



Deliverance Temple Ministries

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Introduction

For over 46 years, Deliverance Temple Ministries (DTM) has been an active part of the community of Springfield, Missouri. As one of the biggest, little churches in the area, it has touched the lives of families around the corner and around the world, growing right along with the city it calls home.

In 1972, a young pastor began commuting from Kansas City to his former hometown of Springfield to hold evangelistic meetings. He had great hopes, deep in his heart, that included much more than simply offering another Christian worship service to the people of Springfield. These hopes included caring for the practical needs of the poor, the outcast, the desperate and despondent, the addicted, and those who had come to believe that the miserable and ill-fated situations of their lives were truly their only option.

In the late seventies, the church began its prison outreach ministry with "the team", as they came to affectionately be known, carrying the gospel to those incarcerated at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, as well as into the local county jail.

In May 1995, DTM relocated to its present campus, a 5.5-acre site located at 2101 W. Chestnut Expressway. It was truly an answer to prayer and the fulfillment of prophetic promise!

Over the years, Deliverance Temple Ministries has served people locally with food, clothing, spiritual direction and uplift, as well as a place to belong, to heal, and to grow. But not content to only minister to those we see regularly, DTM has also reached out across the United States, into the Caribbean, and into both the continents of Europe and Africa. Our ongoing support of ministry in Kenya, Africa became 'hands-on' in 1999 when senior pastor, David Knox, went on a preaching, teaching, and visitation tour with local pastor, John Savwa Irangi.

Today, as a multi-cultural, non-denomination Christian fellowship, DTM continues to touch all kinds of people from all walks of life with the delivering and transforming power of God's love! That love is expressed in very practical means through our ministry to individuals and families as

we help them to understand that “God loves you just the way you are, but too much to leave you that way.”

Setback for A Setup

On February 20, 2002, in the early morning hours, an arsonist set fire to a small storage building adjacent to the sanctuary building (one of two main buildings on the campus). The resulting blaze completely destroyed the storage building and very heavily damaged the sanctuary, making it unusable.

Immediately, all ministry operations were consolidated in the multipurpose building which, thank God, remained undamaged by the fire. While many operations were scaled back, or otherwise adjusted, some were suspended indefinitely. However, the resolve of the congregation has been firm with regard to its desire to continue and even expand the many needed programs and services that have come to be synonymous with the vision of Deliverance Temple Ministries:

A church from which life-changing ministry flows to the community and the world; especially to the Unreached and Underserved.

Being people of faith, who are convinced of the providential nature of God, we have chosen to believe that this apparent setback is actually a setup for even greater outreach and ministry. Both the community and the world are in desperate need of caring, visionary people who will passionately consent to be the ‘hands’ of Jesus, embracing and lifting our fellows to a quality of life that He intends them to enjoy. This is our Calling.

The Challenge of Our Calling

At Deliverance Temple Ministries, we have come to understand that the Call upon us is one which comes loaded with challenges. However, we also have the assurance that God never places more on us than we can bear. This truth is evident in several key facts.

- DTM is governed by a Board of Trustees with over 155 years of combined experience in not-for-profit work and governance
- DTM has managed to come a long way from its very humble beginnings, with limited resources
- DTM is gifted with distinctive, effective ministry and outreach programs
- DTM is blessed with a number of collaborative relationships that help in meeting its Call
- God has strategically placed DTM where it can serve as a beacon to some of the most challenged neighborhoods in Springfield

These and other facts have contributed to an evolving philosophy of ministry that demonstrates an understanding of our responsibility to care for, strengthen, and develop people at the place we find them (or they find us). It's about realizing that people are at different points on the continuum of need and therefore, the ministry of DTM must provide a continuum of care that aligns with the needs represented by the people we serve. DTM is a vehicle that "picks up" people where they are and transports them to places in life and in God that they had deemed "unreachable" before. In fact, some who at one point in their lives were only passengers in that vehicle are now helping to drive.

To use another metaphor, DTM is a hospital in transition from a place which only provides emergency care, to a place which fosters and promotes wellness and health maintenance in individuals and families, no matter the condition in which they are initially found.

DTM is committed to meet the challenge of its calling, through the grace of God and the assistance of those who, along with us, can see the needs and are moved to help address them.

Of Neighbors and Needs

Although DTM has been considered by some to be “a black church”, we do not think of ourselves in such a limited way. While it is true that the congregation is predominately African American, we are made up of and serve a number of people and families who are white, Hispanic, and bi-racial.

