



Loving Our Communities to Christ

A prayer-care-share initiative of the Mission America Coalition

First/Second Quarter

Issue 1, 2013

Boise, Idaho

*A Day of Service and
A Story of Triumph
Inspire Communities*

Page 2



Branson, Mo.

*Jesus Christ Honored
in City's 100th
Birthday Celebration*

Page 2

Grays Harbor, Wash.

*'Hidden Heroes' Serve
the Local Community*

Page 3



Thomasville, Ga.

*Prayer for CEOs
Continues Weekly*

Page 4

Rhode Island

*Church Partners with
Businesses to Provide
School Supplies*

Page 5



See these stories and more about Loving Our Communities to Christ partner cities inside!

*Photo: Worshipers from Eugene / Springfield Oregon gathered for last year's Global Day of Prayer hosted by The One Hope Network.
www.onehopenetwork.org*

Cities Share Best Practices, MAC Launches LOVE2020 at Leadership Consultation

More than 300 people gathered in Denver, Colo., in October for the annual leadership consultation of the Mission America Coalition (MAC): "Denver 2012: Make Love Your Aim." A City Impact Roundtable was held as part of the consultation with more than 70 pastors, cityreachers, and lay people gathering to hear about the CityReaching models and best-practice stories from Branson and Cedar Rapids, two Loving Our Communities to Christ partner cities, as well as others.



Also at Denver 2012, MAC launched a new initiative, LOVE2020, with the vision "For every person in America to be loved by at least one Christ follower, who is living a prayer-care-share lifestyle, by the year-end of 2020." Connect and be part of the vision at www.LOVE2020.com.

High School Prayer Summit in Idaho Draws Youth to Pray for Each Other

In February, Treasure the Valley held a prayer summit for one area high school. This school year has been particularly difficult on students and staff at Mountain View High School in Meridian, Idaho. The effects of an unusual number of deaths, traumatic injuries, and events - including two separate car crashes that took the lives of young men and women - had taken a toll on students and staff. Treasure the Valley held the summit at a time when youth groups could attend.

"We want youth praying for youth with the support of caring adults," the event announcement said. Treasure the Valley is a Loving Our Communities to Christ partner.

A Day of Service and A Story of Triumph Inspire Communities in the Treasure Valley

The Heart Campaign has organized days of service in cities across the Northwest, mobilizing over 100 churches and 8,000 volunteers in 25 cities. In March, the Heart Campaign will partner with churches, cities, businesses, and non-profits to serve the Treasure Valley area of Boise, Idaho, together. In the morning, volunteers will serve their communities; in the evening, an event with Nick Vujicic and live concert will celebrate the day. Utah Governor Gary Herbert extended an official invitation to Nick Vujicic and the Life Without Limits team to share his message of hope to inspire youth and the community. Vujicic will give presentations at four strategic middle and high school campuses and the Utah Dept. of Education will use its statewide simulcast communication system to broadcast the message to all middle and high schools on their network.

Calvary Chapel Treasure Valley 'Meets the Neighbors'

After MAC Faciliator for Evangelism, Dallas Anderson, visited Treasure the Valley, Daryl Zachman, senior pastor for prayer and missions, Calvary Chapel Treasure Valley reported that the outreach team reviews Anderson's principles each Saturday morning before they go out into the neighborhood.

"The results of 'Meet the Neighbors,' as we call it, have been amazing," Zachman reports. "God has been opening doors, people we invite are coming to church, and our people who are participating are filled with joy and hope in what the Lord is doing!"



Legacy Youth Institute Helps Shape the Culture of Ozark Mountain Country

Nearly 30 high school juniors from eight high schools in two counties, as well as students from the home school community, participated in the Legacy Youth Institute (LYI), launched in September 2012 in Branson, Mo. LYI was born out of a passion to create a tangible, intentional opportunity for community leaders to pass on "Ozark Mountain Spirit" - "a deep respect for Family, Faith, Friends, Flag and ensuring a preferred Future" - to the next generation; to shape the culture of Ozark Mountain Country.

