

Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities

Seeds Of First ‘Taste Of Missions’ Take Root

By Attila Toth

Working on the mission field, we are always facing this problem: the work is a lot, but the workers are just a few.

Several times, we have seen open doors where God could do things through us, but we have felt that we don't have the energy to pursue every opportunity. It's too much work.

While living with that feeling last October, I and my friend Zsolt Novak, decided to go on a short recruiting tour where we visited several bigger churches in Romania. Together with other pastors and missionaries, we talked about mission and about the needs that we have for more workers. We had in mind that we could get some help by moving people here.

During that trip, we faced the fact that a lot of people are interested in doing mission, but because they've never done it before, many of them feel

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Bill Kenny, left, Robert Muteitha, Bernard Kabaru and Charles Mbugua share how God has given them an opportunity to work together for His glory.

God Has Brought Together A Great Team

By Floyd Parker

There we were, sitting at a table in Kenya looking at each other over tea and coffee. I saw my longtime friend, Bernard Kabaru, Charles Wambui, whom I met in 2004, and Robert Muteithia, who has become like a son to me.

God has brought together an amazing team; a team that includes three highly gifted women - Bernard's wife, Mary (education-innovation), Charles' wife, Grace (community development), and Robert's wife, Lucy (business and finance). Together God gave them a vision for the transformation of their home areas and for their country, Kenya. They believe that it will stretch internationally.

There are two parts of the dream:

- **Life Empowerment for Transformation International**

(LEFTI), a newly formed Kenyan non-profit that will be the umbrella organization for community development, church empowerment and mission. LEFTI is led by Robert and Bernard.

- **Life Change Investment (LCI)**, a newly formed Kenyan investment company will be the umbrella organization for developing and growing business persons who honor Christ in the marketplace through operating their businesses according to Biblical principles.

God has brought together a team of partners in the United States to walk and work with their Kenyan partners in the living out of this dream.

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TASTE OF MISSIONS

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discouraged or afraid to even try. It was at that point that the seed of a dream was planted; a dream of gathering all of these people together to help them experience and taste mission for a week, thus encouraging them to live out the calling they feel in their lives.

This dream became a reality June 22-29 when we were able to organize a mission camp in Gheorgheni. Every morning, we had teaching about different areas of mission. For example, we talked about our calling, the cost of doing mission, how to start mission in new areas, how to continue mission where it's already started, and how to be committed to doing mission.

In the afternoons, we did practical application of lessons learned when we went out to the street or to different communities where we experienced how people accepted or rejected what we wanted to share with them. At night, after a church meeting, we shared what we had experienced on the mission field that day or at other times when we did mission.

All the morning lessons were presented by Dr. Floyd Parker who played a big part in making this camp happen. The lessons were very encouraging and helpful for everyone who was there. The most interesting thing to see was how these young people began to have a clearer understanding about mission.



The first "Taste of Missions" got under way in June as Believers talked about their calling, the cost of doing mission and how to put into practice what it means.

Each day, as they understood more, they became more and more excited about doing it. Everyone who was present at that conference returned home refreshed and recommitted to doing mission. We all agreed that it would be great to be together again next year in a conference like this.

GREAT TEAM

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The dream continues to develop in Kenya as ground was broken for the Life Empowerment for Transformation International House and guest house in Nyeri County.

The house will serve as the center of activity for the transformation of lives through education, business, and ministry development.

Eventually, the complex will include a

high school, a learning center, a retreat center, a trade school, farm development project and who knows what else God has planned.

In early July, Bill Kenny, from Nashville, and I met with Bernard, Robert, and Charles to go over ideas for LCI and prepare for its launch on September 26.

We had three long days of working on vision, values, investment models, and praying and sharing. We wrapped up our

time together confident that God had brought us together for this purpose.

Bonnie, I and Bill and his wife, Debbie, will travel to Kenya in late September for the LCI launch.

Also, Bonnie, Debbie, Mary, and Lucy will be leading a women's conference.

Please be in prayer for these endeavors as we continue to identify ways to glorify God in the marketplace.

