

connection

DOVE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

2016

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Making relationships top priority



Stories from the DOVE family around the world



Journey of walking with God 22

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Visit www.dcfi.org
for more about the DOVE family

CONNECTION

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

International Director: Larry Kreider
Editor: Lou Ann Good
Creative Director: Sarah Sauder

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DOVE International
11 Toll Gate Road, Lititz, PA, 17543
Phone: 717.627.1996
Email: info@dcfi.org
www.dcfi.org

DOVE International



Larry and
LaVerne Kreider



Ron and Bonnie
Myer



Peter and Ruth Ann
Bunton



Chad and
Chris Miller



Hesbone and
Violet Odindo



Ibrahim and
Diane Omondi



Steve and
Mary Prokopchak



Brian and
Janet Sauder

GOD STORIES

No Pain! Miracles happen in Kentucky school

“We need a miracle,” the voices declared in unison. I looked up and saw three of my students with a girl they had coerced into coming to my classroom. The girl, who is a soccer player and receiving a scholarship to the University of Alabama, had injured her shoulder. She could not raise her arm above shoulder height and had substantial pain.

After I anointed her with oil and prayed, she flung her arm straight up. Her jaw dropped in disbelief. She had no pain or stiffness at all.

News of this healing spread among the student body. A few days later, a student suffered a dislocated thumb that locked in position and showed ligament damage. Another student prayed for him. Immediately the pain disappeared and all mobility returned to his thumb.

David Redish teaches tenth grade Bible at a Christian school in Lexington, Kentucky, and oversees The Crossing, a DOVE church that is establishing a college outreach ministry.

Protected in Brazil

On February 22, a member of our church and I were driving together when a car crashed into a house and came close to hitting us as well.

Two armed men jumped from the car and ran toward us. All of a sudden we realized that this was not just a random accident—but a police car chase. Our God kept us safe!

News of God protecting us has strengthened our church’s faith in God and encouraged us to pray more.

Victor Gomes, Pastor of Comunidade Cristã DOVE in Fortaleza, Brazil

Online in Bulgaria – Healthy Relationships

Danail and Nora Tanev from DOVE Bulgaria recently launched a new on-line show, “Ask Dani Tanev.”

Danail and Nora are committed to teaching Bulgarians how to be free of sexual addictions, temptations and pornography.

Via their new online talk show, they provide practical, up-to-date information on how to build godly relationships with the opposite sex, develop healthy communication among family members and how to tackle other problematic issues.

Dani’s goal was to reach 500 downloads within a few months, but the first episode produced 1,200 downloads and continues to grow!



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Jesus made it clear—relationships are the priorities in life.

First things first simply means we focus on important matters before lesser ones. This is especially true when it comes to relationships.

Our most important relationship is with God through Jesus Christ. Next important are our relationships with our family, those in our church and in the world around us.

Nothing is more important than healthy relationships. But relationships, even with those we love, are not trouble-free. Our personalities sometimes clash. Differing opinions can cause rifts. Sometimes we are wounded by the actions of others and the repercussions that affect us.

Jesus addressed this. He said, “If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift” (Matthew 5:23, 24).

Jesus made it clear—relationships are the priorities in life! Let’s commit to keeping short accounts. Let’s do all we can to live peaceably with everyone we know (Romans 12:18). Let’s choose to bless people, even those who rub us the wrong way. Learn to forgive quickly.

As a DOVE global family, let’s keep first things first—healthy relationships with a common purpose—building a relationship with Jesus, with one another, and transforming our world, house to house, city to city, and nation to nation. It happens one person at a time. It is dependent on our relationship with God and our relationship with people.

Will the people you meet on a regular basis be surprised when they hear that you profess Christ? A friend advised me, “Keep the fishing hole clean.” Avid fishermen understand that. If the water becomes polluted, the fish disappear. Be careful you do not taint “the fishing hole” of relationships with those who are in your life. A wholesome environment encourages “the fish” to latch on to the truth about Jesus instead of seeking satisfaction elsewhere.

Choose kindness and grace. Share your God story with those in your sphere of influence. Your testimony is powerful! Read the testimonies in this *Connection Magazine*. These life-giving testimonies show that all around the globe are people who choose to keep first things first!

—Larry Kreider, DOVE International Director

 [Read Larry’s blog](#) at www.dcfi.org
Like Larry and LaVerne Kreider on facebook





God at Work in Myanmar

“God has often given me the vision and methods to start new ministries before He provides the resources. God meets my needs in surprising ways.”



“Living by faith is very hard, especially in poor countries. But the joy of our spirits is incomparable to anything else in the world when God gives us victory in the ministry,” said Ram Khaw Lian who leads DOVE Myanmar.

Ram, his wife Novel and two daughters, Ruth and Joyce, minister in Yangon, Myanmar. In 2004, they started the Grace Family Christian Network (GFCN), which has grown to a network of house churches in Yangon and beyond.

God also touched the hearts of Ram and fellow Christians when they saw that many orphans and poor children are sent to Buddhist monasteries. In response to the need, the church opened Grace Family Children’s Home for abandoned children and orphans in Myanmar in February 2010. Since then the orphanage opened additional orphanages and supports 80 orphans and abandoned children.

God’s call on Ram’s life begins long before the establishment of the church and orphanage. In 1972, Ram was born into a Christian family. From the beginning, Ram had a strong desire to serve the Lord and shared the Gospel of Jesus in many villages surrounding his home.

Ram desired to learn all he could about God. At age 20, Ram enrolled at Gospel Baptist Bible Seminary where he earned a graduate of theology degree. He also earned a Bachelor of Theology degree at Myanmar Center for Theological Studies. At Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines, he earned Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees.

