



*Why CARING matters...
at Christmas and all year long!*

**SOMEBODY CARES AMERICA /
TURNING POINT MINISTRIES
INTERNATIONAL
2013 IMPACT REPORT**

*Prayer • Compassion Evangelism
Leadership • Disaster Relief*

Every day, all year long, our Somebody Cares chapters and centers are transforming lives ...with kindness and compassion

Little children, let us not love [merely] in theory or in speech but in deed and in truth (in practice and in sincerity). 1 John 3:18 (AMP)

Long lines of people form as they come to receive a hot meal, dry goods, and Christmas gifts in the church gymnasium. People of all ages and backgrounds come seemingly out of nowhere, their need often unseen and overlooked by those who pass them by. A mother of five staying at a hotel, unable to afford a place of her own. An older woman suffering from liver disease, often spending the night on the streets. Each person or family has a story.

During this time of the year, they come 200-300 at a time to celebrate Christmas with the loving people of **Somebody Cares Center in Lowell, MA**, including Rev. Raffaw Najem, Lynne Saffie, and their team of volunteers. They share a warm meal together with laughter filling the air as children run around excitedly with the new toys they just received.

The whole community looks forward to this and other events each year. Teach-

ers collect gifts for the outreach at their schools, families gather gifts throughout the year to bring to the event, food comes from the local food pantry as well as from Somebody Cares New England, and volunteers from all backgrounds come to participate.

The heart of the center is to make sure the people in their area feel loved. "We try to provide to the community as much as we can," says director Lynne Saffie. They do this by hosting a variety of local outreach activities throughout the year, bringing the love of Christ from inside the church out to the community. Activities include city-wide block parties called 'Bless the City,' where volunteers work on community projects while also reaching out with fun and games for the locals to enjoy; Thanksgiving meals; Harvest outreaches; and children's programs. In the words of Rev. Najem, "We don't even preach. We just give them extra kindness."

That 'extra kindness' has gone a long way. Fellow Somebody Cares partner Marlene Yeo told us, "Pastor Najem is being used by God to gather the pastors and

model transformation through prayer, caring, and sharing. This is one of the few cities in New England that is actually *doing* what others talk, preach, and teach about."

Marlene, as well, has been an influence on her community of Haverhill, MA, as **Somebody Cares New England** is recognized for the ongoing care they provide. In addition to the food pantry, SCNE offers care for the elderly, including groceries, meals, light housekeeping, and even fun days with manicures, coffee, and visiting. They also offer free weekly meals and Bible studies; holiday events at Christmas, Thanksgiving, New Year's and Easter; a huge summer block party with games, music, bounce houses, and truckloads of free clothing, household items, and personal hygiene products; and monthly prayer meetings open to all churches and denominations. This summer, they also hosted a 'Bless the City' event, which was four days of reaching out with acts of kindness and ending with a community cook-out.

But this kind of community impact is not limited to New England.

Down the road in Baltimore, Matt and Katy Stevens incorporated their Chain Reaction ministry into **Somebody Cares Baltimore**, which not only includes city-wide outreach to meet the needs of the homeless and disadvantaged, but also focuses intense prayer and outreach toward some of the



Hundreds of people join Somebody Cares Lowell (Mass.) each year for their Christmas celebration (left and opposite page, bottom), while a "guest of honor" at Baltimore's Day of Hope receives prayer for healing (opposite page, top)

toughest parts of the city. Partnering with the local police department, the city has seen tangible results through continually dropping crime statistics.

“Presence brings reduction,” Matt says. “When Christ is alive in us and we are present in the community, it changes things and lives are saved.”

Citing three different examples, Matt quotes statistics first pertaining to violent crime as police have partnered with churches and the community in Baltimore’s Eastern District. Between 2007 and 2011, homicides and shootings were cut in half, from 50 to 27 homicides and from 115 down to 61 shootings--the lowest in the city’s history.

In the Western District, Matt says, “We’ve helped cut the number of homicide and shooting victims in neighborhood hot spots. Our concentrated efforts resulted in .9 down to .1 persons becoming victims of homicides and shootings.”

He also says that following 10 ‘Day Of Hope’ events, the city has seen an average of 23% drop in crime. ‘Day of Hope’ has served 16,407 individual residents by gathering service providers, a Kidzone, food, groceries, haircuts, clothing, prayer, entertainment and backpacks for the community.

Down on the Florida gulfcoast, Dan Bernard and **Somebody Cares Tampa Bay** have been reaching out to their community with CareFest, a community-wide day of service, for 12 years. It was birthed in 2002 following the 2001 Super Bowl in Tampa, when 180 churches and businesses combined to bless the city with 120,000 pounds of groceries, three truckloads of clothing, and free lunches, sports clinics, and music for kids and adults.

CareFest has spread to 11 cities and inspired similar outreaches in many more. Thousands of people volunteer annually to provided millions of dollars of goods and services through projects like home repairs for the elderly, painting schools, and landscaping parks and empty city lots. The day begins with prayer before teams are disbursed, and ends with a celebration after teams gather back together.

“The object is literally to do all the good we can by all the means we can,” Dan explains, adding: “We are hoping that each year more cities will catch the vision.”

Somebody Cares Tampa Bay also

gives away hundreds of backpacks each year during the back-to-school season; offers monthly meetings for pastors to come together for prayer, fellowship, and sharing of ideas; distributes truckloads of food each month through partner ministries; and gives local residents the opportunity to participate through donation bins placed at area churches.

on the road to disaster sites, setting up the Holy Smoke grills to serve hot meals to front line relief workers as well as residents who have suffered incredible loss;

York, PA where Somebody Cares director, Jim Herbert, has mobilized pastoral prayer gatherings as well as worked with community leaders through the Long Term

“Presence brings reduction.
When Christ is alive in us and we are present in the community,
it changes things and lives are saved...”