Community leaders and organizations partnered with LYI in each session to mentor student participants. Participants created student-led initiatives in their schools, with the goal of leading initiatives within their communities, that help to support and promote the Legacy Core Values.

Branson is a Loving Our Communities to Christ partner city.

Born in Australia without arms or legs, 30-year-old Nick Vujicic has become an international symbol of triumph over incredible odds. His inspiring YouTube videos have been watched over 100 million times. Today, Nick surfs, snorkels, golfs, and plays soccer. He's traveled to 44 countries with his message of hope. "Even the worst part of your life can come together for the good," he says.



Jesus Christ Honored in Branson's 100th Birthday Celebration

The message of Jesus Christ has been part of the life of Branson, Mo., from the start. And the community included a day for adoring Christ for the final day of the city's 100th birthday celebration. More than 1,000 people from at least 15 different churches and over 20 ministries gathered to worship Christ together in the Branson Convention Center. Photos from the past 100 years cycled on two large screens, a 70-voice community choir led in traditional and contemporary Christmas songs, and professional actors portrayed three local icons.

Scores of teens and young adults responded to the "Time Capsule" challenge to carry forward the truth of Christ, into the next century. The values of Faith, Family, Friends, Flag and Future were heralded as being as effective for the next 100 years as they have been the past 100 years. That evening, the annual Adoration Parade, again lifted Christ as the focus of praise with floats, bands, dancing children and even Santa honoring Christ.

'Hidden Heroes' in Grays Harbor Serve the Local Community

"We have some of the best relationships and collaborative efforts of any community I have ever seen," Pastor Doug Marks told the Grays Harbor, Wash., area local newspaper, The Daily World.

"The pastors/ministry leaders gather together regularly to build good friendships, pray for our area, support one another, and on numbers of occasions we've done city service strategies," he said. Marks is pastor of River of Life Fellowship, in Aberdeen, Wash.

He described Convoy of Hope as an example of partnership between church leaders and city/county leaders serving the community.



Paper Dubs Warehouse Church 'Highly Regarded Community Asset'

Pastor Randy Schoof of Warehouse Church in Aurora, Ill. was interviewed in the local Beacon-Press newspaper last November, chronicling his own personal journey out of addiction and into faith and the impact Warehouse Church has had on the community, calling Schoof, the staff, and the church "highly regarded community assets."

The article highlights the community efforts Schoof was involved in that included pastors and church members of many denominations coming together during an era of high crime in Aurora.

"That era reached a low point about the time the church moved to its present location, but Schoof believes the tide was turned, at least in part, by the partnerships and connections among the different groups and their willingness to pray together," the article says.

Aurora made the news again this year in Time Out Chicago for the remarkable record of no murders in 2012.

Schoof told the Mission America Coalition, "We're thankful for what God continues to do in Aurora. One of the big factors in city-reaching and transformation is humility. On the part of leaders in the body of Christ, and other leaders. Both our mayor and the chief of police are guys who are truly humble, and genuinely care about the poor."

Warehouse Church is part of Love Fox Valley - a Loving Our Communities to Christ partner. MAC's Facilitator of Loving Our Communities to Christ, Phil Miglioratti, attended a strategy meeting for Love Fox Valley in December.

"I was impressed at how a ministry to the poor is transitioning from direct service to the under-resourced to walking with, and working through the Church with, an approach that includes focused prayer, holistic ministry, and congregation-based evangelism," Miglioratti reported.



Dave Parrish, community service coordinator; Pastor Randy Schoof (center); and Joe Holman, community assistant, are members of Warehouse Church.

"This was a major event two years ago which touched thousands of lives in our county as we served in multitudes of areas, giving out food, free medical/dental exams, free hair cuts, social service networking, free family pictures, etc. One of my greatest joys was to see leaders from various backgrounds - both in the civic community and church community - serving in practical ways and giving hope," he told the newspaper.

