



September 1, 2006

Fellow Pilgrim,



I want to thank you for your generous prayers for our mission. God is at work in the world and it is a joy to partner with what He is doing. I want to encourage you to look at our new web site to stay updated. ServLife exists to take the gospel of Christ and the hope of a better, more just, world to the lives of people we touch.. Your prayers and financial donations allow us to sustain and grow our ministry. I pray you will pray about a financial pledge to our ongoing and growing missionary efforts.

We believe in exploring how God may be extending His kingdom through the dreams of others local to a country – and how, by His Spirit, we can see these ideas become reality. Our constant aim is to live out the way of Jesus in a world filled with disease, death and, oftentimes, despair. Through our missional community, we work much like the early apostles did - facilitating, enlisting, and enabling followers of God to advance the whole gospel to the whole person around the world. Here's how this happens:

- ***We are brokers*** – We aim to match needs of the developing world with resources shared from the affluence of the developed world.
- ***We are implementers*** – In the face of need, we choose action rather than observation since faith without expression is meaningless.
- ***We are artists*** – We embrace creativity, knowing that our Creator uses innovation and beauty to inspire and mobilize to action. As Henry David Thoreau wrote, “This world is but a canvas to our imaginations.”
- ***We are strategists*** – We work intentionally for the best and most enduring solutions, not what’s easy or status quo.
- ***We are storytellers*** – We long to see the ancient story of Jesus Christ told to those who have yet to hear and re-told to those who may have overlooked it.
- ***We are evangelists*** - Desiring to announce, articulate, and affirm the good news of the Kingdom of God to all people in the world.
- ***We are social activists*** – We care for, and work to sustain, the social basics and good of society in the name of Jesus Christ.
- ***We are advocates of the forgotten*** – We are a voice for those who remain unheard. *Love means to love that which is unlovable. Otherwise it is no virtue at all.* (Source: G. K. Chesterton).
- ***We are kingdom advocates with a local church commitment*** – We seek always to advance the kingdom of God, called by the late bishop Leslie Newbigin “the greatest cause of all,” while remaining in the community and context of the local church.
- ***We are entrepreneurs*** – An entrepreneur is a certain kind of economic actor, someone who, “shifts resources from one area of lower productivity into another area of higher productivity.” Twentieth century growth economist Joseph Schumpeter characterized the entrepreneur as the source of “creative destruction” necessary for major economic advances. We shift, reallocate and engage in meaningful deconstructing as needed

Believing that life change is the essence of the gospel, ServLife seeks to impact all aspects of a community for Christ. When individuals are transformed, so is the community where they live. Jesus Christ demonstrated a passion for justice in the communities He touched.



We've learned that practicing His compassion can make quantifiable results vague – and may even take an entire generation to realize measurable change. Nonetheless, ServLife is committed to fighting hunger and poverty as part of the transformation of people's lives. What this means may look different from community to community, but we believe that life change should be holistic – including care for the spiritual, physical, social and economic areas of human life. Knowing the importance of long-term perspective, we work to enable and partner with local churches to impact the community where they exist. In many regions worldwide, the church is either marginalized or a rare exception in her community. This being, reserves are often depleted or lacking, and indigenous leaders can feel they have little with which to impact their communities. This is where ServLife steps in and collaborates in areas of education, economics and health care for the local community. Always, our aim is to point people to Jesus Christ and connect them with local Christ followers as they better learn of the reasons for our work. Therefore, we seek to practice community development in the context of the local church. This church-community connection can mean different dealings ranging from monetary to purely relationship. In some regions, a local indigenous church isn't present in a certain part of the community. When this is the case, ServLife aims to work with indigenous churches closest to the region and help establish one. Our primary objective is to connect projects or efforts with a local church in the community. Since we strive to impact and transform whole communities, we believe connecting children's outreach, economic development projects, or educational efforts to a local church are inseparable from our work. However, this can be challenging because we work in many regions where the church is small and fragile. Often a church has one pastor, who may not be trained or fully supported by his congregation. This means his work is divided between his family, church, and perhaps, another occupation. We help oversee community development initiatives in a way that prevents further splintering of the local pastor's already cut-short time. As we undertake these projects, our staff helps provide logistics, infrastructure, support and coaching to the churches supporting them. We always want people in need to know that the local church is working on their behalf - even when there are few or no resources to do so. We believe the key agent for God's kingdom in the world is best expressed in the beauty and diversity of the local church. We will work with these churches around the world to bless, serve and multiply other local churches.

**Equipping:** Many local pastors in regions where we work have no formal education or Bible training. To help these leaders become more effective in sharing Christ's love with their people, ServLife helps equip them with learning venues ranging from a one year missionary/leadership training school in India and our new training center opening up in Kathmandu, Nepal in January 2007.

**Multiplication:** We believe God intends for His church to multiply. With this in mind, ServLife provides financial support to church planters who are trained within one of our training schools. We commit to guide these workers for at least five years with the objective of church growth that will someday support them

Stay Led!

Joel Vestal

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