Ground has been broken on the Life Empowerment for Transformation International House and guest house in Nyeri County. It will serve as a center of activity in life-changing work.



Serving The Lord As A Widow

By Elisabeth Vekas

It's hard to believe that five years have passed since I became a widow, but I stand in wonder at how gracious our God is. He is faithful and truly a Father to the fatherless and widows as my children and I have experienced.

I often wonder, though, how He can use me, a very small servant in His ministry, in His Kingdom.

Each time sisters in Christ invite me to serve among them in different conferences it is a big challenge and a big blessing for me. This spring and summer, God gave me opportunities to serve in different churches in Romania and also abroad.

In April, I visited the sisters from Republic of Moldova. Together with Margun Warem from Norway, we spent nearly a week serving these women. Margun and I served together for 10 years in the European Baptist Women's Union. The women's group from her church support the conferences organized in different churches for the widows.

God gave me opportunity to share His Word and my testimony as a widow with the sisters in Moldova. The basic message I shared is found in Luke 2:36-38... *"How to serve God today as a widow? How we can trust in our Lord? Ana from Aser..."*

I am thankful to God for allowing me to experience His work among the women of Moldova since 2011. Every year that I participate in their conferences, I receive new encouragement, new ideas in my ministry among the Gypsy women.

Another occasion to serve abroad was in June in Serbia among the Hungarians. There are a few small churches. The women's conference took place in Csantaver, a big Catholic village. The Baptist church is quite new having been established only 20 years ago. In that time, however, a young couple accepted Jesus as their Savior and has followed Him faithfully.

Each Sunday for a number of years, they traveled a good distance to attend the church. Some of their friends also accepted Jesus as



Elisabeth Vekas, left, a Teleios partner in Romania and wife of the late Zoltan Vekas, has come to realize that God can use her testimony as a widow to help reach other sisters in Christ.

Lord. They began to think about having a church in their village. Praying and doing God's will they began to have a service in the village. Soon, God helped them purchase a house. Today, there are new mission churches, and they are working to share the Gospel in a very different way.

So, at this June meeting, 30 women gathered on a Saturday to attend a conference. The theme was "A Closer Relationship with Our Lord and the Blessings of This Relationship."

Their life is not easy. After the war, many people left the country. It is very difficult to find a job in the villages. Those who stay in their homes and try to share the Gospel must be faithful as they experience that God provides their need. This is true also for the widows and for women in different difficult situations.

It was a real blessing for me to hear their testimonies and witness that even in the midst of the hard challenges of the life, they are rejoicing in our Lord! We repeated together the Bible verse: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice." (Philippians 4:4)

Thank you for your prayer support and to Teleios Ministry for making it possible for me to share the Good News in these places.

Gypsy Camp 2015

Why ‘Trust And Obey’ Go Hand In Hand

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

— John 14:15

The theme for this year’s Summer Gypsy Camp was “Trusting God and Obeying His Instructions.”

The Bible stories used with this theme all told of men and women who placed their trust in God and obeyed, as well as of those who chose to disobey and not trust Him.

Over the course of the two weeks, Teleios team members incorporated this theme and the messages of the Bible stories into the arts and crafts sessions, recreational games and activities, and the music/drama events. As the children participated in these activities, it became obvious that God’s message was taking hold in practical ways.

This was the first year of camp for many of the children. It was

more than heartwarming to not only see the smiles on their faces, but to see some of the “veteran” children help the new campers as they learned the ropes.

As always, the beauty of the Carpathian Mountains proved to be a bonus for the children, many of whom had never been beyond the borders of their villages.

Most importantly, these two weeks of camp again provided an opportunity to actively engage with the children and help demonstrate just how much God’s love touches all aspects of our lives.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this important outreach among the Gypsies.





MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6

First Year At Gypsy Camp Makes Quite An Impression

Editor's Note: Abigail Dover joined this year's Teleios Team at the annual Summer Gypsy Camp in the Carpathian Mountains near Sibiu, Romania. She has written of her first-year experience in the form of a "letter home from camp."

