development partners helped refurbish a borehole that had become nonfunctional. As a result, the demonstration farm is thriving with watermelon, papaya, cowpeas and a tree nursery.



Kennedy and Metrine's daily routine of teaching in primary school gives them an entry point into the community. In

the village, the Karuris visit families, are invited to dine, share stories and pray with them. Kennedy and Metrine also have visited nearby villages and have found some men willing to help spread the Gospel in new locations. The motorbike, which was a gift from DOVE USA, enables them travel to remote areas and to the church, which is almost ten miles from where they live in the village.

Young men in North Kenya often turn to drugs out of boredom. God gave Kennedy the creative idea to coach a football team.

PLEASE PRAY for continued security and protection in the region and for provisions of food despite the hot and dry climate.

Experiencing tough times?



It is important for us to understand that God is a builder. He is constantly building His Kingdom in us so that He might build His Kingdom through us. I find many people desire Him to build through them without allowing Him to construct a greater manifestation of His Kingdom within them. That is a grave mistake.

Too often when we reach the pinnacle of frustration while facing a challenging situation or a crisis, we cry out, “Just get me out of this!” It doesn’t matter whether or not the frustration is related to family, job, church or just life in general—we just want out.

Paul writes in Ephesians 1:9-11 (New Living Translation), “God has

now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.”

Ultimate purpose

God is looking for His Son in all that He has created. He is looking for His Son in us. Therefore, the ultimate purpose of everything that He does or allows to happen in our lives is to conform us to His image. That challenging situation you are finding yourself in right now has a purpose. He is exposing weak areas, conforming you to His image and giving opportunity for Him to be formed in you. So instead of crying out in desperation, “Get me out of this,” maybe we should be crying out, “Lord, get this weakness, thought pattern, reaction, sin and unhealthy response out of me now!”

When we shift the focus on the real issue, “God building His Kingdom in us” versus “the situation,” we align ourselves with the One who is looking at the much broader picture, conforming us to His image. So our prayer becomes, “Lord, don’t get me out of “this” until you get “this” out of me!”

Building for the future

Because God is a builder, He is always building for the future. Therefore,

anything you find yourself in right now is preparing you for what He has planned for you tomorrow, the day after that, next month or next year.

Embracing the Kingdom that He is building in your life today prepares you for the Kingdom that He desires to build through your life tomorrow. Are you called to be a kingdom builder? You bet. We are all vessels through whom He desires to flow. God has called us to be a builder of Kingdom communities—places where His heart, His values, His

**Instead of crying
‘Get me out of this,’
maybe we should be
crying out, ‘Lord, get this
weakness, reaction and
sin out of me now!’**

plans, His purposes are being displayed daily. Allow God to build a greater manifestation of his Kingdom in you so that He might build a greater manifestation of His Kingdom through you.

Read and sign up to receive Ron’s blog at www.doveusa.org.

by Ron Myer

Assistant DOVE International Director

24/7 PRAYER WATCH

Pray with the DOVE family around the world

The DOVE family is called to pray together for the will of God to be done on earth. The DOVE Prayer Watch is our strategy to position people committed to a specific time in order to cover the DOVE family worldwide in prayer twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week.

More than a hundred prayer warriors pray for the DOVE family each week. To enable prayer warriors to be aware of needs throughout the body, The DOVE Prayer Journal is printed annually and includes prayer requests from each partner church in the DOVE family. Updated prayer requests are also sent to prayer generals by email.

Each partner church is encouraged to participate in the Prayer Watch by designating a Prayer General. We are

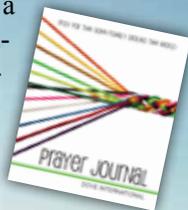
thankful for thirty-three prayer generals, who are each responsible to gather others for four hours of prayer every week for the DOVE family.

Nine Prayer Generals needed

Nine more prayer generals are needed to organize teams of prayer warriors to cover the remaining four-hour time slots. Participants can remain at home or gather as a group during their time slots.

More information

The DOVE Prayer Journal is available in print and online. For more information or to become a prayer general, contact Nelson Martin, DOVE International prayer coordinator, at nelsonm@dcfi.org.



