

2024

DOVE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY CONNECTION



MAGNIFY the LORD
from one generation to the next





USA



CUBA

BUILDING IN FAITH

Each one of us stands on the shoulders of those who God has used in the generations before us. Whether we personally knew them or not, we have been impacted by the walk of faith of men and women of God who came before us. In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul commented on Timothy's faith, which he first saw in his grandmother and mother. God has chosen that His promises will be received and His works accomplished in the context of multiple generations.



MERLE & CHEREE SHENK
DOVE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR



BULGARIA

SOUTH AFRICA Many community youth were part of a camp hosted at a community church.

THE NETHERLANDS
A baptism gathering



DOVE International
learn more
www.dcfi.org





Above **USA** Larry Kreider ministers to a young generation in the 1980s.

Below **MOZAMBIQUE** Merle prays for a child.



God moved in a special way in the late 1960s through the early 1980s in what is today called the Jesus Movement. Many gave their lives to Jesus as ministries emerged around the world. This was the spiritual environment that birthed what is now our DOVE International movement of churches. God led Larry and LaVerne Kreider to reach out and disciple youth and young adults in their community. What God was doing with them eventually grew into over 1,000 churches in twenty-six nations in the DOVE family. This journey is covered in the book *Our Journey with God: The DOVE International Story*.

Standing on their shoulders

As those who are coming after Larry and LaVerne to lead DOVE International, Cheree and I fully recognize that we stand on the shoulders of everyone God has used in the DOVE International family to this point. The reality is that it is not just us who are standing on their shoulders. All of us, regardless of our age or role, are impacted by those who came before us. The Scriptures say: “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of

life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:7-8 [ESV]). In this passage we see the connection of the past to the future through the empowerment of Jesus, the one who never changes. Over the years, as leadership is passed to successive generations at many levels in the DOVE International family, the foundations of faith that have been handed to us will not be forgotten. Every leader is a link in the chain connecting what came before us to what will come after us. And Jesus is the one who connects them all.

Following by faith

We are called to follow, by faith, what Jesus is building in our generation in the same way that our leaders pursued Jesus by faith in their generation. As successive generations we have a choice. We can busy ourselves with memorializing what God has done in the past, or we can imitate the faith in Christ that was needed to establish this work in the first place. I pray that we will continue to build in the same spirit that has been modeled for us—that of fully depending upon Jesus while being encouraged by what He has done before.

Three seasons of leadership

Each one of us is in our own season in leadership. Some may soon be handing off our roles to the next person. In such a process, there are many things we can pass on. Among them, the most important thing is your faith in how God has led you. Be sure to tell the stories of how God came through for you, especially when you were weary, frustrated, or didn’t know what to do. You are a valued



Above **BRAZIL** Praying for others on the street

Below **PERU** House church members serve with Common Pot, feeding children in the community. This day they blessed a missions team after a children’s program.



DOVE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY of CHURCHES



Still others of us are in the middle of our current role. If that is you, take careful note of what it means for you to trust in the Lord with all your heart. Be honest to record how you feel in the middle of a journey as well as after the eventual outcome. Don't look around and compare yourself to others, but do be willing to learn from what others are doing.

be faithful to the Lord in our generation and move forward into God's purposes in faith. Someday we too will be the shoulders that launch another generation. Many of us already are.

Merle Shenk serves as the international director of DOVE International.

We all have a part to play in building the Kingdom

Time is not stopping for anyone. No matter your station, age, or experience, press forward in hope that God is always doing a new thing and using you to bring it to pass. Be spiritual mothers and fathers, serving as God calls you to. You are part of God pouring out multigenerational blessings in the DOVE International family as God strategically positions you. We are standing on the shoulders and in the faith of everyone who has gone before, yet each of us is building the testimony of our faith in our daily lives. Those who will come after us are already being impacted, already watching, and already receiving. With this in mind, let us



UGANDA

and treasured member of God's Kingdom, and you have much to give. The next generation is hungry for your stories of God's faithfulness. As you look to the future, bring all that you have acquired from past victories into your new season. Your intentionality and faith is crucial to our growth as family of God.

