

the connection

2026

# DOVE INTERNATIONAL

from house to house,  
city to city, nation to nation



# DOVE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY of CHURCHES

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Guatemala  
Haiti

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Colombia  
Peru  
Venezuela

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Belgium  
Bulgaria  
The Netherlands

Democratic Republic  
of Congo  
Kenya  
Mozambique  
Rwanda  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
South Africa  
Zambia

Myanmar  
The Philippines  
3 closed countries



INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

# OUR FOUNDATION

**DOVE International is a global apostolic movement**—a family of churches and ministries united by common purpose, shared values, and an unwavering commitment to advance God’s Kingdom worldwide. As “Declaring Our Victory Emmanuel” (God with us), we stand together in the victory that Christ has already won.

## OUR VISION

**To build a relationship with Jesus, with one another, and transform our world from house to house, city to city, nation to nation.**

This vision drives everything we do. We believe transformation begins in the heart of each individual, extends to families and small groups, reaches into communities, and ultimately impacts nations for Christ

## OUR MISSION

**Prayer, Evangelism, and Discipleship**

Our mission is to exalt Jesus Christ as Lord and encourage each believer for the work of ministry through our three-fold mandate: prayer that transforms and empowers us, discipleship that builds mature believers, and evangelism that reaches the world with Christ’s love.



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**DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC**



# VESSELS OF **OVERFLOW**

150 gallons of wine?

In the book of John, we see Jesus' first public miracle was when He turned water to wine at the wedding in Cana. A Christian comedian says that he loves the fact that Jesus' first miracle was just to keep the party at the wedding going. There are so many interesting aspects that we can draw from this miracle. If the decision were up to you, which miracle of Jesus would you

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choose to introduce Him publicly as the Miracle Worker? God chose this miracle, turning water to wine, as the one by which Jesus would start to become known.

“Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.” John 2:6 (NKJV)

These stone jars were used to hold water for the guests and family of the special couple. Perhaps it was used to wash the hands and feet of those at the wedding. The water could also be used to wash dishes and utensils.

There is a significance behind John mentioning that the pots were made of stone and not clay. Stone pots could not become ceremonially unclean or defiled. According to Levitical law, if a clay jar became defiled it would have to be broken. So those keeping to the strict adherence of the Levitical law would put water into stone pots so that they would not inadvertently become defiled, thus needing to be broken and leaving the wedding without pure water and the ability to become ceremonially clean.

The cleaning was more than physical; it was spiritual. If you washed from a defiled vessel, you would become spiritually unclean, not just physically unclean. In turning the water from these stone pots to wine, Jesus wasn't only providing for the feast-goers—He was transforming the purification rites of the Jews of that day. This was prophetic foreshadowing that Jesus was going to replace the purification that came from adherence to the Levitical law with the purification that comes by His blood: the wine of the New Covenant.

When the Lord revealed this to me, I heard, “If you want to be able to hold wine, you must first be able to hold water.” This miracle shows us a picture of Jesus' ability to take the menial tasks of holding cleaning water and turn it into a mighty testimony of supernatural work worth celebrating. What are the “water pot” issues of our lives? Practical practices that shape the way we do our daily lives. The way we treat our family and those we work with and minister to. The way we relate to leaders and others in the body of Christ. The way we

**God wants each of us to be filled to overflowing in every area of our lives.**

budget finances—sowing and reaping. The way that we follow God's principles found in His Word. The way that we share our faith and lead others in becoming disciples of Jesus. As we do our part in these areas, the work of Jesus can touch these things and turn them into supernatural testimonies of His goodness for His glory!

The Bible likens us as people to earthen vessels in 2 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV). “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” We are like those stone water pots. When we faithfully “carry water” for the Lord, He is able to turn our simple faithfulness into amazing testimonies that bring Him glory.

When the wine was brought to the master at the feast, it was discovered to be the very best wine! No one praised and celebrated the stone pots; they celebrated the wine. As people, we are all earthen vessels. It would be silly for one stone pot to compare itself to another stone pot. Our only task is to carry the water assigned for us to carry. We don't make the wine. It is the Lord who turns the water into wine and He gets all the glory.

**Our only task is to  
carry the water given us.  
We don't make the wine.  
It is the Lord who turns  
the water into wine.**

God wants each one of us to be filled to overflowing. When major cracks or brokenness exist in our lives, it often creates an inability to carry the full portion. Before Jesus turned the water into wine in John 2, He gave the instruction for each vessel to be filled to the very top. My prayer is that each one of us

would be filled to the very top. Filled to the point of overflowing.