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Dear Mom and Dad,

What was I thinking: going to a two-week camp halfway around the world where no one speaks my language? The kids are crazy fun and have lice. (I think I've got them, too!) All we eat is boiled potatoes and meat; the temperatures are hot one day and cold the next. . . and I'm loving every minute of it!

Crafts were always my favorite thing at Vacation Bible School, and now I'm in charge of them. Late night prep work, skipping recreation, and arriving late to lunch...some days it's just part of the job, but it's all worth it. The children are all so creative and artistic. Orsi, my translator, and Katie are a huge help. One or two of the kids can get out of line, but Orsi taught me that a light tap from a Sharpie® can be effective.

The kids are very loving and hands-on. One girl fell asleep in my lap the second week. It is hard to stay mad at them when they are bad. I just want to bring them all home with me. I would resent strangers who didn't speak my language coming in and acting like they're in charge, but these kids so willingly accepted us. Some of the only English words they know are "I love you," but they use them freely.

One problem is the language barrier. One girl couldn't understand that I could hear her but couldn't understand her. Orsi told her I could only speak English. She then asked if I was born that way!

Anyway, being a counselor is a new experience, but a fun one. This camp has given me a lot to think about and taught me some things. I came thinking it would be hard to feel close to God when I couldn't understand the language, but I was so wrong. I learned that language barrier can't stop God from working through people.

Some Christians stop when they get saved, but that is just a beginning. I learned that everyone's story can be used in a powerful way. I had never told anyone my testimony before, but God used a young Southern girl's experience to speak to Gypsy children. I guess it just proves that our God is an awesome God.

Love you,
Abigail

September Travels To Cover Two Continents

Floyd and Bonnie Parker will embark on a two-continent trip* in September as they meet with Teleios partners, lead seminars and meetings, and follow the progress of construction projects and new business developments.

Please pray for safety in travel for the Parkers, as well as for Bill and Debbie Kenny who will join them in Kenya. Pray, too, that the Lord will be glorified in each aspect of the work being done.

First Stop - The Barnabas Group in Romania

Floyd will be sharing with the Barnabas Group September 8-9.

The Barnabas Group is an ongoing leadership development group of Hungarian Baptist pastors formed in 2007 with Teleios Ministry as a partner. The group is led by Dr. Jozsef Kovacs. Teleios, in partnership with the Agape Peninsula, Aghires, hosts their semi-annual meetings.

Each Fall and Spring, the group gathers to hear from leaders around the world regarding mission innovation, practical application of leadership skills and trends in society and the church with a Biblical response.

As always, there will be time for catching up and encouraging one another. The Barnabas Group was established by young pastors who had been trained after the fall of communism in Romania.

**You can follow their travels on the Teleios blog (www.teleiosministry.org) or on the Teleios Facebook page.*

ITINERARY

- Sept. 6-7: Greenville to Cluj, Romania Air and Land
- Sept. 8-9: Floyd to Barnabas Group Fall Meeting
- Sept. 8-13: Bonnie to Satu Mare with Elisabeth Vekas for **Women's Meetings**
- Sept. 10-13: Floyd to Satu Mare to join Bonnie
- Sept. 14: **Regional Women's Conference, Zalau**
- Sept. 15-16: Reghin
- Sept. 16: Fly to Amsterdam
- Sept. 17: Meet Bill and Debbie Kenny — Fly to Nairobi, Kenya
- Sept. 18: Visit Happy Day Academy and Meet Partner families
- Sept. 19: **Kieni West Women's Seminar (near new property);** drive to Nyeri, Westwood Hotel
- Sept. 20: Worship at Kiangondu Baptist Church and visit with **Bernard's Mom**
- Sept. 21: Visit property, see progress of house construction
- Sept. 22: Visit Nyeri area to observe Orphans and Vulnerable **Children's work (LEFTI) and visit with local business owners**
- Sept. 23: Safari
- Sept. 24: Drive to Nyeri and prepare for Business Seminar
- Sept. 25-26: Life Change Investment Business Seminar
- Sept. 26: Life Change Investment Launch (drive back to the Kentmere Club)
- Sept. 27: Worship at Koinonia Baptist Church; Say good-bye to Kenya and start the safari home
- Sept. 28: HOME

Gypsy Camp 2015



This Just In...

