



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

# FROM HERE TO EVERYWHERE

30 DAYS OF DEVOTIONS

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*“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**

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# WELCOME!

God is on the move in and through His people across the globe. From here to everywhere, the Gospel is being proclaimed, lives are being transformed and chains of bondage are breaking. This book is intended to bring God glory as we celebrate the expansion of His Kingdom here on earth through our church members and our local and global partners. We are thrilled to share some of their stories of life transformation. Each story submitted is from someone serving on the front lines, advancing the Kingdom of God as they carry His love and truth into the dark and broken places of the world.

I invite you to journey with us as we LEARN, PRAY and SERVE. Each entry is intended to engage our thoughts as we learn about the countries, people and organizations we partner with, our hearts as we pray for the concerns listed and our bodies as we take action and serve.

Each of us has been commissioned for service in the Kingdom. Our roles will differ, but we all have an assignment. My hope and prayer is that these true stories will draw you closer to God, fill you with hope and help you find your place in His mission, that like those you will read about, you, too, will answer the voice of the Lord saying, “Here am I. Send me!”

Thank you for your support of the Missions Ministry of our church. The generosity of this congregation is truly changing the world and advancing the cause of Christ across the globe.

To God be the glory!



**Janis Albergotti**  
Missions Director



# DAY 1

## BACKPACK MINISTRY

**MISSION:** TO PROVIDE CHILDREN AT RISK OF HUNGER WITH HEALTHY, NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO TAKE HOME FOR THE WEEKEND, DURING SCHOOL VACATIONS AND HOLIDAYS

*Submitted by Allie Lake*

## LEARN

- Lexington is a booming town with lots of families moving here to live. However, right in our own backyards, we have children who lack food and other basic needs.
- Through partnerships with Harvest Hope Food Bank and local area churches like Mt. Horeb, volunteers meet weekly to answer the call to address this dilemma.
- Throughout the school year, volunteers fill bags with nutritious, child-friendly foods for over 300 children experiencing food insecurity.
- Bags filled with food are given to the children on Friday afternoons to cover that evening's dinner as well as snacks, breakfasts, lunches and dinners for Saturday and Sunday.

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***Feed the hungry and help those in trouble.  
Then your light will shine out from the darkness,  
and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.***

One day while we were chatting, my friend Tammy mentioned being involved in the Backpack Ministry. She explained that once a week, she would volunteer her time to go to my church and fill bags with shelf-stable food items. These filled bags were distributed to kids at our children's school and other schools in the Lexington 1 school district who would otherwise not have food to eat over the weekend. She informed me that many children in our local community would go hungry from Friday after lunch until they returned to school for breakfast on Monday morning. I embarrassingly admitted that I had never heard about this ministry, much less the need in our community.

Several weeks later while waiting for my children, I saw Tammy's car pull up in front of the school. She got out and began carrying grocery bags full of food into the building. When she came back out, I offered to help and she graciously accepted. My heart sank with each trip back to her car. Now knowing that this need was right here in our community, I immediately knew I wanted to be a part of this ministry. Tammy and I met at the church the following week and we worked together to fill over 300 bags for children in our area.

I have been involved with this wonderful ministry for about 10 years now. Every month during the school year for the last three years, my family and friends have joined me in preparing these bags for precious children. While I believe this ministry is a blessing to those who receive the food, I know it blesses those of us participating in it. After we have packed all the bags, we have the privilege of praying over them. We pray the children receiving the food will know they are loved not only by us, but by our Lord.

## PRAY

For Harvest Hope Food Bank to be able to continue their work with local churches to provide food for children in our local communities.

Families with food insecurity who do not know about this ministry will be made aware so that they, too, can benefit from it.

That other communities will be open to starting a ministry like this until there are no more hungry children... anywhere!

## SERVE

Contact the Missions Department at [missions@mthorebumc.com](mailto:missions@mthorebumc.com) to learn more about the Backpack program and see how you can help.

Prayerfully consider reaching out to your local community to see if there are children who would benefit from this type of ministry.

# DAY 2

A black and white photograph of three men standing on a sandy beach. The man on the left is wearing a cap and a dark jacket. The man in the middle is wearing a light-colored polo shirt and a cap. The man on the right is wearing a striped polo shirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows the ocean and a few other people in the distance.

## METHODIST MOVEMENT LIBERIA

**MISSION:** TO PREPARE A NEW GENERATION OF MEN AND WOMEN SCHOOLED ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT TO BUILD SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY SELF-SUSTAINING NATIONS

*Submitted by Jeff Kersey, Senior Pastor*

## LEARN

- Liberia is a country founded, established, colonized and controlled by citizens of the United States and ex-Caribbean slaves as a colony for former African American slaves and their free black descendants. The official language is English.
- Liberia is one of the poorest countries in the world and its economy is extremely underdeveloped, largely due to the First Liberian Civil War from 1989-96.
- More than two-fifths of the population of Liberia is under the age of 15; only about five percent are older than 60.
- Mt. Horeb currently partners with the United Methodist University in Liberia by providing scholarships to qualified, financially challenged undergraduate and graduate-level students.

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.*

**EPHESIANS 3:20-21**



William Carey was a humble shoemaker and lay leader in 17th Century England. He answered the call of God to take the Gospel to India despite great opposition from his peers and superiors. Today, Carey is known as “the father of modern missions.” His lifetime of Christian service changed history. May his words below serve as inspiration for the people of Mt. Horeb UMC:

“Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.”

William Carey was man of God whose commitment to share the Gospel changed history. He was a man with a vision, a dream and a plan. This past February, God brought a man of God into my life with a vision, a dream and a plan to change the world.

In February, I stepped off a plane in Monrovia, Liberia and my life changed forever when I met Dr. Jerry Kulah. Dr. Kulah is a man of God committed to taking the Gospel of Jesus to Liberia and the world. Dr. Jerry truly expects great things from God and is already attempting great things for God.

*Continued on next page...*

## DAY 2 CONTINUED

Liberia is one of the poorest countries in the world. It has been ravaged by years of civil war. Jerry knows his country's only hope is Jesus and training up "leaders of leaders." Pastor Trevor made the trip with me and we worked side-by-side with Jerry, training young and old pastors to become leaders of leaders.

I've never witnessed a hunger for Jesus like I witnessed in Liberia. These pastors were hungry to learn and lead others to Jesus. They were unashamed of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. They are the future of the Global Methodist Movement. We have so much to learn from their faith and unwavering commitment to the Gospel of Jesus. I am so excited Mt. Horeb is now partnering with the Methodist Movement in Liberia. Our support will provide scholarships for both financially challenged undergraduate and graduate-level theological students and assist a clean water initiative to provide safe drinking water for families.



The highlight of our trip was a closing foot-washing service where Trevor and I, with a towel and basin, washed the feet of our African brothers and sisters. The humility, love, worship and presence of the Holy Spirit confirmed a covenant that I know changed me and will ultimately change the world.

Jesus called His Church to change history and establish the Kingdom of God by taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. In a world with more than seven billion people, this task will only be accomplished if the spread of the Gospel is greatly accelerated. This process will require men and women who faithfully serve God and lead God's people. I pray you will join me in seeking to "expect great things from God and attempt great things for God."

## PRAY

For Liberia to become a global leader for the people called Methodists.

For leadership development.

For financial support for pastors and churches.

## SERVE

Consider how your marketplace skills, talent and gifts might be utilized to grow Christian marketplace leaders either in Liberia or here in our local community. Invite a colleague or two to pray and explore with you how your business or your experience can be leveraged for Kingdom impact.





# DAY 3



# INDONESIA

## SUMATRA

**MISSION:** TO BRING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS TO THE UNREACHED PEOPLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

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

## LEARN

- The name “Sumatra” came from the word Samudra, which means ocean.
- Sumatra is the 6th largest island in the world and is more populated than Canada.
- It is among the least-reached places in the world.

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***For a long time I have kept silent,  
I have been quiet and held myself back.  
But now, like a woman in childbirth,  
I cry out, I gasp and pant.***

**ISAIAH 42:14**

We often learn things about faith and God's character in the unlikely places. For me, it was at the feet of an old Australian woman in the lunch room of a Chinese church. She began to tell me how she'd always wanted to "do something great for God," but a preacher told her years ago that her great work would be prayer. In her 80s, Jillian now realizes that her call to pray for missions has indeed been a great work!

She told me how when she prays for the lost, it is like giving birth. She aches in her guts, groans and labors in imploring God on their behalf. "Intercessory prayer is like giving birth to a soul," she told me. She's given birth to three kids, so she's no stranger to the feeling she describes. Her prayer life is painful, miraculous, beautiful, brave.

Jillian isn't alone in using this kind of imagery. In Isaiah 42, God describes Himself as a laboring woman - *"For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant."* In this context, Israel is in exile and God wants them back.

It is unsettling to think of God as a woman in labor. What vulnerability! What anguish and single-minded focus it is to give birth! God is using this imagery to give us a glimpse into His heart for His children and the fierceness with which He acts on our behalf.

When I let myself imagine how I'd feel if my little son was lost to me, a turmoil of emotions set in. I feel my shoulders tense up, my heartbeat quickens, I feel nauseous, angry, terrified. I would do anything to find him and comfort him. This is how, over and over again in Scripture, God describes His own intense longing for his lost children. To be part of praying for missions is our collective calling as the Church — a reflection of God's heart.

As I reflect on God's passionate, brave, fierce love, I can't help but see my neighbors differently. My eyes tear up as I imagine God's brokenheartedness over Fitri, Indah, Fahim, Naufal... Lost people matter to God and God wants them found. May we all, like Jillian, "do great things for God" as we intercede in prayer for unreached people.

*Day 3 continued on next page...*

## DAY 3 CONTINUED

*I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,  
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;  
I will turn the darkness into light before them  
and make the rough places smooth.  
These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.*

### **ISAIAH 42:16**

#### **PRAY**

That a movement of disciples of Jesus would spring up among the over 6.6 million unreached people from West Sumatra, Indonesia.

That God would lead and guide Muslim people into Truth. *“I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them.” **Isaiah 42:16***

Against spiritual forces of darkness that keep people from following Jesus. *“I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.” **Isaiah 42:16***

#### **SERVE**

Reflect on the longing God has for His lost children. Does your heart feel moved to pray differently for the lost? Commit yourself to a season or a spiritual discipline of prayer and fasting for unreached people.



# DAY 4



## CIRCLES® LEXINGTON COUNTY

**MISSION:** TO INSPIRE AND EQUIP FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TO RESOLVE POVERTY AND THRIVE

*Submitted by Patricia England, a Circle Leader,  
and Jennifer Bentley, an Ally*

## LEARN

- CIRCLES® Lexington County is a local chapter of CIRCLES® USA. Mt. Horeb currently has 2 Cohorts in operation. In Cohort 1, there are 89 people involved. There are 7 Circle Leaders, 27 Allies, and 55 Resource Team Members.
- As of today, 12 candidates have been identified for Circle Leaders to participate in Cohort 2; 15 Allies have volunteered so far. The goal is to provide each Circle Leader with 2-3 Allies, forming what is called a Matched Circle.
- Weekly meetings are the heart of this poverty reduction model. The CIRCLES® community meets from 5:30-7:30 PM on Tuesday nights, beginning with a shared meal and ending with specific programming.

*Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return for their labor:  
If either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.  
But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up.  
Though one may be overpowered,  
two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

***ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10, 12***

Are you aware of the poverty situation here in Lexington County? In addition to insufficient wages, the poor are further challenged economically by what is known as the “Cliff Effect,” when modest income increase is met with immediate loss of assistance benefits, netting a negative increase in annual income. This issue makes it drastically more challenging for those in poverty to “get ahead.” Some of the additional burdens for those living in poverty are affordable and available childcare, housing and transportation options.

CIRCLES® works to help change these systemic barriers and provide the necessary social support needed to become financially self-sufficient. Think of your current friendship circle. Do you help each other grow and learn, become better people? Do you laugh and cut up? Do you share your dreams, goals, setbacks and disappointments? That is precisely what happens within our CIRCLES® communities.

Listen as one of our Circle Leaders puts into words the value of this community: “It is hard for me to understand that there are people out there who truly want to help me not only meet my goals, but also show me how to dream and turn my dreams into reality. I recently shared my testimony at a local church and as I looked out across the audience, there sat a whole row of my Allies, my circles coach and others from the CIRCLES® community looking up at me with love and support. Just the security of knowing these wonderful people are there for me has changed my life. My dream is to open a transitional house for women coming out of county jail. My CIRCLES® group has helped me create and teach a life skills curriculum to the women inside the local county jail, which means that they are not only helping me, but they are also helping so many others.”

*Continued on next page...*



## DAY 4 CONTINUED

One of her Allies added: “I appreciate the efforts that the Circle Leader is making to achieve her desired dream and as I hear her tell me about what she is doing and how she is so motivated, it, in turn, motivates me. One day, she called me and I was complaining about a grocery order. She quickly (and lovingly) told me some things that put my silly whining into perspective and kind of set me straight. That’s what friends do; they shift our mindset and help us in any way they can. Her courage is inspiring; her wit is heartwarming; her friendship is priceless. She thinks God put me in her life, but I think He put her in mine. While the main goal of a “Matched Circle” is to provide support to the Circle Leader, there are immense benefits from being a part of this intentional friendship group. We have found that since joining, our children look forward to the Circles night and so do we. In this society of heavy technology and social media, who couldn’t benefit from having additional friends? We know we could and did.”

### PRAY

That our Circle Leaders will be successful in achieving financial self-sufficiency.

That the Circle Leaders will encounter Christ through the unconditional love of their CIRCLES® community.

For 20 more people to commit to serve as Allies for Cohort 2.

### SERVE

Refer to the Living Wage Calculator: [livingwage.mit.edu/states/45/locations](http://livingwage.mit.edu/states/45/locations) to determine how much above the current living wage you and your family live in comparison to the wages of those living in poverty.

Sign up to serve as an Ally and build an intentional friendship that will change your life as God uses you to help bring change to someone else’s. Email [missions@mthorebumc.com](mailto:missions@mthorebumc.com) for more information or visit [circleslexingtoncounty.com](http://circleslexingtoncounty.com).



# DAY 5

# GRACE COMMUNITY INDIA

**MISSION:** TO BE A PRAYER-DRIVEN CHURCH WHO MAKES, MATURES AND MOBILIZES DISCIPLES WHO MAGNIFY JESUS CHRIST (ADOPTED FROM MT. HOREB UMC)

*Submitted by Prasanth Bethu, who served as a pastoral intern at Mt. Horeb in 2018. He and his wife, Anusha, live in India where he serves his local church as a pastor.*

## LEARN

- More than 80% of the population of India is Hindu. Less than 2.3% of the population are followers of Jesus. With the current political situation, India is one of the top 10 persecuted countries in the world.
- Grace Community was started as a small church with two members in 1989 by Rev. Vivek Bethu (Prasanth's father). Today, it has grown to 1000+ people and supports and sends hundreds of pastors to various parts of India.
- Prasanth and Anusha both received Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes as young children growing up in India.
- Grace Community is located in Mangalagiri, a very fast-growing city with western influence.
- Mt. Horeb has influenced this ministry in India by providing the opportunity for Prasanth to serve as an intern.

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***The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.***

The thief (Satan) comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus has come to give abundant life. John Wesley said, "You have one business on Earth - to save souls." In India, people live in the bondage of sin and have no idea about the life that is given more abundantly in Christ Jesus. People are in search of God but they pray to the creation instead of the Creator.

I lived in the United States for a little over 3.5 years. The U.S. is a wonderful country with many comforts that provided great temptation for me to stay and live the rest of my life there. But God has given me a clear vision to serve the people of India, my home country. Anusha and I chose pain over prosperity. That decision has changed our lives, but the peace God gave us is the most satisfying thing ever.

The first week after our return to India, there was a woman named Sarojini who came to church. After the service, she came to meet us and we noticed that she was covering herself with an extra scarf. We had no idea why. Once she started to talk to us, she removed her scarf and showed us the wounds that were on her body. Her husband had learned she was going to church and abused her verbally and physically. Later, Sarojini asked us to pray for her husband, that he might soon encounter Jesus.

There are hundreds of stories like this. With this specific incident, God spoke to us using the words of John 10:10. The thief is stealing and killing but we are called to share about Jesus so that they may have abundant life in Him. Only Jesus can change situations and people. As C.H. Spurgeon says, "God forms man, sin deforms him, the school informs him but only Christ transforms him, therefore preach Christ to ALL."

## PRAY

For the protection of every follower of Christ.

As the culture in our area has changed drastically due to bifurcation of state, pray for the wisdom to reach out to the people in search of Truth.

For a bigger worship place as we have outgrown our current space. With four services on Sunday mornings serving 1200 people, our 1900-square-foot space is no longer adequate for growth.

## SERVE

You have freedom to worship the true living God anywhere and anytime. Choose to be intentional and enjoy the blessings you receive and commit to be a part of the expansion of the Kingdom of God from here to everywhere.

# DAY 6

## 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*

## LEARN

- There are approximately 4 million people in Bosnia and less than 400 estimated true Believers. That means 99.9% of the people are unreached.
- Muslims are having dreams and visions of the “man in white” and asking who He is.
- There have been more baptisms in the last three years than in the last 20 combined.
- Our city, Tuzla, is one of the oldest continually occupied cities in Europe. That is probably because of the natural salt deposits. Salt was more valuable than gold. This city has been dominated by almost every major empire in history.

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***But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.***

Our language teacher has a spunky personality and loves to learn about foreign cultures. We have attempted to share the Gospel with her on numerous occasions. She was always polite, but made it clear that she had no use for “religion” in her life.

She was a philosophy major in school and called herself an atheist. She felt that if there was a God, she probably wouldn’t like Him anyway. However, she was always amazed how we spoke about our faith and mentioned that we “must really believe what we say.”

One day, while driving to our house, she had an accident on her bicycle. She was struck by a vehicle. Thankfully, she was not badly hurt, only bruised and scratched. However, her bicycle was destroyed; she had no other means of transportation and almost no money to replace it. This bicycle was very old, but she relied on it.

We felt God was leading us to replace that bike and that we needed to do it that very day. We went and purchased a new bike for her. It took almost all of our remaining money for the month, but we trusted God’s plan. When we arrived to deliver the bike, she was overcome with tears. She asked, “You bought me a bike?” “No,” we replied, “God saw your need and He provided you a bike.”

From that point on she was open to the Gospel and our faithful God provided a special gift in our account for the exact amount we spent on the bike.

## PRAY

For new believers and new groups to embrace discipleship in order to grow strong roots.

Against the work of the enemy who seeks to kill and destroy. The spiritual warfare here is sometimes overwhelming.

That God would forgive, heal the land and begin to bless this area again.

## SERVE

Bosnia is a forgotten part of the world. They are not a forgotten people to God. He loves them dearly and paid a high price for them. Would you pray that God would send even more workers here to come and serve? Would you pray that He would send even more dreams and visions? Would you pray that He would help us start more groups of people who discover Truth from God’s Word?



# DAY 7



# MISSION LEXINGTON

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

*Submitted by Anna Smith, Director of Community Relations  
at Mission Lexington*

## LEARN

- Mission Lexington, formerly known as Lexington Interfaith Community Services or LICS, is a social services ministry established 40 years ago with a mission of “Glorifying God by serving our neighbors in crisis.”
- Lexington County has a 13% poverty rate – meaning over 35,000 individuals and children are living in poor conditions, often without food and basic essentials.
- Thousands of seniors in Lexington County receive only \$16 per month in food stamps and struggle to survive on Social Security alone.

## PRAY

For families and individuals in Lexington County living in poverty. Pray for their needs to be met and for our neighbors to know they are valued, treasured and set apart by our loving God.

For guidance and wisdom on how you can use your talents, treasure and time to make an impact on those facing crisis in our community.

Praise God for the provisions He has given to you and your family. Many things we take for granted each and every day are things other families in our community are hoping and praying for – a safe place to call home, a vehicle, a job, health, food to eat, air conditioning and heat, etc.

*He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker,  
but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.*

**PROVERBS 14:31**

Last summer, a single mother, Tabitha, came to Mission Lexington in need. Tabitha revealed she had recently moved into a new home and had virtually no belongings. She was expecting and due to high risk complications with her pregnancy, had been forced to quit her job to be on bed rest. Without an income, Tabitha was evicted from her home along with all her belongings. Shortly after, her car was also repossessed due to nonpayment.

Relying on child support payments, she was able to find an affordable home in a rural area of Lexington County. A family member brought her to Mission Lexington to request food, clothing and financial assistance to get the power turned on in her new place. She also asked if we had any beds available, as one of her children was sleeping on the floor.

Upon arriving at her home, I was immediately heartbroken. There was garbage and discarded furniture piled to the roof of her new home. Inside, we found a broken refrigerator, more garbage, bugs and four precious children sitting on the floor in the dark. Mattresses were on the ground with no sheets and there was not a stitch of food or water in the home.

We quickly went back to Mission Lexington, loaded up a truck full of furniture and household items. We received and installed a donated refrigerator and a/c unit.

Over the next few weeks, I visited the family. We prayed over her home and her children. Soon, her precious new baby girl was born. Tabitha was able to find a part time job on the weekends while a family member kept the children. Once she saved enough money, she was able to purchase an old vehicle and find a full-time job again.

She is now stable and able to provide for her family. Because of the generosity of our donors, Mission Lexington was able to step in during her moment of crisis and show her the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

## **SERVE**

We often imagine poverty in far-away countries. We don't have to travel far to find ways to share our abundance with others. Brainstorm ways you can use your gifts and talents to reach our neighbors in need in Lexington County. Perhaps your business can provide items or services free of charge, you or your family could volunteer or donate items needed or you can write a check to cover someone else's power bill this month?

We all have something to give. It's up to us to determine what that gift will be and act on it.

# DAY 8

# COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

**MISSION:** TO RELEASE CHILDREN FROM POVERTY  
IN JESUS' NAME

*Submitted by Trevor Miller, Family Pastor*

## LEARN

- Compassion's core strategy for combating child poverty is one-to-one sponsorship.
- Sponsors are individually connected with a child who will get to know them personally through exchanged letters.
- A \$38-per-month contribution provides life-changing opportunities including: consistent, nutrient-rich meals, preventative medical care and check-ups, school fees, uniforms, books, anything the child needs to attend or stay in school, Bible teaching, professional counseling and mentoring by safe adults, tutoring and vocational training.
- Our Mt. Horeb faith community sponsors over 700 children through Compassion International.

