

Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities



Church planter Attila Toth, center, celebrates with newly baptized believers Romeo and Eva.

Joint Worship Service In Romania Brings Forth New Believers

By Attila Toth

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to share with you what happened yesterday (Jan. 27) in Targu Mures.

Almost all members from the churches in Mures country were at Targu Mures church yesterday. So the church was full – more than 500 people. People from my churches (Reghin, Filpisu Mic, Peris, Gornesti and Apalina) were there, too. From Apalina, we went with 40 people, so the two minibuses were very full. It was a great joy for these people to be there. Thank you very much for your help, for the renting the minibuses. We appreciated that very much. God bless you for that.

A great thing happened after the baptism service. Three people from Apalina, who just became Christians in December, were asked to give their testimony. They never talked before so many people, but their testimony was very good, and

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Indigenous Partnerships Rely On Relational Experiences

Awareness, Investment And Involvement Combine To Create Effective Change

By Garry Freeman

Writing used to be fun, and easy, back when I merely parroted the concepts of others to translate them into coherent presentations. Now, when forced to actually think and wrench meaning from my own, personal, God-provided experience, I shrink from the keyboard.

However, Dr. Floyd Parker has informed me that I indeed must write, and the experience is far too fresh, and far too meaningful to my understanding than to allow me



Garry Freeman, center, talks with Bernard and Mary Mwangi and Grace Team member Chuck Arnold at Happy Day Academy.

escape from its address here.

I landed in Nairobi on our January trip expecting the drama of poverty, helplessness, and despair; simpler problems I likely could impact in some meaningful way.

What I experienced was life fighting poverty and uncertainty with courage, determination, creativity, and hope. The issues were far more complex than my understanding, relying far more upon the wisdom of the indigenous leadership than upon any intervention I may propose.

After a whirlwind experience, being led by able guides, such as Bernard Kabarú Mwangi and Frank Mwai-sumbe, and hosted by many generous friends I discovered that:

- My nose has smelled the scents of a pre-sanitized world. I experienced the smells of older methods, danger, and illness, but also the sweet scent of celebration and worship that I had also forgotten.
- My ears, although older now, and less able to hear human voices, have learned better to be sensitive to God's voice and the individual voices of His children.

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Whether taking an interactive tour of different facilities or meeting with pastors before the conference begins, the key to helping turn God-given visions into reality is relationships.

RELATIONAL EXPERIENCES

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- My eyes, although growing weaker each day, have learned to more clearly see God at work in the world around me.
- My tastes, muted by years of plenty have experienced again the sensation of God’s goodness and creative diversity.
- My sense of touch most of all, numbed by years of trying not to feel too much, has learned the pain of feeling the bones beneath a weakened child’s skin, and has learned anew to feel the whisper of God in the brief, gentle mountain breeze.

Yes, I looked for the drama of the exotic, the new experience, but what I found was the everyday drama of life. I’ve heard it said that the only way to understand your own culture is to be immersed in another, and I believe I am proof of that rule. For I have gained much more than I could possibly have imparted.

I find that I am more alive, more free, more grateful, and more self-reliant than when I arrived. I also find that I am more determined.

You see, it is fun to watch challenging, new ventures, and even fun to write a small check and claim participation. The real investment – the cost of admission to the life offered by Christ in the market-places of our world though – is investment of human capital. During the trip, I came to realize that the need was greater for genuine partnership than any other re-

source. Surprisingly, I learned that my need for the gifts received from those partners was likely more significant than any need which I might address on their behalf.

To say that I was humbled would be accurate, but it would also be a gross mischaracterization of the experience. Although, admittedly, there was a component of arrogance, ignorance was actually the greater issue. My pre-trip ignorance simply did not allow for the depth and breadth and beauty of human experience and intellect and creativity and love that I encountered.

Gratefully, I am the product of a family that lived out of God’s grace, led me to



Garry meets with Tanzanian businessman George Mwaikela and two of his children, Derrick and Clinton.

