

## A Call to be World Christians (Part 1 of 3)

by Curtis Cecil

### Why Serve?

Have you ever noticed how when you read through the Bible, a passage jumps out at you in a way that it never has before. When this happens to me, I realize that I am seeing the scripture through my current lens, sometimes a lens of despair, or loneliness and I need comfort. Other times, a lens of arrogance and I need to be humbled. Still other times, on rare occasions where I see the scripture through GOD'S eyes I find joy, humility, compassion, pain, and redemption.

Go with me on a journey, but leave yourself behind. Paul said in **Galatians 2:20** *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."* (ESV) or read how the Message puts it *"Indeed, I have been*

*crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me."*

Can you do this? Can you die to self; Die to your personal feelings at this moment or to your preconceived ideas about missions. Let us take a walk in the life of Christ who is our greatest example.

There are so many passages about Jesus, how he lived and how he ministered to others. So let's begin at the end. **Matthew 28:18-20** *"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Jesus' most important words were his last. Read that again, HE challenges us to "GO". That doesn't say sit and make disciples who are happy with staying out of it. It doesn't call us to a life of watching the hungry on our doorstep and

doing nothing as in the Parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus. It is a call to GO.

Bob Pierce the founder of World Vision has this to say about the things he saw in the world "Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God."

Are you ready for that? Are you open for this? Only by completely giving all of yourself up to God right now will enable you to be open to what HE has for you on this adventure. Pray that you will see



the world through JESUS' lens and that God will break your heart just as His has been.

This adventure that you are embarking on it won't always be easy. It may not always feel fun. It may break your heart and leave you hurting for the children you will meet. The challenge is to ensure that it leaves you changed forever that your heart will break for the things that break the heart of God.

## IMPACTO, What's That?

by Sarah Poythress

Did you know that New Life houses a missions organization? Impacto, headed up by Missionary Luis Martinez is located in the New Life Network Church Office. Although New Life started sending teams to Guatemala in 2002, it was not until 2004 that Impacto was formed as an extension of Pastor Luis' ministry. He is an appointed missionary through Global Partners of The Wesleyan Church.



Pastor Luis and his wife Dinora, natives of Guatemala, originally came to the United States to plant Spanish-speaking churches.

As their ministry grew, they began hosting short-term mission teams in Guatemala. This year there are around 35 teams ministering in Guatemala City or the Departments of Zacapa, Coban, or Sololá. Teams participate and/or lead compassion projects such as Medical Clinics, Happy Feet, Vacation Bible School, Ladies Ministries, Construction Projects, and Worship Services.

Happy Feet is when people from the village come to receive a pair of shoes. Teams bring new or gently used shoes and fit them on the feet of the ones needing them. Many have gotten their very first pair of shoes through this ministry effort. Children who do not have shoes are susceptible to contracting hook worms. The majority of families in Guatemala are impoverished

and parents cannot afford to pay a doctor or purchase medicine. Every year, we hear of children dying from hook worms, something unheard of here in the States.

Medical Teams set up as free clinics in churches or public buildings. Doctors from Guatemala City travels with the team see over 50 patients per day. Learn more about Guatemala Medical Clinics in the companion article, "God's Prescription for My Life" in this issue of the Mercy Journal.

Construction projects are often building a small 12' x 10' concrete block house for a family. It is one room with one or two windows (without glass or screens) and a door.

Some teams come to build churches for congregations. These churches are one large room where people meet to praise and worship God...the same God we praise and worship.



Impacto also sponsors training sessions for the pastors of the 16 Wesleyan Churches in Guatemala. A conference/retreat center is under construction in the Lake Atitlan area of Sololá. Once completed, it will house teams and be a place where training, medical and dental clinics and in-country retreats will be held.

Please keep Impacto Ministries lifted in your prayers.



## God's Prescription for My Life

by Karen Fenner

God calls us to love our fellow man and help in whatever way we can. Four years ago, God called me to lead a medical team to Guatemala. I felt called to be a nurse for as long as I can remember and I knew he wanted me to help people. However, leading a team to a foreign country seemed unimaginable. After months of planning, I led my first medical mission team. God has a way of planting that seed, giving you the means to accomplish it and He makes it work. Since then, we have been blessed to take a team every year.

