

1:ONE

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ENTREPRENEUR USES SKILLS TO RESCUE BOLIVIAN ORPHANS

COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA - In 2003 Mike Timmer, his wife Bonnie, and their 5 daughters, arrived in Bolivia as International Teams missionaries. They had only been in the country for 6 months when they got the call to rescue unwanted infant twins.

Over mountainous roads they raced only to discover that both babies were dead. Believing that one of the babies possessed a soul and the other was possessed by the devil, the villagers left both infants out to die.

This heart-breaking moment marked the beginning of the Timmers' ministry to rescue unwanted Bolivian children. The couple learned that in Bolivia, the poorest country in South America, unwanted babies are frequently thrown into rivers or left to die in the jungles.

The Timmers established the International Orphanage Union (IOU) and are now completing construction of their 5th orphan home. Prior to the construction of each new home, the Timmers partner with a local Bolivian church that has a heart for children. Then land in the area is purchased. Ten orphans are placed in each home under the care of a Bolivian Christian couple. The local church is not asked to support the orphanage financially but simply to help the par-



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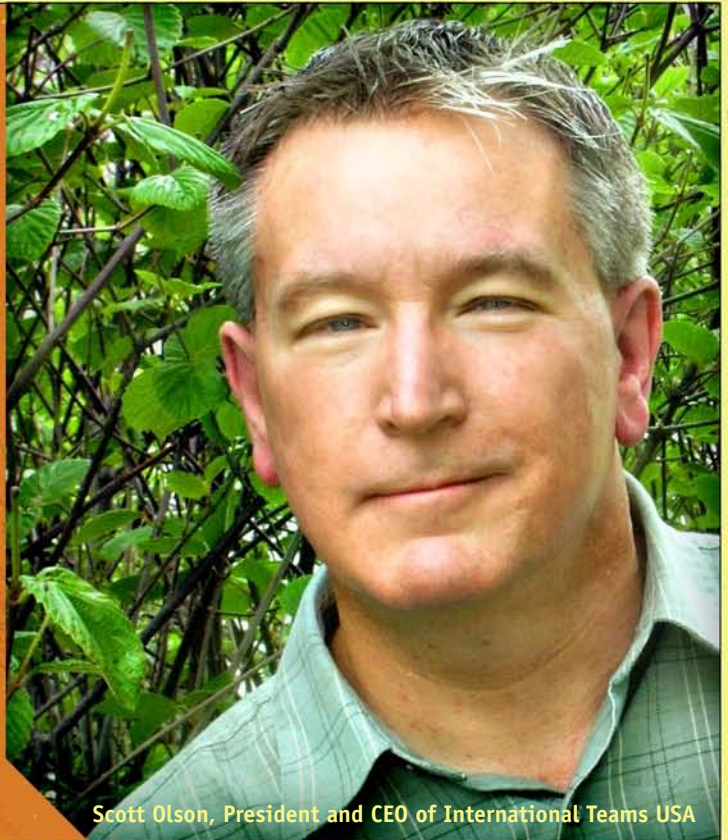


LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR AS
YOURSELF

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IT TAKES AN ENTIRE TEAM TO WIN THE GAME

ELGIN, ILLINOIS - In far-flung Cochabamba province, Bolivia, a mother with 10 children succumbs to leukemia. International Teams missionaries Mike and Bonnie Timmer are able to place those children in a loving home with surrogate house parents. In Fresno, CA, Nancy Donat works with troubled youth in one of the poorest neighborhoods in America.



Scott Olson, President and CEO of International Teams USA

These are just some of the 350 missionaries sent by International Teams USA to troubled areas around the world. These special individuals chose to join International Teams because they recognized their need to be part of a great team.

"In addition to handling all the administrative details for us," Mike Timmer said, "being a part of International Teams brings credibility to our ministry. The home office also coordinates short-term teams that help with construction, build relationships with the

orphans, and encourage and rejuvenate my wife Bonnie and me."

While IT missionaries in the field dig wells, run feeding programs and translate Christian teaching into indigenous languages, the home team mobilizes new recruits, provides cross-cultural and language training, and provides spiritual and emotional preparation. Donations are processed and forwarded to trusted in-country agents. The HR department sorts out the missionaries' legal and tax status. The home team manages the missionaries' medical, life insurance and retirement packages. Veteran missionaries mentor and coach new missionaries in the field. They become cultural interpreters.

"International Teams missionaries are well-trained, spiritually prepared professionals," said International Teams President and CEO, Scott Olson. "The home office is here to support our missionaries. We work together to help the oppressed. It's a team effort. I would like people to know that one of the best ways to support God's work on the mission field is to support the US home team. If monies do not come in to support the general fund, then the missionary feels the ripple effect directly on the mission field."

While there's no question that the field missionaries are the star players, it takes an entire team to win the game.

