

this issue

- More Power
Through Serving Others **P.1**
- Inner City Boot Camp **P.2**
- Summer Mission Teams
& Interns at the BDC **P.3**
- Ninety Families Visited **P.3**
- Thousands Hear the
Good News in India **P.4**
- Discipleship Is the Key **P.6**



If I could tell you right now the key to walking in a greater anointing, would you want to know? But what if you did not like the answer? What if it was more difficult than you thought?

I have been around church people since I was twelve years old. During that time I have seen all kinds of different things happen during services. Several times I have heard preachers invite people to receive a double-portion of the anointing. But is it really that easy? Is it possible for someone to just put their hands on me and I am infused with twice as much anointing as they possess?

The story of Elijah and Elisha is one of my favorite parts

of the Bible.

Before Elijah was going to be taken into

heaven by fiery

chariots, Elisha stayed with him step by step. He did not leave his side. Then Elisha asked Elijah for a double-portion of anointing. What exactly was he asking for? Did he want twice as much anointing as Elijah? Of course not! Elisha wanted twice as much anointing as the other prophets would receive. He wanted the inheritance of the firstborn.

According to the Old Testament, if a man had two sons, instead of splitting the inheritance fifty-fifty, he had to divide it into three parts, giving two-thirds to the firstborn and the one-third to the second born son. The firstborn son received a double portion of the inheritance.

People have mistakenly believed that the double portion means twice as much. We are even

MORE POWER THROUGH SERVING OTHERS

Pastor Eric Johns

laying hands on people to receive the double portion in our church services, thinking that it means we have twice as much anointing as the guy who laid his hands on us!

It cannot possibly be that easy. Even Elijah told Elisha that he asked for a difficult thing.

But doesn't the Bible tell us that Elisha did twice as many miracles as Elijah? Not really. This is only true if you include the resurrection of the dead man who was thrown into Elisha's grave. Elisha never called fire down from heaven. Elijah did that three times. Elisha was not taken to heaven in a whirlwind. He did not appear on the Mount of Transfiguration with Moses and Jesus. Elisha is not spoken of as an end-time prophetic figure.

Elisha definitely did not have twice as much anointing as Elijah.

What

set Elisha up for

the double portion? The

answer to that question is found in what happened during the twenty years previous to Elisha asking for the double portion. What did Elisha do for twenty years? He served and supported Elijah. He was faithful to him. Serving the man of God put him in the place to receive the double portion.

Even when it was time for him to enter fully into the ministry of the prophet, he was known as the man who "poured water on the hands of Elijah."

I never understood people who attend church but do not serve. They are missing out on an incredible blessing. Many people give their lives

...continued on page 2

**As I look at the church today
and see the incredible task that lies before us,
I am convinced that the next generation
needs a greater anointing.**

contact us

BUFFALO DREAM CENTER

Worship Service
Sundays at 11:00 AM

Located at:
The Buffalo Christian Center
512 Pearl Street

DREAM CENTER OFFICE

The Buffalo Christian Center
512 Pearl Street - 3rd floor

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

facebook

facebook.com/BuffaloDreamCenter

to Jesus and then ask, "God, now that I am saved, what do You want me to do?" Should that be the question? A better question would be this – "God, now that I am saved, who do You want me to serve?"

As I look at the church today and see the incredible task that lies before us, I am convinced that the next generation needs a greater anointing. During these times there is going to be a greater harvest than ever before. We are going to impact nations for the Kingdom of God. But it is going to take a greater anointing.

How are we going to come up to the next level? How are our spiritual sons and daughters going to take the world for Jesus? They need a greater anointing. The key to that anointing is serving.

In order to serve effectively we must get rid of selfishness. Jesus told us how to do this when He explained what it would take to follow Him. It requires self-denial.

During Michelle's recent trip to Pakistan, she took a picture of a poster hanging in a church.