On these trips we are able to follow **Romans 12:10-11** "Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically", and **Romans 13:10**: "Love does no wrong to anyone, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law." Because of that love for people, the New Life Network has sent enough medications and vitamins to serve over 3000 people in four years. Many of these people would have never been able to see a doctor. They do not have the money or the ability to get to a clinic. On the January 2011 trip, we ministered  
*(continued on page 3)*

## Prescription

*(continued from page 2)*

to almost 600 people in 3.5 days. We have saved lives; gave out magnifying glasses; cleaned wounds and preached the gospel. All done with love and compassion, as Jesus did when he walked the earth.

God also sends us to learn something about ourselves. He breaks our hearts, makes us laugh and cry. He teaches us how less can be more. You learn to be flexible, and appreciative of what you have. You begin to realize we have a big world out there and we are only a small piece of it. You begin to see



how rich we are. One of the greatest lessons I have learned through this process is that a hug and handshake are universal. We may not speak the language but a smile is worth more than anything. It is understood by everyone.

God uses all of us to reach out in His name. It may be in missions abroad or in our own community. Wherever it is, we have to be open to listen to what God is calling us to do and then willingly go serve.



**New Life La Plata**  
**New Life Garage**

## How Safe Are Your Nights?

by Chris Forshey

Gratefully, most of us who attend services within the New Life Network can honestly say our nights and days are safe and warm. Sadly, for too many in Charles County that isn't their experience. Lifestyles of Southern Maryland is reaching out with the help of local churches and organizations to provide a more secure environment. From November to March Lifestyles manages a program called "Safe Nights" which provides shelter and meals from 7pm-7am in various church facilities across Charles County. This gives warm shelter and food to homeless men, women and children during the coldest months of the year.

doors opened, the love from our New Life community could be felt upon all.



I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who participated in New Life's "Safe Nights". Whether by prayer, donations, preparing meals, serving, cleaning or just being there – you made a difference for the Kingdom.

The New Life Network has signed up to do this again next year. Mark your calendar now to participate

*"Cooking for and feeding those wonderful people at Safe Nights was like nothing I ever experienced before. With New Life being my church home, it was like inviting them into my own home. Participating in Safe Nights was an experience I will treasure forever."*

**Jacqui**

On January 9, 2011 the New Life Network opened its doors to host a week of "Safe Nights". We welcomed approximately 40 participants and Lifestyles staff into our church "home". With the help of approximately 85 New Life Network volunteers we served meals, watched movies, played games and made some wonderful new friends. From the moment our

January 8-15, 2012. See upcoming issues of *The Mercy Journal* for more information.





## **\$51.25 Per Student! Help Build the Bon Berger School in Haiti**

by Chris Wagon

As you may know we are in the process of raising the funds to build the Bon Berger (Good Shepherd) School in Terre Rouge, Haiti. Our partner World Hope International, has hired local Haitians (the unemployment rate in Haiti is around 80%) to construct the school and construction is almost complete. Praise God!

Our Goal is to raise \$41,000 to build the four classroom cinder block school building to serve 800 children. For only \$41K, that's only \$51.25 per student to build a whole school!

Please go to [www.newlifelaplata.org](http://www.newlifelaplata.org) for the complete story and learn more about the school, the children and how you can help this desperately poor community. Also please help spread the word on your Facebook and via e-mail to your friends, you can pickup a Facebook link at [www.newlifelaplata.org](http://www.newlifelaplata.org) and a PayPal account has been established for the project to receive donations.



### **Ongoing Missions Efforts**

**Bon Berger School Fundraising Terre Rouge Haiti**  
**Food Pantry Collections**  
**Firewood Collections**

### **2011 Mission Calendar**

**April 30 Christmas in April**  
**June 6-13 Haiti Missions Trip**  
**Aug 20-27 New Orleans Missions Trip**  
**September 5-9 Mexico Missions Trip**  
**November 19 Walk to End Homelessness**  
**Nov 30 - Dec 10 Guatemala Missions Trip**

**For more information on any of these Mission Opportunities,  
contact Denise Forshey at [forshcd@comcast.net](mailto:forshcd@comcast.net)**