

# DOVE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY CONNECTION



**WELCOME**  
to the DOVE global family





# FOUNDER SUCCESSION

## DOVE International's Next Chapter



**A**fter over forty years in leadership, Larry and LaVerne Kreider believe it is time to release a younger generation of leadership to lead the DOVE International family of churches. The DOVE International Apostolic Council and leaders around the globe have confirmed this. We are excited as we prepare for the next chapter in the DOVE International story which includes leadership succession from Larry Kreider, our international director, to Merle Shenk. We anticipate Merle will take up this role in early 2024. We each have a part to play in this journey. Here is what we see our God doing among us to prepare for the future for our family of churches.

**G**REAT JOY is released when committed believers serve God together for multiple generations. Psalm 145:4 tells us, "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts." Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Life comes in seasons, or, could we say, in chapters. After forty-two years, our global family of churches, DOVE International, is preparing to enter our third chapter. Let me explain.

### DOVE Chapter One 1980 to 1995

DOVE's first chapter started in the late 70s and early 80s when a group of us were involved in a youth movement where hundreds of young people submitted their lives to Christ and were baptized with the Holy Spirit. In October 1980, about twenty-five people gathered in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA. A new church was born: DOVE Christian Fellowship. DOVE is an acronym for "Declaring Our Victory Emmanuel."

This first chapter lasted over fifteen years as we grew to become a multi-site church of more than two thousand people meeting in 130 small groups. We learned biblical foundations from Scripture focused on the three-stranded cord of prayer, evangelism, and discipleship. We were hungry to learn. We sent youth mission teams around the world. It was a privilege for me to serve as senior pastor of this exciting church. Churches were also planted in Scotland, Brazil, Kenya, Uganda, and New Zealand. Eventually it became apparent to us that the Lord was calling us to begin a second chapter in our story.

### DOVE Chapter Two 1996 to 2024

DOVE chapter two began in January 1996 when our multi-site church in Pennsylvania was decentralized to become eight autonomous churches. Churches that were planted in Kenya, Uganda, and New Zealand also desired to join this new movement. These eleven churches formed the new DOVE International family of churches. I was honored to be asked to lead the International Apostolic Council as

*One generation commends  
your works to another;  
they tell of your mighty acts.*

Psalm 145:4

the international director. Our vision was—and still is—simple. We are called to build a relationship with Jesus, with one another, and transform our world from house to house, city to city, and nation to nation.

Over the past twenty-six years, by God's grace, our global family of churches has grown to more than 1,200 churches in twenty-five nations. Thousands of people meet in small groups and house churches to experience spiritual family relationships and the blessing of having and becoming spiritual fathers and mothers.

One of our highlights each year is meeting together from around the globe at our International Leadership Conference. DOVE leaders also gather together at other times each year in their own nations and regions



to learn together, experience God together, and build relationships in the spiritual family.

**DOVE Chapter Three**

In 2016, LaVerne and I felt impressed by the Lord that we should start the process of identifying the next international director for

year transition and training period, we plan for Merle to travel with me to various nations to connect with the DOVE family globally.

We envision the opening of DOVE chapter three in early 2024 with Merle being commissioned as the new international director. Merle intends to continue serving as the lead pastor of Newport Church as well. LaVerne and I will step off the International Apostolic Council in early 2024 to make room for younger apostolic leaders. We will continue to serve in a founder's role in DOVE. We plan to continue to provide resources for the body of Christ and serve as a spiritual father and mother to various leaders in the DOVE family and beyond.

We thank God for the past forty-two years. We are excited about the future of DOVE as we prepare for DOVE chapter three. As God's people experienced great blessing when Joshua took the reins of leadership from Moses, we expect great blessing to be released throughout the DOVE global family with new leadership in DOVE chapter three. The best is yet to come!

the DOVE family. With confirmation from the International Apostolic Council, we formed an international director succession advisory team in early 2017. By 2021, it became clear that the Lord was calling Merle Shenk to become our new international director and lead us into DOVE chapter three starting in early 2024.

