

# CONNECTION



Stories of God at work in  
the DOVE global family



**New believers in South Central Asia! 7**

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Visit [www.dcfi.org](http://www.dcfi.org)  
for more about the DOVE family

### CONNECTION

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

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Janet Sauder gave valuable input to the DOVE International Apostolic Council for many years as the spouse of a member, and now serves as a Council member herself. Janet shares several life lessons here.

# DON'T QUIT



## The cost of quitting is greater than the cost of continuing.

The cost of quitting is greater than the cost of continuing the course. This became revelation to me one day as a missionary in Scotland as I was taking time alone with the Lord. It was a season when it was hard to serve and obey the Lord. Even if things are uncom-

fortable, lonely or uncertain, I realized that quitting was not an option. It is not the price I want to pay.

“Yes” is the answer I will give when God asks something of me. It could be a mission, an idea that I know is God inspired or just an opportunity to be obedient. This was tested over the years. One very vivid occasion was when I was headed to the airport to go to the Dominican Republic with a group of health care workers among whom I knew no one. Obedience was beautiful as I was able to help stamp out blindness through cataract surgery and meet many needs for restored eyesight.

“But, seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33). This is a life gem for me. My part is to seek first His kingdom! God does not need my help, worries, reminders or record keeping!

Pace yourself! This revelation came to my husband and me in the first few months of marriage. We will cover a greater distance, last longer and accomplish more if we pace ourselves! A marathon runner can go a lot further than a sprinter! Our goal was to serve our Lord all of our lives and not quit, burn out, become bitter or drop out of the race. My only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

The world's amazing game-changers did just this: they stayed the course, didn't get mad, bitter, disillusioned or quit, but obediently took one day at a time. I am inspired to moving forward, and trust God to use my life for His glory.



# MUCH MORE TO COME!

It all begins with you and the call that God has on your life.

**O**ur God loves to use ordinary people from every tribe and nation who trust Him completely to fulfill His purposes. He wants to use you. He has called each one of us to enjoy Him and experience His amazing love, help others find a true relationship with the Living God and encourage them to grow in their walk with God.

Our God is a God of multiplication. The DOVE International family of churches has grown from one small church of 25 persons in 1980 to over 725 local churches in twenty-four nations. Believers in DOVE meet in thousands of small groups and house churches worldwide. We are joined together around the globe by our relationship with God and each other, and by our twelve biblical values rooted in the Scriptures.

Read about these twelve biblical values and how they are being lived out among us throughout the pages of this *Connection* Magazine (More comprehensive value statements with scriptures can be found at [dcfi.org](http://dcfi.org)).

We are grateful for all that our God is doing among us and celebrate our expansion into several new nations. The

DOVE church in Peru has grown into a network of twelve micro-churches, and they recently planted a new micro-church in China. DOVE now has a work in Tanzania and we anticipate a good report of growth there. The DOVE family in Uganda has grown to over 100 churches and DOVE India has grown to over 225 churches as various movements in India plant new churches throughout their nation. The DOVE network is also growing in Kenya, the Philippines, Myanmar and many other locations.

Our 2020 challenge of 1,000 churches serving together in the DOVE global family by the end of 2020 is well within reach. The DOVE Global Access School is reaching students in four continents

Our 2020 challenge of 1,000 churches serving together in the DOVE global family by the end of 2020 is well within reach.

as many now study on smart phones or other electronic devices.

We have just begun to see all that our God will do through each of us in the DOVE movement worldwide. It all begins with you and the call that God has on your life. Each of us is called by God to encounter Jesus daily and influence our families, churches and communities to experience His kingdom. We are on an amazing journey together. Standing shoulder to shoulder with millions of God's people from many nations in the body of Christ, we declare together, "May His kingdom come, may His will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven." As our journey together continues, there is so much more to come!

## DOVE VALUES

- 1 Knowing God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ and living by His Word is the foundation of life.
- 2 It is essential for every believer to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and be completely dependent on Him.
- 3 The Great Commission will be completed through prayer, evangelism, discipleship and church planting.
- 4 We deeply value the sacred covenant of marriage and the importance of training our children to know Christ.
- 5 We are committed to spiritual families, spiritual parenting and intergenerational connections.
- 6 Spiritual multiplication and reproduction must extend to every sphere of kingdom life and ministry.
- 7 Relationships are essential in building God's kingdom.
- 8 Every Christian is both a priest and a minister.
- 9 A servant's heart is necessary for every leader to empower others.
- 10 Biblical prosperity, generosity and integrity are essential to kingdom expansion.
- 11 The gospel compels us to send missionaries to the unreached and help those least able to meet their own needs.
- 12 We are called to build the kingdom together with the entire body of Christ.

You can find more comprehensive DOVE Values with scriptures at [dcfi.org](http://dcfi.org).

by **Larry Kreider**

DOVE International Director

Read Larry's blog at [www.dcfi.org](http://www.dcfi.org)  
Like Larry and LaVerne Kreider on facebook

## DOVE VALUE 1

Knowing God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ and living by His Word is the foundation of life.



