

# The BEST LOCATION For a Church

Pastor Eric Johns

## this issue

The Best Location... P.1

Work at the New Building P.2

Food Pantry Needs a Home P.2

Summer 2015 P.3

Missions Around the World P.4

## check us out on



Instagram: bflodreamcenter



Twitter: bflodreamcenter



Facebook: BuffaloDreamCenter

## contact us

BUFFALO DREAM CENTER

Worship Service

Sundays at 11:00 AM

Located at:

286 Lafayette Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14213

Mailing Address:

Buffalo Dream Center

P.O. Box 934

Buffalo, NY 14201

Phone: (716) 854-1001

Fax: (716) 829-7390

information@buffalodreamcenter.org

www.buffalodreamcenter.org

Even before the Buffalo Dream Center moved to its new location on the west side of Buffalo, I knew things were going to be different.

We worked several weeks on the new building. Volunteers painted, hung drywall, built a stage, hauled out debris, and many other things. More than one hundred people gave their time to get the building ready for the Dream Center's first service.

For twenty years we were downtown. Now we are in a neighborhood. Even before our first service took place, I could see how being near families would make a difference in the ministry. People from the neighborhood were painting, cleaning, and helping out. Most of them had never attended a service. Now that we have held a few Sunday morning services, we are seeing families from the neighborhood give their lives to Jesus!

Zephaniah 3:12 says, "I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord."

A preacher who came to be a guest speaker at the Dream Center said to me, "How are you going to raise any money? You have to go after some of the rich people."

Sadly, I have seen this mentality. Nobody was doing what we do at the Dream Center twenty years ago. But now it seems to be a "fad" to spend a day and help the poor people. Many pastors want to have an "outreach center" in the bad neighborhood and their church building in a "better" place.

Even those who begin in the city, eventually move away. This is true across America, not just in Buffalo.

Other pastors keep their churches in the city, but live somewhere else themselves.

I believe the best place for a church is in the middle of afflicted and poor people. We are called to be a light in the darkness, not a light in the light. Many Christians never venture into the darkness.

Right around the corner from our new location is the highest crime area of the city. There is a place with a high level of prostitution and drug traffic. This is one of the areas where our late night street ministry takes place. Usually it ends up being a group of women from the Dream Center. Many of them are mothers and have effectively helped and prayed with pimps, prostitutes, the homeless, gang members, and others in the area. They give away sandwiches and toiletries. It opens the door to share the love of God with people.



Recently, one of the ladies from the Dream Center was praying with some of the prostitutes. They were crying as they experienced God's power touching them out on the street. The pimp was so upset that he gave the lady money to get off of the street!

I know another story of a pastor who went to look at a vacant building in the area. He was considering moving his church there. When he heard about all of the crime and problems, he decided to look somewhere else! Even the realtor was shocked and said, "I thought that is where churches are supposed to be."

Jesus chose Isaiah 61 as the text for His first sermon. Surrounded by family and friends from His hometown, He read verse one, which says, "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound." ...continued on page 2

What did the leaders of His synagogue do? They cast Him out! Churches that reach out to the poor have never been popular.

Psalm 41:1 reads, "Blessed is he who considers the poor; The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble." This verse is the reason we will never be defeated at the Buffalo Dream Center. This verse does not promise that God will keep you from trouble. Rather, He will deliver you out of it! When we reach out to drug addicts, the homeless, inner city children, refugees, and gang members we are

most likely going to get into some trouble! But God will deliver us out of it.

I believe that every need this community has should be met by this church. I want people to say to themselves, "If I can get myself to the Dream Center, I know that someone will be able to help me."

James 1:27 tells us, "Pure religion is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble." The word "visit" is very important. In the Greek language it means to go, see, and relieve the

distress of someone.

If the poor, broken-hearted, captives, and those who are bound never cross your mind, then ask God to forgive you. As Christians, we need to be like Jesus. He was anointed to help the poor and broken. So are you!

Please consider supporting the Buffalo Dream Center as we get ready to have the greatest summer of outreach we have ever experienced.

## LOTS OF WORK GOES INTO NEW BUILDING

On May 8th Pastor Eric and Michelle walked out of their downtown location for the final time. For twenty years the Buffalo Dream Center had its home on Pearl Street. The church spent nearly one year looking for a new location. Finally finding a place on Buffalo's west side, staff and volunteers worked for weeks loading trucks and moving.

At the same time they were moving, they were also preparing the new location. The building is a community center with a church facility. The community center, Concerned Ecumenical Ministry, has been doing work in Buffalo for decades. Half of the facility, which was formerly a church, was not being used. Due to water damage, lots of work needed to be done on walls, floors, and even the gutters on the outside of the church. Hundreds of volunteers worked for eight weeks tearing up tiles, rebuilding walls, cleaning, painting, and repairing the building.

Members from the Dream Center along with people from the neighborhood did much of the work. Groups from local churches such as Whitehaven Road Baptist Church, Kenmore Alliance, and Amherst Alliance helped with some of the large projects.

With a high concentration of refugees, the neighborhood surrounding the church has become a melting pot of the city. More than seventy languages are spoken in the neighborhood.

It took two more weeks to get the Kidz Club room ready for the children who attend the Dream Center. The grand opening for the children was on May 24th. Ted Shuttlesworth also came to preach on that Sunday. Many people were healed including a deaf man from the neighborhood.

