

Dirke & Lorna Johnson

December, 2015

"I feel like a failure, I want to serve God, but I keep falling back into the same old habits. I don't know what to do." With head lowered, eyes watering, James stared down at the table unwilling to look me in the eyes as we sat across from each other during a lunch meeting at Panera's. For three weeks James had been AWOL. He had *not* turned in his assignments or showed up for class even though all of his previous work was top notch. I had repeatedly called him and finally he was willing to meet.

"James," I said, "You are right where God wants you. You've finally realized what God has known all along. You are a failure when you function in your own strength. God wants you to live in His grace. Right now, you are judging yourself. You are depressed but God is not. He is hopeful and so am I. You've got God's Holy Spirit living in you."

We opened God's Word together and began to walk through God's promises and James began to lift his eyes from himself to see the grace of the Lord. We put together a game plan to address his area of temptation and he committed to engage in a community of believers who would provide encouragement. Today James is thriving in his walk with the Lord and in his ministry God has given him through his church.

James is one example among many of young men and women Dirke has the privilege to disciple and prepare for a lifetime of ministry. In the past 12 months Dirke has worked with and taught more than 170 men and women who are either preparing for or engaged in ministry on the mission field.

Lorna recently received the encouraging text below from a former missionary (in pic below on right). Lorna disciplined and trained her while she worked with the Impact Movement. She recently got married and is now living and developing her own ministry in the Chicago area.



Lorna, I just had to take a few minutes to tell you what a gift you were to me during my season at Impact. I feel like every other day, I'm telling Ron about tough conversations you had with me that I didn't want to hear, but they were so crucial in my development. Now I can actually arrive at appointments on time (most days, lol). And I have a better relationship with my father. I find myself remembering stories you told me about you and Dirke that help guide me in my decisions as a godly wife in my marriage. Working with you was a Divine appointment. I just have to thank you so . . . so . . . so . . . much for taking the time to give to me in so many ways. Thank you for sharing your life with me and being a woman whom I wish to emulate in my journey as a wife, future mother, and mentor. You are a treasure to this world. I love you!

-Francine

Your partnership enables us to continue to change lives and equip a new generation of men and women who are dedicated to live for Christ and to spread God's love and forgiveness to a world desperately in need. We ask you to join us in prayer as Lorna launches her tutoring program in her new athletic academy to urban ethnic athletes on January 20th. She has 60 athletes arranged to attend but we are still in need of a sufficient number of academic tutors.

As we move into 2016, our most pressing need beyond prayer for Lorna's Academy and Dirke's teaching of more than 100 new missionary staff in January is our financial need to help cover Lorna's two hip surgeries (the 2nd one happening on Dec. 29th). We have a \$5,000 expense from the first one and although the 2nd one is done in the calendar year there is still an estimated \$1,500 more in rehab and recovery expenses for 2016. Lorna's total medical need is \$6,500. To this point we have received \$2,000 in unsolicited gifts for her medical costs but we continue to trust the Lord for the remaining \$4,500. ***In addition to your normal giving, would you prayerfully consider giving a special end of the year gift for Lorna's medical costs? We totally understand if you can't, but if you are in a position to help, it would be a tremendous blessing and meet a great need.***

Please use the enclosed commitment card and envelope to send us your gift. If you prefer, you can give electronically at: give.cru.org/give/0105923. If giving by check, please make your check payable to "Cru" or "Campus Crusade for Christ." Your gifts are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your partnership and for your prayers & generosity. We count it a privilege to partner with you as we grow God's kingdom in this new generation.

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