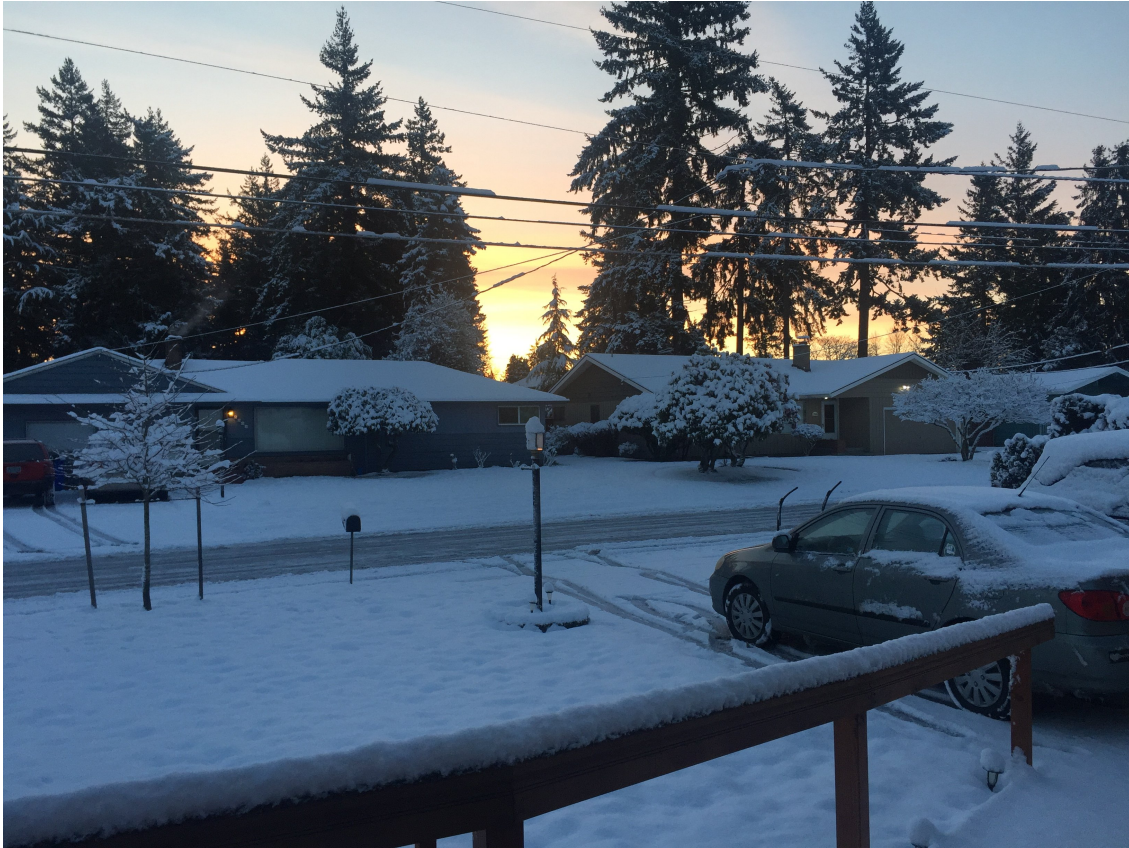


[View this email in your browser](#)



Outside our house a few days ago

We're bringing people together in Rockwood to ensure that no one is invisible and that everyone has access to food, freedom, and forgiveness.

This is part of the PREVENTION side of our anti-trafficking efforts, dovetailing nicely with our Integrated Community Transformation mission. We envision Rockwood becoming a community where children are less vulnerable to being trafficked and adults do not want to traffick kids.

*******BE SURE TO SEE THE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE END OF THIS UPDATE ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION'S NAME CHANGE*******

In January, I received a text message from Kela, the wife of our Albanian brother Gregor, (who came to the Lord in Athens back in 1991, and is now on his 3rd church planting venture in his 3rd country), telling me that she knew it was short notice, a long distance, and lots of money BUT how encouraging it would be if I could be in Macedonia for Gregor's 50th birthday and help pray together about this new mission launch in their city. I texted back and said, "Yes, it would be nice BUT...it is not going to happen unless God miraculously provides." Through the timely and GENEROUS investment of 3 couples, God DID provide! On Feb. 3rd, I showed up at Gregor's door for a surprise visit!

I am honestly not sure who was encouraged more—me or him? Gregor and his family have been in Tetovo, Macedonia for two years. This city of 90,000 is 80% Muslim and 20% Orthodox Christian, with no known evangelical church.

They are currently renovating a storefront space to be used as a “community center”. It will be an opportunity to serve the neighborhood, and as nothing like it currently exists anywhere in Tetovo they expect it to attract a number of people, both younger and older.

