

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BUFFALO DREAM CENTER | SPRING 2018



PASTORS ERIC & MICHELLE JOHNS

## THIS ISSUE THE CHURCH IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD PASTOR ERIC T. JOHNS

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Some people are under the impression that the church is man's idea. But that is not true! The church is God's idea. The church was born after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus loves the church. Ephesians chapter five gives instructions about marriage. Comparing the church to marriage, the Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus loves the church, laid down His life for her, cleansed her, and became one with her.

I believe if you love Jesus, you must love whom He loves. He loves the lost. He loves the hurting. He loves those who follow Him. He loves the church.

Some Christians don't attend church because of things that took place in the church they attended. The church is made up of people – flawed people. People like you and me go to church. I have made mistakes. You have made mistakes. The church is an organization of imperfect people who are accepting of other imperfect people. They begin to understand they have a purpose, and together, they try to make a difference in the world.

But people hurt people. I have heard it many times. Someone will say, "The church

really hurt me." There is no such thing as the church hurting someone. It is like saying, "The bank really hurt me." Someone else could complain, "Restaurants have wounded me." Another person might say, "That gym hurt my feelings."

It is not the entities or organizations that have hurt us. It's the people in them.

Someone said, "I don't go to church because it is filled with hypocrites." McDonalds is filled with hypocrites too. But you still eat Big Macs. What about the gym you work out at every morning? I am sure there are hypocrites running on the treadmills right next to you. But you still workout.

If you have been hurt in a church, I am very sorry. I have experienced pain in the church myself. But I still go to church. I still serve. I still gather together with others to worship Jesus.

There is no "perfect" church. But God takes

imperfect people, pours His Spirit into them, and uses them to change the world! Don't buy the lie of the devil that it is not important for you to be a part of a local church. If you stay home, you will miss out on what God is doing in the world with His Body – the church.

The local church is the hope of the world! I don't say that lightly. It is true.

Recently, the City of Buffalo had an economic turn-around. Things are getting better. Businesses are moving in. New homes are being constructed. But there is a spiritual problem in our city. A spiritual problem does not require an economic solution. It requires a spiritual solution. There is only one way to solve the problems of our world and bring light into the darkness. It is not going to happen by legislation in government. It will only happen through Jesus!

The problem is that Jesus works through His church. I think when we pray for revival we have a wrong picture in our

minds. We think God is going to come down out of the sky and visit us. But that is not how He is going to do it. He has chosen to work through His church. We are His Body. When we pray for revival we should be getting ready for God to use us!

God plans to use the church to reveal His awesome plan to humanity. Ephesians 3:10, 11 states, "God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display His wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was His eternal plan, which He carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord."

His intent was that, in the face of demonic pressure and resistance, the church would bring the Gospel to the world.

If you are a Christian – listen to me. Your salvation is more than your personal decision to follow Christ. You have become a part of something that involves corporate power, life, and blessing. Your salvation is not a "me" deal. It is a "we" deal.

Do you really believe that, as a Christian, you are destined to win? Consider the Children of Israel when they

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came out of Egypt. The goal was not to get them out of Egypt. The goal was to get them into the Promised Land. But I want you to think about this important point. They either all went in, or none of them went in.

We have developed an individualized thinking. God will heal me. God will prosper me. He will deliver me. He will do all of this through my personal faith.

However, there are some victories that will only be secured when you and I link up together. You can go a long way on your own, but you cannot go all the way on your own.

We have a mandate from God to take our city for Him. He has commissioned us to reach the entire world with the Gospel. But I cannot do it. You cannot do it. We can only do it together.

If you have not done it already, become a vital part of a local church. This is what God wants you to do. He has no plan B. The church is His only plan. What are you waiting for? The world is counting on us.

## CENTER OF HOPE EXPANSION IN INDIA

For more than twenty years Pastor Sagar has overseen the Center of Hope in Guntur, India. The Center of Hope is a Christ-centered home to twenty-three children and widows. It is also the home of a Christian school providing a good education to approximately one hundred children. The school includes English classes. Pastor Sagar also helped plant and now oversees seventy-eight churches in surrounding villages.

Recently the Indian government threatened to shut down the school on the Center of Hope property due to the size of the facility being used. The inspectors demanded that Pastor Sagar construct a new building that would accommodate the large number of students. Through donations from the Buffalo Dream Center and the Network of Related Pastors, the first phase of construction has been completed on the new school building. When completed, the new school will have a total of eleven class rooms.

Now that the first phase has been completed, the next thing that must be done is the construction of a new roof. The cost for this project is \$12,000.

all of the orphans were living in his home. Someone had given him the land for the Center of Hope, but he did not have the money to build. Since that time the Buffalo Dream Center and others have helped to build dormitories, showers, bathrooms, and a wall around the property.

One of the first things that was done when Pastor Sagar acquired the land was the installation of a well. A couple of months ago, Pastor Sagar called Pastor Eric to let him know that the well dried up and it was causing problems. Not only was there very little access to water for the children at the Center of Hope, the well was also a way to provide clean water to the families living near the ministry. A few years ago Guntur and much of Sothern India experienced an intense heat wave which killed hundreds of people. The well helped to provide water to families during that time.

The Buffalo Dream Center was able to send the money to dig a new well for the Center of Hope. That project has just been completed.

When Pastor Eric and Michelle began working with Pastor Sagar a little three-year-old girl named

Reshma moved into the Center of Hope. Reshma was left by her parents, sitting alone in a restaurant. A note was given to the restaurant owner which explained that Reshma's parents were too poor to feed their little girl. They hoped the owner of the establishment would give her a job and raise her. The owners immediately called Pastor Sagar.

