



Issue One

3-in-1 The Voice presents

Women In Ministry

Janine
Stellatos



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Ministry: Metro World Child
Position: Director Kenya
Location: Nakuru, Kenya

The Ministry

Metro World Child is a global faith-based, humanitarian organization dedicated to serving inner-city children throughout New York City and various urban centers around the world. Metro serves nearly 100,000 children each week with after school programs, Sunday School services, child sponsorship, special programs and personal home visits.

Founded by Pastor Bill Wilson in 1980, Metro World Child has worked to rescue hurting children and offer a message of salvation and love that encourages them to stay in school and away from gangs and other destructive or criminal behaviors so common in inner-city environments. Metro meets both spiritual and physical needs through long-term one-on-one relationships, mentorship, child sponsorship and visitation.

With headquarters in the heart of Brooklyn, New York, Metro World Child currently operates programs at more than 200 sites in New York City, as well as in the Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Kenya and India; over 100,000 children attending their Sunday Schools every week it has become one of the most important Children's outreaches on the planet.

Introduction

Janine Stellatos was born in the United Kingdom and was brought up in a Christian home. Her desire from a very early age was to have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and to spend her life serving Him. Janine has done this and is one of the most devoted servants of Christ I have ever had the privilege to know...

Born with the heart of a missionary she served for many years in the worship team of her church prior to joining Metro World Child (formerly Metro Ministries) as fulltime staff in the capacity of UK National Rep, serving in that post for over 7 years until

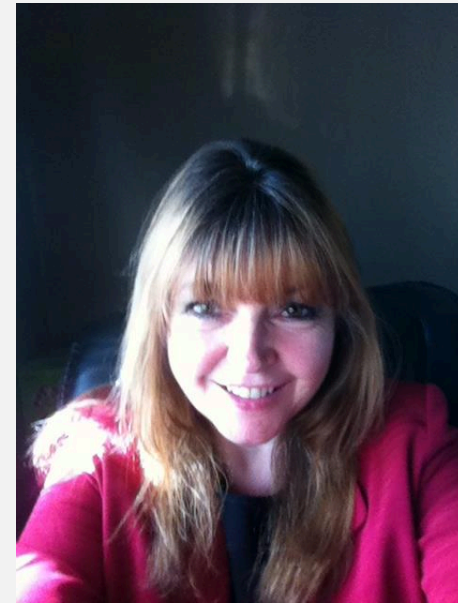
A couple of years ago she moved to Kenya to take on the Kenya Director position for the organization. In this first issue of 3-in-1 'Women In Ministry', Janine shares her remarkable testimony and tells us how important the power of prayer plays in her walk...

AK Chenoweth



Janine with some of the kids in Kenya

Interview



Janine Stellatos

- 1. How did you come to know the Lord Janine and have you always had a heart for Missionary work or did this desire come in time?**

I had the privilege of being brought up in a Christian home and I gave my heart to the Lord when I was just 5 years old. I knew what I was doing. I remember crying as I heard the message of how Jesus died for me on the Cross. I remember crying at the age of 7 because I was not allowed to take communion considered too young to understand and yet I knew what it meant. I always had a deep sense of the call of God on my life at a very young age. I used to write to a missionary in Zambia who incidentally was from Manchester UK. Her name was Miss Falconer and in her time she took in over 600 orphans. Today she is in Glory but the orphanage is now being run by the very first two babies she ever took in to nurture. I think being brought up in an evangelical

church and also writing to Miss Falconer planted seeds in my life that grew with me.

2. How did you get involved with Metro World Child?

It started way back in 1994 when Pastor Bill Wilson the founder of MWC, formerly Metro Ministries, was speaking at a Pastors Conference in the UK. I listened to the recording and cried most of the way through it. From then on, every time I saw a child in the street or in a supermarket I would fill up with tears and I wondered what was happening to me. The church I attended at the time organized a trip to see the largest Sunday School in the world in Brooklyn, New York and I wanted to see it with my own eyes. We visited the ministry in New York for a week but my heart remained in New York and I began sponsoring a child and began visiting my child on an annual basis which sometimes became twice a year. When I visited my child I would volunteer at the ministry and just serve. Back in the UK, God was opening doors for me to go and speak and I couldn't help but share about the work of Metro World Child whilst delivering a message. In time, I began to take Pastor Bill's resources on the road with me and child sponsorship packs and was offered the role of the National UK Representative in which I served for 7 years before moving to Kenya to carry the torch here.

