



Influencers Monthly Newsletter

Take the Land

June 2016

Welcome to our Monthly Newsletter, where we will highlight what God is doing through our ministry and through YOU! God is doing some amazing things!

Influencers Leadership Summit- July 28-31, 2016



Influencers leaders from cities all over the world will be gathering at the end of this month at the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, CA for a long weekend of worship, prayer, connection and vision-casting.

The theme for this year's retreat is **"The Journey"**. We will be revisiting Gabe's Principles of Influence...Be a God-Seeker... Be a God-Abider...Live it Out...told through the stories and lives of men from all over. It will be a refreshing and unifying time as we get back to the basics of our precepts and prepare for some major expansion into new territory.

We will also be introducing the newly revised "Journey Manual" in which we created one manual for Guides and Participants alike. We believe this will eliminate confusion and enrich the participant's experience in The Journey. We also pray this will help make the process more reproducible as our Journey graduates pass on this process to others.

For those participating, we look forward to seeing you. Everyone please be praying for God's blessing and guidance on this retreat.

Influencers Financial Needs

In This Issue

Malibu 2016

Ministry Needs

Influencers Prison Ministry

Global Spotlight- Zimbabwe

Be a God Seeker: Patriotism

Follow us on Twitter and FB

Influencers Staff- Dennis

Shepherd

New Website

Influencers Development

Statement

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Meet the Staff



Dennis Shepherd
Regional Director
Influencers-Nor Cal
(Northern California)

Dennis is our newest Regional Director of Influencers-Northern California. He lives in



A fellow Influencer dropped by the Global office this week. He had a check in his hand, which he presented to Influencers. He said, *"This ministry has blessed me so much, and I want to give a tithe back out of my business."* This was a blessing to us, and it confirmed what we believe God keeps telling us...that He is going to provide for the needs of this ministry!

So, we thank God for this man and for all of YOU who God has used to meet the needs of this ministry with your offerings.

Influencers Global Ministries is a 501c3 Non-Profit ministry with Regional offices in Northwest Arkansas, Tulsa, Memphis, Irvine, Bakersfield and Redding. The Regional offices are governed by local Boards, which raise support for their operations locally, including staffing, events, training, and community projects.

The Global Office counts on support from NWA, as well as from Influencers globally to help with:

- Expansion efforts
- Translation projects
- Prison Ministry
- International Group seeding
- Global Office operations
- Influencers Media projects

You can make a tax-deductible Donation to any of our Regions by going to their regional page on our website (Look at "Locations").

We also pray for those who are willing and able to support the Global mission to bring an offering. Click below to do so.



"Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account." Philippians 4:17

Setting Prisoners Free- P.S.

Redding, CA with his wife, Jan. Dennis grew up in California and his life intersected with Influencers about 5 years ago.

He and his wife owned Tennis and Athletic clubs in the Carmel/Monterey area. This business guided them to Redding, CA where they were investing in a club.

Dennis felt a calling in his life to "walk alongside pastors" and begin doing so at his new church, The Stirring. He found out they needed help with Facilities, and Dennis, with his club experience, knew Facilities. He started working at the church and eventually became the Men's Ministry pastor.

He was also part of the National Prayer Breakfast, which had a contingency in the western states. This is where he met his friend, Thad Montgomery. Thad, as you may know, is part of Influencers West and Pete McKenzie's Band of Brothers. Dennis was struck when Thad told him, "I found something I'm committing the rest of my life to."

A few weeks later, Dennis received a package with a Journey to the Inner Chamber and Prayer Cottage books in it. He put the



Last month, we told you about how God is using The Journey in prisons. Just to add to that, here's a couple of neat stories we heard this past month:

One of our guides went to visit the prison, hoping and praying that some of the men would understand the allegory of The Journey to the Inner Chamber, especially The Bridge, which symbolized a walk into salvation and the Kingdom. It was a strange visit, one in which he didn't get much response. He was disappointed and a bit discouraged as he left. As he was leaving, he noticed a man, covered in Tattoos, with a Golden Retriever dog, standing outside, sweating in the heat. He felt the Lord's prompting to go talk to the man.

After a bit of small talk, the man said he recognized the Guide. Much to our Guide's surprise, he discovered that this man had gone through The Journey 6-Week study while in Jail several months before. The man went on to say how that book and the process changed his life and has kept him out of trouble since. The Guide left encouraged and inspired that God was moving in ways he never expected.

Mike was excited about bringing The Journey to inmates in Oklahoma. He worked the proper channels with the Chaplain and had his first date set to go into the prison. He got a surprise phone call that they had moved his date up one week. Unfortunately, he had just been offered tickets in a Suite to watch the Oklahoma City Thunder and San Antonio Spurs playoff game on the same night. He hesitated, and then said, "I'll be there."

He passed up the sweet basketball tickets and disappointed his wife, but went on his faithful journey to go visit the prisoners. When he got there, they informed him that the prison was on "lock-down" and he couldn't have his group. In disbelief, Mike sat in the room where he was supposed to do his group. He lowered his head in prayer, "Lord, please get the men in here!" As soon as he finished his prayer, the inmates started coming into the room. His Journey Group was back on! It was an amazing, edifying group, and Mike knew he was exactly where he was supposed to be!

books aside for a few months and finally read The Journey book. Upon finishing it, he gave it to his friend, Leo, telling him he thought he should read it. Leo read it and immediately found the Influencers website, looking for more information. He came into the Senior Pastor's office, pounded his fist on his desk and said, "We've got to do The Journey!"

