



Serge

| 12-Month Ministry Report 2014/15

RENEW.REACH.RESTORE.

DEAR FRIENDS

Serge is in a season of **GROWTH AND CHANGE.**



Our approach to ministry has not changed. Our values remain the same. And our staff are heartily committed to the transforming

good news of Jesus—both for their own lives and for those they serve.

The growth and change comes as our Lord opens doors for service. More missionaries are joining Serge than ever before in our history. We've started new teams and are going to new places. Alongside of the mission work, we've published more small group studies and books than ever before.

In this season of ministry, I'm in touch with many people who've come into contact with the mission for the first time. They ask me questions like: "So what is Serge?" "What does your staff do?" and "What does your name mean?" Here's what I tell them:

Serge is a mission-sending organization. Core to our mission is the belief that we need the gospel of Jesus Christ as much as anyone else. As we seek to make the gospel known to others, we want this same grace to continually renew our lives.

Our name comes from a sewing stitch called a "serge." A serge stitch brings two rough pieces of fabric together to make a smooth seam. We chose the name because we see God weaving together the ragged parts of our lives with His goodness, making the tattered beautiful. Our motto is "grace at the fray." We cling to that idea a lot!

*Everything Serge does can be summed up in three words: renew, reach, and restore. "**Renew**" involves discipleship, especially helping believers become more firmly rooted in the good news of the gospel. "**Reach**" is our work of church planting and evangelism around the world. "**Restore**" is the way we describe Christ-centered works of justice and mercy.*

I recently hit the ten-year mark as Serge's Executive Director! My passion to see God's Kingdom expand through the work of Serge is only rivaled by my deep love and admiration for our staff and the sacrifices they make every day to see the Kingdom advance, one person at a time. My gratitude goes to the Lord—and to you, fellow journeyers in the gospel of grace.

May this report (June 2014 to May 2015) encourage you as you see how our Lord is at work all over the world and how he is using your giving to bring **HIS GRACE TO THE FRAY.**

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob".

Bob Osborne
Executive Director

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AT-A-GLANCE MINISTRY REPORT

4

**NEW FIELDS:
JAPAN,
GUATEMALA,
NICARAGUA,
AND PHILIPPINES**

are now being served
by Serge.



**310
CHRISTIAN
LEADERS
MENTORED**

5TH 
**THRIFT/CHARITY
SHOP OPENED
IN LONDON BY
SERGE STAFF**

The shops serve as a place to build relationships, create jobs, and generate income for international mission work. They also provide a place for Bible study for believers and seekers alike.



41

**NEW OVERSEAS
MISSIONARY WORKERS**

were approved for service,
bringing the total overseas
staff to **238** on May 31, 2015.

The Gospel-Centered Life in Spanish
reached Christian leaders in

15

**DIFFERENT
SPANISH-
SPEAKING
COUNTRIES**

2

**SERGE
TEAM LEADER
TRAININGS:**

one for Europe/Asia team leaders
held in Ireland and one for Africa
team leaders held in Kenya.



**1ST EVER
SURGICAL
OPHTHALMOLOGY
SAFARI TRIP TO
EASTERN CONGO**

The group included a team of **6** Burundian eye staff and **2** Serge medical missionaries. By the end of the week, they were able to complete **50 SURGICAL CASES.**

**1ST SERGE
MISSIONARY
APPRENTICE
FOR UGANDA**

joined the Bundibugyo team and another apprentice joined work in a secure access country.

REACHED



**ON THE AMAZON BEST
SELLERS LIST FOR
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Show Them Jesus: Teaching the Gospel to Kids by Jack Klumpenhower helps teachers to identify and communicate the heart of the gospel to each child in each lesson.

**1ST EVER
BRITISH-LED SONSHIP
WEEK CONFERENCE**

(see page 3 for full story)

RENEW

Core to Serge is the belief that, as God's transforming love changes us from the inside out, we are compelled to come alongside others, helping them grow in grace. This happens in the United States through Serge's Resources and Mentoring work and internationally through one-on-one discipleship and larger teaching opportunities.