Scotland church begins novel outreach

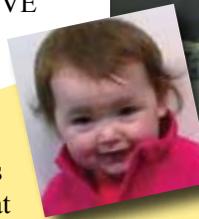
Toddlers in the house

Intersperse moms, toddlers and God and what happens?

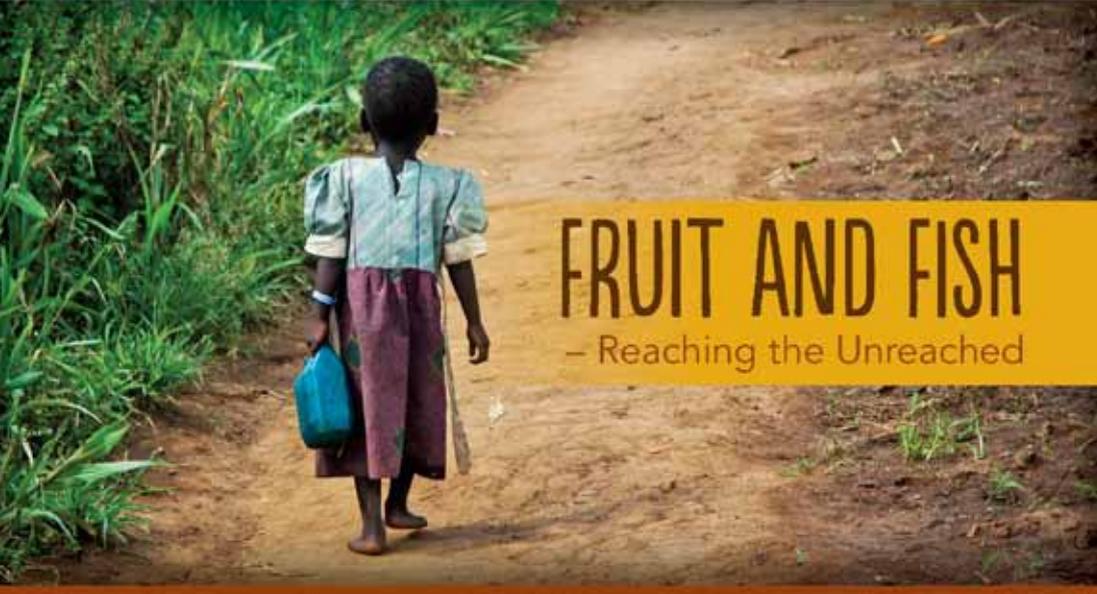
“Souls for the Kingdom” is the result Caroline Hay and Lynsey Bruce are expecting. The two young mothers recently organized a Toddlers@The-House, a weekly gathering at Living Water’s Community Church, a DOVE church in Peterhead, Scotland.

Within the first two weeks, twenty-eight moms registered. According to Carolyn, most of the moms are non-Christians. The moms bring their toddlers to the church that is set up with lots of toys and play space. While the children run and play, the moms chat and find camaraderie in sharing the common bond of babies and children. Biscuits and cake are served with tea and coffee for moms. A children’s sing along concludes the gatherings.

The toddlers’ group was Lynsey’s idea. Carolyn said, “As soon as I heard about it, I knew I wanted to be involved. I am an evangelist at heart and had been asking God for an opportunity to serve. Our vision for the group is to reach out to the moms, look for opportunities to serve, help and pray with them, and see them come to church on a Sunday. The ultimate goal is to win souls for the Kingdom.”



While children play, moms chat, sharing the common bond of babies and toddlers.



FRUIT AND FISH

– Reaching the Unreached

DOVE Mission Africa has been working for the past decade among a tribe in northeastern Kenya. Having been donated a 25-acre plot of land some years ago, Africa Transformation Initiative (ATI) was able to sponsor drilling a well that is about 125 meters deep. Due to the water's high saline content, it is inappropriate for some forms of agriculture. However, it is wonderful for growing mango and papaya trees, which are highly profitable fruits in the markets of Kenya! The water is also excellent for developing a fish farm dedicated to salt-water species.

