



MAKING A WINTER 2020 DIFFERENCE

THE BOTTOM LINE

PASTOR ERIC T. JOHNS

The following article was inspired by my friend, Pastor Mirek Hufton from World Harvest Church in Roswell, Georgia.

Michelle and I have the privilege of speaking in churches and leadership training seminars in the United States and around the world. Many times, pastors request that we train leaders in evangelism and encourage their congregations to reach the lost. In America it can be discouraging to see how many believers are not engaged in evangelism. So many people in the church have the mindset that Jesus died only for them. Many think that Jesus came to help them improve their lives. Everything is centered on them.

Today's preaching is designed to appeal to the selfishness of church members. For example, I have heard hundreds of messages about vision since my years as a Bible college student. Everyone is talking about their vision. But did you know God has a vision? Shouldn't we be more concerned with discovering His vision and making sure our vision lines up with His?

In Habakkuk 2:14 God revealed to us His vision for the earth. It reads, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea." Then Jesus reinforced this with His final words to the church before He ascended into heaven. He told us that we were called to make His vision come to pass by going into all the world and preaching the Gospel. In other words, Jesus did not come to die just for you. He came for the world and we are supposed to let them know about it.

Any church that is not reaching out to others with the love of Jesus is not a legitimate church. Our most important job is to win the world to Jesus! It is God's vision and we have to fulfill it.

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." This means God expects us to multitask. At the Buffalo Dream Center we realize that Jesus has called us to reach our city and the world at the same time. We cannot decide to reach our city first and then one day we will reach the world. We are called by God to do all of it. Evangelism and missions cannot be "side issues". We have to make God's priorities our priorities.

When you begin going into the world, you will not be content just sitting in church. You realize that God put you here to give Him a return on what He invested in you.

The Bible is not a book of promises. It is a book of covenant. If God just made promises to us, we would have no responsibility to do anything. But we are in a covenant with God. When we obey his Word, He blesses us. When we do something, God responds.

Most Christians I have met understand that God blesses people. We understand the top line. But we have very little knowledge of the bottom line. What do I mean by that? Most churches in North America only preach the top line – God wants you blessed. Pastors preach about how God wants to heal you, save your marriage, and find your purpose in life. All of this is good, but it is all top line.

Every blessing of God has both a top line and a bottom line. For example, the top line was that Daniel was delivered by the power of God from the lions' den. The bottom line is that King Darius and the Persian Empire discovered the reality of the true and living God.

The top line was that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were delivered from the fiery furnace. What was the bottom line? King Nebuchadnezzar recognized God and so did Babylon.

God's top line blessing occurred when Joseph was made the prime minister of Egypt. The bottom line was that he saved his own family and

the nations of the world. Jonah was saved by a fish. That was the top line. The bottom line was that Nineveh was brought to repentance and saved.

This is really what our covenant with God is all about. God is asking us to engage in the bottom line. However, we focus so much on the top line blessings that we forget about the bottom line. But we cannot neglect it. If we do that, Jesus cannot do what He wants to do in this world through us.

Why are we saved? Is it just so we can go to heaven? It is not just about getting to heaven. It is about reaching the world with the Gospel! We are saved and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can go to the nations.

Receiving Jesus is the top line. Going into the world and preaching the Gospel is the bottom line. Jesus is saying, "I saved you, healed you, and delivered you. Now go!"

We thank you for your support of the Buffalo Dream Center. Your gift enables us to go to the inner city and around the world. Together we are making a difference!

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CONTACT US

Worship Service
Sundays at 11:00 AM

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Buffalo, NY 14213

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BOXES OF LOVE BRINGS FOOD & TOYS TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

Boxes of Love was a great success as hundreds of volunteers packed bags of food, wrapped toys, and helped run distribution sites throughout Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

The Boxes of Love season began early this year as two hundred volunteers showed up at the BDC Outreach Center to pack three thousand bags of food over the course of two days. All of the bags of groceries were completed before Thanksgiving. This task was made possible by the generous donations of food from Feed the Hungry, Feed the Children, the Food Bank of Western New York, the Buffalo City Mission, and individuals and families.

Pastor Eric and his two sons, Alex and Nate, lived on the streets of Buffalo during the week of Thanksgiving. This was Pastor Eric's twenty-first year and the first time his sons

joined him for the entire week. The media coverage was excellent with interviews on network news stations and the radio. Several people from the community volunteered and donated toys as a result of the news stories this year. At one point, Boxes of Love was in need of one thousand toys. Spectrum News did a story that inspired many people to go shopping for toys. All throughout that week, people and organizations dropped off toys at the Buffalo Dream Center. The ministry received all of the toys it needed.

