



**FROM
HERE TO
EVERYWHERE**
30 DAYS OF DEVOTIONS

*But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,
and you will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth.*

ACTS 1:8

WELCOME!

This book is intended to celebrate the movement of God in and through the lives of people who have received power from the Holy Spirit and are serving as witnesses to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that each of us will be inspired and filled with hope as we get a glimpse of how God is moving in our midst.

To follow Jesus means to devote ourselves to the advancement of God's Kingdom here on earth by picking up our cross and following Jesus into the dark and broken places of the world. Over the next 30 days, you will read true stories of how people in our church are doing just that. I know you will be blessed as you spend a few minutes each day reading about those being served and those serving both locally and globally.

Be sure to take a moment to pray for the people and each ministry represented, as we know that prayer has the power to move mountains. Each entry also includes an action step. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to act in some way each day in response to what you read.

May these devotions draw you closer to God. Thank you for supporting the Missions Ministry of our church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness!

To God be the glory!



Janis Albergotti
Missions Director

DAY 1

10:10 BRIDGE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

MISSION: TO PROVIDE HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN AT RISK BY PROMOTING ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, SPIRITUAL, EMOTIONAL AND CHARACTER GROWTH IN A LOVING ENVIRONMENT

Submitted by Janis Albergotti, Missions Director

DID YOU KNOW

- Because of the faithfulness of this congregation, we are able to offer kids growing up in adverse situations a safe place to belong.
- 10:10 Bridge meets three days a week during the school year on the Mt. Horeb campus. It serves 36 children who have been nominated to participate in the program. The ministry provides a place to grow academically through homework assistance and tutoring, to grow spiritually through small group discipleship, to grow physically through physical education, sports training and nutritious meals and to grow emotionally as they receive love and mentoring from a caring adult.
- Each week, over 60 adult and student mentors show up consistently to build a relationship with a child. These mentors are committed to helping every child succeed.

***The thief comes to steal kill and destroy.
But I have come that they may have
life and have it abundantly.***

JOHN 10:10

My name is Imani*. I am from a country in Africa. My parents split up a year ago. After the divorce, I moved with my father and my younger sibling to the U.S. My mother and my nine other siblings are still living in Africa and I do not know when I will see them again. My father speaks English as his second language and works as a taxi driver in Columbia in order to support us.

Having only been in the U.S. for one year, some of the school subjects have been very difficult for me. In the school I was in before we moved here, we were not taught science and I have struggled to understand it. I have also never had to learn American history before so I have had a very difficult time keeping up with my classmates.

While at 10:10 Bridge, I have made new friends that I enjoy being around and my mentor is always excited to see me. I get help on all of my homework assignments as well as help on learning how to communicate better with others. My mentor has even been able to help me with the subjects that I do not understand and can explain things like science and American history. 10:10 Bridge gives me a place where I can complete these assignments with an adult who can give me their undivided attention and support. Now that my little brother has also started coming to 10:10 Bridge, we both have a safe place where we can belong.

My favorite thing about 10:10 Bridge is learning about God. My mentor gave me my first Bible and I have loved reading all of the stories. I do not always understand them but my mentor is there to help explain them to me. I am eager to learn more about God and what it means to follow Jesus.

**Name changed*

PRAY

For the children who attend 10:10 Bridge, that they will grow in their knowledge and faith this year.

For the 10:10 Bridge families, that the love of Christ will provide them with hope and peace and as they meet and trust in Him.

For the mentors to be a living testimony to the love of Christ.

ACT

Would you be willing to serve as a mentor for a child one afternoon a week for a 12-week session? The number of children who are able to participate is dependent on the number of adult volunteers. Would you say “yes” so one more child can come? For more information about serving, contact Janis at janis@mthorebumc.com.

DAY 2

ORPHAN EMPOWERMENT ZOE MINISTRY - KENYA

***MISSION:** TO SEE A WORLD WHERE ALL ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN BECOME SECURE, HEALTHY, CONNECTED AND ABLE TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR SIBLINGS*

Submitted by Jackie Lohr

DID YOU KNOW

- Millions of children are growing up over the world in extreme poverty. They are “the least of these.”
- ZOE is an international organization that addresses the complex issues resulting from poverty, including malnutrition, homelessness, illness, exploitation, illiteracy and stigmatism.
- ZOE helps orphans and other vulnerable children use their God-given talents to overcome their life situations and lead productive lives.

***Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.***

1 CHRONICLES 16:24

I first met Judy three years ago in a very poor, arid, farming community in Meru, Kenya. Judy, 15 years old, had just returned from carrying a five gallon can of water (40 pounds) uphill from the river about a mile away. This was the only source of water for the family, consisting of her grandmother and three younger siblings. The wooden door of the wooden hut where they lived was inscribed with old paint, "Jesus is welcome here." Cooking was done outdoors, as there was no room in the hut for a kitchen. Like most orphans in the area, Judy was trying to survive each day. She said she would wake up at night with extreme fear of robbers; she said she had knots in her stomach from hunger. She was worried that her siblings could not go to school due to lack of funds. She would cry herself to sleep at night.

But Judy did have dreams. She wanted to own a few goats, have a garden and sell produce at a stand. She wanted to be safe from robbers.

ZOE listened and was eager to help her realize them. Judy became part of a ZOE group there in Meru. With the help of a small micro-loan from ZOE, she purchased two goats. She has learned to sell and buy goats and their milk and also to sell produce. She is learning to plant drought-resistant crops like millet. Her siblings were able to return to school. She learned basic ways to prevent disease and improve their health. She said she learned through the Lord's prayer that she was no longer an orphan because she could call God her Father. Judy's picture now shows radiance and joy. The 29 orphans in her ZOE group have become productive, respected members of their community and are helping others grow and flourish after three years of training, micro-loans and support.

PRAY

We will be ambassadors of love to foreign tribes, caring for those who have been treated as insignificant.

We will remain rooted to the Christian Scriptures and love others as ourselves.

We will realize that now is the time to use ourselves and our resources in this battle for the Kingdom of God.

ACT

Visit zoehelps.org to learn more about this life-changing ministry. Prayerfully consider traveling with us to Kenya to meet the orphan group sponsored by Mt. Horeb. For more information, email missions@mthorebumc.com.

DAY 3

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

MISSION: TO PROVIDE A SHOEBOX FILLED WITH GIFTS
TO CHILDREN IN NEED IN 160 COUNTRIES

Submitted by Barb Satkowski

DID YOU KNOW

- Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered 157 million shoeboxes filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items to 160 countries around the world.
- The simple gifts that are contained within these shoeboxes open the door for evangelism and discipleship. Children are given a colorful booklet entitled “The Greatest Gift” with every box. The booklet tells the story of the Gospel in the child’s language.
- After receiving a box, the children are issued an invitation to attend a 12-lesson discipleship course that will expand their knowledge about God. God is using The Greatest Journey program to raise up an army of young evangelists.

*Train up a child the way he should go:
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

PROVERBS 22:6

The October - November Operation Christmas Child Campaign is always an exciting time for me. I feel that it is my mission trip. It is a privilege to hand out boxes and brochures to smiling people in the congregation, excited that it is shoebox time. It is so much fun to tell a newcomer about how a shoebox can be the beginning of bringing a child and his family to Christ. Many times, we turn on the evening news and feel helpless against all of the evil in the world. A shoebox packed with joy and love can help change the world.

Many children throughout the world cannot attend school because they do not have basic school supplies. Children will take a pencil and divide it into several parts so that more family members can go to school. As a former teacher, this breaks my heart. I shudder to think about the number of tiny pencils I have picked off the floor after school that were thrown away. Our family always includes a lot of pencils in our boxes.

Collection day is an awesome day. Seeing the mountain of boxes that are brought in warms my heart. They say that one box will influence at least four people. One of the most important things we do is to pray over these boxes and ask God to bless them.

PRAY

That the child who receives your box will realize that they are loved and that they are led to believe in Jesus.

For the families of these children, that they too will come to know Christ through this small box of joy.

For the volunteers that process, pack, deliver and teach the children about Jesus.

ACT

Participate in OCC this 2018 season by filling an empty box with small toys and hygiene items. Empty boxes will be distributed at Mt. Horeb beginning October 21. Collection day is Sunday, November 11. Please fill your box, but do not over pack it. Consider including a picture or letter of encouragement to your child. The monetary donation that goes along with the shoebox is used to ship these boxes around the world.

DAY 4



COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

MISSION: TO RELEASE CHILDREN
FROM POVERTY IN JESUS' NAME

Submitted by Pastor Jeff and Lynn Kersey

DID YOU KNOW

- Compassion International is a child advocacy ministry that pairs compassionate people with those who are suffering from poverty.
- The hallmark of Compassion International's work is one-to-one child sponsorship of \$38 per month. Through sponsorship, children are able to participate in a church based program that offers life-changing benefits that range from educational opportunities to healthcare.
- Compassion International works in 25 countries and serves over 2 million children.
- The three C's of Compassion International are Commitment to Christ, Commitment to Children and Commitment to the Church.

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 JOHN 3:17

We were recently invited to go to Nairobi, Kenya with Compassion International, an organization that rescues children from extreme poverty. Before we left, God laid on our hearts to sponsor a child from Kenya. We got in touch with Scott Limrick with Compassion International and God had a plan!

Scott quickly moved into action and narrowed 400 possible children down to three and told us we could choose which child to sponsor. We felt led by the Spirit to ask one of our granddaughters to help us decide which child to sponsor. Harper Grace picked a 15 month old little girl named Chelsea and we immediately signed up to sponsor her.

When we arrived in Nairobi, we discovered we would be able to do a home visit with Chelsea and her family! We later found out only .0001% of sponsors ever get to meet their sponsored child. As we drove to the bottom of a mountain, we were told that the family lived on top of the mountain. We prayed as we climbed with gifts for Chelsea and her family. The home was only a two room mud and block house that housed the mother, Chelsea and her four siblings. As we sat in the home with the translator, the mother opened up to us the reason she had Chelsea. As a single mother of a large family with no income, she would go to the market to get bread to feed her children. Because she did not have any money to purchase the bread, the vendor told her he would exchange the bread for her services to him. She agreed and prayed she would not get pregnant. But despite her prayers, she became pregnant. Her first thought in finding out she was going to have another mouth to feed was to abort the pregnancy. She decided to keep the baby. Now, due to many circumstances only God could have orchestrated, God is using little Chelsea to bring deliverance and salvation to her and the whole family. Compassion is releasing one child and one family at a time from poverty.