## STUDYING the BIBLE in SECRET

### New believer hides God's Word in his heart

**S**aeed\* heard about Jesus from DOVE missionaries in his town. Coming from an Islamic home, he had never interacted with Christians until his parents took him to Grace Academy\* for extra coaching in the subjects he was struggling with at school.

Saeed's home island is almost entirely Muslim and as a teenager, he needs to adhere to the Muslim code of conduct for his own survival. But when Saeed learned about the sacrifice of Jesus for his salvation, he had a strong desire to know that Jesus. Missionaries Tom and Ruth\* led him to Christ, and started

teaching him the Bible. Saeed loves the Bible and wants to study it, but dare not read it any time apart from when he is at school.

Tom had an idea. He started writing verses on a small piece of paper that Saeed could take with him. Saeed diligently studies those verses between the time he leaves school and the time he reaches home. Before getting home, he throws the papers in a pit latrine, having memorized them already. Saeed has been "hiding God's Word in his heart" for almost one year now, and the Word of God is working great things in his life. Saeed is just one of several young people who have accepted Christ and are being mentored in faith in the undercover protection of Grace Academy.

*\*all names are changed*

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## SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA Coming to salvation through God's Word

The Christmas season provides us a unique opportunity to talk about Jesus. Only at Christmas do we have this freedom. In 2018, we held campaigns in thirty villages where we distributed Bibles, showed the Jesus film and performed dramas. God is opening the door wide in Punjab as people are responding to the gospel like never before.

Distribution of Bibles brings amazing testimonies of people coming to salvation when they read God's Word. Kishan, a new believer, said he was praying for a Bible, then God heard his prayers when we gave him a Bible. Savitri said she is the only person who can read and write in her house. Now that she has a Bible she reads it loudly so that others in her home can hear God's Word.

Another outreach tool is to provide water through digging boreholes. This is one of the best platforms for

starting new churches. People become very receptive when we bring much-needed water to their villages.

Our state, with a population of over 27 million, is the birthplace for the Sikh religion. During a recent leadership meeting, God touched many next generation leaders and six decided to go to new regions for church planting. Seven other missionary couples, already trained in Bible school, are preparing to start churches in remote villages.



**The missionaries** in this story serve with DOVE Missions Africa. For more about the work in Africa, visit [doveafrica.org](http://doveafrica.org)

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# FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM

I prayed that I would be one to end this sin in my generation

## DOVE VALUE 2

It is essential for every believer to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and be completely dependent on Him.

**T**hey say we are the sum of all our parts, but for many of us, our parts are broken or wounded. Our hearts want to be free, but we become so acquainted with the brokenness that at times we don't even know it is there.

This was me. I was a highly functioning angry, bipolar and rejected woman, wife, worship leader and homeschool mom. Every Sunday I would put on a smile sit at the keyboard and worship with abandon. But I desperately needed something to change in my life.

I grew up in a family that was frequently angry and constantly spewed out rejection. Yet it was a Christian home. As an adult, I was attempting to homeschool my girls but would often become so incredibly angry over silly things. In

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time, I began to see the same anger in my girls and in how they treated each other. I knew something about spiritual warfare, inner healing and generational issues. So as I was sitting and crying after I had smacked my daughter just because she could not answer a question, (she has forgiven me!) I knew I couldn't go on like this. It was ruining my girls, my marriage and myself.

During a quiet morning of personal prayer, I repented of my anger, my dad's anger, and generations of anger in my family line. I had seen and lived with this anger long enough. I prayed to break it off my life and my daughters' lives. I prayed that I would be the one to end this sin in my generation and let God bring His peace into my family.

That same night, I had a vivid dream. I was fighting a huge animal that resembled a man. He was throwing me against the bedroom wall. I kept being picked up and thrown into the closet doors, floor and wall. I could see everything as it was happening, as if in slow motion, but it was my bedroom and very real. All the while I kept saying, "I am breaking this generational curse. It will not be in my family" and kept crying, "Jesus."

When I woke the next morning I knew something had changed. Getting out of bed, I felt extremely sore. I looked and the whole side of my body was bruised, as if I had been thrown against something. I stared at myself in the mirror. Then my phone rang, and a very dear intercessor and mentor asked, "Kim, are you okay?" She said she had seen me battling the night before, and God wanted her to tell me: "It is finished." I then told

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her about my dream. She explained that the battle was real—a huge fight—but the anger was now broken over my life.

It was true. The issues of anger and bipolar had left. I felt a huge peace over myself, my home and my family. My relationship with my girls changed. I began to enjoy them and laugh more, instead of the constant burning of anger.

In Galatians 3:13 we are told Jesus is the curse-breaker. Everyone must be willing to go to battle against things that keep us bound, even things we might not know are there. Although I have never felt freer than I do right now, I know there is more to come. My story is still in the making; watch for the next chapter!

