

Mission Partner Updates

Upcoming

Dates:

Feb 17 to

March 7:

Bolivia

Embassy

Team Trip

April 3:

9:15 & 11

Rising Above

Ministries at

Elevation

7pm concert

in Elмира

Dale & Janet Horst—Playas, Ecuador

Lifeline champions— Marge & Kevin Martin
“Dale is off to Onzole to help lead 2 Canadian construction crews for most of February. Janet and the boys will keep home fires burning and attend camp. The new year began with Camp El Faro projects and maintenance. Also, the second local Savings and Credit Union is formed and functioning.”

Nikki Horne—Guayaquil, Ecuador

Lifeline champion—Shawna Macdonald
“Our school year has just finished for 2 months of summer vacation. I will be travelling to and from Onzole for the month of February leading Canadian work teams that are helping us build the new community centre. Back in the city for March to help with summer camp on the beach.”

Nadine Feser—Tanzania, Africa

Lifeline champion – Michelle Farquharson
Nadine has just returned to Canada from Tanzania. Nadine, with the help of some Ontario doctors, has discovered that she has many more broken bones than once thought, and so will be taking some much needed time to heal physically and emotionally.

Brett & Grace Ostrander—The Philippines

Lifeline champions – Karl & Mary Gingerich
“We are preparing for our East Asia Conference in Singapore this Feb 9-12. We are excited to spend a few days after with my parents in Singapore. Ministry has been challenging, but major breakthroughs are being made.”

Karl & Mary Gingerich (International Teams Canada)

“I’ve rung in the new year well, with several accomplishments for International Teams. God is good regardless of my success or failures, but I sure love the success! Thanks for your support!”

Terry & Brenda Martin—Niverville, Manitoba

Lifeline champions—Pending
On January 1, Rising Above assumed the operations of an existing aboriginal counselling centre in Thunder Bay. This has consumed much of Terry’s time and will continue to be a focus as he seeks to develop the ministry. The centre currently employs 2 aboriginal women but is seeking a director and more counsellors.

Trevor & Rebecca Gingerich—Humber College church

“The Embassy Humber enjoyed an amazing winter semester launch—many new faces at our services and events! We’re continually encouraged and inspired by what we see God doing at this school. As always, thanks for your love and support!”

Craig & Leilani Bauman (International Teams Canada)

“Celebrate with us! Craig just finished leading training sessions with four interns (going to Sudan and the Philippines). ITCA has more than 18 new interns and long-term missionaries, as well as 37 short-term teams, going to international locations this year!”

Tyson & Carolina Malo—Cochabamba, Bolivia

Lifeline champion – Mel Martin
“We just finished hosting a team for Living Waters Fellowship, and are excited about the Embassy Team arriving in just 3 weeks! For all those who have helped to make this team possible—a big THANKS! And if you want to keep up to date on NCV activities, sign up for our monthly newsletter (www.ninosconvalor.org).”

Gord & Sharon Skopnik (International Teams Canada)

“Sudan had a successful peaceful vote for independence from the North, which is an answer to prayer. This means as a ministry we can move forward with reconstruction work. A team of 8 will go to Sudan in March, including Sharon, me, and our daughter Alyssa. We ask for your prayers and financial support.”

Onzole community center

A new community centre will soon rise in the jungle town of Santo Domingo de Onzole in Ecuador, under the leadership of Nikki Horne and Dale and Janet Horst.

The community centre will have a library, computer lab, and provide meeting space for health clinics, educational and recreation events, and a youth drop-in centre.

Nikki Horne and Dale and Janet Horst have been working in the river community of Onzole for the past four years.

The people in these river villages are descendants of West African slaves who escaped into the jungles. Because of their dark skin, they experience racial discrimination. And their remote location isolates them from medical care and education—the nearest hospital is a three hour canoe ride followed by a bus trip.