Merle and Cheree spent eleven years church planting in South Africa and currently lead Newport Church, a DOVE partner church in Elm, Pennsylvania. In addition to these experiences, the Lord had alerted Merle and Cheree regarding this new leadership role through a number of prophetic words. During the two-

**Learn more** about the leadership succession process at [dcfi.org/succession-plan](https://dcfi.org/succession-plan)



**THE DOVE FAMILY  
prepares for increase**

THE TANZANIAN church celebrated Christmas with widows and those in need in their community. Gifts of food and supplies were given.

DOVE CUBA baptisms are frequent because the churches keep outreach in the forefront. We are thankful for our family in Cuba as they grapple with everyday shortages, but know God's arm is never too short.



UGANDA Hundreds of children receive a godly education, and DOVE churches continue to grow.

THE DOVE PHILIPPINES church is on the move, learning and growing together.



BRAZILIAN churches continue to make disciples and baptize new believers.





## CANADA

A CANADA retreat equips leaders for the harvest.



## THE NETHERLANDS

A prayer walk in THE NETHERLANDS paves the way for God to work in this nation.

RWANDAN leaders learn about marriage and leadership principles.



## PERU

DOVE PERU is a vibrant network of micro churches throughout the city of Lima.



## RWANDA

## 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.

More about DOVE Values at [dcfi.org](http://dcfi.org).



## SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA How great it has been to join in DOVE church services around the world via livestream! Here is House of Praise with Pastor Nigel Okkers on guitar.



## USA

DOVE USA youth are challenged to live like Jesus at EMT: Evangelistic Missions Training. This camp is transformational in teens' lives.





## HAITI

HAITIAN entrepreneurs engage in discussion in a Paradigm Shift business class.