Thousands of people lined up at the various distribution sites. The largest site was at the Buffalo Dream Center. Once again Clothe Me Co-Op turned the church sanctuary into a

clothing store and gave coats, hats, and other articles of clothing to more than one thousand people. Rebecca, who organized and operated the clothing give-a-way said, "It was such a pleasure and blessing to partner with you again. It was great greeting all the amazing people who attended Boxes of Love."

Two teams traveled from Pennsylvania to help with the busy weekends and the delivery of more than sixty Boxes of Love to the homes of families who were unable to make it to distribution sites.

For the past few years, the Buffalo Police Department has given permission for the Buffalo Dream Center to take over the downtown bus station with a special Boxes of Love distribution. Many of the homeless enjoyed free snacks, Christmas carols, and worship as a choir lifted up Jesus inside the bus station!

Once again the churches of Western New York showed what they could do as they worked together. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and money to make it all possible. Plans are already being made for next year's Boxes of Love campaign.



CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY FOR THE HOMELESS AND FAMILIES IN NEED

Music, games, prizes, homemade lasagna, and a powerful message about Jesus were all parts of the Christmas Eve outreach at the Buffalo Dream Center.

For many years the Buffalo Dream Center has partnered with Hearts for the Homeless to make sure the homeless and families in need have a special dinner on Christmas Eve. This year about one hundred volunteers helped serve the food to the people. Two buses were rented and filled to capacity with people living on the



streets. Others walked from the neighborhood surrounding the Dream Center.

Lou and Joanne Williams have been cooking the special meal for more than a decade.

They arrived at the Dream Center with hot trays of lasagna. Clay Handi Restaurant supplied the Halal chicken biryani for the Muslim families who attended the meal.

All of the children who attended received a wrapped Christmas gift. Dinners were even packaged in containers and taken by volunteers to an apartment building for seniors.

The crowd enjoyed the program and was especially attentive during the message of salvation. More than sixty people gave their lives to Jesus at the event.

WHAT HAPPENED THIS YEAR AT BOXES OF LOVE

 <p>2,500 FAMILIES RECEIVED FOOD & TOYS</p>	 <p>MORE THAN 7,000 PEOPLE RECEIVED FOOD</p>
<p>20 DISTRIBUTION SITES IN BUFFALO & NIAGARA FALLS</p> 	<p>1,135 PEOPLE RECEIVED COATS, HATS, GLOVES, & SOCKS FROM CLOTHE ME CO-OP AT THE BUFFALO DREAM CENTER'S DISTRIBUTION SITE</p> 
 <p>MORE THAN 600 VOLUNTEERS FROM NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, NORTH CAROLINA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, CALIFORNIA, HONDURAS, & CANADA</p>	 <p>10 MINISTRIES IN NEW YORK & PENNSYLVANIA WERE ASSISTED WITH FOOD</p>

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WE NEED PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS!



The new law in New York State banning plastic grocery bags at supermarkets makes it difficult for us to collect the thousands of bags we need every year to serve families in Western New York. Please consider dropping off bags and asking your local supermarket manager to donate a case or two to help the Buffalo Dream Center.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER BRING THE GOSPEL TO PAKISTAN

MICHELLE JOHNS

Just before Christmas Mikayla and I had the honor of ministering in the nation of Pakistan. God moved powerfully on our trip. We spent two weeks in the city of Karachi sharing the love of Jesus with more than four thousand people. Karachi is one of the largest metropolises in the world with a population of nearly twenty-four million people. It is considered the world's largest Muslim city and one of the world's most dangerous places.

During our two-week stay, we ministered in churches, schools, villages, women's meetings, youth meetings, a nurse's college, and held an evangelistic meeting outside on a street. We also recorded eleven television shows for Shine Star TV. Shine Star TV is a satellite network which can be watched in eighty-one countries around the world. Many people gave their lives to Jesus, were set free, and healed while watching.

One of the highlights of the trip for me was teaching six seminars on the power of the Holy Spirit. These seminars were attended by more than two thousand people. Hundreds of believers were filled with the Holy Spirit. Many times we stood back at the end of these seminars and watched the Holy Spirit move in a powerful way in the lives of believers.

More than fifty percent of the nation of Pakistan is under the age of nineteen. Everywhere we went, and in every meeting, Mikayla encouraged and challenged



the young people to pursue the call of God on their lives. Many young people were stirred up to do something great for God.

