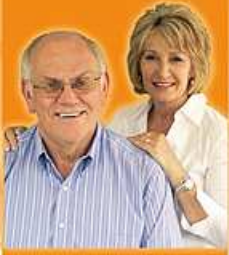


Heart copy

for the cluster of tony & marilyn fitzgerald
newsletter



m a r - m a y 2 0 0 9 v o l . 5 n o . 1

Wherever we look, in these days we see the Kingdom of Heaven increasing. I realize this has been a strong focus for us over the last couple of years and was again at our recent Cluster time in Missouri. (see Mike Morgan's report)

I've just recently spoken at Dove Ministries International Leaders Conference on the Kingdom, and they published an article of mine in their magazine emphasizing our desire to see people born again into a kingdom way of life not just a salvation experience. The article follows.

Coming into...

We come into the kingdom to
live a whole new way

It is a wonderful truth that although churches increase or decrease in numbers, His kingdom is ever increasing. When I was first teaching on the kingdom a number of years ago, I wrote this thought down. "We have come into something not just out of something. To be totally in we must be totally out, but we'll never be totally out until we realize what we're in."

“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this (Isaiah 9:7).”

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

Important Cluster Info/Dates:

April 16-23
Nicaragua Mission
flutemakerministries.org

April 18-26
Mission Guyana
missionguyana.org


Sept 18-19
USA Leaders Location TBA
cotnma.org

Oct 22-25
European Leaders Conference
Plymouth, U.K.

Heart copy

Coming into...

We come into the kingdom to
live a whole new way
[CONTINUED]



As I have been around Evangelical, Charismatic and Pentecostal circles over many years, I have realized there isn't much understanding about what we've come into when we become Christians. If you go to a youth meeting where someone has the opportunity to give a testimony and they have 10 minutes to share, they will spend 9 minutes talking about what they have come out of and one minute about what they've come into. I think this is mainly because most people don't comprehend what they have come into.

Of course the good side is that people are sharing what they have come out of, what Jesus has delivered them from; however, we need a greater increase in our understanding of what the kingdom of God is. Jesus continually taught about the kingdom. Understanding the kingdom of heaven is what gives us destiny and calling for our lives.

Peter, on the day of Pentecost, laid out the facts of the gospel and many people began running forward and saying, "What shall we do?" Peter replied (my paraphrase), "Repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit." But there is another verse here that is rarely mentioned. "And with many other words he solemnly testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them" (Acts 2:38-41).

I wonder how many of the people who were running forward, heard the "many other words," and then hesitated or even stopped? Today, if we were doing an outreach and called for repentance, baptism, and appealed for people to receive the Holy Spirit, and two or three thousand came running forward, we'd be very excited! We would probably make a video of it, write a book about it, and say we had 3,000 saved in one meeting! And it would be something to be excited about!

But to think that Peter, when he saw those numbers, said, "Hey, hang on a minute! If you want to come into something today, you're going to have to come out of something. If you want to get into this kingdom, you're going to have to get out of the kingdom of the enemy. You are going to have to get saved from this perverse generation and come into a kingdom generation that's living a new life in a new way."

Coming into...

[CONTINUED]

"we
need
to give
them
"many
other
words"

We're often so excited to get people saved, but sometimes they are on a journey toward salvation, and we need to give them "many other words" to bring them out in order to bring them into the kingdom.

A vision for the kingdom of God made a great difference in the early church. I often say that to understand church outside a vision of the kingdom is almost heresy itself, because biblically the early church only functioned inside the context of the kingdom—not removed from it.

We must in this day return to the centrality of the kingdom of heaven and pray as Jesus commanded—"Thy kingdom Come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven."

A Family that eats together...

Our COTN Cluster gathered the last weekend in March for our semi-annual leader's meeting in Carthage, MO. It was the first time Bykota Ministries (Be Ye Kind One To Another) of Carthage had hosted this gathering and by all accounts, it was a very fruitful time of kingdom input, networking, and building and strengthening our relationships. While of course there was a large group of Bykota leaders, attendees were present from New York, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, Tennessee, Honduras, and South Africa. We want to thank Bykota for the excellent way they hosted this event. As usual there was plenty of eating, and more than enough food to go around. At these times, so much of what happens is around the table together.



Heart copy

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A Family that eats together... [CONTINUED]

Tony kicked off the meetings by sharing Friday night on the subject "10 Paradigm Shifts Happening in the Church Today." These 10 shifts were observations and revelations that Tony and Marilyn have experienced and witnessed worldwide. These shifts seem to be moving throughout the Body of Christ regardless of the "type" of church be it denominational, traditional, house church, etc. This kingdom message is taking hold in the body of Christ and it is shifting our thinking. Some of these shifts include: An increase hunger for the Kingdom of Heaven message, Victorious Escatology, Increased disdain for religion, and Understanding Biblical/Kingdom Economics to name a few. As usual, we were challenged by these shifts but many have already embraced several of these shifts.

