

# GRACE MISSION MOVERS

## Becoming a Sending Church

*Taking the Gospel to our community and around the world*

Missions is not an option for the Christian – it is the calling of the Church – to live and speak the Gospel whenever there is an opportunity. We at Grace, desire to be movers and shakers when it comes to Missions and we are taking steps to facilitate our local church body to help us engage together to become a sending church and to

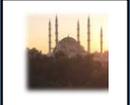
support one another within our community and world whenever and wherever God issues a specific call to move. Grace MISSION MOVERS hopes to become a quarterly newsletter serving to inform and inspire you to become part of our corporate Mission! To live and speak the Gospel and change little pieces of the world one life at a time.

~Ginifer Simon & Barb Stuk

## Haiti Connections

Doug and Susan Rakoczy



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*"The Great Commission is too big for anyone to accomplish alone and too important not to try to do it together." ~Steve Moore*

*Doug Rakoczy at Freedom International Christian School working with a student on his first experience with a microscope!*

# Freedom International Ministries Christian School and Reconnecting with Haiti

Before Susan and I first visited Freedom School here in rural Ramon Santana in the Dominican Republic in January, I was kind of wondering how much of a Haitian "connection" there would be. When we lived in the north of Haiti, there was such a strong resistance from the Dominicans to having Haitians coming into the country that it was hard for us to think about having a significant Haitian presence in the community here. However, since we are in the southern part of the DR and surrounded by really large sugar cane farms, many Haitians come here to work in the fields cutting sugar cane, and the bateyes (villages for the workers set up by the sugar companies) definitely have a Haitian feel. Susan and I felt very blessed to spend time working in the school with a number of students who were clearly Haitian. We were able to speak Kreyol with some of the students but it was hard to establish a connection in just a few days. As a result, there was a little reluctance from some of the Haitian kids to want to speak Kreyol.

I've been back here at Freedom School for two full weeks now. I work in the Accelerate program (helping kids catch up with reading and writing skills) all morning and teach science in the afternoons to grades 1 through 5. I've been able to spend a lot more time with the students, especially the core group of about 26 I work with in Accelerate in the morning. I can see the difference that time is making in my interactions with some of the kids, especially the 5th grade boys.

Some of the kids who are of Haitian descent knew I could speak some Kreyol but didn't really want to acknowledge it at first.



After a few days, they started making some comments that weren't the most appropriate ("the teacher talks too much" or "he doesn't know anything") to see if I could actually understand what they were saying. When they saw that I could, they started to become more willing to initiate conversations or ask questions in Kreyol. They would ask about family member names or make comments about how things were going or ask how I was doing.

One day after science class, a fifth-grade student asked how I knew Kreyol. I told her my family and I used to live in Haiti. She thought about that for a few seconds and then asked "poukisa"? (Why?) I explained that we were trying to help people-Jesus wants us to do that. She seemed to think that was a reasonable answer. I noticed one of the 5th grade boys listening to the conversation and taking note of my answer.

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# Prayer and Praise from Luke & Emily Olson

*The Olson's are a family living in Turkey where the government is not very open to the gospel. Luke and Emily are doing great work developing relationships with those around them and building strong networks with other believers.*

*Because of the challenges of their situation, to get more detail on their life and needs, please sign up for their Newsletter. The info is on Page 5.*



1. We are re-launching our efforts on Social Media (bigger team, wider reach, and more strategic to reach those spiritually interested) in April. Last year, over 12 months we saw 14 people make decisions for Jesus, and a handful of Discovery Bible Study groups came out of those (think non-believers gathering other non-believers to discover the Word together). Pray for the admin team as well as country-wide follow-up efforts, both of which I am involved in.

2. Pray for the on-going Discovery Bible Study groups that we are involved in as a team here in our city. We have 2 currently, with potential for many more to start. Pray for people with whom a discovery group hasn't started yet Pray they will decide to say yes to beginning and want to gather friends, family and co-workers into discovery groups with them.