From Romania...

Gornesti – Istvan (Isti) Kaylanos and Annamaria Reti were married July 11. Isti is a leader in the Gornesti mission. He visited with us in the U.S. in 2013. Annamaria serves as a teacher in the Glodeni Nursery School and has also served as a teacher with the Apalina Afterschool Program. They will live in Gornesti and continue serving with the Gornesti church.



From Tanzania...

Iringa – Mboka Mwaisumbe and Jack Ndani ya Kibisi were married July 25. Mboka is the niece of Teleios partners Mveli and Neema Mwaisumbe.



From Kenya...

Congratulations to Robert and Lucy Muteithia as **they've learned they are to become parents!** The baby is due December 25. Please pray for them as they prepare for this new phase of their life together; pray for the health of mother and baby; pray thanking God for blessing this couple; and pray that he/she will grow in wisdom and stature with God as he/she becomes who He is creating him/her to be.

From Greenville...

Congratulations to Dean and Dorothy Kaufman on celebrating 70 years of marriage! Dean is chairman of the board for Teleios Ministry. Praise God for this dedicated couple and their faithful service to His calling.



Celebrating Freedom And Friends At Annual Teleios Fourth





HELPING GOD-GIVEN VISIONS BECOME PRESENT-DAY REALITIES

We're on the Web! Check us out — www.teleiosministry.org and Facebook



Reflections From the Green Chair.....

The Apostle Paul had some incredible expectations of God. He made unbelievable statements about God's ability to accomplish His purpose through Paul. Paul, while in prison, wrote, *"My God shall supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* *Philippians 4:19.*

We have qualified that confident statement of God's providing but interpreting that Paul said your "needs" not your "wants." When you look at the context, Paul is going back to Jesus' promise concerning "seek first the Kingdom." Jesus said, *"The Father knows what you need."*

The Mission (our everyday calling to engage the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by how we live, work, play, etc.) places us in many different circumstances and situations. Life happens, and we find ourselves in situations and circumstances that stretch us to limits we've never gone before. We have discovered "new needs." Sometimes, we are confronted with daily living needs. Paul asserts with confidence that God will provide all of our needs — we do not have to provide them — God has arranged for our needs.

Earlier in Philippians 4, Paul, who is in prison, makes a long statement on how this has played out in his life.

"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Paul's trust in God's provision led to contentment in his life regardless of the circumstances. Paul did not say, "I never have needs." He said when I have needs I know that God will provide for them. He also said that the Lord will give the strength to accomplish the mission that He called him to do in the circumstance or situation he found himself in.

Again, Paul was in prison in Rome awaiting his trial before the most powerful man in the world at that time, the emperor of Rome. He had a lot to be anxious about, as well as a lot of need. Yet, Paul sees prison as an opportunity to reach the "unreachable," the Praetorian Guard, the emperor's bodyguard.

He had shared the Gospel with them as they kept him under arrest awaiting trial. Paul had learned to be content in that situation; confident that God would supply all of his needs and give him the strength to do what He called him to do.

I remember visiting a great friend of mine, Jake, one day in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. As I went into his room, he was talking (as he usually was) to a nurse. She left for a brief moment, and Jake shared with me "a Paul moment."

"The doctors and nurses have to come in here and take care of me," said Jake. "I can talk with them about the Lord; find out about their families, their needs and where they are in relationship to the Lord."

The nurse returned and Jake introduced me to her. He gave me an assignment of praying for her and for her needs. Jake was not comfortable in ICU, but he was content.

How ironic I thought, a 90+-year-old man who is dying sharing with a young nurse how "God would meet her needs according to riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

My prayer for you is that you live a life of contentment based in the confidence that God provides for our needs and strength for what He has called us to do in life.

Living In Faithful Confidence,
Floyd