For those assuming a new leadership role, wholeheartedly embrace faith and dependence upon Jesus. Learn from the stories of leaders who have gone before you. Be stirred by their faith while at the same time being free to write your own stories with the Lord. Your testimonies will someday encourage others!



PHILIPPINES



VENEZUELA
Community church



USA Community church

The DOVE family is made up of large, medium, and microchurches

We continue to emphasize the importance of planting of new churches.



TANZANIA House church leaders



CANADA church plant



MYANMAR House church

FROM DOVE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDERS

Larry & LaVerne Kreider

We are so grateful to the Lord for giving us grace to serve as a spiritual father and mother in the DOVE family the past 44 years. We look forward to transferring the leadership of DOVE International to Merle and Cheree Shenk on April 15, 2024. It was such a blessing traveling together with Merle to five continents these past two years and connecting with many leaders. It was repeatedly said, "The DOVE family is in good hands." Merle and Cheree have the grace from the Lord to take our global movement of churches into the next season; we have felt so honored by them in this process.

We love the DOVE family, and we look forward to serving as spiritual grandparents in this movement of churches worldwide! You will continue to be on our hearts.

Tony Fitzgerald, our spiritual advisor, has said it well: *the government will be lifted off of us, but our gifts remain.* We will no longer serve on the DOVE International Apostolic Council so that we can make room for younger apostolic leaders to serve with Merle as our new international director. We still, however, plan to continue to serve DOVE and the body of Christ in mentoring, consulting, writing, podcasting, and speaking. We are committed to support and help Merle and Cheree as they have requested.

We want to express our deep appreciation to all who have served with us over the past 44 years. It has been a great joy for us to serve as international director for the DOVE family. We love you and will continue to pray for you! And as you have served with us so faithfully these past years, we are fully expectant that you will serve with Merle and Cheree in the same way.

With much love,

Larry + LaVerne Kreider

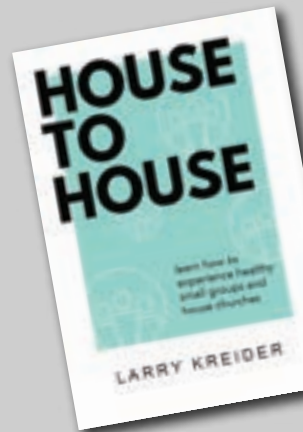
Larry and LaVerne Kreider



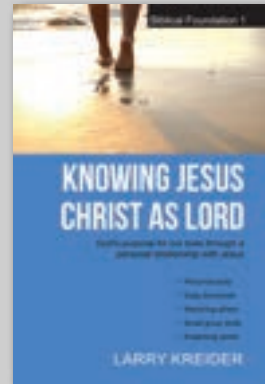
Stay connected!
LarryKreider.com

LEARN DOVE FAMILY VALUES

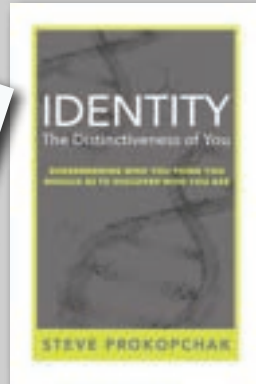
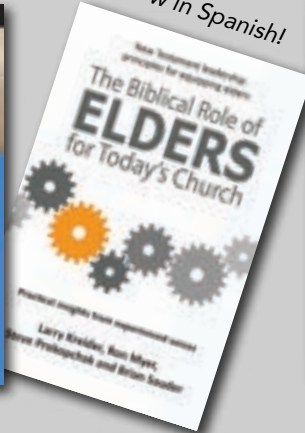
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We value training for leaders in the church as well as the marketplace.

