

**VOCF**  
Vision of Community Fellowship

October 30, 2008

Dear Friends,

Greetings in Christ. I am writing to share how you can be involved in an exciting, emerging way to help the world called Vision of Community Fellowship (VOCF).

VOCF is a global network called to walk with the poor by giving, receiving, and growing in God's kingdom to transform our lives, communities, and world.

This letter explains more details and how you can help at a critical and strategic juncture in our history.

With the world financial situation, it may seem an inopportune moment to share about a new network. But VOCF is built for a budget-conscious world. Reasons include:

- VOCF primarily supports grass-roots workers and projects, not expensive programs.
- VOCF does not spend *any* money on offices, middle-men, vehicles, mailings, or other expensive fundraising and administrative costs.
- VOCF charges 0% overhead on donations for projects.

Because VOCF separates donations for projects from operations, we need visionary partners to help us with the serving costs of this unique ministry.

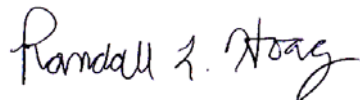
In terms of immediate financial needs, VOCF needs \$49,000 by the end of 2008.

You can help VOCF at this strategic moment with prayer, advocacy, or a financial pledge of any amount. There is a pledge card in the addendum section.

Thank you for taking time to prayerfully read about VOCF. If you have questions, please contact us. Also, if you know people who might be interested in VOCF, please share this letter with them.

On behalf of grass-roots workers and initiatives seeking God's Kingdom around the world,

Your brother in Christ,



Randall Hoag  
Community Council  
Email: [rhoag@vocf.net](mailto:rhoag@vocf.net)

# Help Build VOCF!

## 2008-2010 Plan and Proposal

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## Introduction

Vision of Community Fellowship (VOCF) is a global network called to walk with the poor by giving, receiving, and growing in God's Kingdom to transform our lives, communities, and world.

We fulfill this calling with three primary services:

- Planting . . . Kingdom lifestyle groups
- Growing . . . Kingdom Leaders through training and mentoring
- Supporting . . . Kingdom workers and grass-roots initiatives

The following pages explain what, how, and why VOCF works. It also provides specific goals, impact, and ways that people can be involved.

## Background

VOCF was founded in October 2006 by an international group of people seeking a new paradigm for alleviating poverty. Rather than building a traditional hierarchical organization, we sought a stream-lined network held together by shared vision for God's Kingdom, serving the poor, and relationships.

The first two years focused on experimentation, establishing systems, training events, and observing the "cream" that God brings to the top. What has emerged is a focus on helping people transform through kingdom lifestyle groups, training and mentoring leaders, and sending kingdom workers.

While VOCF functions like a virtual network, it also has a legally incorporated body (VOCF Inc) to provide financial accountability. Incorporated under the laws of Kentucky on October 12, 2006, VOCF is a 501.c.3 tax exempt organization.

# The Need

You know the world's statistics.

25,000 people die of hunger every day. Millions more die from Aids, malaria, and other preventable diseases. The vast majority have never heard about Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, such news can become mind-numbing.

Try imagining your daily paper with the following headline . . . *100 jumble jets, filled mostly with children, crashed into the ocean, all perished.* Now imagine reading that headline every day of the year. This is the problem of hunger.

God commands that we respond (Deuteronomy 15:11). He also provides dire warnings if we do not (Ezekiel 16:49).

Jesus came to earth to preach good news to the poor, proclaim freedom to the prisoners, bring sight for the blind, release the oppressed, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor (Luke 4:43). Jesus calls us to follow him.

It's as simple as that.

## So why are strategies like VOCF needed?

The world is increasingly complex , challenging, and vulnerable. The status quo of strategies cannot scale-up to meet the needs. Consider some trends . . .

- The United Nations acknowledges that its Millennium Development Goals are falling behind, especially related to poverty in Africa.
- Global problems such as food, finance, terrorism, fuel, and the environment are increasingly out of man's control. These "end-times" signs increase the urgency for flexible, organic strategies that can flourish even in hazardous days.
- The world is increasingly dangerous. Extreme hunger generally occurs where there is war. Often, the only workers who can reach these areas are national workers.
- The internet, globalization, and changing geo-politics are challenging traditional organizational and governing structures.
- People desire a sense of community, as evidenced by social networks and phenomena such as Facebook, Wikipedia, Google, etc.
- There is a rising wave of passionate, Spirit-empowered, kingdom workers, especially from Asia, Latin America and Africa.

