

# ON THE GO

## Northpoint Missions & Outreach

*and make disciples*

*Quarterly Newsletter - Summer 2013 - Volume 1: Issue 2*



### **“Making disciples who make disciples”:**

this is our mission as a church. Yet it is easy for this mission to be lost in the bustle of activity and projects. Sometimes the demands of the institutional church compete against the mission of the church. After all, the institutional church is the place where we expect to have our spiritual needs met, the place we go to get our spiritual nourishment. The organized, local church is a wonderful thing, but the structure of that church is not an end in itself. Rather it is a means through which disciples are made, taught, and equipped to be disciple-makers.

*From Pastor Brent Whitefield:*

### **For this reason,**

it is important that we be vigorously engaged in outreach, both near and far. This is why we want to build a culture of outreach throughout all of our disparate ministries. It is tempting and easy to turn inward, to see the church as a means of self-strengthening and growth, for the sake of strengthening and growth. But we are called to grow in our faith so that we may be of service to the kingdom as disciple-makers. As Paul wrote to his protégé, Timothy: “The things which you have heard from me, in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” The purpose of Timothy’s education in the faith was so that he could pass his knowledge along.

**The analogy I like to use** is of the weightlifter and the bodybuilder. Both train to increase the size of their body mass. However, the bodybuilder does so in order to admire his muscles in the mirror, while the weightlifter trains in order to increase his effectiveness in lifting heavy loads and bearing burdens, or perhaps to be more successful in combat. In the same way, as we receive instruction in the faith and grow in our mastery of God’s Word, we may do so merely to impress ourselves or others with our increased knowledge. Or we may be equipping ourselves to do some heavy lifting in service of the Kingdom, or to engage in spiritual combat on the frontlines. The church is the place where we attain much of our training and preparation, but it can become a bunker or safe haven. What we have been trained to do takes place outside the church; we are not using what we have learned unless we climb out of the bunker and engage a lost world. My prayer is for us to become a church full of Kingdom weightlifters.



*continued below*



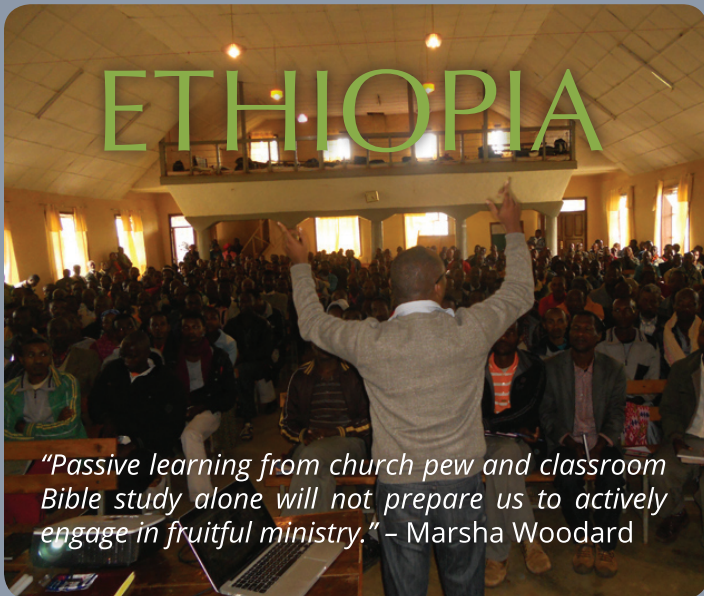
**In April, Lee Graber, Suzanne Graber, and I** spent ten days in Ethiopia to speak at a conference to promote the church planting project Lee has developed over the ten times he has visited the country since 2006. The project uses a program developed in the United States and adapted and translated into Amharic, the language of Ethiopia, called Training Centers for Church Planters (TCCP). Students in the program are trained to plant churches, and the "homework" for the course is to plant a church.

The conference was attended by church leaders from several of the provinces in Ethiopia and was intended to expose them to what God could do in their regions through TCCP. Lee (whom they call Father Lee out of respect for his efforts) and I spoke several times and encouraged them in their work.

Tom presented some materials that have already been translated into Amharic called *Fundamentals of the Faith*, which cover the basic areas of theology, training that is a great need for some church leaders who have little biblical background. (In another part of the country, a Muslim Imam who had written books for the Islamic religion became curious about the Fundamentals materials and became a believer in Christ as a result of his study.)



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*"Passive learning from church pew and classroom Bible study alone will not prepare us to actively engage in fruitful ministry." – Marsha Woodard*

Also pray for the development of a new translation of the TCCP materials into Oromifaa, another major language in Ethiopia.

After the conference, Lee and I attended a graduation for seventeen students who had completed the TCCP program in Chench, a small town in southern Ethiopia. Over four hundred people packed into a church on a Thursday morning to celebrate their accomplishment. Those seventeen students, some working in pairs, had planted eight new churches in the surrounding area. They had also donated money from their meager resources to send one of the class members to an unreached area, where he had spoken to over five hundred people in various settings and started a new church with the thirty-seven people who had accepted God's gift of salvation.

Please pray for Eskinder, the overall coordinator of TCCP in Ethiopia, and Alamu and Jamaal, area coordinators in other parts of the country. By God's grace and through their efforts, about seventy-five new churches have been established over the past two years. Pray for these new churches that desperately need leaders to guide them.



