

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BUFFALO DREAM CENTER | SPRING 2016

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PREPARING A CITY FOR AN INVASION

PASTOR ERIC JOHNS

I desire more of God's presence. This desire is constantly stirring inside of me. As the pastor of the Buffalo Dream Center, I have been preaching about this desire for many months. The church has been on a journey to experience God's presence in a deeper way. It has been motivated by a hunger for Him.

Hunger is a sign of spiritual health. It is also a sign of natural health. If we do not have an appetite, there could be something wrong with us. But there is a difference between physical and spiritual hunger. In the natural, you get hungry by not eating. In the Kingdom of God, the more you eat, the hungrier you become.

Overall, I believe there is a lack of hunger in America. Many Christians are content with going to church for one hour each Sunday. They are not thinking about the things of God throughout the week. There is no hunger for more of God's presence.

I have found that spiritual hunger has some amazing qualities.

First of all, hunger enables us to dream and push the boundaries. Hunger has "pushing power". Isaiah 29:8 tells us that hungry people dream. Hunger releases dreams. Those who have no passion and have lost their desire for life are not dreaming. They are not hungry.

Hunger drives you to pursue something that you want to acquire. It motivates you to a destination.

Proverbs 6:30 reads, "People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving." It is wrong to steal. But the Bible tells us that in

this situation, at least people understand why he did it. Hunger motivated him to push the boundaries. Hunger causes people to move outside of what seems safe. Hunger has a motivational characteristic that causes people to move out of themselves into something greater.

Hunger also has "pulling power". There is something about hunger that "pulls" on heaven. Faith has that same power. Faith pulls on the resources of heaven. Hunger does the same thing. Actually, when you are walking by faith, you are also hungry.

We want His presence. We cannot be satisfied with just preaching about it and having a few prayer meetings. We must hunger for more. After that, we need to hunger for more. Then we need to hunger for more and more! It is important that we remain in a

constant state of hunger.

One of my favorite people to read about is Smith Wigglesworth. He was a plumber who was impacted by the presence of God. He became a great preacher

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and was known for the incredible miracles that occurred when he prayed for people. He knew how to pull on heaven with faith and hunger.

In London, he stood up in the front of a bus and preached to all the passengers. He then laid his hands on the people; many of them wept and were radically touched by God. Another time, while sitting in a passenger compartment on a train, Smith took out his Bible and silently read and prayed. Even though he didn't say one word, the five strangers who were sitting in the compartment ...continued on page 2

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Worship Service
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Buffalo, NY 14201

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with him were gripped with terrible fear. One of the men asked him what was going on, and Smith was able to explain the way of salvation. Then all five people sitting next to him knelt down on the floor and accepted Jesus.

What is that? That is God's presence! Hungry people pull on the reality of the Kingdom of God and change the environment in which they live.

The closer we get to God, the more we love people. You cannot have a hunger for God and forget about the people who are living without Him. Pursuing God's presence leaves me both fulfilled and broken. God's presence fills me, but His love and compassion for those lost in my city overwhelms me. If I love God with all of my heart, I

will be compelled to do something to reach people with the Gospel.

In Scripture, God's presence is compared to a river. God gives you a river, not so that it can only fill you, but so that it can flow through you.

Because of this love for people, God gives the hungry a special privilege. Psalm 107:35, 36 tells us, "He turns a wilderness into pools of water, and dry land into water springs. There He makes the hungry dwell, that they may establish a city for a dwelling place."

The hungry are given the assignment of establishing a city! The word "establish" means to fix, prepare, and get ready. This is my desire for the Buffalo Dream Center. I want to be a part of

getting Buffalo ready for an invasion of God's presence. God entrusts the destiny of our city to the hungry.

Whatever God does in a city will begin with the church. But it must begin with a hungry church. We need Christians who will push the boundaries and pull on heaven by faith. We cannot be satisfied with religion. As a matter-of-fact, we should have a hatred for religion. We need an invasion of God's power and His presence. When the river of His presence invades the church, it will flow into our cities, bringing people to Jesus!

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN THE NEW LOCATION

The Buffalo Dream Center celebrated one-year at their new location on Lafayette Avenue, in the heart of Buffalo's west side. A lot has happened since the Dream Center moved their ministry from downtown to the west side.

"Although we reached out to many neighborhoods for more than twenty years, we had never experienced having our church building in a neighborhood," said Pastor Eric. "Now that we are a part of a neighborhood, we have to rethink some of the ministries we do in order to reach the people surrounding the Dream Center."

