

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY!

MAKING A *Difference*

SUMMER 2019



PASTORS ERIC & MICHELLE JOHNS

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GREAT OPPORTUNITIES WITH MANY ENEMIES

The following article was inspired by a message recently preached by Pastor Keith Tucci at the Buffalo Dream Center.

God opens doors for all of us that we are supposed to walk through. He opens the door and we make the choice to walk through it.

Paul the Apostle wrote about this in 1 Corinthians 16:9 saying, "For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."

The door God opened for Paul was great and effective. It was an incredible opportunity to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But the door had many adversaries.

I have noticed that the North American church has bought the lie that, if we are following Jesus, everyone will like us and things will be easy. We also think, if there is any opposition, it must not be a "God" thing. In reality, when choosing the door that you should walk through, the best thing is to look for the door with the most demons. Usually that is the one God is opening for you! Chances are, if God wants you to walk through it, your enemy will try and stop you.

Jesus had opposition. Paul had enemies that stood in his way. Anyone who has been effective for Jesus has had resistance. Some of us will encounter demonic opposition when God opens a door. But the good news is that God Himself opened the door! He will be with us as we walk through it. We just have to obey by faith and enter into the opportunity that God puts in front of us.

As you read this newsletter you will see many great and effective doors that have opened for the Buffalo Dream Center. It is amazing to see what God is doing. More people have been giving their lives to Jesus than ever before. We have not done anything different. We have just obediently walked through doors. Sometimes those doors have many representatives from the kingdom of darkness. But it does not bother us. If God opens the door, we want to walk through it.

While Michelle and I were in El Salvador, a door opened for a communist country. Within three weeks, Michelle was there preaching the Gospel and training leaders. As I write this article, another door has opened to a country in Asia where hundreds of Christians have just been murdered.

The door is great. The door is effective. If we walk through it, we will encounter spirits of fear and false religion. The church in this country is living in fear. Believers have stayed home. Some have even renounced Christ! But the door is wide open for us to go and strengthen the pastors and churches.

God has opened a door that has allowed us to have more of our homeless friends attend church every week. My son-in-law, Skylar, walked through it and has been filling up a church van with men and women every Sunday. His story is included in this newsletter.

Recently, a door was opened for the church to be a voice for the unborn in the State of New York. We walked through it and saw more than seventy-five churches come together on Palm Sunday in a spirit of repentance, asking God to forgive us. Was there opposition? As I organized the event, I had more opposition from pastors and churches than I did from anyone else.

Years ago God opened a door for us to bring children from an east side neighborhood to church on a bus. I remember the opposition. We had criticism from people. Even a pastor's wife tried to discourage us. Her church was near the apartment complex we were reaching out to. When she met my wife she said, "So you are the ones sending the bus and bringing those kids to your church. We don't want those kids in our church."

Today we have young adults in our church from that neighborhood. My son-in-law, Desmond, is from that neighborhood. He first got on the bus when he was five-years-old. He married my daughter and now works for the Buffalo Dream Center full-time teaching and mentoring kids from that same neighborhood! Thank God, in spite of the opposition, we walked through that door.

As you read this newsletter please consider helping us continue to walk through doors that others are not walking through. Maybe that is the reason why we have so many great opportunities. Many others have passed by those doors due to the demons gathered around it. But as long as the Buffalo Dream Center is here we are going to continue to go through every door that God opens for us. Behind every door there are people who need Jesus.

THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED IN A COMMUNIST COUNTRY

MICHELLE JOHNS

When I entered the country it reminded me of my trip to the Soviet Union years ago. It had the same feeling of oppression in the atmosphere. Everything is controlled by the government. The people live under fear, control, and constant oppression. As long as the people are quiet and submissive there is peace. It is a false sense of peace and security. The people have to get permission for every single thing. They always joked and said, "The government has to give you permission to pee." Often the government doesn't give Christians permission for things. They can own a home but they need permission to improve it. They need permission to have foreign guests stay in their home. They can own land, but they need permission to grow things on the land. If they own a car, they need permission to drive it.

When I arrived in the country, I had to give them my cell phone number. They wanted to know exactly how much money I was bringing in the country. I was supposed to list everything I would be leaving- clothes, toiletries, medicines- everything! I didn't list anything. I walked right past all the people checking suitcases and out the door of the airport. Nobody stopped me. Most other people were stopped. But I acted like I knew what I was doing and where I was going.