After graduation, Ram returned to Myanmar in 2004. He rented a house in North Dagon, Yangon where neighbors invited him to lead a home cell group with twelve participants. Within a few months, God provided encouragement and financial assistance to open Myanmar Christian Institute (MCI) with 20 students and three lecturers. Since resources are limited, MCI accepts only day scholars and holds classes on Saturday for busy ministers and lay persons who are involved in missions. MCI has 50 students in four different locations and more than 300 alumni who are serving the Lord across the country.

“God blessed me more than I expected in my family and ministry but still I was longing for an international spiritual family connection in my heart,” Ram said. In 2005, he had heard about House Church Networks after reading

a book by Larry Kreider. Immediately Ram desired to connect with DOVE International because its vision, values, and statement of faith duplicates his own. But it wasn’t until 2015 that the Lord opened the way to meet with Larry Kreider at a conference in Bangkok, Thailand. Since then, Ram met with Larry and other DOVE International team members in Pennsylvania. DOVE Myanmar was established in 2015 when Larry visited Myanmar.

DOVE Myanmar aims to send and assist 1,000 native church planters to



plant new churches from their homes and multiply as God leads them to reach Myanmar for Christ.

That’s a hefty vision. But Ram is not nonplussed. He said, “God has often given me the vision and methods to start new ministries before He provides the resources—one at a time depending on the needs. I seldom receive help from expected sources, but God meets my needs in surprising ways.”

DOVE Myanmar knows the joy of living by faith. They remain confident their vision for 1,000 new churches will be fulfilled because, Ram said, “God is so good.”



HOPE OVER HEROIN

**DOVE
Wilmington
proclaims
freedom on
the streets**

For the epidemic of heroin addiction sweeping across the USA—only one fix will stop it—Jesus!

While communities across the nation grapple with the epidemic, Ohio churches have collaborated by holding massive rallies that introduce Jesus as the cure. In October 2015, DOVE Wilmington helped host an event called Hope Over Heroin. The program birthed by Solid Rock Church in Dayton, Ohio brought in a large stage, two massive screens used to show the videotaped testimonies and even a baptismal tub.

Food, live music, real-life stories of people freed from drug addiction and an introduction to Jesus resulted in 200 people accepting Jesus, 140 baptized at the event and 139 addicts requesting follow-up.

In keeping with DOVE Wilmington’s mission of being a “Church Beyond Walls,” the event was held in a large parking lot in a drug-infested part of the

city. Although it was a two-night blitz, the event required months of behind-the-scenes work. “We needed to work with the police, the local officials and many area churches of every denomination,” said Sarah Thirey, communications director for DOVE Wilmington.

Churches promoted the event in novel ways a month in advance. DOVE Wilmington rented a bouncy house, which it took into different areas of the community. Kids enjoyed the free bouncing and candy. Water bottles, which were labeled with info about the event, and promotional flyers were distributed among the crowds that gathered to watch.

The event was not a hastily prescribed prescription for the city’s woes. Since 2009, Wilmington House of Prayer has been praying for the city 24/7. During the months leading up to the outreach, sixty watchmen prayed fervently while teams of people walked the streets of Wilmington between midnight and 3 a.m. Called Operation Rescue, the teams passed out food and water and offered to pray for the people who swarmed the streets after leaving bars.

When people asked for prayer, team members texted the requests back to the watchmen at the House of Prayer, where the requests were written on the chalkboard walls so that participants could pray throughout the week for the requests. Fervent prayer prevailed for incredible encounters for people to be transformed.

The night of the actual event, dinner was served. A full band played while on-screen projection recounted life-giving testimonies of those set free

from bondages through faith in Jesus. A mix of worship music, testimonies and explanations of the gospel proceeded throughout the night. Church pastors appeared on stage. Every person who responded to the invitation for the old self to become new was immediately connected with a believer. Those seeking baptism were instructed, “Come into the water, put off the old man, and put on the new man. . . .”



After the outreach, the names of the 139 people who asked for follow up were distributed among the churches participating in the event. Within weeks, every name was followed up and offered spiritual and clinical help using every available resource for freedom.

DOVE Wilmington and other churches continue outreaches to the community through a coffee house ministry, operating a food pantry open five to six days each week, a 12-step program for addicts and other services.

For more info visit dovewilmington.org.



One word that can describe what is going on in the world today is intensity. The terrorists have intensified their attack on the rest of the world. The response to these attacks is likewise furious and intense. Everything—politics, business, the media and even the weather—seems to be pitched at a higher, faster, louder level. We live in a world at war. We can easily feel that there is no safe place. Every location, at any time, could come under attack. An urgency is causing everything to pick up pace.

People are desperate. Yet in the apparent chaos, God is speaking. We need to listen.

IBRAHIM OMONDI

Isaiah saw this coming when he wrote, “For behold the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people.” That darkness is now evident. But there is also light beginning to shine in the working of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah also says, “Arise, shine, for your light has come. And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.”

This is indeed the *kairos* moment, a divinely appointed time. While there is confusion all around, people are groping and looking for help. In the huge refugee camps in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan, there are reports of a high rate of Muslims coming to Christ. The repugnant nature of ISIS and its horrific methods are causing people to turn to the Christian faith. Definitely it is time for us to lift up our eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest.

As people are coming to Christ, new communities of faith are being birthed. We see this happening in the DOVE

family in Kenya and in Uganda. DOVE churches in Uganda have reached the 100 mark and share a vision to start 150 new churches within the next four years to help with the harvest.

I believe the Holy Spirit is beckoning us to be intense. We need to step up our efforts for the harvest. It is time to rush into the fields, share the transforming message of God’s love and plant churches. God is stirring us and drawing us into deeper fellowship with Him. There is a breaking of self and a greater desperation for more of Him.