—**Kim Zimmerman** and her husband, **Brian**, lead Shift Church, in Lititz, PA, USA and City Gate's three locations in Lancaster, Ephrata and Columbia.

## STEPS FOR HEALING

When Holy Spirit identifies an area He desires to change, use these action steps.

- **CONFESS** your sin to Jesus and repent. (Romans 3:23)
- **BE ACCOUNTABLE**; confess your faults one to another. (James 5:16)
- **CALL UPON JESUS**, the curse breaker, to place this generational curse on the cross. (Galatians 3:13)
- **ASK HIM** to separate you from this sin and the sin of your fathers. (I Peter 1:18)
- **PERSEVERE** until breakthrough comes and the Holy Spirit gives you new beliefs that generate new thoughts and actions. (Romans 12:2)
- **RECEIVE IT!**

## DOVE VALUE 3

The Great Commission will be completed through prayer, evangelism, discipleship and church planting.

# LOOKING out for the Father's business



## Interested in the exciting world of church planting?

DOVE International is a church planting movement and it is our desire to plant churches throughout the world using various models. Our goal is to assist individuals and churches in planting new churches.

### Check out these resources

designed to empower church planters at [doveusa.org/ministries/church-planting/](http://doveusa.org/ministries/church-planting/)

The mission of Christ was to “seek and save those who are lost” (Luke 19:10). As I walk through life, it is my desire to make His business my business and His mission my mission!

When Jesus’ mother and father found Him in Jerusalem after searching for Him three days, He was surprised by their distress. “Did you not know that I would be about my Father’s business?” He asked.

As followers of Jesus, we also should be about our Father’s business. That business involves each one of us walking in the power of the Kingdom in our everyday lives. Where I go the Kingdom of God goes and where the Kingdom goes, His power is present to change lives. So I am looking for opportunities for Jesus to change lives through me. This outlook changes my perspective completely. Instead of seeing life’s challenges as disruptions, I begin to see them as opportunities for me to interact with people and be a catalyst that will bring change.

This is where the church comes in. When lives are changed, people want to share that changed life with others. The Kingdom of God grows as churches are planted and His mission is advanced. As Tony Fitzgerald explains, “Christ established His church as the most effective way to continue and ultimately complete the mission of seeking and saving the lost.” But it all starts with being about the Father’s business!

—**Ron Myer** is the Assistant Director of DOVE International and the Apostolic Director of DOVE USA.

Read Ron’s blog at [www.doveusa.org](http://www.doveusa.org)



## Prayer changes nations

DOVE International’s “2020 Challenge” has given us the goal of growing to be 1,000 churches by the year 2020. In the years of pursuing this goal, we realized early on that prayer would play a crucial role in seeing God birth new churches. DOVE Mission International took on the task of mobilizing prayer missionaries to go to numerous sites around the world where local leaders had a specific vision for church planting. The purpose was to support that vision and do the work of prayer to see it become reality.



## TANZANIA

A prayer team trekked through the city of Tanga to pray at the port, government offices and financial institutions. They did prophetic action at the sea shore to defeat a spirit of slavery discerned to be holding back revival.

## CANADA

Lynn Ironside said of the team in Quebec, “We arrived with open minds and hearts anticipating what the Lord would reveal for the city of Sherbrooke. As we walked through it, we prayed and declared the Kingdom of God present in the court rooms, cafés, churches and on the snow-covered streets.”

## BULGARIA and THE NETHERLANDS

An international team spent three days in each nation to claim the ground and pray for breakthroughs. As a result, greater fruit is expected in church planting.

## MYANMAR

A prayer team joined the believers there to pray over areas that are targeted for planting new churches.

## COLOMBIA

From this team, Adriana Muñoz comments, “We won’t forget how it felt to sense a diabolic throne in the spirit realm falling and a celestial throne being restored as we worshipped.”

## INDIA

Intercessors focused on specific scriptures for growth and multiplication in many remote villages. They even prayed at the top of a hill that has huge idols, breaking strongholds over a city. Leaders there were deeply encouraged.



# Your Marriage MEANT TO LAST



**Getting married is easy.  
It's the staying married  
part that can be tough!**

## DOVE VALUE 4

We deeply value the sacred covenant of marriage and the importance of training our children to know Christ.

When we say, “I do,” we are never quite sure of what’s ahead. Thinking back over the many couples I have counseled, I can only begin to mention the various scenarios that those couples faced so unexpectedly. I recall, for example, the early passing of a life mate, failure of a business, loss of a child, an affair, depression, a life-altering accident or illness, addictions, extreme financial mismanagement, inability to become pregnant, just to name a few. For many of these couples, life felt completely overwhelming. I am disappointed to add that not all of the them were strong enough to maintain their marriage vows and stay together.

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Perhaps the challenges we face in marriage have not been this severe. We all experience day-to-day irritants like piles of laundry, financial shortfalls, work demands, disobedient children, and ministry disappointments. Always remember those important vows that we spoke to one another, in God’s presence, which were witnessed by those who attended our wedding. Ecclesiastes reminds us that it is better not to make a vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.

