

Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities

Different Cultures, Same Love Of God

By Floyd Parker

Bernard Kabarú Mwangi never expected what he saw and experienced in Romania among the Hungarian and Roma (Gypsy) believers and the Hungarian Baptist Seminary students. When he was a young man in Kenya, he had prayed for his fellow Romanian believers as they struggled with Communism. He celebrated when the “wall” fell and freedom came.

During his November visit, he was surprised by similarities between the villages of Transylvania and Central Kenya where he grew up. He found a real market for good tea, as most of time when he asked for tea he was given fruit tea. In fact, he shared his “good tea” with the seminary students and taught them not only Systematic Theology and Practical Theology but how to make a good cup of Chai (tea and milk).

Bernard was very impressed with the level and quality of the faith, desire, and commitment of the seminary students he met. Bernard taught the students and a few of the young people in Oradea how to “move” when you sing, to clap, and how Kenyans dance. But, when Bernard met the Roma (Gypsy) believers, he said, “These are my people.”

The Roma immediately fell in love with him—never had they seen anyone darker in skin color than they were.

Walking down the dirt street of the Gypsy section of Apalina where Attila Toth has begun a mission, the young people flocked to Bernard. The room where the Roma mission meets was packed first by children and then in the second hour with adults. They sang and clapped together, and it was at that

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The Agape Hotel near Zalau, Romania began as a dream for two brothers and has since become a reality as a result of God touching the hearts of those who believe in the concept of business as mission.

Straight From The Heart In Serving And Trusting

By Floyd Parker

Generally, the Teleios newsletter is filled with reports and opportunities related to churches, mission groups, or mission organizations. This particular article illustrates another aspect of how Teleios Ministry works with indigenous peoples.

The vision of Teleios Ministry has always had at its heart indigenous economic development or indigenous business development as mission.

There is a well-worn saying, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for life.” Teleios Ministry has learned that you give a man a fish in order to strengthen, encourage, and sustain him. Out of that new found strength, you teach a man to fish and assist him in developing his fishing.

The problem with the saying is this. We can never be satisfied to teach people just to feed themselves. The purpose of Teleios Ministry is to serve others and to develop others who are servants of God. So, the last part of the saying really is, “Teach a man to fish and he will be able to feed himself AND teach others to fish.”

In the stories that we share, Teleios Ministry makes no profit from these businesses. We have worked with each one as God has directed to assist them in whatever means necessary to develop a viable, profitable, sustainable business. Here are their stories and their dreams.

Business as Mission

In July 2006, Teleios Ministry facilitated its first indigenous business

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Sandorhomok Church Building Dedicated

Last November, after more than three years of opposition from local religious and civic leaders, the new mission church building at Sandorhomok, Romania, was opened and dedicated to the Lord.

The emotion of the worship service was very strong. The reported attendance was 70, which was a great blessing and opportunity to share Christ with the community. The Satu Mare Brass Band led in music

as the congregation entered the church building for the first time.

The service was filled with testimonies, singing, preaching of the Gospel, and prayer times. The church building was filled to overflowing. It was a meaningful experience filled with a powerful movement of the Spirit of God and celebration of the work of our partnership in the Gospel with fellow Romanian believers.



There was an overflow crowd at the worship service and new Sandorhomok church building dedication last fall.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

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development partnership. Frank and Anne Mwaisumbe began Stone Pity Food and Safari, Inc., in Tanzania with the assistance of Teleios Ministry. Partners were found who would invest in this indigenous business committed to making a profit and making a difference with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Frank serves on the Board of Daily Bread Life Ministries, a Teleios partner in Iringa, Tanzania. He has an MBA and teaches entrepreneurship and cultural tourism at a local university. Daily Bread Life Ministries is responsible for the Children's Home and Training Center. The Spring Valley Secondary School for Girls was a dream of Frank's. He saw that in order for these and similar indigenous ministries to be self-sustaining, a major shift in thinking must happen.

Tanzanian partners (similar to the Teleios partners in the U.S. that he had met) needed to be developed. Frank began Stone Pity with the vision of providing an indigenous economic basis for ministry development. Currently, 10 percent of profit is set aside for the ministry development. Also, employees are well paid in order to provide a solid foundation for churches and ministry partners.

At present, Stone Pity business interests include being a Coca Cola distributor,

providing Safari tours and other tourist/travel related services, and tanzanite supplier. Recently, Stone Pity completed a contract for providing food stuffs for the Tanzanian military. This month, the company was awarded the contract to provide food service for a local university in Iringa. Frank is quick to attribute the success of Stone Pity to God's opening doors for the business. Please pray with Frank and Anne as they seek to honor and glorify God through their business.

