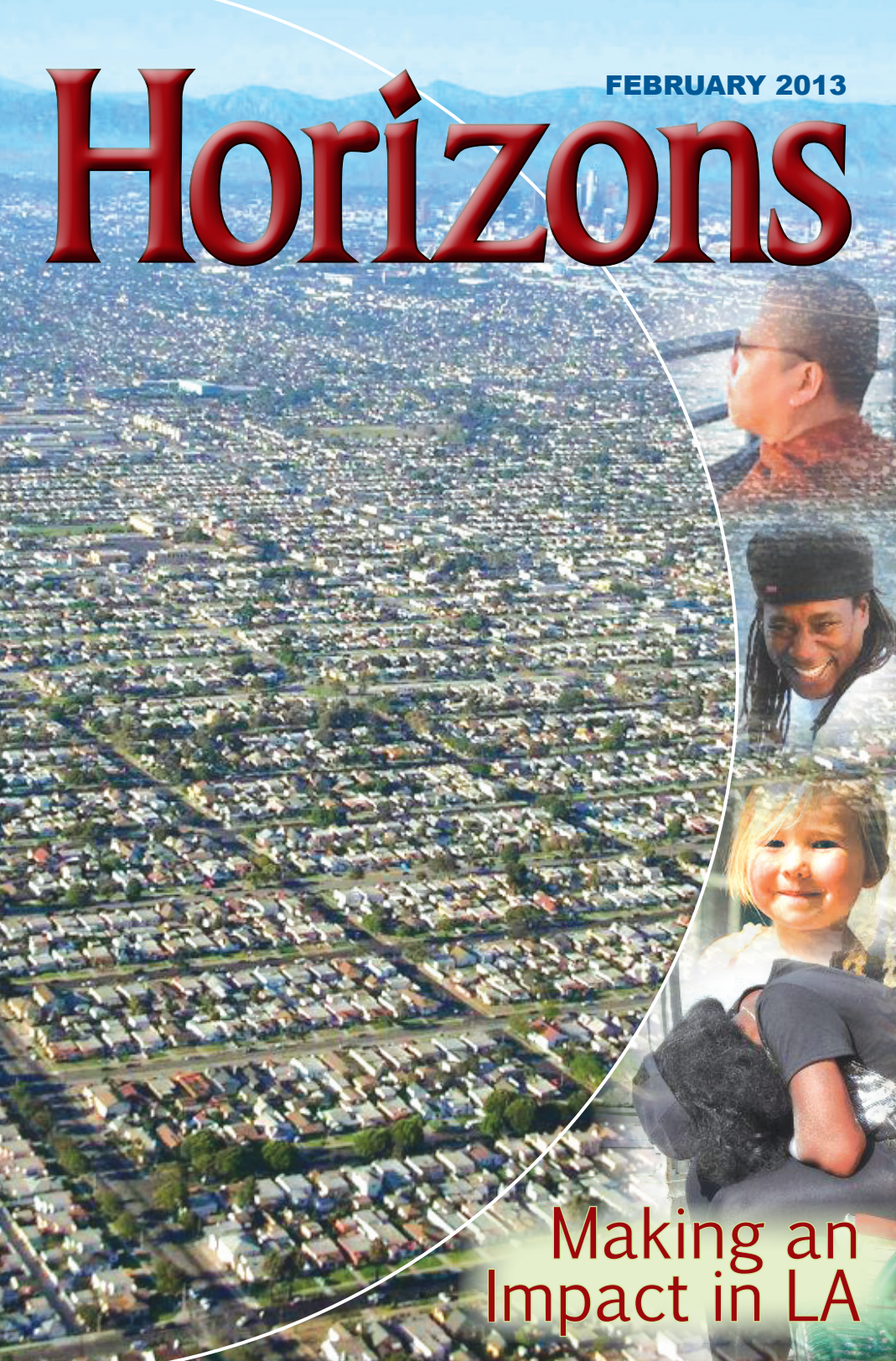


FEBRUARY 2013

Horizons



Making an
Impact in LA



Reggie
Hundley

Editor,
HORIZONS

and

Executive Director,
Mission Services
Association

editorial

“Choose Compassion” More Challenging Than We Might Realize

The January issue of HORIZONS included an article from Dennis & Lynn Free that should be re-read often. We should be examining our lives and asking of ourselves, “Am I choosing compassion in my life?” The answer may be more challenging than one might think. If you missed this issue or have misplaced it, it may be downloaded from our base website (missionservices.org/#/services-we-provide/horizons-magazine). A few copies remain in our office.