For the majority of marriages that did stay together, I noticed something extraordinary, something life-changing. As these couples battled through disappointments, loss and unexpected surprises, they became stronger in their resolve toward one another. They decided the tough times were going to make them and not break them. They chose to get help, be honest, expose their weaknesses and be altogether open and truthful. They submitted to counsel, read books, prayed together, extended grace, forgave, grew in faith and recommitted many times to a better future. Change never occurred overnight, but change did occur.

Regardless of what life threw at them, they maintained their vows and

lifelong marriage commitment to God and one another. They recognized the value of a covenant and the significance of a marriage that shows the world how much Christ loves His church.

**Regardless of where you  
are in your marriage, there  
is help and there is hope.**

Regardless of where you are in your marriage, there is help and there is hope. If God is who He says He is, then every marriage scenario can be redeemed. If He could forgive the woman who had committed adultery and had obviously failed in her marriage, He can forgive you and rebuild your relationship.

The value of marriage, held so deeply in the DOVE family, is not just words on paper. It is a day-by-day, hour-by-hour commitment we are living out to love, cherish, protect and guard one another until “death do us part.”

—**Steve Prokopchak** and his wife, **Mary**, serve with the *DOVE International Apostolic Council team*.

**Read Steve's blog**  
at [calledtogether.wordpress.com](http://calledtogether.wordpress.com)

## **CALLED TOGETHER** Marriage Mentoring Workbook Pre-and post marital to build marriages from the start

Designed to be used by counselor mentors leading sessions with engaged couples. This trusted manual has updates throughout! Exercises can be completed on a downloadable PDF. 238 pages: \$19.99 DOVE family price **40% off! \$13.19**

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## UGANDA Really set free!

It is always an inspiration to visit rural churches across East African nations. Our trip to Uganda was no exception. I am challenged to touch the simple, unassuming faith of those who seem to have little—according to the world’s measure—yet have so much in the Lord.



“When we first planted this church, every night was ‘deliverance night.’ The neighbor-

hood had so much demonic oppression that it was even hard to sleep,” explained Raphael Nguchie, leader of Christ-in-U, a network newly engaged with DOVE. Now, the Karuma celebration only has one ‘deliverance service’ a week; other nights members gather for intercession, worship or teachings. This, in addition to Sunday services. “The village is so different now; it is really ‘cleaned up’ and full of zeal,” Raphael testifies.

Riding across the countryside in the back of an open truck, live chickens and charcoal in tow, accented the thrill of seeing God’s power penetrate darkness in the region. Praise God. He is alive!

—**Diane Omondi**, together with her husband Ibrahim, lead the apostolic council of DOVE Africa.

Read Omond’s blog at [www.dcfi.org](http://www.dcfi.org)

### DOVE VALUE 5

We are committed to spiritual families, spiritual parenting and intergenerational connections.

## JOIN THE DOVE FAMILY 24/7 Prayer Watch

The DOVE Prayer Watch is our strategy to pray for the DOVE family worldwide seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. Join hundreds of prayer warriors around the globe and participate weekly. Each partner church is encouraged to participate by designating a Prayer General. A General covers a time slot and builds a team to cover four hours of prayer every week for the global family. Participants can pray individually or gather as a group to pray.

### Prayer Journal

includes prayer requests from each DOVE church. Request a copy or digital version today!



YOU are helping  
us by PRAYING  
for us.

2 Corinthians 1:11

For Prayer Watch details  
visit [dcfi.org](http://dcfi.org)  
contact Nelson Martin  
prayer coordinator  
at [nelsonm@dcfi.org](mailto:nelsonm@dcfi.org)



## NETHERLANDS Fashioned by God’s love

### “What do you find beautiful about yourself?”

I asked this of a woman I was coaching in my fashion consultant’s academy. She started crying because she has never seen herself as beautiful. As we talked more, I shared the struggles I had as a girl, being insecure and feeling I had nothing to give. I talked about how God changed my heart. That really touched her and she asked if we could talk again. This is one example of the opportunities I have to share my testimony of walking with God in my business, *Mooi Opleidingen*.

Besides the fashion consultancy, I also have an academy where I train women to start their own consultant businesses. Some people wonder why I am doing this as a Christian. They question: “Isn’t it very worldly to focus on outward appearance? Isn’t the ‘inside’ what is important?” But when I work with a client, I start with questions. Many women open up during these conversations and talk about poor self-image, fear of

people or fear of their past. It is then easy to take the step of telling them about God and how He sees us! I often share my story about how I became close to God, and even pray for them.

On the last day of the academy, when they receive certificates, I write a letter for each one. Along with the academic report, I prophesy over them in these letters. I ask God to give me words of life for them. We always end this day with a lot of tears because God is touching them through these words.

Isn’t God amazing? I have my own business and am doing what I love, positioned right where God wants me so I can reach women with the message of God’s love.

—**Hanneke Develing** and her husband, Dirk, lead *The Living church*.



