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Comunidades Vibrantes



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TECHNICAL SHEET

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Message from the Director

Givas José, Director of OM in Portugal from 2016 to 2024

The Great Commission

The Great Commission became known as the Master's call to His disciples in the gospel of Matthew. And it summarizes what Jesus expected the Apostles and His followers, to do in His absence.

It instructs us to make disciples as we travel the world or go about our daily activities. **How should we make disciples?** By baptizing them and teaching them all that Jesus commanded. "Make disciples" is the command of the Great Commission, and "baptizing" and "teaching" are the ways to carry it out.

Ruth A. Tucker, in her work "Missions to the Ends of the Earth" says:

The urgent sense of Jesus' Great Commission to his disciples was probably not well understood by many New Testament believers, nor was it the primary impetus for the rapid growth of the church during the early centuries. Persecution scattered believers throughout the Mediterranean world, and Christianity soon took root, at first among Gentiles who already had an interest.

Because of this, many consider Acts 1:8 to be part of the Great Commission, as it is empowered by the Holy Spirit. That is, we are to be witnesses for Christ by carrying out the Great Commission in our cities (Jerusalem), in our district and country (Judea and Samaria), and wherever God sends us (the ends of the earth).

From this we learn that the supreme task of the church is the evangelization of the **WORLD**. God loved the world. When Jesus Christ died, he died for the world. And God wants us to have this world vision.

So in the Great Commission, Jesus invites every Christian to step out in faith and share the Good News—put faith into action! Oswald Smith, in his book *Evangelize the World*, states:

For me, the divine call is that irresistible urgency, that compelling impulse, that intimate passion that does not let me rest. A longing in the heart is the incessant call. The person called by God has no rest. He is like a hunting dog chasing his prey, never ceasing the chase.

This can happen whether we share the Good News with a neighbor or move to another country to reach people there; by sharing Christ with children on our street or in a city two hours away. Regardless of location, all faithful Christians have an obligation to share the Gospel. This is what Jesus expects from His disciples. "It is necessary for us to evangelize, and to revive ourselves. Otherwise we will fossilize" (Smith).

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20, ARA)



What is TeenStreet?

We believe that teenagers are an essential part of the Church today. And that with their energy, dreams and desire to change the world, they can do great things and make more disciples of Jesus.

Because of this, TeenStreet, as OM's youth ministry, has a vision to see vibrant communities of Jesus-following teens among the least-reached. As TeenStreet, we want to walk alongside local churches to motivate and equip teens to have a real friendship with Jesus and make Him known in their daily lives. And we believe this can best be developed in small groups.

TeenStreet began in Germany in 1993. Since then, tens of thousands of teens have been part of this ministry around the world. TeenStreet is now present in over 40 countries.

TeenStreet has proven effective in: challenging teens and young adults to have an intimate relationship with Jesus; training and empowering youth leaders in practical ways – breaking down barriers between cultures, denominations and generations; and equipping teenagers and young adults to become more involved and invested in their local church and the people around them.

A movement of small groups

Within the TeenStreet vision, the small group is the most important aspect of discipleship. For in small groups, teens can encourage one another to grow more effectively in their faith and relationship with Jesus, talk deeply about the Bible, openly share how God is speaking to them, pray together, and help others in their communities begin or grow in their understanding of Jesus' great love for all.

Because of this, the small group leader is key to the development of teens. He or she should be a young person or adult who loves Jesus above all else and who wants to see teens love Jesus too.

Through TeenStreet, we want to make an impact on teens' lives, build real community relationships, and experience empowerment.

So that these teens are followers of Jesus who look for ways to contribute to their community or local context. And that they prayerfully share God's love with those who do not yet know Him.

Lastly, we believe that TeenStreet, by working alongside local churches in Portugal, can support churches to grow their teenagers to be bold followers of Jesus. Teenagers who serve the Lord with their gifts and talents in their local churches and who proclaim Jesus wherever He sends them, starting in their families, streets, friends and to the ends of the earth.

TeenStreet Opportunities

TeenStreet Europe Event



July 31st to August 7th Offenburg, Germany

Training for Small Group Leaders

Stay tuned on our social media or subscribe to our newsletter to find out about upcoming dates and locations.

Would you like there to be training for small group leaders in your local church? Contact us!

Follow us on our social networks:

- Instagram: @teenstreet_portugal
- Facebook: TeenStreet Portugal
- YouTube: @OMPORTUGAL - Playlists - TeenStreet



Interview with Matthias Voegelin

Matthias "Matzi" Voegelin has been leading the TeenStreet Europe team for 4 years. He is married to Julieta Voegelin and has four children.

In 2001, I went to a TeenStreet event for the first time. After the event, I went to Belgium and spent time with a group of other Christian teenagers to share the good news of Jesus, and we went out into the streets almost every day. I didn't know it, but it would change the way I saw God. He was capable of using a 15-year-old... and He used me!

TeenStreet Europe

4 years ago, I was invited to be part of the leadership of TeenStreet Europe. My family and I were praying for our next step. It is a huge responsibility and a great privilege to lead TS in Europe.