"We are uniquely blessed to have so many churches work together," Marks reported. "We have made so many great friendships as we've partnered to serve our city...There are a lot of "hidden heroes" throughout the Harbor doing amazing things serving people." Grays Harbor is a Loving Our Communities to Christ partner city.

Pastors in San Bernardino Work toward Unity in Christ

In April, San Bernardino will hold its 13th annual pastor's breakfast with the theme "Unity Within the Body of Christ."

"It is my dream and God's desire for brothers to dwell together in unity," says Evangelist Jerry Musgrove. "Over the past several years we have witnessed new relationships formed as well as old ones renewed. In addition, we have witnessed great acts of love and support extended to one another."

'Church in the City' Prayerwalks in Charleston, W. Va.

Prayer walking is a weekly activity for Church in the City / City Impact Roundtable of Charleston, W. Va. In January, Sarah Dunn reports, during one prayer walk, the team saw multiple police cars with flashing lights making arrests. Having just read Ephesians 5 before prayer walking, they drew the correlation of light exposing darkness.

"Here we were walking as light and speaking life and light into our city and we saw...our officers with their lights arresting the darkness!" Dunn reports. They prayed for for the light and knowledge of the glory of Jesus to be revealed and released in their city.

During another prayer walk, a cold rain caused them to seek shelter at the top of the stairs to the capitol building. "We felt Holy Spirit leading us to declare unity in the lives of believers in our government and for them to rise in boldness and courage and walk in the Kingdom purposes God has them there for."

'Joseph' Visits Pastors' Appreciation Dinner

More than 60 pastors and spouses attended a pastors' appreciation dinner sponsored by Community Transformation, Inc. (CTI) with the help of 19 donors from the Thomasville, Ga. area. CTI President Doug Silvus says that attendance was about equally divided racially, which was a great statement of faith and unity taking place among clergy in Thomasville. It was CTI's first pastors' dinner at a special location and including pastors' wives.

Entertainment included a professional actor - a retired Methodist pastor - who portrayed Joseph, the husband of Mary, and provided an entertaining monologue raising questions and giving fictional answers based on the historical biblical account, suggesting things that Joseph might have experienced as Mary's husband and Jesus' stepfather.



Prayer for CEOs Continues Weekly in Thomasville

Each year, Community Transformation, Inc. (CTI) leads the National Day of Prayer events in Thomasville, Ga. As planning for this year's events comes together, Doug Silva, president of CTI sent a report on the lasting effect of last year's events.

Teams of board members from CTI lead seven different prayer services in the morning before the main noontime prayer event on the National Day of Prayer. The seven services were held at locations representing "seven mountains of influence" in the community. Employees of businesses and governmental agencies and others participated in the smaller group prayer meetings, and the CTI board members extended an offer to come back weekly to pray with CEOs who were involved.

Two accepted the invitation and those weekly prayer gatherings have continued since.

In February, at the Marketplace Leader Prayer Summit in Thomasville, two marketplace leaders reported on how much the weekly prayer has meant to them personally and to their departments.

As CTI makes arrangements for National Day of Prayer events this May, Silva reports that they hope to multiply their efforts of prayer in the workplace and offering care to people in each of the seven areas of influence in their community.

CTI is a nonprofit corporation formed to promote prayer and partnering in the community in Thomasville and is a Loving Our Communities to Christ partner.

Hundreds of Volunteers Help Thousands with Practical Needs in Fresno

More than 3,500 people were helped in the first nine months of last year through 24 clearinghouse volunteers with hundreds of church volunteers ready to serve from 144 partner churches through ESA / Love INC in Fresno. Some of those efforts have included Loving Our Neighbors - over 850 Christians from 17 pilot churches who have committed to reach out with Christ's love to their neighbors.

Partnering with other ministries, ESA is part of Bringing Accessible Supplies Into Communities (BASIC). BASIC has provided more than \$800,000 of basic supplies - diapers, wipes, coats, pajamas and food to 16,270 families and 27,326 children in 14 communities distributed through 650 volunteers from 42 churches and ministries.

ESA also cooperates with the local police department by recruiting and equipping pastors to help gang leaders stop their violence in an effort called Operation Ceasefire.