The Africa Transformation Initiative has been partnering with DOVE Missions Africa to see the vision for a sustainable agriculture and fisheries ministry become reality. The project should generate finances and be self-sustaining. Indeed it is likely to produce income to finance the wider outreach to unreached people.

To develop this vision \$7,000 is required for the installation of a pump to ensure an adequate flow of water. ATI is launching an appeal to raise this money. We look forward to the day when food is provided and funds generated by this project to continue work among the unreached.

To donate:

- Mail checks to DMI (earmarked ATI pump) @ 11 Toll Gate Road, Lititz, PA 17543, USA
- Give online: [facebook.com/africatransformationinitiative](https://www.facebook.com/africatransformationinitiative)



DOVE MEDICAL MISSIONS serves around the world

Sixteen years ago, Scott Jackson, a family doctor in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, did not foresee that a visit to Haiti would be the impetus to birth DOVE Medical Missions. While there, he set up a medical clinic for four days. In response to the overwhelming need, Scott arranged for short-term teams to travel annually to Haiti to provide medical care.

Word spread. Medical volunteers offered to help. Other countries in need also welcomed medical help. In Garissa, Kenya, the medical team served a Muslim tribe that had been displaced by a flood. One of the young Muslim adults in the clinic line agreed to prayer for his healing for cerebral malaria, a condition



great and much of the world welcomes medical teams that serve the poor and offer the love of Jesus Christ," he said.

Scott launched DOVE Medical Missions, a branch of DOVE Mission International, while continuing his family practice part time in Lancaster County. Thus far, DMM has conducted medical clinics in Kenya, Uganda, Peru, Haiti, Guatemala and Northern Iraq. Scott also assists other ministries in organizing medical teams and participates locally at Water Street Health Clinic, an inner city ministry to the homeless.

DMM offers short-term opportunities for both medical and non-medical participants. "The world is an open door to the possibilities," Scott said. "I frequently think of a slogan written at the Baptist Mission in Port-au-Prince: 'To the world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world.'"

More about medical missions at www.dovemission.org or email dmi@dci.org.

Much of the world welcomes medical teams that serve the poor and offer the love of Christ

that affected his thinking. Later in the week, his father ran back to the clinic to report that his son had been healed. The Muslim armed guards translated both the prayer and the message. At the time, the team had no idea of the potential danger they faced as they worked only thirty minutes from the Somali border.

On the flight home, Dr. Jackson sensed the Lord nudging him to expand medical missions with more short-term trips throughout the world. "The need is

Light penetrates darkness



Brazil church shines hope

Light is bursting through the darkness in Brazil where Victor and Vânia Gomes serve as pastors of Comunidade Crista DOVE.

During a monthly outreach, the church takes a huge pot of soup to a community slum, distributes grocery bags filled with non-perishable food items to some families in great need and presents an evangelistic program.

Vânia said, “A few months ago, a sister of a friend of mine contacted me. Her husband had left her and in desperation, she had consulted Spiritism



and magic. These false sources did not resolve her problem. Although it seemed as if Jesus was her last option, she said that she was convinced that only Jesus could help her and was totally open to Jesus and accepted Him into her heart.”

The church began praying and fasting for her. Because she lived at a distance, she moved in with her sister who lives close to our church. The leaders began discipling her on how to grow in her new life in Christ. Recently, she was reunited with her husband and moved back into their home.

Another exciting miracle displayed God’s love and power when a homeless man came to the church. He was desperate because his two-year-old daughter had been diagnosed with Dengue hemorrhagic fever, which is a severe, potentially deadly infection spread by mosquitoes. That Sunday the whole church prayed for his daughter’s healing. On Monday the girl was discharged by the hospital. Her father returned the following week to thank the church and share his testimony of God’s miracle.

Many new adults and families are attending church. God is working in their hearts and changing lives. “Please continue to pray with us,” Vânia said.

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Haiti translates concern into action

Poverty and earthquake devastation pales when leaders in DOVE Haiti compare it to the spiritual demise of their town. Concern for the lost stirs them to action. Recently they initiated traveling from house to house to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every Thursday evening fifteen to twenty believers visit a home to proclaim the Good News through songs, testimonies of God’s power and scripture teachings. Fruit from their obedience recently resulted in five coming into the Kingdom of Light and great rejoicing.

