



CHRISTIANS EMPOWERING
ORGANIZATIONS MINISTRIES INC.

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**BAR-B-Q FRIEND &
FUND RAISER
MAY 25 @ 6 PM @
10 Sunny Hills, Road
Winnipeg, Mb**

*Let's celebrate what
God is doing with
C.E.O. through His
special servants.*



It's not about me, it's about God's kingdom and His glory

By Beth Reed, serving God with Lewis & Naomi in Togo, Africa

As I sat in the plane, I burst into tears. I was traveling alone, so the strangers around me probably thought I was crazy. I couldn't stop crying. Even the nun next to me refused to make eye contact. I was on my way to Togo. My book of choice for the trip was **Nothing to Prove** by Jennie Allen. I read these words, "I feel like people love me for what I do and not who I am." I stopped and stared. I couldn't move past these words. And then the flood works started.

I realized that I had been striving so much to be and do everything for everyone around me that I had lost a part of myself. I was exhausted. I was overwhelmed. I was stretched thin. And I was on my way to serve people in Africa. God knew He had to break me before I even got off the plane. I was worthless to His kingdom at that point. Through my tears, I realized that being a people pleaser was a sin. I repented, and God started over with me. *I was trying to be enough for everyone around me. But I will never be enough. I am human. I am incapable of being everything that everyone wants me to be. I will never do it all on my own.*

But, Jesus is enough. I can rest in the fact that He has all the resources. He has all the time. He has all the energy. I don't. But I do have Him in me. I have him working through me. A weight was lifted when I realized that I wasn't enough. I realized that I could walk free, letting Jesus do His thing through me. It's a good thing, because I was about to enter into ten days of non-stop ministry, prayer, and spiritual warfare. Not to mention, many nights of sleeping on a cot in a tent.

I walked off that plane feeling a freedom that I haven't felt in a long time. I knew it wasn't about me, it was about God's kingdom and His glory. Jesus was in control, not me. Even though I knew God had a specific reason for me being there, it still wasn't about me. I didn't have to worry about living up to everyone's expectations. I just had to draw from the Living Water every day and let God work. Every day of that trip, I had two phrases ringing in my head: *"Jesus is enough."* *"It's not about me, it's about God's kingdom and His glory."* I wrote them on my hand. I drew pictures about it in my journal. I didn't want to forget. I didn't want to fall back under the weight I had been under.

One day, a woman came to us with a painful infection in her hands. Normally, I would pray for her from a distance. This time, I knew God wanted me to draw close to her. He wanted me to touch her hands and pray for her. I was scared of getting the infection at first. But God said, "It's not about you, it's about my kingdom and my glory." I sat and prayed with her, holding her hands.

Another day, I had to give some difficult news to our team members. I hated that I was the one who had to tell them. I wondered what they would think of me. I worried that I would say the wrong thing. But God said, "It's not about you, it's about my kingdom and my glory." I prayed, and told them the news. I felt like I wasn't the one speaking. I didn't even recognize the words coming out of my mouth. The response of the team was complete understanding and peace.

One night, I had two minute's notice that I would be speaking to the house church in the village of Adjon. I had no idea what I would say, but I had peace that Jesus was enough. He knew what needed to be said. It wasn't about me. It wasn't about what I would say. It wasn't about how well I could preach. It wasn't about the fact that I was a woman. It was

It was 11:06 pm, April 16, 1967 when I responded to the clear call of God on my life as He had spoken to me out of Acts 6:4. I wrote the following response in the front of my Bible that my son-in-law now has...

"Keep this always in my heart. Make Yourself preeminent in my life and fill me with your Holy Spirit. Let my love for you surpass all other love. Let me have a desire and love for others and the wisdom and the guidance to show others Your salvation. Let me give You all the glory.

Oh, Father, cleanse me and direct my paths. Let me follow You no matter where but give me a love for You and a will and desire to do Your will. Fill my lonely moments. Help me to be honest with myself and others. Oh, Saviour, fill me and guide me with Your love. Amen."

In the last 50 years of ministry I have failed Him often, but His love and grace always brought this prodigal back to the Father's love.

Some 45 years ago I heard a thought-provoking song that impacted me in a powerful way. Consider the following:

It's In Your Hands

Where's the spear that pierced His side
When my Lord was crucified
If you're not serving Him it's in your hands
And where's the nails that nailed Him there
As he writhed in deep despair
If you're not serving Him, they're in your hands
Christ is still the same He feels every pain
When we've disobeyed His command
And where's the hammer that drove the nail
If His will, my friend, you fail
I'm afraid, my friend, it's in your hands



hospital, where she was cared for. We continued to pray for her and love on her parents. We dropped everything for this baby.