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*Dear friends, since God so loved us,  
we also ought to love one another.*

**1 JOHN 4:11**

One of the greatest challenges for a family centered around Jesus is finding opportunities to engage in mission. My wife and I want to raise grateful kids in an entitled world and that is not easy. Three years ago, we attended a concert at Mt. Horeb and were given the opportunity to sponsor a child through Compassion International. Our family grew from two boys to three boys as we began to support and love Wym, a 5-year-old little boy from Haiti. He is the same age as our oldest child and so we were excited for them to grow up together. Over the last few years, we have received pictures and letters from Wym and my boys drew pictures and sent him letters in return. We learned about his life and he has learned about ours. We pray for him at meals and have his picture on our refrigerator to keep him on our minds.

When the Compassion Experience came to Mt. Horeb last year, we took the opportunity to participate. As we walked through, we got to experience another culture, the realities of global poverty, learn how child sponsorship can change the life of a child and hear stories of hope given to children all over the world through the ministry of Compassion. My boys were fascinated because in each room they walked through, they could envision Wym being there.

I am so thankful for Mt. Horeb that offers my family so many different ways to engage in the mission of God. It's an honor to be a part of what God is doing in the world.

## PRAY

Every day, children in poverty encounter evil. There are those who seek to harm them, abuse them, even exploit them. There are no safety nets in poverty, and these most vulnerable victims cannot protect themselves.

Pray, then, for protection, that they will be hidden under the wings of the Father as He surrounds them with people who will love, cherish and protect them.

Pray that children in poverty will find their joy in the Lord, that He will renew their strength and make them soar like eagles.

## SERVE

Through a relationship with a local church and a caring sponsor, a child living in poverty is able to discover his or her true value. For only \$38 per month, you can change a life and sponsor a child. For more information, visit [compassion.com](http://compassion.com).

# DAY 9

## CENTRAL ASIA

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

*Submitted by a worker in Central Asia*

**He asked them,  
“What are you discussing together as you walk along?”**

**LUKE 24:17**

### PRAY

That the Church in Central Asia will remain strong and bold in their witness, even under greater restrictions, and will experience a new revival to boldly share Christ.

For doors to open among students and colleagues. They are turning to many things, materialism, alternative faith/spirituality, post-modernist thinking, etc., to fill the void in their lives that only HE can fill.

For the workers to be filled with His power, strength and wisdom to faithfully serve Him in the places and people He has called us to.

### SERVE

Ask God to show you who He may be calling you to physically walk with. How might that look in our fast-paced world?

Once a month, search for the latest news happening in Central Asia and let that help guide you as you pray.

Have your study group adopt a missionary and connect with them. Find out how you can lift them up, send a word of encouragement or meet some other need. Stop by the Missions Center in the West Campus for more information regarding the missionaries who are supported by Mt. Horeb.

# LEARN

- 70% of the population claim to follow the Islamic faith in this Central Asian country while only about 5% ethnically Asian people follow Christ.
- In the last several years, every major city has built a central mosque to help encourage people to return to their traditional faith and reclaim their cultural heritage lost during the Soviet period. Some hold up to 5000 people.
- Over fifty percent of the country is under thirty years old, while over twenty-five percent are under age 15. With such a young population, post-modernism is rising quickly among the people and drawing them away from God.

In Bible times, the main mode of transportation was walking. Jesus walked with His disciples everywhere and He used that time to influence their lives with Truth. Heeding His example, I often choose not to ride home after work and instead walk along the road and share life with colleagues or students as we trek to the bus stop. In doing this, many doors are opened for spiritual conversations where the Holy Spirit reveals Biblical truth as we walk and talk.

One friend said as we walked, “I didn’t see my pride. I thought I was okay and actually better than my friends and others because I didn’t do ‘XYZ,’ but I now realize that I was putting my trust in myself.”

*“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.” **Proverbs 11:2***

On another occasion, a student replied, “I am cheating on my girlfriend. Not physically, but in my thoughts and actions. I realize these seemingly innocent actions are the starting place to worse actions. I want to be faithful.”

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” **Matthew 5:27-28***

“You don’t know how angry of a person I was. I was in dark places and I know that darkness is still there. For many years, I haven’t thought about God, but you are helping me search for him again,” a colleague shared.

*“But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.” **Deuteronomy 4:29***

Just like that old hymn “In the Garden” says, “the joy we share, as we tarry there, none other has ever known.” Let that same joy be in your next conversation with the person with whom He’s called you to walk.



# DAY 10

## EMMANUWHEEL

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

*Submitted by Beth Hay, EmmanuWheel volunteer and board member*

### PRAY

For each of our clients' households. We know we solve a narrow spectrum of problems for "our new friends." However, they typically face a myriad of other problems: financial, health, spiritual or relational. Pray that God leads them to solutions in these areas just as He has provided safe access/egress to their homes.

A prayer of thanksgiving for all the volunteers who have implemented "God's little miracles" and for those who have supported these workers with prayers, finances, food and tools.

That God raises up more Mt. Horeb volunteers in support of an additional leadership team for weekend projects.

For the safety and well-being of all the volunteers to, from and on the job site.

### ACT

Go to [emmanuwheel.org](http://emmanuwheel.org) to learn more about the ministry and its progress.

Get on Mt. Horeb's ramp team email list for access to their schedule and find a date to volunteer your services. No special skills or tools are required, just a servant's heart. Contact Joe Pinkham at [jnglpink@gmail.com](mailto:jnglpink@gmail.com).

EmmanuWheel is a good way for small groups to step out in service to those in need. If your small group is interested in a project, the ramp team will find the client, supply the material, develop the plan and provide on-site leadership and experience. Your small group would provide the manpower and love.

# LEARN

- The EmmanuWheel organization has completed over 300 projects in and around Lexington and Richland counties since its inception in 2010. Mt. Horeb teams have completed well over 112 of these.
- Mt. Horeb has been a church partner - supporter of EW from its beginning; providing financial, spiritual and manpower support along the way.
- Mt. Horeb added a new, younger leadership team this year to expand its capability to meet the growing demand for EmmanuWheel services. We plan to add one more team this Fall to further meet this demand and increase the opportunities for volunteer participation.

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*For we are laborers together with God.*

## **1 CORINTHIANS 3:9**

Growing up, I was a “Daddy’s girl.” I have fond memories of helping my Dad with projects around the house. While I wouldn’t say I am an expert or even a semi-expert on construction, I did pick up some valuable skills along the way. Little did I know that I was receiving training that would prepare me for future service to the Kingdom.

Many years later, I was looking for a church home and visited Mt. Horeb. On my second visit, I was introduced to the ramp ministry, which has proven to be a great fit for me. Building a ramp is a team effort that allows each person to draw on their God-given talents while learning new ones. There is always something I can contribute—organizing the wood, cleaning up, taking pictures or talking with the client.

This ministry has brought a sense of deep joy to my life. Serving with EmmanuWheel is such a blessing because everyone on the team is dedicated and encouraging. There is great satisfaction in completing a new ramp in just a few hours, but the real joy comes from knowing that a mobility impaired individual has been given hope for many years to come. Meeting the clients, hearing their stories and then seeing their faces after the ramp is completed is priceless.

Working on EmmanuWheel has helped build the foundation of my faith and helped me to step out and mature as a Christian. I’ve learned to share my faith in practical ways by responding to the needs of others.

# DAY 11

## CATCH THE VISION PERU

**MISSION:** TO PROVIDE PERUVIAN FAMILIES WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RISE ABOVE THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES AND BECOME ALL GOD HAS CREATED THEM TO BE

*Submitted by Janis Albergotti, Missions Director*

## LEARN

- Catch the Vision International's Peru Amazon River ministry is made up of 120 churches scattered along the Amazon River and its tributaries.
- One-third of the world's population does not have access to safe water. Worldwide, a person dies every 37 seconds from ailments caused by unclean water; 50% of the world's hospital beds are occupied with people suffering from water related illnesses. CTV has identified that poor water quality is the number one challenge for the people in Peru along the Amazon River and its tributaries.
- In the Amazon River basin, deaths occur as a result of the very limited or non-existent access to medical care. Common medical emergencies that could be treated at a medical outpost, if one existed, include dengue fever, diarrhea, malaria, wounds that result in infection and maternal or infant emergencies during childbirth.

*In everything I did, I showed you that  
by this kind of hard work we must help the weak,  
remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said:  
“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

**ACTS 20:35**

Boarding a boat to travel down the Amazon River, our team prepared to minister in one of the remote jungle communities served by CTV. Pastor David Gonzales, a Peruvian national, leads the river ministry and travels up and down the river weekly providing mentoring, encouragement and guidance for local pastors. Additionally, purified water is delivered via boat to those communities lacking access to clean water.

After approximately an hour of traveling down the river, we arrived at our destination. From our vantage point on the riverbank, there was no evidence of civilization. We trekked through the jungle with thick vegetation on either side of our path. Rounding a curve in the path, before us was a thatch-roofed home elevated on beams to protect the inhabitants from flooding. Peering over the rail of the open wall was an elderly couple. They invited us up into their home, accessible only by climbing a rickety homemade ladder, a home with no windows and no doors, no electricity, no plumbing and no running water. They introduced themselves as Beatrice and Alex.

They welcomed us into their home and through our translator, we learned that they had been expecting guests. Not because they had received a phone call, text, email or even “snail mail,” all which are non-existent in the jungle, but because they both had dreamed the night before that “family was coming to visit.”

While they were expecting a visit from their biological family, they instead received a visit from their kingdom family. We laughed together at the outrageous love of God to send us to the jungle of Peru to be His hands and feet and proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

*Continued on next page...*

# DAY 11 CONTINUED

*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**

When we respond to the voice of the One calling us to go, He blesses us beyond our wildest imagination and uses us to accomplish His purpose of making Himself known.

## PRAY

For the men and women who have responded to the call to serve as pastors in the villages along the Amazon. Pray they will be a light to their communities and that whole villages will call upon the name of Jesus and be saved.

For people in the US to respond to the call to go and serve, taking the Word of God into places where Jesus is not yet known.

## SERVE

Join a Catch the Vision team! Short term mission trips will leave from Mt. Horeb in 2020. Visit [mthorebumc.com](http://mthorebumc.com) for more details.





# DAY 12

## N2GLOBAL

**MISSION:** TO MAKE ACCESS TO ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) AVAILABLE TO CITIZENS ACROSS THE GLOBE THROUGH ENGLISH LEARNING CENTERS IN REGIONS OUTSIDE OF MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS

*Submitted by the founder of N2Global who currently serves as an ESL teacher amongst an unreached people group in Southeast Asia in order to provide Gospel access*

### PRAY

**For the mission.** There are 66 million people in 3,752 People Groups (PG's) without a viable opportunity to hear, understand and accept the Gospel Message. N2Global's purpose is to close this gap and make it possible for these PG's to know Him and, then, make Him known (i.e. to become a self-supporting, self-replicating member of the Church).

**For the ministry.** As a young organization, we are facing issues organizationally, logistically and financially. Pray for resolve, steadfastness and focus so that when we look back on these early years, we say, "Look what God did! Isn't He amazing!"

**For the multitudes.** The enemy, Satan, has orchestrated a labyrinth of confusion, separation, isolation and, ultimately, death by masking truth with a lie that "all roads lead to heaven." The reality of this false belief system is experienced everyday by millions upon millions of people who routinely spend time, money and effort worshiping false gods, idols, ancestors and creation, all in hopes of finding peace, prosperity and (eternal) preservation.

### SERVE

One of the best tools to create awareness of the global mission of the Church is the website: [JoshuaProject.net](http://JoshuaProject.net). Every day, they list a new PG who need the Gospel's impact; it's a great way to stay informed and engaged. Download the *Daily Prayer App* onto your smartphone and commit to pray for the unreached.