In Nairobi, we sense God’s presence as prayers intensify. We see people, young and old, rededicating themselves to the Lord, asking to be cleansed of self, refilled with God’s Spirit and put on a new path.

“Lord, let us be found faithful in responding to your commands at such a time as this.” Intense worship, intense prayer, intense fervor in serving the Lord. The harvest is ready! Are we?



Peru grows micro-churches

Our church, Heroes 21, now has six micro-churches throughout Lima, a city of more than 9 million people.

The micro churches meet in coffee shops and in homes. Most of the groups are for men and women, but my wife Loren leads one specifically designed for women. — **Justo Llecllish** Senior elder of Heros 21, Lima, Peru

DOVE International’s 2020 Challenge

An Invitation and an Opportunity

“Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession” (Psalm 2:8).

Our Slogan: People partnering to obey the great commission.

Our Mission Statement: Jesus has called us to obey the Great Commission by making disciples, reaching our communities and growing to at least 1,000 churches by 2020.

Churches will be planted through...

- Individuals planting churches
- Churches planting churches
- Partnerships for church planting

Partnerships are people working together. This can happen:

- Locally
- Regionally
- Nationally
- Internationally

Our Destination: 1,000 churches partnering to exalt Christ in many nations!

Haiti churches expand God’s presence into new outreaches

The past two years have been a time of expansion and increase for DOVE Haiti. Three new church plants were launched in villages where viable churches were nonexistent. In addition, 14 churches, which are aligned with DOVE’s core values and vision for the nation, have become partner churches. Together—the new and the old—are partnering to usher God’s transforming presence into their communities and praying the kingdom of God to come.



Rivers of Healing Church planted in Massachusetts, USA



Rivers of Healing, Auburn, Massachusetts, is a new church affiliated with DOVE International. Christine and Jean Paul Raymond lead this ministry, which they describe as a Jesus-centered community built on reaching out relationally to those in their “oikos” (areas of influence).

The Raymonds became Christians during the Jesus Movement in the 1970s and desired to share the healing they found through Jesus with others.

Christine is a survivor of childhood abuse. She knows from experience that emotional healing is a process, often requiring a relationship with God, miraculous healing and clinical therapy.

About 30 years ago she founded Safe Harbor Ministries, hosting women’s retreats. A conference for churches called “Wiping the Tears” on issues related to domestic abuse/recovery from abuse was added to the ministry.

Rivers of Healing meets Fridays at 7 p.m. in a chapel. “During the past year, the Lord has made it clear that these times together are not just healing services, but a community of believers that has grown into a house church,” Christine said. “We focus on worship, soaking in His presence and prayer. Our

DNA is to plant home churches rather than develop into a large church.”

Christine and JeanPaul co-pastor the church but agree that Christine is the senior elder. JeanPaul’s pastoral strength is mentoring young men, especially one-on-one. The Raymonds have been happily married for 39 years.

Learn more at riversofhealing.org.



Philippines use unique sites for churches

Unique church planting spreads its roots in the Philippines. The Logos Church in Taguig, Rizal started as a Bible study that morphed into a Sunday gathering. It meets on the second floor of a McDonalds or Chow King (depending on availability) on Sunday afternoons. This works perfectly since no rental fees are required, only an obligation to purchase 25 or more meals. Eating meals together adds a bonus to fellowship.

In rural areas, the idea of house church is not only accepted but embraced. The worship service of one new church in Kalikuan, Rizal, is held beneath a mango tree. The catalyst was simply willing church members who opened their home and grounds after the church began a feeding program for children and soccer clinics for teens.

Multiplication at Destiny Centre, India



Good news from India! Multiplication is happening. By the grace of the Lord we planted two new churches in our city, Mysore, after a prolonged season of prayer and fasting.

Our church is experiencing what feels like signs of genuine revival! Many members are exercising spiritual gifts. Our prayer times have changed from routine meetings to impromptu prayer and fasting festivals. More and more people attend prayer times at the sanctuary and in homes.

Last year, we sensed an urgency to train and commission new leaders in anticipation of the new thing God was about to do. In line with the 2020 Challenge, we prayerfully commissioned Obed Junior and his wife Reeny (Christ Ambassadors) and Simon Ruwa (Destiny Centre, Bannimantap) to plant two new churches in Mysore.

We are experiencing God’s grace in church planting and look forward to planting churches in Lusaka, Zambia, Windhoek, Namibia, Toronto, Canada and Ghana. Most of these will be planted by students who have been part of Destiny Centre.

—**Philip Omondi**, Senior elder, Destiny Centre Mysore



Canada partners with church plant in Kenya

Bern and Marion McLaughlan lead a house church, Living Stones Christian Fellowship in Kingston, Ontario. In response to DOVE’s encouragement for churches to multiply, Living Stones chose to help plant a church in Gataka, Kenya. Like Living Stones, the Gataka gathering was a house church without a building.

The needs of the Kenyan church plant became the needs of Living Stones as they wrestled in prayer for God’s provision for a place to rent for Gataka’s celebration services, a home for a leader and words of encouragement to strengthen the believers. At Christmas, Living Stones provided gifts, food and party supplies for the children at Gataka.

“It’s a new venture for us on the other side of the world,” Marion said. “We couldn’t do this without Diane Omondi (African Apostolic team member), who translates our correspondence from Swahili to English and helps us understand Gataka’s needs to assist in partnering together.”

