

THE CAMEL COURIER

"...BEHOLD THE CAMELS WERE COMING!" GENESIS 24:63

WHEN DID WE SEE THEE?

A famous television ad for Walmart says that we are only half-way to eliminating world hunger. This is a somewhat ambitious statement. I believe that according to Jesus we will always have the poor with us. However, His compassion is to be expressed through His people until He comes again and establishes His rule on the earth. Taking care of the poor and training others to do so is one of the seven "P's" that I believe God told me was to typify Prepare Ministries. In this edition we are focusing on this mandate that in the end is what will separate the sheep from the goats at the judgment seat of Jesus. Of course we can all give financially to missions that take care of the poor. But in addition to that, I believe that God would have us look more closely to those closest to us: Relatives or neighbors who are largely forgotten because they are in a "home", young people who are not thriving because they are virtually abandoned by one or both of their parents, a troubled and lonely person in prison, a widow or single mom struggling financially and socially. God is looking for His people to have a lifestyle of caring for the poor.

— Gary Gilbertson
Prepare Ministries Founder and Director



MEET OUR NEW STAFF!

DANIEL LEWIS



Daniel joined Prepare earlier this year after graduating from St. Olaf in 2013. He loves reading, making music, worship, eating, and anything related to athletics and competition. Raised in a Godly family of seven children, he thoroughly appreciated the fellowship that God brought to him through the Olsons (with six kids) and their work at St. Olaf. During his four years on campus, God really began rearranging Daniel's life. He learned the importance of serving others and living in light of Christ's imminent return and has a huge heart to equip the body to reach out to the lost with the promises of God. He now works full time alongside David Olson at St. Olaf & Gustavus Colleges.

MEET OUR NEW VOLUNTEER STAFF!



KELLY OKERMAN
Mentoring & encouraging students at Gustavus



ELIZABETH SILBERNAGEL
Bringing joy and life to the U of M Twin Cities



SHARE THE FIRE RETREAT

The weekend before Easter, Prepare hosted a multi-campus retreat called "Share the Fire," which included worship, corporate and individual prayer, student baptisms, along with times of teaching and ministry training. With about 100 students present Friday night, we were deeply impacted by the Lord's presence as we sought to surrender to his will, both for our personal lives and our college campuses.

—Daniel Lewis, *Prepare Staff*





"BLESSED ARE
THE POOR IN SPIRIT
FOR THEIRS IS THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN"
MATTHEW 5:3

BE NOT A BYSTANDER

– Kevin Bontrager
U of M Volunteer Staff



Over my spring break I visited the United States Holocaust Memorial in DC with Pastor Gary. I was struck by an exhibit titled, "Some Were Neighbors," which examines the decisions many Germans were faced with during the Holocaust. Friends and neighbors of Jews were called upon to comply and even aid in the atrocity. Excuses for these decisions range from protecting their own families to hoping that compliance to Nazi orders would prevent more severe punishment on the Jews.

What I would have done? Thrown a brick through a Jewish shop window? Likely not. Would I have done anything to prevent my Jewish neighbor from being abused or taken away? Likely not. Millions of complacent people allowed the Holocaust to happen, so what am I allowing to happen to the poor and persecuted around me today?

Jews and non-Jews playing together



"FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD,
I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK,
I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME,
I WAS NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME,
I WAS SICK AND YOU VISITED ME,
I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO ME."

– MATTHEW 25:35-36

TO ACT ON THE SMALL THINGS

"...Learn to do good, seek justice, rebuke the oppressor,
defend the fatherless, plead for the widow." – Isaiah 1:16-17

When I read this scripture as a boy, something rose up in me. It was the idea of honor. But it hasn't been until recent years that God has shown me how to walk this scripture out. The essence of the Isaiah passage pops up in the NT in 1 John, where the apostle mentions "practicing righteousness." That righteousness is something you make a habit of doing, for the one you love. It's a willingness to act on the small things, so later on you react righteously on the big things. Practicing righteousness may mean doing the right thing when you don't feel spiritual. Some of my greatest accomplishments for God were the ones that seemed to feel the least spiritual – were gritty, sometimes awkward, uncomfortable and where no one else may ever know but God. But these obediences brought what was needed to the helpless and I felt that sense of honor that resonated so deeply as a boy.



– Will Bove
U of M
Volunteer Staff



"RELIGION THAT GOD
OUR FATHER ACCEPTS
AS PURE AND FAULTLESS
IS THIS: TO LOOK AFTER
ORPHANS & WIDOWS..."