This past April Serge partnered with several ministry leaders in the U.K. to hold the first-ever British-led UK Sonship Conference. This was a poignant moment of celebration as it reflects ministry multiplication and contextualization. One of the conference organizers testifies to the life-giving work of God's spirit in the following reflection.

THE FIRST-EVER, BRITISH-LED SONSHIP CONFERENCE

BY ESTHER BENNETT

Some were known to no one, and had come as a result of seeing an advertisement, reading a testimony, or hearing a talk. But what had become very clear to the Sonship Week organizing team was that those attending were hand picked.



We believe the Spirit picked them. For many the decision to come involved struggle. Exposing one's life to the implications of the gospel had been a fraught and risky passage.

RENEW *continued next page*

THE DATES: April 19-24, 2015

THE PLACE: King's Park Conference Centre in Northampton, an hour-and-a-half drive north of London

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The first British-led Sonship Conference!



continued from page 3

WHY SUCH A RISK?

Because this conference ran sharply counter to the safe British Christian conference experience. Five risky residential days. Too long for holding one's breath and surviving. Too long to remain holed-up in safe isolation.

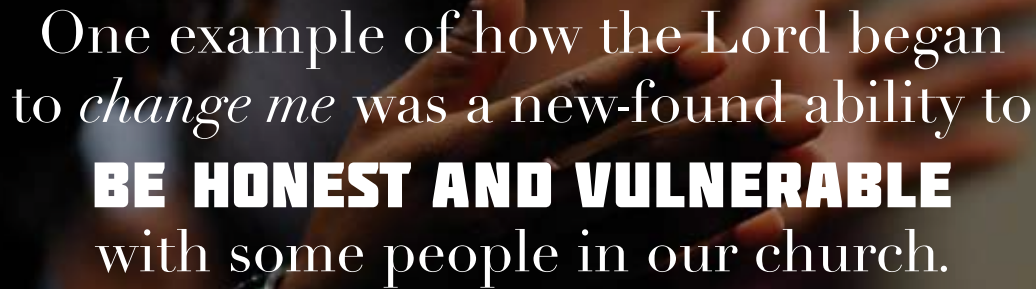
Add to that one-hour, daily meeting in small groups and, to cap it, a one-hour, one-to-one mentoring session every day, this latter unheard of in a British Christian conference before! This was not for the faint-hearted. Yet, strangely, many faint-hearted were there.

There in the middle of this anxiety, British reserve, and cagey-ness, we saw evidence that the Spirit was at work. Cassells and Hazel Morrell, from Greystones, Ireland, served as the primary speakers. They offered deeply appealing honesty and reality as they charted the story of how their dysfunctional lives and marriage—that for years had been covered with a veneer of respectability—encountered God's love for them as their Father. They shared how they gradually became freer to acknowledge to God, and to each other, the mess

It is hard to keep
**YOUR HEART
HIDDEN**
when others
are willing to
expose theirs.

their hearts were really in. They shared how they were finally willing to be broken at the sight of their neediness and sin—and discover with joy a Savior whose love and rescue was greater still. Cassells and Hazel were at pains to point out that this was not the work of a moment but ongoing, gradual, over a number of years, and still a constant work in progress.

Though all delivered in their reassuring gentle Irish lilt, the Morrells' openness was hugely challenging. It is hard to keep your heart hidden when others are willing to expose theirs. This was tough. Our hearts shun pain. But through conversations with others, and as participants began to discover the "mentors" were believers who needed the gospel just as much as they do, new sights of the gospel began to appear.



One example of how the Lord began
to *change me* was a new-found ability to
BE HONEST AND VULNERABLE
with some people in our church.

There was a palpable sense that every one of us—conference speakers, mentors, and participants alike—were listening throughout this week for God's enlightening voice in our hearts.