It took me a while to understand what God wanted to do with teenagers on this continent. But now I know that God has led us to ensure that all teenagers here have the opportunity to see their potential in the Kingdom of God.



Why ministry to teenagers?

There is no junior version of the Holy Spirit! And the Church has to accept that.

Today's teenagers are not ashamed, afraid or indifferent to talking about Jesus to others. They are incredible missionary multipliers when someone invests in them. They just need to have models in how to live their faith, that is, discipleship. And we believe that this can best be done in small groups.

Adolescence is the time when many lifelong ideas are formed, such as

the way God wants to use us in His Kingdom. Therefore, we want to invest so that many more can receive a spiritual challenge during these years that will put them on the path for the next 70/90 years.



The joys of ministry

Over the past 4 years, we have celebrated many victories... Miracles in teens experiences, inner healing processes, young people giving their lives to Jesus and much more has happened when these teenagers return to their communities after the events. We have seen families restored, schoolmates who begin to follow Jesus and many stories that we do not know!



I want to encourage you...

We believe that an awakening is coming in Europe, a different awakening, an awakening that will not be silent. An awakening that will multiply, and these young people will contribute to this revival. In Portugal we are already seeing it! And I'm fascinated to see a team working hard to achieve more.

If you're thinking about this, get involved! If you are a teenager or have been, God wants to use you, go ahead! See you in the midst of awakening.



The Impact of TeenStreet

Over the years, the TeenStreet Europe event has impacted many lives. From adolescence to adults, God has used this ministry so that more Portuguese people know Jesus and so that those who already know Him can serve Him. Here are some testimonies of this...



For me, it's great to have the small group experience, where I can make friends and also meet mentors who advise me and pray for me. - Bianca Costa (Teen, 2022-2024)



It's fantastic to sow seeds in the lives of teenagers and see God working in them throughout the week. And He also works in our hearts and makes us review the way we live our daily Christianity. - Rúben Rodrigues (Coach, 2018 and 2022; M&M, 2023; Home Rep, 2024).



Serving as a coach has taught me to lead with humility and love, helping the younger generations grow spiritually. Each year, TS has made me reflect on my walk with God and better understand His calling for me. It has also encouraged and challenged me to live a more authentic faith that impacts my life and the lives of the teenagers and young people around me. - Rúben Figueiredo (Coach, 2019, 2022-2023; M&M, 2024).



At TeenStreet I have made friends (Portuguese and from other countries) that I know will last a lifetime. At the event I have had contact with hundreds of Christians my age, from various parts of the world, who are going through the same things as me. It is an indescribable and extremely comforting feeling to worship the same God in an auditorium with almost 4 thousand young people. Each year, TeenStreet takes my relationship with God to a new level and I couldn't be more grateful to everyone who makes this possible. - Mariana Almeida (Teen, 2022-2023; Service Team, 2024).



At the event, I learned how to study God's Word more and how to talk to some people [in Portugal] who don't know Him about His Word. - Guilherme Silva (Teen, 2020-2024).



In addition to the investment in teenagers, it is profoundly rich on a personal level as well. I have grown and seen God work in a wonderful way. - Paula Rodrigues (Service Team, 2018-2024).



Teens and Missions Around the World

In March, OM welcomed 90 volunteers and 140 teenagers from across the North Caucasus area to their first TeenStreet event.

“Local believers were very interested in this project, and we saw the need for ministry to teenagers there. TeenStreet is an outstanding event, which contributes to development of teenagers’ ministry,” said Michael* (Russia), the leader of TeenStreet in Russia.

The conference was based on the book of Philemon and included seminars, workshops and time to have fun. Teenagers could learn something new, spend leisure time as they like and make new friends.

“We talked about the importance of man, the importance of God in a person’s life, the importance of faith, the importance of a second chance. These were the topics and they are very relevant to teenagers and respond to their needs,”

Michael explained.

The most important decision

Several teenagers had been considering following Jesus Christ before attending TeenStreet, but this event was the final factor in their making the most important decision of their lives.

“I have been thinking about repentance for a long time, but something always stopped me,” said participant Natasha*. “At TeenStreet I realised that I want to draw closer to God and connect my life with Him. It was at TeenStreet that I experienced the love of God, I realised how He was guiding me and supporting me in difficult moments.”

During the event, 19 teenagers decided to become followers of Jesus Christ. “One teenager from our church decided to follow Jesus at this event,” said Andrey*, the pastor of a local church. **“I know there were a lot of repentances,**

and this indicator is the most important. After TeenStreet, our church revived.”

A highlight for many participants was the ‘Museum’. Teenager Anna* said, “There was one wonderful place at the conference that was called ‘Museum’. There we could see an illustration of how a person looks for his significance in the wrong places – in family, school, social networks, work, church, in society. But a person finds his significance only in God.