PRAY

For sponsors needed for children in dire need of financial support to break the chain of poverty.

For the single mothers who are trying to make a living to feed their children. Pray they can learn marketplace skills to support their families.

For Compassion children all over the world to be surrounded by pastors, mentors and sponsors they can trust, confide in and who will help them realize their God-given dreams to change their world.

ACT

Prayerfully consider sponsoring a child. A sponsor is someone like you who has made the decision to personally invest in the life of a child in need. As a sponsor, you enable your sponsored child to participate in a church-based program that offers life-changing benefits. To learn more or to sign up, please visit compassion.com.

DAY 5

CIRCLES LEXINGTON COUNTY

MISSION: TO BUILD COMMUNITY ACROSS
ALL SOCIO-ECONOMIC LINES TO END POVERTY

Submitted by Dell Simpson, Circles Coach

DID YOU KNOW

- According to Headwaters Economics, as of 2016, there are over 37,000 individuals living in poverty in Lexington County. Of those, nearly half live in “deep poverty” (half of the Federal Poverty Guideline). These individuals make up nearly 7, 300 families, 80% of whom have children. The Federal Poverty Guideline for a family of four is \$25, 100.
- Individuals in poverty face several systemic barriers such as affordable housing, reliable transportation, affordable child care and health insurance and predatory lending.
- Poverty affects everyone, not just the poor. The annual estimated cost to our society is over \$500 billion per year.

*You have been a refuge for the poor,
a refuge for the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the storm
and a shade from the heat*

ISAIAH 25:4

Each week across the nation in 19 different states, over 70 chapters of CIRCLES® USA meet weekly offering encouragement and support to individuals working to overcome poverty. Mt. Horeb UMC began the second chapter in South Carolina in 2017. At weekly meetings, local individuals and families working to overcome poverty (called Circle Leaders) meet with community volunteers (Allies) over dinner and programming to work on goals towards self-reliance. Over time, income improves, debt and public assistance decreases and necessary relationships are built.

In essence, participants begin to offer and experience the “refuge” and “shelter” the prophet Isaiah speaks of in Isaiah Chapter 25. Living in poverty adds an enormous amount of stress to daily life and necessitates the need for a loving community to come alongside and offer respite and encouragement as fellow neighbors work to break the chains of poverty.

One Circle Leader, Rebecca, described her experience saying, “I entered the Circles fellowship scared, broken, overwhelmed, exhausted and very suspicious of the ‘middle class’ leadership and presence. I left the first night with a boost of hope I had never before experienced in my struggle to end poverty. I also felt a strong connection to others and was able to honestly admit how alone and vulnerable I had been.” Circles provided for her a safe, loving and encouraging place to receive the help and support she needed to become self-sufficient.

Reaching out and befriending the poor not only fulfills the sentiment of Isaiah’s words, but ultimately exemplifies the mandate of Jesus to love our neighbor as ourselves. We love God by loving others and allowing Him to use us to simply be a friend to someone in need. He calls us all into relationship with others as a vehicle of sharing His love with all. Are you currently offering the refuge and shelter of friendship to someone who is poor?

PRAY

For those in Lexington County who are living in poverty. Pray for God’s Spirit to move in and around them, filling them with hope that life can be better.

For the volunteers who will lead, mentor and provide for the Circle Leaders as they work to realize their goals and dreams.

For the Lord to provide you with an opportunity to befriend someone in poverty. Pray to establish an intentional relationship that will help provide a refuge, shelter and shade from the harsh experiences of daily life.

ACT

Go to circleslexingtoncounty.org to find out how you can become involved in helping your community bring an end to poverty.

Take an online poverty simulation experience at playspent.org.

Participate in a live poverty simulation at Mt. Horeb UMC.

DAY 6

TURKEY

MISSION: TO SERVE AS ENGLISH TEACHERS
IN A LIMITED-ACCESS COUNTRY IN ORDER TO BE
AMBASSADORS OF JESUS CHRIST
AND VESSELS OF HIS LOVE

*Submitted by missionaries from Mt. Horeb serving in Turkey.
Their names are omitted for their protection.*

DID YOU KNOW

- Turkey has the lowest percentage of evangelical believers of any country in the world. (Source: Operation World 2010)
- The Biblical sites of Mt. Ararat (Noah's Ark), the New Testament churches of the Galatians, Ephesians and Colossians and the seven churches of Revelation are all located in Turkey.
- In 1960, there were only 10 known evangelical believers in Turkey.
- Islam is the majority religion with 99.8% of the people identifying as Muslim

***Solomon woke up and realized that God
had spoken to him in the dream.***

1 KINGS 3:15

She seemed to be a well-educated and modern Middle-Eastern woman, yet there were also sad stories of a difficult marriage and financial struggles. After barely being able to communicate for months because of our limited language skills, we began to understand more of her story. When she was 22, she had the same dream for two nights in a row. In this dream, she saw the face of Jesus. He said nothing. It was only his face. Yet, somehow, she knew exactly who he was. She asked her mother what this dream might mean. Her mother replied, "It means something wonderful will happen."

Many years later, after suffering difficult hardships, one day a foreign woman moved in across the hall. With a sense of joy and peace, this woman seemed different. The newcomer offered to share tea with her, then a Bible in her own language and then stories about the man called Jesus. She then realized the words of her mother had finally come true. Encountering the living Lord Jesus in a personal way that she could understand and believe was the "something wonderful" that happened!

As we have had the opportunity to learn the language and Bible stories, we have seen her grow and even teach us. As we studied the story of Zacchaeus, she realized that like the short man in the Bible story, Jesus had come to stay at her house! Moreover, she senses the responsibility to share this "something wonderful" with her family.

PRAY

For the people living in the ancient land of the Galatians to encounter Jesus through dreams, music and the loving witness of the few believers living there.

For a resolution to the political and economic tensions between Turkey and the West.

For the small number of Christians living along the Black Sea to have opportunities to share the true gospel in word and deed among the many unreached people.

ACT

Please take a minute to use your smart phone or computer to view a map of Asia Minor in the time of Paul. Find the region of Galatia and trace it with your finger. Spend a minute praying over this region of the world and for the people there to encounter the living Lord Jesus. Then spend a few minutes in silence and listen for the Lord's voice. What do you hear or sense the Holy Spirit telling you to do next?

DAY 7

SHARE THE WARMTH

MISSION: TO PROVIDE A FREE WINTER COAT TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE WHOSE FAMILIES WOULD STRUGGLE TO AFFORD ONE

Submitted by Chris Winston, chair of the Share the Warmth Ministry

DID YOU KNOW

- For many students, this is the first new coat they've ever owned.
- Students in the schools we serve (primarily in Red Bank, Gilbert and Pelion) are twice as likely to take part in free-and-reduced lunch programs than other Lexington One students.
- Over the past seven years, more than 2,000 coats have been given through the program.

*Whoever welcomes one such child
in my name welcomes me.*

MATTHEW 18:5

It's so easy to take things for granted. We sometimes forget that not every family can keep their home toasty and warm during a winter season. We can forget that many children aren't dropped off and picked up right at the bus stop - or at the school's front door. We take for granted that there is always going to be \$20 to buy a new coat for our children when they've outgrown last year's. But in our community, these aren't the realities for many of our neighbors.

Through our two small groups (E51 and Growing Together In Christ), Bridget and I have been involved in the Mt. Horeb Share the Warmth coat drive for six years. During that time, we have been a small part of helping hundreds of local students stay warm while they stand at the bus stop in the pre-dawn winter hours or walk home from school at the end of a chilly day. We have seen church members (adults and children) prayerfully choose a boy or girl ticket that represents a local child, go to the store together and return with a new coat to donate. Our small groups have been overwhelmed by the response as hundreds of coats have been donated and then given out to local schools. We have been rewarded with such heartfelt thanks and appreciation from the schools and their guidance counselors telling us how God's love is warming their children.

I have been fortunate to stand in a classroom at Gilbert Elementary as students excitedly entered the room and were able to pick out a coat that matched their needs - both physically and emotionally. I saw a boy pick out a shiny red coat just his size because it was his favorite color. I saw a girl try on a new purple coat and erupt into a bright smile. I watched boys and girls beam with pride and stand taller (and warmer) as they left the classroom.

We don't know what is happening in these children's lives. We don't know why their families are struggling financially. We don't know why they don't have enough new clothes. But what we do know is that through the Share the Warmth program, hundreds of children know they are loved. They know they matter. They know someone is thinking about them and they know there is a God who will always be there for them.

PRAY

That every local child who needs a winter coat is given a winter coat.

That guidance counselors and teachers are able to lovingly connect families with this ministry.

That the children come to feel the love and warmth of Jesus when they receive a new coat.

ACT

Commit to buying a new winter coat for a child.

Claim a ticket from the missions table following an upcoming service.

Return the coat by the assigned date to the church so it can be distributed.

DAY 8

HAITI CHILDREN PROJECT

MISSION: TO RAISE A NEW GENERATION
OF HAITIAN LEADERS

Submitted by Wade McGuinn, Founder and CEO of Haiti Children Project

DID YOU KNOW

- Haiti Children Project began in 2003 with an orphanage in Jeremie, Haiti. Since then, it has transitioned into a foster care and education program.
- Our students, previously with no hope or future, have graduated from major universities in Haiti and now serve as engineers, nurses and doctors thanks to the support of our donors. We currently have over 25 students at different levels attending school; their care providers are receiving financial and spiritual assistance from HCP.
- In 2018, HCP partnered with Friends for Health in Haiti (FHH) to support four pillars of service in Curative (medical), Preventative (water and sanitation), Livelihoods (micro entrepreneur and goat program), Spiritual (VBS and teaching). In August, we held a medical mission and launched the micro entrepreneurs and goat programs! We believe this partnership will create healthy families and relieve the need for orphaned or foster care over time.

