



Executive Summary

if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 (NIV)

and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

ISAIAH 58:10 (NIV)

> Our Story

THE BEGINNING

During the spring and summer of 1999, there was a group of nine friends who began meeting together in the living room of a Chilliwack home. Their desire was to pray for revival and renewal in their country, in their church and in their own lives. They wanted to sing praises to their King and declare His worth. The individuals were serious about 2 Chronicles 7:14. They knew that if God was going to hear their prayers, forgive their sin and heal their land, they needed to humbly pray and seek His face, turning from their wickedness. That fall they decided to move their meetings to a local church and invite as many people as they could. On September 12, 1999 believers from a few different churches in the area gathered in the sanctuary of Chilliwack Alliance Church. They prayed and sang with one purpose: to worship God. That night was the start of what was soon to be known as Shekinah.

In the years that followed, Shekinah grew, and on the first Sunday of every month people from all over the Fraser Valley gathered to pray and worship together. The Hebrew word Shekinah is a non-biblical reference to the specific, physical manifestation of God's presence and glory. Shekinah literally means to settle, inhabit or dwell. The experience of God's glorious presence became obvious as people began to be changed as a result of their encounters with Him. Each month as people gathered to worship from all kinds of different churches, God was changing lives. Some were finding Christ for the first time, others were experiencing forgiveness and restoration in their broken marriages.

God was on the move in the hearts and lives of many. However, God was also calling for a deeper commitment to worship that encompassed more than just an inward focus. As the Shekinah leadership listened to the Holy Spirit and looked closer at Scripture, it became evident that worship must be expressed in much more than music. "Worship with your life" became the mandate.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Dave Blundell and Charlene Stinson, who emerged as key leaders in the ministry of Shekinah, examined the Word of God to gain a greater understanding what it means to worship the Creator of the universe. As they read, they saw a great disparity between the Biblical accounts of people living with the power and presence of God and the current apathy among most North American believers. Where is the power to transform lives? Where are the signs and wonders that point to a God of power and might? Where is the abundant life that He promised to us? They also saw a disturbing contrast between the actions and activities of the early church and our current, global situation of HIV/AIDS, extreme poverty and ever-increasing natural disasters. Why does 20% of the world's population consume 80% of its resources? Why is half of the world hungry, sick, cold and without hope? Where is the generosity of the people of God in such a great time of need?

All these questions plagued their hearts and minds, and lead them back to the Bible in search of answers. They found that the men and women of God who accomplished great things and transformed their worlds, put themselves in positions of total dependency on God. As a result of their humility and surrender, God came and displayed His power and glory. They also came face-to-face with the message of the Old Testament prophets: “Pay attention to God and pay attention to the poor, and He will pay attention to you.” Isaiah 58:10 leapt off the page and gave evidence to the reality that worship is closely tied to what we do for “the least of these.” The Shekinah leadership saw that our western culture has a grave fixation with self. Combined with the greatest concentration of wealth in human history, this culture has not only left us spiritually bankrupt but the consequences have left a world with an embarrassingly gross imbalance of resources. People are hungry for life; all around the world hunger pains are seen and heard.

THE BIRTH OF A UNIQUE ORGANIZATION

Because of the realization that spiritual starvation in developed nations significantly contributes to physical starvation in developing nations, Shekinah began to seek outward expressions of worship. Opportunities were provided to contribute towards international relief causes—blankets for Afghanistan, financial assistance for a Haitian orphan. The interest in giving grew and people started talking about actually being directly connected long-term to projects worldwide. It quickly became apparent that a formal organization was needed to facilitate this kind of work.

But it had to be different. It had to be an organization that would make it possible to take seriously the command to pay attention to the poor and oppressed, helping to remove the legal and political obstacles for international work. The Shekinah leadership believed that the Church has been given the power of God and the resources of the kingdom to affect unprecedented change. Change that would provide the basics of life required to end needless suffering, and cause the world to take notice of a unified Church full of love and compassion. They believed that this organization must exist to serve the Church, in order to see revival and renewal through direct involvement, bringing together believers from all over the world to bless each other.

It was then that Dave felt the urgent call of and direction from God to leave the Christian organization he was with and start what is now known as Hungry For Life International. He began sharing his thoughts and ideas with close friends. In November 2001 the mission and core values were initially penned, and the necessary forms were filled out and sent away. The organization was originally incorporated in October 2002 as Alliance Response International, but in June 2003, Hungry For Life International became a registered Canadian charity. Dave and his wife, Heidi, along with an intern and a volunteer team, began to work from the Blundell’s basement office.

MOTIVATION & MOBILIZATION

Today Hungry For Life exists to come alongside churches and groups in North America to help them directly engage in projects of relief and development in developing countries all around the globe. We help to facilitate relationships between those who have resources with those who need them. Hungry For Life desires to motivate spiritual transformation in the developed world by leading the Church to call upon the name of the Lord, asking for His power and presence. When God responds with revival and renewal, we desire to mobilize social transformation in the developing world by leading the Church to demonstrate compassion in impoverished communities worldwide.

