

PASSPORT *to* MISSIONS 2009



Littleton
Church of Christ
Missions

Seeking
Serving
Saving



Seasoning Our Culture

MISSION SUNDAY / OCTOBER 12, 2008

In Matthew 28:18 – 20 Jesus gives his disciples what is commonly known as the great commission. We are commanded to share our faith, “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them.” Why did Christ give us this command? He did so because more than anything else our Father desires a relationship with all humanity.

With this mandate in mind, often we think of this charge as something that other people are called to do. That’s what our preacher does or that’s what our missionaries do. But to stop there is to stop short. It is also something that as Christians we are all called to do. Ordinary Christians working in business, industry, politics, and factory work are the front-line troops. As we meet here and learn, we are being equipped as laypeople to speak and live the gospel in the world we meet every day, reflecting the love our Father bestows on us. In this life on

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earth we may appear in some ways to be common laborers, but as citizens of God’s Kingdom we are in fact a royal priesthood. We are the salt of the earth, seasoning our culture as His emissaries.

At Littleton we have another opportunity to give financially and help support our missionary partners in seasoning their unique cultures for the cause of Christ. A difference can be made in the lives of peo-

ple we will likely never meet this side of heaven. It is a wonderful thing to be able to employ your God-given talents, work in such a way that Christ is reflected in you, earn monies that enable you to support your family and then be able to share your wealth with others in a way that will make an eternity with God a reality in their lives.

So today as co-laborers influencing our culture, in light of God’s grace, we are setting a budget goal of \$275,000. (see page 16 for details)

This goal is certainly worthy of the task God has set for us. As has been noted on so many past occasions, the body that meets here has given and continues to give with unselfish love. It is a joy to be fellow workers with all of you in God’s Kingdom. As you contemplate your part in this historic Sunday please be assured that your grace and generosity will continue to be used to share the good news in more than ten countries and on five continents around the globe.

The Elders

contents

PASSPORT TO MISSIONS 2009



4

The Roehrkasse and Bratcher Families in...
Hildesheim, Germany

Max & Prisca and Philippe & Dolores Dauner Families in...
Marseille, France

5



6

The Hensals in...
Vienna, Austria
Pierre Lucner in...
Cap-Haitian, Haiti



The Renganathans in...
Chennai, India
The Prasads in...
Suva, Fiji

7



8

The Emery Family
Santiago, Chile

World Wide Bible School
Littleton, Colorado

9



10

On a mission with Littleton
Far and wide...and in many ways



Mission Reports
France & Germany

12



The Opportunities Ahead
What's planned for 2009

14

The Challenge Before Us
Year two of a five year goal

16



18

Is There Really A Church For 'Someone Like Me'?
Mike Myers



17

God's Mission
Collin Packer

The Roehrkasse Family

HILDESHEIM, GERMANY

Don and Cindy Roehrkasse moved to Hildesheim 18 years ago, joined later by the Bratchers, to establish a church in a country that is predominantly Lutheran and Catholic. While most citizens are very wary of religious groups, the church has grown from only a handful of people meeting to an average of 35-40 members on Sunday. They have developed an active youth group for teens and pre-teens and lead a number of retreats for families, women, and children. We have been blessed to be a significant part of the support for Roehrkasse family for many years.



The Bratcher Family

HILDESHEIM, GERMANY

Through Littleton's generous giving on Mission Sunday last fall, our congregation has been able to begin support of Kyle and Susan Bratcher. They have been missionaries in Hildesheim, Germany for 14 years. Together with Don and Cindy Roehrkasse, the Bratchers spread the good news in northern Germany. Their three main objectives are to teach the gospel in Hildesheim so as to firmly ground the fellowship of faith, to continually uplift and strengthen the Christians in the area, and as progress is made in Hildesheim, to spread the gospel throughout northern Germany and establish other congregations.



Und Jesus sagte noch einmal: »Friede sei mit euch! Wie mich der Vater gesandt hat, so sende ich euch! Johannes 20:21

Max & Prisca Dauner

MARSEILLE, FRANCE



It has been several years now that Littleton has been involved with monthly support of Max & Prisca. During that time we have been able to get to know their work and some of the unique challenges involved in working in France. Max teaches in the year-long program, Christians On Mission, equipping men and women with the necessary skills for them to be able to live a life in harmony with God while living in a secular world. Both Max & Prisca sing in the church's chorus. This is one of the primary outreaches into the community and brings many new people into the fellowship each year.

