

Mission Partner Updates

Dale & Janet Horst—Playas, Ecuador

Lifeline champions—Marge & Kevin Martin
 "Back home after an unforgettable family trip to Peru. (130 hrs of bus rides). Another micro-credit group is forming. We will all travel to Onzole as the workshop begins its school desk project. Burke begins high school at Waterloo Collegiate Institute (on-line)."

Nikki Horne—Guayaquil, Ecuador

Lifeline champion—Shawna Macdonald
 "After a great time spent in Waterloo, I go back to Ecuador encouraged and ready to take on new challenges. I will jump back into work in the elementary school in Bastion and continue preparing for next year's construction teams in Onzole."

Nadine Feser—Tanzania, Africa

Lifeline champion—Michelle Farquharson
 Nadine is currently touring North America, raising awareness and funds for her work in Tanzania. Also, her fibula is still broken following her fall in Tanzania. Pray for healing for that bone and for numerous other injuries as she continues to recover.

Brett & Grace Ostrander—The Philippines

Lifeline champions—Karl & Mary Gingerich
 "I am coming home alone from November 4 until the 29th. I look forward to getting to home and reconnecting with the church. We have figured out the issue why Grace can't get a tourist visa, and are now more accurately working on the problem."

Tyson & Carolina Malo—Cochabamba, Bolivia

Lifeline champion—Mel Martin
 This month we received 5 siblings into our 2 homes. Please pray for them, as the situation they are coming out of is a sad one, and there is a lot of healing work to be done.

Terry & Brenda Martin—Niverville, Manitoba

Lifeline champions—Pending
 Terry organized a Ride for Refuge in his town of Niverville to raise money for *Rising Above*. Thirty riders participated on a gorgeous fall day. As a "ride partner" *Rising Above* will receive a grant of approximately \$2,500. Much enthusiasm was created to continue the ride next year.

Trevor & Rebecca Gingerich—Humber College church

"The Embassy at Humber is growing! On Sept 20th, we had our largest launch service to date, with many new faces attending. Please continue praying with us regarding our financial needs, and THANKS for your support!"

Craig & Leilani Bauman (International Teams Canada)

"We help people get involved in mission; short-term, long-term and internships. God is moving us into a season of unprecedented mobilization (including Elevation teams!). Please pray for Craig and his team at the International Teams Canada office."

Karl & Mary Gingerich (International Teams Canada)

"The season from fall to the new year is always a very busy time for my work with IT. In addition this year, I have lots of research to do and big decisions to make about system upgrades. Pray that I'd be sensitive to God's leading for Kingdom building with International Team's computer systems."

Gord & Sharon Skopnik (International Teams Canada)

"Over \$11,000 of the \$18,000 has been donated for the Logu School in Southern Sudan. We are in the process of training 2 teams to go to Sudan next month, and 3 interns for March 2011. I am also looking for a volunteer administrator for the *Impact Sudan Program*."

short-term missions news

Are you going on a short-term mission trip? Elevation/The Embassy has a bursary program to assist individuals with the cost of their trip.

Bursaries are given at the discretion of the Global Ministries Committee. Applicants are expected to complete an application form, participate in an interview before the trip, and also give feedback on their trip after their return.

Application forms are available on the Elevation website. Please apply at least 6-8 weeks before your trip to allow time to process your application. Bursaries are for people who regularly attend our church, and we particularly want to encourage people who go to help one of our mission partners.

This fall, several people came to GMC, wondering about the possibility of taking a team of people on a mission trip. We were both delighted and nervous. How do we ensure a trip leaving from our church is a successful mission experience for all involved?

We are happy to announce a new partnership with International Teams. International Teams will help mission teams from our church with trip preparation, budgeting, and legal and practical details like insurance and charitable receipts. We are very excited to have their support and their expertise, particularly as we currently have two teams preparing to travel to Bolivia. A team from The Embassy is hoping to go in February, and the Elevation youth group later in the year. More details to come, but we encourage our entire community to rally fully behind them. If you desire any more information on team development or our partnership with IT, please contact Jeremy Horne: globalministries@elevateyourlife.org.



Brenda Martin, with two Cree friends. Rising Above helps First Peoples rise above the damaging effects of abuse to experience life, identity and purpose as God intended.

International Teams Canada is a Christian mission organization dedicated to meeting the physical and spiritual needs of the oppressed. www.iteams.ca



Even Craig Bauman and Neil Ostrander had a first mission trip.

Global Ministries

The Global Update

A Bulletin of The Embassy/Elevation's GMC

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The Highway Man
- Short-term missions—why bother?
- Updates from our Mission Partners
- Short-term missions news

The Highway Man



Gord Skopnik had spent 25 years working on what he calls the "refugee highway." Gord and his wife Sharon worked in Europe with International Teams, ministering to people who were looking for a new country to call home. In 2001, the Skopniks decided they would make their own home at one of the ends of the highway: Canada. They began the Welcome Home ministry for refugees in Kitchener, where Sharon continues to work in Program Support.



As Gord met refugees from Sudan, "I didn't understand them," he says. "These people seemed to have experienced more trauma and struggle than most." He decided to travel to Sudan to see for himself.

While helping build an orphanage in Sudan, he saw the

utter devastation of 50 years of civil war and heard the stories of escaped child soldiers. "My heart was breaking," he says. "I could not do nothing after seeing the suffering and need."

He decided to become a champion for those whose

partners. Seeing rampant waterborne illness, they developed water filtration systems which could be built and maintained by the Sudanese people.

In 2008, Gord's work became Impact Southern Sudan (This work is flourishing in a country that is rebuilding, but the needs are phenomenal.)

"I believe the Lord wants his people to be part of those who are suffering," says Gord, noting he is delighted to see Elevation becoming home to increasing numbers of refugee families. This spring, he met the brother of an Elevation family member

The Skopniks: Sharon, Ashlyn, Dustin, Alyssa, Gord, and Dylan

in a refugee camp in Uganda and encouraged him that our church will pray for him and support him.

stories had never been told. He began taking teams to Sudan to build schools and literacy programs with local

"I call it 'glocal' ministry," Gord says. "Local and global are not so separate anymore." —Susan Fish

Short-term missions—why bother?

I engaged my first short term mission full of scepticism and doubt. "How could this ever be a good use of the money? Surely we should just send the cash to the people in need!" Today, numerous trips later, I am still very sceptical, but I am also convinced that short term trips possess massive potential for life change.

I am sceptical. I am frustrated by what sometimes is referred to as "mission tourism" - using

Canadian tax charity laws to travel the length and breadth of an exotic country, with a few token food handouts or visits to poor people.

I am convinced. Repeatedly, I have seen people leave their everyday lives behind for a short-term mission, only to find their world view exponentially expanded: beliefs tested, life styles challenged, and life

direction reoriented. Short-term mission has profoundly shaped each member of my family and is, in my opinion, the most significant growth factor in discipleship.

As a friend once said: "If you desire normal, well-balanced kids, never introduce them to the mission of Jesus." Mission that has you investing in the lives of others—whether across the world or in your neighbourhood—will change your life. —Jeremy Horne