Above **HAITI** Business entrepreneurs
Above right **GUATAMALA** A student

Below: DOVE Africa recently gathered church leaders for equipping and refreshment from **MOZAMBIQUE, KENYA, UGANDA, DRC CONGO, RWANDA, ZAMBIA, USA, and SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA.**



BARBADOS Youth camp



CUBA





MAKE A DIFFERENCE
DRIVE CHANGE
OFFER EMPOWERMENT
DOVE Global Partners

THANK YOU to all our DOVE Global Partners

Recently your gifts:

- trained leaders in developing nations
- helped provide food for orphans
- equipped frontier church planters
- funded translation of DOVE leadership materials
- provided crisis relief in unstable nations
- helped fund construction of a ministry center in Asia
- assisted with African apostolic leaders' travel expenses
- helped host leadership conferences in emerging nations
- aided small-business training in Haiti
- funded many other projects.

**Interested in joining our
DOVE Global Partners team?**

learn more
www.doveglobalpartners.com



You are making a difference!

Giving to DOVE Global Partners helps frontier Kingdom expansion in the DOVE family. We look forward to meeting even more spiritual and practical needs in the DOVE family expanding the Kingdom.



THREE NATIONS in south central Asia are unnamed so we do not place our brothers and sisters in Christ there in harm's way. One of these nations has more than 600 DOVE churches!

DOVE FAMILY 24/7 PRAYER WATCH

Join us praying for the DOVE family worldwide seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. Join prayer warriors around the globe. Sign up for a monthly email with prayer requests.

PRAYER WATCH ONLINE Prayer requests from each DOVE church



Details at
dcfi.org/pray



USA



DOVE Missionaries Make a Difference

PHILIPPINES A haven for teen mothers: Tonya Hoglen

DMI missionaries Jeff and Tonya Hoglen oversee the DOVE network of churches in the Philippines.

Serving with Adonai

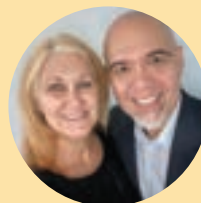
Tonya is also the director of Adonai Home, a Christ-centered safe shelter for pregnant moms in crisis situations. Adonai Home provides free services and assistance for these ladies to find their way forward in an environment where they feel seen, heard, valued, and loved.

While in the home, the moms receive nutritional meals, medical care, counseling, parenting classes, education, spiritual support, and opportunities to participate in outreaches.

It is the goal of Adonai Home that each mom has a deeper relationship with Jesus and experiences holistic healing and the safe delivery of a healthy baby before moving to the next life chapter.

Read more about Jeff and Tonya

doveusa.org/mission/jeff-and-tonya-hoglen-in-the-philippines



Short-term missions for long-term goals

Short-term teams play a significant role in the development and sustainability of long-term missions. There are various ways a short-term team can serve an established ministry.

DOVE Missions Africa missionaries run a medical clinic in an unreached region of Kenya. For many years, DOVE Mission International (DMI) has sent short-term medical missions teams to assist the doctors at this clinic. Greg Fritz, leader of these teams, writes, "The DMI teams provide encouragement to the Kenyan workers, who sometimes feel forgotten since they serve in such a remote area." This encouragement can help the local workers remain focused and effective.

Another long-running ministry that has benefited from short-term missions is The Justice Project (TJP). This is the third year that TJP has invited DMI to send a team to do practical service projects. Completing these projects (like painting and light construction) allows TJP staff to focus on other tasks that require specific skills, cultural knowledge, or relationship with clients. These teams have helped finance the projects, thus releasing TJP funds for other important work.

To help teams be effective, we have published the resource *Preparing to Go*.

store.dcfi.org/product/preparing-to-go

KENYA Green in the desert

DOVE Africa missionaries serving in north-eastern Kenya have transformed a section of the desert into a lush array of green. Pumping water from River Tana less than a mile away enables them to grow fruits and vegetables in the sandy soil.

Kingdom harvest

The eternally significant transformation is of the lives of the men who work on the farm. Several—operating as secret believers for now—have transferred from the kingdom of Islam to the Kingdom of God.



How can I be involved in missions?

- **PRAY** for missionaries
- **DONATE** to support mission works
- **CONSIDER** long-term missions service
- **PARTICIPATE** in a short-term team
- **BECOME** a missions intern

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO!

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