Nelson Martin, who oversees DOVE Haiti partner churches, said our Haitian friends were captivated by words in the DOVE vision statement, “house to house.” These simple words inspired members of Temple of the Bible-DOVE Church to seek God about how to take steps to put words into action.

Bulgarian woman finds the God of peace

Growing up in Bulgaria, Hristina was plagued with unhappiness and terrors. After she married, she accompanied her husband to South Africa, where his abuse became severe and he was imprisoned.

Alone in a foreign country, Hristina felt as if she were on the verge of emotional collapse, but a Christian lady

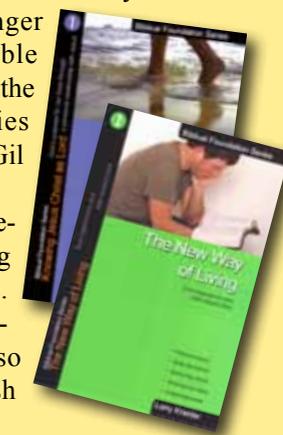
shared the Gospel with her. Hristina invited Jesus to be the Lord of her life. The words in the Bible came alive as she read, “Do not be afraid!” She fasted and prayed. Trust in God replaced fear. God enabled her to return to Bulgaria, where she joined the DOVE church in Sliven and became a part of a cell group. She said, “I found a family, and it’s a blessing. I got baptized in the Holy Spirit and have grown in the Lord so much.”

Hristina does not want others to suffer through years of turmoil like she did. She eagerly shares Jesus with her coworkers. Hristina encourages them to reject fear and receive Jesus. Hristina said, “I no longer live in fear and despair but in the blessing of God.”

Oregon church uses Foundation Series tools

Desert Streams in Oregon uses the Biblical Foundation Series in mentoring relationships and in small group studies. They’ve discovered the effectiveness in using them with foreign exchange students who accept Christ, with outreaches to the homeless and former drug users and with people from ordinary backgrounds. “The hunger for God is incredible and the response to the foundational studies is awesome,” said Gil Miller, senior elder.

The 12-book series helps build strong spiritual foundations. Written by Larry Kreider, copies are also available in Spanish and **NEW!** French.



For details visit www.h2hp.com

SEE HOW GOD WORKS



Newly appointed International Apostolic Council member explains why obedience is more important than talent

Chad Miller

“Isn’t it awesome to see people released in their God-given purpose and calling!” asks Chad Miller, DOVE youth leader and church planter. “You don’t need to be someone special or a high achiever—just obedient,” Chad says of the qualifications to be used of God.

This 30-something has planted a church in Brazil and in Lititz, Pennsylvania, and no doubt will plant additional churches “because after you plant one, it takes the fear away—and you see how God uses us despite our mistakes,” he said.

The “us” refers to his wife Chris and himself. Their journey sheds light on “obedience” as the most important ingredient in finding God’s calling.

Reach people where you are

Growing up, the idea of becoming a pastor, church planter or a missionary never even crossed Chad’s mind. He remembers when many of his friends participated in short-term mission outreaches. The peer pressure caused him as an 18-year-old to seek God and ask if he should go on a mission outreach. He sensed God saying, “Reach people where you are.” So Chad did. He drove kids to youth functions, led a small youth cell group and met his wife-to-be through youth ministry.

After Chris and he were married for one-year, Chad had a dream. He saw a map of the world marked with red dots all over it, and sensed God saying, “You are going to touch these places in the world.”

When Chad awakened, God brought the vision back. Chad said, “I don’t know any languages ... I don’t have a burning desire for any one nation.... What am I to do?”

Brazil call

He sensed he was to start in northeastern Brazil. When he shared the vision with Chris, she was not super excited about it but agreed to go on a two-week mission trip team to Brazil. During that time, both of them developed a heart for Brazil. When they returned home, they enrolled in DOVE’s Leadership and Ministry School. About a year and a half later, they enrolled in a language school in Brazil. Within that year, they rented a home, and began teaching the Bible in the Portuguese language. The couple had a high degree of proficiency, which Chad said is “supernatural when you consider I failed Spanish in high school.”