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**SOUTH AFRICA**

# THE NEXT STEP BRINGS A NEW CHURCH

## DOVE VALUE 6

Spiritual multiplication and reproduction must extend to every sphere of kingdom life and ministry.

In 2017, the theme of the DOVE ILC was “The Next Step.” Participants were encouraged to seek God for the one step He was asking them to take. For Samy and Shireen Kengela, the Lord’s instructions were clear. He was calling them to step out in faith and plant a church.

The Kengela’s started talking with their pastors of House of Praise in Cape Town about this vision. Another year passed. When Samy attended ILC in 2018, things became more clear and the Lord confirmed that “the time is *now*”.

In June 2018 Samy and Shireen were released to plant The Worship Centre. Shireen explains, “We started by refreshing the church with DOVE’s Biblical Foundations Series and have seen God correcting foundations that were wrongly built. As the truth of His Word is taught, we see salvation, restored marriages and excitement about God’s Word,” The lounge where they meet is already too small, and they are trusting God to expand the building as soon as possible. “What an exciting journey of growing together,” Kengela’s declare.



## RWANDA Churches reopen after government shutdown

Last year, the government of Rwanda shut down over 6,000 churches around the country. Requirements such as sound proofing, fire extinguishers, better restroom facilities, larger parking lots and Bible college diplomas for pastors were cited as the reasons for this drastic move. Meeting in homes is also illegal, so believers are facing a very difficult task to remain in fellowship and discipleship in this hostile environment.

Out of the ten DOVE churches in Rwanda, seven were shut down. At Kanombe church, DOVE’s church in the capital city of Rwanda, the parking lot, sound proofing and washroom work was done, thanks to generous support from the DOVE International family worldwide. Other DOVE members who live in the vicinity are now attending this church. God is restoring hope!

Gathering for worship in the Congo

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### Healing message changes lives in difficult times

With a new government in place in the DRC, DOVE leaders there are praying hopefully for peace. Parts of the nation have been at the mercy of violent rebel groups for a long time. This atmosphere makes evangelism and church planting very difficult, because travel is usually not safe and insecurity abounds. Whole populations find themselves on the move. A more stable nation will pave the way for rigorous church planting.

The message of healing, especially from trauma and loss, is much needed. Of course, Christ IS our Healer. As DOVE DRC shares the hope and healing that comes from the Lord, many are coming to a life of faith.







**DOVE VALUE 7**  
Relationships are  
essential in building  
God's kingdom.

## IRELAND Relating is key

The spiritual climate in Ireland has changed over the past two years with the legalization of both abortion and partnerships between same-sex couples. This increase in liberalism is bringing a noticeable spiritual vacuum; people are yearning for genuine relationships and authentic faith.

The DOVE church in Ireland focuses outreach on the local college, a soup kitchen and youth. Members are active in raising funds for the kitchen by packing bags at a grocery store.

James Krechnyak, who gives oversight to the work in Ireland, gives seminars on discipleship and house/micro churches. There is a growing interest in Ireland for micro churches, especially because of the relational aspect of small groups and mutual support. As the DOVE church grows, they intend to multiply the unique micro church model.

## SCOTLAND Creative community outreach

The outreach of Living Waters Community Church in Peterhead, Scotland focuses on building relationships of trust and transparency. During the summer months, we enjoy evening small groups and open barbeques. We also hold movie and pizza or fish and chips nights, a Scottish standard. Quite a few non-Christians attend these events and usually enquire when the next one will be. We also open our building to local groups with needs, for example an Alzheimer's group and a mental health group. The Alpha course we use has proved to be an effective tool for leading people to Christ.

In all of these, we demonstrate God's love and have opportunities to share the gospel.

—**Nick Wilson** is the lead elder at Living Waters Community Church, Scotland.

## PHILIPPINES Making the love of Christ real

How would you feel if someone offered to pay for your groceries or give you a meal? These are some of the ways DOVE churches in the Philippines are sharing the love of Christ with their "Kindness in Progress" outreach. They go into a neighborhood with an eye to look for needs, and then meet them wherever possible. This includes serving meals to low income families and other intentional acts of kindness.

The DOVE youth movement in the Philippines can be termed as wildly successful. Lee and Teresa DeMatos, lead elders from DOVE partner church Indian Lake Fellowship, Massachusetts, USA have been instrumental in creating momentum, especially after Lee dressed like Mr. Incredible and dubbed himself "Mr. Identity" in a youth gathering.



This creative twist to evangelism has led to several more church plants. Training of leaders is an ongoing need. The DOVE training school is proving to be effective for raising up leaders, even across denominational lines. We believe that the DOVE family is truly making a difference in the Philippines.







## ZAMBIA

### Empowering farmers through technology

#### DOVE VALUE 8

Every Christian is both a priest and a minister.

**G**ilbert Mwale was part of DOVE's Destiny Center in Mysore, India while studying there. Now back in Zambia, he is making waves with the introduction of ICT in the agriculture sector. The company he founded, eMsika, is an e-commerce platform that uses face-to-face meetings, social media and phone calls to provide farmers with agricultural input and equipment. Buyers can meet sellers to exchange services.