Philippe & Dolores Dauner

MARSEILLE, FRANCE

After receiving his Master's of Divinity degree, Philippe was hired by the Fuveau Chappelle congregation as their full-time pulpit minister. Since he is French, his acceptance and effectiveness is much greater in the community. Philippe is the assistant chaplain at a nearby hospital, which is unprecedented. Dolores is the director of their summer camp held for two weeks at the Bonnefoi Retreat Center. It is a four year process in France to be a camp director. She also is the church secretary. Both also participate in the annual musical play which is a huge outreach into Marseilles.



...Que la paix soit avec vous, leur dit-il de nouveau. Comme mon Père m'a envoyé, moi aussi je vous envoie. Jean 20:21



The Hensal Family

6

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Josh and his wife, Kim, have been working in Vienna, Austria for just over a year with some of their support being provided by the Littleton Church. They are part of a team of four families sponsored by the Memorial Road Church of Christ. Josh, Kim, and their three children, Carli, Caleb, and Cotter have spent their first year learning the German language, getting adjusted to the new culture, and developing relationships with the German people. Their strategy is to share the good news and develop the church by establishing cell-based groups. Kim is the daughter of Littleton's Mark and Kathy Wiley.



Lucner Pierre

CAP-HAITIEN, HAITI

With the monies collected last fall, Littleton was able to make a one-time donation to the work in Haiti. Lucner Pierre, a native Haitian missionary, is widely known in Haiti because of his World Radio program that has led to the conversion of the Haitian people from voodoo to Christianity. He recently started building a new orphanage near Mathone. This spring, our congregation donated the funds to build a kitchen which is necessary to feed the approximately 150 children living at the orphanage. These children are receiving both an education and gospel teaching.



...*"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."* John 20:21



The Renganathan Family

CHENNAI, INDIA



Paul and Dorothy Renganathan labor in Chennai, India. Paul is a medical doctor who has committed his life to saving souls in this Hindu land. The work we support is called the Mobile Gospel Team. Medical teams travel into areas of India offering medical treatment followed by a gospel message. Some members of Littleton also support an orphanage operated by a graduate of the bible college Paul operates. He has supplied boats for victims of the tsunami, bikes for preaching teams, small taxis for preaching to passengers, and wheel chairs for the immobile.



The Prasad Family

SUVA, FIJI

Bimlesh, a '96 graduate of South Pacific Bible College, works with his wife Nilu at the Capital City church of Christ in Suva City, a congregation with 50 members from various backgrounds (Chinese, Tuvaluan, Indo-Fijians, former Muslims and Hindus, and Indigenous Fijians). Through campaigns, personal studies, Worldwide Bible Study, and other projects, the church has reached out to thousands and added over 150 Christians to the Kingdom. With God's guidance, Bimlesh has established another "outreach station" church, the Caubati church of Christ, which has approximately 25 members. www.fijifocus.org.



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The Emery Family

SANTIAGO, CHILE

Scott and Holly Emery have been working in Santiago, Chile since 1999, and have recently begun a partnership with Littleton. We began serving as their sponsoring and overseeing congregation in July 2008. Scott and Holly have two children, Savannah age 7, and Haydn age 5. The Emerys were recruited to the Santiago mission team through their involvement in the Aggies for Christ campus ministry while students at Texas A&M. Since its inauguration in 2000, the church has had over 100 baptisms and has outgrown its original rented meeting facility. The church moved into its own building in March of 2006. One of their primary outreach ministries is Marriage Encounter, a bi-annual couples retreat aimed at strengthening marriages, which lays a foundation for relationship building and evangelistic Bible studies. The planning, execution, and follow-up to each retreat requires the work of each family on the mission team as well as a large number of Chilean couples. The team is about to embark on a two year period of intensive discipleship and leadership training involving several couples in the church. They will be using this time to prepare and equip the Chilean nationals to eventually assume the spiritual leadership of the congregation, according to their goal of eventually leaving a Chilean-led congregation with no missionary presence.



"...La paz sea con ustedes! – repitió Jesús –. Como el padre me envió a mí, así yo los envío a ustedes." Juan 20:21

LITTLETON, COLORADO

For many years Littleton has been involved in an exciting program called World Bible Study, which is a ministry of the churches of Christ that started in the early 70s by Jimmie Lovell in southern California. Initially unsure this was something that would be embraced, Lovell reached out to Africa and received an amazing 100,000 responses! Today it is headed by John Reese. Littleton is one of more than a thousand congregations that regularly correspond with students. During the month of August, Littleton sent 500 lessons to other states and countries. So far this year, we have received over 20 requests for baptism.