New paradigms are needed.

*"If the world today is in a mess it is for one reason, and for one reason only: the neglect or the rejection of the principles and attitudes of the kingdom of God proclaimed and embodied in these emissaries of the kingdom of God."*

E. Stanley Jones

# What VOCF Does

With simplicity inspired by Jesus and the early church, VOCF seeks to:

## Plant . . . Kingdom Lifestyle Groups

Kingdom lifestyle groups are 2-3 people who desire to grow in a Kingdom of God lifestyle. They commit to renew their minds with large amounts of God's transforming word, share mutual accountability, and pray and care for people to enter God's kingdom. We define a Kingdom of God Lifestyle as "more and more of Jesus and His Kingdom everywhere".

### Why?

The beginning point of kingdom ministry is transformation from within.

## Grow . . . Kingdom Servants

As people grow in a kingdom lifestyle, some desire further training and mentoring to apply kingdom life and principles to our needy world. VOCF provides training events, online resources, and mentoring.

### Why?

Because God's kingdom expands through people willing to be servants.

## Support . . . Kingdom Workers and Initiatives

VOCF facilitates an exchange system where people and organizations can share financial resources directly together. Initiatives include grass-roots community development, relief, and sponsorships. But the main focus is supporting indigenous, pioneering workers.

### Why?

Kingdom-minded, indigenous workers can accomplish more with less than projects.

## A Kingdom Lifestyle

More and . . .

**M**ission (branches)

**O**ccupation (trunk)

**R**elationships (roots)

**E**ntire heart (soil)



Of Jesus and His Kingdom  
Everywhere!

# Goals and Impact

## Vision

By December 2010, VOCF desires to see:

1 Goal	God's Kingdom increasingly come.
50	Pioneering, grass-roots workers and initiatives that VOCF supports and mentors.
100	Kingdom Lifestyle groups
500	Missionaries trained, with an ongoing relationship with VOCF
1,000	Grass-roots contributors who give an average of \$20/month
5,000	VOC Friends who are growing in God's Kingdom.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Like everything in VOCF, we desire the essence.

While many things can be measured, the reality is that VOCF works with indigenous, grass-roots kingdom of God workers. These workers generally speak little English and are more concerned with impact than reports. For this reason, we keep things simple.

### VOCF Indicators

#### 1. Monitoring Indicators

We monitor the numerical goals above, along with a variety of other quantifiable program and financial indicators.

#### 2. Vision of Community Indicators

Each worker and initiative reports progress towards three key "process" goals we desire to see increasingly in every community:

- People of God (church) growing in a kingdom lifestyle
- Leaders serving with kingdom of God principles
- Families experiencing the blessings of God's Kingdom

When these three processes are happening, a community will naturally begin to develop itself! And that is the essence!

#### 3. Stories and Pictures

These are testimonies of what only God can do - change the lives of people and communities.

#### 4. Unexpected Results

When we commit to follow the Holy Spirit, we fully expect to be surprised by God in ways no one can predict.

# How VOCF Works

## VOCF starts with friendship

VOCF is made up of individuals called VOC Friends. These are people who want to grow in God's Kingdom and have a relationship with VOCF. You can register at [www.vocf.net](http://www.vocf.net). VOCF friends receive eDevotionals, create their own blogs, and get other resources.