Every family receives a notebook with an allotment of food according to the number of people in the family. Everything in the country is about survival. What can I sell to have extra

money? People sell old clothes, fruits, vegetables, and animals. Most buying and selling is done in private off the back of a bicycle or someone's porch. Most people have some type of "business" to make money. Ladies will offer pedicures, manicures, or haircuts. Men will fix things and sell them. Those who make it out of the country will purchase things and sell them when they return.

Most Christians are very concerned about their youth. They have no vision or hope. They have seen a "better" life now on the internet. They have become angry, rebellious, hateful, and addicted to drugs. Girls are getting pregnant at twelve years of age. Boys are selling drugs. Children are enrolled in schools but do not attend. There is a lack of teachers and schools do not receive supplies.

All the buildings are locked up with fences and bars on the window and the doors. There are no signs on the stores. There are only a few stores and restaurants with limited menus. However, there are a lot of bars. Drinking is a major bondage in this country.

The pastor's daughter and son-in-law oversee a church that meets in a garage, since the government will not give permission to churches to have a building. This is the place we held all of our meetings in the main city. The pastor's daughter had a miscarriage last year. It was her second one, so she is not working right now. However, since she "could" work, according to the government, she is fined \$80 per month. Her church hosted the leadership

meetings. About eighty people moved into her house, church, and yard for three days. She cooked for everyone, kept everything clean, and led worship. She had help but she worked hard. She has a two-bedroom apartment. Twenty people slept in one of the bedrooms.

It was awesome to see the hunger and desire the leaders had for more of God. There is a bond in the persecuted churches that I have not seen anywhere else in the world.

People traveled all night to come to the conference. Some walked eight kilometers and traveled by three or four different vehicles.

It took almost three days for me to build



trusting relationships. The people have not had many missionaries in that area. My understanding was that they have never had a female missionary in that area so they were not convinced I could handle all the meetings and the schedule. They were not too sure about me.

The Holy Spirit moved in a powerful way the first night. I noticed that, while they worshipped with all their heart, very few were filled with the Holy Spirit. I ministered on the fire of the Holy Spirit. About forty women got filled with the Holy Spirit. There were powerful manifestations of the Spirit. People were weeping before God. People were set free from bondages. Many were healed.

Saturday was a big day. I ministered for several hours. I started at 11:00 a.m. and finished at 10:00 p.m. with some breaks. In my first session I preached on the importance of occupying their nation for Jesus. I also preached about children being a blessing from the Lord – like arrows in the hands of warriors. Some of the women were really affected by this teaching. They were crying at the end. We prayed for our families and the youth of the country.

Many of the pastors' children are not serving God.

One of the amazing things about these meetings were the people who walked in off the street and got saved. This happened more than once.

On Monday morning we headed to a remote area to visit a church there. It is pastored by a husband and wife but the wife is clearly the one who takes care of the church and does most of the work. Her husband works in a rice field thirty kilometers away from their home. This was a

difficult meeting. The atmosphere was oppressed. I became bold and said, "I want every person here who is sick or has pain in their body to come up to the front. I am going to pray for you and Jesus is going to heal you!"

Several people responded and Jesus healed each one! First I prayed for an older lady. She had pain in her body including arthritis, stomach pain, and shoulder pain. Jesus instantly took her pain away. I prayed for a lady who had pain in her stomach and suffered from fibroid



tumors. She said the pain was gone. I prayed for a lady who had little lumps on her head and they hurt to touch. Jesus healed her.

On Tuesday the atmosphere was completely different. We visited a town where the men who live in the area are mostly in the military. This church experienced a lot of persecution in the beginning but now they have seen a breakthrough. The church is hidden in the backyard of the pastor. It was a sheltered area with a metal roof and some wooden benches.

About one hundred twenty people came from the community. I am thankful the Holy Spirit has taught me how to breakthrough when there is no outside help. I preached the simple Gospel message and had everyone's attention. Many think going to church makes them a Christian. I preached against this in my message. Almost everyone who came gave their lives to Jesus. It was powerful and beautiful. I could sense His presence there.

Wednesday was a wonderful day. I must admit I was a little nervous because the people all told me how hard it was to travel into the mountains. First we drove more than three hours through the mountains. When the road ended we walked down a path and across a small river. Then an ox cart was waiting for us. The cart took us through a bunch of mud and up a big hill. Then we decided to walk the rest of the way.

We arrived in a very small community. The pastor and his wife have given their lives to this primitive place with no bathrooms and houses made of thatched roofs. About fifty people were waiting for me under a shelter, which is considered their church. Many people were saved and healed of sicknesses.