In addition to the main speakers, John Benton gave a profound analysis of the nature of idolatry in our hearts, Chris Bennett spoke on the righteousness of Christ, Marcus Honeysett spoke on sanctification by faith, and Bob Heppe closed the conference with a talk on how our getting hold of grace propels us to seek the expansion of God's Kingdom.

It was an immense privilege to see the Spirit at work touching people's lives in so many different ways. No one voice can sum it up for all. But the words of one pastor and his wife after the conference capture the work God was about:

I am writing...to express my profound gratitude for...the Sonship Week. We are still taking in everything we learned. God used our time with you all to work some profound changes in our lives, which have already begun to spread out to people in our church... This has already led to honest conversations and opportunities to share about the implications of grace and the truths of adoption. Interestingly, since we have begun to be more open, others have opened up in new ways too!...it was a week that was to me like "life from the dead."

WHAT IS SONSHIP, ANYWAY?

For those who have been connected with Serge for several years the *Sonship* curriculum is quite familiar. For others, an introduction is in order.

Simply put, *Sonship* is a curriculum designed to help you take some of the glorious theological truths of the gospel—truths you may know in your head—and apply them to the nitty-gritty reality of daily life. Individuals and couples often work through the *Sonship* curriculum over several months with a Serge Mentor (serge.org/mentoring) or engage the material at a *Sonship* conference.

May this, in God's mercy, be the first of many testimonies like this as British Christians start to enjoy the gospel more!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Esther Bennett lives in London with her husband Chris who is a minister of a church in north London. Read more about Esther's journey online in her article titled: *How a British Woman Came out of Hiding and Found God the Father*. serge.org/outofhiding

REACH

The gospel of Jesus propels us to love others. Today more than 250 Serge missionaries live around the world and witness to the work of Jesus in word and deed. God has opened doors for Serge staff to serve in global cities, hard-to-reach locations in the developing world, Muslim-majority areas, and urban slums. Jeff Hosan, who serves with a Serge team in Bundibugyo, Uganda, works to increase access to safe drinking water as he builds Christ-centered relationships. He recently reflected on how a culture infused with an animistic worldview contends with the power of evil and the power of a sovereign God.

WHO HAS THE POWER?

CONVERSATIONS IN A CULTURE
INTERWOVEN WITH ANIMISM
BY JEFF HOSAN

“If the people who put their faith in Jesus go to heaven to be with God forever, what happens to those who don’t put their faith in Jesus?”

I asked Louis.

“They become evil spirits when they die and remain around their home, cursing former enemies and causing evil,”

he replied.



He didn't give the answer I expected, but his response helped reveal some striking aspects of a common worldview in the rural Ugandan community where I serve.

Glimpse into Life in Bundibugyo, Uganda

Bundibugyo is located near Uganda's border with the D.R. Congo. It's one of the first locations where Serge missionaries began serving. A central part of the ministry in this community, whose name means "the end of the road," has been the establishment of Christ School. Meet students of Christ School through a new Serge video: <https://goo.gl/Hxcl4i>.

I've been reading this book, *Quest for Power* by Robert Blaschke. It has reminded me of this conversation I had with Louis a few months ago. The book describes the author's experience in communicating the gospel to people in animistic societies, where the spiritual world is recognized as real but powerful and unpredictable, often causing trouble for those who don't do the right things to satisfy the right spirit.

The author explains that often, in this context, the concept of "salvation from your sin" doesn't mean much; but deliverance from the power of evil—that is something that people understand.

The reality of brokenness resulting from evil is clearly visible in my community: sickness, a bad season for crops, poverty, and war. Yet the question remains: who has the power to deliver you from these things? Do evil spirits need to be appeased, or is there a God in control of it all?