Born out a relationship with the Tampa Bay chapter, **Somebody Cares Hernando County** (FL) seeks to “reveal the Lord’s footprints” in their community. The “Footprints” Outreach Ministry works in concert with local churches, ministries, and businesses to provide the basic necessities of life to those in need while developing healthy, self-sustaining communities, families and individuals.

The Hernando chapter also participates annually in CareFest and distributes thousands of pounds of food each year through 11 partner churches as part of the SC Tampa Bay food truck outreach. They also participate in SC Tampa Bay’s Raise the Roof annual concert, offer a backpack distribution opportunity each year, and have an ongoing prayer ministry for the community.

In another part of Florida, **Somebody Cares St. Augustine** began after retired businessman John Clifton introduced CareFest to the community several years ago. The chapter soon opened a 24/7 prayer line manned by volunteers from local churches and organizes “Coats for Kids” throughout November, a partnership with St. John’s County School District to provide winter clothing to over 500 students in the district who are classified as homeless.

We also find Somebody Cares Centers and partners in:

San Antonio, TX, as ministry partners BloodNFire and Daily Bread not only serve to diligently reach their communities but also partner with Somebody Cares during disaster relief. Mark Roye takes BloodNFire

Recovery Committee to meet the needs of flood victims in their area;

Denver, CO, which continues to help with flood relief in their region as well as

(continued)





Florida Governor Rick Scott (2nd from left) and Senator Jeff Brandes (far right) joined this year's CareFest in Tampa Bay, commending Dan and Kathy Bernard for starting an event 12 years ago that annually makes such an important contribution to the area.

(continued)

reaching out to youth and families in the heart of the city.

Texas, where chapters throughout the state respond to disasters, organize holiday outreaches, are engaged in community wide prayer gatherings, and respond to individuals in need on a daily basis.

From coast to coast and even internationally (Scotland, Brazil, Fiji and the Caribbean), Somebody Cares chapters and partners are meeting daily needs in their communities and working together to help in bigger tragedies.

It's your partnership that makes it possible for Somebody Cares to be the hands and feet of Jesus throughout the globe. You can find links to the chapters and centers mentioned in this story at www.somebodycares.org.

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Somebody Cares in Aberdeen, Scotland

In November of 2012, Lisa and Ashley Stringer joined a team of 17 from the Somebody Cares Chapter in Humble TX as they ventured across the Atlantic Ocean to serve with Somebody Cares Scotland in Aberdeen.

The 10-day trip included opportunities for the team to lead worship, share the Gospel, and participate in all night prayer at the SC Scotland building.

"At 3 or 4 in the morning," Lisa says, "we all loaded up into cars and proceeded to visit the gates of the city and prayer-walked the area."

One of the locations they visited is believed to have been a place where kids who were kidnapped were held prior to being shipped to the U.S., leading Ashley to pray for the end of child trafficking in Scotland, Europe, and beyond.

They also visited the Isle of Lewis and went to the church where Duncan Campbell preached when long periods of revival broke out on two different occasions.

"We spoke to four people who had been a part of the services," Lisa recalled. "They shared that when church was over in the early morning hours, they would turn off the lights to leave—but as they would pull away from the building, they would notice it was fully lit! They said the presence of God kept the building completely illuminated."

One morning the team was hosted by the Lord Provost, who is also a long-time friend of Somebody Cares. After a tour and learning a little bit about the state of the nation from Lord Provost, the team prayed for him and all the government officials of Scotland.

Yet the main reason for the visit was to offer support for Brian and Jenny Taylor, who founded SC Scotland in 2002. The ministry's location includes a church, resale shop, and café, where thousands of people in their community have found help in times of need. People can also go to the warehouse to pick out what they need at little or no cost.

The team spent a full day organizing the freezing cold warehouse where all the donations are taken in. In just one day, they observed a man who had recently been released from prison receiving groceries and some other items to get back on his feet, then a large delivery truck was loaded up with furniture to take to a family in need. The ministry gives away everything from washing machines, heaters, blankets and towels, to clothing and reading material.

"Jenny and her husband have hearts of gold and the DNA of the ministry, always putting others first," Lisa concluded. "They are truly heroes in their community."



Pastor Mike May, from Somebody Cares Humble but originally from Scotland, meets a woman who was part of the Scottish revival led by Duncan Campbell (above). Ashley Stringer (top) serves in the SC Scotland food warehouse.

BEARS!



When Doug Stringer first ordered Somebody Cares bears years ago for a Somebody Cares Houston outreach, he had no idea the kind of impact the bears would someday have on children in crisis around the world.

As Somebody Cares began emerging as a key player in disaster relief efforts during Hurricane Katrina and the Indonesian tsunami in 2005, it became apparent that in the midst of meeting the immediate material needs of food, shelter, and medical attention so crucial during Stage 1 relief efforts (Rapid Response/Rescuing Lives), the emotional needs of the youngest victims were easily overlooked. Since that time, thousands of children have found

hope and comfort through the gift of a soft, cuddly teddy bear that literally and symbolically carries the message, "Somebody Cares."

Thanks to your generous giving, thousands of bears were donated to relief partners in New York City, Moore OK, West TX, and the flooded areas of Colorado.

Boxes of bears arrived "miraculously and unexpectedly" at the New York Christian Resource Center just as they were beginning their Christmas party for Our Clubhouse, a ministry for kids. Executive director Jim Esposito distributed them to children who were recovering from the trauma of Superstorm Sandy.

This summer Lisa Stringer took bears with her when she visited Hope Mission Home, an orphanage located in Kovilpatti, India. Lisa accompanied medical and dental teams from Durango, CO and Houston, TX.

When Lisa packed for the trip, she prayed for God to reveal His purpose for each bear. During the first few hours of their dental clinic, she saw the children dealing with fear of the unknown as they awaited the new experience of having a tooth removed. She began offering a bear for them to hug, while another team member held their hands and prayed over them. The Somebody Cares Bear brought comfort to older patients, as well!