Today, Frank has proven the value of indigenous business investment. Surprisingly, Stone Pity is already making a profit and has established a process for repaying investors and developing new capital for development. Frank continues to seek investors in the Coca Cola distribution part of the business and in developing guest house facilities.

The Agape Hotel

Just outside Zalau, Romania, is a new tourism business begun by two brothers. They purchased property a couple of years ago near their home village with the dream of one day building a small hotel or pensione.

Shortly after they purchased the property and continued to dream, the government announced that a major roadway (similar to our interstate) was going to be built

very close to their property. The value of their property skyrocketed and enabled them to begin to pursue their dream.

With hard work and a thorough business plan, they were able to secure a grant from the European Union, as well as a business loan from a local bank to build and develop the Agape Hotel.

The hotel is almost finished, and they are seeking investors who will loan them \$40,000 at 10 percent interest for five years with repayment beginning after the first year. This investment will replace the business loan they received from a local bank. Collateral for the loan will be the property and the hotel, which has a current value of approximately \$250,000 with no outstanding liens. The problem with the bank loan is that interest rates are 14 percent plus other banking fees.

Please pray with them as they seek to develop this business as mission. They also have committed a percentage of their profits to fund new work and ministry to the poor. Teleios Ministry is excited to have been a part of dreaming with these two young men from the beginning.

For more information about investing in these "business as mission" opportunities, you can contact Floyd by e-mail at floyd.parker@teleiosministry.org or by phone at 864-322-9775.



Never Imagine That God Isn't Already One Step Ahead Of You

Overwhelming Generosity Shown In The Number Of Gifts Made Through The First Teleios Christmas Catalog

By Bonnie Parker

A big thank you to each and everyone who helped make the Teleios gift catalog a success!

It was with some apprehension that we printed our first catalog, but almost immediately our fears were put to rest. We had been encouraged by some of you to print a catalog of needed items for ongoing projects of Teleios. You were right in believing these needs would be met in the form of Christmas presents. The Lord God knew the way to meet current known needs, as well as needs we were unaware of. He knew there was going to be an overwhelming response from this small catalog.

In fact, by the time we got all the catalogs mailed, we had already received commitments of funds for the baptistery and pulpit at Sandorhomok. And it wasn't too long before the benches and chairs needed there were funded, as well.

Many times after a project is underway but not yet self-sufficient, needs arise for everyday operations. Most of the items in the catalog represented such needs, like desks, benches, chalkboards, uniforms, etc. Oftentimes, supplies are shared by the children and students. For this reason, we had been conservative with the "numbers needed" for requested items.

What a great joy it was to watch as more items than were requested for all the projects began to pour in! And as we began to make arrangements to contact donors about the abundance and possible alternative uses for the extra, we experienced even greater joy when the realization of how many items were now needed became evident. Of course, the Lord knew why we were receiving such a surplus of items.



As we discovered, once the floor on the church building was complete at Kidetete Preschool, the enrollment doubled. Thus, we now needed all 138 handheld chalkboards that had been paid for, as well as the additional number of tables and chairs provided for! The original number of tables needed was listed as 10. Twenty-five were given! The original number of chairs needed was listed as 40. Seventy-five were given! There was also enough money for uniforms for the new children, too.

We had received a gift of actual shoes for the Kidetete children just before Christmas. From the catalog list, funds for 76 pairs were given. Unknown to us, however, a new law had been enacted by the Tanzanian government that requires all children in public school to have black shoes to wear with their uniforms. The children at the Children's Home in Iringa had some shoes, but not all had the required black shoes. The remaining funds

designated for shoes will be used to purchase the required black shoes for these children.

The number of desks listed as the need for the Spring Valley School for Girls was 50 – enough to accommodate the addition of the Level Three class this term. And through your generosity of giving, there are also enough funds now available to purchase desks for the Level Four class which will be added next term!

We did not know that the needs would grow before Christmas, but God knew and worked in your hearts accordingly.

In addition to the many designated gifts received, \$530 was given with instructions to apply where most needed.

During the holidays, two new requests were received. Because of these undesignated funds, we were able to purchase two new guitars for Attila Toth to use in the church planting work in the Targu Mures area of Romania. We were also able to purchase new food trays and flatware for the cafeteria at the Spring Valley Girls School in order for the school to have an adequate supply for the new students. God supplied for needs we had no idea would even exist!

