

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BUFFALO DREAM CENTER | FALL 2017



PASTORS ERIC & MICHELLE JOHNS

MIRACLE REPORT

THE BUILDING BELONGS TO THE DREAM CENTER!

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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

In Acts 3:19, Peter declared, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

After we give our lives to Jesus, we begin living life differently. We now have the honor of living in the presence of the Lord! His Spirit speaks to us and leads us. Refreshing comes from living in His presence.

I remember a few years ago listening to people talking about the importance of being alone with God in His presence. This is a good thing. However, the more they talked about it, the more it seemed that they did not want to do anything for God. They just wanted to sit alone at home and worship Him. This bothered me. What about the lost world? But they came to the conclusion that it was more important for them to just be in God's presence.

I understand that we all need to set aside time to be in God's presence. We have to stop what we are doing and have a daily appointment with Jesus. But do we live life moving in and out of God's presence? What about when I am done praying? Do I walk out of the front door into the world and "leave" God's presence until my appointment the next day? Of course not! We can live in the presence of God as we go out into the world and work for Him.

My family and I just returned from Honduras. The Buffalo Dream Center led two teams as we reached out to schools, hospitals, and villages. The second week we took more than twenty people up Montana De La Flor to preach the Gospel to unreached Indian tribes. We had many obstacles, but we saw many miracles! As we traveled up the mountain there were rivers to cross and dangerous, muddy, sharp turns near cliffs. But as we went, we saw many miracles along the way. We were always in His presence and it was refreshing.

We saw deaf ears open, pain leave people's bodies, and cataracts melt off of someone's eyes. But the greatest miracles was when we asked God to hold off any rain for three days. If the roads got wet and muddy we would not be able to preach the Gospel near the top of the mountain in La Lima. This prayer of faith stopped the rain during rainy season!

I believe you can live in His presence every day. As we reach people in Honduras or in the inner city, we never have to depart from God's presence. We can live in it continually and see miracles along the way.

As a pastor I have met so many people who are praying for a miracle. They are waiting for God to do something extraordinary. But what I have seen is that God can do extraordinary things along the way – while I serve Him. I have made a choice not to walk in and out of His presence, but to live in it every day. Psalm 140:13 says, "Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence."

In Honduras we had two flat tires, a broken sound system, and once we spilled food for four hundred people on the ground! But we were refreshed in His presence as we went about His business. I even woke up each morning feeling refreshed after sleeping on concrete floors!

We experienced the same thing in Buffalo. We thought we would own our building in June. We raised the down payment, but there were some other obstacles. At one point a government official threatened to put the church on the public market and sell it to someone else! None of these problems moved us. We were going about His business in His presence. We were refreshed as we worked hard all summer long in His presence.

While in Honduras I received a text telling me that the lawyers would be ready to close on the building when I returned. The Buffalo Dream Center now owns the property on Lafayette Avenue! For nearly twenty-five years we rented facilities for the ministry. Now God has provided something for us.

Whatever you are trusting God for might have obstacles along the way. The devil might fight against you. But you can stay refreshed in His presence and watch God do miracles along the way. Don't stop your life to wait for God to do something. Keep living for Him. Keep serving Him and walking in obedience. Watch Jesus do miracles while you remain in His presence!

Thank you to everyone who gave financially to help us reach our down payment. We reached our goal of \$60,000 for the down payment on the building weeks ago. The total cost of the facility is \$175,000. The bank removed all pre-payment penalties, which is another miracle! We are now free to pay off the balance at any time!

Please continue to give so the Dream Center can own the property debt free!

HONDURAS – REACHING THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD

Michelle Johns and two of her daughters, Emilie and Mikayla, departed from Buffalo early to get things ready for two teams. The first team arrived a few days later. The twenty-one members included people from New York, Ohio, and Canada.

The first week consisted of ministry in Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras. The team also traveled to a few remote places near the city. On the first day everyone climbed aboard a school bus to travel up a mountain where they held an outreach in a slum area. After that the team prayed for the sick and gave away food and water to patients in a hospital. The hospital provides care to people without insurance, but does not give meals. Some of the team members were able to visit and pray for women in the maternity ward. They gave away baby clothes and blankets.