***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”***

JEREMIAH 29:11

Throughout Scripture, we read stories of God giving men “new names.” From Abraham to Peter, God gave each a new name to let them know they were destined for a new mission in life. The new name was a way to reveal the divine plan and assure them that God’s plan would be fulfilled. A new name reveals a new beginning. Abraham, Jacob, Peter and now *Yvon*.

More than 15 years ago, a small, shy boy came to live at the HCP orphanage. He had no one to care for him. His name is Yvon Sarah. He had a curiosity about mechanical things. He would help with the batteries and the generator and work on anything broken around the building. Yvon did well in school. He had a special heart for all the other kids in the orphanage, putting them first and helping any way he could. He finished high school and was accepted to Quisqueya University in Port Au Prince. He is now a senior.

Because he knows the power of Jesus and never doubted that God has a plan for him, Yvon received a new name. Last summer, he was serving as an engineering intern at a primary municipal water facility. Others recognized him for his excellent skills. They would call out for his help asking for “Engineer Yvon.” Reflecting back, Yvon told me that for the first time in his life, he had a name and a future: Yvon Engineer. Praise God.

Thanks to our donors and our short-term missionaries, Yvon has the faith and hope it took to get a new name. No longer known only as “orphan,” he is now known as “engineer.” Yvon’s story is a witness and testimony to God’s power and grace. Yvon is ready and empowered to change the future of Haiti for the glory of God.

PRAY

For the integrity of our partnership with FHH, especially for Dr. Wolf and Cherlee who have dedicated their lives to building healthy, self-sufficient families.

For the children of Haiti Children Project. Ask God to give them a strong mind and heart and that they will grow to change Haiti through His power and direction.

To partner in this ministry by serving or giving to financially support others who go.

ACT

Learn about HCP firsthand by serving on one of our short-term (5-7 day) missions trips. Three trips are planned for 2019 including medical missions, goat ministry and VBS for kids and families. Visit haitichildrenproject.org to sign up for our newsletter, join a trip or to donate.

DAY 9

CONCESSIONS OF HOPE

MISSION: TO PROVIDE A HOT MEAL,
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND HOPE TO
HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA

Submitted by Janis Albergotti with Ken Lucas

DID YOU KNOW

- In 2017, over 19,000 people received homeless services in Lexington and Richland Counties.
- In 2017, over 4,000 people lived in a shelter for one night.
- In 2017, about 26% of the homeless were families with children in South Carolina.

*'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

*"Then the righteous will answer him,
'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you something to drink?
When did we see you a stranger and invite you in,
or needing clothes and clothe you?
When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

MATTHEW 25:35-40

Concessions of Hope, formerly known as the Matthew 25 Ministry, exists to provide both physical and spiritual food to the homeless in downtown Columbia. This team of faithful servants show up at the Mt. Horeb kitchen early on the fourth Saturday of the month to prepare a nutritious, hot meal. Once the food is prepared, they transport it to Hope Plaza in Columbia where the homeless gather for food, encouragement and prayer.

Ken Lucas, who coordinates the ministry for Mt. Horeb, remembers a Saturday before Easter several years ago. On this particular morning, the team gathered to prepare the meal as they usually do. They cooked the same amount of food as always, expecting the usual number to attend. Ken recalls it being like the Loaves and Fishes story in the Bible. While they only prepared food for around 100 people, they actually fed 219 people. The food that was there just kept multiplying in the pot until every person was fed! God heard their prayers and answered in a miraculous way!

Ken remarks that the real “aha” moment came for him when he realized that just one mistake put some of them on the street. One mistake cost them their home, their family, their future. Concessions of Hope exists not only to provide food, but also to provide hope for those who are homeless. Hope comes when volunteers take time to sit and listen to the life story of someone who feels invisible. Hope comes when prayers are offered and answers are seen. Hope comes when the love of Christ is displayed in small acts of compassion.

PRAY

For shelter, security and hope for the homeless.

For those of us with warm houses and comfortable beds, that we will not be lulled into complacency and forgetfulness. Jesus, help us to see your face in the eyes of every homeless person we meet so that we may be empowered through word and deed and through the means we have to bring justice, peace and hope to those who are homeless.

ACT

Carry a box of granola bars, water bottles or similar imperishable snacks in your car. When you see a homeless person, stop and give them a snack. Ask their name. Pray for them. Even a smile can make a huge difference.

Volunteer to serve with Concessions of Hope. Opportunities include being on the food prep team, transporting food and serving it or serving on the prayer ministry with the homeless. Small groups are encouraged to sign up and serve together. For more information or to volunteer, contact missions@mthorebumc.com.

DAY 10

THE HARRIS FAMILY

MISSION: TO MOBILIZE TEAMS
TO GLORIFY GOD AMONG UNREACHED
PEOPLES BY INITIATING CHURCH PLANTING
MOVEMENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL CHURCHES.

Submitted by Tim Harris, a full time missionary serving with his wife Rachel and their two children, Isaiah and Lydia

DID YOU KNOW

- Of the approximately 4,000,000 people in this country, less than 400 are known believers.
- The economy is stagnant with unemployment hovering around 40%.
- Islam is strongly connected to national identity; to be a citizen is to be a Muslim.
- As a result of the historic conflicts, this country is still heavily contaminated with land mines and the explosive remnants of war. Some sources report more land mines per square mile than any other place on earth.

***He will respond to the prayer of the destitute;
he will not despise their plea.***

PSALM 102:17

I had a contractor over to help us repair a broken window. I often dread these types of chores because I feel that they are impeding my “real work.” However, on this occasion, I could not have been more wrong. During the process of repairing our broken window, the contractor and I struck up a conversation. It became clear to me that this man was hurting. He was not earning much money because he could not find a real job. His wife and two children were living in an abandoned building with rats and a leaky roof. There was no water and electricity was scarce.

As he finished the job, my wife offered us something to drink. When he finished his drink, I asked if I could pray for him. I told him that I believe that God hears our prayers and that He has the power to answer. He shrugged his shoulders, so I plowed ahead quickly in fear that he would change his mind and say “No.” I prayed, sharing with Jesus about the needs of this family and asked Him to provide a job and safe housing for this man and his family. After the prayer, he quickly left.

Months passed, and then one day as I was walking home, a man came running up to me. He was yelling, “Jesus answered your prayers! Jesus answered your prayers!” At first, I did not recognize him. I was afraid that others would hear him and I would be in danger because we have Muslim extremists in our area. Then, I realized who he was and was pleased to hear his story. He shared with me how God had provided a wonderful job for him. This is quite a feat due to the high unemployment rate. God had also provided a warm, safe apartment for them to rent with a place for their children to play. This answered prayer opened the door for this family to learn more about Jesus, through the study of God’s Word. Please pray that this family will continue their journey towards Christ.

PRAY

For a movement of disciples making disciples.

For God to draw people to Himself through dreams, visions and miracles.

For more workers to come to Southeastern Europe.

ACT

Read *Miraculous Movements* or *Contagious Discipleship* to learn more about discipleship movements.

Ask God to give you boldness to pray for the needs of those you encounter on a daily basis.

DAY 11



EMMANUWHEEL

MISSION: TO PROVIDE WHEELCHAIR RAMPS TO MOBILITY-IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS WHO CANNOT AFFORD BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Submitted by Joe Pinkham, Emmanuwheel Team Leader

DID YOU KNOW

- Emmanuwheel has been addressing safe access issues for clients in Lexington and Richland Counties since 2010.
- The Mt. Horeb team has constructed over 100 handicap ramps, stairs, porches and decks for men, women and children who cannot get safely into and out of their homes.
- 99% of the money contributed to Emmanuwheel by institutions and individuals goes into material for ramps for those in need.
- Some seventy members of Mt. Horeb have participated in “ramp builds” at one time or another. A people of all ages, we are accountants, pharmacists, engineers, information technologists, landscapers, salespersons, musicians, etc. Many are retired, some are not. No special skills or tools are required – only a servant’s heart.

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

HEBREWS 6:10

Ed Hartung introduced the ramp ministry to Mt. Horeb in 2010, having developed and managed a similar ministry at his previous church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. God used Ed to reveal the essence of this ministry to me.

On one occasion Ed committed to not only building an extended, complex ramp (our normal project scope), but also replacing a large, old, decaying deck from the ground up. We usually finished a project in a day's time, however, with demolition, rebuilding the deck and stairs, and constructing the handicap ramp, this one took the better part of three days. The project was undertaken on behalf of a beautiful, though severely challenged, seven-year-old child being raised and cared for by her grandparents.

At one point in the project, we were stalled and needed Ed's input, but he was nowhere to be found. Anxious and maybe even a little irritated, I spotted him a ways off entertaining the child on a swing. Ed was kneeling down at eye level with the child, and although she couldn't communicate well verbally, the huge smiles on her face and Ed's said everything. Both were sharing the love of Christ - the essence and objective of the Emmanuwheel Ministry.

The Mt. Horeb team seeks to maintain that essence with each project undertaken, making sure the recipient knows that the gift is a "little miracle" from God. One of our volunteers mounts a plaque on each ramp proclaiming the glory of God; another offers the gift of a Bible to any willing to receive it. The team prays over the recipient at the conclusion of a project asking God to grant them mercy and grace and thanking Him for making the gift possible.

PRAY

For those in need of safe access to their homes who are unable to afford it on their own.

That additional volunteers and organizations step up to meet the physical and financial requirements necessary to grow the ministry to meet those needs.

Pray for the safety and protection of all the volunteers and that each one reflects the love of God in a manner that glorifies Him.

ACT

Visit emmanuwheel.org for details and information on the ministry and how you can donate and/or volunteer.

If you would like to participate in one of Mt. Horeb's ramp projects, contact Brittany at brittany.morris@mthorebumc.com.