Through our partnership model, we have seen first-hand the changes that are occurring overseas as a result of the generosity of believers here. Where there was only an animal watering hole, there is now a well of clean water for an entire rural village. Where there was no school or teachers, there is now a classroom of eager children full of hope. We have also witnessed the spiritual passion that God is igniting in our nation as churches and groups seek to give of their resources and “spend themselves on behalf of the hungry.” Where there was a community with no government programs for their at-risk youth, there is now a church providing a safe place for teenagers. Where there was apathy and spiritual darkness, there is now increased prayer, worship and dependence on God.

With a clearly defined vision and mission, Hungry For Life continues to grow in staff, international partners, churches and groups, projects, and short-term team trips. We aim to work invisibly, facilitating opportunities for churches and groups to worship with their lives in order to see a world transformed.

> Our Vision

We envision a world transformed; a world that has been renovated by a global movement of compassion and justice evidenced by the eradication of needless suffering.

A world transformed and characterized by:

- > A passionate unified church speaking with a voice of credibility, realized by its reputation for love and compassion.
- > Churches and organizations strategically connected and engaged with communities around the world involved in sustainable community development.
- > Generous living that has resulted in a redistribution of global resources.

> Our Mission

We are committed to facilitating opportunities for people to know the power and presence of Jesus Christ through worship and worldwide compassion.

> Our Core Values

1 Biblical Pillars

The scriptural pillars of this organization are 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Isaiah 58.

2 Worship Events

We will lead interchurch, corporate worship events, giving people an opportunity to encounter the living God, entering into His presence. Spiritual transformation and revival in the Church will lead to social transformation around the world.

3 Prayer

We recognize that we are completely dependent on the power of God. Communion with God is the source of power to fulfill the mission.

4 Directly Engaging People

Our role is to come alongside groups and churches, directly engaging them in projects that help alleviate suffering throughout the world. We facilitate relationships between those who have resources and those who need them.

5 International Partnerships

We create international partnerships with those who are motivated by the love of Jesus Christ. Partnerships enable us to fulfill the mission efficiently and effectively.

6 Projects

We demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through projects of unconditional compassion to those in need.

7 Transparent Giving

It is a priority that 100% of funds given to projects will be used for projects. Our financial and organizational management will demonstrate integrity and accountability.

8 Care For People

Donors, project recipients, project partners, volunteers, staff and board (all who are involved) will be treated with honesty and value.

> Our Beliefs

Our Statement of Faith is adopted from the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

- > The Holy Scriptures as originally given by God are divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy, and constitute the only supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- > There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- > Our Lord Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh; we affirm His virgin birth, sinless humanity, divine miracles, vicarious and atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension, ongoing mediatory work, and personal return in power and glory.
- > The salvation of lost and sinful humanity is possible only through the grace of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, received by faith apart from works, and is characterized by regeneration by the Holy Spirit.
- > The Holy Spirit enables believers to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- > The Church, the body of Christ, consists of all true believers.
- > Ultimately God will judge the living and the dead, those who are saved unto eternal life, those who are lost unto damnation.

> Our Work

We are committed to facilitating opportunities for people to know the power and presence of Jesus Christ through worship and worldwide compassion.

- 1 Worship Events and Prayer Mobilization
- 2 Church/Group Missions Coaching
- 3 International Relief and Development Project Management
- 4 Short-term Team Trips
- 5 Humanitarian Aid Acquisition, Warehousing and Shipping
- 6 Education and Resource Development
- 7 Support Services: Finance, Administration, Communications, Development and Information Technology

> Our Model

We create international partnerships with missionaries, Christian organizations and national church leaders in developing nations. We also partner with churches and groups here to focus and involve them in long-term community development projects. We seek to facilitate relationships, bringing churches and groups together with international partners, helping them to take *their* raised funds, resources and people to *their* international projects. As churches and groups “spend themselves on behalf of the hungry,” they receive spiritual blessing and their lives are changed. That life change is brought back to the churches and groups, bringing passion and an increase in spiritual temperature. The passion then fuels more interest, generosity, funds, people and resources and consequently more lives are changed, which further increases the passion and spiritual temperature of the Church in North America. Our desire is that eventually we will be able to remove ourselves and the cycle of generosity and spiritual blessing will continue.

> Our Staff

The full-time supported, volunteer and overseas staff of Hungry For Life are chosen because of their passion to provide opportunities for people to know the power and presence of Jesus. Therefore, the expectation is that each staff member lives his/her life in conformity to biblical standards for personal holiness and service. Each staff member has signed a Code of Conduct and Statement of Faith.

Each paid staff member commits to raising his/her personal support base before starting with Hungry For Life. This step of faith not only allows us to deliver on our commitment that 100% of project funds will be used for projects, but also adds an incredible spiritual dynamic of trust and dependence on God. The process of support team building affirms God’s call on our staff and surrounds each of them with a team of people who pray for them regularly. Our model in support team building is Jesus Himself. In Luke 8 it is clear that, “many others were contributing from their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples.”

> Our Structure

Hungry For Life International is led by a leadership team that includes the Executive Director as well as ministry directors. While this team leads in the day-to-day operations through the Executive Director, they are accountable to the board of directors who meet regularly to guide the organization and ensure the objectives are being met. The board also monitors the finances to ensure that the ministry is healthy and that donors are ensured a maximum impact and return on their investment.



45950 Alexander Avenue
Chilliwack, BC V2P 1L5

Phone: 604-703-0223

Fax: 1-866-255-8498

www.hungryforlife.org