This culture has its roots in animism, and despite the visible presence of the Church, the animistic worldview often remains. Sometimes it lies just under the surface but pops up in conversations like the one I had with Louis. Sometimes it's a lot more visible, or even audible—such as a few nights ago, when the house up the road blasted music all night to keep evil spirits away while they finished burying a woman who passed away last week.

I continue to pray that God will reveal His truth to people here and replace the animistic worldview with a biblical worldview. The truth is, there is no sacrifice or ritual that needs to be made to appease any spirit, because the one sacrifice to bring peace and redemption to mankind has already been completed on the cross by Jesus.

Over the last couple months, Louis and I have been able to start meeting once a week to study the Bible. Please continue to pray for these times together, calling on God's promise that His word will not return void.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeff Hosan is a Serge Apprentice. He is a graduate of Northwestern University with an engineering degree and works to improve access to clean water and demonstrate the love of Christ in Bundibugyo, Uganda.

RESTORE

One of Serge's newest areas for ministry development is Business for Transformation. The goals are four-fold: build legitimate businesses to provide goods and services; create local employment; establish relationships (often in areas that are closed to traditional Christian ministries); share the love of Christ through the demonstration of good business practices and the proclamation of the gospel.

One of these businesses is a "freedom bakery" that opened this past year in Asia. The location cannot be identified to protect the staff and community. Driven by Christ's love, in the midst of brokenness and despair, Serge staff are befriending women trapped in prostitution—offering them rescue and alternative employment through the new bakery.

THE FREEDOM BAKERY

BY ANDREW "SMITH"

The monsoon rains ebb and flow. Some days the sky pours like an open faucet and the drains clog with old newspapers. The streets fill and flow like rivers. Buses and rickshaws plow through the water like steamships and make waves that lap over the fractured brick sidewalk where, here and there, the street dwellers have pulled the tarps tight and fixed them with brick in a futile attempt to stay dry.

Today there is no rain, but the humidity folds into a muggy and sticky wall that reaches all the way up to the grey building tops.

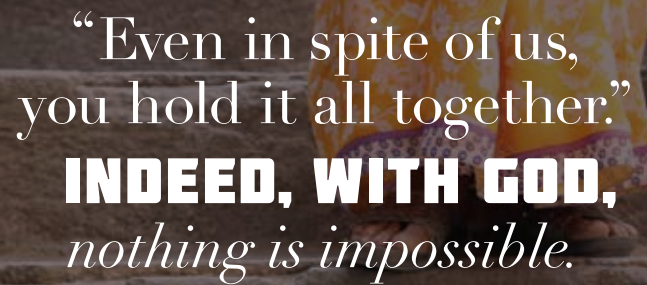
Sweaty from my daily commute from the metro, I step through the glass doors of the Freedom Bakery* and am immediately hit with the coolness of the air conditioning. A wood-framed chalkboard menu over a brick wall lists the selection of coffees and teas. The walls are covered with art made by local artists and posters featuring upcoming events. The coffee grinder whirrs and the milk steamer whooshes behind the bar—where baristas craft intricate latte art using coffee grown and roasted in their country. Local college students laugh over board games, families ooh and aah over cinnamon rolls, and expats savor the quiet and familiarity with a coffee and a good book.

Further back, through a swinging wooden door, seven bakers are hard at work. A year ago, these seven women put on bright lipstick and worked the lines, selling their bodies to men several times a day in one of the most notorious red light districts in Asia. Now, they put on aprons and expertly form cinnamon rolls, bake chocolate chip cookies, and squeeze icing onto cupcakes for a competitive salary higher than the industry average. They have jobs of which they can be proud. They have dignity. More than that, they have a community that loves them and that they love in return.

In its six short months of existence, the Freedom Bakery has grown from a dream into a fully functioning café and a landmark in this city. Articles are written about us in the papers praising the cinnamon rolls and the warmth of the hospitality.

Somehow, despite the hardships and the barriers of language and culture; despite our shortage of capital and grace; despite our short tempers and pride; despite...ourselves; God has done an incredible work that is only just beginning to unfold.