## Kingdom Lifestyle groups

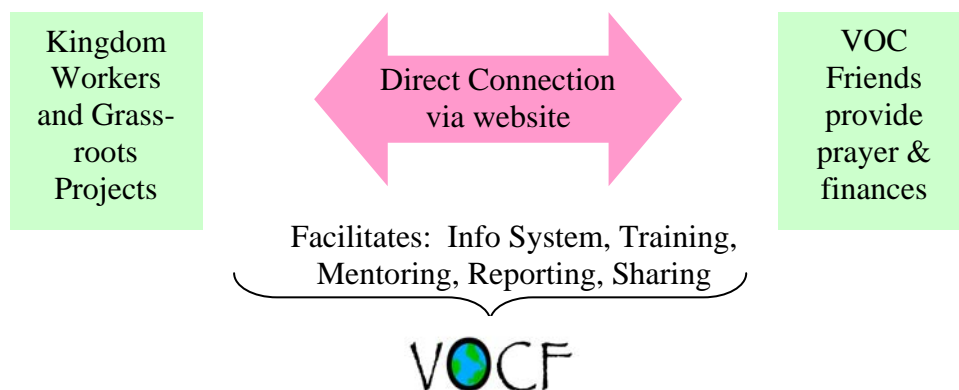
Kingdom Lifestyle groups start whenever 2 or 3 people commit to the Kingdom Lifestyle Group commitments. VOCF provides online resources and relational coaching. Groups are now functioning in Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, and the United States.

## Training and mentoring

VOCF provides 1 week training events 6-8 times per year at different sites in the world, primarily in Asia. These trainings teach about personal and community transformation based on the kingdom of God lifestyle. Trainees become VOC Friends and receive follow-up. Mentoring processes, including periodic meetings and online methods, are being formalized.

## Kingdom workers and initiatives

Groups can apply to post on VOCF's website requests for support of kingdom workers or initiatives. Approval is based on agreement with VOCF criteria. Like a clearinghouse, once a project is presented online, the public can donate directly. VOCF forwards the funds to the receiving group and takes 0% overhead. The receiving groups provide reports and pictures online. Projects in sensitive countries are kept hidden to only those with permission.



## How VOCF Is Different

- **Kingdom focus.** VOCF focuses on kingdom-minded workers and initiatives that integrate three Vision of Community processes into their work (VOC). The three processes occur as a community's people of God, leaders, and families increasingly live according to the ways of Jesus and his Kingdom.
- **0% Overhead.** VOCF takes 0% overhead from donations for projects. This means we keep the support service costs of VOCF separate from giving for projects. The only deductions from project donations are for bank transfer or foreign exchange fees.
- **Give direct.** There are no middle-men in VOCF, so donors are empowered to choose who they give to and have an ongoing relationship directly with them.
- **Transparency.** When donors give through VOCF, the destination of the money can be seen online.
- **Personal growth.** VOCF is not interested in getting something from people, rather, we want to see everyone grow in the kingdom of God.
- **Make a difference.** No amount of giving is insignificant. In fact, VOCF is built with both small and large givers in mind. A college student can give \$5 and see it show up on the other side of the world.
- **Grass-roots workers and projects.** Groups in VOCF are generally local, national groups. Often they are small and not well known to the world - but they are very good and can get to locations difficult for other organizations.

# How You Can Help

VOCF has no required membership fee and takes 0% overhead from donations for projects.