On Saturday morning Stephen Herzig of Pretoria, South Africa and Martin Hopkins of Annapolis, Maryland both spoke on the topic of work. If the church is going to embrace and advance the Kingdom of God, then we need to understand the godly principles associated with work and in living from a place of rest. God placed man in a garden, a place where we were to cultivate and bring culture, and we were given the stewardship of the resources. We were encouraged to get in the yoke with Jesus and that our fellowship comes from shared labor. We get to know people and discipleship people through these relationships. The meetings ended with an afternoon Answer and Question session, prayer, and ministry.

It was a great and powerful weekend. We are looking forward to our next Cluster Leadership meeting scheduled for September 18th and 19th, 2009, at a soon to be disclosed location on the East Coast. We hope to see you there!

mike morgan, BYKOTA

COTN VALUES

VALUE: **A SENSE OF BELONGING AND FAMILY.**

EVERYTHING THAT GOD HAS ESTABLISHED FROM THE BEGINNING OF CREATION WAS FROM THE BASIS OF FAMILY.

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT AS PEOPLE AND OTHER CHURCHES TOUCH OUR "FAMILY" OF CHURCH OF THE NATIONS THAT THERE WOULD BE A RECOGNITION OF OUR FAMILY HEART AND A SENSE OF BELONGING FOR THOSE WHO ARE MEANT TO BE JOINED TO US.



STONY & MARILYN'S Schedule

USA

Apr 30 – May 1	Charlotte, NC	National Leaders Meeting
May 1	Richmond, VA	I.T. Training
3	Richmond, VA	Celebration, COTN Prayer Day
9	Chambersburg, PA	Dove Ministries Training School
10	Chambersburg, PA	Celebration, Dove Ministries
15	Richmond, VA	Elders Meeting

U.K.

22 – 24	Elgin, Scotland	Fathers & Sons Conference
27	Stoke on Trent, England	Leaders day
28	Stoke on Trent, England	Cross Rythms Board Meeting
29	Milford Haven, Wales	The Lighthouse Christian Fellowship
31 AM	Plymstock, England	Celebration
31 PM	Tavistock, England	Joint Celebration

USA

June 6	Richmond, VA	I.T. Training
7	Richmond, VA	Celebration

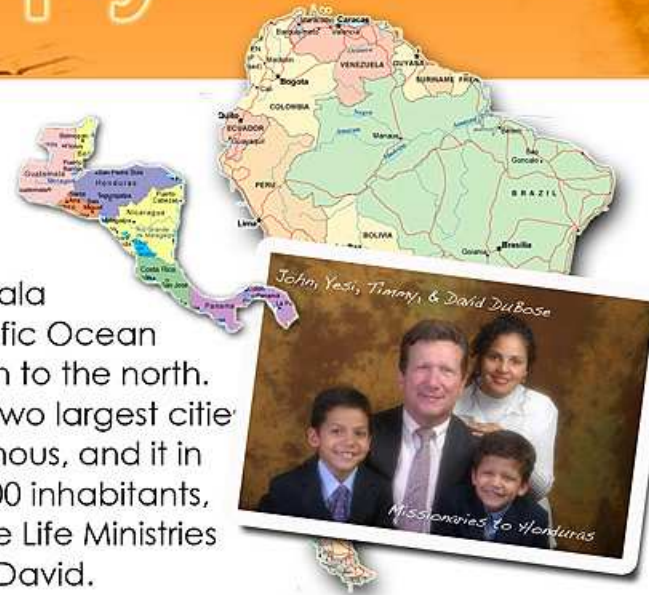
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Our Pulse in Central and South America

Honduras

Honduras is located in Central America between Guatemala and Nicaragua and bordered by El Salvador and the Pacific Ocean to the south, and by the turquoise waters of the Caribbean to the north. San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, the capital city are the two largest cities in Honduras. The interior of the country is largely mountainous, and it is in these central highlands that we find a town of about 75,000 inhabitants, called Siguatepeque. Siguatepeque is the home to Grace Life Ministries and John and Yesi DuBose and their two boys Timmy and David.



Siguatepeque is strategically located almost exactly at the halfway point between San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa. From there John and Yesi, who have faithfully worked the mission fields in Honduras for 13 years, have seen numbers of churches and bible schools established and many lives touched and changed through their ministry. Their ongoing vision includes the establishment of a rescue home for girls and a vocational school as well as continued improvement and expansion of the bible schools, and continued church planting.

Recently, John and Yesi have officially become part of the Church of the Nations family through their relationships with BYKOTA Church. Below is an excerpt from a recent email from John following our leaders' conference in Carthage.

"I left the conference really on fire for what God is about to do. I see a coming together of things here in [Central America]. Relationships are being sured up and made to bring this thing together. Our tiny glimpse of God's vision here is being expanded. I really believe that our lining up with COTN brought this about. One of the first messages that I heard Tony preach was about being lined up and connected where God ordains us to be. Blessing and anointing can only flow when things are in order. Several years ago a man came here and I was translating for him in another church. He gave me a Word saying that we would be a hub in CA. I believe that we are seeing that Word unfolding.

Whatever the next steps that God has for COTN and us, we want very much to be a part of."

John and Yesi, we love you guys and are blessed to have you as part of the family!