Search "GOGFM.org videos" on Youtube. Watch one of the videos to learn more about unreached people.



# LEARN

- N2Global is focused on the 276 hardest to reach, least reached and most missionally disengaged people groups throughout the 10/40 Window.
- The traditional mission model is no longer sustainable in these Frontier People Group (FPG) locations. Our associates are over 30 years old, either unmarried or married with no children and are committed to a lifelong engagement with their FPG. In most FPG regions, earning and establishing the “right to relationship” is not only important—it is essential. This is accomplished through an unwavering commitment to people, a lifetime commitment to an FPG and unconditional, sacrificial service.

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***“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations ‘ta ethne,’ and then the end will come.”***

**MATTHEW 24:14**

N2Global was birthed out of a passion for seeing God glorified in all the world; in particular, among the smallest of the Frontier People Groups. As we thought through our role in missions, we were burdened with the idea that some FPG’s were “too small to matter” to other larger mission organizations. But what is too small? Didn’t God say that there would be “...a great multitude [...] from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb?” (Mat. 28:18-20; Rev. 5:9-10, 9, 14:6-7) It broke our hearts to realize that some people groups were considered too small to spend time, money or resources to reach. We asked ourselves, “What if we were a member of a people group of 200, or 2,000?” Wouldn’t we want to have the opportunity to hear God’s Good News for ourselves and our family, friends and “ta ethne?”

Our purpose is to send teams to some of the most difficult regions of the world (logistically, geographically, physically and spiritually), especially within the 10/40 Window. By sending these teams, we realize that the risk is great, the obstacles enormous and the challenges, humanly speaking, are insurmountable. What better way for God to display His magnificent glory than by bringing the Gospel Message to these groups. Most, if not all of us, have prayed the prayer, “Lord Jesus, come quickly.” Unfortunately, He will not return and redeem His people until His Word is fulfilled — God Himself has put a limitation on His Son’s return.

Therefore, join the fray. Get involved. Pick up the mantle of prayer for an FPG and quicken His ability to return. Make the decision to go — and then, go! For reasons only known to Father God, He has made us an intricate and responsible part of His redemption story. His return hinges on at least one detail that, so far, may not have been met—there must be people (not just a person) from every tribe, tongue, nation and people surrounding His throne.

# 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*

### LEARN

- Lexington County has the 7th highest abortion rate in all 46 South Carolina counties. LaVie is the only pregnancy care center located in Lexington County and has been serving our neighbors at this critical crossroads in their lives since January 2018.
- 84% of abortion-determined or abortion-vulnerable women who have come to LaVie have changed their minds and chosen life for their child.
- Women and men can suffer with Post Abortion Syndrome, a proposed subset of PTSD, at any point in their lives after having an abortion. LaVie offers hope and healing from abortion through our recovery program called “Set Free.”
- Material assistance is available to expecting moms and dads through our childbirth and parenting education program where they earn baby bucks by completing the program and use the baby bucks to shop in our on-site baby boutique.

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***The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy.  
I came that you would have LIFE and have it abundantly.***

Recently, the Lord used the winds of a Category 5 hurricane to lead evacuees to LaVie. She and her new husband were not expecting to get pregnant so soon. She took a home pregnancy test a few weeks ago that was positive, but she's anxious, nervous, shocked and displaced. What happened next is common at LaVie and, yet, still amazing! The Lord used the concern of pregnancy to uncover wounds so we could share the healing, redemption, restoration and forgiveness of Jesus Christ!

Her story included parents who battled addiction as long as she could remember. They introduced her to substances to which she later became addicted. She almost died. She shared through tears how she overcame her addiction, but she skirted around the edges of a deeper wound - abuse by some in her uncle's church. She acknowledged having significant doubts about a good God who allowed these horrific things to happen to her.

The Holy Spirit held the door wide open for us to discuss healing - to discuss restoration - to discuss how she can trust Him and what that looks like in light of all that she's experienced - to discuss His perfect, reliable, unrelenting, immeasurable love - to discuss finding a healthy community of believers (Hebrews 10:25) - to discuss the honor and privilege of being a mom. He held the door open for us to use our most effective weapon in this battle - prayer.

We then asked this question: "Do you feel pressured in any way, by anyone, including yourself, to consider abortion?" There was a very long pause. Too long. Again, the Lord allowed us to speak truth - to affirm - to equip - to educate - and He ushered in His perfect peace!

She cried. She thanked us - profusely. And then, yes, after all this, we did a pregnancy test, which was positive. We performed an ultrasound. The results? Happy tears, genuine gratitude, lots of hugs, joy in the journey of motherhood and a renewed relationship with Christ!

## **PRAY**

For every human to passionately value every human, including the preborn.

For women and men to come to LaVie rather than an abortion clinic.

For God's provision and protection for LaVie and all those across the world on the front lines in the battle for life!

## **SERVE**

Women and men can serve by assisting clients at LaVie or with events, projects and as community ambassadors.

Consider financially supporting this life-saving ministry!

# DAY 14

# HOPE OF GLORY FOUNDATION INDIA

**MISSION:** TO PREVENT SEXUAL TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN BY RESCUING AND RESTORING THEM FROM THE STREETS AND BROTHELS AND PROVIDING THEM WITH A FAMILY ATMOSPHERE OF LOVE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

*Submitted by Sandeep  
He and his wife, Deena, serve as the Directors of Hope of Glory.*

## LEARN

- UNICEF defines a street child as, “any girl or boy [...] for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults.”
- India has an estimated one hundred thousand or more street children in each of the following cities: New Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai.
- India has the largest population of street children in the world.
- Hope of Glory Foundation is working in Pune and the surrounding areas where there are an estimated 50,000 plus street children.
- Over the last 21 years, Hope of Glory Foundation has rescued and rehabilitated hundreds of children at risk.

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***“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”***

**LUKE 19:10**

While working with street children over the years, we have come across many heart wrenching stories of inhuman behavior, cruelty, abuse and poverty, all of which testify to the lost and fallen nature of humanity. Ironically, though many of the kids we meet have run away from their family, they have a deep longing for “home,” a place where they will be loved and cared for! Our volunteers and staff recognize that the hurt these children bring with them can only be healed by the unconditional love of the Lord Jesus. We provide care and meet their physical needs, but true healing and transformation comes to the kids as they find their troubled and deep wounded hearts “at home” in Christ, who seeks and saves their lost soul.

Raju, now 26 years old, came to us as a runaway kid living on the street when he was very young. He recently finished his bachelor’s degree in nursing and went to work in a reputable hospital in Pune. While his success is remarkable, Raju felt a longing to find his biological family. He did not remember the name of the town he came from; he knew only that it was in central India.

Last year, after much persuasion, we sent him on a mission to find his family. Miraculously, with many helping hands and the help of local police, Raju was able to find his mom and five siblings. The joy on his mother’s face when she found her lost son was priceless. Now Raju is back to work in Pune but sends regular financial help to his mom and has become the backbone of his family.

How wonderful to be able to be a part of the journey of Raju from helpless, lost street boy to godly man standing strong in the Lord and serving patients in an Intensive Care Unit! Raju is currently preparing to join Mercy Ships, a ministry that provides free, lifesaving care for people where medical care is nearly non-existent. From lost to found, he now seeks to bring others who are lost into a loving relationship with Christ.

## PRAY

For the Hope of Glory Foundation family as we face persecution for being Christian.

For female street kids as they are exploited and invariably end up in brothels at the hand of traffickers.

For Christian families to come forward to provide foster care.”

For transformation of Indian society, to break ancient bondage and for the spread of the Gospel.

## SERVE

Do you know people around you who are spiritually lost? Pause for a moment and pray for them and ask for opportunities to lead them into a loving relationship with the Lord.

If called and gifted to work among children, consider joining the Hope of Glory Foundation staff in India. While there are many social workers, more Kingdom Workers are needed to see true life transformation.

# DAY 15

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*

***How then can they call on the one they have not believed in?  
And how can they believe in the one whom they have not heard?  
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"***

## **ROMANS 10:14**

### **PRAY**

For students from non-Christian backgrounds who have made a decision to follow Christ, that God would help them enter into a church family and be built up in their faith to maturity.

For God to continue to raise up volunteers so more students can be reached with the gospel at more schools.

For students' families to come to know the Lord through seeing God's work in the lives of their sons and daughters.

### **SERVE**

All of us are connected in some way to teenagers in the community, whether they are our sons and daughters, neighbors or the child of a friend or coworker.

Ask a teenager in your life about their hopes and dreams.

Ask them where they find their value and purpose.

Share your personal testimony with them about learning to find value and purpose in following Christ!

Ask them if they would like to know how they can have a relationship with God. If they say yes and you aren't sure where to start, you can show them how by using the *GodTools* app on your smartphone.

# LEARN

- Most teenagers are more receptive to the gospel as a teenager than they will be at any other age.
- 8 out of 10 Christians made the decision to begin a relationship with God before their 18th birthday.
- High school students are capable of leading spiritual movements on their campuses.

Last week at a training in Colorado, we ate at a restaurant down the street and our server was a teenage boy named Ameer. He asked what the conference was for and we responded, “We are learning how to share the hope of Jesus with more people around the world.” Ameer responded, “Jesus? I was born in the same place as Jesus!” A little confused, I asked, “Really? Where were you born?” “In Bethlehem!” Ameer responded, “I have been wanting to learn more about this Jesus who was born in the same place as me. I started reading a Bible that I found but it doesn’t make any sense.” “Do you know what type of Bible it is?” I inquired. Ameer replied, “I think it’s called something like the Old English Version?” “Would you like me to bring you a Bible you can understand?” “Oh yes!” Ameer beamed, “I would like that very much!”

Later that evening, we returned to the restaurant to bring Ameer a Bible we bought for him and to share the good news of the Gospel with him. We learned that he is from a Muslim family and was raised in the Middle East before coming to America with his father. Most of his family still lives in the Middle East and he visits them every year. I asked Ameer if he would like to learn how he can have a relationship with Jesus and he said he would like that very much. So I opened the *GodTools* app on my phone and we walked through the four points of the Gospel, looked at the illustrations, and talked about what they meant.

When we reached the part about Jesus being raised from the dead, he was amazed. “Jesus was RAISED FROM THE DEAD!?! I never knew that! I knew he died but I never knew he was raised from the dead!” Ameer exclaimed. When we reached the fourth point that talks about making a decision to receive Christ as Lord and Savior, Ameer told me he wanted to pray the prayer to receive Christ. The next day, Ameer sent me a text saying, “Thank you for the greatest gift! Thank you for the best information! Thank you for the Bible! Thank you and I hope I can see you again!”

Praise God for allowing Ameer to begin a relationship with Christ! A relationship which will change his life for eternity and could impact others in the Muslim community where he currently lives as well as his own family in the Middle East who have limited access to the Gospel.



# DAY 16

## CAR DONATION & TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

**MISSION:** TO PROVIDE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION TO INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN CIRCLES® LEXINGTON COUNTY AS A WAY OF BREAKING ONE OF THE SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO RESOLVING THE ISSUE OF POVERTY

*Submitted by Dell Simpson, CIRCLES® Coach*

## LEARN

- Reliable transportation is a must to obtain and keep employment necessary to overcome poverty.
- Currently, there is no public transportation option within the county, leaving many without a cost effective means of getting to and from work.
- Having reliable transportation enables a Circle Leader to reallocate funds normally spent on paying for cabs and other similar options.

