



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

“And who is my neighbor?” Lu 10:29B NLT

Who is my neighbor? That’s the question, isn’t it? In Sweden we have a saying that goes something like this: “Don’t go over the river to fetch water”. The meaning is that don’t make things harder than they need to be, or don’t miss the obvious. I think that many times we tend to complicate things with God, especially in regards to sharing our faith. We wait until special events at church, or maybe we feel we are not up for the task, or we use excuses like the young man talking to Jesus, trying to get off the hook through technicalities. Well, the good news is that sharing the Good News doesn’t have to be complicated at all.

Looking first at the Good News... What has Jesus done in your life since you were saved? Are you changed? Are you different? Jesus has changed your life, and what he did for you, he can do for others! Sure, you can get a lot more technical than that, but isn’t that the basic gist of it? Jesus died for our sins, our faults, or mistakes and instead of death, we are now have eternal life! Isn’t that the greatest news? (By the way, if you can, pick up Francis Chan’s latest book *Erasing Hell*. Very sobering read of the reality that Jesus has saved us from and wants to save your neighbor from!)

Secondly, who is our neighbor? Looking at the context in Luke, Jesus shares the story of the Good Samaritan, the one who wanted nothing to do with a Jew and vice versa, went the extra mile to take care of the victim, a Jew. We see that WHOEVER God puts around us IS our neighbor. Having that understanding, we can see that we are to love WHOEVER we get in contact with, whether it is our family, our work colleagues, class mates, the person in the house across the street, at the street corner, or ahead of us in the grocery store. WHEREVER we are, we will find neighbors! LET’S LOVE THEM!

This fall we are hoping to start up a new ministry called Adopt-a-block. You will hear more about it soon, but this idea came out of the LA Dream Center. Read the interview with Pastor Matthew Barnett and you will get a better picture!

For the Kingdom,
Sam Sandén

HOW TO BE INVOLVED

Our vision is to see the body of Christ mobilized, becoming the very hands and feet of Jesus! Therefore we need you!!

Our heart is to provide you with opportunities to get involved on a number of levels, bringing you updates of the needs in the world around us and to help create a passion for you to become a world changer, right where you are at!

Therefore, here are some of the ways you can get involved!

- Get involved through serving through the various opportunities we have right here at Fathers House, such as being part of our outreaches or joining us on a mission trip! (See the latest resource flyer for info.)
- Stay in touch via Facebook: (facebook.com/r3ach.usa) and read our newsletter on our website (R3ACH.org).
- Support R3ACH through prayer and giving.
- Start supporting local, national and international ministries through prayer and giving of your time and resources. (See our resource flyer for more info.)
- Take a stand for Justice in your World as the Lord leads and opens doors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September – National Preparedness Month! (www.ready.gov)

September 17th,

- **Stop Child Trafficking Now 5k run/walk**
Visit <http://tinyurl.com/sctn-pdx> for more info.
Lemonade & Sandwich Homeless Outreach.
- **Love INC. Riverside Park Clean Up.**
Contact Claire O for more info

October - Fall “Least of these” outreach drive.

April 14th-29th (tbc)– Mission Trip to Uganda

R3ACH is the missions/outreach ministry of Fathers House Church, Longview, WA
To find out how you can be part of what is going on, visit us on the web at
www.fathershousechurch.com, www.R3ACH.org or www.facebook.com/r3ach.usa

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EVANGELISM

Taken from <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/august/dreamcenter.html>

The Story of the Los Angeles Dream Center

(reprint of "A Dream of a Center: 'A Model for Faith-based Organizations'", Interview in Christianity Today by Robert Crosby)

The dream first took shape in Los Angeles in 1994, when Tommy Barnett, pastor of Phoenix First Assembly of God, extended his church's outreach. He bought an abandoned behemoth of a building, the 360,000-square-foot Queen of Angels hospital complex, and, with the help of his then 20-something son, Matthew, started the Dream Center (DreamCenter.org). Today the center is a joint effort of the Assemblies of God and the Foursquare Church.

The nonprofit outreach involves hundreds of volunteers and staff, carrying out over 250 ministries that weekly touch over 40,000 people living in the inner city. Ministries include food trucks, a shelter for human trafficking victims, a mobile medical clinic, and the Dream Center Academy. In 1998, George W. Bush visited it and called it "a model for faith-based organizations." Pastor Barnett has seen the movement spawn almost 200 similar "dream centers" in cities and towns across the nation. Robert Crosby interviewed Matthew Barnett for CT.

What is the Dream Center's mission?

Being a 24-7 church in the community—a church that never sleeps, meeting all kinds of human needs.

What are some newly launched ministries at the Dream Center?

We recently opened the largest rescue center in America for human trafficking, with 60 beds. To our knowledge, prior to this there were only 39 beds [at one site] devoted to this kind of effort in the country. We now also have an on-site college that is regionally accredited. It serves as a bit of a "Peace Corps" and niche college experience.

How has the recession affected the Dream Center?

It has been one of the worst, yet one of the best, things America has faced. Pastors and churches used to believe that what they needed to do to succeed was build bigger buildings than other churches. Now they are rediscovering that real ministry is among the people of their community. During the recession, the police started asking the Dream Center for help. This is a switch. Before the recession, we averaged one new family asking for housing every two weeks; now we have six to eight families coming every day.

How has the DC affected the part of LA in which you serve?

Early in our ministry, after we had rescued seven students in need of housing and meals, Child Protective Services in our area sent us a

letter with a mock receipt to indicate the amount of money our help was saving them. Their estimate for monies saved by taking care of seven students for one year? \$493,000. Our approach is: Don't look for your cause. Just use what you have in your hand, and your cause will find you. To give you an idea of the impact God is having on our community: The Echo Park area of LA, in which the Dream Center is housed, used to be one of the most crime-ridden regions in the country. It was recently named one of the "50 most livable cities in America." Crime has been significantly reduced.

How do you staff such a large ministry?

Seven thousand people a year come from churches across the country to volunteer. In fact, we have 18 churches here volunteering this week alone. They come, they serve, and they go back fired up to meet needs in their community.

What is one of the most effective ministries at the DC?

Adopt-A-Block. In essence, a group of people meet every Saturday morning and go to the block in the city they have "adopted," knock on doors, and ask, "Is there anything we can do to serve you?"

What is the average age of your volunteers and staff?

We have 200 full-time one-year volunteers and 75 paid staff. About 95 percent of them are college-age. This is a youth movement. For example, a 20-year-old currently runs our Adopt-A-Block ministry, which enlists 700 people in compassionate ministry every Saturday.

Why has the DC's model caught on with so many?

People in our community know more about what we are for than what we are against. They know we care. Pentecostals used to say, "We will let so and so take care of the social work; we will focus on saving souls." Today, people in the church want to attach themselves to a church with a mission. Our approach is this: Don't look for your cause. Just use what you have in your hand, and your cause will find you. Honestly, what we do is so easy to reproduce. It is finding the joy of ministering to people who can give you nothing in return.

No doubt there are many thousands of stories of lives reached with Christ's love through the varied efforts. Any example?

Six months ago, a young man was dropped off at Skid Row at age 18. His foster parents left him there, telling him that since he was too old to receive government support, he was of "no use to them anymore." We found him in tears, and hearing of his need, we took him in and started one of our newest ministries, Emancipation Home. It designed specifically for young men like him.

R3ACH is the missions/outreach ministry of Fathers House Church, Longview, WA
To find out how you can be part of what is going on, visit us on the web at
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