3. Not many people have the courage to uproot from their home and do the Lord's work overseas. Who or what inspired you?

I think in my earlier years the lives of people like Miss Falconer and Billy Graham inspired me to want to do something significant and radical with my life, however over the last 20 years it has to be said that Pastor Bill has been the key inspiration in teaching me, training me and moving me from a person who just thinks about it and dreams about it, to being someone who actually sits down and makes the call and then acts on the decision. I listened to Pastor Bill for years being challenged and motivated but there had to come a time where it moved me and demanded a response. You can only truly sing about it, talk about it and pray about it for so long, but the time comes when you have to act on it otherwise you are just

going through the motions. The burden of not picking up the mantel just got too strong. Tough decisions had to be made but life was passing me by and I had to face up to the challenge or risk not really fulfilling the call of God on my life. I left the UK two years ago with just two suitcases and one guitar and it was the most liberating day of my life. I have never looked back.

4. Metro World Child is the largest Sunday School on the planet, tell me about the vision for Kenya and how it is being accomplished?

Metro World Child Kenya has been in operation just 3 years. I have been here almost two years. In the three years of operation here we have grown from being in 8 schools and reaching 12,000 children a week, to teaching in 37 schools and reaching almost 34,000 children. God was accomplishing this with just two teams of four dedicated people. Now we have trained up a further team of four and in May this year we are expanding into 16 more schools. Currently we are operating mainly in Nakuru county with a handful of schools in Njoro county and in May we will expand into Naivasha county where one school alone has 4000 children. The vision is to expand all over Kenya and to develop a full internship program here whereby other African nations can come and train and ultimately expand the work in other countries to reach more children for Jesus Christ. We currently operate our child sponsorship and feeding program in 18 of those schools and are adding a further 9 schools to the feeding program in September this year, manage a "Back to School" project whereby providing uniforms, shoes and school supplies to the children whose sponsors go the extra mile.

5. How important is prayer support for your type of ministry and how can people pray for Metro World Child?

Without God we can do nothing. Prayer is essential and central to everything we do. It is vital that we are led by the Holy Spirit and that we have wisdom and discernment in everything we do. The nation of Kenya is rife with poverty and corruption and



Janine & her team minister to young children like these two 'sisters from the dumps' every day in Kenya, bringing hope...

though there are many churches, there is a spiritual darkness in which we need to wage warfare. It is always the children that suffer that most and so we are here to help raise up a generation that know their God and who will ultimately change the face of this nation. Metro World Child is currently raising up a prayer covering of 100,000 people worldwide who will pray for the children of the world. We are almost reaching that target and it won't stop there. People can join the prayer network by getting in touch with our New

York Headquarters. People can pray for safety and protection especially for our staff members who are on the front line daily, not only here in Kenya but all over the world and for health so that God protects us from the diseases that are so common here. People can also pray for provision and the resources we need not only to expand but to provide food which is the main need for the children here.

6. What do you find the most challenging or demanding part of your work and how does the Lord help you through?

The work ethic of Metro World Child is "Whatever it takes". As Pastor Bill often says, "If you are not in the full time ministry by the time you get in the full time ministry, you will never be in full time ministry when you get in the full time ministry". The pace

and urgency of the call and mandate of this ministry is not something you can do in your own strength. Being part of this ministry has taught me as Pastor Bill says again, "You can always do more than you think you can" and that "your commitment has to be stronger than your emotions". Yes it's demanding, often meaning you sacrifice personal time, sometimes even vacation time, often sleep but either we believe what we say we believe and that time is running out or we don't, and if we do then it demands from us a laying down of our desires to really be effective in winning the lost. Some people will never understand why you haven't got time to sit and chat about nothing but again (as Pastor Bill says ☺ ...) when you realize that the years you have left to live are less than the years you have already lived something changes in your thinking and you are on the clock. When my heart is overwhelmed, David said, "Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I". (Ps 61:2) so no matter how demanding the work gets, if we draw on His strength each and every day and allow Him to lead us then the work of the ministry is a joy not a burden. As it says in 1 Cor 16:15 we are like those of the house of Stephanas who have addicted themselves to the work of the ministry. I thrive on the challenges and demands because it drives you to your knees because I need Him but I am confident that He who called me is faithful and He will do it. (1 Thess 5:24)

7. Comparing your experiences in the UK and elsewhere over the years, what defines Kenya in your eyes and sets it apart?

The people. That having so little they are willing to sacrifice the little they have to help another. I saw this recently in a school I was visiting during our lunchtime feeding program. There was a little food left over but not enough to feed all the hungry mouths that were hanging in the window to see if there was any food left. Four out of the 7 kids hanging in the window were fed, and one little boy who didn't get any came in the kitchen and started scraping the rice that was stuck to the bottom of the pan to eat that. As I was leaving, a little girl came up to me and she was crying. She was hungry and had no lunch. I took her to the cook knowing there was nothing left and I watched as one of the boys who had previously been hanging in the

window and who had received a plate of food from that which was left over, take his plate of food and give it the girl who was crying. I have watched staff members out of their own need give to others to help them out.