DAY 12

HOPE OF GLORY INDIA

MISSION: TO PREVENT SEXUAL TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN BY RESCUING AND RESTORING THEM FROM THE STREETS AND BROTHEL AREAS OF MAHARASTRA, INDIA AND PROVIDING THEM WITH A FAMILY ATMOSPHERE OF LOVE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Submitted by Brenda Lewis, YWAM missionary to India

DID YOU KNOW

- India is about one-third the size of the United States, yet it is the second most populous country in the world, with a population of 1,166,079,217
- 81% of the population is Hindu, with Christians comprising only 2.1%
- Hope of Glory Foundation has been supported by Mt. Horeb UMC for the past three years. Without the gifts of Mt. Horeb, this children's home would not have been able to continue raising the 35 children in their care.

*For the grace of God has appeared
that offers salvation to all people.*

TITUS 2:11

Raju was born into an abusive family. At five years old, he ran away. He hopped on a train and fell asleep. When he arrived in Pune, he got off the train with everyone else and lived in the railway station with the other homeless there. He begged for food and slept on the concrete. No one wanted the burden of this dirty little five-year-old boy.

The Hope of Glory (HOG) children's home regularly visited the homeless in the train station to give them blankets and food. They found little begging Raju and asked if he wanted to come be part of their family. They took him into the family but within a few weeks he ran away, not wanting to go to school and obey rules.

Raju started running with a group of homeless boys, finding a place of belonging, sniffing glue, begging, stealing and roaming on the train. He eventually came back to Pune and asked to live in HOG and we welcomed him into our family again! Raju realized that God was giving him a chance at life. He recognized that if he ran again, he would be a homeless drug addict like so many he had gotten to know on the streets in India. He started studying really hard and not only caught up with the other boys in school, but surpassed them.

At a Christian summer camp with other HOG kids, he encountered Jesus for the first time! He started praying and felt hopeful and alive.

After high school, he entered a three year intensive nurse training course in Pune, provided by gifts from Mt. Horeb. He graduated with incredible grades and applied to the best hospital in Pune. He is now head nurse in intensive care in that same hospital.

Raju is a miracle of God! He has a long-term dream of taking medical teams to the villages so that people who don't know Jesus can hear the Gospel and receive medical care that is so often denied them in India. He also has a dream of trying to find his family again and to lead them to Christ!

PRAY

That the leadership of HOG will have wisdom in how best to meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the children in their care.

That the HOG home will have favor with their Hindu neighbors and government officials.

That God will raise up a generation of disciples who will go and make disciples among the unreached in India.

ACT

Who are the people in our neighborhoods, schools, places of work and community who are overlooked, neglected and forgotten? Look for them and when you see them, be intentional in getting to know them and their story. Be "Jesus with skin on" to them by demonstrating love.

DAY 13

LAVIE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

MISSION: TO PROVIDE CHRIST-CENTERED SUPPORT TO THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF THOSE FACING DIFFICULT PREGNANCY DECISIONS

Submitted by Linda Brown, Executive Director of LaVie

DID YOU KNOW

- Since the passage of Roe v. Wade, almost 61 million babies have been lost to abortion, their potentials never realized, their families forever changed.
- One-third of the millennial generation is missing due to abortion.
- The characteristics of Post-Abortion Syndrome are almost identical to those of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Lexington County has the seventh highest abortion rate of all 46 South Carolina counties.

***I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles.
I am sending you to them to open their eyes and
turn them from darkness to light, and from the power
of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins
and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.***

ACTS 26:17-18

It was through an in depth study of the Book of Esther [at Mt. Horeb] that the Lord called me into the ministry of a pregnancy care center. I was encouraged by sweet friends who listened to me describe the conviction I felt through Scripture describing an “annihilation of a generation.” At the time, I had no idea what a pregnancy center was.

I will never forget describing the work we do to a group of ministers when a few commented that we “should leave God and theology out of it.” While my mind was still reeling from that comment, the Holy Spirit allowed me to speak Scripture after Scripture that confirmed why the Lord, His word and the Gospel MUST be the focus of this ministry.

Life and death is literally on the line in our center. The spiritual warfare is as intense as any I have ever experienced. We present and speak truth because the truth sets us free. (John 8:32) I have witnessed time and time again the truth of God’s word open eyes, change hearts, heal wounds, direct paths, bring peace, break chains of bondage... and save lives. “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2)

Through this ministry, I have had the opportunity to share the gospel with women and men that I might not otherwise meet – those practicing atheism, Buddhism, Islam, Wiccan and even to some who were in cults. An unexpected pregnancy situation is the perfect opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ! What the enemy intends for evil, God will use for good! (Genesis 50:20)

His word does not return void!

PRAY

For the Body of Christ to support the work of LaVie Pregnancy Care Center by committing to financially supporting the ministry, volunteering and being an ambassador for the ministry in the community.

For the lives of the unborn at risk to be saved and for their mothers and fathers to come to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

For the women and men experiencing the pain of a past abortion to begin the process of healing through the “Set Free” abortion recovery assistance program at LaVie Pregnancy Care Center.

ACT

To learn more about LaVie or to volunteer, please visit laviesc.org or call (803) 996-4673.

DAY 14

BETHEL OUTREACH MINISTRY INDIA

MISSION: TO RESTORE HOPE AND RESTORE LIVES
FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN INDIA

Submitted by Meghan Sanders

DID YOU KNOW

- Bethel children's home in India serves as home to over 160 children who were rescued from the streets. Mt. Horeb has played an integral part in this ministry by providing finances to support the work being done by Indian nationals Joseph and Deborah Livingston.
- The leadership of Bethel, Joseph and Deborah, are church planters. They have helped to plant over 300 churches throughout India.
- With help from Mt. Horeb, Bethel is building a second children's home in Kolkata (the world's epicenter for human trafficking) to serve children rescued from trafficking
- Bethel desires to help break the cycle of poverty by giving their children a trade skill or higher education (college degree).

God said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes down to the water. Tell him, 'God's Message: Release my people so they can worship me. If you don't release my people, I'll release swarms of flies on you, your servants, your people, and your homes. The houses of the Egyptians and even the ground under their feet will be thick with flies. But when it happens, I'll set Goshen where my people live aside as a sanctuary—no flies in Goshen. That will show you that I am God in this land. I'll make a sharp distinction between your people and mine. This sign will occur tomorrow.'"

EXODUS 8:22-23

Goshen, in its original Hebrew language, means “redemption and ransom.”

I have traveled to many places and visited many children’s homes around the world. Based upon my experiences, I had come to expect a certain average standard in Christian children’s homes. However, I had heard that Bethel Children’s home was unlike other homes. It was different. It was special. I was skeptical and I knew I needed to experience it for myself.

Bethel is located right outside a tribal Indian village. Just as *Goshen* was surrounded by the immense evils of Egypt, Bethel is surrounded by an overwhelming darkness. It was felt, it was seen and it was heard. However, the moment I stepped through Bethel’s gates, I understood why this place was different. Bethel was a *Goshen* – a place set apart from the rest of the world where people are being redeemed. Where the outside world was heavy with evil, Bethel was untouched.

A *Goshen* is right and pure because redemption is the vitality on which it survives. In a *Goshen*, there is joy in the midst of great pain, beauty in the midst of much suffering, hope in the midst of many trials and peace in the midst of extensive strife. Many children’s homes are built around those who run them. However, Bethel was built around nothing less than the saving work of Jesus.

In a *Goshen*, there is an obvious purpose and clarity. In this place, God’s hand is at work and redemption is on the move. It cannot be denied, ignored or mis-identified. For years, I had taken part in “good” things, but as we know, even a painted pig can be labeled “good.” After experiencing the *Goshen* of Bethel children’s home, I made a new commitment to the Lord – to only take part in and create *Goshens* of this world.

PRAY

Against the ongoing spiritual warfare Bethel faces in advancing the gospel, particularly the safety of their church planters and pastors.

For government cooperation in the build of the Kolkata home.

For the Christian staff needed to further advance God’s calling for the ministry. Christianity is less than 4% of the population.

ACT

India is a Hindu nation. As western Christians, it is hard to imagine changing our image or our attire in order to protect and serve our witness. But in the Hindu culture, jewelry, make-up, colorful clothes, piercings and even hairstyles are symbolic of the gods they serve. Because of this, the Indian Christians forgo style and live minimalistic lives, dress plainly, and wear basic hairstyles. How can we learn from our brothers and sisters there to more effectively represent Christ here?



DAY 15

THE KNUTZEN FAMILY

MISSION: TO START DISCIPLESHIP MOVEMENTS
ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES ACROSS RUSSIA

*Submitted by Elmira Knutzen, a missionary serving in Russia
with her husband, Chris, and their four children,
two of whom are adopted and have physical disabilities*

DID YOU KNOW

- In Russia, doctors in the maternity ward are often the ones who introduce the idea of abandonment — even when a mother has not asked about it.
- These doctors think that disabled children are impossible to teach and that they do not have a future.

***“For if you keep silent at this time,
relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews
from another place, but you and your father’s house
will perish. And who knows whether you have not come
to the kingdom for such a time as this?”***

ESTHER 4:14

That evening, the phone rang off the hook. I was getting calls from media outlets all over Moscow asking my response to a comment some politician made about a video we had posted online of our daughter (who has no arms) eating with her feet. A politician had remarked that our daughter should have been aborted. I felt that we had the opportunity to speak out on behalf of the unborn and those with special needs and that the country was listening, but still, it seemed that it might come with a cost. I fell asleep wondering if speaking out would be worth it.

As I woke up the next morning, I noticed the decal we had just put up on our wall of the verse from Esther. I realized the parallels to our story. Here I was being caught in the middle of a war between one man's intention and an entire group of people who were being exterminated. In the Bible, Esther, who was adopted by her uncle, had a decision to make about whether to put her well-being on the line for the survival of her people. The verse rang true in my heart. I realized that God and life circumstances prepare us for occasional big moments. We don't plan for those moments. They come when we least expect it, but we need to be ready to act because sometimes the moment goes away just as fast as it comes. In our case, I knew that if I was quiet, this media storm would also pass. We would be safe, but what about the next baby who will be killed because of her disability? What about the thousands of children who are denied the possibility of life because of a cultural value that says the comfort of the parents is more important than the life of the child?