Choosing to be compassionate would seem to be simple for most readers of this journal. After all, it is devoted to world evangelism in the name of Jesus. Though it is read in more than 100 nations in print and online, most are Christians who regularly attend church gatherings. It would be logical to accept the presumption that our readers are forgiving, open to others, and act compassionately. That may not be the case at all.

The Frees accurately assessed the transformation for Savannah Christian Church. It was, at one time a “mono-chrome, mono-cultural church, with a membership whose attitudes were not notably different than one would find elsewhere.” I do not think many would be surprised, or overly concerned, to learn that people attend a church where others look and think like them or where the congregation would hold very similar values. This, in and of itself, would not designate a group where “compassion” had taken a back seat.

The question of whether or not we are compassionate addresses attitude and action. Do we WANT our congregation to remain

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one where everyone looks and thinks the same? Are there individuals living in the general service area of our meeting place who do not know Jesus and who are dissimilar from our congregational makeup? Are we, as individuals and a family of God, actively seeking to learn how to build bridges with those individuals and groups so they may find their way INTO God's family? Are we content to leave those dissimilar from ourselves to others who we believe are "better suited" to reach them for Jesus? Have we allowed ourselves the comfort of believing we are simply not able to "reach" certain individuals or groups?

Choosing compassion calls us to actively, deliberately, and through daily choices open ourselves to children of God who do NOT look like us, dress like us, think like us and have the same values we hold. Choosing compassion calls us to deliberately go into places and enter relationships where we are not comfortable and where we do not "fit." Choosing compassion calls for us to become friends with those from another culture, not in order to convert them but as equals in God's creation. As we learn to share in the joys and grief of life, God will tear down the walls that separate us. Then, as a trusted friend, will we have the opportunity to speak about the life changing power of grace. Have we chosen compassion or comfort? You think about that!

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6 Making an Impact in LA



Impact LA exists to bring the love of God to all the people in the city. Some are harder to love than others.

Our goal . . . is to go and make disciples among the unreached in Los Angeles. In the megalopolis you find people with various life circumstances. Getting into the neighborhoods and meeting the people God leads one to is a great way to spread the good news. We start by reaching people where they live, then encourage them in reaching those close to them, and eventually penetrating the neighborhood with the Gospel. It is when disciples are made the church naturally breaks out meeting in houses, coffee houses or even tattoo parlors!

We are recruiting partners to help us in this much-needed mission field. Would you partner with us?

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2013

May 20-21

Eubanks Institute for Missions (EIM) Conference

Johnson University, Knoxville, Tennessee

Focus: Bible Translation

Contact information: Gerald Mattingly

865-251-2349 / gmattingly@johnsonu.edu

JULY 9-12

North American Christian Convention

Louisville, Kentucky

Theme: "Victorious"