God transforms brokenness, pain into **NEW LIFE**

Academy of Arts
shows God's
majesty



“We are humbled and amazed how God takes brokenness and births a ministry that brings life to many,” says Connie Diener. She and her husband Dave lead New Life Family Center in New Holland, Pennsylvania. The church has a net—Cavod Academy of the Arts, which teaches dance, acting, music, gymnastics and art. This unique church has compiled a fascinating history that only God could orchestrate to bring glory to His name.

For starters, Connie grew up in a conservative Mennonite home in Indiana, where her father was a pastor. Her parents recognized that Connie had an unusual talent for acting and allowed her to participate in school musicals and theater productions, where she was cast in lead roles and honed her skills in directing.

Dave grew up in an Amish household where he was encouraged to follow the Lord. As a teenager, Dave accepted the Lord and left the Amish sect. He met Connie in Florida during a winter break and they began dating. They attended a Bible training school, married and moved to New Jersey to help plant a church.

For 17 years, Dave and Connie led worship, youth ministry and directed musicals, mime teams and theatre. People loved it and the church grew to 220 members that included a large youth group. During this time the Dienners had three children who grew up to share their parents' passion for ministry and the arts.

In 1996, Connie said, “We took a two-year break from ministry to find healing and redemption from a major business loss and painful experiences in ministry. After much prayer and counsel, they became involved in a growing church where they served as elders and youth pastors from 1998-2007 and eventually became associate pastors. Again the youth group grew as the Dienners combined ministry outreach with dinner theater and the arts. During this time, the church went through traumatic changes with major problems in leadership. Tired, discouraged and hurt, the Dienners lost all desire to continue a ministry in the arts.

Through a prophetic word, Connie was told she would establish a School of Arts, which would become known throughout the world for its excellence. God rekindled her vision, and began her quest for raising the standard in godly artistic expression.

God rekindled
vision for raising
the standard
in godly
expression
through the arts.



Growth was not without severe financial struggle and turmoil as it moved from Gap to larger quarters in New Holland, Pennsylvania. A remnant of people accompanied them, praying, worshipping and seeking God for healing. Out of their woundedness and God's grace, New Life Family Center was established, and the name of the academy (which had continued to grow despite



Dave and Connie Diener

the upheaval) was changed to Cavod Academy of the Arts. Cavod, pronounced kah-vohd, is a Hebrew term defined as God’s glory, honor, majesty, and His visible splendor!

In 2013 the Dieners attended the DOVE International Leadership Conference and sensed a heart connection to the DOVE family.

Through the guidance of DOVE, God brought another layer of healing to Dave and Connie and blessed their ministry.

With no money, no credit and no collateral, the Dieners have amazing story after story of God’s provision. He enabled them to attain, little by little, 16,000 square feet of space in the New Holland Shopping Center for the acad-

emy and New Life Family Center’s celebration services. Today Cavod has almost 900 enrollments, thirty teachers and many volunteers.

Connie said, “We are changing the culture of dance, and creating a community of love, acceptance and excellence that glorifies the Lord in the arts, which is not modeled in the world.”

Both Dave and Connie are ordained pastors. Although they operate as a team, Dave mostly oversees the church and she, Cavod. Connie said, “We have seen tremendous growth in the church and are developing leaders and cell groups. Relationships and spiritual parenting are strong values at New Life. We meet in homes one Sunday a month. The other Sundays at our celebration services, we have strong worship and teaching. We value everyone’s gifts including our children’s.”

It’s a young congregation with many children. About 40 percent of the 100-person congregation is families from Cavod Academy. All three of the Dieners’ children and spouses have been key over the years in supporting and building the academy and church.

Through their journey, the Dieners have chosen to guard their hearts from holding offense, to love the Lord and serve Him, not man. They are humbled and amazed how God can take brokenness and turn it into growth in their personal lives and also birth a ministry that brings life to many.

Visit cavodacademy.com

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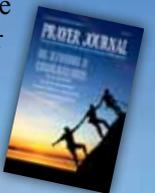
TOGETHER bringing change through PRAYER

The DOVE global family has embraced our God-given 2020 challenge to lead people to Christ, disciple them, and plant churches throughout the world. Prayer is an essential and critical part of this labor. When we pray, God works!

God is faithful and committed to seeing the completion of His will done here on earth. He desires to co-labor with us in his plan of redemption for all peoples, generations and all of creation. Much of this happens through prayer.

The DOVE Prayer Watch is our strategy to pray for the DOVE family worldwide seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. More than a hundred prayer warriors around the globe participate weekly in the watch. Each partner church is encouraged to participate by designating a Prayer General. A Prayer General signs up for a specific time and is responsible to cover four hours of prayer every week for the DOVE global family. Participants can remain at home or gather as a group to pray.

To help prayer warriors be aware of needs, the Prayer Journal is printed annually and includes prayer requests from each partner church in the DOVE family. Updated requests are also sent by email.



To become a prayer general, contact Nelson Martin, prayer coordinator, at nelsonm@dcfi.org.

Six more prayer generals are needed to organize prayer warriors for four hours each week. Is the Lord calling you to serve in this way?



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Battle Cry for Your Marriage

MADE TO COMPLEMENT

In this excerpt, from a book written by eight DOVE leaders, Wallace Mitchell reveals how godly insight comes by affirming each spouse's unique qualities.

“**A**nd the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Jeremiah, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘I see an almond branch.’ Then the Lord said to me, ‘You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it’” (Jeremiah 1:11–12 ESV).

One day, I desired to communicate an “I love you” message to my wife by cleaning up our kitchen. After I had spent thirty minutes putting things in order, Linda walked by the kitchen door, threw a quick glance into the room and casually said, “Would you pick up the teaspoon and put it in the sink where it belongs?”

Now, I had just finished cleaning the whole kitchen, or so I thought. Her casual comment really upset me. *How could she, in one millisecond, see the one thing I didn't do?* Nevertheless, I bit my tongue and picked up the one thing that I had missed, a teaspoon.