Reshma, now eighteen-years-old, is getting married to a young man who loves Jesus. This story is one of many success stories of the young men and women who are serving Jesus today because Pastor Sagar gave them a home at the Center of Hope.

Please consider helping complete the construction of the school or simply giving a gift to make sure Pastor Sagar can continue reaching boys and girls with the love of Jesus.

When Pastor Eric and Michelle met Pastor Sagar,



# BDC OUTREACH CENTER CONTINUES TO FEED AND HELP FAMILIES

The Buffalo Dream Center's Outreach Center is a large building located on the east side of Buffalo. The building, which was donated by another ministry, has become the home to many of the outreach ministries of the Buffalo Dream Center. Thousands of people are being assisted with food, furniture, appliances, and other household items.



Project Prevention is a ministry which assists families who are at risk of losing their children due to the lack of furniture, food, and other basic necessities. Project Prevention also assists low income families that resettle in Buffalo from other parts of the country and the world. Project Prevention provides some immediate needs for families



Probably the most familiar ministry that operates out of the BDC Outreach Center is Boxes of Love. Last year more than six hundred volunteers

and builds relationships with them. Its goal is to help the family improve their quality of life and show them God's love.

families are sleeping on the floor. Recently, a large donation of mattresses from a local college made it possible for 150 people to receive beds. During the past year Project Prevention volunteers have helped 273 families. Nearly one thousand children remained with their parents and were directly

helped assemble bags of groceries. After the arrival of a semi-truck full of food from

impacted by Project Prevention last year.

The BDC Outreach Center

**6,432**  
Number of households served through the Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry

**1,525**  
Number of people served through Project Prevention

**150**  
Number of mattresses given to people who needed a bed

**2,558**  
Number of families served through Boxes of Love

## What Happened During the Last Year at the BDC Outreach Center?

**157,292**  
Number of pounds of food donated to the BDC Outreach Center

Feed the Hungry, volunteers made three thousand bags of groceries at the Outreach Center. Boxes of Love gave food and Christmas gifts to 2,558 families in December.

**1,620**  
Number of meals served at Kidz Club's after school program

**2,100**  
Number of snack bags given to children at summer Kidz Club

impacts thousands of lives! From providing food for Kidz Club to supplying hygiene packages for the homeless, the ministry is helping people every week. Even other ministries receive help from

But the ministry does not just feed families during the Christmas Season. All year-long the Buffalo Dream Center goes into neighborhoods with the Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry. Unlike other food pantries where people walk or travel to a church or community center to pick up a bag of food, the Joseph Project brings a truck loaded with food directly into neighborhoods. Currently, food is delivered into twelve neighborhoods. During the past year more than six thousand households were served. More than eighteen thousand people received food from the mobile pantry. The BDC Outreach Center enabled the Dream Center to receive 157,293 pounds of food during the last twelve months!

One of the greatest needs of families living in poverty are beds. Project Prevention volunteers have often been in homes where entire

the Outreach Center. This past year six other ministries received food and other products. The BDC Outreach Center even provided food to a church in Pittsburgh for an outreach during the Christmas Season.



The building includes storage for dry goods, but also has a walk-in refrigerator and freezer. The total cost each month to operate this ministry is \$1,700. This includes utilities and the costs involved with transporting food and running equipment such as forklifts.

Would you consider helping the Buffalo Dream Center feed hungry people? If seventeen people each gave \$100 per month, the costs would be covered. Your gift makes a difference.



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286 LAFAYETTE AVENUE  
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## BE A PART OF SENDING THE MESSAGE OF JESUS TO HONDURAS AND INDIA

Two teams will be departing for the mission field this year from the Buffalo Dream Center.

In August a team will travel to Honduras, a small, often forgotten, third world country located in the mountains of Central America. During this week-long trip the team will preach the Gospel in the capital city of Tegucigalpa and the remote town of Orica. Outreaches will be held in schools, villages, churches, hostels for the elderly, and hospitals. The team will also have the opportunity to continue reaching out to the Tolupan Indians on Montana De La Flor. A few years ago the Tolupan chief extended an invitation to the Dream Center and local missionaries to travel up the mountain to present the Gospel to the people. Every year since that invitation, teams have traveled throughout settlements on the mountain, bringing the love of Jesus to people who

have never heard the good news.

During the month of October, Pastor Eric, Michelle, and their two sons, Alex and Nate, will travel throughout India. The first two weeks of the month are reserved for those who want to be a

part of a team that will travel to three cities. Team members will be involved in school outreaches, village outreaches, pastors' training, ministry in the slums, hospital ministry, tribal ministry, and church services. Time will also be spent visiting the two orphanages supported by the Buffalo Dream Center.



If you would like to give a donation to see the Gospel brought to the people of Honduras or India, please fill out the response card and send your gift to the Buffalo Dream Center. You can also give on the ministry's website at [www.buffalodreamcenter.org](http://www.buffalodreamcenter.org).

You can also join one of these teams! Please contact us for an application.

## SUMMER OUTREACH

July and August are two of the busiest months at the Buffalo Dream Center as hundreds of volunteers help reach out to children, teens, refugee families, the homeless, and others throughout Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

Teams are scheduled to come from different states and Canada. The summer intern program, Inner City Boot Camp, has already attracted applicants from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Canada. Kidz Club will take place in five neighborhoods each week. Ministries like Adopt-A-Block, Project Prevention, Table of Grace, street ministry, and the mobile food pantry will invade Buffalo with the Love of Jesus.

The summer calendar is filling up quickly, but there are still openings for teams to come and spend a week at the Buffalo Dream Center. Each team experiences many opportunities to touch the lives of inner city people with God's love. If you are interested in bringing a team, please contact the Buffalo Dream Center.