Nicaragua

Nicaragua has been marked as the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. So it's no wonder that the Lord would lead two distinct groups just from within our COTN cluster to be working with orphans and children in two different regions of this beautiful, yet impoverished nation (Continued on pg 7).

Heart copy

Our Pulse in Central and South America

[CONTINUED]

Nicaragua

Shelly Shepherd of BYKOTA first linked up with the Land of Judah Orphanage in Mesatepe a couple of years ago. Her heart, as well as the heart of the Shepherd family, was touched by these orphans and felt a calling beyond the many church, missions, and social organizations which serve the orphanages. She felt the Lord speak to her heart that "He knows their names," and that it should be the same for them as go an love and minister to these children, they should know the children's names as well – it should be personal.



March 13, for most young people around Missouri was an exciting day, the beginning of Spring Break. For Hailey and Ryan Carter, and younger sisters Christina Carter, Ivy Shepherd and Chloe Shepherd, it was an exciting day as they all piled into the car and began their trek to the airport and eventually to Mesatepe, Nicaragua to spend their Spring Break loving and ministering to the orphans and children there.

Meanwhile, Chuck Caine from Cincinnati and Erik Sampson (AKA Erik the flutemaker, flutemakerministries.org) in Fort Lauderdale were in the final stages of preparing for the team of 18 that would be going to minister to the "Kids of Cascabel" as they have become known.

Some of you have heard the many reports of what has been happening there directly from Erik and Chuck. I have included below an excerpt from a summary from Chuck at the end of December as to what has been accomplished over the past couple of years.

"Greetings and much thanks from the Kids of Cascabel,

Attached are a few pictures of your kids. In the past two years alone you have bought them land, dug them a well, built them a place to sleep, planted them a garden (notice how green the garden is, this used to be a barren mountain top), Bought them new bedding, built them a kitchen, provided a cook and a teacher, and you are helping us to feed them three meals a day.

We have just sent our second high school grad off to college (dig this, it costs \$20 per month) and we are very close to opening a store in a village that doesn't have one and this will allow people not to have to walk the over 10 miles to Somoto to buy basics. We are making a modest profit and will sow that back into the business to make it grow. We hope to open a bakery there some day."

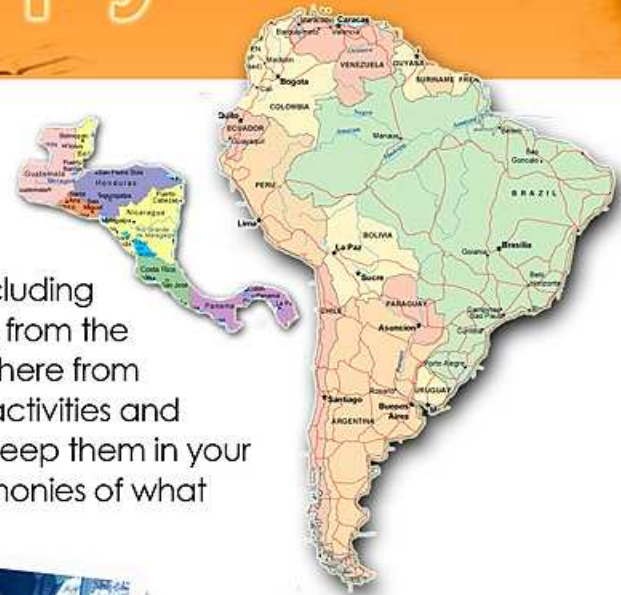
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Our Pulse in Central and South America

[CONTINUED]

Nicaragua

As you are reading this, the team of 18 mentioned above, including Chris and Rachel Yeatts, Barry and Kym Tatum and Katie Cox from the Richmond COTN family, is currently in Nicaragua and will be there from April 16 -23. They will be working with over 200 kids in various activities and ministering in the various communities they will be in. Please keep them in your prayers and we look forward to hearing the reports and testimonies of what God is doing!



The Kids of Cascabel

Guyana

Mission Guyana began in 1998 as Bruce and Mary Adams and their three boys, were led by God to Guyana and to the community of Mobilissa near the town of Linden to serve the community and establish the kingdom of God in the people there. After three years and much work in establishing roots in this community, Bruce and Mary were forced to return home to the Richmond, VA area. They continued to maintain their contacts and friendships in Guyana following their return.

More than five years ago now Bruce and Mary came into contact with our Church of the Nations family in Richmond and soon after became fully part of our COTN family. Over the past few years COTN Richmond has adopted Mission Guyana, a number of the people from the church have traveled down, more have sown financially and there has been good fruit.

Guyana is located on the North coast of South America between Venezuela and Suriname. It is a largely agricultural country and abundant in land natural resources and plentiful in opportunity.

Bruce Adams and Jason Pascale will travel down on April 18 -26 to bring continued encouragement to the community and to begin to implement some plans for economic development and uplifting of the community. Plans for small scale poultry farms have been in the works for some time and the foundations for these will be laid on this trip. As well they will be exploring the possibility of seeing a school re-established in the local Mobilissa community, and Bruce will be traveling a second time to Maruka, in the Northwest of Guyana, a new area of opportunity which has seemed to open up.

www.missionguyana.org