Seven women have been given freedom from slavery and brought into a work and a community where they can hear about the love of Christ.



“Even in spite of us,
you hold it all together.”
INDEED, WITH GOD,
nothing is impossible.

More than that, beyond our expectations and intentions, the Freedom Bakery has become a hub for the community to gather over good coffee and stimulating conversations, a refuge for local charity workers and expats, and a place where the love of Jesus can be expressed.

Only ten months ago seven women stepped for the first time into a little apartment living room for our first day of pre-bakery training. We left our shoes and our fears at the door and stepped into each other's lives. We learned together, laughed together, struggled together, prayed together, and grew together. We became friends. We built something extraordinary.

Yesterday I peeked into the kitchen as I walked by. In a quiet moment, the women had gathered in a circle with Akash,* one of our baristas who is a Christian. Without any prompting or formal organization from us, they were circled up to pray to Jesus.

In the past week, our little team has doubled in size to include a consultant and two interns. Like the women in the kitchen, we circled up to pray. Tim* spoke to God about how far stretched we were, how we were operating outside of our giftings, of being tired, how amazing it was how far the cafe had come: “You hold it all together,” he prayed. “Even in spite of us, you hold it all together.” Indeed, with God, nothing is impossible.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrew “Smith” is a Serge staff writer working in a secure field. His name has been changed for his protection and for the sake of his ongoing work with Serge.

*Names changed and exact location not identified.

NEW RESOURCE RELEASES

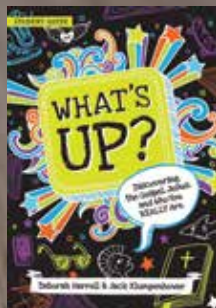
Small-Group Studies and a Year of Daily Readings

Over the past four years, Serge has released more books and small group studies than in all prior years of ministry combined! New resources have been published for adults, teens, and pre-teens. From June 2014 to May 2015, these new titles made their debut.

Get an overview of
all Serge Resources at
SERGE.ORG/RESOURCES

WHAT'S UP? DISCOVERING JESUS, THE GOSPEL, AND WHO YOU REALLY ARE

by Debbie Harrell and Jack Klumpenhower



The gospel is good news, even in middle school! *What's Up* is a flexible middle school curriculum using illustrations, stories, and interactive activities to help kids understand why the gospel really is good news. This workbook answers the real questions of identity and purpose that begin to unfold in middle school hearts and minds.

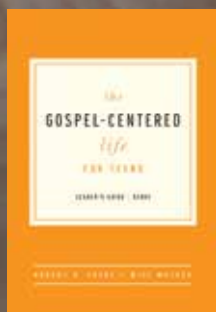
SAVING GRACE: DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM JACK MILLER



The gospel changes how we live each day. That's the premise of *Saving Grace* and the legacy of Jack Miller's ministry. Founder of Serge, Miller believed that Christians need to hear the gospel by faith every day, and he preached what he believed. With topics like forgiveness, relationships, temptation, prayer, joy, and perseverance—this daily devotional will help readers to catch Miller's hope-filled vision for living in light of the gospel.

THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE FOR TEENS

by Robert H. Thune and Will Walker

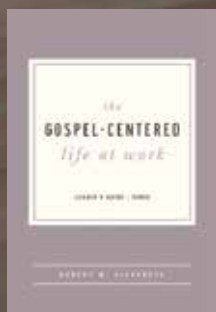


Techie? Jock? Class Clown? Smart kid? Teenagers easily feel defined by labels. But they can also discover that Jesus offers them identity that goes far

deeper than labels. *The Gospel-Centered Life for Teens* study offers teens the chance to center life on the only thing in the universe that actually has the power to define, give life meaning, and shape how we live each day.

THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE AT WORK

by Robert Alexander



If you asked a dozen Christians why their work matters, you'd probably get a dozen different answers. Whether paid or unpaid, skilled or menial—each of

us longs to find meaning in what we do from day to day. *The Gospel-Centered Life at Work* study invites CEOs and homeschooling parents, doctors and plumbers, white, blue and pink collar-workers to sit down and discuss work as a common call to follow Jesus in all of life.

THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE (SPANISH EDITION)

by Robert H. Thune and Will Walker



Lots of Christians talk about the gospel, but how many really understand the gospel and how to apply it to life? This nine-lesson small group study helps

participants understand how the gospel shapes every aspect of life. Serge was pleased to work with *The Gospel Coalition* to release a Spanish-language translation of this popular study.

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2014/2015

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FISCAL YEAR 2015 FINANCES

June 1, 2014, to May 31, 2015

LITERATURE, TAPES, AND BOOKS;
DISCIPLING AND TUITION
INVESTMENT; RETURN
OTHER INCOME

2%



REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

| | | |
|------------------------------|----|------------|
| Contributions | \$ | 12,621,201 |
| Discipling and tuition | | 52,099 |
| Literature, tapes, and books | | 52,822 |
| Investment return | | 83,450 |
| Other income | | 72,637 |

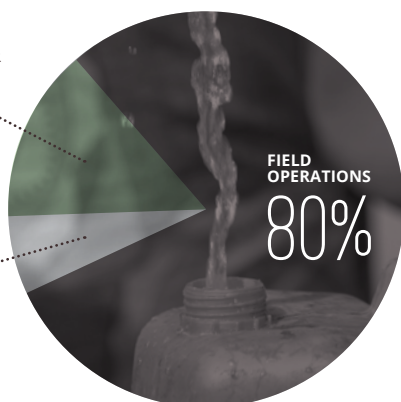
Total Income **\$ 12,882,209**

SERVING CENTER

14%

FUND RAISING

6%



EXPENSES

| | | |
|------------------|----|-----------|
| Field operations | \$ | 9,918,285 |
| Serving center | | 1,777,365 |
| Fund raising | | 772,453 |

Total Expenses **\$ 12,468,103**

ASSETS

| | | |
|---|----|-----------|
| Unrestricted | \$ | 334,258 |
| Board-designated missionary and project funds | | 5,478,235 |
| Subtotal | | 5,812,493 |
| Temporarily restricted | | 86,429 |

Total Net Assets **\$ 5,898,922**

*...They will glorify God
because of your submission
that comes from your
confession of the gospel
of Christ, and the generosity
of your contribution for
them and for all others...*

2 CORINTHIANS 9:13 ESV



Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

Serge is a member of ECFA, following its strict accounting standards.

Enhancing Trust

RESPOND

To support Serge's work globally or learn more about a specific program, call 877-255-9907. You can also donate online at **SERGE.ORG/GIVE.**

Give Stocks, Bonds, or Mutual Funds

To transfer securities to Serge, call 877-255-9907 or email Dwight Coffey (dcoffey@serge.org).

Create a Legacy

Serge is delighted to offer complimentary estate and gift planning services to prayer and financial supporters. To find out more, call 877-255-9907 or email Caitlin Johnson (cjohnson@serge.org).