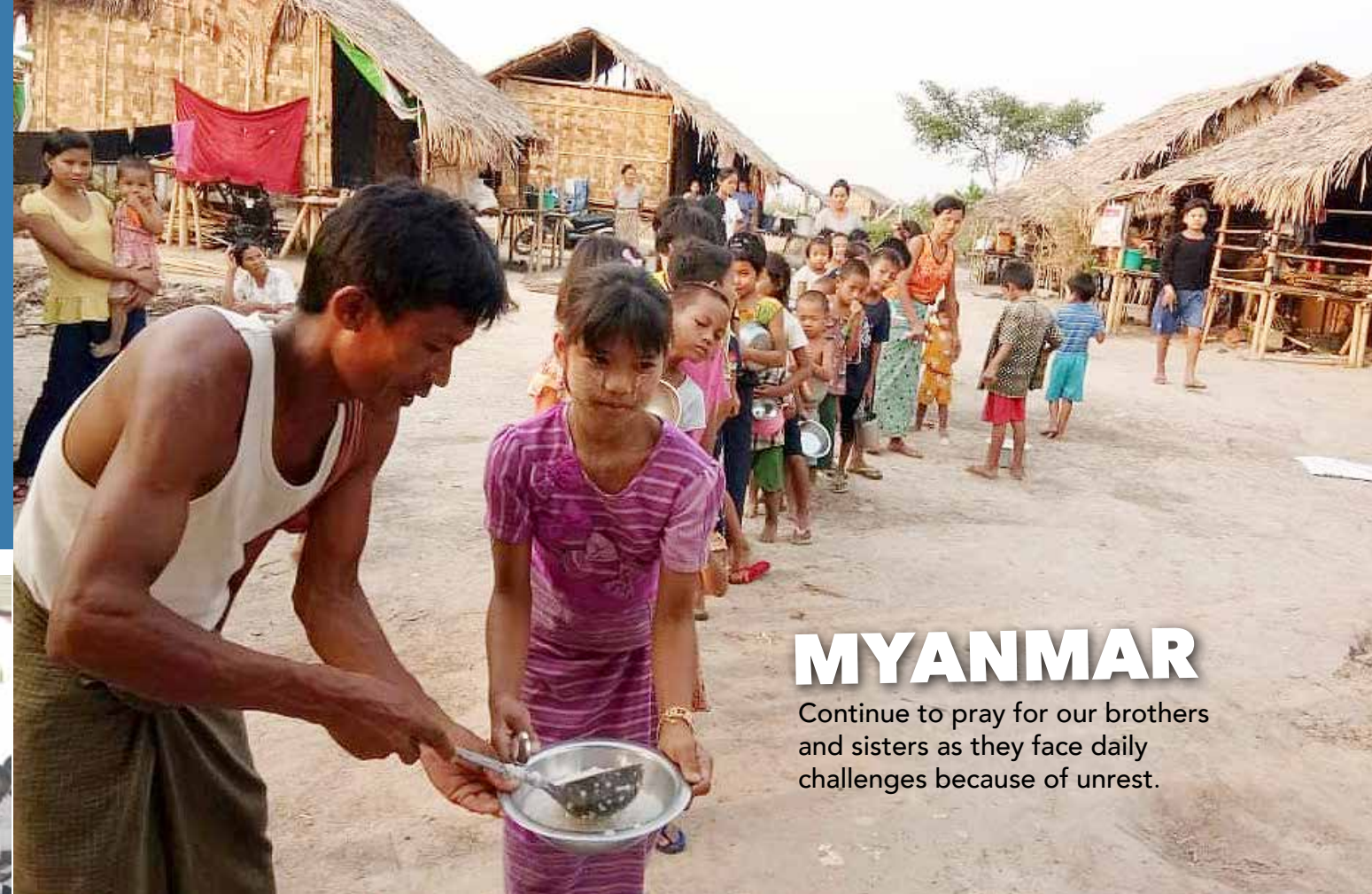
## COLOMBIA

A cell group gathers in Medellín, COLOMBIA. Churches are established in four cities.



## MOZAMBIQUE

THE DOVE MOZAMBIQUE church is filled with young leaders called to reach their nation for Jesus.



## MYANMAR

Continue to pray for our brothers and sisters as they face daily challenges because of unrest.



## BULGARIA

BULGARIAN believers presented a Christmas program for their whole city.



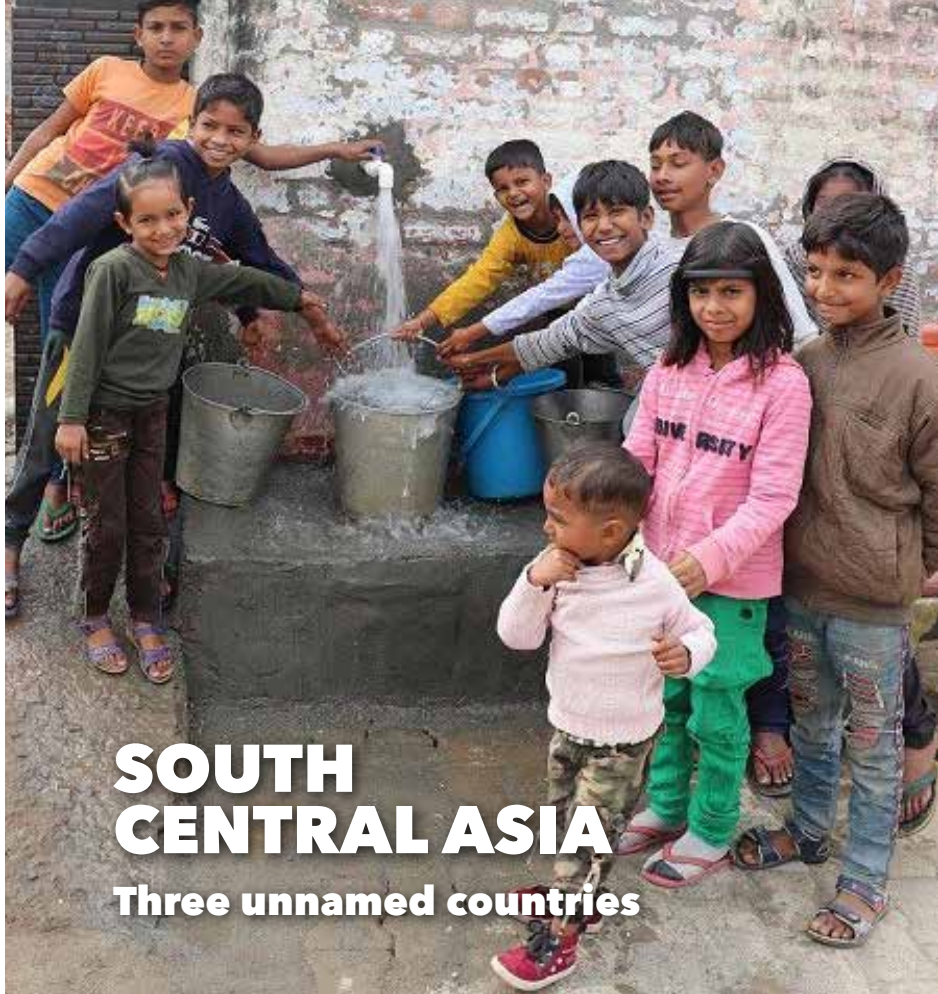
THREE NATIONS in south central Asia are unnamed so we do not place our brothers and sisters in Christ there in harm's way. One of these nations has more than 500 DOVE churches!



