

GCE Video Ministry

Developing a personal connection with a team of supporters is vital to overseas missionaries. David Mansfield has found a unique way to facilitate this process: using his skills in video production.



View these videos yourself at media.gceweb.org!

David spends half his time in ministry, producing videos for missionaries, and half in freelance work. In the last year, he has traveled to Italy, Ukraine, Poland, Germany and the Netherlands to shoot video for 14 missionaries. Before filming, he also helps missionaries prepare their scripts, and after, he returns to his home in Minnesota for editing and finalizing the DVD.



David and Anna Mansfield

"I can use video to spur friends to pray, support and encourage missionaries – perhaps even to join," says David. "With Europe being so spiritually dark, the missionaries need all the help they can get."

Music for the Soul

In Poland, God is using the popularity of black gospel music to lead many to a saving relationship with Christ. Poles are often wary of evangelical churches, viewing them as a sect or cult, but they love the deep soul and the joyful movement of African-American choirs.

City on a Hill, the GCE church plant in Poznan, partnered with Avant Ministries in putting on an evangelistic Gospel Choir Camp July 1-8. American director Brian Fentress led the music, and GCE pastor Jack Stockdale led the Bible teaching. "It was far and away the most fruitful week of ministry we have had in this country," says Jack. "Of the 30 campers, five people received Christ! In addition, a new church may even be in progress. Half the attendees and three of the new believers are from the city of Wroclaw (pop. 700,000), and they are interested in meeting together to pray, read the Bible, and encourage one another."

The gospel camp became the talk of the village of Skoki, where it was held. Missionary Shelley Adler says, "Our final concert was scheduled

for a larger town 16 km away, but the people of Skoki could hear us rehearsing through the open windows. This attracted a crowd of locals who came even to hear the Bible teachings. Soon, local officials approached our director about why we weren't doing a concert in Skoki. In three



days, the town got everything ready, and at the end of the concert, the priest said it was the most joyful music they had ever heard."

Jack spoke to the campers daily about the meaning of the songs, telling them how each of them could be forgiven and have eternal life. One camper said, "I saw and heard about Jesus changing people's lives, and it helped me make the decision to give my life to Jesus."

Serve the City

AMSTERDAM

Zolder50 partnered with other ministries in Amsterdam to host a project called Serve the



Patricia Flynn, GCM Missionary

City, May 17-20. This was an extended weekend of service projects involving 160 volunteers. The projects included gardening, fixing apartments, singing and reading poetry in a hospital, serving children, elderly and the disabled, and performing simple acts of kindness, like giving away flowers.

The weekend concluded with a music festival where people could gather and converse. Zolder50 hopes to lead Serve the City again next year, expanding on what was accomplished this summer.



Meet the Kossler Family

Free Bible Church, Düsseldorf

Oliver, Barbara and their four children live in Düsseldorf, Germany, where Oliver serves as a pastor/

elder at Free Bible Church. Oliver grew up in a Christian family not far from Dortmund, and he came to know the Lord as a teenager. While he was a student at the University of Dortmund, Oliver met Daniel Goering and others from the GCE church at a campus Bible study. Their commitment and willingness to follow Christ in every area of life had a deep impact on his faith. Their example helped him get a clearer understanding what it means to “reach the world” practically.

Barbara grew up in southern Germany in a Catholic family, and she came to know the Lord as a student at a Great Commission church in Washington D.C. Oliver and Barbara met at the campus Bible study in Dortmund, and after getting married, they served together at Gospel International in Dortmund. In 2000, God directed them to help with the church plant in Düsseldorf.

“We are so thankful for what we learned from Daniel and Lori about marriage, kids, hospitality and leading an authentic Christian lifestyle,” says Oliver. “The short term mission teams have also been a great blessing for our church. The teams’ example of sacrificing their vacation and money to serve and share the gospel has been incredibly refreshing and encouraging.” Please pray for Oliver as he faces the challenge of balancing a full-time job as an IT Manager and serving his family and the church.

Following the Call to Torino Anthony and Nikki Testa

The summer of 2001, two poor seminary students were given a great opportunity: a trip to Europe! Anthony and Nikki Testa spent time touring famous sites – including the Coliseum in Rome, where they bumped into a team of young Americans. The team was starting one of the only evangelistic ministries reaching the 180,000 students at the University of Rome. It was then that the Testas realized the great need for the gospel in Italy. They discovered that less than 1% of Italians have a saving relationship with Christ.



Overseas missions had always been important to Anthony and Nikki. In fact, their first conversation at a college football game was about missions. But in 2003, this desire became a reality as the Testas went on staff with GCM. They are now serving with Christ the Rock Church in Torino, a city filled with both secularism and the occult.

“Our passion is to plant churches that speak to the youth culture, where they are needed the most,” says Anthony. The Testas are encouraged to see how God has formed a core of young believers at Christ the Rock who are being trained to be leaders of the next church plant. They are also excited to see how, following the births of Siena (’05) and Sammy (’07), God has used them as a testimony of a godly family to Italian young people.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Sept. 20-23: Europe Pastors Summit
Hohegrete, Germany
- Oct. 8-11: Europe Church Planters Network
Budapest, Hungary
- Jan. 2-6: Awaken Conference
Hohegrete, Germany

The Joy of Brokenness

By Timmy Powers, Kiev, Ukraine



The “perfect storm.” That is what I now affectionately call the events that took place in my life from May 2006 to the spring of 2007. Space will not allow me to share all that happened, but in short, I lost some of my closest friends in Ukraine, and my favorite, primary ministry role was stripped from me.

During the dark days of last summer, I struggled and questioned God. Why are you allowing this to happen? Why are you breaking me? Why are you crushing my life?

At first, the answers seemed barely visible, but as time wore on, God’s hand and purpose became clear. God was breaking me for the same reason He has broken His children throughout history: He wanted all of me—my whole heart, my undivided worship, my complete trust. Unknown to me, I had been allowing ministry success and the affirmation of others to distract my heart away from God, and in His love He would not allow it to go on any longer.

*In my distress
I called to
the Lord.*

Many scriptures came alive to me like never before over the past year, and they encouraged me to embrace the pain and brokenness that God was working in my heart.

I was given hope by the apostle Paul, who wrote: “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life... But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God.” (2 Corinthians 1:8-9)

David’s honesty and openness sustained me and taught me to cry out to my Father. “In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help... He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.” (Psalm 18:4-6,19)

It has been a hard journey of brokenness, but now I can look back and rejoice as David did. God has deepened my relationship with Him. He has taught me to trust Him more and has changed vital areas of my character. He has given me new friendships and unbelievable ministry opportunities. He took me through the storm and has brought me into a place of abundance.