Sometimes we go through things in life and leadership that can put holes in our vessel. Wounds can be created by people or circumstances that we walk through. God's will is for us to be healed and whole—nothing missing, nothing broken. As a result of these wounds, if we hold onto things like resentment, offense (both firsthand and secondhand), and bitterness, these holes begin to impact our ability to carry water filled to the brim.

The Japanese art of *kintsugi* is the art of taking broken vessels and putting them back together, bonding the broken pieces with precious metals like gold, silver, or platinum. This is a beautiful picture of what God can do with areas of brokenness in our lives. If you experience areas of brokenness in your life, my prayer is that God's hands would heal you and, like a *kintsugi* vessel, your full potential would be restored. As we are faithful to carry water for the Lord, He turns our faithfulness into wine that causes celebration for His glory.

### **New Wine, Fresh Oil**

The theme for this year's International Leadership Conference is New Wine, Fresh Oil. God's will for our lives and His promises in His Word are for us to overflow with new wine. As we live in accordance to His plans and honor Him fully, the result is overflow! "So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine" Proverbs 3:10 (NKJV).

**Merle Shenk**, international director of DOVE International



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articles, blog and podcast  
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Our partners fund projects and initiatives worldwide through regular financial gifts. From leadership training to crisis relief, these funds offer DOVE family empowerment and make a real difference. 100% of gifts go to ministry!

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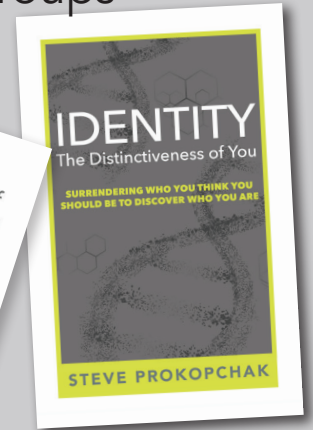
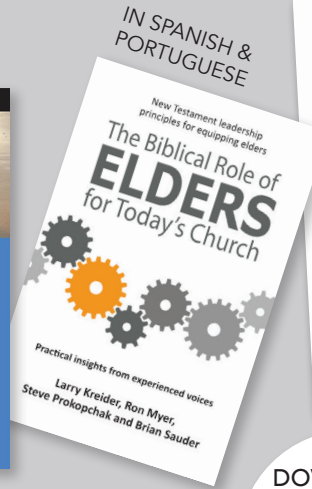
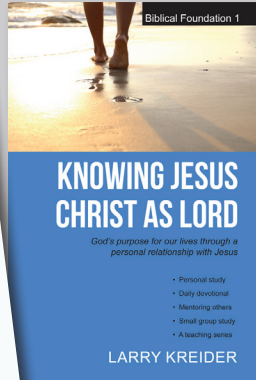
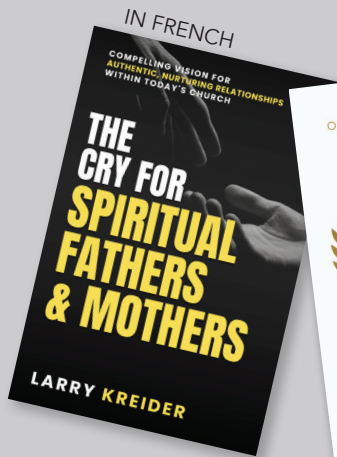


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# Character & Anointing

**W**e live in turbulent times. In what looks like chaos around us, it is so comforting to know that Jesus is on the throne interceding for us.

When DOVE was born over forty-five years ago with twenty-five people in a living room, we had no idea what the Lord was planning. We often prayed from Joel 2:28, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." Although we were young, we believed the young and old would experience this grace from God together. And we did!

Today, we continue to pray and obey this scripture, often quoting its partial fulfillment found in Acts 2:17–18. Encouraged by what we see in many nations, we are believing God for an even greater Holy Spirit visitation.

We need "new wine and fresh oil" for our generation. We need that wine and oil to enable us to live godly lives, make disciples, and live a supernatural lifestyle. Jesus lived a life of integrity; He also healed the sick and cast out demons. We are not destined to settle for one or the other. It is 100 percent of godly character and 100 percent of the anointing to minister with power to those around us. We need the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.