Then a week later, she died. Because of lack of resources in rural Togo, there was nothing more the hospital could do for her. We all wondered what was the purpose of all this. Normally, I would have immediately spiraled because of fear. I have so many fears. When death happens around me, it hits me hard. But this time, I had peace. I may never know the purpose, but I know that Jesus is enough for all of this. He is enough for the parents who just lost their baby. He is enough for the hospital workers who had to give up. He is enough for our team who walked through it all, prayed through it all. He is enough for all the people in the US who had been praying for Natalie that whole week and were crushed by the news.

Now I am back home. *I am still preaching these words to myself every day. **Jesus is enough. It's not about me, it's about God's kingdom and His glory.*** I am carrying these truths with me into my daily life at home and at work. I am no longer striving to be everything to everyone. That weight has been lifted.

When my son struggles in school, I don't have to strive to make it all better. I pray and point my son to the One who can handle it. When my husband is in the middle of a crazy work season and none of us can find enough time to be together as a family, I don't have to strive to make it happen. I pray for strength. Jesus is enough to get us through this season. When I come to work and we suddenly don't have the funds for the next round of eye surgeries, I don't freak out. I trust that Jesus is enough to cover those funds. I don't strive to make it happen. I let God move through me and tell me where those donations are going to come from.

It is so simple. **Jesus is enough. It's not about me, it's about God's kingdom and His glory.**



ALIX JEAN-PAUL & BOB HARDER: BACK FROM HAITI

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV). SAM I AM CENTRE in Lechard, Haiti is developing as it was in the vision God gave me. A place where children and youth will find a kind of spiritual refuge away from the chaos and darkness of their daily environment. The values based on the Fruit of the Spirit exemplify the Love of Christ for the children particularly, and human kind as a whole. It is required that every child who steps on the ground be loved and valued as a human being and be welcome as Christ would welcome because "the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these" Jesus said.



The Sam I Am Centre is the result of the generosity of many. I have acknowledged the purchase of the land, the building of the storage building and the drilling of the well for clean water. Now we have two buildings with four dorms equipped with modern amenities. A kitchen, an office and an outhouse are functional, a sixty-one-foot long security wall has been built and a multipurpose hall is being completed. Many have given generously. Many have prayed fervently. And some went to see and to build. Whence the case for short term mission. I want to acknowledge three churches which have blessed the project. My church North Kildonan MB has been a strong supporter of Vacation Bible school and has been promoting short term mission to encourage young people to take the step of faith to go. The Jubilee Mennonite church who has included Sam I Am Center in their Christmas fund raising to help purchase a vehicle to transport children and elderly to church activities. The Prairie Rose Mennonite church in



Landmark has raised 50% of our \$10,000.00 budget for VBS 2017. They have also raised funds to send Robert Harder with me during the last mission trip April 28 - May 8 to build picnic tables, the ceiling in one dorm, bedside tables and a tool shed.



Robert has revealed himself to be a powerful mission minded man. He has left behind his wife and two boys and many business opportunities to come with me for the second trip. More importantly, he was able to teach some of the guys how to use power tools such as: a skill saw, power drill and screw drivers.

They were able to build five picnic tables that will be used by the children and all that come to the Center for Bible studies, to do homework and many other activities within the Centre. CEO Ministries vision is to 'empower local individuals to take care of themselves.' By teaching some basic skills we hope they will transfer the new knowledge

in their construction work to improve quality workmanship. Our meeting on Saturday evening during which Robert shared his testimony was the highlight of the trip. Many were touched by it. We hope many will understand that our God is a loving God. That, there is hope for all in Jesus Christ if we accept the sacrifice on the cross.

In Dominican Republic, our school is doing well. Pastor Noelson and his wife had a baby girl. Mom and the baby are doing well. We are still looking for some generous souls for support to our teachers. If the Lord has put this on your heart a desire to help, give Dr. Lewis or David Klassen a call. A donation of \$50.00 or \$100.00 monthly will go a long way to help our dedicated teachers who work six days a week to help the children to catch up to their grade level. They are true missionaries.



Alix & Gertrude Jean-Paul serve God with C.E.O. in Haiti & the Dominican Republic

The Useless Youth who became Useful in God's Kingdom

By Berhanu Ayano

This is the true story of young boy whose life was transformed from uselessness to usefulness by the divine intervention. One of the things that I had done during my stay in Ethiopia for six weeks was meeting with pastors and evangelists to give out the financial support sent by generous Christians from Canada.

One of those pastors was Teshome Mengistu whom I had known since 1987. Teshome Mengistu was from the family of the ruling Communist party of Ethiopian. Relatively speaking within the



Ethiopian economic context of 1987, Teshome lacked nothing. To say that many young people of his age envied him a lot won't be an exaggeration; but the real description of his status. Though he looked rich on the outside, he was poor on the inside. He did not have joy and satisfaction in his life. For the on-lookers he was so impressive; but he was leading a joyless, depressed life. He felt useless. He tried to commit suicide, but without success. When his family members noticed his situation, they chained his feet and hands and kept him in the house where he could be watched. Teshome's inner feeling of uselessness was not chained; so, he started banging his head against a wall. Neither his parents nor friends knew how to help him. No glimpse of hope from medical professionals.

