



JULY 15, 2016



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Open Door Outreach has just finished eleven years of service to women who are addicted and incarcerated. I am thrilled that we are still here, and that we have had many fabulous opportunities to provide women in difficult circumstances with a sense of hope and direction amidst what can often be a crushing sense of hopelessness and despair.

Over eleven years we have heard some very difficult personal stories and we have had opportunities to lend an ear, lend a shoulder and lend a hand. The rebuilding of a life, like a construction project, takes time.

This year we have had the opportunity to become chaplains for the women in the correctional centre. As those who follow Christ, this opportunity is the fulfillment of our mission to rebuild lives: mind, body and soul.

Throughout 2016, we are recording every event, which is a breakthrough for us. Already we are witnessing many changes and additions which cause us to give thanks to a God who loves us and directs our steps.

To this end, we are dedicated. We do not do this work alone. Your support puts you on the rebuilding team alongside us. Thank you.

Rev. Cheryl Millman
Executive Director, Open Door Outreach

ZIMBABWE PASTOR BEGINS FARMING INITIATIVE TO HELP HOSPITALS

In Zimbabwe's Gweru Province, times are tough. Southern Africa experienced a severe drought this past summer, and the Gweru Province is no different. Food instability caused by the drought has affected the provincial hospital's ability to feed its patients.

Pastor Noah Sibanda from Gweru on the Zimbabwe West District had a vision from his university days. He had a dream of farming solely based on fulfilling the compassionate part of ministry – a farm that provides for the needs of the community, not just an individual or a family.

Last year, a friend who is also a worshipper at his church invited Sibanda to his farm. Sibanda shared his vision with this friend, telling him about the compassionate ministry idea he had. He agreed to allow the Mkoba Church of the Nazarene to use part of his land for this farming purpose. A borehole (well) was drilled and the planting began.

“So far, we have planted more than a hectare (about 2.47 acres) of green vegetables and tomatoes,” Sibanda said. *“With so many vegetables, we decided to fulfill part of our vision. We have started to donate our vegetables to the hospital in our community.”*

This hospital can have anywhere from 750 to 1,200 people hospitalized and bed-ridden on any given day. With drought and hardships facing many people, there is acute food shortages at this hospital.

“Our vegetables came in handy to the hospital,” Sibanda said. *“For the last two weeks we have been taking these large amounts to feed the sick people at both the hospital and the isolation hospital here in Gweru. We call it compassion in action.”*

On average, Sibanda and his team donate many kilograms of vegetables to various hospitals per week.

In addition to their work at the hospitals, each Sunday they are able to give many kilograms of vegetables to widows and orphans in the church and community. *“The principle is simple,”* Sibanda said. *“Do what you can, where you are, with what you have.”*

Sibanda has bigger plans to reach their entire community for Christ through compassionate ministries.

– [Church of the Nazarene Africa Region](#) via [Out of Africa](#)

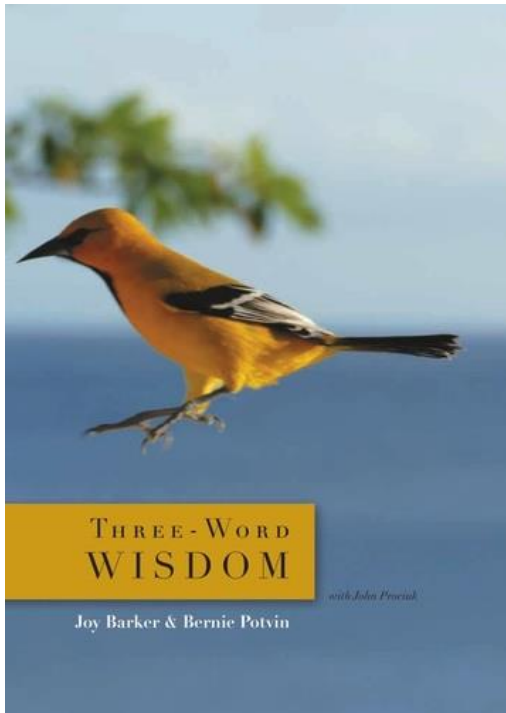
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TOGETHER IN ISRAEL 2016

There is an opportunity for a trip to Israel this November. Please contact Pastor David Filsinger (pastordave@nazpei.com) for further details or view the information attached to this newsletter.



THREE-WORD WISDOM



“My work as an educator over forty years has brought me to a simple idea that explains and encompasses everything,” says [Dr. Bernie Potvin](#), Associate Dean of the Education Program at Ambrose University:

“The kingdom of God, as described through Jesus’s teaching, is a particular way of being in the world that comes about through right relationships with our Creator, ourselves, others, and our world (which includes human community and the natural order, our neighbourhoods and the environment); when we take up Jesus’s teachings, we develop right relationship in each of these areas.”

“This means that effective teaching rises and falls on, and in fact really is all about, right relationships,” Bernie adds, *“what right relationships look like and more, how to take*

them up so wisdom comes about – to learn what is indeed true about the four relationships.”

Writing For Everyone

Bernie’s most recent publication focuses on one way we arrive at this wisdom, exploring how it unfolds in our day-to-day lives.

Co-authored with his former graduate student, Joy Barker, [Three-Word Wisdom](#) is a collection of stories that relate the special kind of learning that the Hebrews called “knowledge through the hands.” Each story describes an ordinary experience – being a parent, teacher, friend, and life partner – and the wisdom that each experience unfolded in the author about the kingdom of God.

“My academic writing has been necessary and good,” Bernie says, *“(everyone needs to buy [Ten Strategies for Building Community With Technology](#)), but this devotional writing is important too.”*

“This book is a ‘bathroom reader’ but helpful for everyone,” he adds, *“particularly for those folks who have lost their way trying to find some sort of solace in the ‘ought tos,’ ‘shoulds’ and ‘have tos.’” We get lost when these abstractions overshadow our ordinary experience.”*

“But if we can reflect on our lived experience and allow scripture to inform and re-shape the meaning we’ve attached to it,” Bernie explains, *“wisdom unfolds.”*

In that sense, the book is intellectual as well as devotional. *“It is really about epistemology—how we come to know what we know.”* In [Three Word Wisdom](#), Bernie and Joy explore the question of knowing in a simple and relevant way.

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