That next morning, I started answering the phone calls. I had the opportunity to tell our story before millions of people. I met people of influence and got to talk about things that mattered. People listened. And hopefully, lives are saved. We have had the opportunity to share the gospel with politicians, activists and celebrities. People were forced to deal with the idea that God values all lives, that no one is an accident. I think that Russia is in the process of change and I am so thankful to have been in a position to be a part of that. And in the process, I know that I am changed as well.

PRAY

That God will continue to give Chris and Elmira a platform to speak up for the rights of the disabled.

That those who hear the Truth will believe and respond to it.

ACT

What injustices are present in the USA? What people group is being overlooked or abandoned? Will you allow God to use you "for such a time as this?"

DAY 16

LIGHTHOUSE FOR LIFE

MISSION: TO EDUCATE AND EMPOWER PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF TRAFFICKING WITHIN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES AND LEARN HOW BEST TO RESPOND TO IT AND TO PROVIDE GRACE AND RESTORATION TO RESCUED VICTIMS

Submitted by Jen Thompson, Lighthouse for Life Executive Director

PRAY

For the untold number of victims of human trafficking in South Carolina too afraid to ask for help.

For unity among the staff of Lighthouse for Life as we daily serve female survivors of sex trafficking.

For SC Law Makers to raise the criminal penalty on those who solicit commercial sex with someone over the age of 18 from the penalty of a \$200 fine (at the most) to a much higher penalty to help prevent people from purchasing in the first place.

ACT

Education is an important part of combating human trafficking. Many people are not aware of the issue or how it can significantly affect the lives of victims. By informing your family and friends about human trafficking and letting them know about Lighthouse for Life, you can start making a difference today. Be a voice - make a difference.

Become a volunteer. Your various gifts and talents greatly help meet the different needs of Lighthouse for Life. For more information, go to lighthouseforlife.org.

DID YOU KNOW

- The average age of entry of someone into human trafficking is between 14 - 16 years old
- Human trafficking is the second-most profitable criminal enterprise in the United States bringing in over 9.8 billion dollars a year.
- Lighthouse for Life has one of only two safe homes for female children rescued from sex trafficking in the entire state of South Carolina.

It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!

EPHESIANS 1:5

She was thankful to have been arrested. And not only was she thankful she was arrested, she was specifically thankful for how she was treated once the arrest occurred. Most other times, she had been treated like an object, judged for her "choice" and looked right through as if she was made of glass. When people "saw" her they didn't usually see her, not really. Not for who she was. They only saw her for what she did and they judged her for it.

But not this time. This time was different. This time, they looked in her eyes when they questioned her. She was asked if she was hungry or needed a coat. She was asked to tell all about herself and how she ended up answering an outcall for a "date," only to find out he was an undercover officer. And this time, she answered. She told the truth. She gave her real name and her real story.

She told them how he lured her in gradually and then, how it all fell apart. She shared how she thought he loved her. But if he really loved her why was he making her sleep with other men for money? If he really loved her, why would he use her son, her very own eight-year-old son against her as a "motivator," as he liked to call it. "Bring home the cash and you can spend time with him. No cash, no kid." So that's why she did it. The heart of a mama will endure pain beyond comprehension for the sake of her children.

This time was different though. This was it. The last time. No more arrests. This time, she was treated with dignity and respect. This time, she told the truth and they kept their word. She was offered help, hope and a home. She was safe and didn't have to sleep with strangers just to survive. Was it easy? No, of course not. Did it happen overnight? No, but it *did* happen. One moment at a time, one prayer at a time, one meal at a time, one painful, vulnerable, courageous step at a time. And this time was the last time and grace made all the difference.

DAY 17

WIL & KATIE M.

MISSION: TO BRING THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT HIM
TO THE UNREACHED PEOPLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

Submitted by Katie M. who is serving with her husband, Wil, and newborn son, Ismail, in Southeast Asia

DID YOU KNOW

- 17 times a day in the prayers that Muslim people pray, they ask God to show them the straight path that leads to heaven.
- A central belief of Islam is that “God is One.” Many reject Christianity on the basis of a misunderstanding of the Trinity as being tritheism.
- Jesus, or Nabi Isa Al-Masih, is both mentioned and quoted in the Al-Quran multiple times.

***“So is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish
what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”***

ISAIAH 55:11

I nervously waited for her to arrive. With sweaty palms outstretched before me, I asked God to give me courage to talk with her when she got to my house. Moments later, my Muslim friend knocked on the door and we sat down together on the floor. “Lena,” I asked anxiously, “Would you like to study this story from the Holy Book with me? It’s about when God created the world.” Without hesitation she said sure, that sounded great to her. “*Praise be to God,*” I thought. “*Language, don’t fail me now!*”

We took turns reading from a page that I had printed— it had verses from Genesis written on the left in her language and the Arabic translation on the right, much like the look of the Al-Quran. First I read it, then she read it, then we both tried to retell it to each other in our own words. All previous nervousness vanished as we laughed at each other’s memory of the story. We discussed what we saw of God’s character in the act of providing clothing for Nabi Adam and Siti Hawa (Eve) despite their sin.

“Wow, I’ve never heard the story told like this before!” She told me, referencing the account in Genesis. “So who are you going to share it with?” I asked her. She mentioned her mother and sister and then we changed the subject. The next time we met, I was surprised to hear that she had in fact gone home and told the story to her family! She said they asked her many questions about God that she did not know the answers to, but said she would ask and try to find out.

Praise be to God! May the Word they have encountered lead them deeper into Truth.

Note: This woman professed faith in Christ as Lord and was recently baptized. Pray for her faith journey and that her family would come to know the Lord as she has.

PRAY

That people would continue to receive dreams and visions of Jesus and that they would be able to find Believers who can explain it to them.

For the continued discipleship of new Followers of Jesus.

That the national Christian Church would grow in it’s heart to reach the Muslim majority population.

ACT

Start doing a Discovery Bible Study, as modeled in the story above, with people you know who are open to learning more about God. They could be of a different faith or even just nominal in their Christianity.

DAY 18

KELLY LILLEY

***MISSION:** TO WIN, BUILD AND SEND CHRIST-CENTERED, MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES TO START MOVEMENTS EVERYWHERE SO THAT EVERYONE KNOWS SOMEONE WHO TRULY FOLLOWS JESUS*

Submitted by Kelly Lilley, a full time missionary for CRU serving in Orlando, Florida

DID YOU KNOW

- There are many high school students all across America who have never heard the gospel and do not know how to respond when asked, "Who is Jesus?"
- There are more than 15 million students enrolled in public high schools in America right now. Most students solidify their world view and seek to identify their life purpose during their teenage years.
- Studies have shown that an estimated 80% of people who are following Jesus made the decision to begin following him before their 18th birthday. This means there is a critical window of opportunity to reach out to teenagers who are making pivotal decisions about their world view.

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

ACTS 2:47

Two years ago at a public school in Orlando, some high school football players were empowered to reach out to the other guys on the team. 65 players from that team made a decision to begin a relationship with Jesus. The guys started reading the Bible together in the locker room after practice each week.

A young quarterback named Michael Kern was one of the students who made a decision to surrender his life to God that year. He went on a mission trip with us and grew so much in his faith that he returned to school wanting to make an impact in the lives of other students in the same way those guys had impacted him.

Last year at the same school, Michael, now the starting quarterback, led a team outreach where more than 30 guys indicated a decision to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. Michael was now the star quarterback of that team. He led the team to an undefeated season and was ranked one of the top quarterbacks in Florida last year, receiving offers from a number of Division One football teams as a junior.

Michael has committed to Wake Forrest and will be headed there next year on a full scholarship. But first, Michael has one more year left to impact Lake Nona High School and he hopes that God will use him to transform many lives with the gospel during his last year there before he heads off to college.

PRAY

That students would continue to be receptive to the gospel and that the Lord would raise up a generation of students who want to follow Jesus wherever he calls them!

That as students begin a relationship with Jesus, they would find mentors that help them grow in spiritual maturity and connect with a gospel-centered local church community.

For the teenagers in your life and in your community, that they would realize they may turn to Jesus instead of turning to things of this world that do not ultimately satisfy.

ACT

This week: Think of some teenagers in your life. Spend time with them, get to know them and show them you care. Ask them if they feel like they are in control of their own lives or if God is in control. Ask them if they want to be in control of their own life or if they want God to be in control. Explain to them how they can have a relationship with God and give Him control of their life if they choose to.*

*Tip: Download the App called *God Tools* for a helpful resource that concisely shares the gospel.

DAY 19

PERSECUTION PROJECT FOUNDATION

MISSION: TO PROVIDE ACTIVE COMPASSION FOR THE PERSECUTED BY BRINGING CRISIS RELIEF AND SPIRITUAL HOPE TO VICTIMS OF CIVIL WAR, GENOCIDE AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

Submitted by Ed Lyons, Executive Director of PPF

DID YOU KNOW

- Omar al-Bashir is the only sitting president of a country (Sudan) who has been indicted by the International Criminal Court for Crimes Against Humanity. He is responsible for millions of deaths of his own countrymen.
- Mt. Horeb has partnered with PPF since 2002, providing over \$582,000. The financial donations have provided for emergency food, shoes and clothes, cooking utensils, school supplies, mosquito nets, salt, tarps, blankets, wheelchairs, bicycles, hygiene kits, safe water projects, medical services, medicines and supplies as well as building hospitals and providing discipleship and evangelism for crisis relief.

*“You have heard that it was said,
“You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.”
But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you,
do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you
and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;
for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good,
and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?
Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others?
Do not even the tax collectors do so?
Therefore you shall be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.”*

MATTHEW 5:43-48

Working alongside the persecuted Church in the Nuba Mountains of North Sudan, Persecution Project Foundation has built relationships with hundreds, if not thousands of pastors and evangelists. We support them by hosting pastor conferences throughout the year. As we are able, we provide them with Bibles, audio Bibles and other Christian literature as well as ministry tools like motorbikes and Evangelistic Backpack Projector Systems so they can show The JESUS Film in villages. In addition, we have supported pastors and their families with dairy goats, which provide them with daily milk and future offspring.