One day we traveled to a Hindu village. There are about two hundred fifty people living in the village. More than one hundred fifty of the people from the village came to our outreach. We worked with a local pastor who is planting a church there. Everyone who came listened to the message of the Gospel with open hearts and nearly everyone responded to the Gospel by giving their lives to Jesus. Then we prayed for the sick. Nearly everyone in the village was sick mostly because of their very dirty drinking water. One little girl I prayed for had pain in her shoulder and neck. Jesus healed her. She started moving her arm up and down and she was smiling and so very happy. We spent a lot of time praying for people individually, hugging the ladies, and loving on them. Some of them were so shy and they had not seen a foreigner before. We handed out treats to the children. We also fed everyone at the end of the meeting. The village was changed by the power of Jesus and everyone was full of joy by the end of the day.

On another night a street was blocked off in a predominately Muslim neighborhood and we held an evangelistic meeting. Several hundred people attended the meeting. We worked with a pastor who is planting a church in the neighborhood. A lot of people gave their lives to Jesus at the meeting. Jesus touched and healed many people as

well. I had a word of knowledge about someone with severe chest pains and it hurt particularly when they breathed. The man was sitting right in front of me. Jesus completely healed him and took away all the pain. He was so happy and he rededicated his life to Jesus. At the end another lady shared that Jesus healed her of severe shoulder pain. Many other people testified that Jesus healed them. Then a couple of days later, on Sunday morning, we ministered in the new church. The church was meeting on the roof of a believer's house near where we had the outreach. More than three hundred people came to church that Sunday. There were many first time visitors because of the evangelistic meeting we had done earlier in the week. Many were touched by Jesus!

Then on the same Sunday, in the evening, we did a youth meeting. It was so powerful. More than three hundred young people squeezed in a tiny church. I shared and Mikayla was the main speaker. The youth were filled with the Holy Spirit and fired up to do something great for God. At the end we prayed for all the young people who felt a calling to the ministry. The Holy Spirit moved powerfully. Nobody wanted to end the meeting. The youth just kept worshipping God with dancing and singing for more than an hour after we were done. There was such freedom in the meeting. For more than a week after the meeting the pastor we worked with was still receiving calls and messages from young people sharing testimonies about what God did in their lives that night.

I am thankful to God for the opportunity to train and equip believers in the nation of Pakistan and to go and preach the Gospel there as well. God is moving in the nation. The harvest is ripe in Pakistan. It is time to bring in the harvest.

MISSIONARIES MOVE TO BUFFALO

Don and Beth Kytka have been missionaries for many years. They served with Youth with a Mission in Liberia. Later they were sent to Brazil by their home church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While in Brazil they were involved in church planting and preached the Gospel in six cities in the interior.

They recently returned to the USA from Brazil. Upon their return, God spoke to them to

move to Buffalo to be a part of the Buffalo Dream Center. The work being done at the Buffalo Dream Center is similar to many of the things Don and Beth were doing on the mission field. Don and Beth have already moved to Buffalo and plan on staying. They have begun to help with several ministries and are going to be involved in pioneering some new programs such as Celebrate Recovery.

If you would like to receive updates from Don and Beth, please contact us at the Buffalo Dream Center. We can add you to their email updates and their newsletter mailing list.



THE FIRST KIDZ CLUB, MIRACLES, AND SALVATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Pastor Eric, Michelle, and three of their children, Mikayla, Alex, and Nate traveled to Guatemala to join Pastor Steve and Karla Stoffelsen from House of Refuge Street Ministries. Mikayla will be staying until June as a full-time missionary.

After preaching for a few days in the city of Chiquimulilla, the team traveled to El Salvador where they held four meetings in three churches. The Johns children held a special meeting for youth and young adults. Pastor Eric and Michelle taught a seminar about the authority every believer has in prayer. Those attending the seminar engaged in powerful prayer for El Salvador and Central America.

The team of twelve people from Buffalo, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania arrived the next week and hit the ground running! After traveling all day, they threw their suitcases in their bedrooms and took part in the first service at the House of Refuge. Many were saved and touched by God, including a man who was blind in one eye. He rejoiced as God opened his eye!

God did great things at every church. During one evening, the team divided into groups and held three church services simultaneously.

One of the most exciting things to do in Central America is to preach the Gospel in schools. The team held two special programs in schools. It was amazing to see children give their lives to Jesus and receive healing. Mikayla Johns recalls what happened in one of these outreaches held in a high school. She said, "We ministered in a high school and many of the students got on their knees and were crying out to God. They didn't care that their friends were watching

because God was moving in such a powerful way."