Another bear went to a girl who is paralyzed from the waste down. She not only received a bear but also a wheelchair, thanks to a financial gift Lisa brought with her from the children of Grace Community Church in Houston.

When Lisa and daughter Ashley visited Africa for the 25th anniversary celebration of long-time partners Love Botswana, they visited Love Botswana's orphanage and gave out bears on Ashley's birthday. "It was the best birthday Ashley could have asked for," Lisa says.

It's your generous support that enables us to provide these bears for children and others in need. Thank you for caring!

To find out how you can send hope like this through the ministry of Somebody Cares please visit www.SomebodyCares.org.



A Somebody Cares bear can bring a smile to a child's face even when they've just survived a disaster (above). Another bear brings comfort to children in India who are getting dental work done (top right).

"Her name is..."

Letting women in the sex industry know that 'Somebody Cares'

Houston-based ministry Boundless Mercy is reaching out to women in the sex industry, by bringing God's light in the midst of that darkness with one simple message: *We come to visit you because Jesus loves you.* What started out as just a group of women with a heart to come together to pray about the issue of trafficking in their city has now turned into an outreach ministry that is touching women's lives in tangible ways.

Women like Sarah. In her late twenties, Sarah is a single-mom of two young boys, aged 4 and 2. When the ladies from Boundless Mercy stopped at her station and offered to pray for her, she looked up with sudden tears and told them her story. As a single-mom, she was having trouble making ends meet. Rent was due and a friend had told her of a way to make good money. Two weeks later, she was working at a men's club as a stripper.

Sarah goes to church every week but didn't know who to turn to when she came a dollar short. Heartbroken, she asked for prayer: "I know this is wrong, and I really want a way out. Please pray for me and my two boys, pray that God will have mercy and provide me with a better job. I was so down on myself and couldn't see any way

out. Thank you so much for coming to pray."

Daisy is a young Chinese woman. She uses a translator to explain that she moved to Texas recently. She doesn't speak English, but her eyes are bright and intelligent. She says she's moved a lot but does not say how she ended up working in a brothel which fronts as a massage parlor. A few weeks later Daisy is gone, and another Chinese woman with the same name has replaced her.

"We probably won't see Daisy again, but we won't forget her," the ladies say. "We continually pray for her safety and salvation."

To the women at Boundless Mercy, these are women with names and faces, and stories that need to be heard. Somebody Cares was delighted to come alongside them by providing Somebody Cares Bears for their

ministries like Boundless Mercy, Redeemed Ministries, and others, and so they could connect with churches and other front-line ministries in the city. Somebody Cares has also partnered at times with Nashville-based Music for the Soul, who recently launched the "She's Somebody's Daughter" campaign.



Equipping ministries like these, in whatever manner we can, is a key part of Somebody Cares! Just as when we started out over 30 years ago, we want others to know that 'Somebody Cares,' because Jesus cares.

Thanks for your continual support!

Valentine's Day outreach. The bears were given and received with much delight, many women expressing that their children would love the cute bears, too!

This year Somebody Cares Houston hosted a pastors' and leaders' meeting to emphasize the important work of min-



Boundless Mercy gave away Somebody Cares bears on Valentine's Day as a reminder of God's unfailing love (above right). Pastors and ministry leaders learn strategies in the fight against trafficking at a Somebody Cares Houston meeting (above).

Sometimes a catastrophic disaster can be monitored and tracked,
as in the case of a hurricane, typhoon, or “superstorm.”

At other times, there’s a warning but not a lot of time to react,
as when a tornado strikes.

Then there are times when there’s no warning,
no time to prepare, just sudden loss and destruction,
such as an earthquake or explosion.

The key to effective response in any of these situations is
relationship.

When preparing for any type of relief response, the Somebody Cares/Global Compassion Response Network first identifies church and ministry relationships in the disaster sites and connects them with partner ministries to bring resources, whether it’s hot meals, clothing, supplies, clean-up teams, or prayer and counseling. Through conference calls and other communication, relief is mobilized and desperate needs are met by resources supplied from all over the country, and even around the world.

In the past year alone, Somebody Cares/GCRN was an agent of relief and recovery in numerous disasters. Even as this article is being written, the network is bringing help to The Philippines, which was hit on November 8 by Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms ever recorded in history. With winds over 190mph and a tidal surge pushing inland, entire communities were destroyed. Early projections estimated up to 10,000 casualties with 70,000 families affected and hundreds of thousands of people displaced.

Before Super Typhoon Haiyan, Somebody Cares was already work-

ing with our partner relationships in The Philippines, responding to the 7.1 earthquake that had struck the islands in early October.

“God was connecting strategic partnerships in preparation for one of the most devastating and catastrophic natural disasters in the Philippines’ history,” Doug Stringer said.

Somebody Cares began immediately communicating with strategic partners who were already on the ground to assess damages, identify urgent needs, and determine how to best respond through both financial and material resources. This response and recovery will

go on for many months, and financial gifts are still needed to help survivors.

SUPERSTORM SANDY

This year's disaster relief efforts actually began in late October of 2012, as Somebody Cares continued relief and recovery efforts from SuperStorm Sandy. Partnering with four of our chapters and centers—SC Baltimore, SC New England, SC Lowell, and SC York—along with 13 local churches, six businesses, nine organizations, and 29 ministries, our network delivered 49 semi-truck loads and 15 box trucks of supplies to 20 distribution locations in New York City and New Jersey. The estimated value of these supplies was approximately \$3.25 million.

SCA partnered with Mercury One and local churches to bring Thanksgiving Day of Hope to the communities of Rockaway and

Long Island, and the Red Cross provided truckloads of coats, clothing, blankets, gloves, and diapers that were distributed exclusively through Somebody Cares sites set up at local churches. We were also able to direct another \$2 million of grants from ministry partners to specific area churches, ministries, and municipalities with the greatest needs.