Still irritated, I walked down to my basement study and tried to figure out how on earth Linda could in a one glance see the one thing I didn't do?

I soon went back upstairs and walked into the kitchen where Linda was sitting at the table drinking a cup of tea by the window. Without premeditation I said, “I'd like you to do something for me.”

“Sure, what?” she asked. She had no idea that I had been fuming. I said, “I want you to glance out the window and

then look back at me.” She did. I know now that it was God who caused me to ask, “What did you just see out there?”

She quickly answered, “Well, I saw our dogwood tree. The sun is shining down on the tree, and where the sun is hitting, the leaves look kind of yellow, but where it's shaded, it shows a real dark green color. The blossoms are coming out and each has four petals, and they're a beautiful pink with a dark pink edge. The centers are greenish-yellow with stamens sticking out of them. The car is parked out front, and it needs to be washed.”

Not only was I stunned by the detail, but also by her instantaneous comprehension of all that information. Again, I realized how different Linda was from me in her basic make-up.

Just then, our fifteen-year-old son walked into the kitchen.

“Son,” I said, “I want you to look out the window.”

“Why?” he asked.

“Just look out the window,” I ordered sternly. “Take a long look.”

After a long look, I told him to turn around and tell me what he saw.

“A tree,” he said.

“Yes,” I agreed, “but can you tell me anything else?”

“It's just a tree, Dad. Nothing but a tree out there!” he grumbled.

“There's more out there than a tree,” I countered. “What else?”

He said, “Grass! There's grass!”

Suddenly another light bulb went off in my head. I realized that I walk around

in this world and, like my son, see trees and some grass. Linda sees the intricate detail of a tree. She sees individual leaves, petals and also the colors and hues represented.

I realized right then and there another huge difference between the two of us. This time it was not a gender difference—it was a difference in our basic human make-up.

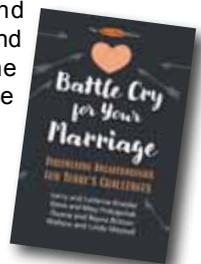
That difference noted, it could also be true that men have this same ability. I remember reading that Ted Williams, a baseball player and one of the greatest hitters of all time, could watch the rotation of the stitching on the ball as it sped toward him. Having observed that, he could predict its final position over the plate four out of ten times at bat.¹ Now that is seeing the details!

Linda is like that. She is extremely observant and sees the details. When I recognized her unique talent, I realized that her ability to see the details should not be an irritation but a resource to me. Since I shared that with her, Linda realizes her unique quality and is motivated to share her insights with me. She enjoys sharing and I enjoy listening.

¹ Dr. Daniel Laby, Dr. David Kirschen & Tony Abbatine, Visual Profile of Major League Hitters, www.frozenropes.com/core/newsletter_details.asp?ArticleID=76, (accessed January 2009).

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Priorities are what we do—
everything else is just talk.



Bam! The book slams to the floor when I drop it. Gravity. It is a system God put in place to help our world function in an orderly fashion. It works the same everytime.

God uses systems. The sun comes up every day without a special staff meeting in heaven to decide whether it should. Seeds planted in the ground and watered will grow. Tomatoes seeds always produce tomatoes.

If God uses systems, does it make sense that He also wants people to use systems? The truth is people who suc-

ceed, both Christian and non-Christian, put systems into place to get them where they want to go. We can use systems with our finances. A budget helps us to control our spending. By paying tithes a Christian can be sure that all of their finances will always be blessed. Perhaps we use a Bible reading plan or devotional guide to help us stay spiritually strong.

An aspiring lawyer commits to a system called law school to prepare for that career. I committed myself to a master's program in Organizational Leadership at Regent University because I wanted to become a better Christian leader and train others. The deadlines

for my class assignments are never convenient, but they keep me on track to finish the master's degree in order to become a better leader.

Many leaders within DOVE have committed themselves to prepare for leadership and ministry by taking the DOVE Leadership and Ministry School. The important core principles of godly leadership and practical ministry skills help prepare them for a lifetime of fruitful leadership and ministry.

If you have not completed the DOVE Leadership and Ministry School,

find one of the flexible methods available to complete it. The sessions are available in the Pennsylvania classroom, by live webcast and on recorded DVDs.

What other systems is God asking you to put in place? Establishing systems is a way to commit to the priorities you set. They help you put first things first! Priorities are what we do—everything else is just talk.

—**Brian Sauder**, DOVE International Apostolic Council

Visit **Brian's blog** futurehope.com

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*Many are called to
lead and all are called
to minister!*

Gather a group of leaders and potential leaders for training via the live webcast streamed into your church or home. Classes are streamed live online for groups or individuals to participate. Students send questions and discussion points by text, email or by the webcast chat feature. Students may transfer credit to Chesapeake Bible College and Seminary.

We have seen the Lord use the students of this school in amazing ways throughout the world.

—Larry Kreider,
DOVE International Director

The webcast has been a great way as a local church to raise up leaders who are receiving excellent training and impartation.

—Craig Nanna,
Reading DOVE Christian Ministry Center

**DOVE Leadership
and Ministry School**
For webcasting details
and class schedule
www.dcfi.org/training

Journey of walking with God

Powerful testimonies from youth and young adult EMT camp and Outreach



For the 145 youth and young adults from DOVE USA churches who participated in EMT 2015, the impact was phenomenal: Lives were changed, souls saved, people healed and the power of God evidenced.