It was an advertisement for the church's "Self Denial Conference". We both wondered what would happen if that conference was advertised in America. Would people be interested? Would anyone attend? Probably not.

Much of North American Christianity has a foundation of selfishness. What is in it for me? What can Jesus do for my marriage? How do I walk in financial blessing? Although I believe there are a lot of benefits to a life with Jesus, these are not the reasons I gave my life to Him. I was on my way to Hell. I needed a Savior!

We even "choose" what church we attend based on selfishness. We enjoy the worship. We like the ministry for our children. It is less than fifteen minutes from our house. Then, as soon as the pastor preaches something we do not agree with or confronts the sin in our lives, we walk out of the door to find another place that "meets our needs".

The ironic thing is that Jesus taught us that Christianity has nothing to do with ourselves. Actually, it is the complete opposite. In Matthew, chapter sixteen, Jesus said, "If anyone desires to

come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

The word "deny" means to disown. The word "loses" means to destroy fully or die.

We must realize that Jesus desires for us to disown ourselves and die. That is what he has called us to do. This is also what is required of me if I am going to serve. There is no place for selfishness in my life if I am going to serve others. This is especially true if God wants me to lay aside my own vision and serve the vision of someone else. Like Elisha, if I dedicate myself to do this, I set myself up for a greater anointing.

Instead of praying for more power, maybe we should find someone to serve. As we pour out our lives to help others, God will pour His Spirit out on us. Serving others attracts the power of God.

A portion of this article was inspired by the book From Holy Laughter to Holy Fire by Dr. Michael Brown.

HONDURAS 2014

June 18 - 25

\$500.00 plus airfare

Includes: all meals, lodging, transportation, and ministry expenses.
Excludes: \$40.00 airport tax when leaving the country, travel expenses to and from Honduras, and spending money.

All ages are welcome. You Must Have
 Children 12 years and under A Passport
 must be accompanied by an adult.

- Ministry Opportunities**

 - Build a house for a homeless family
 - Visit the elderly and handicapped
 - School outreaches
 - Village outreaches
 - Feed and minister to people in the garbage dumps

For an application and more information call Michelle at (716)563-6511 or email ericandmichellejohns@verizon.net



INNER CITY
BOOT CAMP

SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

July 5 - August 3, 2014

This program is designed for teens and young adults who desire to be trained for leadership in the Body of Christ and serve God at a greater level. During the one-month program participants will learn from Pastor Eric and Michelle Johns. They will have hands-on experience leading teams from across America and diving into ministries to children, the homeless, and families living in poverty.

COST: \$500.00

Cost includes living expenses, meals, and transportation while in Buffalo.

Email information@buffalodreamcenter.org for more information and to receive an application.

MISSION TEAMS AND INNER CITY INTERN PROGRAM PLANNED FOR THIS SUMMER

Summer is always packed full of ministry. Plans are already being made to make the greatest impact possible on the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls. The schedule is filling up with teams from across America and Canada. Youth, college, and church groups are booking short-term mission trips to the inner city.

Teams that travel to Buffalo in the summer experience ministry to children, the homeless, and families living in poverty. They have the opportunities to reach out to people in Buffalo and Niagara Falls. Kidz Club, Project Prevention, Adopt-A-Block, and the Magdalene Project are just some of the ministries in which teams get involved.

This summer the Buffalo Dream Center is holding its first intern program. Young people who sign up for this program will take part in the various ministries of the Dream Center and will assist with leading mission teams during the month of July. They will also have special times of training and impartation with Pastor Eric, Michelle, and other leaders at the Dream Center. The cost for

this program is \$500.00. This covers all meals, transportation, and living arrangements.

If you are interested in bringing a group for a mission trip or joining the intern program

please contact the Buffalo Dream Center as soon as possible.