In October 2013, Somebody Cares helped sponsor a one-year anniversary banquet hosted by Coney Island Gospel Assembly, where the city offered up thanks to God for His goodness. Doug Stringer presented the *Golden Towel Award* to Gary LeBlanc of Mercy Chefs, Jim Esposito from New York Christian Resource Center, Pastor Connie Hulla from Coney Island Gospel Assembly, and Joe Kerry from Mercury One.

"I witnessed your ministry firsthand here on Long Island in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy," said Pastor Michael Burns from Real Church following the anniversary celebration. "I met your staff and worked alongside them and other volunteers. Most of all, I saw the sense of hope on the faces of young and old who received the tangible help that Somebody Cares Int'l and other organizations brought to our devastated area. Thank you again!"

Newly elected Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy wrote: "The generous contribution that you made touched many lives in the Village of Freeport, and your support was exceptionally gracious."

WEST, TEXAS EXPLOSION

In the spring, a call for help hit closer to home following the explosion of a fertilizer plant in West TX, near Waco, where city blocks were leveled, the region's economy was hit by job loss, families were displaced, and thousands were traumatized.

Rekindling a partnership that was immensely effective during Hurricane Katrina relief, Somebody Cares joined with KSBJ radio and the YMCA of Greater Houston to collect \$40,000 in gift cards which were distributed primarily through churches in West and through the Waco Disaster Relief Network. Many of the churches were home churches of victims from the blast, or those that were reaching out in a great way to the affected families.

"We believed it was important to feed back into the community immediately so the community could begin healing from within," said SCA Vice President Jodie Chiricosta.

Pastor Kevin Harrison from Victorious Life Church in Waco said the cards provided an invaluable ministry opportunity.

"We have been able to fill a gap and show the love of Christ in the midst of tragedy," he said. "We have seen some incredible and extreme stories, such as that of elderly people living in their homes for weeks on end with no water or air and refusing to talk to anyone."

Because of gift cards, members of Waco's Disaster Relief Network were able to go to them with the help they needed, gently remind them that Christ loves them, and assist them in leaving their homes to find a safe place to stay.

"We were able to move mountains where people only saw obstacles," he continued, "because of the strength of Christ in our network and the partnerships He brought to us through Somebody Care, KSBJ, and the Greater Houston YMCA. We are truly grateful!"

Strategic meetings and conference calls are key to connecting needs to resources (top). Somebody Cares was working in The Philippines through our Tampa Bay chapter prior to the typhoon (left).



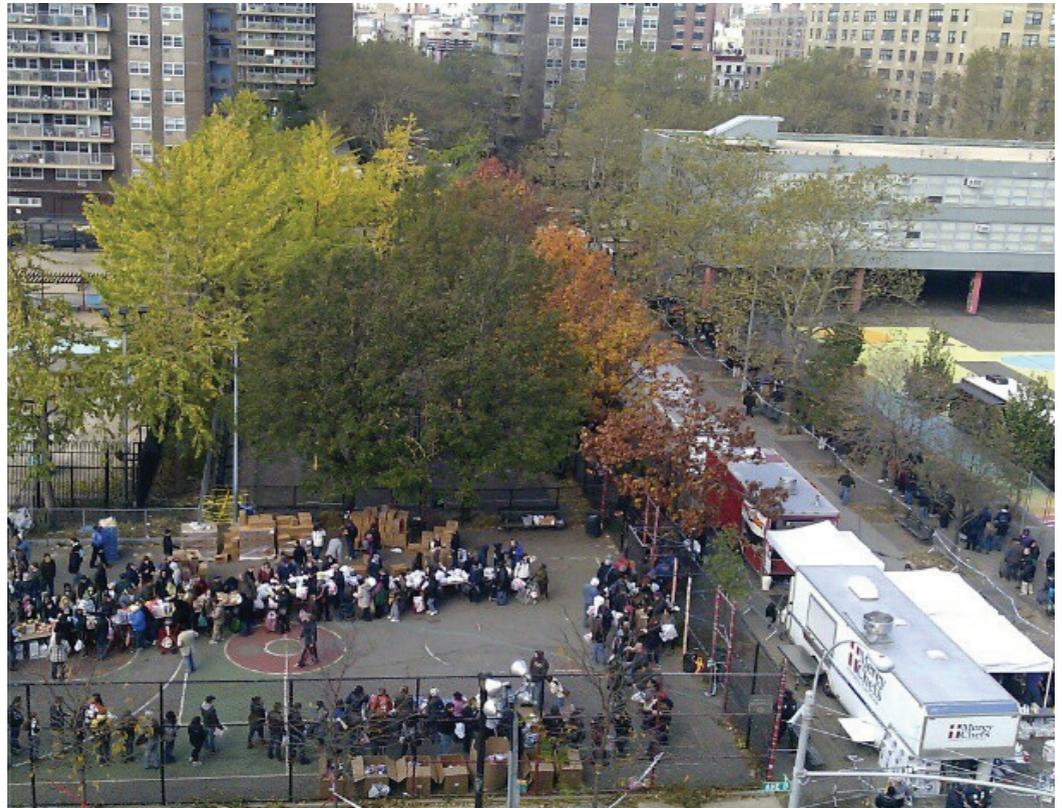
MOORE, OKLAHOMA TORNADO

On May 20, while West TX was still reeling from the tragic explosion, the Moore OK region was hit by a string of horrific tornadoes that shocked the nation with their brutality. Homes and businesses were destroyed, schools leveled, children killed, and the community deeply wounded.

The Somebody Cares/GCRN kicked into action immediately as we were able to direct funding and in-kind donations toward the efforts of seven local churches as well as nine outside relief agencies working on-site. These donations included generators, ice, a shower trailer, and sump pumps, along with care packages, hot meals, clean-up crews, and even Somebody Cares teddy bears. Victim Relief Ministries, a faithful partner with Somebody Cares especially in times of disaster, played a huge role in providing crisis and trauma counseling to the grieving.