God is constantly opening up doors for the Buffalo Dream Center to make an impact in nations of the world. When this newsletter arrives at your mailbox I will be departing to another country that has recently suffered intense persecution. Please consider supporting us as we proclaim the Gospel around the world.

GET READY FOR YOUR

HEALINGS WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE CREATIVE MIRACLES PROSPERITY SIGNS WONDERS

MIRACLE!

SUNDAY, JULY 21
@ 6 PM



BUFFALO DREAM CENTER
286 Lafayette Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14213

Child care for children 5 years & under.

For more information, please contact
the Buffalo Dream Center: (716) 854-1001

What You Need to Know About the Spirit Realm & Demonic Spirits

with special guest Judy Hrabb



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
9 AM - 1 PM

No Child Care
Light breakfast & lunch included.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

To register or for more information,
please contact the Buffalo Dream Center: (716) 854-1001.

DRIVING A VAN OF HOMELESS FRIENDS TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY

SKYLAR SHURR

I really didn't know what I was getting myself into at first. It started as a simple favor to pick up a few people from the bus station downtown and drive them to church. Easy right? I never would have thought that months after, if I had not accepted that responsibility, I would not have the stories to tell, the friends to cherish, and the testimonies to share.

At first it was not easy. I sometimes have to deal with difficult situations. There were times I needed to restrain people, times I needed to clean up all manner of messes, and times I needed to pull the van over and tell people if they did not stop arguing they could walk home. One of the most common arguments to break up usually involves who gets the front seat.

I began to learn their names, or street-names as some of them prefer. Metal Mike and Crazy Dave are among my favorite examples. I began to hear about their stories, what they have been through, and the trauma of what got them to this point in their lives. Some struggle with drugs and alcohol, although most of them would never admit it. Some of them have mental illness and never received the proper help from their friends or family. Some of them have had a personal crisis, like house fires, job loss, or a physical injury that they never recovered from.

Every single one of them have not only lost their way, but struggle to get back on their feet. Nearly everyone has lost hope. Some of the most common phrases I hear are, "No one cares about me" or "Everyone in my life has given up on me".

Mostly I hear, "I have been like this for years and I probably always will be this way." They have lived in hopelessness for so long that it is all they know.

I spent many hours doing research online, asking questions and praying for God to show me how to get people out of this poverty mentality. Soon enough I had the answer. It wasn't about providing them with food, money, or a job. All of these things are great, but the only way for them to truly get back on their feet is for them to experience the love of God. Once they realize that there is a God who loves them like His own children, who wants only the best for them, and who grieves about every time they are hurting and wants them to get better, that is when they begin to hope again. Only Jesus can set them free of their demons. Only He can heal them from their sicknesses and addictions. Only He can deliver them and get them back on their feet.

God needs us to love them as Jesus would have loved them. He needs us to treat them like family, remember their names, ask them about their day, listen to their stories, and pray for them. It's not always easy. Sometimes they act a little crazy. Sometimes they smell bad. Sometimes they can't go one sentence without dropping a four-letter word. Sometimes they are argumentative (especially when the front seat is taken when they called "shotgun"). But it means the world when you put those things aside and treat them like they are loved.

One day, while I was pulling up in front of the bus station, my heart sank as I noticed that another group of people changed their scheduled time to hand out free food. They were distributing food at the same time I usually pick up people for church. Not a single person was waiting for me. My first instinct was to approach the group, find out who was in charge, and demand that they go back to their original time. But God put a word on my heart. He said, "Don't work against them. Work with them." In the end the thing I thought could be the end of my ministry turned out to be the biggest blessing. One of the greatest difficulties was being able to round everyone up when I arrived with the van. Now with free food being handed out, everyone was always in the same place. Not only that, but because I was given permission to pull my van up right next to their operation, I was able to invite new members who have never been to the Dream Center before. God really has a way of working things out in ways you never imagined.



At first what was just a fifteen minute drive is now one of my favorite times of the week. People who used to just be passengers are now my family. Our ministry has grown so much that a few weeks ago I needed to make two trips to the bus station because there were so many people.

On the way back to the bus station one Sunday, after deescalating a situation where someone got upset because I didn't save the front seat for them, I asked, "What is it about the front seat that you feel the need to fight over it?" An elderly lady, who was seated in the highly sought after seat, replied, "Well, it's because the closer we get to sit to the front, the more we get to talk to you."