Recently eMsika attained second position in the Young Entrepreneurs of the Year awards in Zambia. Gilbert explains that his heart is full of joy when he sees farmers succeeding, because his goal with eMsika is to lift the standards of small scale farmers across southern Africa. "The grace of God has kept us and allowed us to do things only He can enable us to do," testifies Gilbert.



## KENYA and USA Churches connect with gifts of joy

**C**hristmas gifts provided through the "Gifts of Hope" initiative were joyfully received by the 500 students at Victory Christian School, Kadawa. Children in the younger classes were given a new outfit and a bag of school supplies. Older students received a new backpack, also full of school supplies. Money was raised from DOVE churches for this exciting project.

For many of the students this was the first Christmas gift they had ever received. A team from the United States

helped hand out gifts and spent time with the children. The team visited widows in their homes, listened to their stories and delivered bags with supplies such as soap, rice and sugar. The blessings of these gifts will never be forgotten.

### Join us for this year's trip!

Another trip to Kenya is planned in October 2019 to give gifts to children and visit widows. Participate through sponsoring gifts or joining the team. Details at [dcfi.org/victory-school-christmas-gifts/](http://dcfi.org/victory-school-christmas-gifts/)



## MYANMAR Persecution on the rise

**C**hristians in Myanmar are facing increased persecution such as detaining, abduction and the invasion of church properties. Religious nationalism, fueled by the majority religion of their

country, is instigating an increase in the fight against ethnic minorities, which includes Christians.

Ram Lian, apostolic leader of DOVE Myanmar, reports that neighbors tried to shut down services at their church. The government social welfare officer advised them to register the orphanage they operate. The application was successful, and two signs were placed outside the compound. Mercy Home is now recognized by authorities, giving protection from hostile neighbors.

By God's grace, the ministry has now grown to 39 churches. A seminar in 2018 with DOVE Myanmar's celebration of three years in the DOVE family was attended by over eighty leaders who learned about DOVE vision.

Connection



**Mercy Home now recognized by authorities, giving protection from hostile neighbors**



# GREAT LEADERS



**A**s leaders we are responsible to coach and guide those in our realm of influence. Throughout history, great leaders have not only been a source of ideas, but also inspiration. This moves people from being passive spectators to active participants. Often, a person's true potential is only realized when a great leader gets involved in their life. Leadership is lifting people up, not pushing them down. As former US president Dwight Eisenhower said, "You do not lead by hitting people over the head, that's assault, not leadership."

**We empower others through training and opportunity**

When we empower others through training or opportunity, we open the door to new levels of creativity. We take the responsibility to discover and nurture the creativity of these individuals. Ultimately our project will be more successful, but more importantly, the full potential of the persons we are serving can be realized. US General George Patton said it like this, "Don't tell people how to do things; tell them what to do and let them

surprise you with their ingenuity."

A great leader will ask, "What do you need from me?" In doing so, we empower those around us. And good leaders will help others to not fear failure. If someone fails, we ask, "What can we do so this doesn't happen again?" Even in failure we develop new solutions and insights for the future. For example, in the DOVE family, we encourage apostles and prophets to work together. This creates a culture of experimentation

and gives freedom to try new things. We need to have a culture of research and

development. All of us fail at times and fall down, but it is only a failure if we stay down. Failure happens to even the most seasoned leader. But leaders who admit their mistakes demonstrate phenomenal leadership to those around them. This inspires others to do the same.

—**Brian Sauder** and his wife, Janet, serve on the DOVE International Apostolic Council.

Read Brian's blog at [www.dcfi.org](http://www.dcfi.org)

## DOVE VALUE 9

A servant's heart is necessary for every leader to empower others.



## DOVE Springs SACCO uplifts lives KENYA Micro-loans prove successful

**"T**he success of DOVE Springs SACCO is very encouraging," says Susan Otieno, chairperson. "Our membership is now almost 500 and many families are being helped." With exorbitant interest rates of 20% or more in the open market, DSS brings financial services within the reach of its members.

Micro-loans have become a popular financial alternative in East Africa. SACCO is an acronym for Savings and Credit Cooperative. Since its registration in 2012, DOVE Springs SACCO (DSS) has grown to nearly 500 members and has released over 250 loans. Default rates are low as funds continue to rotate based on low interest pay-backs.

After saving with the SACCO, a member qualifies to apply for a loan. This encourages members to develop the habit of saving, which is a challenge in a context where inflation and unem-

ployment are high. In many developing nations, even people who have jobs need to look for extra sources of income in order to survive. DSS empowers members by holding seminars on financial management, the importance of saving and business principles. Members are helped to seek out viable business ideas.

Pauline Juma started saving with DSS in 2014. When she took a loan last year, she opened a Barber and Salon. "Through the loan, I was able to achieve my long-time dream of having a business that generates income," Pauline shares. "I will forever thank the SACCO."