A recent story shows the impact that the Dream Center in having on families living near the church. Adopt-A-Block teams go out into the neighborhood with food, rakes, shovels, and garbage bags. As they clean the neighborhood, opportunities arise to build relationships with people.

Recently, on a Saturday morning, a team approached a man who was walking down the street with his children. They offered him some snacks and invited him to church. He did not act interested, but thanked the team. On Sunday morning, the man came with all five of his children. They also showed up at Kidz Club on Thursday. The father let Pastor Eric know that he was a Muslim and was only attending the Dream Center because his children loved it.

One Sunday morning, after Pastor Eric preached his message, he had a word of knowledge about someone with a hernia. The Muslim man responded and was healed by Jesus!

After the service, he held Pastor Eric's hands and said, "I was a Muslim, but I feel the love of Jesus in this place. My children also feel that same love."

The bus continues to travel on its route throughout the city every Sunday and Thursday. Kidz Club takes place every Thursday afternoon. For the first time since the move to the west side, the children walking from the surrounding neighborhood outnumbered the children riding the bus. Pastor Eric and Michelle were encouraged by the impact that is being made in the neighborhood.

The highest crime area of the city is located just two blocks from the church. Volunteers

have been reaching out to prostitutes, gang members, and the homeless during Late Night Street Ministry. Many people have been touched by God as the teams distributed food, coffee, and offered prayer.

The building itself needed a lot of repairs. During the past year much has been accomplished. A new roof has been put over the church auditorium section. The inside of the church received a fresh coat of paint and water damage on many of the walls has been fixed. Still, there is much to do, but the people of the Buffalo Dream Center are happy to be right where God wants them to be.



UNREACHED AREAS OF PAKISTAN RECEIVE THE GOSPEL

My sixth trip to Pakistan was one of the greatest times of outreach I have ever experienced. In sixteen days I traveled to four cities sharing the love of Jesus with more than 15,000 people. I ministered in twenty-nine meetings which included: school outreaches, children's festivals, leadership seminars, church services, youth meetings, village outreaches, and evangelistic meetings. I also recorded eleven television shows on Shine Star TV, a Christian television station totally dedicated to reaching the youth. Many people gave their lives to Jesus. Many people were healed and set free by Jesus!

The first part of my trip was spent in the city of Karachi. It is one of the most populous metropolitan cities in the world, home to 24.3 million people. It is so densely populated that 6,000 people live in one square kilometer of the city. Crime, poverty, violence, pollution, and the availability of clean drinking water are some of the major issues faced by the inhabitants of the city. 30,000 people die each year in Karachi due to water-borne illnesses. Karachi is also known as the "city of garbage", as masses of garbage are not collected but left strewn in the streets to rot. According to the Quality of Life Index 2016, Karachi is at the bottom of the list.

Karachi is divided into eighteen colonies. On this trip we focused our efforts on two of the colonies. Pastor Asher and his team organized school outreaches, children's festivals, church meetings, and evangelistic outreaches in each of these towns. Many people were touched by Jesus through these meetings. I also spent two evenings teaching over two hundred church leaders about the importance of spending time in the presence of God. We had a powerful time of ministry at the end of those meetings. The presence of God could be felt by all who were there.

Pastor Asher recently founded the first Christian television network totally dedicated to reaching young people in Pakistan, called Shine Star TV. In one month it has already become the second largest Christian TV network in Karachi. His goal is reach all of Pakistan and then to reach other Asian and Middle Eastern Countries. One evening we stayed up all night, until 6:30 a.m., recording eleven shows that have already begun to be aired on the network.

After Karachi, Pastor Asher, Pastor Javed, and I left for the city of Mirpurkhas, in the interior of the province Sindh. Mirpurkhas is known for its farming and horticultural produce. Two hundred and fifty-two varieties of mangos are grown there. I stayed in a convent in this city since there were no hotels. We used the convent for all our meetings. We were in Mirpurkhas for four days. During the first two days I taught the believers. They were so hungry for the Word of God. Each day more than two hundred believers would gather in the large meeting room just below where I was staying. I taught the people for three hours each day. After preaching I spent more than an hour praying and ministering to people. In the evenings we conducted children's festivals and an evangelistic outreach. Every evening the room was overflowing with more than 1,000 people. Many people were set free from demonic oppression in this city. One young girl testified to the crowd on the last night that she had been set free from demons. A lady came at the end of one of my meetings asking for prayer. She had been involved in witchcraft and said she felt like she was possessed by a snake. She was set free by Jesus. Another Hindu tribal lady came on the last night for prayer and she was totally set free by Jesus.