On the second day of ministry the team headed out on a two-day adventure to Orica. This is the location owned by the local ministry. A mission house and medical center is being built that will provide a base of operation and outreach to the Indian tribes living on Montana De La Flor, the mountain that the second team traveled up the next week.

Unfortunately the bus, with all of the supplies and people, could not make it up the mountainous climb to Orica. The team had to get out and walk up hill about three kilometers. Two pick-up trucks with some construction workers

rescued the team members during their climb.

When the team finally made it to Orica, they spent two days doing all kinds of work projects on the land. They worked hard in the hot sun for two days.

One of the largest outreaches of the trip took place in an auditorium in Orica. More than five hundred people showed up without any advertising! Many people responded to the Gospel at the end of the program which included songs, skits, games, and a powerful illustration. The team members prayed for many people. After that cookies, toys, rice, flour, and clothes were distributed to the people. When they finally went to sleep for the night, everyone slept in the dirt on a cement floor.

The first week the team did many other things, including two programs in a school in which they were able to share the Gospel with more than one thousand children. They also traveled to one of the hottest places in Honduras – Nacaomi. There they partnered with a local church to reach a nearby village. They also held two services in the church. On Sunday morning most of the people in the church were filled with the Holy Spirit.

As some of the first team headed home, some remained for the second week, and others arrived from other places. The second week's team were from New York, Canada, Georgia, and Guatemala.

The week began with the team

ministering in five churches. They saw Jesus perform many miracles including people being healed of arthritis, pain, and deafness. One lady was completely deaf in both ears. She went home from the meeting hearing perfectly!

One of the most memorable meetings took place in a church near the garbage dumps. All the people in that village work in the garbage dumps by day. They rummage through garbage trying to find things they can salvage to sell for some money to survive. The men, women, and children all work in the dumps. The village is oppressed by the MS-13 gang who have claimed the area as their territory and have been known to randomly go through the village, murdering young men who are not a part of their gang.

The gang members never came near the church. It seemed as if God made a perimeter that they could not cross. They surrounded the church from a distance, just watching what God was doing. Many people gave their lives to Jesus and were healed! The people received much needed clothing. The pastor and his family were encouraged as the team gathered around them to pray.

After doing an outreach at a school, the team got up early to begin packing five four-wheel drive pick-up trucks. A lot has to be packed for more than twenty people to live for five days on a mountain with no food, fresh water, or electricity.

On the first day of the journey up Montana De La Flor, the trucks drove across five rivers through treacherous dirt roads to reach San Juan – the first level of the mountain. The people of San Juan were happy to see the team, remembering many of them from the previous year. On the way the team had mechanical problems with one of



the trucks and two flat tires. As they got ready to hold the program for the people, they realized that the sound system had been damaged and would not work properly. But the people of San Juan gathered in a road while Michelle preached, without a sound system, from the porch of a medical clinic. Many gave their lives to Jesus and were healed of various diseases included deafness and cataracts. Several of the people from San Juan stepped forward to give testimonies of what Jesus had done in their bodies. At the end of the day the team fed more than four hundred people.

The next day, after spending some more time with the people of San Juan, the team made the trip to the next colony – La Ceiba. Again the team faced some challenges, but the team pressed through the tough spiritual atmosphere. Many were touched by Jesus. But the greatest challenge



was ahead. Pastor Eric and Michelle were unsure if the trucks would make it to the final location. The only way it would be possible is if there was no rain. The previous night it had rained. If it rained again, the roads would be too muddy for the trucks to safely navigate the dangerous roads. The team prayed for good weather for the next three days.

The next day the team reached La Lima! Michelle had been praying for two years that she would be able to make it there. It is difficult to reach because of the poor road conditions. But it meant so much to the



people that the trucks arrived with food, farming supplies, clothing, and other necessities. The people of La Lima feel forgotten by the rest of the world. The people are uneducated and suffer with sickness and malnutrition. There is no pastor, missionary, or church. They are considered to be an unreached people group.

The people were very shy and curious about the message of Jesus, but their hearts were open. At the close of the program some of the people gave their lives to Christ, and many others allowed the team to pray for them. A little girl was

completely healed of some sort of respiratory infection. She instantly stopped coughing and began to breathe normally.

