

## Our Mission . . .

helping people and organizations

\* discover their God-given visions,

\* develop their full potential and,

\* demonstrate excellence in service to God's world

**Review 2000** is published by Towel & Basin, Inc., to report on its activities and educate the public of needs and opportunities for service

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## A Year of Jubilee

On Thanksgiving evening, my wife Marilyn and I went to a small neighborhood diner in New York City's "Hell's Kitchen" community. We ordered a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, and--though separated by thousands of miles from many of our loved ones--gave thanks to God for our health, opportunities of service and friends like you.

Now at the close of this year--one filled with both great joys and sorrows--Marilyn and I are thankful for this opportunity to share a few pictures and words with you. We send this year-end report with gratitude and thanks. We hope it is a blessing to you in even a partial measure as your friendship is to us. Indeed, your prayers, participation and trust in our ministry is a blessing we cannot adequately describe.

In the coming months, I will be focusing in new ways on our music ministry with a missions purpose. "Making music that matters," and helping those in developing countries do the same, will be an emphasis in 2001. We also plan to launch Towel & Basin's web site next year. Immediately, we are attempting to communicate more regularly and (cost efficiently) through e-mail. If you send your e-mail address, we'll make certain you get added to the list and receive news and personal updates. You may e-mail Towel & Basin at "Serving413@aol.com" or me personally at "Dbest4cusd@aol.com."

During this year of Jubilee I was fortunate

to be in Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus. I went to Synagogue Church, built on the site of the synagogue that Jesus preached the first recorded sermon of his public ministry (Luke 4:14-21). I renewed my vow of faith to both man and message. Won't you join me, as God gives the ability, in following Jesus in his ministry of declaring and demonstrating good news to the poor, doing justice and being a peacemaker.



David with the children of a slum community in Bombay, India

Marilyn and I extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a blessed Advent and Christmas-tide.



Peace,

### P.S.

I have written a meditation on the practical implications of God's Incarnation that I would love to send you as a small, but tangible expression of our thanks for your friendship. Just write and request "Refugees and Revelation." May God bless you in the coming new year with abundance of meaning and joy in serving others.

## Towel & Basin in the 21st Century

2001 is just around the corner and several new and challenging projects are on the landscape for Towel & Basin. David Best will be co-authoring a book on "whole life stewardship". Release date to be announced. Highley Music will be releasing an all new Mountain Glory CD. Details about this commemorative recording are found in the article on page 3 of this newsletter. In addition to these projects, David Best will devote time this year to the formation of a new ministry focus for musicians and artists. This new effort will challenge, train, and deploy musicians and artists for specially selected mission projects world wide.

## Kosovar Refugee Relief and Recovery

The images captured the western world's attention...thousands of people trudging on foot, old men and women, young mothers with children—violently forced to flee from their homes and country. Towel & Basin was asked to lead an assessment team to evaluate and assist the Church of the Nazarene relief effort to the Kosovars who had fled to Albania.

In addition to conducting the assessment and helping the Albanian Nazarenes develop a multi-tiered response, Towel & Basin with its partners raised over \$5,000 in funds for the relief effort which was passed on directly to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries International that funded relief services in Albania and recovery programs in Kosovo.

While making his second trip to Albania, David Best notes he remembered Joseph's words to his brothers. "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good." Truly, the tragedy of the Kosovars afforded people opportunity to



Albanians setting and preparing a distribution center in the sanctuary of the Kombianat Church of the Nazarene near Tirana.

respond in compassion and become aware of refugees worldwide. Still today, somewhere in the world there are over 50 million people who've been forced from their homes and are either

internally displaced or refugees. (David Best's article "Travelogue of Tears" that was published in *Holiness Today* includes photos and excerpts from his journal. You can request a copy with the attached response form. If it is missing, contact Towel & Basin at 615/226-7668 or [Serving413@aol.com](mailto:Serving413@aol.com).)

As Kosovars began returning to their homeland, they immediately invited organizations like Nazarene Compassionate Ministries International to minister in Kosovo. Today, for example, NCM is assisting the Kosovars with rebuilding houses, facilitating Bible studies and support groups and developing leaders for new churches that have begun.

For more information and ways you can help in Kosovo, contact: NCM International, Tel: 877/NCM-4145; [www.ncm@nazarene.org](http://www.ncm@nazarene.org) If you would like general information on the worldwide refugee problem or opportunities to assist in the resettling of refugees, contact: Exodus World Service, Tel:

## Mission to India

In the past seven years, David Best has conducted three missions to India. These missions have included teaching on compassionate ministries, church planting, providing technical and logistical assistance for an airlift of medicines by Heart to Heart International, preaching revivals, and teaching urban ministries courses.