Chad’s experience of struggling in school and not being a super achiever in anything gives power to his message of “be obedient and let God do the rest.”

Within weeks of the couple settling in Brazil and opening their home to the local youth, they had 50-75 kids in their home daily. Most of them lived in hopeless situations.

“Chris and I realized the importance of encouraging them to have hope and pursue dreams. It was difficult because the area around them seemed so hopeless, but when youth recognize their

calling, it gives them focus and points them in the right direction,” Chad said. “In Brazil, many of the youth who participated in our youth ministry are living for God today and did not become involved in drugs like the kids around them and their family members. We saw it was important for us not only to have them identify their calling but help them pursue it.”

An example is Diego. As a 14-year-old, he said he wanted to be a musician, but he did not own an instrument. The Millers gave him a guitar and he began

Struggling in school gives power to Chad’s message of “be obedient and let God do the rest.”

playing it during the worship services. Although the guitar was later stolen at gunpoint and Diego faced a lot of difficulties, he pursued his calling and walk with God. “Today he is the main worship leader in the church—one of the finest musicians I have ever heard—and is considering church planting,” Chad said.

New opportunities

After seven years in Brazil, the Millers returned to the U.S. where they love to listen to young people, detect their hearts’ calling and provide opportunities for them. For example, they recognized that one twenty-year-old has a gift for speaking. Chad often encourages her to teach. “I stand with her and help her develop her teaching skills,” he said.

According to Jeremiah 29:11, God's plans are to prosper and help people and to give them a hope and a future. With such a promise, it seems hard for Chad to understand why people often do not become active in church ministry.

Chad believes it is important for churches to discern their purpose and to determine whether there is a common thread to pursue. In The Gathering, which is the church plant in Lititz, Chad said they recognized two things: We have been blessed with many worshipers—gifted musicians, dancers and vocalists—and we love to minister to the downtrodden. Almost every member of our small church has a strong desire to help those dealing with life challenges such as addiction, single parenting or other overwhelming issues. In response, our church group serves at a local minis-

try for single moms. We have no problem recruiting our members to participate in this outreach because the desire to reach others is already part of our church DNA. God-given excitement is already in place!

Chad wants to encourage each person to detect the heartbeat of those whom God has placed in your life. "As you see that common thread of calling and purpose within your ministry, you will see life and excitement being release within your group. People will quickly become involved and excited because you are tapping into what God has already placed in their lives!"

From Chad's perspective, too many people sit around waiting for signs to confirm what God has already told them what to do. Chad's advice, "Just go for it. Be obedient! See how God works."

Pennsylvania Bahney House opens it's doors



Ten years of prayer, sweat and perseverance is paying off for the The Fireplace, a DOVE church in Myerstown Pennsylvania. The members had a vision to redeem a dilapidated pre-Civil War hotel, not so much the façade but from its derelict reputation. In a town of 5,000 people, half of all police calls came from that location due to the drug dealing, drunkenness, prostitution and other vices prevalent there for many years.

After much prayer and by faith, The Fireplace purchased the Bahney House Hotel in 2010.

Restoring 22 hotel rooms, and reconstructing a laundromat and café for the community far exceeded the monetary and time estimates, but Charlie Kline, senior elder, said it's been worth it. "We have long-term renters, the rooms are full, and we have a waiting list. The laundromat has been in operation for several months and the café should open within the next few months.

I tell clients, "I'm a Christian. If you have any needs, I'm available to pray and help you.

The hotel is run as a for-profit business, but that doesn't mean that ministry doesn't take place. Charlie said, "We have strict guidelines—no smoking, no illegal activity—just like other hotels. But I also tell clients, "I'm a Christian. If you have any needs, I'm available to pray and help you."