The enormity of the situation came to the attention of Marcus and Joni Lamb, of DayStar TV, who offered to partner with us to help an elderly couple fully recover from total loss. And with the hard work and generous support of their team, we were able to give Roy and Diane keys to a completely furnished mobile home on November 1 to replace the one that was mangled by the tornadoes! The incredible story of this loving act will be aired on DayStar TV in the near future.

Pastor Dave Tompkins from Mending Hearts Church thanked DayStar and Some-



body Cares for thinking about their small rural community, saying the partnership “is such a huge resource and it definitely brought a sense of relief.”

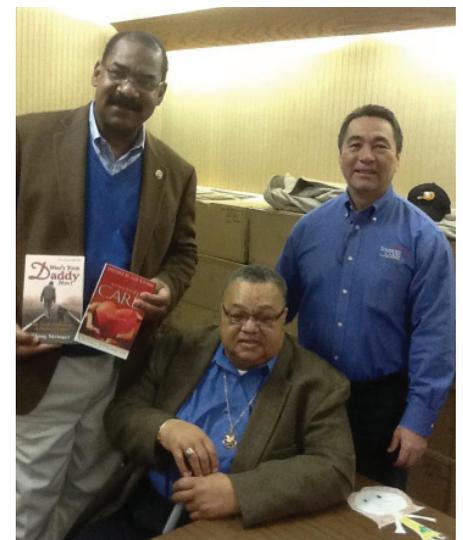
COLORADO FLOODING

In September, communities in Colorado experienced massive flooding unlike any seen before in that area. Partnering with Somebody Cares Denver, SCI was able to connect local churches with Mercy Chefs for hot meals and Crisis Response International for mud-out crews.

Mercury One donated funding to purchase thousands of gift cards, which Jodie Chiricosta and Lisa Stringer distributed to churches in Boulder and Estes Park, as well as the CRI Colorado Crew for families affected on the Front Range.

THE NET THAT WORKS

On behalf of thousands of families who were helped by a tangible expression



of Christ in the midst of their tragedy, we thank each of you for partnering with us. As Doug Stringer often says, the work is too great for any of us to do alone. But when we come together as a “mended net,” we can bring in a far greater harvest!



Thousands of residents came to Thanksgiving Day of Hope (above, top) following Superstorm Sandy. Doug Stringer (above, bottom) offered his books as a gift to the previous mayor of Freeport, Andrew Hardwick, and Bishop Ronald Carter. GCRN partner Victim Relief Ministries (left) brings the much needed component of prayer and counseling to situations such as the West, TX explosion with their teams of chaplains.

One cornerstone of the Somebody Cares America/International philosophy since it began in 1994 has been a commitment to equipping, empowering, and encouraging existing ministries. This is critical in disaster relief, Doug Stringer says, "Because nobody knows their community like the local church. They're the ones who will be continuing to serve and rebuild long after the big organizations are gone."

In the past several years, we have witnessed some incredible stories of "tragedy to triumph," stories of long-lasting fruit from our investment in local outreaches during disaster relief.

In 2012, Doug was invited to speak with, minister to, and pray for members of the Japanese Diet (parliament). Having been born in Japan to a Japanese mother and an American military father, Doug's prayer for many years has been that the Land of the Rising Sun would someday become the Land of the Risen Son. After the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in March of 2011, doors began to open to share the love of Christ, through disaster relief. Reports have surfaced of a rising percentage of believers in Japan (it was only 1% of the population prior to the event); Christians are emerging with roles in the government; and a university is even teaching a course in Christianity! We praise God for the reality of Luke 21:13, that these tragedies are an opportunity for us to be a living breathing testimony of Jesus.

In **Haiti**, Mike and Mandy Reiszner began caring for orphans through CoreLuv Ministries after going on a relief trip with Somebody Cares. They have helped one orphanage expand from 12 to 30 orphans by renting a bigger house for them, and they are building a new orphanage that will provide a home for 80 more children (see *Mike's story, right*).

Former SCA staff member Vickie Gaskins met her husband Terry when they were both serving in the Galveston area following Hurricane Ike in 2008. They now operate **Rise to the Time**, based in Denton, TX, which serves as the Somebody Cares Mobile Outreach ministry. They recently obtained a vacant store building which was once owned by Vickie's mother, with plans to use it for a community prayer center.

Across the U.S., we've seen disaster relief networks birthed in cities such as **Waco and Austin in Texas, and York, PA**. These networks not only offer training and resources for coalition members in their own cities, they are ready to mobilize for assistance in long-distance disasters as well.

BEYOND RELIEF:

The rest of the story!

It was in 1995 that my wife Mandy and I first met Doug Stringer. We had helped start an inner city church committed to reaching out to and meeting the needs of the local community. Doug had come to pray for our team and our efforts to be an expression of God's heart to the inner city of Houston. We had no idea that, 17 years later, Doug would play an integral role in the most significant transition of our lives.

The story of our transition began in 2009. After 15 years of full time pastoral ministry, Mandy and I began to sense we were in a season of transition but had no idea what God was transitioning us into. We had been seeking God for more than a year, asking for clear direction.

One day while at the church office, I felt an urgency to rearrange my plans for the day in order to spend some extra time in prayer. I sensed God asking me two sobering questions during that time of prayer: "Do you know the name of one orphan?" and, "Would you spend the rest of your life defending the orphan?" Sadly, the answer to the first question was "No..." but the answer to the second question was a resolute "Yes!"

The question then became, "How do we defend the orphan?" For the next two years, we used whatever was in our hand to defend the orphan. At the time, we were youth pastors and we saw the heart of God come alive in our students as they joined with us. We worked diligently to raise awareness for the orphan crisis and finances for other orphan care organizations by hosting a variety of fundraising events.