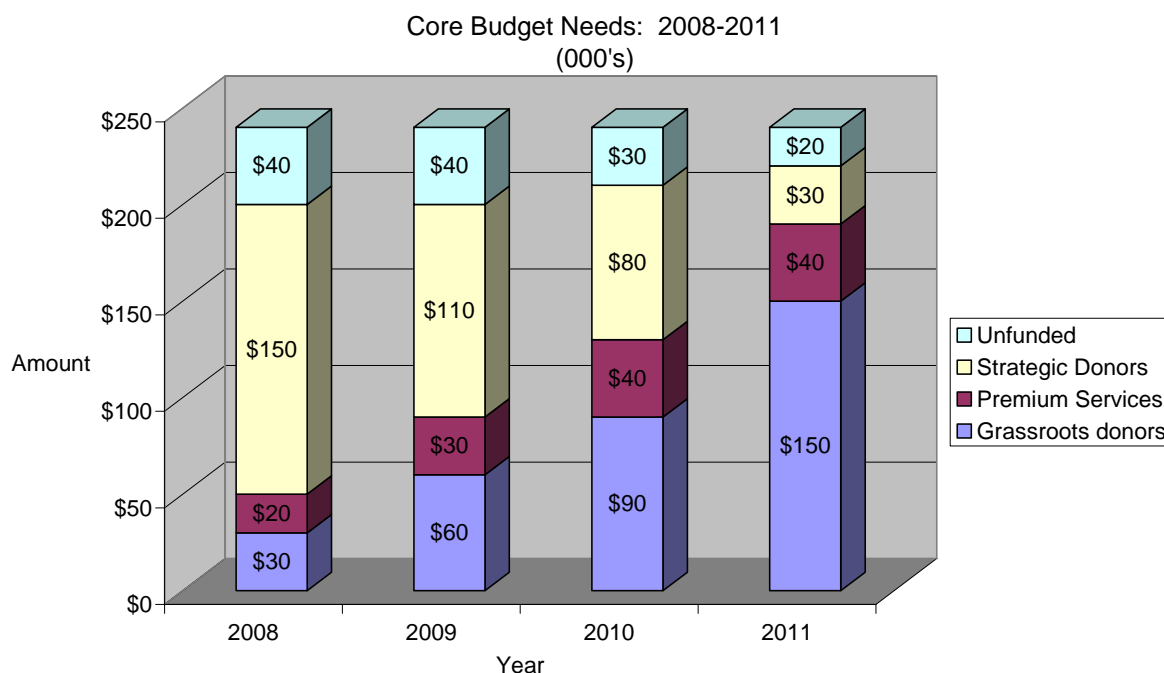
VOCF’s longterm resource strategy is to build a grass-roots base from people who are blessed by VOCF and give from a free and cheerful heart. With 1000 grass-roots donors who provide \$20/month, VOCF would meet all of its annual core budget needs

An ideal annual core budget for VOCF is \$240,000 per year, although we can survive on less. This budget covers all salaries, training events, travel, training resources, and information services.

To move closer to the grass-roots scenario explained above, VOCF needs resources from two other sources as a bridge:

- Strategic Donors: People who see the potential of VOCF and desire to invest larger amounts.
- Premium Services: Organizations who desire extra training or information services.

Our goals for 2008 to 2011 are shown in the following graph.



## Successes So Far

Even though VOCF is young and learning, there are encouraging signals.

### Response to Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar.

In the days after Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar, the world watched in horror as relief organizations were denied entry. VOCF, however, was helping the day after the cyclone by working with indigenous partners who hand-carried resources into Myanmar.



### Kingdom Power in Myanmar

Possibly the most amazing testimony so far is what we really cannot take credit for. A whole village came to know Christ in another area of Myanmar!! We are thrilled, however, to be connected with kingdom workers in this village. VOCF has funded a worker for 1 year.

### Work in pioneering locations

Since VOCF primarily works with national workers and groups, we are able to get into some of the hardest regions of the world. This picture shows work in a Central Asian country.



### Training and Mentoring



God has blessed VOCF with various platforms to train kingdom workers. Training events are averaging 35 new missionaries every 3 months and the requests are expanding beyond our capacity.

### Steady Growth

VOCF's quantifiable indicators are all showing steady growth (see addendum). We sense that it has been God's wisdom to allow us to grow step by step rather than exponentially. This has allowed VOCF to continuously improve systems and strategies.

## Lessons

VOCF is always learning. Here are a few major lessons and intriguing possibilities for the future.

### Conditional or On-going projects?

VOCF initially started with the assumption that projects could begin only if full funding was received. What we found, however, is supporting on-going initiatives is more practical. An added benefit is finding leaders who are highly committed, such that the project will happen with or without VOCF.

### Professional Fundraising?

VOCF has shied away from professional and expensive fundraising strategies. We desire to be a grass-roots movement primarily supported by people blessed by VOCF.

### People or Projects?

VOCF started focused on projects, but we are gravitating towards people. This fits our philosophical belief that progress happens person to person. While VOCF supports grass-roots projects, we believe our long-term focus will increasingly be grass-roots workers.

## Possibilities

### Is community progress possible much faster than believed?

Conventional wisdom is that community workers need to spend 7-15 years in a single area to see sustainable progress. The Apostle Paul, however, spent an average of 6 months in locations. How is that possible? By making the goal a locally, sustainable *process*. VOCF mentors its workers to also think in processes like the Apostle Paul. Will we see results that are much faster than previously thought possible?

