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GREAT  
COMMISSION  
CHURCHES

CHRISTIANITY IN

*action*

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## CHANGING LIVES



### PRAYER CULTURE

By Jerry van Dalen

We at The Rock Miami consider it a foundational principle to be a true House of Prayer as described in Isaiah 56:7. We want to establish a prayer “culture” as we try to imitate the example that we saw at The Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York.

The highlight of corporate prayer in our church is the Wednesday night service. We make a constant effort to include all 4 types of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (A.C.T.S.) in every service. We pray by themes like our “prodigals,” for our children and students (i.e. at the start of the academic year), our families, our nation, we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, etc. We also make a special emphasis to constantly pray for the sick. We experience many favorable answers as a result of corporate prayer and fasting.

Also during a typical week, and in pursuit of the “culture,” we have:

- Over 20 prayer conference calls.
- A women’s prayer group meeting once a week to pray for all the prayer cards that are completed during services. The group commits to praying for 30 days for each prayer card.
- A group of “servers” dedicated to praying every Sunday in the “prayer room” in the lobby of the sanctuary; before, during, and after each service.
- We fast as a church for an extended period at the beginning of every year. We also encourage the saints to fast one day a week.
- Every Monday night we send teams to visit and pray for the guests that come to our Sunday services.
- We’ve posted a 24/7 emergency prayer line on our website. This website also has a prayer request feature that receives petitions on a daily basis.

We consider ourselves learners when it comes to prayer—we feel we have a long way to go. We are climbing the mountain on prayer toward the summit of a “prayer culture.”



### COLONY FIVE CAME TO US

By Annika Bergen

I lived in India for three months after college, and what struck me most was the intense spiritual hunger and darkness, crammed next to each other as close as the shacks lining the roads. For example, in one slum street we played an audio Bible and 100 people gathered to listen.

That was Colony Four. Right next door was Colony Five, with a police station at its entrance. When our team did outreach there, the police kicked us out, accusing us of trying to convert people (which is illegal in India). After a couple tries, we gave up.

Fortunately, God didn’t. The next year I returned and someone brought up Colony Five in a prayer meeting—“God, we don’t know how to reach them, but please somehow send your gospel there.” The next day my friends and I went out to share Bible stories in a wealthier part of town. We started talking with some older ladies, and a young man stopped to listen. The ladies lost interest, but he was mesmerized. He kept asking questions until I offered to send some team members to his house to share more.

“Where do you live?” I asked. “I’m on my way to work,” he replied, “but I live in Colony Five.”

The same kept happening the rest of my time in that city. I passed out Bibles on a street corner, and a man stopped to take a box back to his home, Colony Five. I taught kids at the vegetable market and a young couple from Colony Five stopped to listen. I shared the gospel at an apartment complex and a man from Colony Five invited us over for chai.

No matter where I went or whom I talked with, it ended with Colony Five, our lost colony. We gave up, but God never did. When we couldn’t go to them, He sent them to us.

# MISSION USA

## CHURCH PLANTING IN GREELEY, CO

By Doug Dale

*As the location of our meeting place at Summitview Community Church here in Greeley, Colorado moved eastward, we wanted to have a presence again to the west where much of the city's growth occurs.*

There were questions we were considering, too. Could we think about church in a way that would better emphasize ministry during the week with neighbors, coworkers, and others? Could we rethink the service to better promote community?

This yielded a plan to start a second Summitview location in west Greeley on Easter 2014, giving us the benefit of shared ministries between the locations

and the opportunities that a church plant environment presents.

Simplicity has been one of our goals in everything from our bands to our children's programs. We hope people in the church will focus less during the week on things like band practice and Sunday School lessons and more on relationships inside and outside the church.

During our gatherings, we sit around tables and have shorter messages followed by a discussion and time to pray together. The same group sits around each table every week and also meets during the week. Periodically we change these groups up so that people get to know each other over time. Admittedly, this can be a hard environment for a visitor that walks in the door to step into, but is a



great environment for those we bring to church personally, which is our focus. This format has been the best received part of what we've done.

We have seen much spiritual growth, but not much numerical growth in our first year. As we move forward, we're making some adjustments to get back on the course we feel God gave us at the start, and we hope to see growth in every area in the months ahead!

## THE ROCK'S TAYLORSVILLE CHURCH PLANT

By Josh Whitney

*God is moving in Utah! The Rock Church utilizes the "one church, many locations" model. The Rock Church was originally planted in Sandy, Utah (in 1999) by Bill Young and his team. In 2003, we planted a church in Salt Lake City. In 2007, Pastor Steve McInroy led a team to Provo, Utah.*

Utah is basically an unreached people group. The state has approximately 2-3% evangelical Christians. Frankly, there is a huge need for more Gospel-preaching, Bible-believing churches all over this great state. The fall of 2013, we (the pastors) decided God wanted us to step out in faith and raise up new pastors and plant

another church. God was clearly working in five men's lives, so we asked them to join the existing four pastors to lead these locations.

In the spring of 2014, Billy Johnson, Bryan Edwards and I, invited people from all of our locations, to be part of this church plant on the west side of the Salt Lake City Valley. The majority of the church plant team came from the Salt Lake Church location, with other key families joining us, too. We started with a team of about 50 adults and their kids. We spent the summer of 2014 praying and doing outreach around the west side of the Salt Lake City Valley. We had some struggles finding a good location to meet in. Eventually, God led us



Recognizing new elders at The Rock

to share a building with a great church in Taylorsville.