In these activities, Towel & Basin has

demonstrated its motto of "serving so that others may serve." This approach seeks to avoid the paternalism inherent in some mission efforts and ensures a greater possibility for indigenous leaders to become self-determining, their organizations self-sustaining. Further, the effectiveness of Towel & Basin's methodology is evident in a phenomenal ROI (return on investment) that results in a multiplication of ministry. For example, through these three missions to India, hundreds of national leaders have been equipped and resourced. These



David with V J Singh, Superintendent of Dehli District Church of the Nazarene

leaders, in turn, have the responsibil-

## Mission to The Middle East

Last September David visited the ruins of the ancient city on the Mediterranean Sea known as Byblos, (in Greek, *papyrus*) because it was a commercial center for the papyrus trade. Scribes here developed an alphabetic phonetic script that is the

precursor of our modern alphabet.

While in the Middle East (also called Near East or Eastern Mediterranean), David facilitated stewardship seminars for pastors and lay leaders in Amman, Beirut, Lebanon, and Jerusalem. David also presented a mini-concert at



David at the ruins of the ancient city of Byblos

# Highley Music to Release Commemorative CD

On Resurrection Day, Greg Morse, David Best, Michael Pitts, and Dana Walling met at Dana's home in

San Diego California for Easter dinner. The afternoon was spent singing together—something they had been doing for over 29 years as Mountain Glory, a pioneer group in contemporary Christian music.

The following day, Mountain Glory went into Greg Morse's recording studio in Orange, CA. It was the first time the entire group had recorded in over 25 years. It also would be the final time the four original members would sing together—at least this side of Jordan. Just five

weeks later, bass player and soul brother Dana Walling died after an 18 month battle with brain cancer.

Towel & Basin will release the fruit of those last sessions on a commemorative CD in early 2001. Part of the proceeds of this CD will go to the Dana Walling Memorial Scholarship fund established by his family at Point Loma Nazarene University.

Here is the Chorus of the song Dana requested Mountain Glory sing at his memorial service:

*I'm at home in Jesus; I'm at home in the Lord.*

*I'm at home can't you see in the one who set me free;*

*In Jesus the Lord, I'm at home.*



Mountain Glory in the living room at Dana's house.  
(L to R) Greg Morse, David Best, Michael Pitts, Dana Walling.

## Disaster Response Manual Developed

As a result of its work with the crisis in Kosovo and Albania, Towel & Basin was invited by Nazarene Compassionate Ministries International to expand on that service and develop a manual for Nazarenes responding to disasters in world areas. This comprehensive handbook should be completed early next year.

Work has been ongoing for months

and included interviewing disaster response professionals, researching current literature, developing diagnostic instruments and vetting of manual drafts by NCM regional coordinators in the world areas. The final product will include protocols for NCM leadership in disaster preparedness as

well as specific, practical tools for assessing disasters and designing responses by NCM field staff. After publication, the goal is that the manual will serve as a core text for a training program to build capacity for effective disaster response.

*"the manual will serve as a core text for a training program to build capacity for effective disaster response"*

## Circle of Love – The Johnnie Mae Polk Project

The story of Johnnie Mae Polk is one of a lifetime of hardship. Her daughter was a drug addict with AIDS, and her children, Johnnie Mae's grandbabies, were going hungry living in government housing as drug dealers knocked their mother around for food stamps. Johnnie Mae had moved in with them to help them survive. Fortunately things changed. A circle of friends reached out to Johnnie Mae in her hour of need. Spearheaded by volunteer Carol Lochridge, soon the entire Nashville (TN) community learned of

the cause. Cash and gifts-in-kind were raised. Coupled with generous donations of time by contractors, skilled labor and other volunteers, a house was renovated and restored. Johnnie Mae and her grandchildren moved out of the housing project and into a comfortable home! It was a new beginning for a family that needed a helping hand. Towel & Basin is pleased to serve Carol and friends so that their vision to help this family in need succeeds. If you would like to explore how you can come into this "Circle of Love" for the next

phase of the project, contact Steve Pennington at: 615 / 872-7150 .



Joseph Polk, 3, sits on the lap of his grandmother, Johnnie Mae Polk

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*"Serving so others may serve"*



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## **THANK YOU**

**to these organizations and foundations for their support and collaboration in service...**

Eurasia Region Church of the Nazarene  
Exodus World Service 312/REFUGEE [www.e-w-s.org](http://www.e-w-s.org)  
Glendora (CA) Church of the Nazarene  
Grandview (WA) Church of the Nazarene  
Helping Hands Foundation, Brentwood, TN  
*Holiness Today* to subscribe, call 800/877-0700  
Metro New York District Church of the Nazarene  
Nazarene Compassionate Ministries International  
877/NCM-4145 [ncm@nazarene.org](mailto:ncm@nazarene.org)  
P.F. Bresee Foundation 213/387-2822 [www.bresee.org](http://www.bresee.org)  
Ridgecrest (CA) Church of the Nazarene  
Stewardship Development Ministries 800/544-8413  
Unity Center for Positive Living  
Urban Leadership Institute, Claremont School of Theology

## **A Vital Purpose**

Towel & Basin seeks to challenge, educate, and equip individuals and humanitarian organizations for work with the poor and other at-risk people groups that empowers, offers them dignity and a path to self-determination. We do this through teaching, consulting, and technical assistance; providing grants, goods, and services in kind; publishing inspirational and educational resource materials.

# Year End Update from David Best



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