### Kingdom Math?

Conventional wisdom is that  $1+1=2$  and  $2 \times 3 = 6$ . But in the kingdom of God, 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish feeds 5,000 men plus women and children! We have already seen one amazing example in Myanmar where a whole community came to know Christ! And we can't even take credit, but just praise God we can join with Him!

### You?

What does conventional wisdom say about your life? What does God say is possible?



## Vision of Community Fellowship

Yes, I would like to pray & pledge to help Build VOCF.

### My Pledge:

- \$5 per month
- \$20 per month
- \$50 per month
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month (insert your own amount)
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ one time gift

### My Payment Method:

- Online at [www.vocf.net](http://www.vocf.net) (Help Build VOCF Project)
- By Check. Make your check to “VOCF” and mail to VOCF, 2993 Tulip Trace, Lexington, KY 40503-5827
- By automatic withdrawal (Please include a voided check)
- By wiring (contact us for VOCF bank info)

Mail this form to:  
 VOCF  
 2993 Tulip Trace  
 Lexington, KY 40503-5827

Or Email this info to  
[info@vocf.net](mailto:info@vocf.net)

Have questions?  
 Email to [info@vocf.net](mailto:info@vocf.net)

### My Contact Info:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Your Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

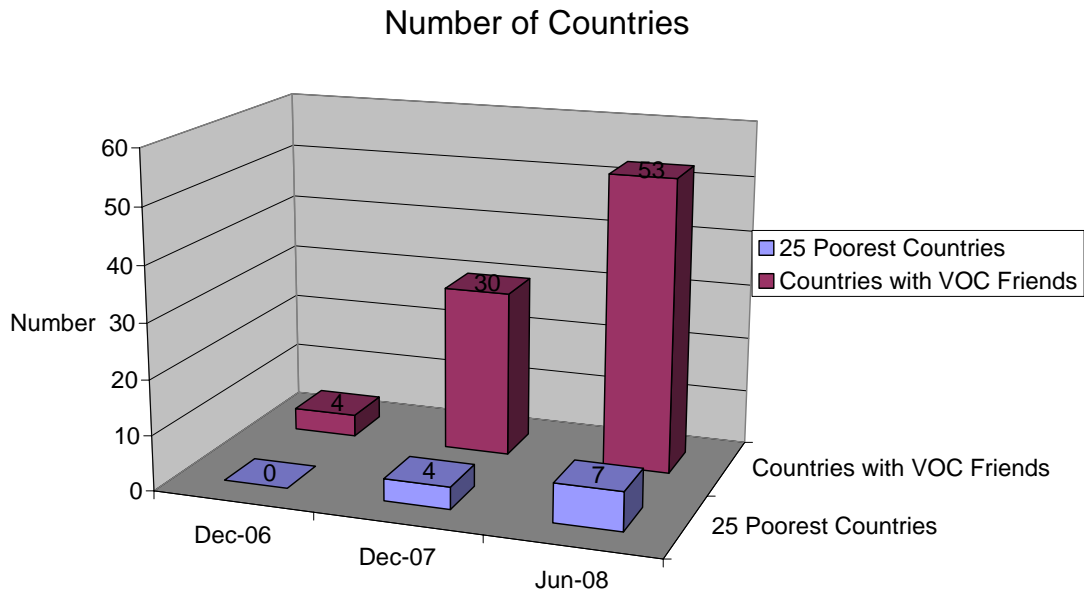
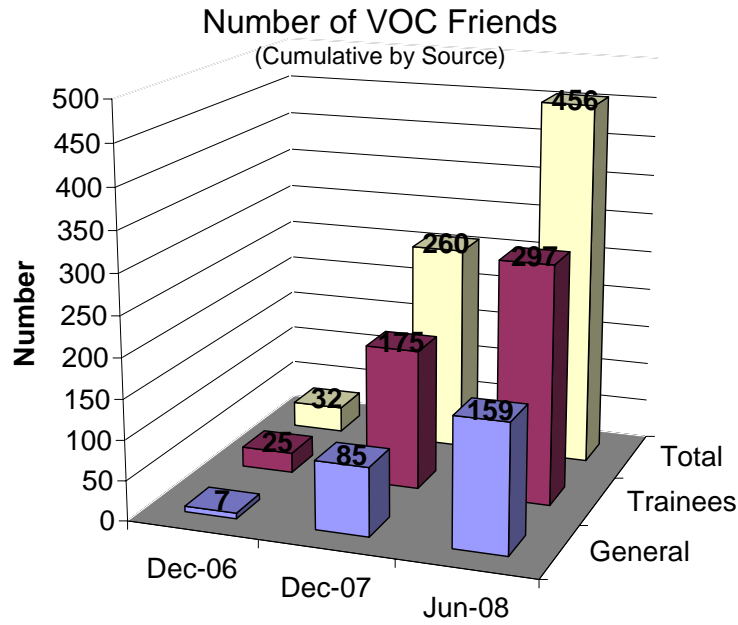
### Communication Preference