The Nuba Church has an ongoing prison ministry to the enemy Islamic POWs captured by the Nuba forces. The church delivers food, clothing, medicine and shares the Gospel message with its enemies. Many of the prisoners have attacked, killed and pillaged the area for years. Others are simply scared mercenaries, who were hired to fight a fight they know little about and who simply want to go home.

Many struggle with Christ's command to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." As we interviewed Pastor Morris, one of the Nuba pastors, North Sudan rockets were being fired in our direction at targets only a few kilometers away. Even still, he continues to visit the prisons to share provisions and the Gospel with the enemy combatants who have been captured. Visits from the Nuba pastors are bearing fruit. The prisoners ask Pastor Morris to return to share more Scripture with them. Hearts are changing. Even in jail, the prisoners are finding freedom.

When questioned by his own son as to why he continues to visit the prisoners of war, Pastor Morris replied, "My son, this is because Jesus says we have to love our enemies. Even if they are killing us, we have to love them. Because of that love - because of the command of Jesus - this is why I am now prepared to go and visit them."

PRAY

For the Nuba pastors to continue to share the Good News with those who have never heard of Jesus and that their ministry outreaches will bear much fruit.

For the embargo placed around the Nuba mountains by the Government of Sudan to be lifted so that more humanitarian organizations can enter the region and help those who are suffering.

For the severe famine in the Nuba area to end and until it does, that PPF will be able to supply food to the people living there.

ACT

You can help equip Nuba pastors with Evangelism Backpack Projector Systems. These projectors are light-to-carry, solar-powered and powerful enough to reach an audience of 200 with the message of hope found in *The JESUS Film*.

You can also help us provide dairy goats to hungry Nuba families. These goats provide sustainable famine relief by giving milk daily and by bearing future offspring.

DAY 20

MISSION LEXINGTON

MISSION: TO PROVIDE LIFE ESSENTIALS,
RESOURCES AND GUIDANCE TO LEXINGTON COUNTY
NEIGHBORS IN MOMENTS OF CRISIS

Submitted by Donna Dell

***Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
when it is in your power to act.***

***Do not say to your neighbor,
“Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you”
—when you already have it with you.***

PROVERBS 3:27-28

PRAY

Pray those we serve will feel the love of Christ and know they are valued.

Pray our community will respond with generosity by donating time and resources to help those in need.

Pray for wisdom for the Mission Lexington leadership as they develop strategies for the future.

ACT

Serve our community with the gifts you have been given! Volunteer positions available in social services, the donation center and the Mission Lexington thrift shop.

Donate your resources. The Donation Center accepts new and gently used goods along with food donations. Donated items are given to our neighbors in need free of charge or sold at our Mission Store, with profits returning to the ministry.

DID YOU KNOW

- Mission Lexington, formerly known as Lexington Interfaith Community Services or LICCS, is a social services ministry established 40 years ago with a mission of “Glorifying God by serving our neighbors in crisis.”
- Mission Lexington meets over 30,000 needs in Lexington County each year, ranging from food, clothing and shelter assistance to fire recovery or burial expenses for a child.
- Volunteers pray with clients after their interview in addition to providing referrals and other resources.

This summer, we assisted *Ms. Jones. She works in a public sector job and is paid on a nine-month schedule. She had two teenagers living at home and was running out of funds for food. We also provided clothing for Ms. Jones and her two children. I learned that Ms. Jones had two natural-born children, now independent adults with their own children. She worked with special needs students professionally and had a heart for the students. She adopted two special needs young people. Her two adopted children are now adults; however, neither can function independently. Her adopted son had just come out of a mental health facility. Her adopted daughter also has mental health-related issues. Her daughter tries to work, however, is often unsuccessful.

Ms. Jones struggles to provide for herself and for the two young people and talks about getting another job to make ends meet. She is conflicted, as she knows that her son cannot be left alone or he may do harm to himself, however, she has to work to provide for all of them.

Just over a week after Ms. Jones came to Mission Lexington for help, we heard a story about a Lexington County woman whose home burned down. We realized that the woman whose home burned was our Ms. Jones, so we called her. She told us that she had not come to Mission Lexington for assistance because we had just helped her. All of the food and clothing we provided was burned in the fire. We asked her to come in so we could assist her again. The home was a total loss. She is staying with her adult daughter until her home is re-built, however, she will need everything to replace what was destroyed in the home.

This is only one example of what we encounter at Mission Lexington every day. We never know who will walk through our doors. The magnitude of what many people have gone through is beyond the comprehension of most of us. Clients at Mission Lexington are our Lexington County neighbors and they need our help. Please pray for neighbors like Ms. Jones.

**Client name changed*



DAY 21

MISSION OF HOPE SAMOA

MISSION: TO SHARE THE GOSPEL
WITH UNBELIEVERS WHILE MEETING THEIR
PHYSICAL NEEDS THROUGH MEDICAL MISSION TEAMS

Submitted by Bev Sease

***The prayer of a righteous person
is powerful and effective.***

JAMES 5:16

PRAY

That the people of Samoa will realize their greatest need is Jesus and will open their hearts to Him.

For Pastor Pele and his wife, Eva, to have wisdom and discernment to oversee the construction of a new medical facility in American Samoa. This facility will serve as a mission station as it cares for the medical needs of those who may have never seen a doctor before.

That the Lord will provide all that is needed for those who feel led to go and serve.

ACT

Join the next short term team to Samoa. Both medical and non-medical individuals are needed to ensure that the team is able to minister to the masses who come to the clinics. For more information, contact missions@mthorebumc.com.

DID YOU KNOW

- Mt. Horeb has been sending members to Samoa for 14 years.
- Each summer, medical mission teams travel to six new villages to hold clinics. The team consists of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, individuals to do triage and wound care, and non-medical people to lead children's ministry and prayer ministry.
- Church buildings in Samoa often serve only as locations for social activity for community members rather than serving as places for worship, prayer and discipleship.

Lila and her mother came late in the day to one of our medical mission clinics in American Samoa. She had already seen the doctor and was brought to me for prayer. She sat down next to me, her eyes squinting as her mother told me about her blindness.

As I spoke to her, she stood and put her face within inches of mine, reached up, felt my face with her fingers and smiled. I could not contain my tears as my heart melted in compassion for this beautiful six-year-old girl. I told Lila that Jesus loved her and that he wanted her to be healed. Our whole prayer team came together and laid hands on her to pray. Somehow, some way we knew that God wanted Lila to see a miracle happen.

Back in the States, after a few weeks of rest and reflective thoughts, an action plan came to mind. I spoke to my ophthalmologist about Lila's case. He informed me that only one doctor in Columbia, a pediatric ophthalmologist, could perform the delicate surgery. We contacted him and he agreed to do the surgery. Financial backing came quickly. Mt. Horeb purchased the airline ticket and Lila was on her way from the small island of American Samoa.

The examination showed that the window of opportunity for a successful surgery was near its end. Prior to her surgery, Lila was once again surrounded by prayer, this time, by women from the Emmanuel Sisters small group who gathered to pray for a miracle. The surgery was extremely difficult and lengthy removing the tenacious cataract on the first eye. But praise God, against all odds, the surgery was a success! The following week, the second eye surgery was attempted. Again, a tediously slow precise surgery to remove the crystallized cataract became a miracle of success! With great rejoicing, we praised God! When the eye shields were removed, Lila had perfect vision!

After her discharge from the hospital, Lila asked Jesus to come live in her heart. Oh the joy we experience when we take the Lord at His Word and believe that "the prayer of a righteous person is power and effective."



DAY 22

NEXT STEP MINISTRIES

MISSION: TO BE A PLATFORM WHERE
SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS COLLIDE WITH
LONG-TERM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*Submitted by Charity Ramsey, Next Step Partnership Coordinator
for Lexington County*

DID YOU KNOW

- Among the 13% of the population living below the poverty line in Lexington SC, 78% are single mothers raising a family. This can add stress on students (contributing to high school dropout rates), as many are without any type of supporting father figure.
- As drug use, crime, and gang activity strengthened in the areas surrounding Lexington in the 70's, many families moved out of their homes and into safer towns. Other families chose to stay in what they consider home. These families are committed to working for community transformation.
- Our goal is to come alongside families and share the hope of Christ. We do this by engaging with families and meeting physical needs through home repairs. This approach allows us to work alongside individuals and families to empower them to utilize their strengths and God-given talents to create long-term sustainability.

*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,
as though God were making his appeal through us.
We implore you on Christ's behalf:
Be reconciled to God.*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

A sweet lady living in Gaston, SC felt and experienced the love of Christ this summer through Next Step volunteers. Black mold had been in her home for years but she was unable to do anything about it due to a lack of financial resources. Through the efforts of equipped Next Step volunteers and a partnership with a mold exterminator, we ripped out the contaminated interior of her home and replaced it with new materials.

A few weeks after the groups left, she shared that she “doesn’t know where these kind of people come from.” She expressed that she has never met such loving individuals who cared so much for her. She has been through a lot with family and has never felt supported or valued. After our groups worked on her home for five weeks, she started to believe that she is loved, valued and has potential and a purpose here on earth. She now wants to get plugged into a local church. She says that she realizes she needs fellowship and community among other believers because “there’s just something about them” and she wants more people like that in her life. Our groups have gotten to pour into her tremendously and it’s been such an amazing few weeks of transformation for her. God uses these home projects for so much more than just tangible fixings. What once was a wilderness of hopelessness is now a stream of joy!

PRAY

For the students going on these mission trips, for their lives to be changed and transformed.

For God to be glorified through everything that takes place in Next Step Ministries, that those we encounter would come to know and experience the love of Christ and desire a relationship with Him that is real and personal.

For the partnerships and ministries who are joining together in Lexington, for there to be evidence of a Body of Christ working together for the people of God.

ACT

Be part of what’s taking place here in Lexington. You can visit nextstepministries.com to learn more about the ministry. You can also talk with the representative from Next Step or someone from the Missions department at Mt. Horeb to gain more information on how you can serve.