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***Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,  
and he will reward them for what they have done.***

**PROVERBS 19:17**

One of the biggest complaints I often hear around town is about the traffic. Many of us face the challenge of maneuvering the congested Lexington County roads every single day. It certainly can make getting to and from work on time, or anywhere for that matter, very frustrating.

In the midst of our frustration, we can easily forget the tremendous blessing of having access to a vehicle to get us where we need to go. Unfortunately, we forget many in our midst do not have reliable means of transportation.

For those living in poverty in Lexington County, estimated to be over 13%, having the means to get to and from work is vital to holding a job. Without transportation, there is often no way to maintain stable employment. Without stable employment, there is no way to resolve poverty. Sporadic employment, or lack thereof, could very well be a result of no available options for transportation.

I am grateful for the efforts of many to create the Car Donation Program for CIRCLES® Lexington County. Several of our CIRCLES® participants have already benefited by the efforts of a few volunteers who were willing to provide a needed ride.

Next time you are stuck in traffic, take a moment to thank God for the car you do have and reflect on how He may want you to share with others who do not.

## PRAY

For God to raise up generous individuals who will donate used vehicles to help meet the needs of our neighbors.

That the Lord will nudge others to be willing to share rides to work or provide a needed ride for a neighbor when the opportunity arises in the future.

## SERVE

Pretend for an entire day you do not have access to a vehicle. You must figure out how to get everywhere you need to go without relying on more than one friend for a one-way ride. Discover how much money you would have to spend in a single day. Then, figure out what percentage of your daily income would go to transportation for a single day if your hourly wage for an eight-hour shift was \$10/hour.

Consider donating a used vehicle to the church or reach out to friends and neighbors who might be willing to do so.

Consider adding your name to a list of possible ride-shares and/or drivers for those within our CIRCLES® Lexington County Program who may need transportation in the future as they seek to resolve the issue of poverty within their own lives.

For more information, visit [circleslexingtoncounty.org](http://circleslexingtoncounty.org).

# DAY 17

## BETHEL OUTREACH MINISTRY INDIA

**MISSION:** TO REACH UNREACHED PEOPLE  
AND LEAD THEM TO CHRIST

*Submitted by Deborah. Deborah and her husband, Joseph, are the founders of Bethel Outreach Ministry in India.*

***“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies,  
do good to those who hate you,  
bless those who curse you,  
pray for those who abuse you.***

***To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also,  
and from one who takes away your cloak  
do not withhold your tunic either.***

***Give to everyone who begs from you,  
and from one who takes away your goods  
do not demand them back.***

***And as you wish that others would do to you,  
do so to them.”***

**LUKE 6:27-31**

# LEARN

- Bethel works to reach the tribal communities in India. The tribal people are the most downtrodden people in India, from the lowest caste with no connection with anything or anyone in the outside world. They are abused, misused, sold into bonded labor or end up in human trafficking networks.
- Bethel has planted 142 small churches where there were previously no Christians. There are now 8000+ first generation believers.
- Outreach teams from Bethel reach out with the Gospel message to 2000 people every day. Over the past 12 years, 8.7 million people have been introduced to the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- Bethel gives a voice to the voiceless and brings holistic change to children in tribal villages by providing four free schools and an orphanage for 120 children who once lived without hope.
- With the help of Mt. Horeb, children will soon be rescued from the red-light district in Kolkata where 200 girls are sold into prostitution every day. The Kolkata home is scheduled to open in 2020.

Dhakaydi is a small village in Jharkhand, India where there are no Christians and no church. Many years ago, we took a boy from that village to live in our Bethel Home. He was from a very poor family and had alcoholic parents. This boy, named Simal, grew up in our home where he was taught about the Lord, but he never seemed to be interested. After completing his education, he went back to his village and lived there for a while taking care of a small plot of land the family owned.

In 2016, he committed his life to Christ and answered the call to serve in his home village as a missionary. He shared the Gospel with his family. His mother and three sisters accepted the Lord, but his father abandoned them due to their rejection of traditional Hinduism. The whole village turned on them, took advantage of them and made the decision to treat them as untouchables. No one would talk to them. They were not permitted to get water from the community water source. They were forced to live like strangers in the village that was once their own. Simal did his best to provide for his family.

*Continued on next page...*

## DAY 17 CONTINUED

In June 2019, Joba, one of Simal's sisters who was sixteen years old at the time wanted to attend one of Bethel's outreach events. Joba was unwell, having been diagnosed with a heart condition. The family told her she shouldn't travel, but her words were "I want to serve the Lord and win this village for Christ." Joba walked 30 kilometers to the camp. On her way back home after serving at the event, she had a massive heart attack and died.

Bethel missionaries transported her body home to her village. The missionaries made her coffin and buried her body because the villagers and neighbors would not talk to the family. Her grave is on the top of a mountain and has a beautiful cross placed on it. All who pass by see the cross. Simal believes the whole village will be saved one day. He trusts that the Lord is working in ways that are unseen. He continues to provide a loving Christian witness to those who persecute him.

### PRAY

For Simal as he provides a Christian presence and witness to the people of his home village. Pray that the villagers will respond to the Light of Jesus.

Against the spiritual darkness and the spiritual warfare the Bethel staff and missionaries face every day.

That the government would favor Christian work in India and stop the horrible persecution.

For the children in the existing Bethel home and for the new home in Kolkata.

### SERVE

Blessing those who have hurt you is one of the hardest things to do as a believer. It requires perspective and fortitude to choose God's ways over what feels most gratifying at the time. But you have the power to choose the abundant life God makes available to you in every moment. The Holy Spirit will help you forgive and offer grace to others if you will allow Him to. Choose to bless those who persecute you today and watch as the love and honor you show others brings heaven to earth around you.



# DAY 18

## THE KNUTZEN FAMILY

**MISSION:** TO START DISCIPLESHIP MOVEMENTS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES ACROSS RUSSIA

*Submitted by Chris Knutzen, a missionary serving with CRU in Russia. Chris and his wife, Elmira, serve with their four children.*

***“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.***

**ISAIAH 55:8-9**

### PRAY

That Russian Evangelical Christians will take up the call to reach their country for Christ despite the increasing governmental obstacles.

That the Orthodox Church will become a church that values studying God's word and sharing it with others.

That Russia can become a great sending country to the world's least-reached part of the world, the 10/40 window.

### SERVE

You can pray specifically for the individual people groups in Russia by downloading an app on your phone called *Prayer for UPGs of Russia*.



# LEARN

- Russia has over 100 people groups, many with their own language and religion.
- Russia has 11 time zones, which means at certain times of the year, the sun is setting and rising in Russia at the same time.
- There are less than 1% Evangelical Christians in a country with a rich Christian tradition.

It was November 1999. My team had only been in the country for a few months and we had just organized a huge retreat for all the students we were meeting on campus through our English clubs. After the retreat, we heard rumors that the Dean of the Foreign Language Department had just sent a letter to the FSB (formerly the KGB) requesting they investigate our team on suspicion that we were using drugs, hypnosis and the Bible to influence her students. Well, at least she had one of the three right! Before long, we were sitting before an FSB official being interrogated.

After the interrogation was over, we were allowed to stay in the country but we realized that we had stirred up a hornet's nest. We would no longer be able to do ministry the way we were used to doing it, which was primarily gathering students through large events in order to share the Gospel with them. We would have to change our approach and do more one-on-one ministry focused on building relationships.

With the new method, we experienced a very fruitful year. Building personal relationships proved to be far more effective than gathering students through large events. However, it took a very difficult situation for us to figure that out. We realized that God's plan was much better than our plans. What seemed like a setback was actually a step forward in the right direction. We needed only to trust the Lord and follow Him through it.

Years later in 2016, a law was passed that would ban evangelical events like the ones we had been doing back in 1999. When this happened, I was reminded of what had happened twenty years earlier. Once again, this was an opportunity for God to reach even more people than before. Individual believers would need to step up and do more personal ministry rather than rely on their church leaders to host events to reach the community. And this is exactly what we are seeing.

Even though more boldness is required to share the gospel in the current political climate, people are responding and becoming Kingdom laborers like never before. Truly, God knows what He is doing. He calls us merely to trust and follow closely behind Him.

# DAY 19

## LIGHTHOUSE FOR LIFE

*MISSION: TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND  
PROVIDE GRACE AND RESTORATION TO SURVIVORS*

*Submitted by Jen Thompson, Executive Director*

## LEARN

- In 2017, 198 people in South Carolina were identified as being survivors of human trafficking and 25% of them were male.
- The top five known counties for human trafficking in SC are Richland, Horry, Greenville, Charleston, and Beaufort. Source: South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Annual Report 2018

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*He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?*

**MICAH 6:8**

In December 2018, we received a text over Instagram messenger that said, “My boyfriend says that it is legal for him to let his friends pay him to have sex with me because we are both over 18. Is that true?”

This message began a text dialogue that would last over 48 hours. During this time, the sender revealed she was being trafficked and had been for several years. The bravery displayed by this victim allowed us to network her to the appropriate authorities and eventually led to her safely escaping her trafficker.

This is just one example from over 37 survivors that Lighthouse for Life has been able to serve in various ways since its founding in 2014. Thanks to the generous support of Mt. Horeb through the Advent offerings, Lighthouse for Life opened the first safe home for minor victims of trafficking on August 12. Karis House will provide long-term care for female survivors between the ages of 12 and 21, giving them the tools they need to rewrite their story.

## PRAY

For awareness and prevention education to flourish across the state and nation.

For South Carolina law enforcement to work the crime and focus especially on sex buyers, as this is the root cause of human trafficking.

For the Lord to be lifted up by the ministry of Lighthouse for Life and draw all people to Himself.

## SERVE

**Connect.** Foster healthy relationships with your children. Encourage them to really talk to you. Let them know they can tell you anything and that nothing they say will cause them to lose the love you have for them.

**Report.** If you suspect that someone you know is at risk or is a victim of trafficking, report it! The National Human Trafficking Hotline is 888-373-7888. Save it in your phone and when you “See Something, Say Something.”

**Learn.** Become aware of the facts and dispel the myths. Start by visiting [lighthouseforlife.org](http://lighthouseforlife.org).

# DAY 20

## DISASTER RELIEF SOUTHEAST ASIA

**MISSION:** TO BRING THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT CHRIST TO THE UNREACHED PEOPLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA BY PROVIDING AN IMPACTFUL, MEANINGFUL PRESENCE IN TIMES OF DISASTER

*Submitted by a missionary serving with his family in Indonesia*

***“And through your offspring all the nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”***

**GENESIS 22:18**

### PRAY

For a movement among the already reached people groups of Indonesia to go outside of their cultural and religious boundaries to reach others.

That Indonesian churches would continue to cultivate a heart to reach their Muslim neighbors.

For opportunities for ministry among the least-reached people of Indonesia.

### SERVE

How can you be a blessing to someone with whom you do not usually interact? Too often, we operate with the mentality that it's easiest to help others who are like us, but God has called followers of Jesus to bless all peoples. Spend some time brainstorming what it would look like to be a blessing outside of your normal spheres of influence. Is there someone that comes to mind, a marginalized group you would like to serve or perhaps a ministry you could join?

# LEARN

- An unreached people group refers to an ethnic group without an indigenous, self-propagating Christian church movement. Any ethnic or ethnolinguistic nation without enough Christians to evangelize the rest of the nation is an “unreached people group.”
- There are 293 unreached people groups in Indonesia alone.
- Over 167,895,000 people (62.4% of the population) in Indonesia are unreached with the Gospel.
- Mt. Horeb sent \$10,000 to support a team on the ground to provide disaster relief and a Christian presence following the earthquake and tsunami of 2018.