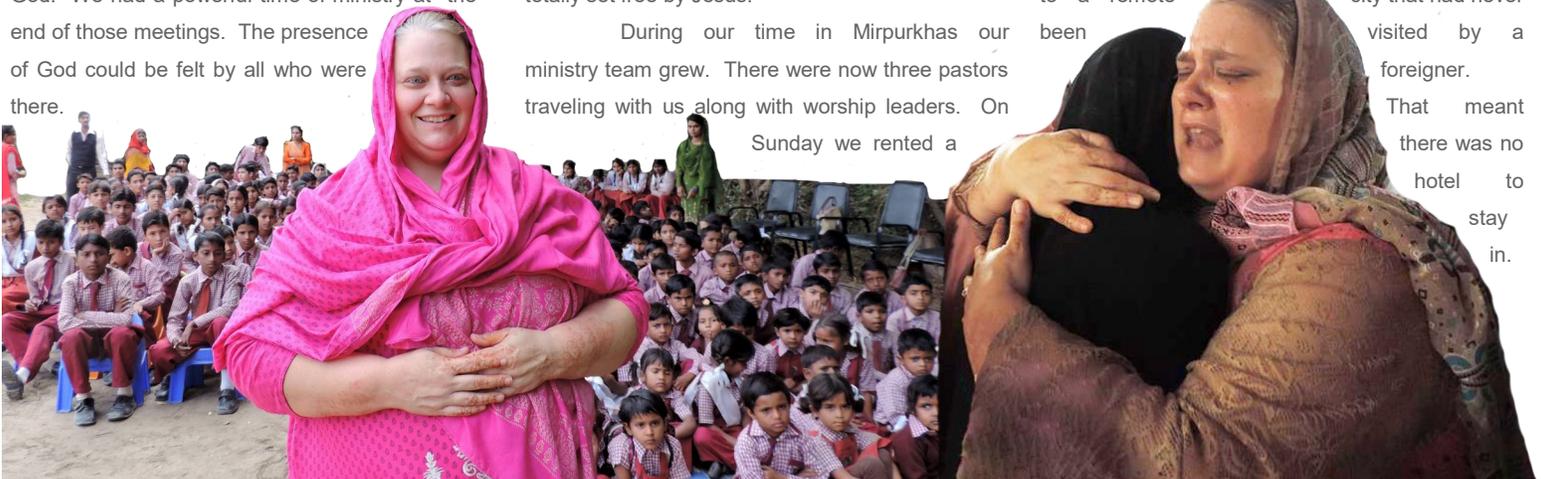
During our time in Mirpurkhas our ministry team grew. There were now three pastors traveling with us along with worship leaders. On Sunday we rented a

van and drove more than one hour to an even more remote city with very little believers to do a special service in a new church there. Unfortunately the police found us and wondered what we were doing and what a foreigner was doing in their town. God gave us favor with the police and we were able to continue with our special meeting. More than two hundred people crammed in this little church. God moved in a powerful way during the service. People gave their lives to Jesus and some rededicated their lives to Christ. Jesus healed several people. One lady testified at the end that she previously had knee problems but Jesus took away all the pain. She was so excited that she began doing squats right in front of us. The best part of that service for me was the two Muslim ladies who came. I know Jesus touched them. They came up for prayer at the end of the service and fell in my arms and began weeping. I know Jesus sent me all the way to that city just for them.

We ended our time in Mirpurkhas with a school outreach. When we first arrived at the school only half of the students were waiting for me. I questioned the administrator about this. She said that these were the Christian students. The rest were Muslim. I quickly said, "Well, invite all the Muslim children to come to the program too if they want." Every student in the school came – more than three hundred! At the end, when I gave the children a chance to surrender their lives to Jesus, almost every child, including all the Muslim children, raised their hands and prayed to Jesus.

The last city I traveled to was an adventure. The police, who decided to follow us and stake out wherever we went, provided an escort to the next city. We drove for several hours to a remote city that had never been visited by a foreigner.

That meant there was no hotel to stay in.



There were no restaurants to eat in. No precedent was set for foreigners. I stayed in the home of a believer located beside the tent we would use to host all of our meetings for three days. The people were so excited I was there. They touched me, pulled at my hair, poked me, squeezed me, hugged me, and took hundreds of pictures with me.