PROJECT PREVENTION ASSISTS NINETY FAMILIES IN ONE DAY

Kenmore Alliance Church brought a team of thirty teens for one week in February to the Buffalo Dream Center. They took part in many areas of inner city ministry including Adopt-A-Block, working in a soup kitchen, holding a chapel service at a homeless shelter, and Kidz Club. At Kidz Club the team helped host the Kidz Club Olympics. The bus was packed full of children who arrived at the Dream Center to compete in relay races, scavenger hunts, and wacky games.

The highlight of the week was when the team took part in Project Prevention. This ministry targets families living in poverty by providing food, furniture, and household items. The families, many of them refugees, are also mentored and assisted with all the new things they have to learn about living in the United States.

The group divided into six teams and drove throughout Buffalo,

spending one day meeting the needs of families. A truck carried furniture and other large items. Vans and cars carried team members, along with groceries, toiletries, and diapers for families with infants and babies. At the end of

the day, ninety families were directly assisted through the ministry of Project Prevention.



THOUSANDS HEAR THE GOOD NEWS IN INDIA

India remains the most unreached nation of the world, with more than two thousand ethnic groups who have not heard the Gospel. In January, Pastor Eric and Michelle Johns took four of their children to India for five weeks. Many people were impacted as the family traveled more than six thousand kilometers to thirty-two villages and cities.

The Johns family was joined by four others during the first two weeks of the trip. The team included Meredith and Joanne, two ladies from the Buffalo area, Jordan, from Pittsburgh, and Tom, Pastor Eric's father.

The team arrived in Chennai where they spent time with a missionary family from Canada. They also visited the Boys Home of Hope, the orphanage founded by Bob and Katherine Hoover. They spent the day with the boys and held an outreach for the children living in the village. Many of the children gave their lives to Jesus. They also held a special meeting in a school assembly. More than six hundred children attended.

In Chennai, Pastor Eric and Michelle made arrangements for the driver and vehicle, a mini-bus called a "Tempo Traveler". Their driver, Veera, was with the Johns family the entire five weeks. He was also their driver on their previous trip in 2011. During this trip, however, Veera was more than a driver; he was a member of the team. He often played a role in the children's festivals and attended morning devotions with the team.

"In 2011, my boss told me that I had to drive for one month for a Christian family from America," said Veera. "I don't like Christian people. But God played a game with me. The first day I went with them to Tirupati, I feel a difference between other Christians and the Johns family. They are very friendly with me. They also care for orphans. I did not see only Christian children at the orphanage, but also Hindu children. Being with them and seeing how they care for people, I feel the power of Jesus. I have many happy times in my life now since knowing this family. Thank God for showing me the Johns family."

Veera is now a believer in Jesus and has begun his own travel company. His wife, mother, and son all traveled to the airport to say "good-bye" to the Johns family when they departed from India.

Veera and his team of ten people traveled from Chennai to the state of Andhra Pradesh. In that state the team visited three main cities and many surrounding villages. In Tirupati the team had more than one opportunity to preach the Gospel in children's prisons. They also gave away food and candy in two slum areas. These places were the homes for some of the lowest caste people in India – rag pickers. After distributing the food and candy, Michelle shared the Gospel in each of these places.

The team also shared the Gospel in a nursing school in Tirupati. They

spent an entire afternoon playing games with the children at the Center of Hope, an orphanage in Tirupati. For most of the team, this was their favorite part of the trip.

"When we arrived at the Center of Hope in Tirupati, the girls ran up to me and hugged me," said Michelle. "This is not something that people usually do in India. They kept calling me 'Mom'."

In Vijayawada, Pastor Sagar wanted to have an outdoor children's festival. To his knowledge, there had never been one in Vijayawada before. He scheduled it for a day the children were off of school for a Hindu holiday. Six hundred children and adults showed up for the festival. The plan was for the team to hold a one-hour program, feed all of the children lunch, and then have one more hour.

At the end of the first hour, just as hundreds of children were praying to give their lives to Jesus, several police officers stormed the tent and began yelling for the team to show them their passports. The team members hurried through the crowd to the Tempo Traveler. Veera hit the gas pedal and they escaped!