DAY 23

PRISON MINISTRY

MISSION: TO SHARE THE TRANSFORMING LOVE
AND FORGIVENESS OF JESUS CHRIST TO
INCARCERATED MEN AND WOMEN

Submitted by Jackie Lohr, Prison Ministry Volunteer

DID YOU KNOW

- Many who are incarcerated feel that change is either impossible for them or not needed.
- Many inmates feel they have no purpose in life and, therefore, have no need to monitor their behavior.
- Many inmates, while incarcerated, have found hope and true change through the Scriptures.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just
to forgive us our sins and
to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

1 JOHN 1:9

I had the privilege of meeting Sharon nine years ago at Camille Graham. She had already been in prison for five years with a maximum ten-year sentence. Sharon garnered my attention the first time we met as she prayed for the authorities around her, that all would accept responsibility for their actions, that all would desire Christian community in prison and that her desire to serve others would be fulfilled. She said that she was baptized at 13 but didn't fully understand that Jesus died for her or truly repent until prison. As she had time to read the Scriptures, she felt like she heard the Word of God reveal to her that He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Sharon has been saved by God's grace. She was released three years ago. In her own words she says, "God has granted me favor to be CEO of a Redemption House. I have a BSN in nursing. However, God has given me a burning passion to help women transition back into the community because I have walked in their shoes. I have been healed from the wounds of my past. It gives me great joy to convert my sisters and help them rebuild the walls in their lives and build a foundation with Christ Jesus our Lord!"

We thank God for the support of Mt. Horeb, which provides the Prison Ministry with large print study Bibles for women like Sharon who come to study and thirst for the Word. Over and over again, we are told that "prison saved my life because without it I would never have come to know Jesus."

PRAY

Men and women who are incarcerated will hunger and thirst to know the Living Word.

Men and women will come to know that Jesus offers hope, redemption and possibility of living a meaningful life.

Men and women who are incarcerated can cultivate Godly sorrow and repentance and know true forgiveness through Christ.

ACT

Volunteers can assist inmates at Camille Griffin Graham and Kirkland in literacy, GED preparation and testing, welding courses, office skills, cooking and Bible classes. In addition, Kairos is held twice a year over a weekend for those selected by the prison chaplains.

DAY 24

A black and white photograph showing several volunteers working on a roof. They are wearing hats and safety glasses, and one is using a power drill. The scene is outdoors, likely during a disaster relief effort.

PUERTO RICO DISASTER RELIEF

MISSION: TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD THROUGH
"CHRISTIAN LOVE IN ACTION"

Submitted by Jessica Brodie

DID YOU KNOW

- Hurricane Maria is regarded as the worst natural disaster to hit Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States. An estimated 3,000 people died in the aftermath of the storm.
- In South Carolina, groups and individuals can train to respond in the aftermath of disasters both locally and across the region. Led by coordinator Billy Robinson, the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Early Response Team formed in 2004 to respond with help in the aftermath of a disaster: cutting or clearing access routes into structures, applying tarps to roofs, securing structures to prevent further damage, mucking-out after a flood, etc. Its motto is "Christian Love in Action."
- All members of ERT go through an UMVIM/UMCOR ERT course on disaster response, an eight-hour course on the basic fundamentals of disaster response.

***Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?
And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'***

ISAIAH 6:8

Sometimes, spreading the Gospel is sharing our testimony. Sometimes, it's bringing someone to church. Sometimes, it's loving people in God's honor. And sometimes, it's leaving your family to hop on an airplane to Puerto Rico with nine other Christians, a suitcase full of power tools and a heart to serve as Jesus's hands and feet.

That's exactly what a team from Mt. Horeb UMC did in February 2018. Led by Nate Gibson, Director of Business Operations, the team of nine men and one woman spent time in Arecibo and Hatillo doing construction on four houses and a Methodist camp February 24 to March 3.

Each of the team members had been previously trained to serve on a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Early Response Team, so they knew the basics of tarping and muck-out, but when they arrived in Puerto Rico to find people living in half-tattered rubble with blue-tarp roofs, they realized much more was needed than a construction Band-Aid. One house got a full second-story muck-out as the team carted off rusted sheets of metal and rotted, waterlogged plywood so the home would be prepared for the next phase: rebuild. Another house, with a roof so leaky the home was infested with mold and other decay, got a brand-new metal roof, fresh paint and new wood trim. A third got a new roof and an exterior wall.

Puerto Rico was hit by a double-whammy of hurricanes in the fall of 2017: first Hurricane Irma September 6-7, then Hurricane Maria September 20. When the ERT team visited in February, a full sixth of the population was still without electricity and thousands—particularly those whose treatment depends on electricity, such as dialysis, insulin or oxygen—had died. But the island and its people are faithful and strong and committed to pressing on. In fact, their post-hurricane slogan can be seen painted on homes and plastered on banners and bumper stickers from the mountains to the cities: "Puerto Rico Se Levanta," meaning *Puerto Rico Rises Up*.

With the help of God-led construction teams from Mt. Horeb and other churches, as well as prayer and financial support from countless individuals across the nation and world, they will.

PRAY

For the people of Puerto Rico who have years of post-hurricane rebuild and construction work ahead.

For the volunteers being called to participate in mission service.

For the church ministries in place to resource, train, organize and deploy the volunteers, including the South Carolina UMVIM Early Response Team and the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

ACT

Get trained to serve on an Early Response Team, which responds in the immediate aftermath of a disaster to help make structures safe, sanitary and secure while providing a caring Christian presence. For information on the next training, email missions@mthorebumc.com.



DAY 25

THE ATTAWAYS

TMS GLOBAL

MISSION: TO MOBILIZE AND DEPLOY THE BODY OF CHRIST GLOBALLY TO JOIN JESUS IN HIS MISSION, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE LEAST-REACHED PEOPLES

Submitted by Pam and Todd Attaway

DID YOU KNOW

- TMS Global sends people around the world to spread the love and message of Jesus. Since 1984, TMS Global has mobilized, trained and served hundreds of cross-cultural witnesses. Currently, more than 180 workers serve in 34 nations around the world. Thousands of people have been introduced to Jesus and disciplined in their faith.
- Todd and Pam Attaway served in Thailand for five years with TMS. They currently live in Greenville, SC and serve with TMS Global as mobilization specialists. They would love to connect with you to answer any questions you have about overseas, cross-cultural ministry. To connect with them, email missions@mthorebumc.com.

Man plans his path but the Lord secures his steps.

PROVERBS 16:9

Sometimes, the path we are called to is not what we expect. Growing up in rural South Carolina, I never expected to live part of my life in Southeast Asia. For many years of my life I was rather self-focused. My goals were to finish high school, play sports in college, graduate from college and get a high paying job, get married, have a family, go on vacations and live life happily ever after. There is nothing wrong with any of these things, but I never really stopped to consider others in my area or around the world. So, for the most part, I had accomplished most of what I wanted. I had finished college, was married with a family and able to take decent vacations. I began to participate in local missions, cleanups around our state and repairing homes after hurricane Hugo. It wasn't until I began to serve others that the unexpected began to happen. God gradually began to lead me toward more and more service and finally placed within me the desire to serve long term internationally.

We left behind what we grew up in and knew. We moved two-thirds of our family around the world and left two kids in college in the US. We settled in Northeast Thailand in a city called Roi Et. We had planned to teach English in the local schools; however, that did not allow for us to make relationships with the students because we would only see them for an hour and then they were gone. It didn't feel like the right way to do things. We eventually began having students come to our home to teach them conversational English. Things began to feel right. In addition to helping them learn, we were able to get to know them personally and even some of their family. We were able to share the love of Christ to each one of them. What a joy and privilege to see students discover things in the Bible for the first time or to receive a call in the early morning hours asking you to pray for them and then later hearing that prayer was answered!

Our path was not what we had planned or expected; it was much better. Now we are back in the US serving to mobilize the body of Christ around the world, building relationships with people who feel a call to serve others and helping provide opportunities to connect them to that service.

PRAY

For those who have never had the chance to hear about Jesus.

For more workers to go and tell others about the gospel.

For courage to listen and respond to how God may be calling you to join Him in what He is doing around the world.

ACT

The next time you encounter someone from a different ethnic group, race or religion, try to become more incarnational in the way you enter their world so that they will see that, through you, God is very interested in them and loves them dearly.



DAY 26

ORPHAN EMPOWERMENT ZOE MINISTRIES - RWANDA

MISSION: TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE
BY HELPING ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Submitted by Angie Dorrell

DID YOU KNOW

- ZOE operates out of these seven countries: Liberia, Rwanda, Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe, India and Guatemala. Currently, ZOE's enrollment is over 40,000 children. Adding graduates to this group, the number swells to 70,000.
- Rather than giving out food or building orphanages, ZOE serves as teacher, mentor and advisor to the orphans, encouraging them and providing what is needed to forge a path of self reliance, breaking the poverty cycle forever!
- By the time a ZOE group of 75-90 children graduates from the three year program, the group has doubled and sometimes tripled in size because these children open their hearts and homes to other orphaned children. They truly know how to "pay it forward."

***"For I know the plans I have for you," declared the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.***

JEREMIAH 29:11

In 2012, I heard about ZOE Ministries for the first time and learned that this organization is quite different from others. It helps move orphaned children out of a life of begging, homelessness and exploitation and equips them with resources to build a future with food security, safety, community and a spiritual foundation through the love of Christ.

In March 2013, I sponsored a group of 75 children and two years later, I had the privilege and blessing to go to Rwanda to meet them. My daughter, Kathy, who also sponsors a group, went with me. We knew we were to visit our groups on the same day, but we had no idea they were together sharing the same group project: growing bananas to sell at the community market. ZOE mentors, Germain and Albertine, said they had tried to separate them into two groups their first year, but the groups had been unwilling to separate. God put these groups together for a reason, a reason that was unclear until now. A mother and her daughter are their sponsors. They were drawn together as a family supernaturally through God's grace. "This is a miracle," were Germain's words.