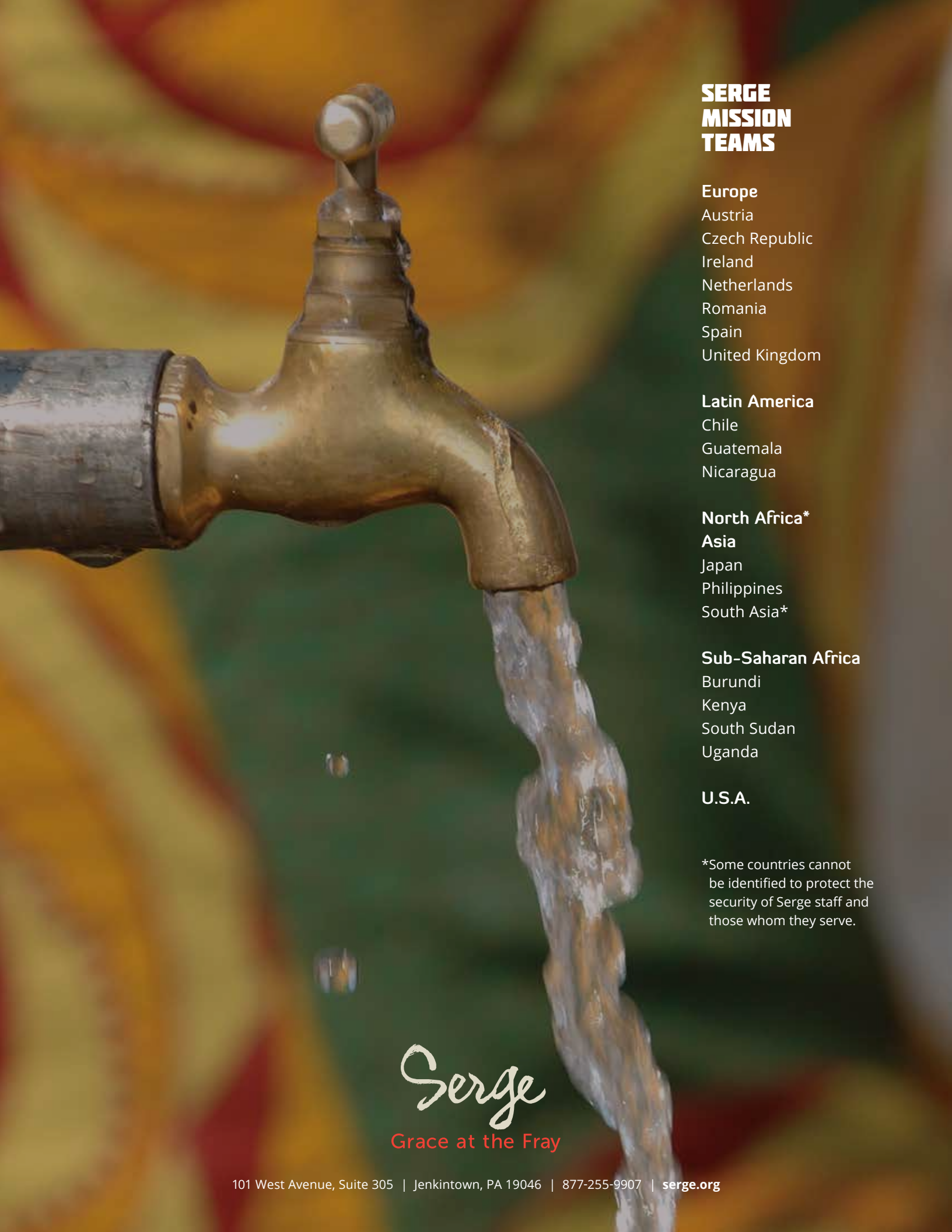
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To stay connected with Serge's resources, mentoring, and mission, follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Sign up for our e-newsletter by emailing communication@serge.org.

 facebook.com/sergeglobal

 [@GraceAtTheFray](https://twitter.com/GraceAtTheFray)

 [GraceAtTheFray](https://www.instagram.com/GraceAtTheFray)



SERGE MISSION TEAMS

Europe

Austria
Czech Republic
Ireland
Netherlands
Romania
Spain
United Kingdom

Latin America

Chile
Guatemala
Nicaragua

North Africa*

Asia

Japan
Philippines
South Asia*

Sub-Saharan Africa

Burundi
Kenya
South Sudan
Uganda

U.S.A.

*Some countries cannot be identified to protect the security of Serge staff and those whom they serve.

Serge

Grace at the Fray