Yes, please send me VOCF’s eDevotionals by email.

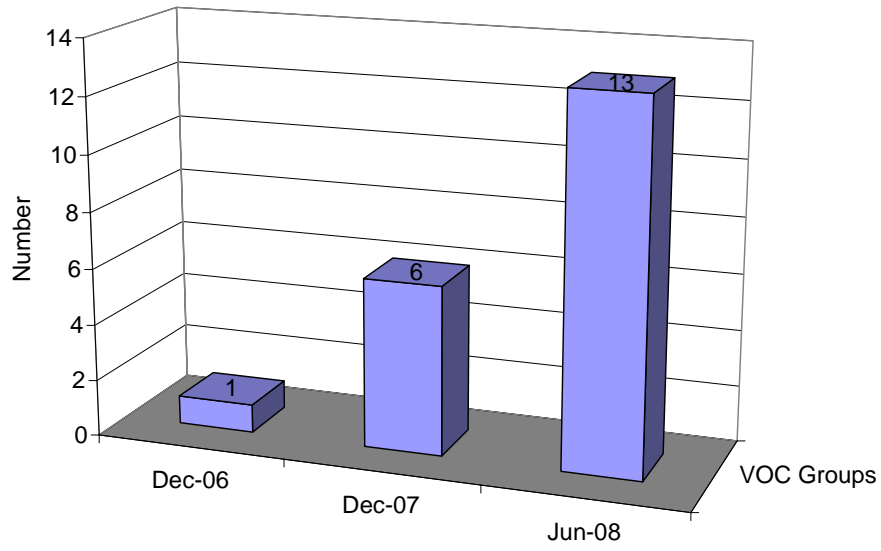
**Thank you** for your generous donation to VOCF. A tax receipt will be sent to you at the end of each month we receive a donation. Donors outside the United States should check with your nation’s authorities for tax deductibility. VOCF is audited annually by an independent auditing firm.