President: Matt Proctor

Contact information: North American Christian Convention

513-772-9970 / www.gotonacc.org

JULY 21-27

2013 Lake James School of Missions

Angola, Indiana

Contact information: Kent Shady, Program Chairman

260-824-2132 / kdshady@adamswells.com

NOVEMBER 14-17

International Conference on Missions

Kansas City

Contact information: David Empson

317-539-4231 / david@nmc-windows.org

NOVEMBER 15-17

Eastern Christian Conference

Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania

President: Ben Cachiaras

Contact information: Eastern Christian Conference

410-836-6102 / info@easterncc.com

www.easterncc.com

Making an Impact in LA

-- by Kim Gasaway
urban missionary



Reaching the People of the City

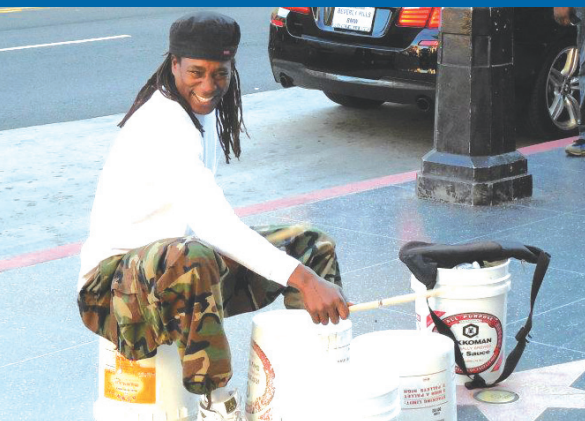
My wife needed her ears re-pierced. She could have gone to a jewelry store but we lived in Highland Park, a neighborhood in Northeast Los Angeles, so she went to the local tattoo and piercing store. “Bacca” is a former Golden Gloves boxer and a Marine. He is now a tattoo artist. His clients vary from his Latino neighbors to porn stars who often have their limousines in front of his store. He has been involved in Satanism and is a sex addict. I spent 2 hours talking with him and “Mike,” his piercing partner, a son of a Baptist preacher and currently an alcoholic.

“Bacca” couldn’t stand Christians. He knew some of his lifestyle choices were wrong but he didn’t need people telling him that. What he needed was someone to listen to him, care about him. What he needed to experience was the love of God. He became a man of peace.

What is a man of peace? This is a principle found in organic, simple church planting. In an unevangelized area God will put people receptive to the gospel. We need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading to find this person. Most often God uses this person and their family to establish a “beach-head” for the infiltration of the gospel into that neighborhood. (See Luke 10)



Kim and Diane Gasaway



Left to right:

- A man of peace in Chinatown
- Despair and homelessness. The city is home to people needing to be transformed.
- To the beat of a different drummer on Hollywood strip.

Impacting LA

The city is really a complex mesh of people. In the city of Los Angeles where I serve there is extreme diversity.

- People groups (over 200 different cultures)
- Languages (over 100 different languages)
- Distinct neighborhoods (over 100)
- Economic wealth (from living on the streets to living in mansions)
- Crime (over 50,000 gang members and the country's largest municipal jail)
- Homelessness (also over 50,000)

- Addictive behaviors (sex, drugs, alcohol...)
- Large functional and dysfunctional families
- Transitional people (people who use the city as a jumping off point)

The enormous number of people in the city (regional population of over 17 million people) begs for a variety of approaches to reach the lost. There are traditional churches reaching out into the city which is a good, but there are also many people like "Bacca" who will not be effectively reached by a traditional church approach.

The strategy we have adopted is an



Top to bottom:

- Piano man on Venice Beach.
How do we reach the un-reachable?
- Tattoo artist in Highland Park in Los Angeles.

organic, simple church method of making disciples. We start by reaching people where they live, then encourage them in reaching those close to them, and eventually penetrating the neighborhood with the Gospel. It is when disciples are made the church naturally breaks out meeting in houses, coffee houses or even tattoo parlors!

Reaching the city in a Framework of Isaiah 61

*The Spirit of the Lord God
is upon me, because the Lord
has anointed me to bring
good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the
brokenhearted, to proclaim
liberty to the captives, and
the opening of the prison
to those who are bound;*

In the megalopolis you find people with various life circumstances. Getting into the neighborhoods and meeting the people God leads one to is a great way to spread the good news. The following are descriptions of people we have come to know. Not all have become disciples but most are receptive. The names and locations have been changed due to protect their privacy. They are real people who need Jesus.

Let's start at Destiny's House, looking for openings in the hedges

I was introduced to Destiny while passing out sack lunches with a ministry reaching out to the homeless and disenfranchised.

Four years old, bright red hair, freckles and a smile that lights up the neighborhood. Deep down was the innocence of a child but at the surface her life was anything but innocent. Just 5 days earlier a social worker had stopped by and said if the condition of her house did not improve they would take this freckled face cherub away the next day.