“This moved me to tears, all that day and the next I have been thinking a lot about what touched me so much. One day there was worship night. **I knew about God’s work, the sacrifice on the cross, but I realised all its seriousness and importance to me only at that moment.**

“We were also given ‘Letter from God’, which included passages from the Bible. It all took shape in a text that said we are important to God and He loves us. This was a motivating moment to dedicate my life to God. Repentance was like a relief for me, but at the same time, there was an understanding that I was now decisively following Jesus Christ.”

The TeenStreet event in the North Caucasus inspired many teenagers to become engaged in ministry.

“TeenStreet is a tool to mobilise teenagers, to involve them in ministry, mission and church,” Michael said.

Churches in the North Caucasus were encouraged and intend to develop teenager’s ministry in the future. “Now we desire to expand the TeenStreet movement in the North Caucasus. We plan to organise not only conferences, but also training for coaches,” Michael added.

Pray for those involved in TeenStreet around the world. Thank God for the impact it is having on the lives of young people. Pray that the seeds planted during TeenStreet events will grow and that the young people will feel confident and inspired to share their faith with their friends.

*names changed

Text written by: Pamela Kingsley Read the full article on the website: om.org



Evangelism in the North of the Country

In April this year we had the privilege of hosting a team from France in the north of Portugal. Despite only being 12 people, the team was made up of people of different ages and different nationalities, but united by a common purpose – to see the name of Jesus proclaimed and Portuguese people turn to Him.

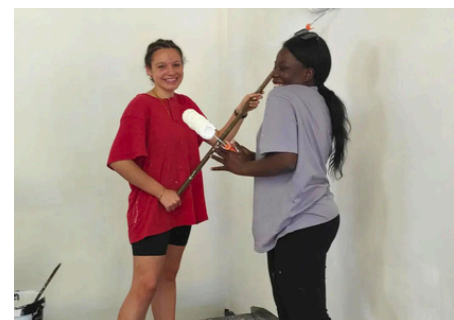
Stephanie Dixon, team coordinator, together with her husband, Paul Dixon (director of OM in France), shared: “I was struck by how hard people’s hearts were to hear about something “new” [of the Jesus that the Bible talks about] and the challenges for these small churches. It was very moving to see how our visit was an encouragement to Christians in this area. We were grateful for all the opportunities God gave us – for example, going to schools, where we taught morality and religion classes, and also French classes – so that we could show His light in these places.

We were able to bless a church through practical work, we went on two prayer walks where we prayed for the cities, the churches and the needs of this country. We also had the opportunity to talk and pray with some people on the streets. We are now trusting God to continue working and make the small seeds that were planted grow.”

Some of the team members were teenagers, who decided to dedicate their week of school holidays to presenting the love of Jesus to the Portuguese.



For some of them this was their first short-term mission outside their country. This was the case for Chloe, aged 17, who shared: “The trip to Portugal was the first missionary trip I decided to do alone (the previous ones were with my parents). But what impacted me most was seeing the Christians in that region giving their all! I felt the power of the Holy Spirit in these small local churches, some made up of just three people, but the Lord was there more than ever. **God also showed me that I had a calling to serve Him.**”



News. But, the biggest impact, in my opinion, was that they took to the streets, in the village of Lanheles, to share the message of hope in Christ. This village, that is more than 380 years old, was the first time it saw a group of followers of Jesus sharing their faith. I am convinced that this will have positive results in the future.”



Carlos Martínez, the OM Portugal member serving in Minho, said: “Welcoming the French team was a blessing in many ways. It was a great source of joy to have a team interacting with families from local churches in our region, which was also an encouragement. In addition, the work in the schools was great, as they helped the different classes hear the Good



Come & Serve...

in Romania



Christmas Campaign of Dobrogea

JOIN US and local churches to: sing Christmas songs in the streets, distribute food baskets and gifts, make home visits and participate in church activities.

GO

in Europe



Trip to Europe 2025

PARTICIPATE! Over the course of 8 weeks, we travel to several European countries, serve local communities, share the good news of Jesus and connect with people from different cultures.

in Poland



Serving war refugees

COME and CARE for mothers and children fleeing Ukraine. We want to live the love of Christ, offer comfort, bring joy and hope to those who need it most.

GET INVOLVED IN MISSIONS



Logos Hope & Doulos Hope

COME ON BOARD!
Live, work, and serve in an international community and participate in an amazing cross-cultural ministry experience that will change the way you see the world and your part in God's plan.

COME ON BOARD

EQUIPPED

REACH in Moldova and South Africa

GET EQUIPPED in one of our missions and discipleship trainings. At REACH you will experience how God can use you to do extraordinary things, as you grow in faith and learn how to reach the nations.



VOLUNTEERING WITH OM PORTUGAL

SUPPORT one of our missionaries in Portugal! Whether it's one or two weeks, or even an hour a week, if you have a passion for Jesus and would like more Portuguese people to know His good news, then come and serve with us. From supporting in the area of social media or evangelism in less reached areas, we need you! Contact us to find out more » info.pt@om.org

OM Ministries in Portugal

*We want to see vibrant communities
of Jesus followers among the least
reached.*

Evangelism



Church Planting and Revitalization



TeenStreet



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