Charles Wanyama, a DOVE pastor, has taken several loans to establish their school, Joysprings Education Centre. Joysprings is giving over 500 children in the slums of Kibera the opportunity for a good education. "I am ever grateful for the SACCO. I have learned saving skills and have been able to see our school succeed," Charles explains.

**For details and to get involved visit [springsofafrica.org](http://springsofafrica.org)**



## COLOMBIA Crossing borders with a message of hope

**N**ews reports do not adequately portray the pain most Venezuelans are going through. Entangled in witchcraft and Cuban sorcery introduced through the last two governments, the country is suffering from a lack of food and medicine. This became so obvious when we visited Venezuela last October.

We traveled safely across the country—through twenty-one military checkpoints—to the town of Marutin. Nothing was taken from us in the process, even though corruption, abuse and theft are common. Upon arrival we knew it had been worth the risk and effort as the people excitedly welcomed us.

### DOVE VALUE 10

Biblical prosperity, generosity and integrity are essential to kingdom expansion.

As a team we enjoyed visiting in homes, sharing the love of God and giving food. In two of the villages we held soup kitchens and fed almost seven hundred people. This is a community where the average salary is \$8 a month and people cannot afford to buy food even though it is available. We enjoyed doing things with the youth, who are suffering from a lack of hope. The activities opened doors for plenty of interaction. Our team also helped make repairs to the church in the village.

We are so grateful to God for all that He did and for the privilege of being a part of Love for Venezuela.

—**Juan Pablo Munoz and his wife Adriana** serve as lead elders of DOVE Calarcá in Colombia.



### DOVE VALUE 11

The gospel compels us to send missionaries to the unreached and help those least able to meet their own needs.

## BARBADOS Camp sets youth free

**“A** blaze, Fear to Fire” was the theme of the youth summer camp hosted by The Living Room, a DOVE church in Barbados. The church was joined by a DOVE Mission International team of young adults from Pennsylvania to serve alongside them as camp counselors. In five days, teens from all over the island had the opportunity to head to the YWAM base and unplug from life, engage in a variety of activities, and learn about the Father’s reckless love for them.

God moved in everyone’s life at camp. Walls were brought down, anxiety

broken, and many campers gave their lives to Jesus!

In addition to the spiritual breakthroughs, campers had a blast trying out different sports such as surfing, ninja warrior, and paintballing. Circuit games, a CrossFit course, and other games kept the competition going throughout the camp. Art workshops gave campers a new skill to learn, including metalworking and photography! There was even a chance to give back to the community with work projects and visiting with people in hospitals and homes.

## You can serve in missions!

- PRAY for our missionaries
- DONATE to support mission works
- PARTICIPATE in a short-term team
- CONSIDER a long-term mission placement

For more information contact:

**AFRICA Center**

[www.doveafrica.com](http://www.doveafrica.com) email [omondi2@doveafrica.com](mailto:omondi2@doveafrica.com)

**USA Center**

[www.dovemission.org](http://www.dovemission.org) email [PeterB@dcfi.org](mailto:PeterB@dcfi.org)

**CANADA Center**

[dovecanada.org](http://dovecanada.org) email [hironside@gmail.com](mailto:hironside@gmail.com)







# NOT FORGOTTEN

Living for Christ  
where the cost is high

written by a DOVE  
missionary serving  
in a 'creative access'  
country

**I**t's fascinating how a literal climate can so accurately reflect a spiritual climate. Where we serve it is often dry and dusty, except for a few months of the year. The ground is rocky and only the hardiest vegetation survives. This is how it feels spiritually. Five times a day the Islamic call to prayer is broadcasted throughout our city, the core of its message in direct opposition to what we are proclaiming.

The area of the world that we live in is considered a "creative access" or "sensitive" region. Students, entrepreneurs, retirees. . . all are welcome here, but it is against the law to proselytize. We run a small business, living with as much integrity as we can while pursuing our greatest calling, which is to share His message of reconciliation. It's discouraging at times because the roots of Islam go so deep and the ground is rocky and hard. But we seek to be faithful in planting seeds, trusting that He is the one that turns hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. We plant seeds through intentional conversations with whoever we can: friends, neighbors, clients, taxi drivers—and wherever we can: over cups of tea in our living room or while standing in line for paperwork.

And praise God, we are starting to see life coming up from this rocky soil! The number of local believers is growing. Their decision to follow Christ comes at more of a cost than it does for those of us living in the west. But they are discovering that Jesus is worth it!

We believe that prayer has been and will continue to be the foundation for the work that God is doing in this part of the world. Please pray with us that eyes would be opened and hearts softened.

Connection

## Young Missionary Internship Serving God Overseas for Six Months



### GUATEMALA, SOUTH AFRICA GERMANY and SCOTLAND

"I definitely recommend a DMI internship if you want to spread the love of God, experience a new culture, get out of your comfort zone and grow closer to God!" These words come from Tim Witmer, 19, who has just returned from serving six months with Shiloh Community Church in Cape Town, South Africa.