The new church in Romania, Internet connection/services and computers for the Girls School in Tanzania are the only items from the catalog that have not been completely funded.

And while we do not know God's plan for meeting these needs yet, it is with great excitement and anticipation that we wait. In His time and in His way we have confidence that He will provide!



Teleios Team Redefines Africa's 'Ooooh' Effect

Experience Highlights All That Is Incredible, Unique And Beyond Belief

By Meg Hunt

Africa. The mere mention of the name usually creates an "Ooooh" effect reserved for that which is incredible, mysteriously unique or beyond belief.

So when I first heard about the opportunity Teleios had to work with the Koinonia Baptist Church last December, there was that immediate sense of "Ooooh" – Africa. And while our trip was every bit as incredible, mysteriously unique and beyond belief as you would imagine, it was so much more.

Upon our arrival on Saturday – after traveling for basically 24 hours - there was, as they say, no rest for the weary. We were up bright and early to attend the Sunday morning worship service at Koinonia. Despite the obvious language challenges, it soon became clear that speaking the same language isn't a requirement when you worship Jesus Christ.

The Teleios Team, comprised of Floyd and Bonnie Parker, Ed Arnold, Taylor Kool, Lucia Johnson, Rebecca West, Ashley Locke and myself, sat throughout the congregation and for more than three hours experienced a movement of the Holy Spirit in so many different ways...from the singing and testimonies to the welcoming of visitors and our sharing of greetings from our own churches to theirs to the sermon by Floyd and the special time of working toward a goal of obtaining property to provide an area that will help further the work of the church in that community.

Following this very moving worship service, the Team and members from the church who would be working with the Vacation Bible School met to finalize the plans for the week.



As with most "first days," our first day of VBS at Koinonia was truly an experience in and of itself. Taking all those discussions, plans and coordinating efforts and putting them into practice reminded us that the key word on this trip had to be flexibility. And in the whole scheme of how everything played out during the morning, there was no question that God was in control, and we were merely the instruments He chose to be in that place at that time.

Our VBS theme for the week was based on Psalm 139: 14 which says, "Give thanks to Lord for I am wonderfully and fearfully made." We tied this verse into an overall program based on the five senses - Sight (eyes), Sound (ears), Smell (nose), Taste (tongue), and Touch (skin) with Team members leading four focus areas: Arts & Crafts; Bible Study for each age group; Teaching Sessions on the senses; and Recreation with emphasis on games related to each specific sense.

The children – 200+ by week's end – were broken down by ages into four groups: ages 3-6; ages 7-9; ages 10-12; and youth, ages 13-18. Their excitement at being involved with all the activities, as well as their eagerness to learn was inspiring to us all.

After lunch each day, Teleios Team members divided up and went with church members to walk the children home where we met and prayed with many of the children's parents or just had a chance to talk and pray with the children.

From that first day of visits, each team member realized in a very humbling way, just what it means to simply live each day God gives us as abundantly as possible.

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Visualize The 'Ooooh' Experience



TELEIOS TEAM

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The various talents and skills of each Team member enabled us to do more than we ever thought possible. And though each day brought its own new circumstances and challenges, our Team was truly of one mind, one heart and one spirit in everything we did which gave us an even greater opportunity to serve as examples and witnesses of God's unconditional love and amazing

grace to this multitude of children, their families and the community at large..

God is truly at work in this community in many ways, and one of the keys is the children. Please continue to pray that they will turn to Him and follow in His ways as they grow into who He would have them to be.

Prayer Accomplishes God-Given Dreams

By Bonnie Parker

God-given dreams can only become present-day realities through prayer. We at Teleios truly believe that the first step we take before partnering in any project is to pray, specifically to know if the “work” is a project God has called us to be a part of.

When confident that it is an assignment from God in which we are to participate, the second step is to pray, now specifically for direction in how to get the word out about an indigenous project in need of specific resources.

The third step is to pray for God to work in the hearts of those He is calling to provide these resources. Being open to God’s movement and obedient to His call to participate is vital for each individual in order to bring about the reality.

Prayer is the key that opens the door to any God-given vision. Prayer is the one constant among the many differences represented by the variety of projects, partners and plans that working with indigenous peoples entails. And prayer is connection we all share in creating the foundation upon which each project is built.