In three days I ministered eight times in Sanghar, a city where only 0.49% of the population is Christian (mostly Catholic). During those meetings so many people gave their lives to Jesus and were touched by His love. Testimonies are still coming in of what God did in people's lives. In between meetings I spent nearly every waking minute visiting Christians in their homes and praying for them. I visited house after house. A few times I would attempt to escape to my room for a rest or to spend some time in prayer. People would line up outside the room I was staying in waiting for me to come out, knocking on my door asking me to pray for them. The days did not end until about 2:00 a.m. each night.

The people of Sanghar, especially the small group of Christians living there, feel abandoned by the rest of the world. Many people have left the area to seek better life opportunities in bigger cities. The people who remain live in extreme poverty and are plagued by sicknesses due to malnutrition and bad water. But Jesus has never abandoned the people of Sanghar. I feel honored that He chose me to take the message of hope and restoration to His beloved people.

I ended my trip and time in this city with an evangelistic crusade, the first in the history of Sanghar. Approximately 3,000 people from all

backgrounds attended the outdoor meeting on the last night. Most importantly Jesus showed up. Many people surrendered their lives to Jesus and many were touched by Him in a life changing way. One lady shared at the end of the meeting that she and her husband were so sick with so many diseases that they just wanted to end their lives. They came to the meeting that night and Jesus touched them and completely healed them. Jesus filled them with new hope and joy. Another lady testified that her entire family came to the meeting with all sorts of sicknesses and diseases and they were all going home healed and touched by Jesus. A woman cried as she shared how she could not breathe properly for the past five years but that night Jesus completely healed her breathing.

Over the course of the three short days I was in Sanghar, I saw transformation in people's lives because of the love of Jesus. The looks in their eyes went from blank and empty stares to that of joy and hope. People who had been oppressed by the devil for years were getting set free. People were laughing. People were singing. People were shouting praises to God. The people of Sanghar realized they were not abandoned and Jesus loved them. They began to see themselves as children of the Most High God.

They began to realize that they could live in victory. They were given a new hope.

I am thankful to God for miraculously opening the door for me to minister once again in the nation of Pakistan. It is a great honor for me that He chose me for this task. This trip was like no other. In midst of the chaos and oppression found in the country, the church is getting stronger and bigger. They are hungrier for God and have a greater expectancy that He is going to do something great in their nation. The young people are becoming more on fire for God. I met many young men and woman who are willing to give their lives for the sake of the Gospel. I am excited for what lies ahead. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in the nation of Pakistan. Do not forget about them. Pray for God to pour out His Spirit on their nation. Pray for boldness for the Christians to preach the Gospel and bring in the great harvest of souls in their nation.

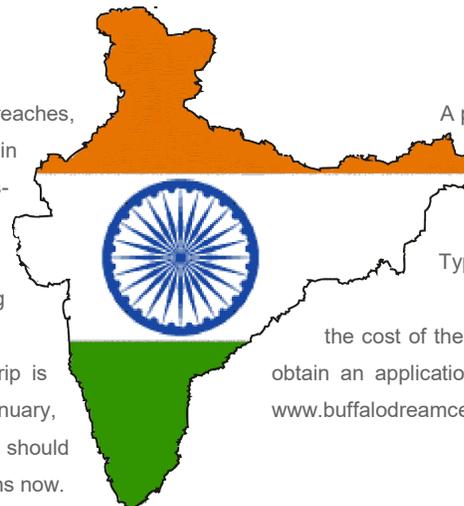


BE A PART OF A TEAM TO INDIA!

Pastor Eric and Michelle have been traveling to India for many years and have taken teams of people to share the love of Jesus throughout the country. The next exciting trip to India will be taking place for two weeks in January of 2017. India still remains the most unreached country in the world. There are 600,000 villages in India containing 80% of the country's population. Nearly 500,000 villages have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The team will travel to three main cities. In each city team members will do school

outreaches, village outreaches, pastor's training, ministry in the slums, hospital ministry, tribal ministry, and church services. Time will also be spent visiting orphanages.

Although this trip is not taking place until January, people interested in going should begin to make preparations now.



A passport and visa are required. Immunizations must be updated. Malaria pills and a vaccination for Typhoid are required.

For more information on the cost of the trip, age requirements, and to obtain an application, please visit our website at www.buffalodreamcenter.org.

