



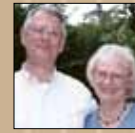
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CHRISTIANITY IN

action

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CHANGING LIVES



GRETCHEN DARLING

In January of 1999 while sending off college applications to other states, Gretchen Darling was living a life where her poor choices eventually led her into a state of depression. It was during this dark time in Gretchen's life that

The Rock, a church in Minneapolis, Minnesota focused on reaching young people for Christ, had been planted.

Gretchen's sister, Gena, was the first to get involved with the church. It was her love and influence, as well as the love of the saints, that encouraged Gretchen to receive Christ. This new-found community solidified her decision to stay in Minneapolis and commit her life to serving Christ.

For 10 years, Gretchen and her husband, Jeromy, have been serving together at The Rock. They have been married for seven years and just had their firstborn son, Wyatt William Darling, in October. Shortly after they were married, Gretchen's mother accepted Jesus and just a few years later, her father committed his life to Christ as well!

The Darling's have made it their pursuit to love the young people at The Rock and in their community. Jeromy co-leads a house church, and Gretchen mentors several young college girls. Please continue to pray for Jeromy and Gretchen as they reach out to the young people in their community.

Gretchen attends The Rock Minneapolis:
www.rockthechurch.com.



LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS

By Bill Young

This past September, a crusade featuring Nick Vujicic was held at the Mormon Tabernacle on Temple Square where 15,500 people gathered—355 of whom committed their lives to Christ during the crusade. Amazingly, Nick was born without arms or legs. Yet despite

this, God has used him to reach millions with the Good News. This event brought three amazing thoughts to mind.

The first was that this was only the third time an evangelical Christian had spoken to an audience of evangelicals and Mormons at Temple Square. The first was D.L. Moody in 1899, the second was Ravi Zacharias in 2004, and now Nick Vujicic in 2009! My second thought was how fortunate we were to be able to host this event at the Tabernacle. I watched the follow-up crew from The Rock hand out response cards and pass out Gospel tracts. My third thought was prompted by a brother who mentioned that some people have been escorted away from Temple Square for doing this. We shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ and passed out thousands of Gospel tracts because God had opened doors!

This reminds me of Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."

Bill attends The Rock Salt Lake City:
www.experiencetherock.com.

MISSION USA

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

DOWNTOWN CHURCH: DES MOINES, IOWA

By Shaly Moyal

In the fall of 2006, a group of around 30 recent graduates of the Drake Campus Fellowship Ministry began to meet as a Bible study.

Their hopes were to begin a new congregation plant of Walnut Creek Community Church that would focus on ministering to the downtown part of Des Moines, Iowa. In recent years, the downtown population has boomed with young people who work and live in the area. Many, if not most of these people, are un-churched and we made it our mission to reach them.

In February of 2007, we were given a building rent-free in the East Village, a

young hip part of downtown, to meet in for Bible study and a Saturday night service. By May, we had outgrown the building and moved to a new and larger location in the heart of downtown. As the various ministries continued to grow, and people were getting saved, we began to focus on meeting the needs of the city through outreach, service projects, and volunteering for any and every downtown event that we could.

Four locations later, the Downtown Church consists of 15 Bible studies meeting in homes around the city, two weekend services, weekly prayer times, and outreach teams through the summers designed to reach out in new and creative ways. We are thankful for



The Downtown Church location.

the growth and for the laborers as we look ahead to see what God will do in reaching the city of Des Moines.

Check out The Downtown Church: www.thedtc.org.

THE JOURNEY: PALM COAST, FLORIDA

By Thomas Lemus

It has been three years since the journey officially began, and boy what a ride! No wonder God gave us the name "The Journey."

It has definitely not been about getting there, but about what He is doing with us on the way. The Journey began when a few families from various churches decided to unite forces to reach the many different cultures here in the Palm Coast/Flagler County area.

Palm Coast was originally planned as a retirement community but instead, it became a magnet for many young families. God has a better plan for this



community and it is not retirement but resurrection! Palm Coast is the place God called us to. It is a place where a small group of mended and blended disciples minister to broken people and broken families seeking a better life—only to find that moving does not change a person, only God does.

We have multiplied every year since that humble beginning. (Praise God!) It has

been slow, but steady and strong. We are encouraged to see where God will take this multi-cultural, multi-generational band of believers in the coming years. It is our desire to express God's love to the people of this community, and to be a beacon of hope to people yearning for more than just talk. In essence, we are trying to "love people to life." Please pray that His will be done in us.

Check out The Journey Palm Coast: www.thejourneypc.com.

INTERNATIONAL

TIMMY POWERS: UKRAINE

Almost thirty years ago was the turning point in my life when I saw what it looked like to live out the New Testament. What an amazing journey it has been to still be, day by day, passing along that same passion and reality to Russian-speaking people on the other side of the world.