At least six or seven people have accepted Christ and others have been ministered to, especially those who have chosen to walk free of addictions. "We have had lots of opportunities to pray for people while they are using the laundromat," Charlie said. "What we are doing here is no different than what any other Christian can do in business. Our vision is to redeem the building to become a site to introduce people to Jesus and advance God's kingdom. We are so appreciative of so many people who have helped it happen."

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the love of Christ compels us



Why missions?

Goal for world outreach

Sending members of our church to another nation, soliciting offerings for outreach to the other side of the world... that's what churches do, right? But, why?

Research reveals that Christians do not always share the same motivation for missions.

- Some stress the need to preach and see people repent — wonderful!
- Others focus on the planting of churches — a crucial strategy.
- Some emphasize the need to do the works of the Kingdom of God, such as engaging in compassion ministries like feeding the hungry — indeed a vital way of showing Christ's love.
- Based on certain scriptures, some even emphasize the role of missions as a strategy to cause the return of Christ to earth.

While there can be many reasons for engaging in missions, historically many churches have settled on the

following — it's all about the glory of the Lord! Indeed, it is interesting that passages of scripture referring to God's glory often are connected to the missionary task. In Isaiah 66:19 we read "I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations."

The passage confirms that God's desire is that missionaries are sent out to proclaim His glory to the peoples of the world. That, in a nutshell, is the goal and motivation for world missions.

May we all be captivated by the glory of the Lord and grow in our desire to work together to see his fame and glory cover this earth.

—Peter Bunton, DOVE Mission International Director

TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE NATIONS

This is a list of long-term DOVE missionaries. Please support them through prayer and giving.

DOVE Missions Africa KENYA Amos & Grace Mulwa



Amos and Grace lead DMA's missionaries in northeastern Kenya, oversee DOVE's school, medical clinic and agricultural projects. Though they work

as a team, Grace focuses her energy on managing the school and handling the clinic's pharmacy, while Amos champions the agricultural projects and general administration.

KENYA Leah Tsisiche



Leah is a teacher at DOVE Academy and sees her mission as sharing the love of God with the children from the local tribe and developing relationships with families in the community.

KENYA Catherine Nanjala



Catherine serves as a missionary teacher in DOVE Academy. The school gives children from the community an opportunity to learn that they would't have otherwise.

KENYA Joseph & Martha Ohito



2014 brings some changes for Joseph and Martha. Joseph will be a student in the Christian Mission Training course at

Sheepfold Ministries School this year. Martha continues to teach at DOVE Academy and to assist with a weekly clinic that serves several tribes in the area.

INDIA Phillip & Kerina Omondi

Destiny Center International, a DOVE church in Mysore, India, was started by Phillip and Kerina as a student outreach over 10 years ago. The Omondis are pastors of this vibrant church that serves international students as well as the local Indian community. They are reaching out to the Siddi tribe.



KENYA Irene & Peter Wafula

Irene and Peter serve on Faza Island. Irene teaches both children and adults and Peter oversees farming and a football club.





KENYA

Kennedy & Metrine Karuri

Located in a remote village in northern Kenya, Kennedy and Metrine demonstrate and share God's love with the local community. While both of them are school teachers, Metrine also trains women in tailoring skills and Kennedy interacts with young people especially through sports.

UGANDA

Martin & Liz Tumusiime



Martin and Liz live in northern Uganda and oversee a number of projects there intended to demonstrate God's love. They manage two schools, sports clubs, and often host medical or building teams that come to serve.

DOVE Mission International USA

KENYA Dan & Sarah Albitz



Based in Kisumu, Kenya, Dan and Sarah serve the leaders of DOVE Kenya. They assist with community development and the expansion of sponsorship for a Christian school. [Visit www.streamsforlife.org](http://www.streamsforlife.org)



SOUTH AFRICA

Marisa Barnett

Living in Cape Town, South Africa, Marisa serves the ministry of Paradigm Shift as the training manager. This ministry alleviates spiritual and physical poverty through discipleship training and business development. [Read her blog: andafterthestorm.wordpress.com](http://andafterthestorm.wordpress.com)

SOUTH AFRICA

Merle & Cheree Shenk

The Shenks are senior elders of House of Praise, a DOVE church in Cape Town, South Africa. They also lead the "REACH" School, training people in evangelism to reach many regions of southern Africa. [Visit www.merleshenk.com](http://www.merleshenk.com)