Her daddy is in jail awaiting conviction. Destiny is a name that rang with irony. What will her destiny be? In 2 weeks it would be Christmas. It might be years before she could hug her daddy. Her guarded demeanor wouldn't allow her to look up at me. I teased her, talked with her, tried to connect with her.

She finally smiled at me. The wall of fear had come down. She pulled out a small book and asked me to read it

to her. "A Gap in the Hedge," is a book about a girl who finds a gap in the hedge.

There are many hedges in the city, natural or man-made, that keep people from hearing and accepting the Gospel. For her and many like her there is a gap in the hedge, if we go to where they live. It is a temporary gap at times. In 8 years she could be out of reach. Sharing with the lost in urban settings requires us to seek out the family at its most vulnerable place. If we act, the mother and even the father in incarceration are within the grasp. She is a gap in the hedge.

Ricardo, a Vulnerable Age

Ricardo lives in an at risk neighborhood with an at risk family. He is at an age, 13, which gangs are recruiting. He sometimes has carried a gun for protection. It is a dangerous world in the city. There are temptations beyond most of our understanding. Some give in to temptations just to survive.

Gang affiliation becomes a family-like structure they may not get at home. Ricardo was begging for belonging, for hope.

Ricardo just showed up one day. Taken under the wings of a young Christian couple involved with the ministry, Ricardo began to shine. He was baptized at the beach.

We have moved from Highland Park to raise funds so we move back to the city. The couple is not involved with Ricardo anymore. Our hearts hurt for him.

Impact LA exists to bring the love of God to all the people in the city. Some are harder to love than others.



-- What is her destiny?

Making an Impact, becoming a Catalyst in the City

When Paul traveled from city to city he had a group of followers. I'd like to call them catalysts. A catalyst in chemistry is a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction, but is not consumed by the reaction; hence the catalyst can be recovered unchanged at the end of the reaction it has been used to speed up, or catalyze, to be used again.

Catalysts go out two by two and make disciples who contain all that it takes to go and do the same. This is how church planting movements begin. One can see an example of this in seeing how the Chinese church has grown exponentially.

We are working in collaboration with Global City Mission Initiative (<http://www.globalcitymission.org>) based in New York City. Global City Mission represents a strategic vision combining years of experience in urban mission settings with a vision for disciple-making that leads to new churches. Working at the world's crossroads, we long for disciple-making movements in and through diverse and globally connected cities.

Our goal at Impact LA is to go and make disciples among the unreached in Los Angeles. We are recruiting partners to help us in this much-needed mission field. Would you partner with us?



Kim graduated from Cincinnati Christian University in 2002. He worked with 2 church plants and as an elder in a third church as God seemed to be pointing to urban ministry. After 2 years in an urban church in Los Angeles, he came to embrace the city and the organic, simple church model as a catalyst and urban ministry.

Kim is raising support and additional catalysts to take the good news to the people in Los Angeles.



Left to right, top:

- Baptism on the beach
- Buddhist on Santa Monica pier
- Sign says it all. Got Jesus?



Left to right, bottom:

- Living in a post modern world
- Working alongside the police



focus on

Prayer Needs & Praises

Africa

- Give praise with Marc & Tina Gebhard (PBT-Guinea) as they see God's Word for the Lele people come into being. 2013 will see Luke refined, Acts translated, and people learning to read them.

Europe

- Georges & LaVerne Carillet (Ukraine) request prayer for a successful closing on the purchase of a ministry center in their area.

Asia

- DiscipleMakers, Inc. request prayer for the following:
 - Recent graduates of the Himalayan Training Center in Kathmandu as they begin ministries in various locations in Nepal.
 - Ryan Warmuth, a Cincinnati Christian University student, serving a 7-month internship in Nepal.
- Harvey & Nancy Bacus request prayer for the countries of Jordan and Syria for peace in this region full of turmoil.
- Give praise that the Jordan government has granted resident visas to Harvey & Nancy for another year.
- Beverley Kalnin (Thailand) requests prayer for a co-worker, Sarip Pung, involved in a serious accident recently.

South Pacific

- PBT-PNG request prayer as the NT in the Tay language is scheduled to be completed this year, with the Mborena Kam, Waran, and Apal New Testaments following soon after. Pray that God will protect the people and resources involved in finishing these translations.