In Kiev, Ukraine, Voleri, a drug addict and infamous hooligan not only repented, but was given a vision for how God wanted to use him and his storied past as a witness to reach those around him. From Voleri's testimony and investment in others' lives, more than 15 alcoholics and drug addicts have come to Christ in the past year. Two churches and a rehab center have been started through these men because they have grasped the power of God to transform and use broken and ordinary lives.

In this part of the world, many Christian leaders are realizing that their countries will never be reached if starting churches requires buildings, professionally run programs, and full-time pastors. Their desires and openness, coupled with the experience we have gained through our years with Great Commission, are opening up doors for us to train church planters in countries all over the former Soviet Union. My wife, Kenyon, and I are so thankful and are humbled that the vision we prayed and dreamed about so many years ago has become a reality.

For more information, contact Timmy at: timmy.powers@gcmweb.org. Timmy is a member of Great Commission Europe: www.gcweb.org.



Timmy (2nd from right) with Voleri (2nd from left) and some of the new brothers.

GREAT COMMISSION LATIN AMERICA

By Karisa Rivera

God continues to work in Latin America! The church in Monterrey, Mexico, having over 200 people meeting regularly each week, had its first retreat in September with more than 150 attendees.

In Managua, Nicaragua, God continues to strengthen the church and leaders, despite the political turmoil taking place within the country. Woodstock Community Church in Woodstock, Georgia has now started two new church plants in the metro Atlanta area: Kennesaw State University and Gwinnet County.

As GCLA looks to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the less fortunate, the social projects continue to be a blessing to the people. Our nutrition centers in Honduras and Nicaragua have fed and

cared for over 80 malnourished children, many coming from low-income families. Casa Hogar Vida, a center of care and development in Choluteca, Honduras, continues to provide housing, medicine, and jobs for families affected by HIV/AIDS. In El Salvador, about half of the 50 young students who enrolled to take English and computer classes at the education centers accepted Christ as their Savior!

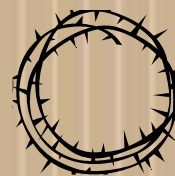
The church plants and every one of the social projects are fueled by the unconditional commitment and support of the short-term missionaries that work in conjunction with national believers. Last year, 542 American missionaries went on 40 different short-term mission trips to Latin America. "I tell you the truth,



El Centro de Nutricion Infantil in La Ceiba, Honduras

whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

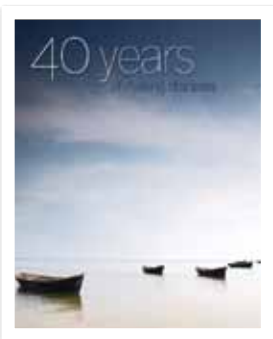
For more information about GCLA, log on to: www.reachinglatinos.com.



INSIDE GCC

CONFERENCES

PASTORS CONFERENCE: JUNE 14-16, 2010



This year's conference will be held in downtown Omaha, Nebraska at the Doubletree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center. The theme for the conference is 40 Years of Making Disciples, and wives are invited.

Jesus wasn't just looking for Sunday Christians—for those who would simply hold to certain beliefs or doctrines but would never meaningfully live them out as our

Lord did. Jesus' focus was to imprint His life on others so that they would become like Him, to do as He did. Come and join us at this year's conference as we celebrate 40 years of making disciples! And look ahead with us as we focus on making even more disciples next year in our local churches.

Stay tuned for more information on how to register, or log on to www.gccweb.org.

MEET A GCC PASTOR

THIS EDITION: HERSCHEL MARTINDALE



Herschel has been married for over 50 years to his wife Mardean, and has 4 children, 18 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren (at last count)! He has been pastoring and church planting for 55 years. He currently is working full-time

with the International Ministry Team for GCC. He has studied various languages as a help in international development.

Life Verses: 2 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Romans 8:31-39

Advice: There are "mountains" in every one of our lives, and always will be, but God wants to show us that every mountain can be moved when we really trust and believe God and leave the method and timing up to Him. (Matthew 17:20)

You can contact Herschel at info@gccweb.org.

MAKING DISCIPLES

JOHN HOPLER - DIRECTOR, GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES



In 1970, thirty college-age people got on a bus in the southwestern part of the United States to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This was the beginning of the Great Commission church movement. These young people had one primary goal: To make disciples of all the nations, as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:19.

It is now forty years later, and God continues to work through this church movement to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Disciples are people of faith, who know that their sins are forgiven through the sacrificed blood of their Savior.

Disciples are men and women who have taken up their cross to follow their Lord wherever He leads them.

Disciples are people of the Scriptures who are serious about obeying the word of God.

Disciples are those who lay down their lives for the brethren, as the Lord laid down His life for us.

Disciples are committed followers who are willing to "go and make disciples of all the nations."

In 2010, the fortieth year of this church movement, will you dedicate yourself to becoming a stronger disciple of Jesus Christ? He is worthy!