# Addendum B: VOCF Operational Statistics

Updated June 30, 2008

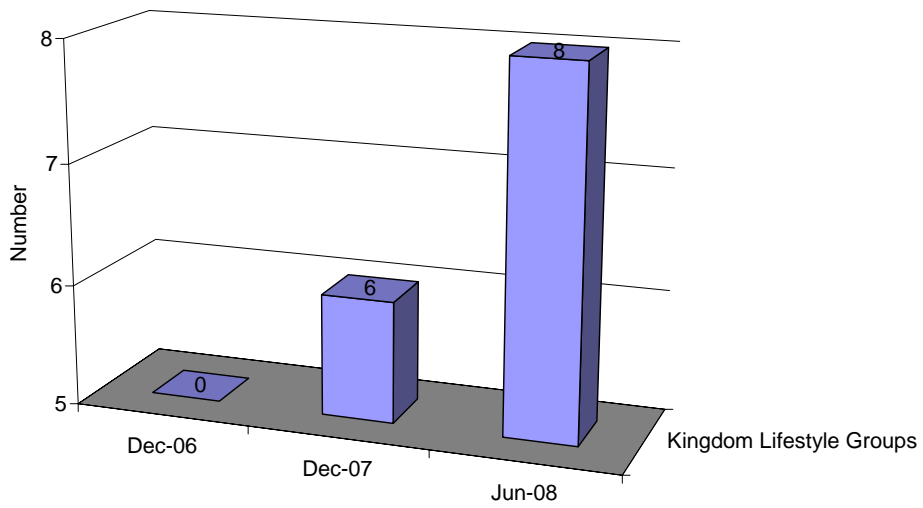


### Number of VOC Groups

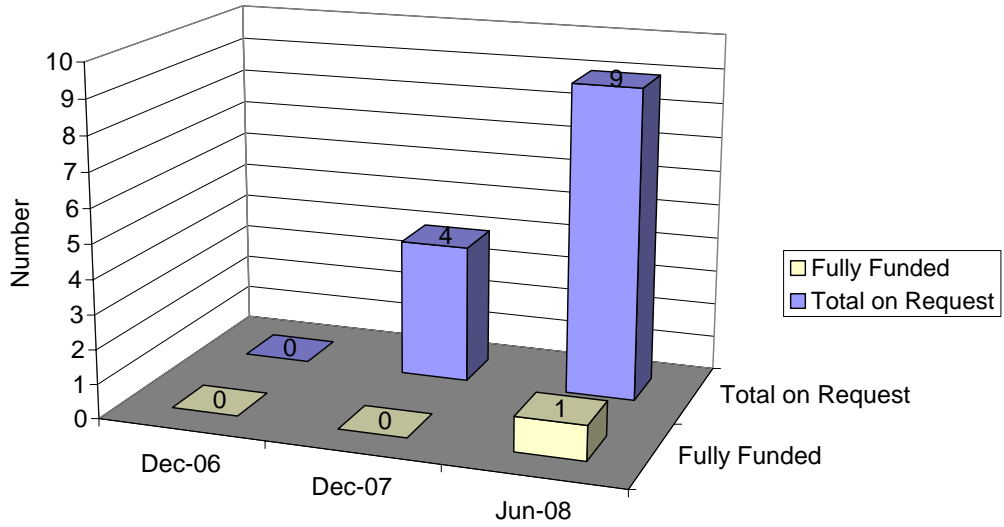


### Number of Kingdom Lifestyle Groups

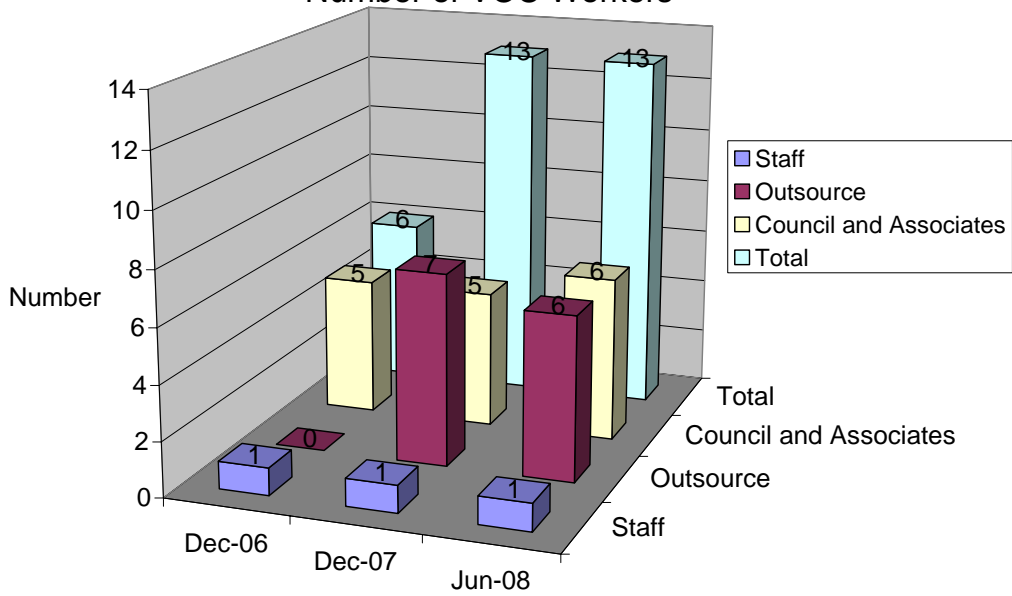
Goal = 50 by end of 2008



**Number of Projects**  
(At specific dates)

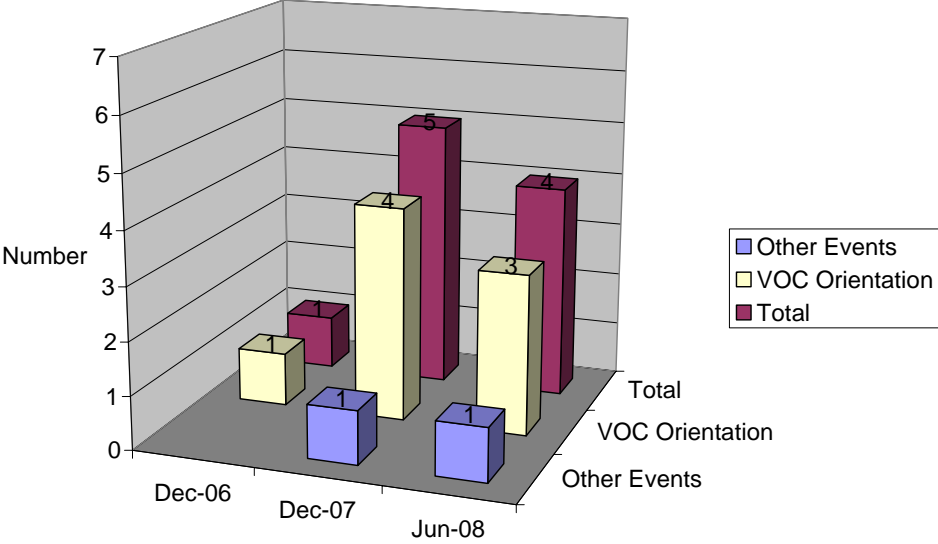


**Number of VOC Workers**



### Number of Training Events

(2008 events not completed yet)



## **Addendum C: The People Behind VOCF**

VOCF prefers to lift up the name of Jesus and his Kingdom rather than ourselves. For that reason, VOCF leaders keep low profiles. But knowing some of the people behind VOCF is a legitimate question for anyone considering involvement.

- Dr. Randall Hoag, CEO, Mentor, and Community Council

Randall has worked in international relief and development for over 25 years. He is a CPA and has a masters degree in organizational leadership. He lived in Bolivia for eight years and currently resides with his family in Bangkok, Thailand.

- Midori Yanagisawa, Mentor and Community Council Member

Midori, citizen of Japan, has over 20 years of international relief and development experience. She spent 15 years in Bangladesh where she pioneered a highly successful human resource development program.

- Rev. Scott Martin, Treasurer, Mentor, and Community Council

Scott has over 10 years of international relief and development experience. He has founded indigenous organizations in Central America. He also is a civil engineer and resides with his family in Kentucky, USA.

- Rev. Koo Tuksu, Mentor and Community Council

The former dean of the Anglican church in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, Rev. Koo is now the General Secretary of the Food for the Hungry International Foundation and leader of Flowing Springs Counselling Ministry.

- Lisa Hseuh-Swearingen, Secretary and Community Council.

A management consultant, Lisa served needy communities through micro-enterprise in the Philippines and Nicaragua. She now works in management consulting and resides with her family in Washington DC.

- Kenneth Rowland, Community Council

Kenneth has served as a pastor and community related ministries. He now works in information technology in the banking industry in Texas.

- Nancy Guido, Tania Sandoval, and Paweena Kum

Nancy and Tania are residents of Managua, Nicaragua and provide accounting and information technology support to VOCF. Paweena is Thai and provides accounting help.

- Rosario Schulz, Accounting Consultant

Rosario has held high level financial positions in the government of Bolivia, South America. She now resides with her family in Los Angeles California.

- Kim, Hesook, VOCF Korea

With a background in child development, Mrs. Kim has served in international relief and development for over 10 years. She is now encouraging kingdom lifestyle in South Korea.

- Shane Wong & Genius Graphics, Website and e-commerce consultant