ESA/Love INC has many more initiatives and efforts underway in the community. Its mission is "mobilizing Christian churches and individuals to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ." Serving Fresno for 26 years, ESA/Love INC is a church service network operating as a clearinghouse, connecting thousands of people to churches and ministries. It is a Loving Our Communities to Christ partner.

Fresno Community Celebration Yields Salvations, Baptisms

Also in the Fresno area, Northpark Community Church hosted a community celebration and worship gathering last August. About 680 from the community attended with 130 volunteers from teens to the elderly serving them. Within three days the church followed up with 80 households, who had filled out hospitality cards, making efforts to build relationships with those visitors.

During the gathering, the pastor gave a clear explanation of the gospel and invited people to come and be baptized immediately - a first for the church. Eight children and four adults were baptized. Others raised their hands for prayer and 15 prayer team members moved through the crowd to minister to them. In the following two Sundays, at least 10 people prayed to begin a relationship with Jesus for the first time.

Church Partners with Businesses to Provide School Supplies



Abundant Life Assembly of God held a school supply drive to support 400 needy families through a local charity in Barrington, R.I. Pastor Dave Aucoin reports that the church partnered with businesses to help Tap-In (Touch A Person In Need), to collect school supplies for under-resourced families.

"It turns out that many kids will skip the first few days of school if they are lacking the necessary supplies so as not to appear poor," Aucoin said. "We filled then passed out more than 180 backpacks filled with school supplies and collected hundreds of school items for Tap-In to have on hand...It really got our church excited about helping out our community! The Tap-In director was very surprised that a church would be doing this," Aucoin reported. The church is part of LoveRI, a Loving Our Communities to Christ partner.

On-Site Prayer Covers Community in Santa Rosa

Together in Christ holds weekly prayer meetings for pastors, ministry leaders, marketplace leaders, and intercessors to pray for the needs of the community. They meet in a different location each week to pray for related needs. In March, one prayer gathering was at Santa Rosa Alliance Church and they prayed for the ministry the church has among hispanics and cambodians. Another prayer gathering was held the City Council Chambers for Santa Rosa with worship

and prayer for the city, its leaders, and its citizens. Another March prayer gathering focused on men and women in military service past and present and was held at the National Guard Armory.

Newton, Kansas, Launches Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery Newton was officially launched in October 2012, after months of building a core leadership team, nine key ministry areas each with their own teams, and a total of 38 volunteers from at least seven churches. For two hours, real hope and real power for victory over darkness was celebrated as 77 adults brought with them 16 kids to learn, be delivered by, and grow in the power of Jesus Christ. Celebrate Recovery is a full-fledged, all ages, Christ centered, Bible-based 12 step program to restore individuals and families from addiction.

Also in Newton, planning is underway for HopeFest 2013 to be held in July. Sponsored by the Missional Church Network, Hopefest is an event to give hope and help to hurting families in a fun, safe festival atmosphere that's fun for all ages.

Week of Fasting Followed by Adoration Event in Corvallis, Oreg.

In January, churches in Corvallis, Oreg. choose one week in January to emphasize prayer and fasting in their congregation. Then, Church of the Valley - Corvallis held "Adoration", a city-wide worship event. Pastor Steve Sjogren, author of *Conspiracy of Kindness* spoke, sharing examples of showing kindness to the community. Church of the Valley also holds weekly prayer gatherings for pastors and ministry leaders every Thursday throughout the year. Corvallis will join Eugene/Springfield, Oreg. for the annual pastors' prayer summit in Cannon Beach. Some of the area outreaches include Love INC of Benton County (www.yourloveinc.org), Southside Youth Outreach (www.ssyo-inc.org), and Heart of the Valley House of prayer - ministering to God through sustained prayer, music & art (www.hovhop.com).

All-City Worship Brings Unity Even in the Planning

On Palm Sunday, 42 congregations and ministries will gather "to be the 'Church together' expressing our unity through worship and prayer" in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The event includes 17 singers and musicians from ten congregations and is sponsored by Serve the City, a partnership of congregations and ministries in Cedar Rapids.