Nikki hopes the community centre will help address some of these needs. She views it as a resource for many villages along the river. The computer

lab will enable villagers to complete education by Distance Education, and allow them to develop computer skills. The library will be the first public library on the Onzole River, giving people access to seldom-seen books. The meeting space will provide space for people to gather for clinics, vocational training and recreation.

Several building teams will raise the structure in February, and they hope to install computers, sewing machines, and books in May 2011. — Jeanette Duncan

Global Ministries

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Rising Above**
- **Who is my neighbour?**
- **Updates from our Mission Partners**
- **Onzole community centre**

Suicide is now among the leading causes of death among First Nations youth between the ages of 19 and 24, with an estimated rate five to six times higher than that of non-Aboriginal youth.



The Global Update

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Rising Above

The magnitude of need is so great that sometimes Terry wonders “Will this ever turn around? Are we making a difference?”

Terry Martin and his wife Brenda serve with Rising Above, a ministry that works with Canadian aboriginals, empowering them to “rise above” the effects of a deeply wounded past. Terry is the Executive Director, while Brenda participates in the prayer counselling and music ministry.

For decades, government assimilation policies forced the removal of First Nations children as young as 6 years old from their families to live in residential schools, which reportedly were purposed to “take the Indian out of the child.” In these schools, the children were not allowed to speak their language, practice their culture, or contact their families. It was here where many experienced sexual and physical abuse.

The last residential schools

closed in the ‘80’s, but the damage they caused continue to ripple through generations. Whole generations of aboriginal people were brought up without parents, in a culture of religious oppression and abuse. Aboriginal nations have had to re-learn parenting skills, as well as deal with high rates of substance abuse and suicide due to the effects of abuse and abandonment.



Rising Above offers extensive 4-5 day conferences that include music, speakers, and healing circles. For many attendees, it is the first time they talk of their days in the schools, or of the living with parent survivors of the residential schools. The speakers are

all aboriginal, and they speak of their own wounds and healing. In healing circles, people share their stories, talk about how their story has affected other people, and discuss forgiveness and healing. A key element is introducing people to a new concept of God. Rising Above holds about four conferences a year in cities across Canada.

Rising Above also has a music ministry with the Rising Above Band, for which Brenda and Terry back up their aboriginal lead singer Howard Jolly. The band ministers at the conferences and also does concerts throughout the year. Howard shares his powerful testimony of growing up with an alcoholic father and how his dad’s life changed when he found Jesus.

For Terry and Brenda, it’s a calling they hadn’t dreamed of when they left New Hope Church to pursue seminary in Manitoba. And with Rising Above, they dream of seeing aboriginal peoples move beyond their broken past to experience life in the fullness intended by the Creator. —JD

Who is my neighbour?

This past week, a young friend’s Facebook status invited “courageous” people to agree that our country should first look after Canada’s own marginalized people before donating billions of dollars to other countries.

Politics aside, doesn’t this seem to be a wrong approach? Doesn’t this completely miss Jesus’ teaching about who our neighbour is? The Good Samaritan story clearly

teaches that loving our neighbour crosses geographical and ethnic boundaries.

I re-visited John 3:16 this week, and was encouraged that Jesus’ visit to this earth was motivated by God’s love for the world...for all of humanity. National boundaries ought not be the primary determining factor for the recipients of our generosity. God’s way is to lavish generosity toward anyone in the human family, and particularly the vulnerable.

James tells us that true religion is to care for the widows and fatherless, regardless of their geographical location or national loyalty. Our Elevation community, through our mission partners, longs to fulfill Jesus’ mission to love our neighbours, in KW, across Canada and around the world. —Steve Tulloch

Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight. James 1:27

Can you help collect Spanish books or computers for the new community center? Specs include: PCs made after 2005 Windows XP Pentium 4 (2GHz) 1 Gb Ram 80 Gb Hard Drive LCD monitors only Talk to Jeremy Horne for more information, or drop them off at the Life Change Adventure offices before Feb 15.

