



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

FALL 2020

## THE CHURCH IN MOTION

PASTOR ERIC T. JOHNS

The church was never meant to be closed. We did not receive power from heaven to sit in one place. We are meant to be on the move. Always working for the Kingdom of God. That is when we operate in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus set the example for the church. Acts 10:38 says, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." The power that was upon Jesus to heal and set people free came as He "went about".

Jesus gave this command to the church before He ascended into heaven saying, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel." He then tells us that we will heal the sick and set people free as we go. This promise of power from the Holy Spirit is given to the church that goes.

The Holy Spirit, like Jesus, is a Person of motion. In Acts 2, on the Day of Pentecost, He came upon the early believers as a rushing, mighty wind. The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of action. He is moving. It is His nature. He is the Spirit of Divine activity.

If Jesus was on the move and the Holy Spirit is moving, He must need His church to be that way too. We are called to go and tell. This is our mandate. It is not an option. If we are going to partner with the Holy Spirit to reach the world for Jesus, we cannot sit around. We cannot put the Great Commission on hold. No matter what happens.

The command of Jesus to preach the Gospel to the world is also found in Acts 1:8. Jesus said, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be

witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." The power comes upon the church that is in motion.

Covid-19 was a direct attack on the Great Commission. Churches closed at a time when people needed us most. People in our communities were desperate for an encounter with Jesus that a "virtual church service" could not provide. The Holy Spirit cannot work with a closed church. He needs a moving church. He empowers a church on the move.

A lot has happened since the pandemic first hit America. As governments began to lockdown cities, churches across the nation had to make difficult decisions. As fear attacked the minds of many people, there were some Christians who looked at Covid-19 as an opportunity to reach their communities with the Gospel. Paul the Apostle talked about an opportunity he had to preach the Gospel. He called it an open door. In 1 Corinthians 16:9 Paul wrote, "For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."

Isn't it interesting that Paul had an "open door" with many adversaries? Most Christians would look at a door surrounded by demons, difficulties, and obstacles and talk themselves out of going through that door. They would find another one. They might even convince themselves that it was God's way of telling them to go a different way. However, many times the door with a lot of opposition is the one God is calling you to walk through.

I am going to look back on the pandemic with mostly good memories. As soon as it began

we knew there would be an opportunity to preach the Gospel and show the love of Jesus to families in our city. I am so proud to have walked through that door with the people of the Buffalo Dream Center and volunteers from across Western New York who came alongside of us.

Seven months later we all look back in amazement at the many miracles God did as we moved through that door of opportunity. Jesus provided nearly half a million pounds of food which enabled us to feed more than twelve thousand families. We were able to plant a church during the pandemic! Curbside Church now has a weekly attendance of more than one hundred of our friends from the streets. We have seen miracles on a continual basis. A woman walked out of her wheelchair, a deaf man was healed, and we saw many people healed of arthritis and other diseases while standing in line for food at neighborhood outreaches! Most importantly we have seen many people give their lives to Jesus.

We are not stopping. We are going. We are not having committee meetings about when we plan on walking through the door. We have already walked through it. We cannot stop because the Holy Spirit urges us by saying, "Let's keep moving. I want to do so much more with you."



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### CONTACT US

Worship Service: Sundays at 11:00 AM  
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# THE CHURCH ON THE STREETS

Covid-19 did not take God by surprise. He knew exactly what would happen and He made sure to fill the BDC Outreach Center with food just two weeks before the lockdowns occurred. The Buffalo Dream Center was ready when the pandemic hit.

It is amazing what God has done during the past seven months. The food has continued to pour into the ministry. This has enabled the Buffalo Dream Center to not only provide food to families in need, but also give food to other ministries in Western New York and Pennsylvania. FeedMore of Western New York, Feed the Children, Feed the Hungry, Pepsi, Frito-Lay, and Rich Products have all donated food. Donations have also come from foundations, businesses, families, and individuals. More than four hundred thousand pounds of food was provided during the pandemic.

The Buffalo Dream Center was designated an essential service. The abundance of food allowed the mobile food pantry to hold nearly one hundred fifty distribution sites throughout the City of Buffalo. More than twelve thousand families

received groceries. Food was also delivered directly to hundreds of the homes of seniors, the disabled, and families quarantined with the virus.

During this time volunteers also dedicated themselves to tutor students from the Buffalo Public Schools. Many children living in the city had a difficult time with remote learning and needed help. Several children and teenagers received assistance with their school work. An eleven-year-old girl gave a testimony on a Sunday morning. She told the Dream Center that the tutoring helped her complete the school year at the top of her class!

As the cold spring gave way to the summer, the ministry never stopped. It actually increased. Although all of the summer teams canceled their trips to Buffalo, those who signed up for the summer internship remained dedicated. The six young people from Buffalo, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee experienced six weeks of intense ministry. The summer months saw growth in every area as an increased effort was made to bring the Gospel to different neighborhoods in the city.

Not only did the mobile food pantry feed more people, there were incredible things happening in other places.

Curbside Church, the Buffalo Dream Center's church service for the homeless, increased to more than one hundred people every Sunday. A mid-week Thursday evening service was implemented. At both of these outreaches people were saved and healed. The summer interns preached, led in worship, and performed dramas in the park where these outreaches took place. Curbside Church continues every Sunday with worship, preaching, prayer, and a food distribution.