Two Dreams

While in Kenya this December, the Teleios Team discovered two dreams. The first is the dream of Koinonia Baptist Church to own its building and the land on which it sits. Currently, they lease the property on which their structure stands, and their lease expires in February without the option of renewal.

Church leaders have found what they believe to be the ideal piece of property. A building fund has been established, and members have worked diligently to try and raise enough to purchase this property. To date, they have raised approximately \$3,000 towards the \$25,000 goal.

We learned about the second dream while talking with a young pastor and his wife. They spoke of their desire for him to one day be able to attend seminary in order to be better equipped to

lead God’s people. There are no available scholarships at this time and, due to the fact that they have three small children, they do not see this dream becoming reality any time in the near future.

The cost of seminary education is \$3,500 per year. This annual total includes tuition, books and transportation fees.

In watching and working with this pastor and his wife throughout the rest of the trip, we were sure these dreams are God-given. Floyd and I began to pray in order to discern God’s desire for Teleios’ participation.

After completing step two in the praying process, we are confident that God has called Teleios to be a part of the work shared above.

We are using this newsletter as the medium to present these two dreams to you. This is a direct appeal for prayer partners to join us at step three in bringing these two dreams to reality – praying each day at a specifically designated time for those God has called to provide for these projects to be obedient to His voice.

We have never been as direct in asking for a concrete commitment for prayer in this manner. We know that you pray for us and the work. However, this time we would like to have a concert of prayer.

If you are willing to be a prayer partner in the accomplishment of either of these dreams, please contact Bonnie by e-mail at bonnilynhp@charter.net or by phone 864-322-9775.

God knows in whose hands He has placed the resources to accomplish these two dreams. It is our responsibility to pray that those who hold the resources are obedient to the call of the Spirit to relinquish them.

When God is at work and all are faithful to fulfill our responsibilities, hearts are moved and God-given dreams become reality.

DIFFERENT CULTURES

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moment, Bernard turned to Floyd and said, “A Kenyan mission team would do a great work here.”

Thus was planted the dream of developing a plan that would bring a Kenyan mission team to Romania to work with the Roma (Gypsy). In exchange, a team of Hungarians would go and work among the Kenyans, in particular to assist with leadership training.

Please pray for this first step as Teleios partners from different cultures have come together to assist each other.

One of the critical needs is the resources to facilitate this dream.

Teleios Ministry’s general fund partners made possible Bernard’s trip to Romania. Obviously, God was leading this uniting of Kenyan, Hungarian/Romanian, and Roma (Gypsy) peoples.

In 2007, Teleios will seek to partner American, Kenyan, and Romanian believers in a cross-cultural mission exchange.

You can be a part of this exciting mission team through your prayers, your gifts, and your going as a team member.

For more information about how you can get involved, contact Floyd by e-mail at floyd.parker@teleiosministry.org.



This Just In...

From Tanzania...

Iringa

New residents have arrived at the Children's Home. Two young orphaned boys joined the family this month. The boys had been without food for three days, walking barefooted for over 15 miles searching for relatives when Mpeli Mwaisumbe was made aware of their plight. They have found a home at Daily Bread Life Children's Home and Training Center.

Kip Miller and son Derrick just returned on Jan. 10 from a visit to Iringa, where they spent time at the Children's Home. The Miller family is the Teleios partner in this project. What a blessing for partners to experience first-hand what God is accomplishing in the work!

From Romania...

Satu Mare

Elizabeth Vekas sent a health update on Zoltan's battle with cancer. He has been unable to begin chemotherapy due to the fact that the incision from his surgery in October has not healed sufficiently. He will undergo a CT scan next week. The doctor instructed Zoltan to carry out his regular schedule of ministry as long as he felt up to it. Zoltan is preaching and continuing his ministry at this time.

We Want You! ... To Join Us In December

Mark your calendars now and plan to join a Teleios Team going to Kenya in December to work with the Koinonia Baptist Church in another Vacation Bible School opportunity.

Yes, the first two weeks of December will take on new meaning for anyone who participates in this opportunity. In addition to the fact that you'll be working in beautiful Kenya, you will also get the chance to work with a group of very loving, enthusiastic children who are eager to learn and share. Being able to interact and witness first hand how God's love works through these children and church leaders is an experience you will never forget.

Tentative dates are Nov. 30-Dec. 13, but stay tuned for more information as details and plans are worked out in the coming months.



The children who participated in Vacation Bible School at Koinonia Baptist Church in Kenya this past December are already excited about next year's event and can't wait to meet more Teleios Team members.