In fact, a review of the 2010 Census reveals that the demographic makeup of the tracts (18 and 32) comprising the immediate neighborhood is more than 90% white. Of the children who attend the public, neighborhood school, York Elementary, more than 90% have qualified for the Free/Reduced Lunch program over the past 10 years. To put that into perspective, consider the Gray Elementary neighborhood, where the free/reduced lunch rate is less than 19%.

Furthermore, there is considerable evidence of general fragility for many families in the neighborhood as revealed in the stability rate [percentage of students who remain enrolled all year versus relocating] at York (65%) compared to 87% at Gray.

Of course, we realize that we are not unlike the Samaritan of Luke’s gospel (Luke 15: 29-37), who understood that his neighbors are not only those who are geographically close. They are also those who have fallen on hard times due to the various assailants of evil that are always lurking in our community. These individual and family-destroying assailants may be observed working in the forms of drug abuse, domestic violence, poverty, low self-esteem, depression, and hopelessness.

Over the past 46-plus years, we have come to understand that God sometimes directs us on journeys, away from the comforts and familiarities of home, and leads us across the paths of those in dire need of help. In fact, we’ve come to look for and even expect to encounter those persons and families, because we realize that we are on a journey of God’s choosing and purpose. As champions of hope, DTM’s outreach efforts, as well as its family and life skills initiatives, help bring healing, restoration, and stability to individuals, families, the neighborhood itself, and in a broader sense, the community as a whole.

Our Response to Need

Indeed, the needs that are presented by our community are broad and varied; therefore the response to those needs must be broad and varied as well. As stated in an earlier section, we at DTM have been involved in a transformation of ministry; from one which is focused or centered more on crisis, to one which looks more at the continuum of needs on which individuals and families may be found. Put another way, we are shifting from an “emergency room” or “urgent care-only” philosophy of ministry to one which seeks to comprehensively achieve the care and wellness maintenance of persons we serve, wherever they happen to be on that continuum of need.

But it would be rather simple of us to think that we are going to go into our neighborhood or community and solve the vast myriad of problems we find there. So how is it that we can realistically expect to help people in a comprehensive, wherever-they’re-at fashion? We believe that the answer to that question is found in the lessons of our past accomplishments. What we have come to understand is that through **strategic relationships** with other agencies and the **leveraging of resources** we have been able to do far more than might be expected from a congregation of our size.

Relationships such as those we enjoy with Crosslines (Council of Churches), Convoy of Hope, Missouri Career Center, Springfield Community Center, Bartley-Decatur Neighborhood Center, Minorities in Business, and other community agencies and churches (as well as those we hope to share in the future), have helped to establish the reality of our ability to truly make a difference in this community. In a similar manner, the leveraging of resources represented by these and other institutions have allowed us to do much more than we could have done alone, while helping those agencies accomplish their missions at the same time.

Of the many ways that God has used and continues to use DTM to respond to the needs of people in our community, allow us here to highlight just three very practical ones: Addiction Ministries; Youth Services/Activities; Food Security.

Addiction Ministries

Since its inception in the early 1970's, DTM has reached out with compassion to those who have succumbed to chemical substance abuse. We have ministered in just about every conceivable way to people and families as they struggle with addiction. We have seen the suffering and, along with them, paid the prices demanded by their dependencies. We have also rejoiced with them as they responded to the love of God and found their way to long-term recovery. We have even seen several of those same people develop to a place of strength from which they are able to help others still trapped in addiction. In fact, a number of those formerly addicted persons are now themselves credentialed, helping professionals.

Along the way, we have entered into mutually productive relationships with the Carol Jones Recovery Center of Women, and Victory Circle Peer Support, Inc.

With the help of DTM, Victory Circle Peer Support was established as part of a much-needed support system for those individuals who have successfully completed long-term therapeutic community treatment, in a prison setting. It was observed that too many of these graduates were returning, either back to prison, to their old way of life, or back into residential treatment. In many cases these relapses happened without the benefit of an in-place system that represented an extension of what these persons had become accustomed to in treatment for so many months. Victory Circle has helped to provide that extension for nearly four years now. The Southwest Missouri Citizen's Advisory Board of Probation & Parole has recognized individual members of the group, and the Greene County Drug Court program and the Department of Corrections' Ozarks Correctional Center have recognized the entire group.

Victory Circle is different than many other groups, in that it provides a forum for peers to process their issues without the presence of professional counselors. This environment allows for honesty in disclosure, less restraint in feedback, and reduction in the likelihood of embarrassment. It gives peers the opportunity to interact and discuss serious personal problems that may seem unimportant to those unfamiliar with the struggles that newly acquired freedom may bring.