**On the weekend of March 22-24, a small team** of missionaries and I set off on a journey to Mexicali, Mexico in a little neighborhood called Carranza. The first time I heard of this opportunity I thought for sure my sister was kidding, I mean who would send a team of people who didn't even speak Spanish to Mexico? But it was true and my sister went and when she came back from this weekend trip, she was sharing with me about how miraculously God was working in so many of the peoples' lives. Knowing this I wanted to find out more, so I went to one of the meetings. I was fascinated with it, and that was when I decided maybe I should go.



*and make disciples*



On the Friday night we arrived it was about 11:00 p.m., and I was already exhausted. Little did I know the work hadn't even started. On Saturday, that is the day we did all of the hard work. Once some of the people from the church arrived we broke up into groups and headed off into the neighborhood to evangelize. This part of the trip was my favorite because when we went to the homes and asked them if we could talk to them, no one ever said, 'No,' to me. They were all so pleasant and I think they enjoyed us taking the time and talking to them about the Jesus. This time was also the scariest because we got to share our testimony in Spanish. When I did this the first time I was a wreck; I didn't know the first thing about speaking in another language. However, God provided the confidence and they listened as I struggled through my testimony. As I read in Spanish, I saw a change in their hearts. It wasn't a huge one, but it was enough to make me feel that the whole trip was worth it.

On that same day we put on a carnival. The great thing about this is it attracts the kids from the neighborhood and their parents. We got to share our testimony and put on a puppet show in Spanish. Pastor Antonio, the pastor of the church in Carranza, gave a message and led a worship time with the people from his church. Most of the kids were very interested and we got to give a clear presentation of the gospel.



The next day at Sunday school we put on a little VBS. We did the same puppet show as the one at the carnival, along with a craft. The kids really enjoyed it and got to take their craft home to remember the Bible lesson they learned that morning. All in all, it was a very busy weekend full of twists and turns around every corner, but the one thing we could all count on was that God was with us every step of the way.







**Nine women from Northpoint's** Women's Ministries went to Jordan and Israel April 1-16 to work with three different ministries. We worked with an abused women's shelter for women who are being persecuted by their Muslim families because of their Christian faith. We gave them a spa day and a tea day. We sat and heard the stories of many of the women. We taught them self-defense and CPR.

The second ministry we worked with was a Syrian refugee camp. We were able to help them distribute aid to the families that have fled the conflict there. The following day we gathered all of the women from these families and also taught them CPR and self-defense, and then we showed them the Rivka film (produced by the Jesus Film) and fed them lunch.



*"I believe that the ecclesia (church) that Jesus intended was specifically designed with built-in, self-generative capacities, and was made for nothing less than world-transforming, lasting, revolutionary impact. We were almost certainly not meant to become a domesticated civil religion!"*  
– J.R. Woodward



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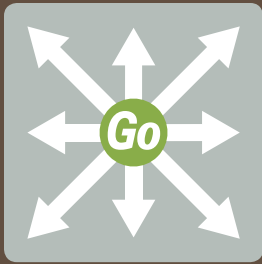
The third ministry was in Israel, where we visited with believing families. The Christian population in Israel is dwindling, and the head of the Campus Crusade in that area has a heart to visit with the families who are remaining to encourage them to stand firm and not flee.

We are now prayerfully considering how we can continue to support these ministries, both financially and with continued trips. Please join us in seeking God's will for our participation in the ministries.

*By Amber McEwen*



**Jordan & Israel**



# Notes & Items for Prayer

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## Needs:

Do you know of someone who has a little time to volunteer at **Corona Life Services**? There are many opportunities available, and not all of them involve spending time at the center counseling women and men. Yes, women and men! If you know some who might be interested, or if you are, please stop in, or call and ask that a volunteer packet be sent to fill out. Also, please be sure to talk with Dawn Granberry, the Director at CLS. Reach out! It will be a rewarding experience. Contact CLS at 951.272.3670, or email at [info@coronalife.org](mailto:info@coronalife.org).

## Pray for:

- God's Kitchen which is temporarily closed and looking for a permanent facility to provide meals to homeless people in the Corona-Norco area.
- The Northpoint team that will be in Tuba City, AZ, **July 20-25**, that God will make and strengthen partnerships among the Navajo and Hopi Christians there.
- The lives touched by Northpoint's Student Ministries who served at the Tanalian Bible Camp in Alaska last month.
- Derly Pate as she ministers with a sports team in Spain this summer.
- Lasting effects from the pastors' conference Pastor Brent Whitefield and Craig Hawkins helped to lead earlier this month in Shillong, India.
- Cornel and Vicki Boiter, that the seeds they planted during their May ministry time in Romania will bear fruit.

## Recommended resources on mission and outreach:



***Creating a Missional Culture: Equipping the Church for the Sake of the World***, by J.R. Woodward, Intervarsity Press, 2012

*Woodward calls, not for minor tweaks to our church priorities, but for a radical shift in our focus towards a genuinely missional approach in our bodies.*



***Demystifying Discipleship***, by Marsha Woodard, **Mission Frontiers**, May 2013 (available online)

*This article persuasively debunks the notion that passive learning can equip us for disciple making and instead offers practical suggestions for those who want to be more engaged in Great Commission work.*



***Counterintuitive Evangelism***, A Blog by Daniel Holmquist

*Holmquist's provocative blog starts with the premise that a "well-considered decision for Jesus is much better than a quick decision for Jesus." He describes the effectiveness of his evangelistic strategy of talking people out of following Christ!*