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## A Dream Realized: First Year Christian Hockey Team has Amazing Season! Jeff Juni -FCA



*"The greatest highlight is what happened after every game; when the whole team and coaches - along with the opposing team and coaches - would link arms at center ice in prayer."*

There was a vision several years ago to build a Christian school and then an adjoining Sports Complex in Alexandria, MN that could be home for FCA Hockey. This Vision also included creating a Juniors Hockey team that would compete at a high level, while also training up the young men to be disciples of Jesus Christ. This dream was realized as the complex was completed last Fall and the team managed by our FCA staff had a tremendous first season. The NorthStar Christian Academy Knights just wrapped up their season with a record of 41-10-6, far exceeding all expectations.

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## Continued: Haiti

The next morning, that 5th grade boy said to me, "ou se Ayisyen" (that means, "you are Haitian"). It doesn't mean you are literally a Haitian. But it does mean that you have some understanding of what it is like to be in Haiti, to see the struggles, and to have a sense of how difficult it is to be a Haitian. And you're willing to attempt to learn the language and culture and try to help. To us, that is a compliment; it means something. It's still only been a few weeks here. The students are challenging, just like in many schools and countries. I believe God has given me a talent to make connections with students and to have a positive impact on them. It's still hard for me some days because I am more of an introvert, so I'm relying on Christ to give me the courage to face each day and do my best as I work with students. This isn't Haiti, a place Susan and I have a special connection with. However, I'm grateful to be blessed by the Lord to be here in the DR at another special place and to reconnect with our Haitian roots. After all, in my heart, mwen se Ayisyen (I am Haitian).

## Continued: Hockey

This team made up of players from 11 states grew as disciples in Christ and as great hockey players as they won their regular season and league championship. They also served the community by donating their time and raising over \$11,000 for victims of domestic violence. The greatest highlight is what happened after every game; when the whole team and coaches - along with the opposing team and coaches - would link arms at center ice in prayer. Every team they played accepted their invitation to join them for prayer. They are having an incredible impact for Christ in the world of hockey.

*Jeff has served on staff with FCA for 19 years and currently is responsible for all ministry in the 4-state Northland Region (MN, ND, SD, WI). Jeff is a New Ulm native and was a charter member of our church plant along with his wife, Ellen, and girls Abigail and Renae.*

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## Book Review: *Miraculous Movements* by Jerry Trousdale

CITYTEAM International

*Miraculous Movements* recounts an amazing change taking place within Muslim communities where the truth of Jesus Christ is turning around the lives of many thousands of Muslims. This close look at what the Lord is doing to spread the gospel highlights the key scriptural principles that help Christians reach out in love to share the gospel in their own community. The author outlines the principle of service to others that will open the doors of opportunity to the work of the gospel.

*"This book, these people, and the miraculous stories are for real! We heard, we saw, we went and we have partnered with City Team in Africa. This is a paradigm shifting movement of God that anyone and everyone committed to making disciples must read and apply! I passionately recommend it."* -CHIP INGRAM, Senior Pastor, Venture Christian Church

Highly recommended read! -Ginifer Simon

# Get Involved...Stay Involved

## Full-time International Missionaries and Missions: Local Missions:

Ask for their newsletters to get up to date information on what is happening throughout the world!

### \*Ryan & Kristin Gerbrandt

Serving in Yauonde, Cameroon

[www.fb.com/kristin.gerbrandt](http://www.fb.com/kristin.gerbrandt)

[Ryan.Gerbrandt@efca.org](mailto:Ryan.Gerbrandt@efca.org)

Newsletter : [eepurl.com/u3cHr](http://eepurl.com/u3cHr)

### \* Pamela D'Andre Serving in Kiev, Ukraine

[Pam.Dandre@efca.org](mailto:Pam.Dandre@efca.org)

### \* Luke & Emily Olson Serving in Turkey

[leolson@sent.com](mailto:leolson@sent.com)