JAMES 1:27

PREPARE ALUMNI REACHING THE POOR & OPPRESSED

NEW HOPE IN UGANDA

Greetings from Uganda, East Africa! I am currently working in a village near Luwero, Uganda with a ministry called "New Hope". Here at New Hope we care for orphans and the fatherless as God has called us to do. New Hope includes over 120 children and schools for all ages. On a daily basis, I interact with fatherless children and orphans as my goal is to express the Heavenly Father's love to these kids daily. Though I see the pain that not having an earthly father causes, I get to see the joy and healing that comes when one of these children walks into the truth of their adoption as a child of the Most High God! At New Hope, the children are no longer orphans, and we are not an "orphanage"-we are a family! Please visit our website at <http://newhopeuganda.org/>



— Carly Mott, St. Cloud Grad, Dec. 2013

DISCOVERING GOD'S DESIRE FOR JUSTICE IN INDIA

*"Take away from Me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harp I will not listen.
But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" -Amos 5:23-24*



Over the past six months I have been interning with International Justice Mission in India, working to bring freedom and restoration to victims of sex trafficking and violent abuse. Seeking justice is not a matter of cultural trends, not a badge for others to see; it is a call and command of the Lord. I love how this verse puts it, "let justice roll down". It does not tell us to bring about justice of our own effort, but simply to let it roll. God is the one who provides the force and brings the ultimate justice, but until Jesus returns, He accomplishes it through us. Are we letting

justice roll down, or are we standing in the way? I find great joy in God's call to permit Him to work through us, and relief in knowing that He is the one who will complete the task.

— Ethan Smith
St. Olaf Grad, 2013

REACHING ORPHANS IN RWANDA

This year marks twenty years since the genocide in Rwanda.

A mind boggling 1 million people killed in a mere 100 days. Innocent men, women, and children were brutally killed because they were identified as Tutsi. The nation was decimated. The legacy of genocide lingers, but Rwanda is healing. Some would say the country is a beacon of hope to Africa and the world as many have chosen the path of forgiveness and reconciliation.



It's easy to see God's favor on the nation as they now experience peace and prosperity to a degree that was un-thinkable just a short time ago. But there is still much work to do. Check out newmercies.org for more info.

— Charlie Ogelsby, New Mercies Ministries
Former Prepare Staff

THE OGELSBY'S

AFRICA ACTION!

AUGUST 2ND 10:00 AM - 2PM
Staring Lake Park, Eden Prairie, MN

picnic family friendly
competition lawn games
prizes



Fundraising event
benefiting
New Mercies'
Faith Village
orphanage project
in Rwanda!

Sponsored by: Prepare & New Mercies Ministries

“DEFEND THE CAUSE
OF THE FATHERLESS
& MAINTAIN THE
RIGHTS OF THE POOR
& THE OPPRESSED”
PSALM 82:3



FELLOWSHIP WITH NICARAGUAN PASTORS

– David Olson, Prepare Staff

In preparation for each mission trip, I give those going a sponge. This means to go as a learner and absorbing what the people and culture have to teach them. This was especially true for me this Spring Break. I had the privilege of leading a pastor's conference with 25 pastors in Gigante, Nicaragua. We talked about what it means to be a leader, and how leadership in God's kingdom is so different than the world system around us. As we talked about God's way of the desert (being trained by God for leadership through the hard things in life), one after another Nicaraguan and Costa Rican pastors began to share their own pathways to leadership through brokenness and faith. I was reaffirmed in my own faith and calling as I learned from these humble brothers in the Lord. Many of them have little salary from their churches and work other jobs in order to continue serving the Lord. As I talked with one of them, he described how they would work 6-7 hour days in the field and earn 125 Cordoba (\$5 per day). Yet these servants of the Lord can testify to the faithfulness of God to them in their calling. We have so much to learn from them.



PARTNER WITH PREPARE

GIVE * VOLUNTEER * PRAY

If you're asking yourself how you can partner with Prepare, here are some suggestions! You can:

Visit our website to learn more or donate online! www.prepareministries.com

Send checks made payable to Prepare Ministries
Prepare Ministries
12901 Roberts Dr.
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

Thank you so much!

God Bless,

Prepare Staff



“Has not God chosen those who are
poor in the eyes of the world to be rich
in faith and to inherit the kingdom
He promised those who love Him?”

– James 2:5

STELLA'S RECIPE CORNER

EASY RICE AND BEANS

“The combination of rice & beans
is eaten by many of the poor
around the world. Here is
my version.” – Stella



- 1 cup chopped onion
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4 to 6 slices bacon, cut in pieces
- 1/2 t. garlic powder or 1 to 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 16-ounce can beans (black or red) or black-eyed peas
- 1 to 1 1/2 cans water or broth (total liquid = 2 cups)
- 3 to 4 cups cooked white or brown rice
- 1/4 to 1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro

In large skillet with fitted lid, over medium heat, cook bacon until crisp. Remove bacon pieces to drain on paper towels; remove all but one tablespoon of bacon grease. In same pan, brown the onions for a few minutes; add garlic powder – if using fresh garlic, cook for just 30 seconds; stir in beans of choice plus one can full of water or chicken broth. Bring to a boil; taste and adjust seasoning to taste, stir in rice and bacon pieces and mix well. Heat through; just before serving stir in chopped cilantro. If it seems dry, add more water or broth. Brown rice will need more liquid.

– Stella Gilbertson
Prepare Staff