Some of summer outreach focused on two neighborhoods. Love the West Side took place every Monday. Love Riverside happened each Friday. At both of these outreaches food and household items were delivered door-to-door and also distributed on vacant lots. Relationships were built and many people were touched by God during these times. At Love Riverside, the summer interns were able to hold the one and only Kidz Club program of the summer! Many children and parents enjoyed the program and received prayer for salvation and healing.

When Teen Impact opened up the youth were excited to be there. Every week there seemed to be a "revival atmosphere" as teenagers dedicated their lives to Christ.

By the end of August, hundreds of outreaches had been held throughout the city. Teams of volunteers impacted the lives of the homeless, families, teenagers, and children. The need is still great and the Dream Center continues to reach out to the community with the love of Jesus.



# SUMMER TESTIMONIES

**Alex Johns**

*"Bringing a truck full of food into a neighborhood and blessing them is one thing. But seeing people standing in line giving their lives to Jesus and getting healed was another thing! I saw people cry out to God on a street corner, not in a church, on a Sunday morning. This is what it is all about! We brought the love of Jesus into neighborhoods."*

**Anna Jones**

*"At the beginning of this summer I prayed to God to use me in ways that I have never been used before. It didn't take long for Him to answer. Within the second week of ministry, I shared my testimony at Teen Impact and made the altar call at Love Riverside. I had the opportunity to minister to many people then went on to preach throughout the summer. I grew in the knowledge of the Word, how to preach, and how to pray. He was faithful every step of the way."*

**Tommy Rutherford**

*"This summer at the Buffalo Dream Center I had many opportunities to minister to the people in our community. One night I met a man at Love Downtown named Jeremiah. He had been dealing with back and knee pain. I prayed for him and commanded the pain to go in Jesus name. He was healed right there and then!"*

**Victoria Shurr**

*"The Buffalo Dream Center's summers are always something to look forward to. This year I was personally touched by reaching out to a new neighborhood – Shaffer Village. From the moment we went there the people were very open and accepting of the Gospel of Jesus. Not only did we give people food and household items, but we were able to touch many people with the Gospel. Several people were also healed and we have some people from that neighborhood coming to church."*

**Mikayla Johns**

*"Every Thursday we did a ministry called Love Downtown. For six weeks we saw a lot of the same faces coming out to hear the Word of God and get food. There was a specific lady who would come every week. She was always distant and never opened up to anyone. She was usually in a bad mood and acted like she had no interest in being there. It was week*

*doesn't God love me?" She had tears in her eyes and looked so broken inside. She began to tell me all the terrible things that had happened to her. She was so sure that God hated her for some reason. I ministered to her for a while and she gave her life to Jesus that night on the street corner. Three days later I saw her again, and she was like a whole new person! She was laughing and socializing with everyone. She saw me, smiled, and gave me the biggest hug. She said, "I can't explain it, but ever since that night I feel happy and free." She explained to me that not only did God heal her from the pain of the things she went through, but God also healed her in her physical body when she gave her life to Him!"*

**Tyler Kemper**

*"This summer's theme was 'The Summer of the Supernatural'. A great example of this was when a man by the name of Julio was healed. Julio attended Love Downtown and committed his life to Jesus. Not even a minute later, he asked for healing for a recent stab wound in his stomach. He believed Jesus would heal him! We prayed and he immediately said all pain was gone! He shouted, 'That was wild!'"*



## WANT TO VOLUNTEER?



Volunteer information is sent out by email on a regular basis and can also be found on the home page of our website. It is also posted on Facebook and Instagram.

Many of our volunteer opportunities are safe and fun for families. Anyone can get involved and make a difference! If you are not signed up to receive our e-newsletter, please make sure to do it today by sending your email address to [information@buffalodreamcenter.org](mailto:information@buffalodreamcenter.org).

**FOLLOW US**





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## MISSIONS: WHAT IS GOD DOING AROUND THE WORLD?

Covid-19 was difficult for everyone, but especially in other nations where restrictions and lockdowns were more severe than in America. During the pandemic the Buffalo Dream Center was able to send financial support to India, Pakistan, and Honduras. The priority in these nations was feeding families who did not have access to food.

The Buffalo Dream Center was able to assist three pastors in India. A large part of the population of India are daily workers. This means that they get paid every day and they purchase food for their families daily. India is experiencing a complete lockdown. These families have no income and no money for food. Pastor Sagar, director of the Center of Hope, purchased large bags of rice and other food to feed fifty-two families. Each family received a two-week supply of food. Those families totaled more than three hundred people. Money was also sent to continue

construction on a school that will provide an education to more than one hundred children in the area. Pastor Joshua, another pastor who has known Pastor Eric and Michelle for many years, held special outreaches for children and fed many families in the area surrounding his ministry. Finally, Pastor Arul, from Triupati, was able to assist pastors and their families with food. Many of these pastors work in remote areas pioneering churches and preaching the Gospel at the risk of their lives.

Pastor Asher from Pakistan contacted the Buffalo Dream Center and explained that government feeding programs were only distributing food to Muslim families. When Christians attempted to get food, they were often told they had to convert to Islam first. Money sent helped Pastor Asher feed many Christian families in Karachi and also assist fifteen pastors and their families.

Jorge, Yesi, and their family have been reaching out to the people of Honduras for many years. They are overseeing the construction of a

mission base in El Tizate, a remote area about three hours from Tegucigalpa. During the pandemic the families living near El Tizate had very little access to food. The generosity of people who gave helped feed fifty families several times throughout the pandemic. These are the same families that mission teams have reached out to during trips to Honduras.

Thank you to everyone who gave to ensure that people were fed and the Gospel continued to be preached in other nations of the world.

