

# Small-town education has GLOBAL IMPACT



Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Sometimes what we do in our own backyards has profound effects on the other side of the world! That is certainly the case for Divine Word College. Epworth, Iowa, the site of the College, is a small town of approximately 2,000 inhabitants. There are several other small towns nearby, and the larger city of Dubuque is about 15 miles away. Most of the teachers and staff of Divine Word College live close by, and they call this part of the world “home.”

The College may be a small school, but our global impact is at least as large as a school a hundred times our size. Since 1931 when Divine Word Missionaries first arrived in Epworth, and since 1964 when Divine Word College opened, approximately 2,000 students have studied here. Now our former students are at work in dozens of countries around the world. Some are working in densely packed barrios of Latin America; others are teachers in Southeast Asia. Some are counselors and specialists in treatment of trauma in refugee centers around the world. Some are working in the rougher parts of Chicago and Los Angeles, in the mountains of West Virginia, and in the islands of the Caribbean. Quite a number are training other sisters, brothers, priests and lay ministers to spread the Good News. Here too, at DWC, we benefit from the training and enthusiasm of our alumni. Three-fourths of the SVD staff at DWC studied at the College; four lay staff members and a religious sister employed at the College are also graduates.

A doubter’s question was once made about Jesus of Nazareth: “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” That inspires my question; can anything good come from Epworth? The answer is, YES! Very good people, working all over the world, come from Epworth.

*Fr. Tom*

## You can help students for years to come

Each school year, Divine Word College students receive more than \$1.5 million in scholarship assistance. This assistance comes from the interest in our endowment fund. Money in our endowment fund is there because of generous benefactors who remembered the College with a gift in their will or estate.

Without these gifts, many of our students would have to look elsewhere for their education, because Divine Word College could not help them. You too, can help today’s and tomorrow’s Divine Word College students by remembering the College in your will.

By making a gift in your will and becoming a member of the Divine Word College Legacy Society, you will help prepare today’s Catholic missionaries – just as Florian and Karen Steffen from Deerfield Beach, Florida (formerly from Maquoketa, Iowa) have. “We first learned about Divine Word College when we brought confirmation students from our parish to visit Divine Word. We also went to the March for Life in Washington D.C. with some Divine Word students. We became friends and later attended their graduation,” the Steffens said. “We greatly appreciate all that Divine Word Missionaries have done and are doing to spread our faith and love of Jesus Christ!! And how they have helped people all over the world. When we see the students at the March for Life rallies and events at the College, we know they are faith-filled and we want to help with their education.”



Karen and Florian Steffen



For more information about Divine Word College, call 563-876-3353, email [info@dwci.edu](mailto:info@dwci.edu), or visit: [www.dwci.edu](http://www.dwci.edu)



For information about leaving a gift to Divine Word College in your will, please contact Mark Singsank at 563-876-0097.