



Mid-year Update

This semiannual newsletter features stories and events from recent activity at home and around the world.

Unlikely Meetings: A Tale of Phenomenal Friendship

In the spring of 1993, Helmut, a school teacher from Chilliwack, flew from Canada to Ukraine as part of a team that was showing the Jesus Film throughout villages in the east of the country. During his time, he met a young teenager named Sergei*. Although the pair didn't have much in common, there was an immediate connection. Through broken Ukrainian, Helmut talked with Sergei about Jesus and had the privilege of praying with him. Helmut and Sergei parted ways, knowing the chance of meeting again was slim.

However, three years later, Helmut found himself back in Ukraine, in the same area of his previous trip. After a visit in Kapulovka with Luba*, the relative of a friend back home, he ventured to the village where he had first met Sergei. Helmut's heart sank when he discovered from the villagers that the boy had been admitted to a local hospital with little chance of recovery. He entered the small hospital and found Sergei sitting alone. As he looked into Sergei's eyes, he felt helpless; there was only one thing to do. He bowed his head and began to pray and instantly Helmut was heavily burdened for his Ukrainian friend. He gave Sergei one last hug, holding onto a thread of hope that God would do a miracle.

Back at home, Helmut's thoughts and prayers continued to return to that dark day. Sometime later, a good friend had the chance to visit the eastern European country. He knew of Sergei and gave Helmut assurance that he would do his best to find him. He was a man of his word; he found the village and the young man who had previously been hospitalized. Sergei enthusiastically explained that soon after Helmut had visited he was released and was able to return to his family. When Helmut heard the news that God had answered his cry, he was overcome with joy. He knew that God had even more in store for this young man.

A decade later, a group of nine ladies from Canada decided to bring relief to orphans and widows living in the eastern region of Ukraine. Among them was Heidi (HFL's team leader), who had traveled to the country before—twice. After a long train ride east from Kiev, they arrived at John and Nadya's home (HFL's Ukrainian partners) to learn that the two translators that had been hired were unable to make it but were sending a replacement. The

next day, a young man showed up on the doorstep and introduced himself to them as Sergei. Initially Sergei appeared quiet and shy, but his English skills and friendly way with people soon became evident.

One sunny but windy April morning, the team left Nikopol and headed west to the small village of Kapulovka. As the team was visiting in the community, Heidi found herself talking to an elderly woman named Luba. Luba knew that these ladies were from Canada and hoped that someone would be able to make a special delivery for her. As she handed Heidi an old, German Bible, she explained that it belonged to relatives living in Canada but the only information she had was of someone who knew them. A small piece of paper tucked into the front cover revealed the name of a man Heidi didn't know but a Canadian city she knows well. She couldn't believe her eyes—this woman wanted her to contact someone who lived in her own hometown of Chilliwack. Heidi couldn't help but wonder if God was up to something.

Weeks later, as Heidi remembered the German Bible Luba had entrusted to her, she picked up the phone and called across town. A quiet voice, with a certain kindness, answered: "Hello, this is Helmut." Later that day, as Heidi handed him the Bible and explained her account of meeting Luba, he knew that his Ukrainian friends would be overjoyed. Helmut invited her in for a visit and the two sat and talked for several hours, swapping stories and sharing pictures. A photo in one of Helmut's many albums caught Heidi's attention: Helmut with his arm around the shoulders of a familiar-looking boy. "Who is this, do you remember?" With an instant smile, Helmut answered, "Oh, that's Sergei." And as he began to tell Heidi the story, she knew exactly who he was. She sat listening intently until Helmut finished, and then, full of excitement, Heidi explained that this same young man had been her translator just two weeks ago! The two sat astonished and amazed at the work of God in this young life. With hearts full of thanksgiving, they both felt blessed to have met Sergei and to have been used by God.

**Some names have been changed.*



Sergei with a local villager.



Motivation

Lives changed through worship and prayer.

Hard Question, Simple Answer *by Dave Blundell*

Shortly after I had returned home from a trip to Africa, my son Caleb, who was five at the time, asked me a simple question, "Dad, why are there so many poor people in the world?" I had all of about ten seconds to come up with a way to summarize the complex inter-related issues of social inequality, injustice and economic disparity in a way that a five-year-old could understand. After an uncomfortable ten seconds, I answered, "So many people are poor because those who have more than enough don't share." My answer seemed to satisfy his need to understand the causes of poverty, to which he incredulously replied, "Well that's stupid! Why don't we all just share?" Afterwards, I wondered if there was maybe a better way to answer his question.

The sandbox feel to the conversation left me thinking that surely I must have oversimplified such a massive and multifaceted global issue.

Three years later, after many more accumulated air miles and thousands of pages of reading about social inequality, injustice and economic disparity, I have come to the conclusion that my "oversimplified" answer is really just that simple. The reality that more than 80% of the world's

resources are being used by less than 20% of the world's population clearly communicates the simple truth that those of us from the rich side of the sandbox are selfish and not good at sharing.