BDC OUTREACH CENTER CONTINUES TO HELP FAMILIES IN NEED

The BDC Outreach Center is the home of the Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry, Project Prevention, and Boxes of Love. Every week families are assisted with food. Throughout the year, furniture, household items, and other necessities are given to households in Buffalo and Niagara Falls. Every month the number of families served by the ministries of the BDC Outreach Center increases.

The BDC Outreach Center is not only helping families with food and household items, it has also become a place that provides food for other ministries.

Feed the Hungry recently donated two trucks filled with cookies and ramen noodles to

the Buffalo Dream Center. The donations were received at the BDC Outreach Center and the staff

immediately began to make plans to assist other food pantries and ministries. In one day, nine ministries from Buffalo to Pittsburgh picked up twenty-two pallets of food.

"The Outreach Center has always been part of our vision for the Buffalo Dream Center," says Pastor Eric. "Not only are we able to reach out to families in need, we are able to be a blessing to other ministries that come as far away as Pennsylvania and Ohio."

Currently it costs about \$1,700 per month to operate the BDC Outreach Center which touches the lives of thousands of people each month.



JOSEPH PROJECT MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SERVING HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES EVERY MONTH

Each month the Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry serves several hundred families at up to fifteen locations.

Dezmond and Emilie McClinton oversee the BDC Outreach Center and the Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry. Emilie said, "For a long time we didn't

were only two or three of us going out on the truck."

However, that all changed in March when Emilie made an announcement in church and the results were beyond her exceptions.

"We have had multiple people commit to helping us once or twice a month and some people have even committed to every week," said Emilie. "With all of the extra help we have been able to do so much more than just give out food. We have been able to go around the neighborhood

been able to pray for everyone that comes and help people get to their cars or homes with all of their groceries. It is so exciting to see other people catch the vision and the heart of the Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry."

The Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry continues to grow and assist more families in need of food.



have many people volunteering to help us distribute the food each week. Some weeks there

to let people know we are there, which has increased our numbers. We have also

Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry
APRIL 2019
360 Households
852 Individuals
7,668 Meals

TWO TEAMS DEPARTING FOR HONDURAS IN AUGUST

The Buffalo Dream Center is hosting two trips to Honduras in August. Each trip is different. The first trip, which takes place August 14-21, involves ministry in and around the capital city of Tegucigalpa. The second trip will be held August 22-30 and requires traveling to a remote destination on a mountain.

Both of these teams are filling up quickly. Please contact the Buffalo Dream Center if you would like to be a part of one of these trips.





BUFFALO DREAM CENTER
286 LAFAYETTE AVENUE
BUFFALO, NY 14213

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STILL TIME TO BE A PART OF THIS SUMMER'S OUTREACH IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

This summer promises to be an amazing time of ministry at the Buffalo Dream Center with outreaches like Kidz Club, street ministry, Project Prevention, and the mobile food pantry happening every week. Each day teams will reach children, the homeless, immigrant families, and others with the love of Jesus.

There are still a few weeks open for mission teams. Each year churches and youth groups choose Buffalo, New York as a summer mission trip destination. A week of ministry in the inner city will change your life! Teams from across the United States, Canada, and even nations overseas have brought people to the Buffalo Dream Center for week-long trips each summer. The cost for a one-week trip to Buffalo is only \$100 per person. This price does not include lodging, food, or transportation.

Another way to get involved is available to teenagers and young adults who want to sign up for Inner City Boot Camp, the Buffalo Dream Center's summer internship program. This year the program will take place from June 30 until August 11, 2019. Interns have opportunities to reach out to the homeless, prostitutes, drug addicts, children, youth, and others. The cost is only \$700 which includes lodging, food, and transportation.

Please contact the Buffalo Dream Center if you are interested in bringing a team or being a part of the internship program.



SUMMER NEEDED ITEMS

- Candy (not chocolate)
- Clown costumes
- Bubbles
- Plastics grocery bags
- Frisbees
- Individual bags of chips and snacks
- Jump ropes
- Granola bars
- Coloring books
- Juice boxes
- Crayons
- Travel size toiletries
- Colored pencils
- Trash bags
- Markers
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Play-Doh
- Cleaning products
- Nail polish
- (bleach, multi-purpose cleaner, etc.)
- Hot Wheels cars
- Small action figures
- Bouncy balls
- Note books
- Super Soakers
- Balloons
- Pens and pencils
- Sports equipment
- Game consoles (Xbox, Nintendo)