Pastor Steve Irwin, River of Life Ministries, said even the process of planning such an event brings unity to the Church. "Solid relationships are actually established and strengthened through the preparation process for these gatherings. There's nothing more exciting than being the answer to Christ's prayer in John 17 where He prayed that we would be one as He and the Father are One."

Watch the invitation video on [YouTube](#).

Pastors Pray for Each Other in Eugene, Ore.

For over 20 years, pastors and ministry leaders have gathered together in Cannon Beach for an annual Prayer Summit - a time of seeking the Lord for one another, their ministries, and our community. This year's Summit will be facilitated by Tom and Terri White of Frontline Ministries. In addition, pastors and ministry leaders from many denominations gather monthly to worship and pray. Wonderful relationships continue to develop as they pray for each other, their ministries, and this community.



LC2C Partner Cities

Boise / Treasure Valley, Idaho — Treasure The Valley (www.treasurethevalley.com)

Branson, Missouri

Cedar Rapids, Iowa—Serve the City (www.servethecity.org)

Charleston, West Virginia—Church in the City

Charlotte, North Carolina—Charlotte Awake

Coachella Valley, California—Lighthouses of the Valley

Corvallis, Oregon—Church of the Valley – Corvallis (www.covcorvallis.org);
Love INC of Benton County (www.yourloveinc.org)

El Paso, Texas—Las Cruces Prayer Network

Eugene / Springfield, Oregon — One Hope Network (www.onehopenetwork.org)

Fox Valley, Illinois—Love Fox Valley (www.lovefoxvalley.org)

Fresno, California—ESA Love INC (www.esali.org)

Grays Harbor, Washington

Kansas City — (www.citywideprayerkc.com)

Newton, Kansas— (www.missionalchurchnetwork.blogspot.com)

Norwalk, Iowa — (www.fccnorwalk.org)

Phoenix, Arizona

Rhode Island—LoveRI (www.loverhodeisland.wordpress.com)

San Bernardino, California

Santa Rosa, California—Together in Christ Santa Rosa
(www.togetherinchrist.net)

Thomasville, Georgia—Community Transformation, Inc.
(www.communitytransformationinc.com);
Thomasville Family and Marriage Net (www.thomasvillefamily.com)

Tuscaloosa, Alabama—Tuscaloosa Prayer Network (www.tuscaloosaprayernet)

Join Us in Praying

Pray for City Impact!

- Will you take a moment to pray for the work of Christ in at least one of these cities?
- Please give thanks for the many thousands who have seen and heard the Gospel in these cities and petition the Lord to stir faith in them yet today.
- Pray also for other communities and cities to catch a John 17 vision to ‘serve better together’ in reaching the lost, the least, and those who lead in their region.

More Stories and More Resources!

Find all of these resources at www.missionamerica.org/LC2C.

[LC2C Connections](#)—Newsletter with resources for LC2C partner cities

[LC2C Blog](#)—Resources, interviews, recommendations, and information for partner cities from Phil Miglioratti (National Coordinator for LC2C)

[MAC’s Evangelism Connection](#)—Evangelism news, research, trends, and ideas

[Partner Cities](#)—Profiles of each of the current LC2C partner cities

[LC2C Frequently Asked Questions](#)—The basics about LC2C

[The MAC and LC2C Relationship](#)—The origins of LC2C

[LC2C Report Archive](#)—Past quarterly reports, podcasts, newsletters and more

[How LC2C Partners with a City](#) (MP3)—A Lighthouse Report audio spot with Phil Miglioratti

[Loving Our Neighbors](#)—Principles for congregations adopting a prayer-care-share culture

Mission America Coalition

Contact Phil Miglioratti, National Coordinator for Loving Our Communities to Christ phil@missionamerica.org or 847-344-7837

Mission America Coalition
PO Box 13930
Palm Desert, CA 92255
(760) 200-2707

www.missionamerica.org