“The real mission of EMT (Evangelism, Missions, Training) is not only to transform someone else’s life but also to encourage participants in a life-long journey of learning to walk with God,” said DOVE USA Youth Director Chad Miller. Participants attended a four-day camp that DOVE Mission International sponsored June 19-23 in Laureldale, Pennsylvania. Attendees, representing churches from Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts were saturated with biblical training on how to share Jesus with others before ministering locally or joining one of the outreach teams to Grenada (West Indies) or to USA sites in Georgia or California.



God gives boldness in Georgia

Rodika Zeager, DOVE Westgate Church, Pennsylvania, is one of the many youth who shared stories of personal transformation. She said that during an outreach in Georgia, she noticed

Connection



a guy who no one talked to and decided, “I’m going to go over and pray with him.” But the devil whispered in her ear: “You’re shy. Why would you talk to him? You’re not good enough.”

Despite the accusations, Rodika took a step of faith and prayed for the guy. She said that step of obedience released her in ways she did not expect. “I began to worship. God really put His hand on me. He showed me that I should be free to worship, not shy or afraid.”

The Georgia team worshiped in the open-air at a busy intersection in the parking lot of a pawn shop. Observers videotaped them and as cars drove by, drivers rolled their windows down to sing along.

Elizabeth Martin, Freedom Lighthouse Ministries, Pennsylvania, said the experience reminded her of Romans where it says, “I am unashamed of the Gospel.” She explained, “On a human level, it’s really easy to [think]: ‘Everyone is watching me? I don’t feel comfortable.’” But she learned transparency. “You can’t really hide what you’re doing when you’re in the middle of a busy intersection. Some people will never walk inside a church building . . . but to get out there by being in the open and being transparent, we demonstrate that this is what we do when we love Jesus.”

Testimony sparks redemption in Grenada

During a Sunday service in Grenada, Michaela Almario, from Broadlands Community Church, Virginia, prayed before she shared her testimony, “God, help me to be transparent . . . not to just say the good stuff but [also] . . . share what’s on my heart.”

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EMT is heading to Europe this summer!

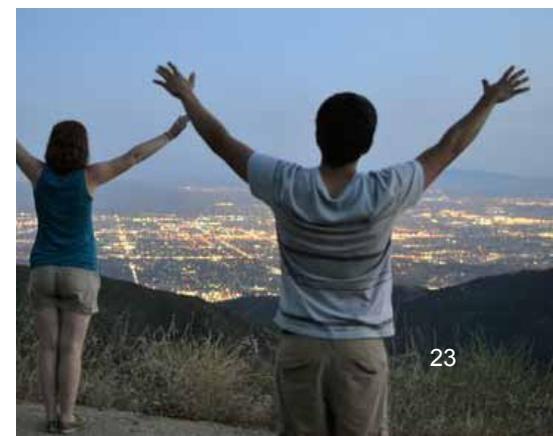
After missions camp and outreach in Reading, Pennsylvania, in June 2016, EMT young people will head to the nations of Europe to support the work of DOVE churches and missionaries. Pray for them as they go to Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Bulgaria and the Netherlands.

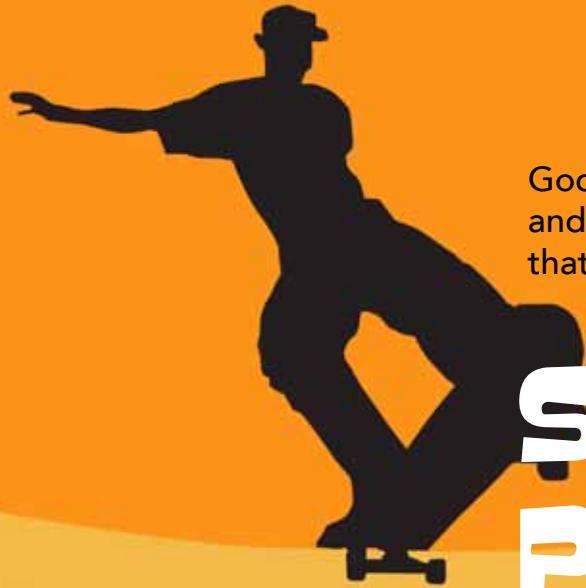
Where will God call our youth in 2017, 2018?

“I struggled with a lot of shame for my sins, past and present, like what I had done was too bad for God to forgive,” Michaela said through tears. But she told the audience, “Now I claim Psalm 34:5 (NIV) over my life, which says, ‘Those who look to Him are radiant, their faces are never covered in shame.’”

After the service, a few ladies approached Michaela. They were crying and admitted that they too struggled with mutual feelings of shame. They thanked Michaela for her testimony of God’s redemption, and said it helped them realize they too could be forgiven.

That’s the power of sharing the truth of God’s Word: Transforming the world.





God loves these skaters and wants their hearts—that’s our message

SKATE PARK

The Garage Door Skate Park is not for the faint of heart. High energy, noise, music and conversation reverberate, creating an atmosphere where teens and young adults thrive. Overseeing the action is Craig and Denise Sensenig, young at heart but middle-aged in years, who share a vision to reach the youth of Terre Hill with the love of Jesus.

“I love noise!” Craig said. “As the second child growing up among ten siblings, I learned to care for younger ones—God prepared me for this outreach.”

Craig also knows how “the morning after feels” and how freeing it is to experience God’s redeeming love. As he mingles among the serious skateboarders, shoots some pool with a few, Craig’s

easy-to-talk-with personality results in kids feeling genuine caring. They share concerns, he prays with them, offers encouragement, insight, hope. . . .

“Many of these latch-key kids come from homes with drug and alcohol abuse. No one cares for them. Although I’ve been where these kids are without the Lord, the difference is that my home was always a safe place. Most of these kids don’t live in a safe place. Many need to fend for themselves and find their own food,” Craig said.