### \* Freedom International Ministries, Dominican Republic

*Our goal is to disciple others to impact their world for Christ.*

*Our school is invested in sharing the Word of God with students and families through education, VBS, day camps, and other programs.*

<https://itisforfreedom.com/>

**NUMAS Haus-** *Providing emergency shelter and support services to homeless single women and children in the Brown County, MN area* <https://numashaus.org/>

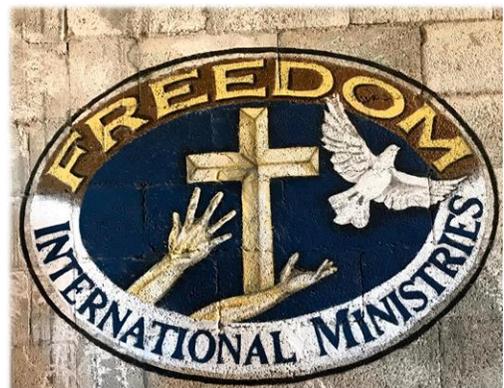
### MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) and

**MOMSnex** *An International organization to support Moms with meetings in New Ulm. Call 507-354-3358 for more info* <https://www.mops.org/groups/newulmmn>

### Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) - Jeff Juni

*Our Vision is: 'To see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of Coaches and Athletes'*  
*Our Mission is: 'To lead every Coach and Athlete in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.'*

<https://www.fca.org/>



## ....STAY INVOLVED

### Freedom Trip -- June 29 - July 6, 2019

- This Missions Trip is filled.
- Please pray for and support our 25 short-term missionaries planning to participate as they finish preparing and raising funds to go.

### Upcoming Fundraiser:

- Come support the DR trip fund raising efforts by dining at the New Ulm Pizza Ranch, Monday, April 22 between 4:45 PM and 8 PM.

### Help us fill "Blessing Tubs" for Freedom International Ministries

- These tubs will be sent along to the DR with our short-term team in June.
- You can find a detailed wish-list of items that are in need at their website: <https://itisforfreedom.com/> Click on "Take a Trip" drop down to view the list.
- Donations can be dropped off at Grace Community Church Office (518 Center Street, suite a, New Ulm) from now through June 15.

**Freedom Trip 2020 -- dates TBD** Look for information on our next short-term trip.

## Community Organizations:

**1st Choice Pregnancy Services-** *First Choice Pregnancy Services exists to provide life affirming choices for women facing unplanned pregnancy and free STD testing. <http://consideryouroptions.org/> (507)359-9800*

**Emergency Food Shelf-** *Volunteer run organization to provide food, as needed to families and individuals monthly. <https://www.facebook.com/New-Ulm-Emergency-Food-Shelf-272240349514995/> Contact Brad Kirk 507-354-7668*

**Ivy House (Crisis Nursery)-** *The Southern Minnesota Crisis Nursery (SMNCN) is a 24-hour home that exists to provide a temporary, safe, and loving environment for children, while supporting and strengthening families experiencing a stressful situation. FREE Services, 24 hour CRISIS LINE 507-755-5925 <https://www.smncrisisnursery.org/>*

**Foundation Farm-** *Foundation Farm is a faith based equine assisted learning ministry that uses horses and farm life for human emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being. <https://www.foundationfarm.org/> Contact Kris Edwards 507-217-9252*

**Barnyard Ministries-** *Barnyard Ministries exists to model the unconditional and life-changing love of Christ. This is accomplished by using any resources we have been blessed with to provide a space for Christians and seekers alike to gather in an atmosphere of loving acceptance, to experientially come to know and grow in our relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to grow in unity with the greater Body of Christ. <https://worshipinthebarn.wixsite.com/barn> [facebook.com/simonsbarnyard](https://facebook.com/simonsbarnyard)*

**Heart to Home Furnishings-** *Heart to Home Furnishing collects, warehouses and delivers new and gently-used household furnishings to our neighbors in need. Donations accepted...Referrals by agencies that service people in need. Dick Embacher (507-766-3241) and Steve Schneider (507-382-1478)*