After meeting our groups, we had the opportunity to meet another newly formed first-year group. We knew immediately they were new to the ZOE program because of their appearance - sad and dirty. Hearing their stories of desperation was alarming. We prayed and cried with them and held them as we all struggled with their hopelessness. Our ZOE staff assured us they would soon be well on their way to an amazing transition. Having been a witness to the progression of ZOE's Empowerment Program, I knew they did in fact have a promising future!

At the end of 2018 my second group graduates from the ZOE program. What a joy for me to know that I have impacted their lives in such a dramatic way. They think of me as their living parent and pray for me every day! What a blessing! Thank you, God.

PRAY

That all the ZOE children will feel the presence, love and grace of our Savior.

For the ZOE mentors who work directly with the groups of children, giving them the emotional, physical and spiritual leadership they desperately need. Pray for strength and wisdom to deal with health and disease prevention, hunger, self-reliance, housing, safety, school and children's rights.

For people like you and me to step up and commit to being a partner to ZOE orphans.

ACT

Go to zoehelps.org to get more information about the organization and to learn the many ways you can support ZOE Ministries. Thousands of orphans are waiting for a partner just like you. To join a ZOE vision trip, email Janis at janis@mthorebumc.com.



DAY 27

BACKPACK MINISTRY

MISSION: TO PROVIDE CHILDREN WHO ARE AT RISK OF HUNGER WITH HEALTHY, NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO TAKE HOME FOR THE WEEKEND, DURING SCHOOL VACATION AND ON HOLIDAYS

Submitted by Alecia Clamp

DID YOU KNOW

- Friday is not just the beginning of the weekend for children with very little or no food at home; it's the beginning of worry and hunger.
- Mt. Horeb volunteers pack and deliver nutritious, child-friendly and easy to prepare food each week for over 300 children in Lexington School District 1.
- According to data from Feeding America, 12.9 million children in the US are food insecure. There are 15.6 million U.S. households suffering from food insecurity – 12.7% of all U.S. households.

Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

LUKE 14:12-14

The little girl was beautiful, her hair in braids and a smile that could not be beaten. I will never forget the words she said: "I haven't eaten since I left school on Friday. I'm so hungry!" Of course, the next steps were easy. We found a snack, a drink and a safe place for her to eat for a minute before the bell rang. She left with a thank you and a hug as she headed to her class, as if it were just another day, but from that moment on, I was changed. I never thought of weekends the same. As my family went out to eat before a football game, bought candy at the concession stand and did not think twice about the money we spent, I knew there were children not far away that didn't have the same luxury. These are children who go to school with our children, children whose parents love them, children who are brilliant and kind, but fight the battle of hunger on a daily basis.

It was then that the Mt. Horeb Backpack Ministry stepped in and gave families the opportunity to receive a snack pack on the weekends. Once the program started, this same little girl volunteered to help distribute the snack packs on Fridays. She was not ashamed that she needed the food. She was proud that she was given the opportunity to receive one each Friday. You could almost see the relief on her face every time she tucked her bag of food into her backpack for the weekend. It was one of those Fridays that she walked up to me with that same beautiful smile and said, "Please thank your church for this food! I'm going to have a good weekend now!"

The Backpack Ministry, not only helps fill children's stomachs, but it fills their souls. The blessing of peace knowing that there is food to eat over the weekend is where God steps in and speaks love to these children. These children are gifts from God and we, as a church, are providing them with physical, emotional and spiritual love through the blessing of this program.

PRAY

That all the financial resources needed would be provided.

That each child or family would know they matter to our Heavenly Father and that He provides their "daily bread."

ACT

Start a gratitude journal. Each day for the next two weeks, write down 10 things that you are thankful for. After making your list, pause and thank God for the blessings He has provided.



DAY 28

THE COURAGE CENTER

MISSION: TO PROVIDE A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE,
RECOVERY-FOCUSED SETTING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
AND FAMILIES ON THEIR RECOVERY JOURNEY

Submitted by Susan Mill

DID YOU KNOW

- The Courage Center believes addiction is a family disease. Living with someone with a substance use disorder can be frustrating and exhausting. We provide peer-to-peer support for both the family members and the youth to facilitate coping and recovery.
- A recovery coach is someone who serves as a personal guide and mentor for people seeking or already in recovery. Coaches assist in developing and following a recovery plan while helping solve problems directly related to recovery.
- The Courage Center offers community presentations on a variety of topics related to substance use and recovery.
- This year over 200 young people, parents, siblings and grandparents have connected with hope and healing through group and one-on-one recovery support services, all at no cost.

***As far as I am concerned,
God turned into good what you meant for evil.***

GENESIS 50:20

God used Susan and Scotty Mill's deepest and darkest struggle to be a catalyst to help others. He pushed them beyond their comfort zones, yet provided in ways they never could have imagined, all because they said "yes" to the call of being there to support other families experiencing the pain of watching love ones battle addiction. Thus, The Courage Center, a recovery community organization founded in September 2016 and housed and supported by Mt. Horeb, was born. The idea was to give parents a place where they could be supported free of guilt and shame and learn from others who had shared experiences. In the two years since we started, our parent/family group has now grown seven fold, and we have added a program manager to our staff responsible for developing the youth program as it also continues to grow each week.

When Mary* went to her first group in the summer of 2017, she was at the end of her rope: "My child was 17 and we had been fighting addiction for three years. We had been through several programs, several rehabs, arbitration, probation... I felt alone and didn't know where to turn. I had exhausted all resources and kept thinking I would find help along the way. As my child was slipping, I could feel myself slipping too. A friend reached out and invited me to The Courage Center. At that meeting, I felt hope. I didn't feel alone, I didn't feel judged. I didn't feel I needed to be embarrassed anymore."

**Name changed*

PRAY

For TCC and the youth and families affected by substance use.

For our TCC staff, board, and volunteers to keep their resolve and be blessed by their gifts to our mission.

For those being called to participate in our mission to step out in Faith.

For the financial resources needed to run the ministry with excellence.

ACT

Encourage your small group, Sunday School Class or business to provide a meal for one of our families or snacks, drinks, paper products and cleaning supplies for our center. For more information or ways to volunteer, go to couragecentersc.org.

DAY 29

THE VRMEERS

MISSION: TO REACH MUSLIMS WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONAL MINISTRY

Submitted by Michael Vrmeer, a full time missionary serving in Southeast Asia with his wife, Julie, and their three children

***Because God's children are human beings—
made of flesh and blood—
the Son also became flesh and blood.
For only as a human being could he die,
and only by dying could he break the power of the devil,
who had the power of death.
Only in this way could he set free all who have lived
their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.***

HEBREWS 2:14-15

PRAY

That Christians would extend forgiveness to those who are persecuting them.

That Mr. Bock would seek and find Jesus through a local ministry in his city.

For Christians to have boldness to share their faith with those still living under the power of death.

ACT

Commit to sharing the Gospel with one person in the next 30 days. You may wish to use the app referenced in Day 17. Remember that your own story is a great part of your witness and that we earn the right to be heard by sincerely listening to others.

DID YOU KNOW

- 1 in 5 people on the planet follow Islam
- 85% of Muslim people groups are unreached
- Islam is the fastest growing major religion in the world

Several explosions rocked the usually quiet Sunday morning streets of the city. A family of suicide bombers had blown up three churches killing 15 worshippers and injuring several more.

The following morning as the city was still reeling from shock, Mr. Bock arrived in his black flatbed pickup. I climbed in and we set off for a warehouse on the other side of town to deliver some crates. We drove past the charred remains of a church that had been attacked the morning before. I asked him, "What do you think about what happened here yesterday?" He is a Muslim like the vast majority here. He replied, "Those people were mentally ill and did not follow true Islam." The truck pulled into the warehouse and the crates were unloaded. The warehouse supervisor informed me another suicide bomb had ripped through the police headquarters a few miles away. A handful of terrorists had been apprehended and gave the police intel that 25 more bombs were scheduled to detonate in the city that day. Law enforcement circulated the intel listing the churches and 20 major roads in the city that were to be targets.

I was unfamiliar with the area, as I was visiting from another town. I gave Mr. Bock the list of roads and churches the police were instructing motorists and people to avoid. With a sober expression on his face, Mr. Bock explained we had to travel on at least 5 of the roads to return to the guesthouse. We made our way back in bumper-to-bumper traffic, moving only a few yards a minute on the congested city streets. My heart was at peace. I no longer feared death because Jesus had broken the power of death. However, Mr. Bock's anxiety was palpable, as the threat of dying in a roadside blast was possible. I decided to share the Gospel with him as we inched along the targeted streets. Starting with Adam and the Fall, I traced redemptive history using the Old Testament sacrifices and finished with the greatest sacrifice, the Lamb of God who atoned for the sins of the world. He listened intently. Over an hour later we arrived safely back at the guesthouse. I encouraged Mr. Bock to seek out a local ministry that could answer his questions as he considered the Truth I had shared.

Not knowing what to say causes anxiety that keeps us from sharing the good news with others. Learning a concise way to share the gospel with someone will give you the courage to tell others about how they can be free from the fear of death and glorify God with their lives.

DID YOU KNOW

- You are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do (Ephesians 2:10).
- You are not to become weary in doing good, for at the proper time you will reap a harvest if you do not give up (Galatians 6:9).
- You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be Christ's witness in Lexington, SC, the United States, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

*Truly, truly, I say to you,
whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do;
and greater works than these will he do,
because I am going to the Father.*

JOHN 14:12

Having read the stories of how God is at work through His people, my prayer is that you, too, have a story to share. This blank page is a space left for you. Use the space to write a story and then submit it to Janis at janis@mthorebumc.com.

Maybe you don't have a story to write... yet. Hopefully, you read something over the last 29 days that stirred something within you: a sense of calling or perhaps anger at an injustice. Take some time to ask God to help you understand what you're feeling, then explore what it would look like to get involved in that ministry. Or perhaps, the ministry you are called to hasn't been started yet. Maybe God is calling you to be His hands to start something new.

Whether you have been serving for years or are just getting started, Jesus is calling! Let's follow Him into the dark and broken places of the world and shine His Light so that all the world will know that He is Lord!