For that reason, the park always serves free food to those who drop by. Not everyone who comes for the food, skates. But no questions are asked. “It’s free for those who have a need,” Denise said.

Craig and Denise were married and starting a family when they got serious

about attending church regularly. “God broke through—made us brand new,” Craig said of their spiritual journey. Together they devoured Christian books, attended training and became youth group leaders for 15 years in a nearby community. More and more they sensed the need for a youth outreach in their hometown of Terre Hill, Pennsylvania.

“I saw their pain. No dad on the scene,” Craig said of noticing the kids living around him.

After completing the DOVE Leadership and Ministry School, the Sensenigs became part of the Elanco DOVE church, where they eventually were commissioned as senior elders. Craig shared his vision about youth outreach with Elanco, and they joined him in praying for a building.

For a number of years the skateboard park operated in an unheated space. “It was brutal,” Denise said of the frigid cold in winter and the stifling heat in summer. “It was a three-year journey to get code approval and complete construction before the official Garage Door Skate Park opened in the lower part of the church building. But the renovated facility in addition to having ramps and equipment for the skate park, also features pool, foosball, seating areas, sports game areas, restrooms and a café.

More than 150 youth are registered for the facility that opens every Monday and Thursday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. An average night has about 35 kids practicing on the ramps with scooters and skateboards. Hot dogs, hamburgers, French fries and soda are typically

served in the beginning because many of the kids come hungry. Volunteers operate the grill and additional volunteers from the church help serve and clean up. Several local businesses donate food for the outreach.



Craig and Denise Sensenig

The Sensenigs and other volunteers pray. They take authority over the works of darkness that might seek to penetrate the outreach. They keep their eyes open, their hearts sensitive to needs. Most of the ministry is one-to-one, and the outreach is always in need of more mentors to build relationships with the participants. “We have established relationships among the youth. God loves them and wants their hearts—that’s our message,” Craig said.

“Pray that God will bring the youth and their families to a saving knowledge of Christ. Pray God will send more volunteers to build relationships and mentor new believers,” Craig said.

For more information, email Craig at cgsnick@yahoo.com.

—**Lou Ann Good** Editor, House To House Publications



make a difference
drive change
offer empowerment

Join our growing team of DOVE Global Partners

DOVE Global Partners give a regular financial contribution to empower kingdom projects and initiatives worldwide. Our apostolic vision leads us to keep expanding borders and many times needs are identified as the Lord opens doors in new areas. Our partners make a difference in the world, drive change when opportunities open and offer empowerment in challenging situations.

Last year partners helped alleviate suffering following flooding in Myanmar. They provided support for apostolic training for leaders from 12 nations. Leadership training in India, Uganda and Kenya was funded. Partners assisted DOVE Missions Africa's work in outposts in Kenya and Uganda. Video leadership training materials were sent to Asia. Scholarships were provided for young leaders and much more.

BECOME a DOVE Global Partner visit www.doveglobalpartners.com



Ireland church arises from ashes

“Carlow is a testimony to God’s faithfulness even when things seem impossible,” said James Krechnyak, who with his wife Rachel oversee church planting in Ireland.

Six months ago, they made the painful decision to close the church plant in Carlow, Ireland. From the ashes of disappointment, a small group arose with the commitment to relaunch as a house church.

Six months later, Carlow has filled the room in the house church where they are meeting and have launched several new outreaches: Eight potential leaders have formed a team with the goal of reaching the local college campus with the Gospel. One campus outreach is the Alpha Course (a 12-week introduction to Christianity) attended by about twenty-five people ranging from Christians to seekers—even a few from Islamic background.

Carlow house church also shares a passion to reach its community through feeding the homeless and supplying a needy family with food, coal for heating and other essentials.

Recently Carlow formed a small worship choir to lead worship among the church plants in Ireland. According to James Krechnyak, “Carlow is a

Bulgarians respond to needs of modern world

The DOVE Sofia church in Bulgaria is raising a community of believers to respond to the needs within their *oikos* (spheres of influence). The DOVE Sofia church desires to attract the lost to the Gospel and lead Bible studies that teach obedience to the principles of the Word and the Holy Spirit.

Building a church that is strong, biblically functioning and ever growing is not for the faint of heart. DOVE Sofia has now started house churches and are preparing their people by devoting three months entirely to prayer. By the end of this year, every member at Sofia is expected to be leading a Bible discovery group for unbelievers within their *oikos*. In addition, house churches are asked to find a way to pay for the care of the orphans, widows and the poor who are part of their group.

Many people from surrounding towns attend Sunday morning services and new house churches, which are dedicated to prayer, worship, testimonies and joyful celebration of God’s work.

testimony to God’s grace and what can happen if we remain obedient to what God speaks to us, even when things seem difficult and impossible.”

—**James Krechnyak**, Senior elder, Grassroots Church Planting Ministries, Castlecorner, Ireland

DOVE Missionaries **making a difference**

Preparing for Service Dave and Alissa Smith



How long does it take from the time you sense a call until you become a missionary?

Fifteen years, according to David Smith who with

his wife Alissa and children Ellyana and Liam plan to move soon to Tauranga, New Zealand.

“Looking back now we can see how much God has done in growing Alissa and I personally. We see how God has been arranging circumstances, people and ministries to make it happen.”

The Smiths’ mission is to assess the water needs of the Pacific islands. To reach many of the islands requires long journeys on small boats or planes. Starting a ministry always has surprises, but the Smiths are confident in God’s help.

Joel and Marion Smucker



Joel and Marion Smucker married in South Africa in 2008 while Joel was serving as a missionary. Mar-

ion, who grew up in Kenya but spent a few years in the U.S., had completed a course at Bible School in South Africa. After their marriage, the Smuckers moved to the USA where they had three children, Imani, Mercy and Christian.