As the summer begins, work will continue on the building along with the many outreaches planned for the community. The main sanctuary needs

carpeting, painting, and other projects completed soon. The Kidz Club room is in need of new walls. Although the church has begun meeting in the building, there are still a lot of things to accomplish.

Please consider giving a donation to see the work completed.



On May 10th the Buffalo Dream Center held its first service in their new building. It was a time of celebration as the church moved into this west side neighborhood filled with families in need.

## JOSEPH PROJECT MOBILE FOOD PANTRY IN NEED OF A HOME

As the Buffalo Dream Center moved from downtown to the west side of Buffalo, it also moved its food from a warehouse to another building. However, the place the ministry is currently storing food and household items is only temporary. The building was given to the Buffalo Dream Center with plans to open an east side location. It is not meant to be a warehouse and work will soon begin to complete the building and run programs that will reach children and families in the neighborhood.

A representative from the Food Bank looked at the temporary site and decided that it would not pass inspection. Although the Food Bank has allowed the Buffalo Dream Center to

continue distributing food to families, it will not deliver new orders of food to the pantry. The Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry has continued to serve families for five months without any support from the Food Bank. But food is running low and a new warehouse is desperately needed.

"We put some of our programs on hold as we moved to our new worship facility," said Pastor Eric. "But we never stopped feeding families. Hundreds of families rely on the mobile food pantry."

The mobile food pantry, Project Prevention, and Boxes of

Love reach thousands of people. Each of these ministries operates from the warehouse location. Please pray that the Dream Center will find a location for these vital ministries soon.



# SUMMER 2015 - FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT!

The months of July and August are always filled with ministry and outreaches at the Buffalo Dream Center. The summer of 2015 will be no exception. Thousands of families will be assisted through Project Prevention, Adopt-A-Block, the Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry, and Kidz Club.

Kidz Club began nearly twenty years ago in one housing project. This summer Kidz Club will take place in five neighborhoods – one in Niagara Falls and four in Buffalo. More than three hundred children are impacted through the high energy program each week. Kidz Club is like a weekly carnival in the neighborhood. Games, prizes, dances, dramas, and the message of the Gospel all take place on an empty lot in an inner city neighborhood.

Several teenagers and young adults will work at Kidz Club through the Mayor's Summer Youth Program. This program allows young people to work part-time for a charity or business in Buffalo and receive a pay check from the city. This is the first job for many of the youth who become a part of the Mayor's Summer Youth Program. They are mentored and trained how to be good employees. Many of them go onto permanent jobs after the summer.

This summer youth and church groups from

Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Canada will also be spending a week in the inner city. Teams that spend a week on a short term mission trip at the Buffalo Dream Center experience many aspects of ministry in the city such as feeding the homeless, street ministry, Kidz Club, and home visitations with refugee families. They will also spend some of their time on work projects at the Dream Center's new location. Other organizations that are in partnership with the Buffalo Dream Center also benefit from teams. All of the teams will help local homeless shelters and soup kitchens.

Some young adults have also decided to join the Dream Center's Inner City Boot Camp. This month-long internship program during July is for those who desire to be trained as leaders. Those accepted into the program will help with all of the summer outreach and have the chance to lead teams. They also get to spend personal time with Pastor Eric, Michelle, their family and some of the leadership of the Dream Center. Inner City Boot Camp takes place from July 5 until August 2. The cost is only \$600 per person. There is still room for those who wish to apply.

If you live in the area, join us for a day or volunteer for one of the Kidz Club sites. Your life will never be the same.



## BE A PART OF KIDZ CLUB THIS SUMMER!

Volunteer at one of the Kidz Club sites throughout the summer.  
You will be glad you did!

Kidz Club begins Monday, July 6 and continues until Friday, August 14.

**Mondays at 2:00 pm**  
1910 Falls Street  
Niagara Falls, New York

**Tuesdays at 2:00 pm**  
Frederick Douglass Housing Project  
Corner of Mary B. Talbert Blvd. & Gladys Holmes Blvd.  
Buffalo, New York

**Wednesdays at 2:00 pm**  
Corner of Maryland Street & Efner Street  
Buffalo, New York

**Thursdays at 2:00 pm**  
Masten Avenue  
Between East Ferry Street & Woodlawn Avenue  
Buffalo, New York

**Fridays at 6:30 pm**  
Pooley Place  
Empty lot at 84 Pooley Place  
Buffalo, New York

**JULY 2015**  
**\$600.00**  
**FOR AGES 16+**

Cost includes living expenses, meals, and transportation while in Buffalo.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**INNER CITY**  
**BOOT CAMP**  
**SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For more information and to apply, email us at: [information@buffalodreamcenter.org](mailto:information@buffalodreamcenter.org)



BUFFALO DREAM CENTER  
 P.O. BOX 934  
 BUFFALO, NY 14201

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
 STANDARD  
 POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 BUFFALO, NY  
 PERMIT #1141

## MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD

As the Buffalo Dream Center reaches out to its own city, there is also a strong emphasis on foreign missions.

This summer two teams will be traveling to Honduras. During these two trips team members will be building houses for homeless families. They will also participate in school and village outreaches, provide food to people

living in the garbage dumps, and many other outreaches.

In August a team will go to Guatemala to work with House of Refuge Street Ministries in Chiquimulilla, Guatemala. The ministry reaches out to prostitutes trapped in sex trafficking.

Although these trips are full, there is still time to sign up for the trip to India which will take place in October. Visit [www.buffalodreamcenter.org](http://www.buffalodreamcenter.org) for more information.