We find that persons who have participated in Victory Circle consistently for six months or more have virtually no problems with probation & parole staff, avoid relapse, and are learning to effectively manage their responsibilities. Given the fact that the cost to Missouri taxpayers for the incarceration of one person for one year is approximately \$22,000 (Source: Mo. Dept. of Corrections; www.doc.missouri.gov) and that substance use contributes to thousands of parolee returns to prison in Missouri each year, Victory Circle may contribute to the “bottom line” for taxpayers, as well as to the strength of the local economy. Consider the following scenario:

25 recovering, recently released men attend Victory Circle for one year; each of these 25 men is employed full-time at a

job paying
minimum
(currently
If each of
spend/pay
income in

25 men @ \$22,000/year =	\$550,000
25 X \$8.60/hr. X 2,000 hours (full time) X 90% =	\$387,000
Combined “savings” and “economic contribution” =	\$937,000 per year

only
wage
\$8.60/hour).
these men
90% of their
taxes,

housing, food, transportation, etc. The cost savings to the taxpayers of Missouri combined with the infusion of dollars into the economy would look something like this.

Given the number of men who have reportedly participated in Victory Circle on a regular basis over the past many years, we believe that the above scenario is very realistic and has resulted in **millions of dollars** of positive economic impact!

Youth Services/Activities

Today young people face challenges that were either completely unheard of or at the very least, not nearly as prevalent, in generations past. Drug and alcohol abuse, H.I.V./AIDS and other

sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, violence, and social media are just some of the issues that have taken to the stage in the lives of young people in the present generation. Of course, the pressures of academic achievement, fragile families, and self-image are also still big concerns for youth.

That's why the Children, Youth, and Family Development Center ("**The Dream Center**") was formed. Housed at Deliverance Temple, the Dream Center ministers to neighborhood children and youth with after-school, summer, and special events programming aimed at positive youth development and practical family supports. We've also teamed up with Higher Power Athletics to offer cutting edge youth team sports training to under resourced children. The Dream Center offers a well-rounded approach to youth ministry and development by combining academic, sports, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) components, plus a nutritious meal.

Furthermore, we are engaging youth from elementary through undergraduate higher education in exploring the many challenges they face and helping them to increase their assets and protective factors through interactive teaching [from sex to study skills], experiential learning events [rock climbing, ice skating, hiking], and spiritual development. We strongly believe that an expanded base of support is essential to their successful growth and development as people and as citizens of the community.

With your help, we will increase our outreach to both children and young people in our neighborhood and beyond.

Food Security

More than 26% of individuals in Greene County live in food insecure homes according to the Springfield Impacting Poverty Commission 2017 Report. Children without access to adequate nutrition have trouble focusing in school, making it difficult for them to succeed. Over half of Springfield Public School students qualify for free or reduced lunch programming, but this does not provide for students when they leave school in the afternoon, during weekends, or during academic breaks.

Food insecurity affects more than just our children in Greene County. Families with newborns have medical expenses and may need childcare in order to work. Single income households may be supporting seniors or disabled family members. Retired seniors might have medical bills or need home repairs that are not covered by their set income.

No matter whom you are or where you live, every human being shares the common basic needs for food. For many families, meeting those has become more and more difficult. That's why we have teamed up with other church and community groups for the last three years to host a monthly mobile food pantry on our campus. Most of the smaller churches and community agencies we partner with could not accommodate a 53-foot trailer from which to distribute food to needy families. But God has blessed us with a large, circular parking area that is ideal for this ministry outreach.

What You Can Do

As with the many programs and accomplishments that DTM has been involved with during the past three decades, there is a part that members play, a part that God plays, and a part that those who believe in what we are doing play. We are neither naïve, regarding our own abilities, nor doubtful of God's abilities, and we have realized even more through the tragedy of the fire, that there are many who do believe in what we are doing in this community.

So we have set for ourselves a goal to raise \$3 million to retire our mortgage debt and to expand services that we are able to offer to the community and the world. We understand that many of the contributions and donations we will receive will be relatively small; however, we also know that there are those who can help with contributions of \$25,000, \$50,000, or even \$100,000. We believe that such contributions may be critical to the momentum and eventual success of the campaign for support.

We have asked you to review this statement of our case for support in the hope that you will search your own heart and mind, consider our invitation to make a difference, and choose the very best gift that you can for this very worthwhile and promising venture.

Thank you for your support of the Temple Project and may God richly bless you in our prayer!

<http://www.TempleProject.info>