Christ by the wonder of His loving forgiveness, and continues to lead me to understanding through that lens. My understanding of my condition is therefore that I am simply forgiven, and have the opportunity to grow from my ignorance toward new life and understanding.

As Frank explained to me in Tanzania, “Hope is prayer, and prayer is constant – we should always be thinking, hoping for the best for each other every day, all day.” It is that partnership my new African friends need if their God-given visions are to be realized. It is that partnership I need if my own God-given visions are to be realized.

There are many new, exciting opportunities to participate in the work in East Africa. We were able to observe and briefly discuss several specific initiatives that will be further researched and developed as we prepare for what God will do in coming weeks and months. I am excited about the opportunities that we will have to join Kenyan and Tanzanian partners in hoping, praying, and following God-given visions to their completion together.

I also am grateful for the opportunity I have had to see and experience the beauty of East Africa and her people. I am even more grateful for the way that God has opened my nose, my eyes, my other senses to see his vast creation, and to enlarge my understanding of the Body, His Church, in this world.

No Stone Left Unturned And No Space Unused

Children Take Initiative To Make Good Use Of Available Field

By Floyd Parker

In January, as Garry Freeman, Frank Mwaisumbe, and I drove up to the Children's Home in Iringa, Tanzania, a large field of corn and beans greeted us.

This field, just recently purchased, was supposed to be used for the playground. "What happened to the playground?" I asked. "It's planted in corn and beans!"

When the Teleios Team left Iringa in mid-December, the field was still being cleared. Now, it was covered with neat, long rows.

The children, during their school holidays, decided to plant the field. No one forced them to work or asked them to work. They decided and took it upon themselves to plant the playground. Why let it sit idle as it was waiting to be developed into a playground?

I was amazed that in just over a month the area was cleared and rows of beans and corn covered the field. The children were so excited by their contribution to their home.



Children at the Children's Home decided to make the most of land purchased for a playground by clearing it and planting vegetables.

The children continue to amaze me at their resourcefulness and willingness to be a part in the sustainability of the Children's Home. This field of reality reveals the reality that this is their

Led By The Spirit, Church Commits To Helping Children

The Victoria Living Church in Iringa, Tanzania, made its first visit to the Daily Bread Life Children's Home on January 27.

They brought clothes, cloth, and soap. Pastor John shared the story of how their church came to partner with the Children's Home.

The Victoria Living Church is a church of 50 members. While reading the Scriptures and praying, they were convicted by the Spirit to help orphans. The church prayed and fasted for 21 days. Then, the Lord led them to the Children's Home.

What a blessing as Pastor John said, "This is just the beginning. We will be back each month. We will not



Chairwoman Yangu from the Victoria Living Church presents clothes to Neema Mwaisumbe to distribute among the children of the Children's Home.

forget you." The afternoon was filled with celebration and praising God.

Vision Of Creating Farm On The Verge Of Reality For Children's Home

Daily Bread Life Ministries Children's Home has dreamed of having a farm to help support the ministry of the Children's Home in Iringa, Tanzania.

In the village of Kidetete, where the Nursery School is located, Mpele and Neema Mwaisumbe found a farm for sale. By faith, a deposit was placed on the farm. The total price of the 5.5-acre farm is \$4,800, including all government fees.

We are looking for partners who will assist in the purchase of this farm, as well as provide assistance in its development. Also, this farm will be the new home of the pigs and chickens given through the Christmas Catalog.

This farm is truly a dream becoming a reality. The dream of a Children's Home sustained locally is now beginning to take place.

Land Sought For Chapel And Hope Center In Sacele

From Otto Kis

We are praying to find a building plot where we can build a Chapel and Hope Club for the disabled people. That is a part of our vision.

We would like to go by faith. We don't have the money for it yet, but we have the first promise from someone who wants to help us purchase a plot for the Sacele mission. A friend of ours from Romania called us and made a pledge.

This pledge is one-sixth of the whole price which is 30,000 Euro for a plot of land.