The way this program works is Bible lessons are sent to students who complete a short lesson. It is then mailed back to our members for grading, and the graded lesson is returned with a new lesson. Our members, in turn, are able to share their faith and help the students come into a relationship with Christ. As the lessons progress, students are encouraged and guided to respond to the Gospel. Each year through WBS, many people are brought in to God's family. WBS then puts them in touch with loving Christians who live near them. Littleton has 20 people working with this program. There is always room for more graders if this work sounds like something you would like to get involved with!



FAR AND WIDE...

There are numerous opportunities for our congregation to serve and work with our missionary partners. Here are some of the recent activities:

- Two groups in March 08 to Hidalgo del Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico to help construct their new church building
- Planned trip in October 08 to Hidalgo del Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico to help finish the interior of their new building (See Rick Odell)
- Team in February 08 to Cap Haitian, Haiti to provide food and medical relief to the churches in Northern Haiti
- Team with Missions Ministries in April 08 to help build homes for families in Juarez, Mexico (Rhonda Rhodes & her team)
- Medical missions team in January 08 to Panama, Central America (Ruth Hoffman & her team)
- Team in July 08 to Navaho Nation in Fluted Rock, Arizona (Jon & Jennifer Roberts & their team)
- Team with Habitat for Humanity in July 08 to help build homes for families in Kaoma, Zambia, South Africa (Jan Detweiler & her team)
- Larry Fayer with "The Gospel Chariot" team in Mombasa, Kenya, East Africa (Larry has been to Africa several times and plans to return in 2009)



...“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” John 20:21

with Littleton

AND IN MANY WAYS



- 13 member team in June 08 to Marseilles, France to help the Dauners with the Bonnefoi Retreat Center & participate in Christians on Mission (See mission highlight on page 12)



- 12 member team in June 08 to Hildesheim, Germany to help the Roehrkasses, Bratchers & Kelly Luallin (See mission highlight on page 13)



- Husband & wife team in August 08 to Dominican Republic to help with VBS (with over 500 children) and area wide lectureship (David & Maxine Heath)

- Family goes on vacation to New Zealand & Fiji and takes several days to encourage and spend time with Bimlesh & Nilu Prasad in Suva (Craig & Debbie Lucas family)



- His Hands had several service projects this summer with more to come...

- Littleton Youth Group lead VBS
- Community Day @ Bishop Elementary
- Young Professionals service opportunities
- ABF & Life Group service opportunities

(See His Hands highlight on page 14)

Participation in missions will bless your life! Your prayers and notes to our missionary partners is of tremendous value! If you are willing and can set aside the time, you are invited to join any number of trips planned.



...“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” John 20:21

MARSEILLE, FRANCE

In late June and early July a team of 13 members of our congregation were able to go to Marseilles, France, and work with the Dauners and their church family. It was a two-part mission trip. Week one was a week of intense work at their camp high in the Ardeche mountain region, which can house 175 campers. We helped paint, tile a hallway, level ground for a swimming pool, construct and drywall a new room to house 8 more campers and clean a commercial kitchen! The church was extremely happy with the results and we left for Marseilles to take part in the second week of activities.

During the second week of the mission we participated in the "Christians on Mission" workshop in Marseille, attended by French-speaking brethren from France, Switzerland, Italy, and Belgium. This coincided with a 10-year reunion of Christians On Mission students. We studied the Bible in the mornings, worked on several service projects in the afternoon, worshipped together, visited in the brethren's homes, and sang with their chorus at five different events, including an outdoor concert attended by over 500 locals from all around the Marseille area. Our team was very impressed with the effectiveness of their work, and we all came away from the experience with a new appreciation and love for our Marseille brothers and sisters.



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HILDESHEIM, GERMANY



The mindset of the U.S. is that mission trips are for other people. We go and help them. Oftentimes what we don't anticipate is that we will be the ones that leave changed. Germany was a real eye opener for everyone involved; it's a different kind of mission work. A Mexico trip focuses mainly on the physical work and how we can help improve life for others. In Germany, they've already got all the worldly things they need. They are lacking in the spiritual department.