After a night of sleep on a concrete floor once again, the team awoke to gifts of cooked corn and bananas. The chief and the village council of La Lima met with the team. They expressed that they welcomed the Dream Center teams to come at any time! Mario, the president, thanked the team for the gifts and also for the message of Jesus that was brought to their people.

It was vitally important that the team made it to La Lima. Their time with the people opened a door for the Gospel to continue to be proclaimed to the tribes on Montana De La Flor. Many miracles had to happen in order for the trip to be a success, including three days without rain during the rainy season!

Thank you Jesus for making a way to share the Gospel with these precious people. Thank you to everyone who supported this trip through your financial gifts and prayers. Your investment has made a difference into eternity!

INNER CITY BOOT CAMP

Two young adults signed up for Inner City Boot Camp, the summer intern program, and worked alongside volunteers throughout the summer. The interns lived for six weeks with Pastor Eric, Michelle, and their family. They developed their leadership skills and learned all about what it takes to run successful inner city ministries.



"Before coming to Buffalo I was unsure of what God wanted me to do with my life. At the Buffalo Dream Center I was surprised at how much I stepped out of my comfort zone. I prayed for

more people one-on-one than I ever have. At the end of the summer I decided to finish Bible college. I would highly recommend this internship to other people." – Harlee from Pennsylvania



"The internship is an amazing way to learn a good work ethic and a good beginning to learn how to start a ministry of your own. My time in Buffalo drew me closer to God and it changed my life forever." – Skyler from Indiana

Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry July & August of 2017

Number of
households served
1,248

Number of individuals
who received food
3,277

Number of
meals distributed
29,503



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SUMMER OF 2017 UPDATE

Ten teams representing twelve states from across America and Canada joined with members of the Buffalo Dream Center this summer to reach out to inner city families with the love of Jesus.

Eighty-one outreaches took place for six weeks during July and August. Volunteers took part in Kidz Club, Adopt-A-Block, Project Prevention, The Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry, street ministry, Table of Grace, chapel services at homeless shelters, ministry to seniors, community dinners in Niagara Falls, pro-life ministry, and much more.

The highlight of the summer is always Kidz Club. Thirty Kidz Club outreaches took place in six neighborhoods throughout Buffalo and Niagara Falls. These exciting programs bring fun, excitement, and a powerful Gospel message to children living in high-risk neighborhoods. The children enjoy a mini-carnival filled with activities, games, and prizes. After an announcement is made, the carnival is put away, tarps are put down on the ground, and the children take part in a presentation of the Gospel that includes songs, skits, crazy games, and a power object lesson. Each child receive a snack at the end of the event.

Hundreds of children were reached every week.

Teams ventured out into the city every week with Project Prevention. The ministry assists families living in poverty with food, beds, and other household items. Many of the families are refugees from around the world. More than one hundred families had personal visits to their homes during the summer.



The Buffalo Dream Center still runs the only mobile food pantry in Western New York. The Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry went out eighteen times into neighborhoods to feed families.

A favorite weekly ministry for teams was late night street ministry. This ministry takes volunteers to the downtown bus station to reach

out to the homeless. Groups also go to Grant Street which is the highest crime area in Buffalo. People are armed with backpacks filled with snacks, water, socks, and other necessities for the homeless. Sometimes street ministry was followed by Table of Grace. The homeless men and women were invited to a free lunch. The vans were filled with hungry people each time.

Groups also helped with work projects more than twenty times. This included things like cleaning out the new building, making hundreds of bags of groceries, and mowing lawns.

The teams were a consistent presence in the Dream Center neighborhood and other communities around the city of Buffalo. During a summer week, people noticed volunteers delivering food and mattresses to families. They heard the noise of Kidz Club. Many stood in line for bags of groceries. They looked out their windows and saw people cleaning the trash off of the streets during Adopt-A-Block. The church was visible in the neighborhoods as people hit the streets with acts of kindness and the love of Jesus!

If you are interested in bringing a team in 2018, please contact the Buffalo Dream Center. Don't delay. The year is already filling up.