We pray for God's leading if we have to start soon in this way or we have to wait. But we are sure that we need a place here in Sacele. Please pray for us in this effort.

NEW BELIEVERS

Continued from page 1

very alive. I think I was the happiest person who listened to them yesterday, even though, I had heard their testimony before. It is amazing what God can do.

Twenty people were baptized! From my churches there were baptized two people. First was a young lady from Peris. Her name is Eva. And the other one was from Apalina, Romeo, who is the first member of Apalina's church. I am praying, and please pray with me, for Eva's family who are not Christians yet, and for Apalina's people.

There was another joy yesterday for me. After the service, there was a short evangelistic message, and there was an invitation to repentance.



Imrus, top left, Putyi, top right, and Sandor, right – all from Apalina – were asked to share their testimony following the baptism service in Targu Mures.

Istvan said, that who wanted to become a Christian, go forward. More than 20 people went forward, and between those 20, there were three people from Apalina and one from Reghin.

Actually, the person from Reghin was my friend from the Brass Brand.

Children's Ministry

We have a weekly children's mission. Most of the time, we have a helper from Brasov.

Because the ages are very different, we separated them into two groups. All these children are coming regularly. We also work with another group of children that meets at the Hope group house.

Ladies' Meeting

Every second Saturday, we have a ladies' meeting at Purcareni and every second Friday at Sacele.

We are using a book entitled "Discover True Peace." Please pray for these ladies as they study together.



During the joint worship service at the Targu Mures church, twenty people were baptized and another 20 responded to an invitation to repentance.



When you were here, he was there one night at the Reghin church. He never was before at a baptism service. Praise the Lord that He worked in Endre's life. Please pray for this young man, for him to be faithful, and pray for his parents, too. God Bless You.



This Just In...

[From Walhalla, S.C. ...](#)

Congratulations to Tyler Wilkie and Brandy Duncan on their marriage Feb. 9. Tyler is the director of SafeHouse, the youth community center being developed by Teleios partners here. Pray for them in their new life together.

[From Greenville, S.C. ...](#)

- Teleios Ministry has received donations from Blue Sky Sales and The Cliffs Foundation to be used toward the purchase of a vehicle for Bernard Mwangi in Ruaka, Kenya. Praise God for the generosity of partners like these who are making it possible for Bernard to devote himself full time to the Lord's work in this region.

- Pray for the Grace Team and Floyd as they prepare for the medical missions trip in April. Ask the Lord for guidance and spiritual wisdom for participants as they work to understand culture, gather the physical supplies that will be necessary for the clinic and the strengthening of relationships as they work alongside Kenyan partners.

[From Kenya...](#)

Donations through Teleios Ministry for Kenyan refugees have been sent to partners at Koinonia Baptist Church to be used in camps where they are ministering. Pray for those who have been displaced because of the recent violence there. Ask God's protection and strength for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are bringing the hope of Jesus into the camps, as well as meeting physical needs.

[From Tanzania...](#)

Mbeya

Teleios Ministry has been given an option to acquire land here to build a new girls' school. First, pray for God's leadership in guiding us to know if this project is truly one in which we should be involved. If, in fact, it is a God-given dream in which we are to partner, for this dream to become a reality, we will need U.S. partners who will be willing to finance title transfer fees and for the construction of the school. Ask the Lord to call to the hearts of those partners who are needed if this vision is His desire.

[From Romania...](#)

Joseph and Adina Mike have accepted a call to the Hungarian Baptist Church in Beius. Pray for the family as they make preparations to move and for Joseph and Adina as they close out their ministry in Brasov. Pray for both churches as they experience change. Pray, too, that God will prepare the way for the Mike family as they move into leadership at Beius. Ask for God's direction as the Brasov church considers calling a new leadership.

March Schedule Includes Trip To Romania

Floyd Parker will be traveling to Romania to meet and visit with partners and church planters, teach at the Hungarian Baptist Seminary, work with the Barnabas Group, and preach. Please pray for safety in travel and for the continued work of the Spirit in the northern area of Romania.