It was in 2011 that we knew God was calling us to resign our comfortable ministry position, but we still had no idea what was on the other side of that obedience. There was a wall we couldn't pass in order to know what our next step should be. I resigned from the church we called home, having no answers or clear direction. In desperation we called Doug, who had become a significant mentor in

our lives. Doug, always a source of encouragement and wisdom, prayed for us and encouraged us that within the next two to three days the wall would come down. Over the next couple of days, the wall came *crashing* down and CoreLuv, an organization dedicated to providing six basic needs to orphans around the world, was born.

I called Doug to share the vision of CoreLuv but still had no idea how in the world we should begin. When he asked where, I told him the few places I had on my heart, one of them being Haiti. Doug said, "I have a trip scheduled in two weeks. Would you and Mandy like to go?" We responded with a resounding yes!!

That first trip to Haiti with Doug and Somebody Cares forever changed the lives of our family and was foundational in the development of CoreLuv. We visited seven orphanages and met with several pas-



tors who were desperately seeking help in providing for fatherless children. God's mandate to defend the orphan was clear.

What marked that trip and what sets Somebody Cares and Doug Stringer apart is their willingness to share the most valuable fruit of their journey: Kingdom relationships. Every relationship established during that first trip to Haiti has been an integral part of CoreLuv's journey.

Somebody Cares and the servant leadership of Doug Stringer are woven throughout our past and have set a standard for our future.

Mike Reiszner from CoreLuv Ministries is pictured above with MyLove, a beautiful little Haitian girl the Reiszners are adopting into their family.

Prayer and Transformation

by Rick Torrison, Somebody Cares Director of Prayer Initiatives

Ecclesiastes 3:13 calls us to consider the work of God! As we look back over the last year we can say with certainty that the Lord has been at work.

Someone once said that before every great move of the Spirit, God first moves His people in prayer. If this is true we can be sure that we are on the edge of one of the greatest moves of the Spirit in modern history.

Over the last 18 months we have seen an increase of invitations to participate in both local, national and global prayer gatherings.

From global prayer in Indonesia, South America, and Mexico; to national prayer in Philadelphia with America for Jesus; and local prayer in the Somebody Cares prayer room and at 3 am across the city, God is calling His children back to Him.

And the requests for prayer over personal challenges, lost family members, and freedom from addictions and

depression continue to flow into our office.

While we are seeing an increase in prayer, we are also seeing God revealing another dimension of His heart and character around prayer. The prayer meetings are becoming less

about the crisis in the land and more about the heart of those praying. We are seeing an increase in the prayers of repentance recognizing that the condition of our lives, cities, and nations is not the result of sin and darkness but rather the lack of light!

It is the cry of Nehemiah when he took responsibility for the condition of Jerusalem and cried out to the Lord, *“Both my father’s house and I have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses”* (Nehemiah 1:6-7 NKJV).

We are seeing a growing number of people in the Church taking responsibility for the condition of the land.

The heart of Somebody Cares and Turning Point Ministries International has always been prayer and a call to consecration and holiness. We have always believed that this is the foundation and core from which all our compassion, evangelism, and outreach is birthed.

Because of this God has opened doors for us to

From Houston TX to the four corners of the world! Doug was a presenter at the World Prayer Assembly in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2012, where over 100,000 people gathered for prayer in the stadium at the close of the event (top left). He and the ministry also play a key role in prayer meetings throughout the city, like this multi-church, cross-denominational gathering (left) held at the Vietnamese Baptist Church.



Doug Stringer and Rick Torrison were among the ministers and leaders who prayed for our nation during America for Jesus, held in front of Freedom Hall in Philadelphia. Doug also served on the executive committee for the event.

speaking to a wide variety of groups around the world regarding the place and posture of prayer that is a pathway to transformation. Government leaders of cities and states, pastors of churches and denominations, intercessory networks, business people, and the emerging generation increasingly call upon us to lead the way in prayer and mentor them in righteousness.

In the midst of it all, we continue to press on in prayer – Praying Until Something Happens!



A Leadership Awakening: The Untold Story

To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Years ago, God placed a burden on Doug Stringer's heart to sow into the leaders, whether it's the veteran pastor, a discouraged city official, or a young leader freshly deployed from the upcoming generation. In the past 18 months, he has met with leaders in Aurora, Colorado, following the tragic cinema shooting; in Moore, Oklahoma, after the tornado; and in New York City, after Superstorm Sandy. He has invested in leaders from ministry, government, and marketplace across the U.S. as well as Peru, Mexico, Germany, and Japan.

Doug meets in Houston at least once a quarter with gen-edge leaders as a voice of reason and wisdom, but also to encourage and inspire them to follow their God-given dreams. He meets privately with many of them on a regular basis as a mentor and spiritual father who can speak into their lives and ministries. This past spring, he taped a leadership seminary he held for leaders from the Texas region.

"I sense the next season of my life will have an increased focus on ministry to leaders, so that we have strong godly leadership in the Body for the years ahead," he said, explaining why he felt it was crucial to multiply this aspect of his ministry by recording



and distributing his sought-after curriculum titled, "Leadership Awakening: Running the Race to Finish Well," with its corresponding DesireToWin.net website for mentoring leaders.

Yet even with all of these public speak-

ing engagements, there is an "untold story." As Lisa Stringer explains:

As in years past, we have traveled over 100,000 miles this year by planes, trains, and automobiles. Although ministering at various conferences and churches is a big part of what takes place on every trip, there is an unadvertised or unspoken moment that often occurs.

Time and again, the Lord has allowed Doug to lend an ear to a pastor or leader in need of a friend to offer wise counsel, encourage them in their walk and leadership, and be a confidante and prayer partner. Everyone needs someone they can trust and be candid with, a person to share their hurts or disappointments with, to reassure or give language to their vision.