**See related article and photos from the 2006 trip on pages 4-5.*

Spring Valley School For Girls Ranked First

By Floyd Parker

In the Tanzanian national testing of secondary school students this fall, Spring Valley came in first out of 63 secondary schools in their district. The students achieved the highest scores in Math, English, Swahili, and the Sciences.

The principal, teachers, and students worked hard to achieve at the highest academic level possible. They do this in a distinctly Christ-centered environment. This achievement is even more impressive when you remember that the dream of Spring Valley was first shared with Teleios Ministry in the Spring of 2004.

This summer, partners helped provide scientific equipment for the school lab. The Christmas Catalog listed textbooks and other items as needs of the school. Teleios Partners are a vital part of the success and growth at Spring Valley.

You can again be a part through your continued support of helping meet special needs, such as providing for laboratory equipment, sponsoring a student, or, if you prefer a more hands-on

approach, teaching at the school. For more information, contact Bonnie at bonnielynhp@charter.net.

Children's Home in Iringa Is The Top of the Class

Two of the children at the Daily Bread Life Children's Home in Iringa are first in their grade at school—one of them is the top student in the school. Five of the children are first in their class, too. Keep in mind that these children came to the Children's Home less than one year ago. Many had never gone to school and could not read or write.

The Children's Home has been open less than a year. From the beginning, the dream of the Children's Home included tutoring for the children. The public school leaders and teachers came to Children's Home because they could not believe that the children were orphans. Their behavior, academic excellence, happiness, and cleanliness were not typical of other orphanage children at the school. Jesus took them in His arms and blessed them. Through His followers, the children of Iringa are blessed and it shows.



28 Eula Street
 Greenville, SC 29609
 Phone: 864-322-9775
 E-mail: missions@teleiosministry.org



HELPING GOD-GIVEN VISIONS BECOME PRESENT-DAY REALITIES

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Reflections From the Green Chair.....

After six weeks of travel in November and December and one week in January, I was glad to kick back in the old green chair. During those weeks of traveling, however, I pondered several questions.

The one I bring to you now is one I first asked a group of young people in Kenya – “What is it that you and the people of Kenya value?” The surprising thing to me was that the Kenyan young people answered with what I would have expected from most of us.

Now, pose that same question to yourself, members of your church or Americans in general. If I were to ask “What do you value most?” how would you respond? Of all the things you have, what do you value most? What we value determines how we see the events of our lives and even how we interpret and understand the actions of God at work.

One day, Jesus was dining in the home of a Pharisee. As was the custom, Jesus was reclining at the table to dine. A woman came in and with her tears she washed the feet of Jesus and with her hair she wiped away the tears and dirt. She began to kiss his feet and anoint them with perfume. The Pharisee questioned Jesus as a

prophet because He allowed this “sinner” to touch him. Jesus pointed to her value of loving Him. – *Luke 7*

Just before the crucifixion, Jesus was dining with Lazarus, Martha, and Mary at the house of Simon the Leper. Mary came in with a very expensive perfume and began to anoint the feet of Jesus and wipe them with her hair. Judas Iscariot said, “Why was this perfume not sold ...and the money given to the poor? Some said, “Why was this perfume wasted?” – *Mark 14 or John 12*

The Pharisee valued purity, holiness, and righteousness. Judas Iscariot valued money and, along with others, the poor or disadvantaged. Some valued not wasting what you have on extravagant displays of love or emotion. Yet, Jesus highly valued the actions of these women. For the women, what they valued was actually who they valued.

More than anything they valued Jesus – His gracious and loving kindness in forgiveness and healing in their lives. They valued their relationship with Jesus even more than their most valued possessions. They valued this act of worship more than their pride, appearance, propriety,

public image, or financial resources. They were criticized for it, but that did not matter to them. To Jesus it was a valued display of love.

Here’s my reflection. Each person who criticized had a noble value—the poor, holiness, righteousness, not wasting resources. Yet, Jesus praised the women and their story continues to be told because they valued Jesus.

For all the things that we could list and that we could value, there is really only one value: Jesus.

What do you value most? Every value pales in comparison to the value of Jesus.

In 2007, I pray that you will be extravagant in your love for Jesus Christ. Be prepared, though, as such extravagant displays of the value of Jesus to us will always be met with misunderstanding and criticism. But who cares—let the fragrance of fill the room—Jesus cares. Let the fragrance fill the room of your life, your community, your church, and wherever God leads this year.

With Love In Christ,
Floyd