In stark contrast, the early church was completely selfless and shared all they had. Imagine this: "All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. ... There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need." (Acts 4:32,34-35; NLT)

Jesus had just been with these people and they were described as selfless; they shared and, as a result, there were no needy people among them. Spiritual transformation resulted in social transformation. It's really that simple. The more we spend time with Jesus, getting to know Him, the more we become like Him. Then, the more we become like Jesus the less selfish we are and the more willing we are to share with those on the other side of the sandbox. The genesis of a renovated world is a renovated church.



A recent team sharing food in Mexico.



Shekinah Events

In addition to the monthly evenings in Chilliwack, Shekinah had the privilege of leading seven extra events throughout BC.



Blessings has sold over 1300 copies of the Go Worship CD, raising over \$8000 for Hungry For Life's motivation and mobilization efforts. For more information on the project and to hear song samples, visit www.blessings.com/go or your local Blessings store.



Priority on Prayer

Because of our need to be carried in and committed to prayer, we are designing and will be launching a comprehensive prayer initiative—a strategic endeavor to mobilize ever-increasing numbers of the global Church to become involved in the power of prayer. Watch our website for more details later this year.

Mobilization

Lives changed through international compassion.



Ambrose University College to Egypt, North Shore Alliance Church to Ukraine, Crossroads Community Church to Waveland, MS, Cranbrook Community to Haiti, Cove Community Church to Kenya



Bethel Mennonite Church to Mexico, Coquitlam Alliance Church to Mexico, North Shore Alliance Church to Mexico, Mountain View Alliance Church to Mexico, Surrey Alliance Church to Haiti

Haiti, Dumay



Kenya, Seje



Sudan, Pageri Payam



Ukraine, Nikopol



Completed Trips in 2007

Ten teams have traveled internationally so far this year; 128 people had a global impact.

2007 Project Highlights

In the spring, the foundation and walls for the school's cafeteria were completed, and the Surrey Alliance Church August team worked on the foundation for the primary building.

Cove Community Church provided funds for the construction of a classroom; the foundation was completed in the spring and the May team built the four walls and the roof.

Obadiah Brothers Keepers raised funds to build an orphanage; the construction and the fence are complete, and once the furnishings have been purchased, it should open early next year.

Last spring, a large donation helped our partners purchase a guesthouse for team visits; money from the sale of their original home and other donations have provided for the renovations.

Visit www.hungryforlife.org for more trip and project details.



Quotes

Comments from impacted lives.

Ever since I became a Christian I have been searching for a passion. It felt like everyone around me felt really strongly about something and wanted to devote their lives to it and I didn't feel that way about anything. And then I came to Mexico and knew God was calling me to Mexico to show me my own passion—missions.

– Coquitlam Alliance Church Mexico Team Member

It is always so humbling to be here and its such a reminder how important it is to live you life not just for yourself.

– Cranbrook Community Haiti Team Member



This trip impacted me in countless aspects. One of the first things that comes to mind for me is how these people [Haitians] interact with each other.everybody is in this together. Even in the poorest conditions, these families work together and still manage to live off the help of others. Where we use competition for the luxuries of life, these people use cooperation for the necessities of life.

– Cranbrook Community Haiti Team Member

I have been challenged as well to live more by faith and less by sight—to live in full and total dependence on God, rather than my own giftedness, abilities and resources.

– Coquitlam Alliance Church Mexico Team Member



One highlight I experienced was to worship with the people of Ukraine. ...when we sang to the Lord our souls united in a way I can not describe. Not even the language or cultural differences could separate our praises to our King. ... It made me wonder what it would be like in heaven.

– North Shore Alliance Church Ukraine Team Member



On behalf of all my brothers and sisters in the home and on behalf of our mother Leokadia, we wish to express our gratitude for the care and support you have given us. Had it not been for you, most of us would be dead by now. We promise to work

hard at school so as to be of help to other needy children in the future.

– Margaret (14 yrs old), Kenya, Siaya Orphan Care Home

“Thank them [Shekinah band] again for being such a blessing—I really needed to hear you guys that night. It seems that Thursday was a big part of something God's doing to try and drop-kick me out of the spiritual twilight zone I've been wandering around in for the past few years.”

– Chilliwack Fair Attendee



...we had a team from Canada visiting ...They did an amazing amount of work here, showing people God's love in action! ... It was only a few weeks after they left that we were back in some of those villages again; ... What an opportunity to talk to them

one-on-one about who God is and what He did for us! ... What a privilege to kneel with some of those people and ask God to forgive them and enter their lives.

– John and Nadya, HFL Ukrainian Partner

This trip taught me that God will meet my every need; be it clothing to wear or power to break the chains that enslave me.

– North Shore Alliance Church Ukraine Team Member

Website

A better browsing experience.

We recently redesigned our logo and overall graphic look, and our brand new website is now easier to navigate, better organized and more user-friendly. Visit us online to view all the projects, trips and people involved in the work of Hungry For Life as well as lots of photos, videos and trip blogs!



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