Last October, I found myself sitting on the front porch of a cracked house holding a massive tray containing hundreds of eggs. The head of the neighborhood told me how excited they were for the eggs — for the past week, each household had only received instant noodles and rice from the government. The only reason I was there was because one week before, there had been an earthquake and subsequent tsunami that had ravaged Central Sulawesi, killing thousands. The neighborhood where I sat was small — around 70 households now living in tents outside of homes that had either collapsed or become dangerously weakened — and they were predominantly Muslim.

As we talked, the man told me that all around, aid was being distributed along religious and ethnic lines. Mosques were sending supplies to Muslim areas and Christian organizations were helping the Christians in need. He told me, “Kawanuah, kawanuah is what we say in our language. People take care of their own kind.” And then the man thanked me, a Christian, for bringing aid to his Muslim neighborhood.

A couple of the young adults in the area were so impressed with our work, they asked if it was possible to volunteer alongside our team. Our team that solely consisted of Christian outsiders to the area grew beautifully to incorporate local Muslim volunteers. We began to distribute together to whomever we felt was in greatest need and the local volunteers began to invite more friends to join. It only took a couple of weeks for one of the Muslim volunteers to put her faith in Jesus and soon, she was baptized. She told our team what gripped her was the compassion we showed to people who were not like us. And she wanted to know the One who motivated us to show unconditional love.

Thousands of years ago, Abraham was told by God that through his offspring, all nations on earth would be blessed. The promise was not to bless just his family or for those who were like him. God’s blessing would be poured out upon Abraham and reverberate to every corner of the globe. In essence, the promise was the exact opposite of kawanuah, kawanuah — all people are to receive compassion without distinction.

# DAY 21

## 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.*

***“Let your light so shine before men so that they will see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”***

**MATTHEW 5:16**

### PRAY

Pray for energy and perseverance in teaching English.

Pray for more workers to be called to this spiritually dark region.

Pray for Jesus to draw new people to himself through truth and powerful encounters including dreams and visions.

### SERVE

Many university students from unreached nations come to the USA to study. Almost 98% of them are never invited inside an American's home. Consider inviting an international student to your home for Thanksgiving or Christmas this year, especially one from a Muslim country (please avoid serving pork, though!).

[carolinabcm.org/host-an-international-student](http://carolinabcm.org/host-an-international-student)

# LEARN

- Our country is less than 0.1% Christian with the fewest percentage of evangelicals in the world.
- There are only seven known believers in our city of nearly 200,000.
- I teach English full-time, as it is the only way to have a one-year residency permit.

I wear a strand of freshwater pearls from Lake Ohrid in Macedonia. These beautifully transformed stones begin as an irritating grain of sand. Teaching is bringing that to life for me daily. Each child is a beautiful creation of God, but some can be like bits of sand and a challenge to teach. These “irritations” cause me to trust God more because it is greater than I can bear alone. But, as I trust Him and return to class strengthened from personal devotion and prayer warriors lifting up each class, I am also, like a pearl, being formed more perfectly. I often learn that God is doing more than I can even imagine.

One such pearl is “T.” He has trouble sitting still. He forgets his workbook and hits other students. I have read countless articles to learn how to motivate this boy. I have tried to connect with him outside of class, playing soccer with him and have even made videos of him singing. The staff knows this child is irritating and often comments on how I am able to find joy in teaching him without giving up. They know a bit about his family situation — there are family troubles that make life hard for him.

We recently completed some school renovations and added a giant outdoor chalkboard. One day I found “T” writing something on the board with a sheepish grin (often the look when he is misbehaving). It said “I love Michelle,” my full name and what staff/students call me. It made me realize my efforts had not been in vain. This boy, who is raised in an abusive home and has trouble controlling himself, had realized that I loved him. Mine and others’ prayers for me to love him as God does had been answered. Only perfect love can cast out all fear. So, I have more strength to face the hard cases — for they are pearls in the making.



# DAY 22



## 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 Brenda Maxwell, 10:10 Bridge Mentor*

## LEARN

- Did you know children spell love “T-I-M-E”?
- 10:10 Bridge mentors donate 3 hours of their time from 2-5 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday to mentor a child. A mentor may volunteer one or more days a week depending on his or her availability.
- This afterschool ministry blesses children through Bible stories, prayer, nourishment, play, homework/academics and special activities such as art or yoga.
- 10:10 Bridge gets its name from the John 10:10 Bible verse.

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***“The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy,  
but I have come that they may have life  
and have it more abundantly.”***

**JOHN 10:10**

I became active in 10:10 Bridge in the Fall of 2017. The child I mentored moved away over the Christmas break, so I was without a mentee when Janis asked if anyone felt comfortable working with two non-English speaking sisters who were joining the program in January. These two girls moved to the United States over the holiday break. They spoke no English. Having been a nursery worker for non-English speaking children before, I was willing to take on the challenge.

Two beautiful but somewhat frightened little girls, one in kindergarten and one in 2nd grade, began 10:10 Bridge in January of 2018. Their progress in the program has been nothing short of miraculous. I was so concerned for them that I volunteered to mentor them at 10:10 Bridge three days each week. They learned spoken English rapidly and learned to read and write it as well. Their classroom teachers and the ESOL teacher at their school gave great suggestions regarding ways to assist them academically. They are especially close sisters who interact with all the children in the program exceptionally well, despite their language barrier. Watching their spiritual growth and listening to their earnest and sincere prayers has touched my heart and let me know that I am volunteering my time to a very worthwhile and life-changing ministry.

Won't you join me as a 10:10 Bridge mentor?

## PRAY

Pray for consistent leadership and more mentors for 10:10 Bridge so this program can continue to make a difference in the quality of the lives of children in our community academically, socially and, most importantly, spiritually.

Pray that unchurched Bridge attendees will be touched by the gospel and share the gospel with their families and neighbors.

Pray for the safety and well-being of all children involved, especially as they are transported on and from Mt. Horeb on church vans.

## SERVE

There are many ways to be a part of the 10:10 Bridge program, even if you can't devote three hours a week to mentoring. Driving a van, helping serve snacks or teaching something special such as how to do a particular craft are examples of ways to be involved. Volunteer to share your time and talents with a child who needs you. For more information, contact [ellen.stewart@mthorebumc.com](mailto:ellen.stewart@mthorebumc.com).



# DAY 23

# PERSECUTION PROJECT FOUNDATION

**MISSION:** TO PROVIDE ACTIVE COMPASSION  
FOR THE PERSECUTED

*Submitted by Ed Lyons, Director of Ministry Advancement for PPF*

***So then, faith comes by hearing,  
and hearing by the word of God.***

***ROMANS 10:17***

## PRAY

For Nuba pastors to clearly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in both word and deed (Colossians 3:16-17).

For the humanitarian embargo placed around the Nuba mountains by the Government of Sudan to be lifted so that more organizations can enter the region and help those who have suffered at the hands of the government.

For audio Bibles to impact more lives in the Nuba, as God has promised in Isaiah 55:11 - for His Word will not return void.

## SERVE

You can help equip Nuba pastors with Evangelism Backpack Projector Systems by visiting [evangelismbackpacks.com](http://evangelismbackpacks.com) and becoming a fundraiser among your social network and peers. 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 and other Christian movies.

# LEARN

- Omar al-Bashir, former President of the Republic of North Sudan, was ousted in 2019 by a military coup after 30 years in power.
- Bashir and his National Congress Party, formerly known as the National Islamic Front, were responsible for millions of deaths of their own countrymen.
- A humanitarian embargo continues to be enforced around the Nuba mountain region of North Sudan.

PPF staff have developed lasting friendships with many residents living in the Nuba mountains. Some of these relationships are with brothers and sisters in Christ, while others are with unbelievers.

Jesus gave us the Great Commission, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

**Matthew 28:19-20**

How can we make disciples, baptize or teach unless we first get close? These relationships have given us opportunity to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have not yet made professions of faith. At times, the Gospel is proclaimed through a Nuba pastor’s sermon. At times, it is through the showing of The Jesus Film on one of our backpack projector systems. At other times, the Gospel presents itself through the written Word of God, but literacy rates in the Nuba are not as high as in the States.

Consequently, PPF distributes audio Bibles and the results have been encouraging. A man once approached our team and, pointing towards his ear, said, “I am a Muslim, but do you have any of those devices that speak the Truth?” We understood exactly what this man was seeking: an audio Bible. We gave him one that he immediately began listening to.

In another village, our team regularly stays with Uncle Mahmoud\*, who was also a Muslim. On one occasion, we offered Uncle Mahmoud an audio Bible, which he readily accepted. For the three days we stayed in his home, Uncle Mahmoud continuously listened to that audio Bible. On future visits, he would recite to us entire chapters from the Bible. Three years later, in a meeting amongst high Nuba officials, Uncle Mahmoud made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith truly does come by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. How shall they hear without a preacher? At times, God speaks to the heart of man through little, solar-powered devices that discretely fit into the pockets of clothing.

*\*Name changed for security purposes*

# DAY 24

## NEXT STEP MINISTRIES

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

*Submitted by Kenna Osenga, Next Step Summer Staff 2019*

### LEARN

- Next Step Ministries is actively serving in 12 different locations nationally and internationally.
- Next Step had over 6,500+ volunteers serving on week-long mission trips in select communities this summer for nine consecutive weeks!
- Next Step has been actively working in the Lexington community for six consecutive years. In that time, over 100 homes have been rehabbed and over 11 VBS weeks have taken place for kids in this community!
- Mt. Horeb plays a significant role in supporting this ministry by providing housing for teams coming from all over the nation to serve in this local community. This summer, 496 volunteers served.

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*“For where two or three gather in my name,  
there am I with them.”*

Next Step Ministries allows amazing students to connect with amazing communities. This year, God connected us with a new partnership with a church called Iglesia Del Nazareno Taller De Jesus in the community of Happy Town/Sugar Town, about 20 minutes from Lexington. Right when Next Step was searching for a relational ministry to partner with for the week, the Pastor of the Nazarene church was praying for a group to lead a VBS at his church in the afternoons. A few days later, we began a week-long VBS. That “one week” turned into a long-term partnership with Pastor Garcia and his church. We have been blessed to be able to do multiple weeks of VBS this summer and have plans to continue it again next summer!

That first week of VBS, it was evident that the Holy Spirit was present. The students Next Step brought in were all middle school students who only live two hours away. On day one, the students deeply connected with the kids attending VBS. Kids were listening to the Bible story, engaging in worship and forming bonds with the students that loved them with open minds and open hearts. On the last day, the Next Step students had one-on-one moments with each child and shared with them the story of the Gospel by making Gospel bracelets. I could feel without a doubt that the Holy Spirit was drawing kids to Him that day. I was blessed to be sitting next to one student who was sharing the story of the gospel with a kid and then concluded by asking, “Can I pray for you?” The two closed in prayer and I have no doubt that the Lord added one more soldier to His army in that moment. The students left VBS with changed hearts. Watching the middle school students love the VBS children so well was a beautiful picture of God’s unconditional love for all of His people.

## PRAY

For Next Step Ministries in South Carolina and all the other sites around the world.

For the community of Happy Town/Sugar Town. Pray the people in that community will see and experience God’s revolutionary love.

For all of our community partners who continue amazing year-round ministry showing love to so many people.

## SERVE

Consider getting involved in the summer of 2020 by becoming a “host family” for a summer staff member, providing breakfast for the staff on Sunday mornings or attending one of the weekly block parties to meet the team and the community members. For more information, email [missions@mtthorebumc.com](mailto:missions@mtthorebumc.com).