They put together a group of leaders in the church, dubbing it a Trial Journey Group and started going through the process. This was a stretch for this church because they had an unwritten rule: "WE DON'T DO PROGRAMS."

Just as they were discovering that The Journey had validity, Dennis was invited to Malibu, CA for the Influencers Leadership Retreat. It was here that Dennis got plugged into the Influencers network and met Frank Khalil, who offered to help train him in The Journey.

Around the same time, one of the pastors from The Stirring attended an Influencers Bakersfield weekend retreat and was blown away. While at the retreat, the pastor also met Rocky and really caught the vision of Influencers. Soon after, Journey groups started in earnest in Redding.

Another Journey brother is joining the prison effort, motivated by the fact that his son is an inmate. He is encouraged to know there is hope for his boy.

God is moving, guys! We are so privileged to be working with Him.

Global Spotlight



Zambia and Zimbabwe

A team of Influencers from Southern California traveled to Zambia and Zimbabwe, Africa this month with a suitcase full of Journey materials.

They are training local pastors and village leaders in Livingstone, Zambia, then moving to Victoria Falls, Gwayi River, Kamativi, Lupote and Harare in Zimbabwe. In Hwangi (Jasper's hometown) the local prison Chaplain has requested to be trained as a Journey Guide to allow him to teach the Journey to those incarcerated. Dennis Ruvolo, our Chino Prison Journey Guide is on the team in Africa. Jack Stillman and Glen Megill are the other Influencers team members.



Rwanda

Eric Neyou, the man from Cameroon who works at Wal-Mart in NWA, continues leading a Journey Group in Rwanda through the 6-Week Study. Due to technology limitations, he is leading the group via Texting. In spite of the method of communication, Eric reports that the men are "getting it" and very excited. Another Journey brother was in Rwanda on a mission trip and made connections with the lead pastor of this

It wasn't long before Dennis started seeing some of the same life transformation through The Journey that men were seeing in other parts of the country. The Stirring became a host Journey church and many groups started multiplying. This past year, The Stirring had 11 Journey Groups and another church in town, Risen King, had 4 Journey Groups.

They are about to do another 6-Week Study of The Journey and plan to launch several more Journey Groups in the Fall. Dennis is also overseeing expansion efforts in Sacramento, Washington and Oregon.

We are SO thankful for Dennis and his service, his heart for churches and pastors and the blessing he is to our staff.

Keep Dennis in your prayers as he continues to grow into his full-time role with Influencers.

NEW INFLUENCERS WEBSITE

www.influencers.org



The
new

Influencers Website is now complete. Check it out and you

Rwanda Journey Group.

Canada

We shipped our first shipment of books to Canada this past month. This is thanks to some connections made by Les Pearsey at a ministry conference in Atlanta.

French

The French translation of the Journey Manual is underway. Soon, we will have a complete French curriculum!



Be a God-Seeker

Patriotism



As you celebrate Independence Day this weekend and think about the price our forefathers paid for our freedom in this country, remember that we, as Christians, are Patriots in our own right. The more we watch the deterioration of the moral fiber of this country, the more we long for a new country. This is not unlike all of our forefathers of the Faith.

Hebrews 11:13-16 NIV says:

"All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they

will find:

Map with Regional
Cities and Emerging
Cities

Regional Pages with
Local information,
links and calendars

Guide Videos

Social Media
Interface

Easier to Use

New Shopping Cart

[CLICK HERE TO
SEE NEW SITE](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Influencers Development Statement



We believe God created Influencers and anointed us to Make Disciples. We believe He wants to take this Ministry and the Journey process to the ends of the earth so that His children will learn to Abide in Him and so that He can set them free to serve Him fully. We believe He will fund the needs of this ministry so that we might fulfill His

would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country- a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."

As we abide in Christ and give him our lives, we submit to a lifestyle which may appear counter-cultural to this country. This can be discouraging and depressing, for at one time, we may have believed we lived in a Christian nation, where most people thought like us. Now we feel like aliens and strangers here. However, we must remember, like all the great men and women of faith understood, that our home country is ahead of us.

Consider the definition of Patriotism:

Patriotism is an emotional attachment to a nation which an individual recognizes as their homeland. This attachment, also known as national feeling or national pride, can be viewed in terms of different features relating to one's own nation, including ethnic, cultural, political or historical aspects.

Fellow Influencers, for those of us who live in America, we are Americans, but we are Christians first! Our identity, our emotional attachment, our pride is in Jesus Christ. He is the ultimate Patriot, who died for us and has prepared a new country for us. Until we enter our new land, let us stand on our faith and wave the flag of liberty, truth and freedom, knowing that these tenants were founded in Christ and will only be fully realized in Him. Let's show the Way for generations to come.

Follow us on 

Like us on  Facebook

calling. We believe He will move the hearts of individuals who have the ability to donate passionately and generously to this Vision. We will Abide in Him, we will pray fervently, we will follow His Spirit and we will Trust Him absolutely with the plans of this ministry. We will not limit God by our intellect, our experience or our expectations. We will share the blessings of this ministry by asking our participants to help meet the needs we encounter. We will live by Faith.