Recently joined on their team by another couple (El Salvadoran and Albanian), they will run this center with the intention of meeting practical and spiritual needs, building relationships, sharing the Gospel, making disciples, and building the Church.

We spent three days praying, worshiping, fellowshiping, eating, and having robust theological discussions together. It was short but sweet (for both of us). Because it was his 50th birthday I was able to bring him a new study Bible with his name printed on the cover, and a t-shirt about turning 50, and also met other missionaries in the city who came to celebrate with him. With the money that came in for this trip, I was able to both purchase a plane ticket AND give a generous donation to Gregor’s family/ministry.



It was a joy to be able to take to dinner Gregor's family, as Kela worked so hard to provide generous hospitality to me and party guests.



Looks like a contest to see who could look more serious. I think I won!



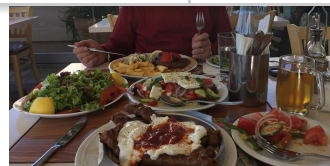
I am so glad that Kyle was able to join me in most of what I did the 3 days I was there!



After participating in a ping-pong tournament with (mostly Muslim) refugees, I was interviewed and able to share the Gospel



What a joy to see our dear Iranian sister and her beautiful family, continuing to walk with the Lord and starting a new medical ministry for Persians!



My dear friend Nikos Stefanidis helped me fulfill one of my most important goals while in Athens: eat as much Greek food as possible!!!

On the way back, I was able to stop in Athens, Greece for 3 days and spend time with our son Kyle (who is there studying for his masters in theology), visit co-workers with ITeams, see some disciples and a dear refugee friend who still needs to know Jesus, and interact with other friends of various nationalities still living there.

Not having been back since we left almost 5 years ago, I was able to visit our former ministry center (Helping Hands) and see the great improvements that have been made to the building, visit the new facility recently donated to them, play in a ping-pong tournament with refugee men (and share a bit of the Gospel with them afterward), have lunch with Helping Hands director (and friend) Nikos Stefanidis, attend a gathering hosted for me of about 35 people at Themis and Donna Sirinides' home (close friends and in-laws of ours), see Kyle teach an English class to refugee adults and watch him interact with refugee kids at a drop-in center where he serves, have lunch with our former landlord's family, visit with neighbors, and EAT GREEK FOOD! The time passed quickly but was very encouraging to me and I hope to others as well.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OUR CEO ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION'S **NAME CHANGE!**



Today is a big day for us! We are excited to announce that our name is now **One Collective**. This is a name that reflects our mission: we bring people together to help the oppressed.

Ten years ago, we began a journey that led us to study the life and teachings of Jesus in a very intentional way. That journey put us back on the ancient path with Jesus, doing what we now call Integrated Community Transformation. Over time, that rediscovery has led us to believe that we need a name that more closely matches our intentions as followers of Jesus.

As you know, we are passionate about making sure that no one is invisible and everyone has access to food, freedom, and forgiveness. We feel that the name One Collective “fits” us as an organization, and we’re thrilled to begin our next phase of ministry under that title.

We’re rolling out the name change gradually, and our plan is to fully transition by the end of 2018. As of today, we’ve launched our new website, onecollective.org, and our social media handles have been updated to @beonecollective. You can expect to see more changes and updates in the months ahead as we continue our transition.

From all of us at One Collective, thank you. It is because of your support and generosity that we can continue the work that Jesus started in communities all around the world.

Your friend,

Scott Olson

President & CEO - One Collective

PRAISE AND PRAYER

* Thanks to generous end-of-year gifts, our account was taken out of the "red", and we were able to be finally reimbursed for thousands of dollars worth of ministry expenses from previous months!

* We are preparing for Rockwood United Worship 3, a collaborative worship experience for the churches in Rockwood on April 22nd.

* One of my mentoring relationships (sadly) was terminated. I am praying for a new match with a refugee/immigrant kid in Rockwood.

* Vicki's father is having several health concerns that have required a recent hospitalization and an upcoming outpatient surgery.



Copyright © 2017 Scott and Vicki McCracken, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this because somehow you connected with our life and/or ministry . Please let us know if you prefer to not receive these updates, or feel free to click "unsubscribe" at the bottom of this page.

** Family/Ministry Website (www.imccracken.net/)

** Team Ministry (<https://onecollective.org/community/rockwood-usa>)

Tax-deductible donations may be made to "One Collective" (with an enclosed note expressing your intended designation--i.e., "for Scott and Vicki McCracken's account"), and sent to:

One Collective
411 W. River Rd.
Elgin, IL 60123-1570 USA

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Scott and Vicki McCracken · 2225 SE 157th Ave. · Portland, Oregon 97233 · USA