There were 14 people on the trip and it's safe to say that each and every one of us had our faith tested and strengthened. The kids in Germany suffer from the same things kids here do, times 10. The drinking age is lower and teen sex is as socially acceptable as walking down the street. It was very encouraging to see how many teens resist that temptation daily. I never thought of Germany as needing help. The truth is, Germany probably needs more help than Mexico in some respects. I hope to go back someday and experience the uplifting attitudes of the people. The church in Hildesheim is an amazing place run by amazing people; our church is making the absolute right choice by supporting them.

Hannah Wagner

(This is typical of what you yourself will feel when you join one of our mission trips! It's life changing and we hope more of you will consider going in the future!)

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The opportunities abound...



Littleton's Sixth Continent

AFRICA

Africa is a fertile mission field. We have opportunities ready for Littleton's support and involvement. The work in Africa is something we want to explore and possibly add to our budget in 2009.



South Pacific Bible College

TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND

South Pacific Bible College trains men in a cross cultural learning environment and teaches nationals to preach the gospel to the lost, establish churches & help mature existing congregations in New Zealand, Fiji, Australia, and Asia. We want to continue our long relationship with this college.



His Hands Christian Ministries Inc.



Johnny & Susie Davis

ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO

Johnny and Susie have had His Hands up and running now for nearly 8 months. They are providing tremendous assistance to a community that has been underserved in the past. We very much want to be a part of this work. Our goal in 2009 is to fully fund the food bank services they provide each week.



What's planned for 2009



There are some really exciting new opportunities that have been brought to our attention and we wanted to share a few of these with you. Here is a highlight of some of the mission points where we might make a difference.

Justin Dauner

MARSEILLE, FRANCE

This year we are wanting to help Justin, who recently completed his Master's of Divinity degree. He will be joining the team at Fuveau Chappelle, helping to fill the hole left when one of the missionary families were called home to care for their elderly parents.



**Jeremy & Rebecca
Korodaj**



PADOVA, ITALY



Jeremy & Rebecca are recent graduates of the Bear Valley School of Preaching. They were able to visit with us before their move to Padova, Italy. They are embarking on an exciting work and we are hoping to help this fine young family with their mission.

Establish Disaster Relief Fund



GLOBAL RELIEF

There are many needs when a disaster strikes members of the church. Disaster relief could help alleviate some of the initial stress. In some cases, generators and temporary shelter can be critical. The assistance that is provided by a relief fund could help those in the wake of a natural disaster.



...“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” John 20:21

The Challenge Before Us

YEAR TWO OF A FIVE YEAR GOAL

In the area of Missions, the Lord has worked through the Littleton Church of Christ powerfully. Last October, the Church gave sacrificially on Mission Sunday, growing our mission budget to \$207,000. And because of this generosity and the Lord's grace, Littleton has become the Sponsoring Congregation for missionaries in Santiago, Chile. Not only is Littleton the primary financial support for the Emery family, but our Elders are their shepherds as well. In a powerful way, the congregations in Santiago and Littleton are joined uniquely

together in the Lord's body. In addition, the Church has been able to increase its support of missionaries in Europe, India, Fiji, and Mexico. We have been able to provide emergency assistance to the Lord's body in Haiti, help build a church building in Mexico, and buy a minivan for a missionary in India.

But where do we go from here? Our mid-term goal is to be devoting **at least \$500,000 annually to mission work by 2011**. It sounds like a lot, but when there is a need for the gospel, we must respond. For Littleton to accomplish this goal, we need to continue what was started last fall. **We need to increase our budget \$75,000 annually for the next four years.** We dream big because the need is so great. The elders are so compelled by this dream that they have committed every dollar

collected on Mission Sunday toward missions, *plus* another \$50,000 from the base budget.

So to make this year's goal of \$275,000 a reality, we need to give \$225,000 on Missions Sunday, October 12th. Whether it is in Denver, the United States, or around the world, we have been called. The Lord has a vision for us. Do we have the faith to join him in his work – wherever it is? "Go into all the world," said the Lord. Will we?