It was discovered later that a member of a radical Hindu organization called the police. The complaint was that foreigners were



converting Hindu children to Christianity. The local pastors told Pastor Eric and Michelle that these kinds of things were happening more frequently due to the increased growth of Christianity. More people are giving their lives to Jesus and the persecution has increased. Just after the Johns family returned home, a missionary who had been doing work in India for more than thirty years was arrested.

Much ministry also happened in the vicinity of Guntur. It was also here that the team was able to spend time at another orphanage, also called the Center of Hope. They held a program for the children, played games with them, and planted coconut trees.

On their last day in Guntur the team traveled to a remote village area to hold a large children's festival. Many adults also attended this meeting which took place on the side of a main road. Taxi drivers stopped their cars to listen to the Gospel. Hundreds of people gave their lives to Jesus.

After traveling back to Chennai, the team departed for America. The Johns family took a few days off, visiting friends in Chennai. Pastor Eric and Michelle preached in church

meetings while Emilie, Mikayla, Alex, and Nate held programs for the children. Michelle had the opportunity to preach at a large congregation at a Nepali church.

Soon the Johns family hit the road again. They traveled across Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu holding leadership seminars. They were able to train nine hundred fifty pastors and leaders at seven conferences. These special days were designed to teach about the importance of reaching children with the Gospel. A children's outreach followed each conference.

Three of these seminars were held in the remote areas, where nobody has ever gone to train pastors. In one place, the conference was held in the only church building in a territory containing three hundred villages. There were forty pastors at the conference along with Sunday school teachers and other leaders. The forty pastors hold services in their homes. That means there were approximately two hundred sixty villages without any church in that area.

Pastors Sagar and Arul, made sure the

Johns family stayed busy. Not only were they holding pastors' conferences, they were also traveling to remote villages every evening. In one of

these villages, there were many people healed of various diseases. Several people were instantly healed of arthritis. After one meeting, as the Johns family walked