We have been "officially" opened since December and it has been really encouraging. There has been a steady stream of unsaved people and visitors each week to our church. As 2015 has gone on, some of the visitors are starting to knit in. We would appreciate prayers for fruitful outreach this summer, salvations, growth, and a permanent home for our church plant!

# INTERNATIONAL



## THE TOTAL HEALTH VISION

By Jay Flinn

*Total Health started in 2004 with a vision to provide consistent, quality, and reliable medical care to the poor in Central America.*

In short, we want to provide basic primary care medicine to people in great need. We believe that this is a very cost effective way to change the health status of the people we serve and allow them to better provide for themselves, their families, and their future.

Total Health currently has three clinics running full time in three Central American countries. These clinics handle approximately 25,000 patient visits annually. Our model of care is very simple: low cost, low tech, high yield.

We can service a patient for under \$5.00 per visit including all of the medicines and care that the patient will need. This model of care has been so successful that we are committed to expanding it, and we are currently evaluating new sites for additional clinics.

When we talk about providing “Total Health” to people we are also talking about much more than just medications. Safe and sanitary homes, nutrition for children, prenatal care to prevent birth defects, etc., can have incredible impacts on the lives of people in need. So over time, we have developed programs to help in these areas.

Spiritual health is also critical to the well being of the poor. By partnering with local GCLA churches in the areas we serve, we



Pastor and Doctor Jay Martin in action on a mission trip.

are able to care for the spiritual needs giving not only support now, but a hope for the future and opportunity to know and grow in Christ. In the end, it is the spiritual health of a person that is most important.

## REDEMPTION IN THE MIDST OF TRAGEDY

By Timmy Powers

*In preparing a presentation concerning the ongoing events in Ukraine, I looked through photographs, scouring countless images that reveal the depth of suffering people have experienced – betrayal by their own government, the senseless killing of over a hundred people in Kyiv’s central square, the tragedy of war, and the seizing of sovereign territory by Russia.*

The scope of these events cannot be measured simply by quoting statistics (five thousand people killed and more than a million displaced from their homes). Darkness and hopelessness has pervaded much of the country.

Thankfully, our victorious God is in the business of redemption and of taking what the devil means for harm and

turning it into good. In stark contrast to the images of darkness, I am also joyfully picking out beautiful images of Ukrainian believers bringing the light and love of Jesus to the hurting and needy people of their country:

David and Mindy Henson, staff members with GC-Europe, along with members of Spring of Hope Church, have been very involved in serving refugees, providing food, medicine and clothing. Among other acts of service, they have helped in a local burn hospital and made ponchos for soldiers.

Bogdan Semilitko and members of City on a Hill Church regularly travel to war-torn areas of Eastern Ukraine to provide food for the many people who have no resources. One local church that they have partnered with has grown from ten to sixty because people say they have



The adopted army battalion served by Almaz Church.

seen the love of Christ in action.

Almaz Church adopted one army battalion to serve, regularly visiting and building friendships, and providing sleeping bags, clothing, and boots.

There are countless stories of how the hope and love of Christ is being shared. We want to thank you who have prayed and given generously to help bring lasting change to the lives of the people of Ukraine.

# INSIDE GCC



## FAITHWALKERS 2015 NEW DATES

Save these NEW dates for  
Faithwalkers // Defining Moments:

Faithwalkers East, Asheville, NC:  
Dec. 30 – Jan. 2

Faithwalkers West, Des Moines, IA:  
Dec. 31 – Jan. 3

Spread the word about the new Faithwalkers dates and mark your calendar. Join us to learn from the defining moments of others and pray with us that many would experience defining moments while they draw near to God!

## MEET A GCC PASTOR

THIS EDITION:  
JACK STOCKDALE

Jack came to personal faith in Christ while a freshman at the Ohio State University in 1973. Two and a half years later he married his high school sweetheart, Joan. They have 10 children and 16 (and counting) grandchildren.

Jack has pastored in five Great Commission churches in the United States, two of which were church plants. He and Joan also served with Great Commission Europe in Poland where they lived for 10 years.

Jack says, "It took me a while to figure it out but I finally realized that both my greatest ministry success and my greatest ministry fulfillment come in pioneering work." Though Jack and Joan now live in the Columbus, Ohio area where he pastors New Song Community Church, he is continuing his pioneering ways. He is currently helping to lead efforts to develop and deploy a group of church planting missionaries in the Czech Republic.



One of Jack's favorite verses is: "You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me." Psalm 139:5

Word of Advice: Surrendering one's self as "a living and a holy sacrifice" to God is not only the most sensible thing a Christian can do; it is the most fulfilling and the most rewarding.

## RAISING UP FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

JOHN HOPLER - DIRECTOR, GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES



*"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." Acts 1:8*

When Jesus spoke these words to His disciples they had just experienced some life-changing events. The disciples saw Christ risen from the dead. They then had a 40 day conference with Christ about the kingdom of God. And they were about to see Him ascend into heaven.

Recently I thought, "These disciples had received enough input to begin witnessing on behalf of Christ." But Jesus told them to wait. Why? Because they needed the Holy Spirit's power in order to fulfill the mission Christ gave them.

We all need the Holy Spirit! In this newsletter are the stories of people who have followed the Holy Spirit's lead, as they prayed, ministered to the needy, and planted churches. The fruit they experienced did not come from themselves but from God the Spirit.

It is my hope and prayer that you, the reader, will also draw upon God's power in your life. As you and others in your church seek to make disciples of all nations, remember to follow the Spirit's lead. He will guide you into fruitful ministry for the kingdom of God.

May the Holy Spirit empower you greatly as we work together to glorify the Name of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.



NAE | National Association of  
**Evangelicals**

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