TENT REVIVAL ON BUFFALO'S WEST SIDE

Evangelist Ted Shuttlesworth is coming to Buffalo to partner with the Buffalo Dream Center in an effort to win one thousand people to Jesus Christ!

Ted and his wife Bonnie have been involved in evangelistic ministry for forty years. Their ministry of salvation and healing has taken them to many countries of the world. The past couple of years, God has led Ted to set up his large tent in inner cities. He had great success in Patterson, New Jersey and Providence, Rhode Island. His sights are now set on Buffalo, New York.

The tent will be set up on the corner of Niagara Street and Albany Street on Buffalo's west side. This neighborhood is one of the poorest in the city of Buffalo. Refugees from across the world have settled here, making the neighborhood one of the most diverse places in Buffalo. More than seventy languages are spoken in the streets surrounding the empty lot where the week-long crusade will take place.

It will all begin on Saturday, June 25 as volunteers plan to distribute food to one thousand families. Ted Shuttlesworth will preach every evening at 7:00 pm from Sunday, June 26 until Friday, July 1. During the day, teams will hit the streets with ministries such as Kidz Club, Random Acts of Kindness, Adopt-A-Block, and Project Prevention. Groups from Tennessee, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and several others states are scheduled to come to be a part of the week.

Make plans to join us as we bring the transforming power of God to the west side of Buffalo.



KIDZ CLUB - FIVE NEIGHBORHOODS THIS SUMMER

Pastor Eric and Michelle Johns put all of their equipment in their Dodge Caravan. The family barely fit in the vehicle with the sound equipment, tables, candy, Super Soakers, and other supplies. The drove to Kenfield, a housing project on the east side of Buffalo, to hold Kidz Club. That was twenty years ago! Kidz Club is still reaching hundreds of children every summer.

Today the ministry has grown and the Buffalo Dream Center now has a seventeen foot-long box truck. The Johns family isn't running Kidz Club on their own anymore. Volunteers from the Buffalo area, from across the United States, and from Canada have joined the Buffalo Dream Center to make the summer special for many inner city children. Youth from Buffalo also work for Kidz Club through the Mayor's Summer Youth Program which provides part-time jobs for teenagers

and young adults living in the city. Kidz Club brings fun, excitement, and the love of Jesus to five high-risk city neighborhoods for six weeks during July and August. Games, crafts, contests, snacks, music, and powerful lessons about Jesus impact the lives of nearly four hundred children every week.

This summer the Buffalo Dream Center will run one of its sites at the church.

Please consider volunteering your time or making a donation to the Buffalo Dream Center for Kidz Club. Many of the teenagers and young adults who will work this summer at Kidz Club sites were once children who attended the program. Kidz Club changes lives! You can be a part of making a difference.



KIDZ CLUB LOCATIONS

Volunteer at one of the Kidz Club sites throughout the summer. You will be glad you did! Kidz Club begins Monday, July 4 and continues until Friday, August 12.

Mondays @ 2:00 PM

1910 Falls Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Tuesdays @ 2:00 PM

Frederick Douglass Housing Project
Corner of Mary B. Talbert Blvd.
& Gladys Holmes Blvd
Buffalo, New York 14204

Wednesdays @ 2:00 PM

Corner of Maryland Street & Efner Street
Buffalo, New York 14201

Thursdays @ 2:00 PM

447 Masten Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
Between East Ferry Street & Woodlawn Avenue

Fridays @ 6:00 PM

286 Lafayette Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14213



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THINGS WE NEED

The Buffalo Dream Center is collecting items for this summer's outreaches to the city of Buffalo and mission trips to Honduras and Guatemala.

Please drop off donations of the following items to:

Buffalo Dream Center
286 Lafayette Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14213
(Corner of Lafayette Avenue
& Parkdale Avenue)



- * Flip flops (For men, women, & children - all sizes)
- * Crayons
- * Colored pencils
- * Pencils
- * Pens
- * Erasers
- * Balloons
- * Tooth brushes
- * Stickers
- * Candy (No chocolate)
- * Jump ropes
- * Frisbees
- * Small toys and stuffed animals
- * Plastic and paper grocery bags
- * Garbage bags
- * Work gloves
- * Cleaning supplies
- * Sidewalk chalk
- * Play Dough
- * Diapers (all sizes)
- * Travel size toiletries (shampoo, soap, & lotion)
- * Xbox 360 or Xbox One
- * Bicycles