February 29: Leave Greenville to travel to Budapest

March 1: Arrive Budapest 8 a.m.; travel to Satu Mare with the Vekas family

March 2: Worship and visit at Satu Mare Church

March 3: Visit with Vekas family and travel to Oradea to begin teaching at the Hungarian Baptist Seminary

March 4-6: Teach at Hungarian Baptist Seminary – *Corinthian letters of Paul*

March 7-10: Travel to Turda to be with Daniel and Adina Pusok and visit churches in the area

March 11-12: Meet with Barnabas Group of Young Pastors, Agape Hotel, Aghires, Romania

March 13-16: Meet with Attila Toth – visiting Churches and Missions in Reghin, Gornesti, Peris, and Apalina.

March 17: Fly Home

Dates Set For December Bible Camp In Kenya; Planning Under Way

\$50 Deposit Due By March 31

Mark your calendars now for Nov. 28—Dec. 10 and begin to make your plans to join Teleios in partnering for another exciting week of Bible Camp at Koinonia Baptist Church in Ruaka, Kenya!



This year, the Team will be working in new surroundings as Koinonia Church is now in its new facility and location. The first service at the new location was held Feb. 17 with 91 adults and 81 children in attendance! Praise God for His continued guidance in leading Koinonia to this permanent church home.

Preparations are being designed for two Teams to lead two Bible Camps that week—one at Koinonia and one at Limuru. Both camps will work with the same daily schedule and from the same materials for Bible stories, academic study, arts & crafts, and recreation.

Total cost for participation is \$2,600 and includes air fare, visa application fee, lodging, transportation and food in country, and a safari. We are asking that all who are interested in participating this year please let us know and to send a \$50 deposit by March 31.

For more information, contact Meg Hunt at mhunt21@msn.com or by calling 864-322-9775.





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Reflections From the Green Chair.....

Every now and then, a story from the Bible captures my attention and I cannot get away from it.

Often, it is one of those strange or difficult stories. In preparing for a Bible study on David, I also read the life of King Saul, the first king of Israel. One story really stands out and has spoken to me.

In 1 Samuel 13:5-15, King Saul has assembled the army of Israel because of a threat from the Philistines. The Philistine army is large, well-equipped, and seeking revenge. The army of Israel and Saul are waiting for the prophet Samuel to come and lead them in a pre-battle/war worship through sacrificial offering.

From Saul's perspective, Samuel is late in coming. Each day that he waits on Samuel, the level of fear among the soldiers increases and defections from the army increase.

Saul is hard-pressed now with issues of morale and desertion in the army. He knows something must be done.

He cannot stand the pressure any longer and takes matters into his own hands. He offers the sacrifices himself in violation of God's law.

Just as he finishes making the sacrifices, Samuel arrives and says to Saul, "What have you done?" Saul replies, "Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not asked the favor of the LORD." So I forced myself and offered the burnt offering." Samuel's reply is that Saul has been rejected by the Lord as King of Israel.

The irony and tragedy of the story is that in Saul's desire to obtain God's favor, he loses God's favor. He loses far more than favor in a battle. He loses God's blessing and favor as King.

We talk about patience and waiting on the Lord. All this is easy to say until the stakes are high or pressure becomes overwhelming.

We value God's blessing. We want to do things God's way. We know that we cannot go alone into the struggle. The stress keeps building. Finally, we can

stand it no longer. We can wait no longer. Somebody has to do something. We act, all in the name of the Lord, rather than wait on the Lord.

The Bible is filled with passages that call us to wait upon the Lord. Waiting is really trusting Him. God knows our need. If we have sought Him, then, we wait. If He has led us to this point, then, we wait.

I don't know what you face, but wait upon the Lord. If you are the leader of His people, don't think that everything rests on your shoulder to "make it happen." Wait on the Lord.

What I have learned is that waiting is much harder work than charging ahead. Waiting has consequences far beyond the immediate circumstances that produce stress, fear, and urgency.

"Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD." — Psalm 27:14

With Love In Christ,
Floyd