DOVE Mission International launched this program in 2018. Young people have been mentored by church leaders and missionaries in Guatemala, Germany and South Africa. Five others have begun their internships in Peterhead, Scotland, where they will pioneer a youth ministry with Living Waters Community Church. The interns have found this program to be life-changing.

Sage served in Germany with DMI missionaries Justin and Rawan Shrum, who work to see women liberated from being trafficked. She feels one of the biggest lessons has been to serve with

Connection

humility. In addition to learning practical ministry skills, interns complete assignments related to world missions and cross-cultural communication.

Host church leaders and missionaries have been encouraged by the ministry of our interns. Colin and Lara Bothma hosted interns who began a youth group in their church in Cape Town. Lara writes how the interns' energy is contagious and how another youth leader has emerged. "The change they are bringing about in the lives of the kids is sustainable; there will be a leader to continue the work once they return to the USA," she explains.

The DMI internship program helps people from DOVE churches in the USA discover the exciting possibilities of missionary service as they learn firsthand the work of world missions.

### MISSIONS INTERNSHIP

**TRAIN** for missions  
**SERVE** overseas  
**STUDY** along the way

[www.dovemission.org](http://www.dovemission.org)





## DOVE VALUE 12

We are called to build the kingdom together with the entire body of Christ.



## HAITI The power of one person's vision

Schiler Darelus did not have an easy start to life. At the age of 21, he moved from his rural mountain village in Haiti to pursue education. He was placed in seventh grade and worked hard to graduate in less than four years. During this time, he joined



## COLUMBIA 27 churches unite for prayer

DOVE partner church *Herederos del Reino* church in Armenia, Colombia, pastored by Leonel and Alba Vallejos participated in a city-wide night of prayer last November. The focus of prayer was for city revival. More than 6,000 people from twenty-seven churches participated in the all night prayer vigil. Two more are planned as the Body of Christ unites in prayer asking God to pour out His Spirit on their town and country.

## PERU Sharing the good news with the entire restaurant!

Justo and Loren Lleclish continue to raise up micro-church leaders in parts of Lima, Peru. One of their leaders has been given permission to lead a group in the restaurant where she works. One time as she was leading, her boss asked her to share the good news with the entire restaurant!

Temple of the Bible DOVE-La Colline. He served as a small group leader.

At graduation, Schiler told Pastor Precol Charles, "I want to help my home town. I want to build a church, school and public toilet." All three of these would be a first for his community.

Back in his village, Schiler organized a Bible study. He rallied the community to use their horses and donkeys to transport building materials to La Coline. His dream came true as all three buildings were constructed. God is honored as his village thrives!

Connection

## Get your voice back

Ever lost your voice? Perhaps because of a cold or having the wind knocked out of you? God has given each of us a voice for a reason—but have we lost it?

Initially, most people heard about Jesus through personal interaction. Then they shared what they received and heard with others. These disciples gathered in communities, often in homes. They did life together with Jesus and each other. Preachers came to these church communities sharing Scripture, answering questions, and giving direction.

Because these believers were led by the Holy Spirit and gave undeniable witness to Jesus, the churches multiplied. Everywhere they went they took their experience of Jesus with them. The result was an explosion of churches planted. Church planting was a by-product; churches were being planted because believers were going into new areas.

Today it is different. Churches are often planted in order to reach new areas. Has the witness of the believer now been

traded in for the witness of the preacher? I love preaching and preachers, but somehow many believers have lost their voice.

The early believers had a voice: a testimony of what Jesus had done for them. The voice of the preachers was simply the voice of leadership, not necessarily of the entire Christian experience. Little by little, believers traded in their own testimony for the testimony of a preacher. Sadly today, many believers jump from congregation to congregation seeking a preacher to be their voice of Christian expression. Instead of sharing their own testimony, they bring their friends to church so the preacher can share the Gospel with them.

I believe God wants to give His people their voices back. We still need leaders to guide and encourage. But as believers get their voice back, we will again see an explosion of church planting.

—Merle Shenk and his wife, Cheree, serve with the DOVE International Apostolic Council team.



BRAZIL A believer is baptized during a youth retreat



**D**OVE International is a world-wide family of believers in Christ involved in churches and ministries located in five continents. We are diverse in culture but share God-given vision, values, mission and commitment to pray, lead people to Jesus, make disciples and birth and nurture churches and ministries.

We stand together with the body of Christ to proclaim Jesus as Lord and bring glory to Him as His kingdom advances in the nations.

DOVE is an acronym for “Declaring Our Victory Emmanuel” (God with us). We are called to build a relationship with Jesus, with one another and to transform our world: house to house, city to city, and nation to nation.

## DOVE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY of CHURCHES



### LEARN about the DOVE family!

- DOVE’s story and values
- DOVE global family church links
- Stories of God at work around the world
- Mission opportunities
- Blogs  
Larry Kreider, Ron Myer, Craig Nanna  
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