AFRICA

Ibrahim & Diane Omondi

The Omondis serve as apostolic leaders of DOVE Africa. They teach and train in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Diane directs the work of DOVE Missions Africa. [Read their blog: omondisinkenya.wordpress.com](http://omondisinkenya.wordpress.com)



AUSTRALIA Clarissa Kline

Clarissa works with Youth With A Mission based out of Perth, Australia. She helps lead a Discipleship Training School. In the second quarter of 2014 she will lead an outreach in India. [Follow her on facebook: Clarissa's Journey](#)



CARIBBEAN Bill & Val Landis

Bill and Val are the regional directors for the work of Youth With a Mission in the Caribbean. They train and oversee 350 workers in 28 ministry centers throughout this region.



USA Joetta Keefer

Joetta leads the work of Hands of Hope, a ministry to bring practical assistance and spiritual hope to the homeless of Philadelphia.



GERMANY

Justin & Rawan Shrum

Living in southern Germany, Justin and Rawan lead The Justice Project, an international organization to reach victims of forced prostitution and human trafficking.



MOLDOVA

Adrin & Hillary Vargas

Adrian and Hillary will begin work under the auspices of the Peace Corps in Moldova, Eastern Europe in June 2014. Hillary will teach English; Adrin will work to develop agriculture. While overseas they will be discerning whether they have a longer-term call to missions.



MISSIONS

Peter & Ruth Ann Bunton

Peter serves as director of Dove Mission International sending both long-term and short-term missionaries. Peter also serves as part of the leadership of DOVE Europe and DOVE International. Ruth Ann is engaged with leadership development in Europe and provides pastoral care.



How is God calling you to missions?



To learn more about these missionaries, as well as opportunities for long or short-term mission service, visit:

Africa Center

www.doveafrica.com

email omondis@doveafrica.com

USA Center

www.dovemission.org

email PeterB@dcmf.org

DOVE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY OF CHURCHES

DOVE International is a world-wide family of believers in Christ involved in churches and ministries located in six continents. We are diverse in culture but share God-given vision, values, mission and commitment to start and nurture churches and ministries.

God has called us to be people of prayer, to make disciples, to reach those who need to know Jesus and to advance the Kingdom of God. We stand together with the body of Christ to proclaim Jesus as Lord and bring glory to Him.

DOVE is an acronym for “Declaring Our Victory Emmanuel.” We declare our victory in Emmanuel (God with us) as we experience living the Kingdom—transforming our world.

More at www.dcfi.org

- DOVE’s story and values
- Blogs by Larry Kreider, Ron Myer, Ibrahim and Diane Omondi, Steve Prokopchak and Brian Sauder
- Mission opportunities
- DOVE family church links
- Current news and Facebook stories of what God is doing around the world.



DOVE International is a growing family of hundreds of churches with a vision to build a relationship with Jesus and with one another to transform our world from house to house, city to city and nation to nation.



Be trained by experienced leaders



"This leadership school will train you to minister with your unique God-given gifts to fulfill the Lord's call on your life. We have seen the Lord use the students of this school in amazing ways throughout the world."—Larry Kreider,
DOVE International Director

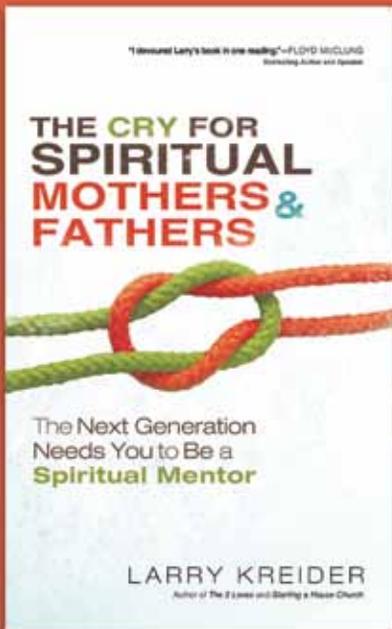
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