Doug has received calls in the middle of the night to help others in need. This is the untold story that will never be fully told because so much is shared in confidence. He is a man of integrity who values people and understands the stewardship of pastoring other pastors. God has given Doug a unique place of trust in the hearts of many of His servants.

Proverbs 27:17 says, 'Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another,' and 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, 'Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.' Doug makes himself available as a friend and co-laborer to a myriad of leaders all over the world.

Statistics have shown that over 70% of pastors are so stressed out that they regularly consider leaving the ministry; thirty-five to forty percent actually do, most after five years. Doug understands the demands placed on a pastor, and his desire is that all would finish their race well. I am always impressed by his ability to



be fully engaged even when he should be physically exhausted. I truly believe that it is the Lord who gives him physical strength, mental ability to juggle the many assignments on his plate, and wisdom to share with those in need of an honest counsel. I've heard him cry out to the Lord in the middle of the night as he intercedes for others and that which burdens his heart.

He greatly treasures the opportunities to encourage and pray with leaders who are making a difference in their communities. It is what makes him feel like the wear and tear is all worth it.

At times when they are feeling pruned to the point of barrenness and ready to give up, Doug encourages leaders to embrace their situations with humility, honesty, and honor; and as they do, they see God do remarkable things! He often opens new doors of opportunity that would previously not have been possible.

"So many in the Body of Christ seem to be going through a time of pruning," Doug observed recently.

"While difficult, and sometimes painful, a time of pruning is a promise of more fruitfulness to come."

Doug speaks to leaders in Brazil (above) and teaches a Leadership Awakening seminar in Kingwood TX (left).



The Church Without Walls by Lisa Stringer

We have been blessed to join leaders from around the world at the Save the Family conference in Lima, Peru, twice in the last three years. This year, we would not only minister to thousands who come to the convention center from all over Latin America, but they would send us to the outermost parts of the city.

We were scheduled to speak on three occasions at three different locations. The conference is about teaching couples how to love each other through all storms in life and raising healthy families. Doug loves to banter on stage, and people love the interaction between the two of us.

After sharing at the sold-out morning plenary, we were whisked off to a waiting vehicle, which would drive us to a large church in downtown Lima. Leaders and pastors waited to hear a word in season. As always, Doug shared from his heart and our time there was very fruitful. We were asked by various pastors to pray with them privately and were able to give them a much needed ear and counsel.



Our third and last opportunity to minister on this day and before flying home was in the outskirts of the city and quite a distance away from the airport. Our driver shared that we were going to a very poor neighborhood. In fact, he said, "This is the poorest of the poor." It was somewhat evident as we saw homes without windows, some pieced together with whatever they could find. What a way to end a very fruitful trip, serving those who have but a glass of water to offer you.

The night was brisk, and the streets that neared the church were no longer paved, but pebbled rock. The church was in fact a school courtyard. The pastors had placed a tarp over the seating area and had set up their musical instruments on the school's outdoor stage. Young and old alike had walked long distances to attend the service. Worship was taking place and the pre-service intercession was in full motion. It was powerful. Tears began to stream down my face, as I was so moved by the hunger level of those before me.

Doug was choked up, and I knew that the only thing that mattered to him was giving these people his all. Allowing God to use him however he saw fit, without time constraints. There was some concern on behalf of the driver and armor bearer that if we didn't start the service at a certain time, we would not have enough time to take the long journey to the airport to catch our flight home. When Doug found out their concerns, he said, "Don't worry about it, I am amongst my people."

We were undone. We had spoken to pastors and leaders of top churches; ministered in the convention center with lights, cameras and all technology had to offer; and to end the trip, we were at a church without walls.

The pastors are missionaries from Brazil and loved by their congregation. Worship was led by a group of very passionate young people. Doug and I were seated on the stage during worship with a perfect view of all those present. I recall a taxi pulling up next to the tent, and dropping off a van full of young people. What passion for Jesus, that they would spend the little money they have to pay for a ride to come worship. I cried out even more, that we would see passion like this from all generations in the church throughout the world.

During worship I noticed an older gentleman who looked a bit frail dancing in the aisles. He was completely engaged and revived by the music. He was dressed to impress, wearing a suit with a scarf in the pocket and a brim on his head. I was later told that he is faithful to attend every service and always comes dressed in his suit. When asked why he always comes looking so sharp, he responds: "If I am required to wear a nice shirt for work, then why wouldn't I put on my best to come see the King of Kings." Everything about this precious man ministers to all those around him.



The pastor handed us a note as we said our goodbyes and were taken to the vehicle that would take us to the airport. In the van, Doug and I couldn't speak for a bit, but prayed and thanked God for the opportunity to share His love to all those He put us in front of. After a time, we read the note of gratitude. She said she was so thankful to the Lord that He would bring ministers from afar to her congregation. It was a sign to her church, that they are not forgotten and a fulfillment of a prophetic word.

We remember the church as "the Church Without Walls," and it will never be far from our thoughts or prayers. We went to pour into them, but in fact, they ministered to us. We are grateful for every opportunity to share His love, but it is super special when God allows us opportunities like these.

Priceless winks from heaven keep us humble and grateful.

A new generation of “Turning Pointers” are determined to rock the world!



Since 1981, Turning Point Ministries—the parent ministry of Somebody Cares—has been “preparing a people for the coming of the Lord with a message of consecration, commitment, and action.” While Turning Pointers from the early days continue to make an impact around the globe, God is raising up a new generation of fearless, bold revolutionaries...

Gen-Edge Leaders Honoring the Former, Impacting the Future

For years, Pastor Mike Salazar from Houston’s Freedom International Church (*above*) had a vision to bring gen-edge leaders together to co-labor in the city but to also seek the wisdom and guidance of the previous generation of leaders who had laid the foundation for them. That dream became reality in March of 2013 with the launch of the Revolution Leadership Network. Recognizing that “honor brings blessing,” the first meeting included a time when the younger leaders washed the feet of men like Doug Stringer, Pastor Bob Phillips from Encourager Church, and others (*see photo at right*).