I love the way you can go into town and nearly everyone will greet you, always smiling, ever hopeful. The people here have a strength and a tenacity that despite the poverty and challenges, despite them still recovering from the 2007 election violence that shed much blood and displaced so many, yet they are working hard to re-develop and re-build their lives. They may have little in terms of material assets but they have values that I think have been lost among the materialistic culture of the Western world.

8. Missionary work is the heart of the church I believe, do you share that view, if so why?

Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel". Missionary work is not only the heart of the church but is the heart of the Father for it is not His will that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9). The Bible exhorts us to pray that the Lord will send forth more laborers into the harvest field for the harvest is great and the laborers are few. If missionary work is not the heart of the church (home or abroad) then the church will sadly lack growth and die out as the church attendees pass on. We are commanded to make disciples of all men yet at the same time we need the Holy Spirit as it is not by might nor by power but by His Spirit, not by church programs or fads, but by His Spirit, by the true Gospel being preached in power, sharing God's heart and love to everyone because He created us all and we are all valuable to Him, an all-inclusive Gospel, not based on acceptance of peoples image but based on the fact that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.



9. Having known missionaries over the years I know that they not only depend on the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to help them on a daily basis but they have witnessed many miraculous events in their times in the field. Have you a particular event that or miraculous happening that you could share with us?

There are so many incidences where I have seen God at work and it has really increased my faith to believe God for the impossible. I came on a one way ticket which they told me was impossible to do. I got to the airport and the airline check in officer said I could not travel as I did not have a return ticket. A supervisor came out of nowhere and asked what the hold up was and when I told her the problem she asked me who I was and where I was going. After I told her, she just looked at the officer and said "Let her through".

I know God sent me here. How else can it be that an Australian guy who had overstayed his visa by 1 day is now back in Australia never allowed to come back into Kenya and I am still here having at that time, overstayed my visa (through misinformation) by almost three months. Now I have a renewable permit to stay. The authorities also made a mistake on my ID card which is supposed to expire every two years and you renew it. Mine expires in 2301!!!! I'll be 342 years old 😊

Just a couple of months ago two men tried to rob me in town. God protected me from that.

A few weeks ago I went with a local Pastor to pray for the sick at the hospital. One woman had a diseased rotting leg, the smell was putrid, the flies were all around. She was scheduled for surgery the next day. We prayed for her and she was healed. She did not need the surgery and was discharged.

A lot of the time as people, we look for the spectacular but it is the everyday events that touch our hearts the most. The kids who thank you for their one meal a day often eating only half of it so that they can take something home either for their

siblings or eat it for their supper. The kids who come up to you after an anti-bullying lesson on loving your neighbor crying because they are bullying other kids and they want you to pray with them to change their behavior. Teachers are reporting attitude, attendance and performance are all improving and they attribute that to the Metro World Child program. Seeing lives changed every day, those are the miraculous events on the field.

10. How can people pray for you personally?

For protection, for strength, for wisdom and discernment, for provision

11. Finally what are the greatest practical needs of the children and how can people help through your ministry and who can they contact?

The greatest need is that of food. Many of the children go without food, some fainting in school, or falling asleep for lack of having eaten. Every child that is sponsored receives a hot meal in school every day. Often the parents cannot afford to pay for their lunch. Many of the children come to school in uniforms that are torn or hanging off them having a deep effect on their self-esteem and confidence. We have seen firsthand the difference it makes to them to receive food and clean new uniform. The greatest challenge here for the majority of people is just to survive another day.

We do have some “second mile opportunities” in which people can help. We operate projects within some of the schools to improve general conditions for the children, for example clean running water, provision of desks, chairs, lockers, cultivation of vegetable gardens etc., and people can donate and designate their gift towards our General Development Fund.

All funds no matter how large or small will make a huge difference in the lives of these children.



YOU can sponsor a child by either getting in touch with Nicky Cameron in the UK office on 01293 776900 or by contacting her by email at uk@metroworldchild.org. Alternatively they can connect Janine directly at Kenya@metroworldchild.org

ISSUE 2 – ANGELINA SIDDIQUE

Women’s Ministry Pioneer, Pakistan