Over the past few years, the Lord has blessed us with younger leaders on many levels. Merle and Cheree Shenk and the DOVE International Apostolic Council have been a great blessing as they lead the DOVE family into our future. God is truly visiting us again.

As the people of God, let's continue to believe with the body of Christ that the greatest awakening to the things of God is still coming upon the earth. "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

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**Larry & LaVerne Kreider,**  
the DOVE International  
founders, are authors and  
mentors to many leaders  
around the world.

**Sign up for Larry's blog  
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# YOU ARE UNIQUELY GIFTED!

FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND LEARN  
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GREAT TOOL for your small group!



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# Next Season Next Generation

**W**hile my life has been dedicated to writing, teaching, counseling, and multiplying myself, speaking into the next generation has been one of my greatest joys. It is the next generation(s) that will carry on what you and I have started.

When we are young, we tend to think we will live forever, or that we will keep ministering until our final day on earth. Why? Because the work of the Kingdom is never finished, and we are never too old to participate in it.

One morning, I was reading Ecclesiastes chapter 3, where Solomon writes about a time for everything. Having read these verses many times, I found the Lord placing a new emphasis upon them and asking me to count the times listed as “seasons.” There are twenty-eight. This caused me to reflect upon what season I was in and what season I might be entering.

If you are like me, we often believe that a certain season we are in will last for years to come. But rarely is that true. Life changes. Jobs change. Relationships change. Children grow up. If there are twenty-eight seasons to life, what season are you presently in?

Are you embracing the season you now live in? Will you embrace the next season God is preparing you for? God has new seasons ahead for each of us. Embrace them, grow through them, and complete each season faithfully. Remember, there are those who are following, watching, and will—in a coming season—take your place.

*Tell the next generation  
the praiseworthy deeds  
of the Lord, his power,  
and the wonders he has  
done...so the next gen-  
eration would know them,  
even the children yet to  
be born, and they in turn  
would tell their children.*

Psalm 78:4, 6



## Steve & Mary Prokopchak

The **CIRCLE OF RESOURCE** is an honorary designation in the DOVE family for long-serving members of the International Apostolic Council who have stepped off the team. They helped build a strong foundation for DOVE.

Sign up for Steve's blog  
[steveprokopchak.com](http://steveprokopchak.com)

# DOVE FAMILY PRAYER

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**Evangelism and outreach** are key foundations of the DOVE family

BRAZIL



## What's the big deal?

DOVE International is a church-planting movement. Is this important? How does it impact our local church? Church planting can be seen as a disruption: Why interfere with something working well? We enjoy comfortable relationships. Life has good rhythm. Why upset all that?

Jesus said, "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). As we desire to be part of what Jesus is doing to build His church, we need to see church planting as a primary way to expand the Kingdom.

**SENSING AN INVITATION?** Talk with your lead elder or regional apostolic overseer.

**RON MYER**, assistant director of DOVE International and director of DOVE USA

# WHY

## CHURCH PLANT? A CHURCH PLANT WILL

- **TOUCH PEOPLE** who may not be drawn to the church as it currently is
- **PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES** to develop new leaders
- **BRING FRESH EXPOSURE** to the Kingdom of God in the region where it is established
- **STIR US TO FOCUS** on those who do not have a relationship with Christ
- **MOVE US** to participate in a vision broader than ourselves.

### DOVE USA

## Church-Planting Tools

- **FREE church-planters assessment**
- **FREE ministry profile test**
- **Church-Planting Boot Camp** module
- **Church-Planting manual** or audiobook compiled by Ron Myer and Jeff Hoglen

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## Giving Opportunities

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## Sign up for the *DOVE Feed*!

The *DOVE Feed* is a monthly e-newsletter with new articles, resources, and podcasts from the DOVE family.

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# MISSIONS

## Get involved in missions

- **PRAY** for missionaries
- **DONATE** to support mission works
- **CONSIDER** long-term missions service
- **PARTICIPATE** in a short-term team
- **BECOME** a missions intern

## Contact us

**AFRICA Center** [doveafrica.com](http://doveafrica.com)  
[omondi2@doveafrica.com](mailto:omondi2@doveafrica.com)

**USA Center** [dovemission.org](http://dovemission.org)  
[Missions@doveusa.org](mailto:Missions@doveusa.org)

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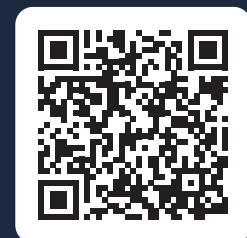


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