The Smuckers sensed God leading them to serve with House of Praise in South Africa beginning April 2016.

Lessons in South Africa Merle and Cheree Shenk

“One of the things we definitely learned while ministering in South Africa for eleven and a half years is

that God always faithfully comes through—but we don’t always get to choose how He is going to do that,” write Merle and Cheree Shenk. “We have seen God do miracles time and time again, yet He seems to do it in His way and not ours. We have learned that His way is always best and He can really be trusted.



“We poured our hearts into South Africa and are grateful God allowed us to be a part of establishing the DOVE churches in South Africa. We are honored to have worked with wonderful teams and amazing people.

“We handed over the lead pastor role to Nigel and Samantha Okkers, who have been part of our leadership teams for seven years. I will travel back several times a year to support the DOVE churches in South Africa.

“At this point, God hasn’t revealed our next ministry steps. We plan to take a sabbatical rest for our family to adjust to life in the USA. Our children include Arielle, 12; Xavia, 10; Elisa, 6; Christopher, 4; and Elizabeth, 2.”

DOVE Africa Missionaries

Miraculously touched by God

“The fact that I can read today is a miracle. An even greater miracle is that I am a teacher,” said George Olwanda, missionary in Lamu, Kenya. This small island in the Indian Ocean is a Muslim-dominated tourist hot spot.

George and his wife Doris went to Lamu in 2010, leaving a successful business in Nairobi to obey God’s call. Today they tutor more than 70 children and adults in many subjects. The Olwandas’ impact on the island is revealed through students scoring higher marks and Muslim parents confiding in them and even asking for prayer.

Progress has not come without a cost. The Olwandas’ first two children died as infants. Such harsh sacrifice would understandably have driven most people out of the mission field, but not George and Doris. They persevered. Last year, Doris gave birth to a son, Chanan, who is healthy and growing well.



George had little hope for success in life because he left Class 8 without being able to read. God changed that when George gave his life to Christ at age 21.



Soon afterwards, George opened the Bible and read a verse. Because he had never been able to read English, he thought it was an illusion and closed the Bible. He repeated the verse over and over, committing it to memory.

The next day, he opened the Bible in another spot and read a verse. Astonished, George realized God had supernaturally taught him to read. He devoured the Bible, in English, from beginning to end.

From being illiterate to becoming a teacher is a miracle, but the Olwanda’s deepest desire is to develop relationships that lead the people of Lamu to trust in Jesus Christ.

George and Doris are members of Generation Safi, DOVE Nairobi region.

—**Diane Omondi** DOVE International Apostolic Council.

[Read Ibrahim and Diane’s blog at omondisinkenya.wordpress.com](http://omondisinkenya.wordpress.com)

DOVE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY of CHURCHES

DOVE 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 transform our world; house to house, city to city, and nation to nation.

More at www.dcfi.org

- DOVE’s story and values
- **Blogs** by Larry Kreider, Ron Myer, Craig Nanna, Ibrahim and Diane Omondi, Steve Prokopchak and Brian Sauder
- Mission opportunities
- DOVE family church links
- Stories of what God is doing around the world



IS THIS THE YEAR for you to serve in missions?

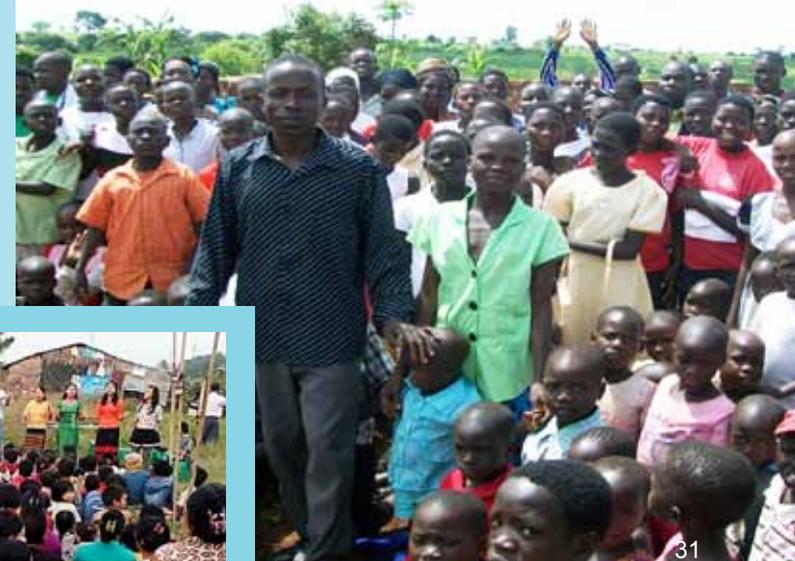
- PRAY for our missionaries
- DONATE to support mission works
- PARTICIPATE in a short-term team
- CONSIDER a longer-term mission placement

For more information contact:

AFRICA Center
www.doveafrica.com
 email: omondis@doveafrica.com

USA Center
www.dovemission.org
 email: PeterB@dcfi.org

CANADA Center
 email: lynn_harvest@rogers.com



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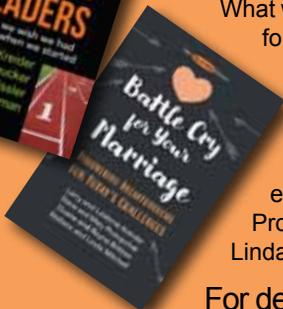
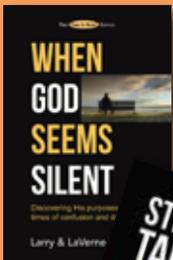
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