



# THE VISIONARY

APRIL 2015

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## MEASURING PROGRESS

by Doug Lucas, Founder and President, Team Expansion

How do you measure progress in your job or market? Some companies can count widgets manufactured. Others count total sales. For Team Expansion, although it might sound odd, the primary outcomes with which we are most interested are:

- Number of new Christians (measured by # of baptisms)
- Number of churches planted
- Total number of people attending those churches

Pretty much everything we do ultimately aims toward accomplishing those three metrics. So you can imagine our joy when we learned that, during 2014 Team Expansion workers/partners:

- Baptized 1,387 new believers
- Planted 130 new churches
- Climbed to a combined average attendance at those churches of 21,000 souls

In addition to these primary stats, we track a bunch of other metrics too. For example, our workers staged 48 Kai-

ros courses throughout the year to help people get in touch with God's heart for the nations. Some 612 participants took part. Our workers also staged 23 new trainings for Kairos Facilitators, creating 157 new Facilitators for Kairos courses worldwide.

It's not that we're into numbers for numbers' sake. It's just that we've learned over the decades that the things we measure are the things we'll focus on doing. And if we don't *measure* it, we fear we might let it *slide*.

Would you please join us, then, in praying for 2015 - that God would raise up 1200 new believers, 120 new churches, and bring that average combined attendance to 18,000 souls? Pray that God would reign in each of our 300+ workers in 46 countries. Ask the God to help us as we seek to finish the campus at Emerald Hills to become a spiritual kind of "Fort Benning" for unreached peoples and cities, where our workers can receive the very best training so that, in turn, they can make their lives count most for the Lord.

## FIELD HIGHLIGHT Central Asia

by a Team Expansion worker

Last month, I went to Virginia to visit Lisa\*. Lisa is planning on working in Central Asia, but due to security issues, she is "stuck" in the U.S. until the situation improves. Since she is fully funded, she is working with the local immigrant/refugee population from her destination country by making house visits, befriending the women, teaching the women how to drive, helping with government paperwork, learning the language, etc.

She decided to host an event called "Path to the Prophets" that explained the stories of the Bible from creation through Jesus. My friend Ann\* and I arrived a few days early to help Lisa with preparation - lots of errands and picking up supplies, props, etc. Ann is also "stuck" in the U.S. and plans on going with the same NGO to the same country as Lisa.

Since using an actor to portray a prophet in Islam would be considered idolatry, each story was told by another person: the story of creation and the Fall was told by Eve; the flood was told by Noah's wife and grandson; Abraham's sacrifice was told by a servant, and stories about Jesus were told by Andrew, Peter, Nicodemus, a group of women and Mary, Lazarus' sister. The drama was in English and interpreted into the national language by two believers.

\*Name changed

# CHANGED LIVES: *North Africa*

Recently, there was a terrorist attack in the area of town that some of our families live in. It made international news as 22 people were killed and 50 more were injured when three gunmen stormed a museum attached to the Parliament building. Security prevented the Muslim terrorists from entering Parliament and so they opened fire on tourists and locals in the museum. One worker reports “there has been a tangible change in the atmosphere in this country.”

Nevertheless, the Gospel continues to move forward. This same worker shares about a young convert who desperately wants to see his family come to Christ. He has shared with all 7 of his siblings and his parents. He has been kicked out of the house, harassed, issued death threats and yet still continues to share with friends and family the Good News about Christ. He understands that Islam advances through fear and persecution, “with the sword” but that the Kingdom of God is different, we love our enemies, we do good to them, Jesus was persecuted and we will as well. These are the kinds of people that I want to invest my life into. Things may get more dangerous but I know that my life is not my own for “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

We’re inspired by this kind of commitment. As these same workers baptized the young man they asked, “Are you ready to make Jesus the Lord of your life? To follow him even if the government or your family or your friends come and try to kill you? Will you follow him no matter what?” The young man said yes and they baptized him into Christ!

## PRAY WITH US

- Praise God for a productive annual meeting with Team Expansion’s Board of Directors, the Leadership Task Force. One decision during the weekend was to move forward in a major donor campaign through Prodonos, a company led by Chris Jefferson. Ask God to give both Team Expansion and Chris wisdom as we move forward with this campaign to move forward with Phase 2 development at Emerald Hills in order to provide housing, training, and missionary kid space.
- Thank God for “Unleashed: Extraordinary Prayer for the Harvest.” This amazing prayer retreat weekend blessed fifty participants who desired to impact God’s Kingdom through prayer. A highlight during the Friday night gathering was the Global PrayerCast, live-streamed from Emerald Hills. Praise God for keeping the tech demons at bay! Pray that the results of this weekend devoted to prayer will be far-reaching for the Kingdom.
- The month of May brings more candidates to Emerald Hills for training as apprentices, full-time workers, and summer interns. Pray that those finishing each training will be prepared effectively for the work God has called each one to do.

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

March 2015

| International Services                             |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Balance 03-01-15                                   | \$19,435.38            |
| Receipts   | \$44,713.52            |
| Expenses   | \$39,331.89            |
| Designated Funds                                   | \$21,117.01            |
| Balance 03-31-15                                   | \$21,117.01            |
| Balance owed to First Cap Bank: \$1.13 million     |                        |
| \$102,100 in Operational Reserve Fund              |                        |
| \$445,630.04 in Five Loaves Fund for future growth |                        |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                                    | International Services |
| Application Fee                                    | 125.00                 |
| Baptist Convention of GA                           | 500.00                 |
| Canyon Hills Community Church                      | 200.00                 |
| Central Baptist Church                             | 500.00                 |
| Centre Pointe Christian Church                     | 375.00                 |
| Coastal Community Christian Church                 | 150.00                 |
| College Heights Christian Church                   | 100.00                 |
| Fern Creek Christian Church                        | 400.00                 |
| First Christian Church, Morristown                 | 1,650.00               |
| First Christian Church, Sullivan                   | 200.00                 |
| Global Life Enrichment Center                      | 100.00                 |
| Glouster Church of Christ                          | 450.00                 |
| Indian Creek Christian Church, Indianapol          | 500.00                 |
| Individuals  | 12,342.66              |
| Northwest Christian Church                         | 200.00                 |
| Peninsula Covenant Church                          | 350.00                 |
| Phil Etienne's Timber Harvest Inc,                 | 4,927.65               |
| Team Expansion Workers                             | 20,549.62              |
| Wilmington Church of Christ                        | 150.00                 |
| Metro United Way                                   | 943.59                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                       | <b>\$44,713.52</b>     |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                    | International Services |
| Workers Compensation Insurance                     | 1,167.60               |
| Education  | 1,890.73               |
| Postage  | 831.30                 |
| Office   | 30,587.42              |
| For More Support                                   | 511.00                 |
| For More Recruits                                  | 2,871.74               |
| Banking Fee  | 1,472.10               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                       | <b>\$39,331.89</b>     |