House of Refuge Street Ministries is known for its outreach to prostitutes, their families, and the homeless. The team went into the streets. While the men on the team gave bread and coffee to the homeless men, the ladies invited prostitutes and their children to the Friends of Jesus Breakfast the next day. Thirty-six women, along with many of their children, attended the breakfast. The men on the team took charge of the children's ministry, while the women ministered to the ladies. Twenty-two women gave their lives to Jesus! The women and children departed from the breakfast with special gift bags put together by the team.

God put a vision in Mikayla's heart to pioneer a new Kidz Club in Chiquimulilla. The neighborhood chosen by Mikayla is a maze of small houses with hundreds of families living in poor conditions. The team went

into the neighborhood armed with candy and flyers, inviting the children to Kidz Club. A few days later, the outreach was attended by two hundred people including children and parents! It was held in the perfect place – a basketball court with a large roof which provided shade from the hot sun. There were even electrical outlets for the sound system!

It was an amazing day. Several of the young adults from Guatemala came to help. A small carnival was held first. Face painting, games, bubbles, crafts, and other things helped draw the large crowd. Then, the children sat on tarps and enjoyed a program which included a clown, games, songs, and a powerful Gospel message. There were even piñatas at the end of the day. Many children and their parents gave their lives to Jesus! Mikayla is currently meeting with pastors in Chiquimulilla in order to get other churches involved. She plans on putting together a team and holding Kidz Club on a regular basis. As she does this, she will train her team to continue Kidz Club when she returns to Buffalo in June.

The trip ended with a large outreach at the House of Refuge. The street was blocked off, a stage was set up, and hundreds of tamales were prepared to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of House of Refuge Street Ministries. Approximately three hundred people attended. Many gave their lives to Jesus and testified that they were healed. Several deaf ears opened along with others healed of various pains and diseases. A little girl was healed of severe asthma.

In total twenty-five meetings and outreaches were held in El Salvador and Guatemala! Many encountered the love of Jesus and will never be the same.



TESTIMONIES FROM GUATEMALA

BARB

"Every church service and outreach we did people were touched by God and many were healed. It was also a great privilege to be part of the very first Kidz Club in Guatemala. That neighborhood will never be the same."

LESLIE

"One thing that really touched my heart is when one of the men who helps out at the House of Refuge said, 'Every time a Buffalo Dream Center team comes, Chiquimulilla becomes better.'"

KEVIN

"This trip to Guatemala was my first mission trip ever. I was expecting something new from God and He did not fail to deliver. I encourage anyone who has never gone to a foreign county to go. God can work through you in ways you never imagined."

MIKAYLA

"It always amazes me when a group of people from different backgrounds and different places can join together and make such an impact on a nation. We saw blind eyes opened, a little girl get healed from

severe asthma, deaf ears opened, and pain leave people's bodies. When we move the Holy Spirit moves with us."

TONY

"It was a pleasure and honor to be able to go on the mission trip to Guatemala with the Buffalo Dream Center team. I was so happy to a part of the very first Kidz Club event where more than two hundred children and parents came. There was so much excitement from the children and you could see the happiness it was bringing the parents also."



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BUILDING REPAIRS & RENOVATIONS AS 2020 BEGINS

When the Buffalo Dream Center moved from its downtown location to Lafayette Avenue on the west side, there was much work to be done. Church members and volunteers worked day and night for ten weeks to get the building ready for the first Sunday service. Since that time, many projects have been completed in the facility.



The three floors of the Buffalo Dream Center have had improvements in every area. Professionals and volunteers have done electrical work, plumbing, painting, dry wall, and many other things. Half of the roof has been redone along with work on the courtyard and drainage.

During February and March Pastor Eric and Michelle would like to see some major projects accomplished in the basement. The basement of the Buffalo Dream Center has more activity than

any area of the building. It is used nearly every day of the week for programs such as Kidz Club and Teen Impact.

The free meals served at Table of Grace happen in the basement. Other programs are also held in



the building. Buffalo Strings fills the building three times each week with inner city children learning to play violin. Queen City Homeschool Co-Op, takes over the entire facility every Tuesday with classes and special activities for homeschooling families.

Due to water damage in the past, the basement is in need of repairs. Last year a sump pump was installed which took care of nearly all of the water problems in the basement. However, another sump pump needs to be installed. Bathrooms need repair work. The game room, which is used by all of the groups needs walls repaired and a new paint job.

It will take approximately \$50,000 to do

most of these jobs in the basement. Please consider giving a donation to help us renovate the basement. Hundreds of people are reached with the love of Jesus every month at the Buffalo Dream Center. Many of those people, especially children, youth, and the homeless

use the basement area. Your gift will help us continue to run programs in this area of the building.