India 2014

9,000 People
Heard the Gospel of Jesus

74 Meetings

32 Cities & Villages

6,000 Kilometers Traveled

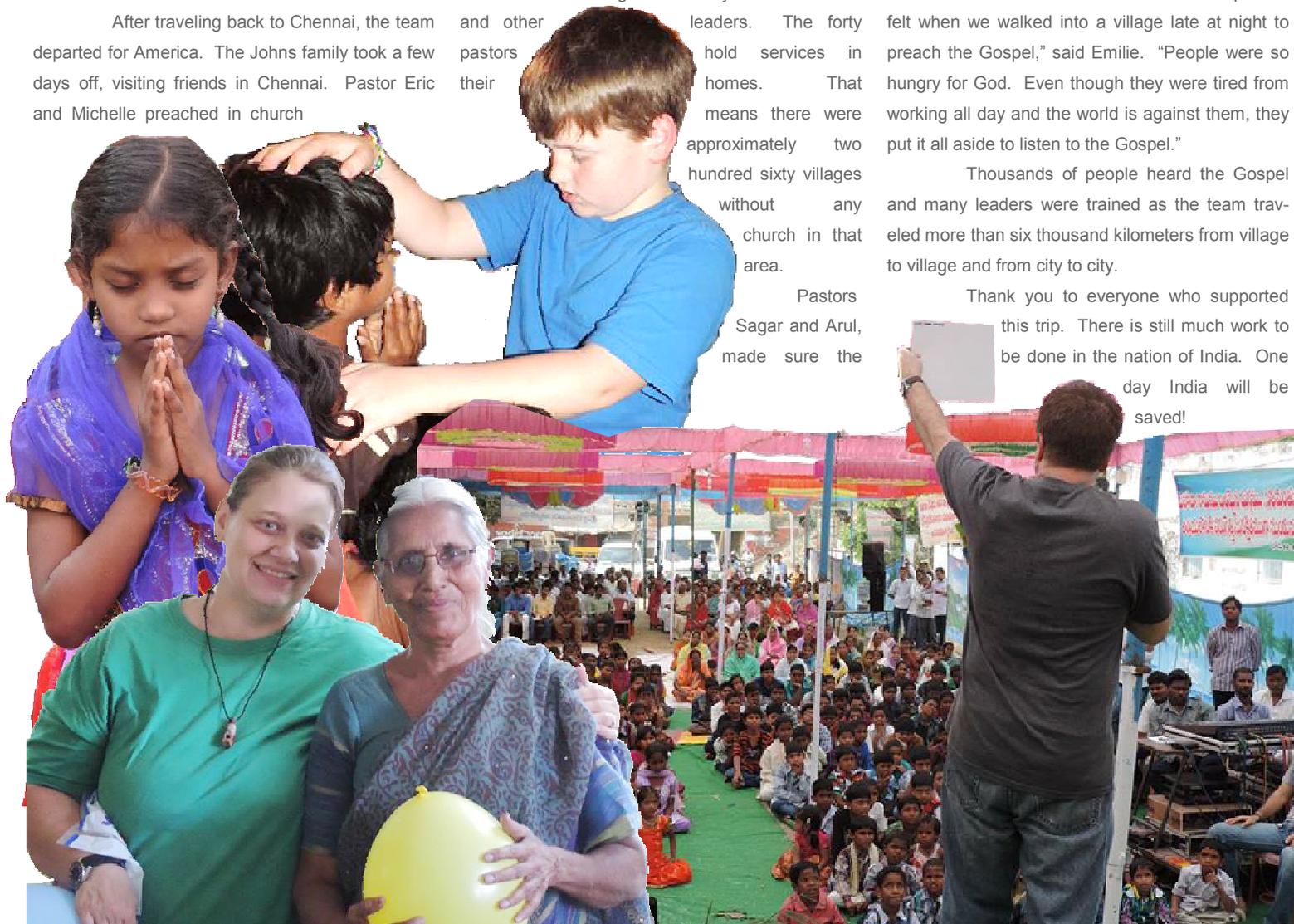
950 Pastors & Leaders Trained

down a path to depart on the Tempo Traveler, some people brought a man who could not stand up and walk. Pastor Eric and Michelle stopped walking and prayed for the man. He got up off of the ground and walked away!

"What I loved most was the atmosphere I felt when we walked into a village late at night to preach the Gospel," said Emilie. "People were so hungry for God. Even though they were tired from working all day and the world is against them, they put it all aside to listen to the Gospel."

Thousands of people heard the Gospel and many leaders were trained as the team traveled more than six thousand kilometers from village to village and from city to city.

Thank you to everyone who supported this trip. There is still much work to be done in the nation of India. One day India will be saved!



DISCIPLESHIP: THE KEY TO CHANGING LIVES

Most of the young people at the Buffalo Dream Center, whose lives have been changed, will tell you that they were not changed by a program. The key to seeing complete transformation in someone's life is discipleship. Building relationships with people is the most important thing that can take place.

Every Tuesday night discipleship groups are held for boys and girls. Barb has been teaching the girls group. Recently, when asked about the group she said, "The girls and I are doing a Bible study on how the presence of Jesus changes everything. Each week we are studying the different stories in the New Testament where women encountered Jesus. We are looking at the impact it made on their lives and how



they responded to that encounter." Barb says that it has been a great experience teaching the young ladies each Tuesday night, because they are hungry to learn. They come with a lot of questions.

"I am blessed to be a part of their lives. My prayer is that each one of us will become hungrier for the presence of Jesus and that we will respond to Him and let Him impact our lives."

Home visits are also an important part of mentoring young people. Throughout the week staff and volunteers at the Buffalo Dream Center spend time visiting children and teenagers. They also assist them with homework and study.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