The Lord knows how to help. But Teshome's relatives did not acknowledge Jesus as the real helper; because they were communists. It was one of the darkest moments for the followers of Christ in Ethiopian. Persecution was so intense. The Coptic Church believed evangelicals were heretics. For the communists, we were C.I.A. agents. Both the Coptic and the Communists worked hard to eliminate us. At work place we were in fear. On streets were in fear. In our own homes, we were in fear. Our blood was their blood, our flesh was their flesh. Just because of our faith in Jesus, they made us feel as if we were not fellow citizens;

but enemies of the public. It was in this kind of situations that I felt the urge to tell his family members that Teshome would be healed if they allow Christians to pray for him. They are atheist communists and members of the ruling party. They considered it an insult to seek a solution for their family member from an idealist group which has to be eliminated. However, they had no choice. Weeks later, they reluctantly allowed Christians to take Teshome during the night and not to bring him back again.

The Christians took the young boy and prayed for him. The faithful Lord answered the prayers. Teshome accepted the Lord and stayed with Christians. He was taught and became a strong Christian. God saves lives with or without our participations; but it is a privilege to partner with Him in the works He does. Under any circumstance, every good move we make will be matched with God's gracious move.

Praise the Lord, a young boy, who once felt useless, today he feels useful. *Currently, Teshome is pastoring a church which has over 250 members. His favorite verse is "I will not die; but live and will proclaim the works of the Lord." (Psa. 118: 17).*

Pastor Teshome is thankful to the Lord who saved him from physical death and granted him eternal life and gave him the opportunity to serve in His Kingdom. He is also grateful for the financial support he had received from Canadian brothers and sisters through C.E.O. ministries.

Berhanu & Iryna serve God with C.E.O. in Canada & Ethiopia



Let's Have a Party

Celebrate Terry's 50th Year in Ministry

Featuring: "Old Fashion Gospel Quartet"

Thursday, May 25th @ 6:00 pm

Lewis Home: 10 Sunny Hills Road, NE Winnipeg

Missionary Speakers, Bar-B-Q, Music

C.E.O. Friend & Fund-Raiser for Missions



If you can... Bring a friend, a Lawn-Chair, a Salad or Dessert or Casserole. Pray for good weather...

Hear about the mighty things God is doing. See you there!

URGENT: PRAYER FOR FINANCES

Jan. 1 – April 30	Budget	\$ 223,333.33
	Received	142,734.31
	Net. Diff.	\$ <80,600.00>

There are some projects that we can put on hold. Administrative costs are kept to a minimum. There is only one full time salaried individual and his income last year was less than \$20,000. We are doing everything we can to maximize every dollar that is given and to wisely use it where it is most effective as designated by donors.

There are some things that are very difficult to be short on funds. When it comes to feeding children the only meal they get in a day is a priority. I could tell you many stories of hungry children who would give anything for a simple bowl of rice once a day. That would be a vast improvement from scavenging in the garbage—and garbage there is not like it is here.

There is also the priority to subsidize pastors and missionaries who know what it means to pray, "give us this day our daily bread". Can you imagine these parents asking God for help for their hungry children. Some younger children have no clothes to shield them from the sun or to keep them warm when it is cold. In Matthew 25 Jesus tells the crowd that it is the mark of a child of God to have compassion on the least of His children and when we do—we are doing it to Him. Please pray—and then give as God leads you to give. We can't take it with us when we die but we can send it ahead—touching lives.

Barnabas Award for 2017

In the 37 years of C.E.O. the Barnabas Award has only been given to five individuals. There have been many worthy individuals that were deserving but it has only been on certain occasions that we felt led to give the recognition to a person whose unique ministry and humble personality has touched our hearts.

This year's recipient, will be given the award on our May 25th event. This individual has demonstrated a perseverance, loyalty, and compassion in friendships under difficult and tragic circumstances. The care for the 'socially challenged' or the 'spiritually hostile' or the 'emotionally depressed' has modelled and defined the concept of friendship. Friendship is a unique relationship. For instance, if a child loses a parent, there is a word that describe the loss as the child becomes an 'orphan'. A married couple that loses a partner is called either a 'widow' or 'widower'. However, there is no word in the English language that describes someone who has lost a friend.

There is a favourite poem that describes a friend called,

Someone to be Like

It was not merely in the words you say,
It was not merely in your deeds confessed,
But in the most unconscious way—Christ is expressed.
Was it the beauty of your smile, or a holy light upon your brow,
Ah, no—I felt His presence as you laughed just now.
For me, t'was not the truths you taught—to you so clear, to me so dim,
But when you came to me, you brought a sense of Him,
And from your eyes—He beckons me,
And from your heart—His love is shed,
Till I lose sight of you—and see Christ instead

WE ARE A TEAM...

Empowering Ministries to ...

*Reach the Lost, Revive the weak, Rescue the fallen, Restore the broken,
Reconcile the offended, Release the Discipled*

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