The Revolution Leadership Network provides relationships and relevant re-

sources to help pastors and leaders reach their purpose. Their desire is to bring revolutionary change to the city through radical devotion to Jesus. Below, Mike shares the role Turning Point Ministries has played in shaping his dreams for ministry.

I met Doug over 20 years ago, when I was a young youth pastor, just 19 or 20 years old. While we were having a city-wide event with a guest speaker, he showed up unexpectedly and sat in the back. We connected that night, and I began getting involved in Turning Point, including a mission trip to Indonesia, various gen-edge leaders meetings, conferences, Somebody Cares outreaches, and disaster relief.

Doug became a mentor and spiritual father to my wife Lydia and me. He has seen the good, the bad, and the ugly but has always been faithful to offer his encouragement and support and to speak wisdom into my life so many times. In 2005, I was ordained by TPMI, and I try to give back to the ministry in any way I can!



Empowering Students and Bringing Prayer Back-To-Campus

Gideon and Sara Stanley are the founders of Gideon's Army Ministries for youth, reaching and training young people ages 12-25 in Houston metro area. Gideon's work with the youth started in 1991 when he traveled across the midwest for a whole year with the Youth Encounter band called Captive Free, ministering in over 200 churches.

In 2001 during a season of prayer, God birthed a burden to pray for and evangelize young people. Today, the Stanleys actively network among city leaders and stir up adults to share the burden of intercession for the younger generation. Through passionate preaching and spontaneous worship, Gideon and Sara call upon God to touch the hearts of youth.

God has used Gideon's Army Ministries to bring salvation, healing and deliverance to hundreds of youth through over 50 youth events in the past few years. Youth mission teams have traveled to Mexico and India, ministering in the power of God's Word and the Holy Spirit to thousands

Grieved over the growing number of school shootings and suicides, Gideon's Army began iPrayOnCampus this year, with a rally to mobilize students to pray for 10 minutes each day at their schools (*bottom photo*).

We had heard of Doug Stringer, but in early 2003 we learned more about his work through his role as chairman of The Call Texas. We later invited him to speak at one of our youth gatherings. He spoke, and several young people gave their lives to Jesus. That same year we started spending time at the Somebody Cares facility and attending Turning Point Ministries' Friday night service. Toward the end of the year, Turning Point donated an office for our ministry, which we used until the end of 2006. In 2009, we were ordained through TPMI.

Turning Point and Doug have had an enormous impact that is hard to quantify. When I was almost giving up on youth work, Doug's personal calls and his consistent messages helped me overcome the moments of challenge and kept me going forward. The time he took out of his busy schedule in helping us, shaping us, encouraging us, and correcting us has kept us running the race. Not only in spiritual ways, but through tangible expressions of love, the ministry has had a great impact on us as a family and on our ministry. When our son Isaac Samuel was born after 17 years of waiting for a child, we asked Doug to be part of his dedication.

Through TPMI and Somebody Cares meetings, we have been able to connect to many of the ministries in the city. The all-night prayer and fasting gatherings which we currently host on a monthly basis bring many churches and pastors together. Most of these relationships were a result of our working with Turning Point and Somebody Cares.



Standing in the Gap for Passion, Purity, and Life

Laura Zavala Allred has preached in over a dozen nations. In 2004 she founded Standard Bearers International and Captured Ministries, which are reaching this emerging generation with a message of holiness, purity, and passion. In 2012, Laura began Back to Life, a young women's movement designed to awaken America's conscience to the injustices of abortion by amplifying the female voice. Thirty nine women, each one representing one year of legalized abortion in America--an entire generation touched by heartache and destruction--walked 250 miles of open road from Houston TX back to Dallas TX, where it all began. They prayed for the grief and pain of millions of women who have been scarred through post abortion trauma, guilt, and sorrow. Below, Laura shares some of the spiritual journey that led her to where she is today.



My parents got saved during one of the most exciting modern day spiritual awakenings--the Jesus Movement. While we set our church roots in a traditional southern denominational spirit-filled church, my parents were always hungry to have a pulse on what the Lord was doing around the nation. As a result, not only did I spend every Sunday and Wednesday night at my church, I also visited different growing ministries around the city of Houston and as far as East Texas, as well as going on family mission trips to Mexico. It could have been so easy to just settle into a local church culture and feel as if we were growing enough, but I am so thankful that my parents were always hungry for more of God. They set an example for me to be aware that God was moving all over our nation and the nations of the earth!

When I was 14 years old, they heard about a fiery young preacher named Doug Stringer who was ministering around Houston with great anointing and revival in his heart. That's all they needed to hear! We heard Doug preach for the first time at Evangelistic Temple. From that point on, my parents followed this young man's ministry and we all watched as the Lord began to use him to usher transformation into the city.

On many Friday nights, we would attend Turning Point meetings, surrounded by other hungry Christians who wanted to press in for revival in Houston. The presence of the Lord was then taken to the darkest streets in Houston as teams went to minister to the broken. I still have images in my mind of watching Doug compassionately pray for the homeless and strung out right after he preached a fiery message at Turning Point. But that is the way it should be, isn't it?

And then there was Prayer Mountain in 1981! Oh wow! The glory, the synergy of believers from all over the region, and the fire that fell during that season! It was like a lighthouse on top of that hill was beckoning a convergence of those hungry to see Jesus.

I am so grateful to have been spiritually shaped under such a cutting edge and pure ministry led by a true servant of the Lord. I know of no other ministry that has invested so much BACK into the city, not selfishly desiring to build its own kingdom. I can truly say so much of who I have become was deposited in me during those early years.

I know I am just one voice of thousands who are grateful for the godly example and faithfulness of Doug and Turning Point.