# DAY 25



## TMS GLOBAL GREENLIGHT THAILAND

*MISSION: TO GIVE YOUNG ADULTS AGE 18-23  
THE GO-AHEAD TO EMBRACE CULTURE,  
EXPERIENCE MINISTRY AND EXPLORE CALLING*

*Submitted by Monica Larson*

## LEARN

- Thailand's main religion is Buddhism, making up 94.6% of their population, where Christianity falls at 0.07% of their population.
- The three pillars of Thai society are nation, religion and monarchy. This makes for their beautiful culture, but also lays the framework for the way Christianity will play into their lives.
- Tourism is Thailand's third largest economic industry behind electronics and automobiles. It is home to 1,430 islands, 35,000 temples and 67 million people.

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*The Light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.*

**JOHN 1:5**



Before I came to Thailand, the term “darkness” truthfully had three definitions to me, the first being the darkness that exists in horror movies and the Salem Witch Trials. The second is the in-your-face, disturbing and uncomfortable darkness that no one can deny. The third kind is an immovable, seemingly untouchable and scary force that is so strong, I’ll just wait for Jesus to come back to deal with it (or at least someone holier than me). I was embarrassingly wrong about all three. There is no denying the country of Thailand is lacking in the Light of the World. Less than one percent of the population in Thailand considers themselves Christians and the rest of the country lives in darkness (that word I didn’t understand). How then, I asked myself, is this “dark, dark” country inhabiting some of the warmest people I’ve ever encountered? How do they make a group of 8 Americans feel at home on the other side of the world? How are their smiles and laughs contagiously fun and so gentle? This was not what I was expecting.

This made working with Jesus to drive the darkness out a very humbling task. I didn’t understand how there seemed to be so little urgency when it came to the long-term missionaries and native believers sharing the Gospel. It seemed to me the only way to fix this massive problem would be to stand on the corners of Bangkok and exclaim that there is a God who became a man who knows your name and loves every hair on your head, so much that He died for every mistake and shortcoming you’d ever make. Luckily, though, no one put me in charge. I watched as those following Jesus in Thailand had the Spirit of God leading them in every move they made, and they relationally, lovingly and uniquely walked with their Thai Buddhist friends and family into faith in Jesus Christ.

During my fourth week in Thailand, I saw God moving in this deeply relational and meek approach to the Gospel. Our team was partnered with two American-educated, Doctorate degree-trained Thai nationals who have devoted their lives to spreading the Gospel to their country. They invited us into a school where they had been serving for five years, teaching English for free and building relationships with the students and teachers. They had never presented the Gospel to this group.

*Continued on next page...*

## DAY 25 CONTINUED

Customarily, Thai teachers correct students' behavior with a beating from a bamboo switch. These two had a different approach. One doctor retrieved the switch commonly used to beat the students and brought it before the class. They sat stunned looking at the kind man who had been the only one not to use the switch on them before. He explained the new way of his classroom: for every time they acted poorly, he would receive the beating on their behalf. Relieved and confused by this weird non-punishment, they continued their naughty ways. Before long, their teacher began to whip himself on his back with full strength. Each time they misbehaved, the doctor took the beatings that they had been taught they deserved. The students were amazed and disturbed by this.

God spoke clearly to these teachers that week, saying that the time had come for the Gospel message. They brought the movie "The Passion of the Christ" to the school and played the scene of the crucifixion. They told the story of a man who lived a blameless life, loved people in the most perfect way imaginable, deserved all the praise in the world, but took the horrible punishment for every person in the world all in the name of love. They told the story of Jesus and His real, personal, perfect love.

For the first time, the students weren't offered a new set of rules to switch to, but instead the promise of freedom. They were offered deep joy in exchange for chains, shame and bondage.

At the end of the lesson, students were crying and even the heart of the skeptical Buddhist teacher softened. I think there was a party in heaven in that moment as God wept for His children finally seeing the true face of love — Himself.

The real tragedy for Thailand is that the Gospel has never been presented in a way they can understand and there aren't enough Christians to spread the Good News.

Darkness is real and alive. It ruins the lives of billions of people around the world who are bound by the chains of lies and shame. It isn't always in your face. It's around you like fog, waiting to attack you with its chameleon lies and velvet tongue and can be so easily masked by societal manners and smiles.

But, there is so much we have the power to do about it because of Jesus Christ! The love of God is irresistible. The love of the Gospel is unimaginably beautiful. “Here is a joy that cannot be shaken. Our light can swallow up your darkness, but your darkness cannot now infect our light.” C. S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*.

## PRAY

For the Thai believers and long-term missionaries to have endurance in fighting the good fight. Please pray that God’s voice would be clear to them in every decision and that they feel encouraged in their perseverance.

For the hearts of the Thai people, that they would be softened and may have the courage to step out in faith and ask further questions about Buddhism and Christianity. Please pray that God would appear to them in dreams and visions to reveal Himself to them and that they would know Him as their Father and true King of Kings.

For the health and safety of those in Thailand and for the children and teachers of the school written about above to continue on this new chapter on their way to know Jesus Christ.

## SERVE

Who do you know who hasn’t heard the Gospel in a way they can understand? Do you have a friend or family member who has heard of Jesus but is confused by Him? Ask God for the courage and wisdom to present the beautiful Gospel in a way your friend can understand to begin walking with Him in authentic faith.

Is there darkness in your life that you are ready to begin to pray and act against in the name of Jesus Christ? Does the idea of 94.6% of Thailand living in darkness touch you? Ask God to challenge your faith and lean into actively praying for the darkness to flee the nation and people of Thailand as well as in your own life. Remember, we can claim victory over darkness now because of Jesus’ victory!

Young adults who may be feeling a call to global missions can participate in a GreenLight 6-week cross-cultural global experience alongside other students and professional missionaries in different contexts. To learn more visit, [tms-global.org/greenlight](https://tms-global.org/greenlight).

# DAY 26

## THE STEVANUS FAMILY SOUTHEAST ASIA

**MISSION:** TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY DEVELOPING REPRODUCING CHURCHES THAT ADDRESS THE PROBLEM IN CULTURALLY STRATEGIC WAYS

*Submitted by Chris Stevanus. Chris and his wife, Marie, serve in SE Asia as missionaries supported by Mt. Horeb.*

***He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners.***

**ISAIAH 61:1**

### SERVE

Trafficking is a topic we hear about more and more and its not confined to third-world countries or places “out there.” Have you considered how it can be such a lucrative industry? If there was not a demand, there would be no motivation for supply. Yet, there is demand. A demand for sex so loudly proclaimed it is deafening. Pornography daily trains its viewers to adjust their understanding of what is sexually acceptable. Big sporting events draw huge crowds and thousands of women and children supply the demand for sex, fun and entertainment. As a culture, Americans are taught that our comfort and desires are of paramount importance, but have we considered the ramifications of this stance? Would you dare to boldly proclaim truth into situations you encounter in your own communities, reminding others of their worth and God’s design for relationship?

# LEARN

- Our family is committed to fighting human trafficking through developing reproducing churches addressing the problem in culturally strategic ways. Our heart is to play a role in the prevention, rescue and restoration of children impacted by this reality which permeates culture. We yearn to facilitate healthy physical and emotional restoration from trauma through counseling, education, vocational training and sharing the Hope that only life with Christ offers.
- Here in the Southeast Asian country where we serve, the majority of trafficking victims identified within our borders are nationals trafficked for domestic sexual exploitation.
- Foreign migrants and stateless persons are also at high risk of being exploited. The reality of poverty often drives families to send their children away for work. Due to cultural norms, very young children find themselves expected to contribute to the needs of the family, which leaves them extremely vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.
- While tourism fuels the problem of trafficking financially, the widespread sexual exploitation of children is a product of cultural realities more prevalent than the 7 out of 10 men who visit our country and engage a prostitute during their stay. An estimated 80% of the clients sustaining the trafficking industry are locals. Into this reality fraught with corruption, deceit and spiritual darkness, we boldly declare the healing power of the Gospel of Christ. We know that Jesus is the only answer to the brokenness of this trauma on all fronts, and He is the only one big enough to change a culture from the inside out.

Joy\* grew up in a village not too far outside the city. She helped her Grandma with laundry, cooking, and taking care of her younger brother. In her eight-year-old world, village life is what she knew. One day, that changed when her grandmother sent her to go sell flowers on the streets in the city. We don't know all the motivations behind this decision, but we do know that Grandma's choice forever changed Joy's life. While she and her younger brother walked the streets trying to sell flowers to the tourists, they experienced a world full of darkness and deceit. Soon, Joy was being sexually exploited in the red light district and at fourteen, she became pregnant.

*\*Name changed for security purposes*

*Continued on next page...*

## DAY 26 CONTINUED

A foundation we volunteer with gave Joy and her baby a home. In the context of family, Joy was given a safe place to unpack the years of trauma she experienced. Through her relationships with foster parents and siblings, she experienced love and hope. She learned through example how to parent her own little one. She had help with her baby so that she could go to school. And most importantly, she met Jesus!

We met Joy when she was sixteen, a teenager in every sense of the word, yet wise beyond her years. A leader among her “sisters” in the foster home, she requested that the foundation help her do an outreach event in her village. She desperately wanted to educate those who had exploited her about the realities of trafficking. Joy begged for the chance to help her community understand what they could spare other children from and she yearned for the opportunity to proclaim Christ, His love and mercy. Joy’s life reminds us of the power and hope of the Gospel, a love capable of shattering the deepest and darkest of hurts and a loving Father who mends together the broken pieces in the very best way.



## PRAY

For exponential growth in the Body of Christ here in Southeast Asia.

For those who are captives in this evil industry to be set free.

For safety, wisdom and opportunities for our team as we engage weekly through prayer and building relationships in our local red light district, speaking love, hope, truth and reminding them of their worth.





# DAY 27

## MISSION OF HOPE MINISTRIES

**MISSION:** TO PROVIDE A POSITIVE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT WHERE PEOPLE'S LIVES CAN BE CHANGED BY THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

*Submitted by Laura Watts*

### LEARN

- The Mission of Hope Ministires (MOHM) Food Bank, in partnership with Harvest Hope Food Bank, is located in Cayce, SC and serves 50+ families in Lexington County each week.
- The MOHM Thrift Stores located in Cayce and Batesburg-Leesville provide families in crisis with low-cost clothing, low-cost household items and free food and provisions.
- MOHM provides Sunday morning worship, sponsors local outreach events and the annual medical mission team to Samoan Islands.

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***“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did for me.’”***

**MATTHEW 25:40**

Franklin experienced firsthand the impact of God's love through Mission of Hope Ministries (MOHM). He first visited when he came to church with his father one Sunday in 2008, more to be with his father than anything else. Eight years passed and Franklin lost contact with MOHM. In 2016, Franklin lost his job due to arthritic knee pain that prohibited him from standing. A volunteer at the MOHM Food Bank told him he could receive food to help support his family. He did and he left feeling loved and accepted.

Franklin continued receiving food until his father passed away in 2017. He felt so much was given to him, he wanted to repay that generosity. He began volunteering in the Food Bank.

Two years passed and when his mom got sick, he once again put on his caretaker hat. When she passed in early 2019, Franklin reached out to Pastor John Watts to ask if a memorial service could be held to honor his mother and Pastor John agreed. Franklin now worships regularly with our international family on Sundays.