**ZAMBIA**

DOVE ZAMBIA reaches out making disciples door to door, village to village. Several church buildings have been blessed with new roofs this past year.

BARBADOS The church lights up their city with hot meals and a skills training program. They pray for and encourage many.



**SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA**  
Three unnamed countries



**BARBADOS**



**GUATEMALA**

GUATEMALA Students are returning to Getsemani Education Center, and new people are getting involved in the San Lucas church. Outreach continues to rural areas.

**DOVE FAMILY**  
24/7 Prayer Watch

Join in praying 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. Sign up for a monthly email with updated prayer requests.

**Prayer Watch Online** includes prayer requests from each DOVE church.

**For Prayer Watch details**  
Visit [dcfi.org](http://dcfi.org)

contact Nelson Martin  
prayer coordinator at  
[nelsonm@dcfi.org](mailto:nelsonm@dcfi.org)



The Congolese church is alive and well!



**Democratic Republic of CONGO**





## Celebrating **10 YEARS** of Making a Difference! DOVE Global Partners

For ten years, DOVE Global Partners have funded frontier Kingdom expansion in the DOVE family. You are invited to join DOVE's growing vision to empower Kingdom projects and initiatives worldwide as a DOVE Global Partner. Through a regular financial contribu-

tion, you will make a difference in the world by partnering with us to reach the nations.

As you give regularly to partner with us, we are also making a commitment to you. We will pray for your specific requests as our team meets weekly to pray. As a partner you will receive monthly update letters from Larry Kreider that include stories of how your generous giving is making a difference in the nations. Thank you so much for your prayerful consideration of this opportunity to partner together.

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*  
Philippians 1:3-6



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
**DRIVE CHANGE**  
**OFFER EMPOWERMENT**



To become a partner, visit  
[www.doveglobalpartners.com](http://www.doveglobalpartners.com)

## VENEZUELA

VENEZUELAN DOVE believers built a larger structure to meet the needs of their growing church.



## KENYA

Children graduate from pre-school in a DOVE AFRICA Missions school in northeastern KENYA.

# CONNECT WITH US!



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@dove\_international



DOVE TV



[dcfi.org](http://dcfi.org)



[store.dcfi.org](http://store.dcfi.org)



DOVE Family 24/7 Prayer



Larry Kreider  
Leadership Podcast





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