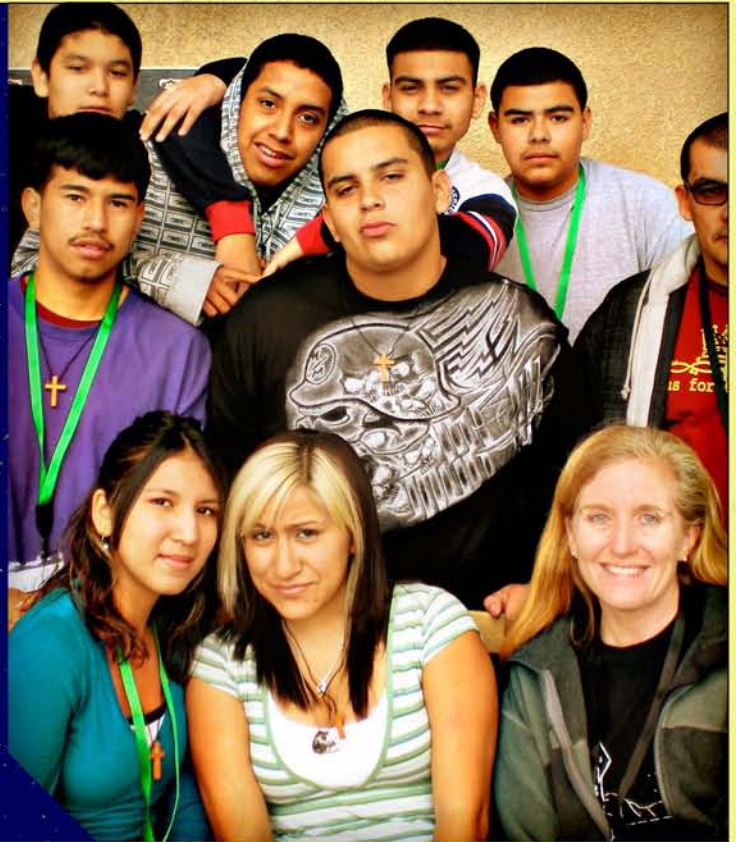
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Home office staff discuss how best to support field missionaries

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA - "Because everyone in my church is a new Christian, there's an authenticity and rawness in people," International Teams urban missionary, Nancy Donat said. Nancy, a former RN, has served at Bethany Inner-City Church in Fresno for nine years.



Here 98% of the congregation live below the poverty line and most are single-parent families. Nancy is the volunteer Youth Pastor. She runs a weekly food ministry, and organizes summer camps and health fairs.

While leading a youth mission trip to Mexico, Nancy noticed that the Fresno youth really came alive.

"It was very empowering for them. They could speak the language and they could identify with the Mexican youth. I told them, 'This is who you are. This is who you were created to be. Look how God is using you!'"

Nancy's ministry is about teaching and demonstrating love for her neighbors. Recently, noticing that her

neighbor was waiting for a drug drop-off in front of her apartment, Nancy initiated a conversation. He told her that he had killed 3 people when he was 18 and had spent 27 years in prison. The man agreed to allow Nancy to pray for him right there on the spot.

"Being here has caused me to be more real. I'm more dependent on God. I feel like I'm always right on that edge," Nancy said.

In this neighborhood there is incredible need but also tremendous opportunity. There is a great need for stable adult role models. The church is in need of a worship leader. Funds need to be raised so that the youth may attend summer camp and to



Nancy and a friend

participate in future mission trips.

But Nancy sees these needs as opportunities wherein we may live out Mark 12:29-31 which says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself." **BLM**



"Graffiti for God"

**International
Teams**

TAKING ACTION

PRAY Please pray with us for the transformation of lives in Nancy Donat's neighborhood and for the success of Mike and Bonnie Timmer's ministry.

GO Is God calling you to help "bring in the harvest"? Go to iteams.org/go to find out more about opportunities to serve.

GIVE Your gift to the Ministry of ITeams USA will have a positive ripple effect on all ITeams missionaries serving worldwide. Please consider giving generously at www.iteams.org/give



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INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

1:ONE

Bringing people together to help the oppressed

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Mike and Bonnie Timmer

ents to raise the children to know the Lord.

"We believe it is God's ideal plan that children should be raised in a family and not by an institution," Mike said.

So far, a church, a business and/or a family has donated the \$20,000 needed to build each orphan home. There is no charge for rent and the house parents are even given a small monthly stipend to spend or save as they wish. A "house helper" is also arranged.

Mike, a former businessman/entrepreneur, has established micro-enterprises to cover the ongoing cost of running the homes: food, clothing, medical, dental, utilities and expenses. The

first business, "Bolivia's Best Coffee", exports gourmet beans to their roaster in Grand Rapids, MI and then ships the coffee to churches, businesses and individuals in the US and Canada.

Next the IOU opened a forestry business. Ten hectares of land was purchased and trees were planted. In seven years the trees will be ready for harvest. The sale of wood from each hectare will support one home. The Timmers plan to establish a hardwood flooring business next.

"Each time the Lord opens up opportunities to start a new micro-business we know we will be able to build a new orphan home," Mike said.

With the opening of the 5th home, the Timmers will have rescued 50 orphans – a fraction of the 200,000 orphans in Bolivia. But without their help, many of those children would not have survived. Viviana is one such child. Born into a remote jungle tribe, Viviana was orphaned at the age of 3. Most nights she took shelter in the hut of the village drunk. When she was 7 another child pushed her into a roaring fire. Contacted by radio, the New Tribes Missions dispatched a bush plane. During the 36 hours it took for the missionary to arrive, Viviana writhed in pain, alone. She suffered 3rd degree burns over 60% of her body. Her chances of survival seemed slim. But God miraculously preserved her life. Today Viviana is a vibrant member of a family of 10 children in one of the IOU orphan homes.

"Mike is unique because he's a business guy who approaches his ministry from an entrepreneur's perspective," International Teams President and CEO, Scott Olson said. "He's using his gifts to serve the oppressed."

To learn about how you can help in Bolivia see iteams.org. To order Bolivia's Best Coffee see boliviasbest.com. To learn more about the IOU see ioubolivia.org. **BLM**