God's Mission

OUR MISSION

During my brief time at Littleton, I have already been impressed by our growing emphasis on joining God's mission locally and across the world. Many churches view missions as a mere program among many other ministries within a church. However, throughout Scripture, we see that God is a missionary God. He continually seeks after his people. It is our goal at Littleton that mission would be more than a periphery concern. Rather, as we are made alive by God's mission in the world, we see mission as our central purpose. In Genesis 12, God calls Abram to leave his country, his people, and his family in order to go to the land God would show him. Through Abram's faithfulness, God blesses all nations. We, as the church, are sent out with the same mission. God has called us to reach out and to bless all nations. In chapter one of John's Gospel, God sends Jesus, his only Son, to live among us.



The Message puts it this way, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." And that is what our missionaries are doing across the world. From Englewood, Colorado to the island nation of Fiji, our missionaries are "moving into neighborhoods" in order to share the good news of Jesus across the globe. God has called us to be his hands and feet in the world. Just as Jesus was sent to earth to be his presence in the world, God has sent his church to be his continued presence throughout the world. We are called to nothing less than being God's missionaries everywhere we

go. As this church forges ahead into God's desired future, we must continue to be carriers of his love and grace in whatever corner of the globe we find ourselves. May we always consider ourselves as missionaries as we disperse each Sunday into our various corners of Denver.

As we approach Missions Sunday, I want to call each of you to pray about how God might use your financial resources to join God in his mission across the world. God has uniquely positioned this church to do incredible things over the next twelve months. And as God places his vision on your hearts, please respond generously to the opportunity we have to pour our resources into God's vision together. Thanks so much for your prayerful hearts and generous attitudes. It will be exciting to see what God will do through our gifts!

Collin Packer

Is There Really A Church For 'Someone Like Me'?



WE'RE ALL ON A JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE

I really don't know exactly what that question means when somebody asks me. 'Someone like me' can mean almost anything. I do know there is a church for 'someone like me.' It's right here at Littleton.

"We are all on a journey through life. With each person's journey comes ups and downs, twists and turns. Why are we here? What is the purpose of our journey in life?" These are the words on our invitation to folks who come to the new Journey ministry. "It's a great place



to build relationships while learning how to navigate the different obstacles we encounter throughout life's journey."

The central focus of Journey is a special Sunday evening event that includes some wonderful praise singing, some powerful testimonies, a little drama, some appropriate video clips, pointed messages, and a meal together. The meal gives plenty of time for sharing and conversation between the guests and the Journey hosts. New friends are made, relationships are deepened, and Jesus' story is told and retold.

Jesus says he wants his followers to be on a mission. "You will be my witnesses. You will tell people everywhere about me – in Jerusalem, in the rest of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world." They did it. We're trying to. Jesus says to us: *You tell my story to the folks in Denver and Colorado. You have over 3 million people around you. Most of them have never really heard the story. Thousands of them heard it, accepted it, believed it, became a part of it, but lost their way. You try to find them and bring them home. You've also got some folks around you who are struggling. Reach out to them. All of them in some fashion are trying to find their way.* We want them all to know there really is no other way but Jesus. He says, "I am the Way..." His follower, Thomas, was among a group of disciples who were confused and hurting on their journey with Jesus. They didn't know where this journey with Jesus was going. Jesus told them, "Don't be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me. I'm going away to prepare a place for you. I will come back to take you with me. You will be with me then. You know the place where I am going."

Thomas said, "Lord, no we don't. We don't know where you are going. So how can we know the way?" Jesus replied, "I am the WAY...Don't be anxious, don't be confused, don't be hurt, don't be lost...I am the Way..." *I am the JOURNEY.*

This Journey ministry is our special mission for those around us and for those next to us. We take people where they are, no matter what has happened in the past. We truly want them back with us, back in the Body. May we all have eyes to see those needing some help along life's Journey.

Mike Myers

Our Mission

We seek to see this world through the eyes of Christ. As Christians we are all called to be on mission for Him serving humanity as we seek to save the lost. Our purpose is to serve and support our missionary partners in growing God's Kingdom here and around the globe as we strive to fulfill The Great Commission...

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28: 18-20

Our Vision

Our vision is to have a congregation that is primarily focused on missions, both local and abroad, and that a significant part of Littleton's resources will be dedicated to missions outreach efforts.

We envision that within five years over \$500,000 of the annual operating financial budget is dedicated to both local and foreign outreach. We envision a time when we are the overseeing congregation for at least three families and at least half of our church families are either going, serving and participating in some way with our missionaries in a continuous way. Here at Littleton and abroad.

Littleton Missions



Seeking *truth in God through His Word*

Serving *others through God and His Kingdom*

Saving *lives through Christ and His Church*