Franklin continues to volunteer at MOHM and in the blistering heat of July 2019, he saw a need to scrape and paint the front windows of the Food Bank. Although he could barely walk, he carefully climbed the ladder and did a great job. Franklin is one of many lives transformed by the love of God given through the hands and hearts of His servants at MOHM.

## SERVE

Volunteer your time to serve in the following ways:

- Food Bank or Cayce Thrift Store. To volunteer, call (803) 605-5877.
- As an Interpreter (English to Spanish) for Worship. To volunteer, call (803) 603-0412.
- Building maintenance. To volunteer, call (803) 603-0412.
- Donate gently-used clothing or household items to our Thrift Stores.
- Donate non-perishable food items to the food bank.
- Join the Med-Mission team to the Samoan Islands next summer by emailing: MOH1819ministries@gmail.com.

## PRAY

For more volunteers in the Cayce Food Bank and Thrift Store.

For the hearts of our clients to be open to receive God's love and follow His ways.

For the construction of the Medical Mission Clinic in American Samoa to move forward.

# DAY 28

## HORIZON CHURCH JACO, COSTA RICA

**MISSION:** TO KNOW GOD AND MAKE HIM KNOWN IN  
JACO, COSTA RICA AND ALL THE WORLD

*Submitted by Daniel Barrett*

*Daniel, his wife, Sarah, and three boys are the founders of Horizon Church where they serve as missionaries in Costa Rica.*

## LEARN

- Costa Rica is 80% Roman Catholic. Less than 20% are practicing and even fewer know what it means to truly have a relationship with Christ.
- Costa Rica has roughly the same population as South Carolina at 5 million people.
- Prostitution is legal in Costa Rica and it's widely known for its growing sex tourism.
- Costa Rica has the same land mass as New Jersey, but is host to 5% of the world's biodiversity.

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***So we cared for you. Because we loved you so much,  
we were delighted to share with you not only  
the gospel of God but our lives as well.***

***1 THESSALONIANS 2:8***

While serving as the youth pastor at Mt. Horeb from 1996-2003, the Lord allowed us to participate in many short-term mission projects. We did everything from in-state missions like Epworth Children's Home and Salkehatchie Summer Service to international missions in Canada, Mexico, Bahamas and Ghana. The Lord certainly used those experiences and others to prepare our hearts for full-time mission service. In 2009, we moved our family from Lexington, SC to Jaco, Costa Rica. In the last ten years, we have participated in three church plants, numerous outreaches and hosted dozens of short-term mission teams.

In 2013, we planted Horizon Church. From humble beginnings with 8 people in a small house, we have grown to over 200 and just finished construction on a new church building. The church is a lighthouse in a community that is known for its nightlife, prostitution and "Vegas-like" mentality. Horizon Church is committed to helping people "Know God, Love God and Serve God." Horizon Church has started numerous outreaches to the community including kid's camps, community youth group, English and Spanish classes, homeless feeding, food bank, clothing closet and a prenatal center. Jaco Prenatal Center is the only center of its kind on the central Pacific coast of Costa Rica. It offers free services to hundreds of women. Services include pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, prenatal and postnatal care, baby clothes, diapers, strollers and other needs. The center also provides counseling and Bible studies to the women and their families.

Another exciting part of the work here in Costa Rica is hosting short-term mission teams. Through short-term missions we have been able to make a tremendous impact in individual lives as well as the community. We find that every team has unique giftings that can be used to reach people with the good news of Jesus Christ. We've had teams do everything from VBS and sports camps to medical clinics and construction. The needs here are great and I'm always amazed what can be accomplished in such a short time with a team of people who truly love God and others.

*Day 28 continued on next page...*

# DAY 28 CONTINUED

## PRAY

For church planting efforts throughout Costa Rica and Central America.

For all the new ministries and outreaches of Horizon Church.

That the church would be able to buy the property adjacent to the church for future expansion.

For a healthy balance of family and ministry for the Barretts.

## SERVE

Join a short-term mission trip. Our student ministry staff will lead a team of high school students to serve with the Barretts in the summer of 2020. Contact [missions@mthorebumc.com](mailto:missions@mthorebumc.com) for more information.

Gather donations of gently used baby clothes for the prenatal center. Donations can be taken to the student ministry offices in the East Campus.





# HORIZON CHURCH



KNOW GOD LOVE GOD SERVE GOD



# DAY 29

## NANCY K. PERRY CHILDREN'S SHELTER

**MISSION:** TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND NURTURING FAMILY-STYLE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN IN CRISIS, ALLOWING THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAL AND GROW

*Submitted by Ryan Taylor, Executive Director of NKPCS*

## LEARN

- Over 7,000 South Carolina children are served by the foster care system each year. Over 4,000 children are in foster care daily. The average length of stay for children in foster care is 11 months.
- NKPCS has been serving foster care children for the past 47 years. All the children we serve have entered into the foster care system through the South Carolina Department of Social Services.
- NKPCS provides an array of services including, residential services, therapeutic support, equine therapy and a tutoring program.

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***Children are a heritage from the LORD,  
offspring a reward from him.  
Like arrows in the hands of a warrior  
are children born in one's youth.  
Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.  
They will not be put to shame when they contend  
with their opponents in court.***



The Nancy K. Perry Children's Shelter was established as a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization in 1972 to serve the community by providing temporary emergency care for the protection of abused, neglected, abandoned or otherwise exploited children of Lexington County. The Shelter opened its doors as "Welcome Home, Inc." on December 2, 1972, operating under the direction of the Family Court. The shelter was the first facility of its type in South Carolina.

This ministry has a deep, rich history, around the entire state of South Carolina. The Shelter originated from a place of compassion and servanthood for children in crisis. Nancy K. Perry was dedicated to the success of children and her passion is evident from her great heritage. Nancy's expertise was displayed in a multitude of facets, including special needs adoptions, continuum care and the SC Association of Children's Homes and Family Services. As we move into the third decade of service, we are provided with an opportunity to carry on and grow the legacy of Nancy K. Perry.

## PRAY

For healing and salvation for children in foster care as they adjust to new environments and begin post-traumatic growth.

For the leadership, staff and volunteers of NKPCS in providing Godly love and wisdom to the children we serve.

For NKPCS to develop new programs and service delivery outlets to meet the needs of God's children.

## SERVE

Raising children takes a village; raising foster care children takes a community. Volunteers are always welcome to assist the shelter in providing programming and mentoring time to our kids. [nkp4kids.org/volunteer](http://nkp4kids.org/volunteer)

Instead of receiving more socks, candles or gift cards this year for your birthday, use your birthday as an opportunity to bless others at NKPCS. Use the celebration of your life to provide a gift for children in foster care at NKPCS.

**DAY 30**

# 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 Jeff Nelson*

*Jeff and his wife, Chris, support a ZOE group of orphans in Kenya.*

***All the believers were together  
and had everything in common.  
They sold property and possessions  
to give to anyone in need.***

***ACTS 2:44-45***

## **PRAY**

That God will receive the Glory from the success these children will achieve.

For more sponsors to support more children.

That these orphans will give back to their villages all the benefits they received from ZOE's investment in them.

## **SERVE**

Not everyone feels called to serve across the world, but everyone is called to serve. Consider serving children right here by volunteering at Mt. Horeb with M Kids children ministries, the 10:10 Bridge After School Program or CIRCLES® Lexington County kids program. For more information, email [missions@mthorebumc.com](mailto:missions@mthorebumc.com).

Support ZOE by joining a team to visit Kenya and spend time with the many children Mt. Horeb and our church families are supporting. The ZOE children thrive on these visits from loving followers of Christ.

# LEARN

- ZOE was started by a NC Methodist minister at the prodding of a teenager in his congregation.
- The ministry serves orphans in Rwanda, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, India and Guatemala
- In a village, ZOE brings orphans together in a group to learn principles of empowerment — breaking their cycle of poverty. Orphans are between 12 and 20 years old when they start the program. The empowerment model was developed in Rwanda by social workers after genocide and the AIDS epidemic left so many children orphaned there.

“I would do anything to feed myself and my siblings.” These haunting words, spoken by Faith, describe the reality of being overwhelmed, without food security and without any type of family support for herself and her two siblings. Faith is a member of a ZOE group that Mt. Horeb supports. This group is in its second year of the 3-year program. These orphans have an average of four siblings each, siblings they are responsible for day and night.

When children enter into the ZOE program, they learn that God has not abandoned them! They learn that as human beings, they have rights! They learn about proper hygiene, AIDS prevention and food production through farming and animal husbandry. They learn how to develop the talents God has given each of them, talents they can use to provide for themselves, their families and their community.

We observed their business development in the areas of farming, tailoring, hair salons, grocery stores, fruit stands, shoe stands, chicken and egg production, goats, cows, barbershops, welding, mechanics, bakers and even a cell phone charging station enterprise. ZOE staff and local leaders serve as mentors who provide training and counseling for them. In addition, ZOE provides the orphans with “seed money” to start their first business. Each group is also given money that they manage together as a group. It serves to provide loans both within their group and eventually to others in their community to launch worthwhile business opportunities.

These groups (comprised of 100 or so children) remind me of the verses in Acts 2 that describe the first Christians. They share what they have to support each other. “It is a miracle from God that I was chosen to be part of this ZOE work group,” replied Samuel, an orphan from a ZOE group my wife and I support.

# BEYOND 30

**MISSION:** FOR 100% OF THE PEOPLE OF MT. HOREB  
TO TAKE ONE STEP TO ENGAGE MORE FULLY  
IN THE MISSION OF GOD

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*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**

## LEARN

Learn more about unreached people groups, poverty and injustice. Strive to understand God's heart of compassion and discover ways to help communities flourish by:

- Subscribing to the missions ministry newsletter. Email [missions@mthorebumc.com](mailto:missions@mthorebumc.com) with "Newsletter" in the subject line.
- Reading a book from our suggested reading list. Stop by the Missions Center in the West Campus to view our suggestions and make your purchase.



# PRAY

Through prayer, you can support the work of our missionaries and local and global partners. By coming boldly before the Father to intercede for lost and broken people trapped in spiritual darkness, prayer can change the heart of the one being prayed for as well as the one praying. We believe that prayer is the primary work of God's people and is the most powerful thing we can do!

- Sign up to receive our weekly mission's prayer email. Email [missions@mthorebumc.com](mailto:missions@mthorebumc.com) with "Prayer Email" in the subject line.
- Stop by the Missions Center in the West Campus of Mt. Horeb and choose one or more prayer cards for the missionary families we support. Pray for the families and consider subscribing to their ministry newsletters for up-to-date news.
- Join women in prayer every Tuesday from 9-10 AM in the Sanctuary to pray for the needs of the church, community, state, nation and the world.
- Join our Men's Prayer Breakfast on Friday morning in the Fellowship Hall from 6:45 - 7:45 AM.

# SERVE

Jesus called us to follow Him into the dark, broken places of the world and partner with Him to bring heaven to earth. We do this when we respond to His call to go and serve. A "holy disruption" often happens when we leave what is familiar and comfortable to engage in missions in a different context. That may mean serving the homeless in Columbia or caring for orphans across the world. Whether here or there, we go to meet physical and spiritual needs, all for the glory of God.

Joining a team allows you to witness God's work around the world, grow in your faith, serve alongside our local and global partners and the local church as they address the needs of their communities and fulfill God's call to make disciples of all nations.

- Join a Team. Visit [mthorebumc.com/missions](http://mthorebumc.com/missions) and select "Join a Team."
- Visit the Missions Center to see where volunteers are needed to meet the ongoing needs of the ministries we support.