

Mission Partner Updates

Dale & Janet Horst—Playas, Ecuador

Lifeline champions— Marge & Kevin Martin
 "It's been a great summer of reconnecting here in Canada. Janet and the boys are settling into their new routines with school. Dale juggles part-time work and periodic visits back to Ecuador."

Nikki Horne—Guayaquil, Ecuador

Lifeline champion—Shawna MacDonald
 Nikki is back in Ecuador after an extended break in Canada due to her grandfather's death.

Nadine Feser—Tanzania, Africa

Lifeline champion – Michelle Farquharson
 "I've finished at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and they gave me a certificate. I'm continuing with some therapies here in Waterloo, and I'm making plans to go back to Tanzania for about half a year. I will attempt to work with Pamoja at about half-time to start, then I'll need to come back to Ontario for follow-up tests. I feel much better than the last update, and I just keep improving—Thank you God!!!"

Brett & Grace Ostrander—The Philippines

Lifeline champions – Karl & Mary Gingerich
 Planning retreat for both ministry partners will take place in the first week of November. Grace and the baby are doing well, and we are now 8 weeks until she gives birth. Brett just finished another semester of school.

Gord & Sharon Skopnik (International Teams Canada)

People in Southern Sudan live mostly in extreme poverty. One thing Impact Sudan is doing to improve the quality of life is to provide clean water through water filtration. Filters can be purchased in Canada for \$100 so that one family unit can have clean water for up to 30 years. For more info, contact impact.sudan@iteams.org.

Terry & Brenda Martin—Niverville, Manitoba

Lifeline champions—Daniel & Deborah Gascho
 As of September 1, I have stepped aside as Executive Director of Rising Above and have assumed the new role of Director of Operations. For over 2 years I have felt it is time for an Aboriginal to take the lead role and be the face of this Aboriginal organization. I will continue to direct the day to day operations, which is where I feel my gifts lie. Additionally, I felt the change was imminent for my well-being. In the last year I have been sensing symptoms of burnout. In the coming months I will be transferring responsibilities to the new Executive Director and coaching him in his new role. If all goes well, I will take a sabbatical from June to October.

Trevor & Rebecca Gingerich—Humber College church

Trevor is busy with a new season at The Embassy at Humber. www.embassyhumber.com

Craig & Leilani Bauman (International Teams Canada)

"The International Teams' **Ride for Refuge** has been a huge success! We are excited to see how the Ride is growing. This year over \$1 million will be raised by 4400+ with 166 different organizations receiving those funds. The Elevation teams were awesome!! International Teams loves to help mission happen."

George & Eileen Werner—Barcelona, Spain

Lifeline champion – pending
 "We feel like we are living in two worlds, straddling the Atlantic. We are anxious to get to Spain to engage the work of starting the church planting processes as early as possible."

Karl & Mary Gingerich (International Teams Canada)

We covet your prayers as staff "hit" a very busy 2011 fall this year. Part is due to ITCA partnering with another great organization called CareForce International.



A water filtration unit in Southern Sudan.

Buy a Scarf, Buy a Book

Coming soon, you will have the opportunity to buy an Ecuadorian-made scarf. Money raised will be used to buy Spanish books for the new community centre in Onzole.



Bolivia summer team

Bolivia summer trip

From August 8-19, a group of 7 people from the Elevation youth group went to Cochabamba, Bolivia, to spend time with the children of *Ninos Con Valor*. The group was able to run games and activities with the children, while also assisting in the transition to a new home building for many of the children. Sarah Burjoski, one of the team members, was particularly excited about this trip as she "had been hearing about the girls for so long it

was incredible to finally meet them."

Sarah enjoyed being God's hands and feet while she was there, and was greatly impacted to see how some people live their lives in Bolivia compared with here at home. She learned that the poverty in the world that you see in news magazines and papers is real; also, despite how different life is, we are all so similar in many ways. Sarah

recounts of many times that she was "talking to a person that's just like me, just born somewhere else."

Sarah would like to encourage anyone who has thought about it to travel down to Bolivia and meet the children, as it is "impossible not to fall in love with them." On behalf of the team, she would also like to thank the Elevation community for all their support on this trip. — Julia Heyens



The Global Update

A Bulletin of The Embassy/Elevation's GMC

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Nikki Horne**
- **What is GMC?**
- **Updates from our Mission Partners**
- **Elevation Youth in Bolivia**

How to get to the new community center in Onzole from Bastion:

1. take bus for 14 hours over rough roads
2. Climb in canoe for three-hour trip on river

Nikki Horne

Nikki Horne came to Ecuador four and a half years ago after finishing a degree in History and Global Studies. She meant to stay for a year. Instead, she fell in love with the children and families she met. Today, she divides her time equally between Bastion, a squatter community on the outskirts of Guayaquil, and the remote jungle villages of Onzole.

In Bastion, she coordinates a sponsorship program for 240 children. She assesses the health, nutrition, poverty, and education of each family. The children attend a private school run by the sponsorship program. Though there is public education in Ecuador, teachers often pocket the money and ask students to buy paper, blackboard markers, desks, and chairs.

Bastion is a city of corrugated metal shacks, where many live without access to electricity or water. Jobs are scarce, and people work long

hours for little pay. Parenting is done at the end of a stick. People live day-to-day, and a medical crisis or a baby can overwhelm them with debt. "Our kids have everything going against them: socially, economically, and academically," says Nikki. "So we try with the school to bring them to a level playing field."



But the people of isolated Onzole face an additional barrier. Not only do they battle poverty and lack of access to education and health care, but their skin is black. "In this country, it's an actual issue," says Nikki. If Nikki walks down the streets of Guayaquil with a friend from Onzole, people will say, "Hold onto your purse, there's a black person coming."

After generations of racial discrimination, these descendants of African slaves believe they are inferior. Once when Nikki was helping to rebuild a school in Onzole, a close friend was amazed that they would make the school a priority. When asked why, she explained, "Well, we're black; we don't learn as quickly as other people."

Recently, with Dale and Janet Horst, Nikki worked with community leaders and visiting work teams to build a community center in Onzole that houses a library, computer lab and space for community meetings. She insists on learning to do things their way, knowing that builds dignity in her friends. "It's so significant on many levels. Education is giving kids a fighting chance to engage their world, and on other levels, it's saying, 'We're equal; I may be white, but I have so much to learn from you.' So, for me, it's about learning to do my laundry in the river or learning how to cook coconut or shrimp." - JD

What is GMC?

The Global Ministries Committee (GMC) is here to serve as a bridge between Elevation and the Embassy, and our ten mission partners across the world.

We believe the mission of each of our partners is important, whether working with Canada's First Nations, helping the poor in far flung nations, reviving

empty churches, or working in the administration of missionaries right here in Canada. Each of our mission partners works with all their might so that the message of Jesus' love can be shared.

Their work can seem far removed from our daily car pools, exams, or work deadlines. Yet, we are all united with a common purpose: sharing Jesus with the world

around us, whether that is amidst car pools or donkey caravans.

Our goal as the Global Ministries Committee is to care for our mission partners, and to help connect their worlds with ours here in Waterloo. And we ask that you support and love them as you are able—as we partner in sharing the gospel here and across the world. —Jeanette Duncan