U.S.

- Be in prayer for Wayne Murphy as he officially retires as Executive Director of Polish Christian Ministries. Also pray for the new Director, David Hatfield, who will assume responsibilities March 1st.

PBT

- Pray that God's Word will impact the lives of mother-tongue translators as they grapple with its meaning.
- Pray that minds and hearts will be open to recognizing when God's Word confronts deeply-ingrained habits and attitudes.
- Pray for courage to live in obedience to God and his Word.
- Pray that unbelievers will be drawn to Christ as they see the transformed lives of their Christian neighbors.
- Pray that God's Word will produce a rich harvest as PBT personnel and local leaders lead public reading and discussion of mother-tongue Scriptures.
- Pray that translated Scriptures will be widely distributed in electronic format in places where print copies cannot go.
- Pray for transformed lives through God's Word in every language.

Global

- Pray as Good News Productions begins to translate *The Global Gospel Project* into the top 25 languages of the world by the year 2015. This is a series of 88 stories on the life of Christ. (To view these, go to www.themissionsnetwork.com)
- Please join the Life in Abundance Ministry family as they pray for persecuted brothers and sisters worldwide. Pray for justice and mercy.

Team Expansion

- Please pray for Spencer & Pat Garner and a trip to Mongolia May 15th to August 15th.
- Pray for Nigel & Loida Pyle (Philippines) as they finish the school year, which ends in March in their current location, which is subject to foreclosure.
- Pray for Mike & Jean Propp and the work they are doing in the Philippines with Village of Hope.
- Pray for John & Cheryl Dunn (Taiwan) as they reach out to the people through activities and outdoor worship.
- Pray for good health for Chris & Samantha Sanford and their daughter, Hosanna, as they serve in Taiwan.
- Ask that God would provide opportunities for Dave & Jeanay Stiles to start a new church in Taiwan.
- Ask God to open hearts to the gospel in David Atkin's Monday night English class in Taiwan.
- Ask God to bless the work of Scott & Angie Pagel as they also work with the Taiwanese.

in memory

Ruth Sanders

January 15, 2013, God called His daughter, Ruth Sanders, home. Our beloved missionary, our counselor . . . her kind and gentle way, her soft-spoken way, caring, always wanting the best for each of us. She departed and we will miss her.

She was an example for all of us as a person, daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend -- extraordinarily brave! Her strength, her charisma, her love for others, always with a smile on her face. She taught us that it is best to forgive, to love and this is the best way to live.

God took her and how the angels sing with joy upon her arrival into heaven and she is feeling the Lord's peace for sure and feeling such happiness to be able to stand next to our God and loving Father.

We do not learn to say goodbye, and as much as we prepare to let someone we love go, it hurts; it takes a piece of our hearts. We think of how we could have loved more, talked more, played more, been more connected . . . but we know that what we lived beside Ruth was enough to make her feel loved by us and we felt very loved by her, and God gave us the privilege of having her around for 88 years. 88 years well lived.

Many of us cannot be present for a last goodbye. That, in fact, this is just the carnal good bye because we'll soon be at her side again. So we will just say "Goodbye Ruth. We'll see you soon." And during this time we will certainly miss you and we will remember all the times we had by your side and it will open a smile on our lips, often causing a tear to fall from our eyes. But we will remember that she is happy with the Lord in heaven who will be comforting, soothing, every pain of longing and teaching us to continue to live until the day of reunion with our loved ones.

So today, we thank God for being in our lives and to have known Ruth Sanders.

Ruth Sanders, you will always be remembered! Always loved! We will miss you, until we meet again!

-Kalinka Jean (Ruth's granddaughter)

(editor's note: a funeral service was held for Ruth on January 17th at the Christian Church in Brasilia. Ruth was buried at Camp de Esperanca.)

Thank You!

As we strive to serve missionaries and ministries worldwide, we rejoice with these who share our goals and visions. Thank you for your continued generous support! The following are those whose gifts were received as of February 12th, 2013. To date, \$11,765.00 has been given.

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