



MINISTRIES

As long as I can remember, I have sensed a desire to be involved in the church. Even before my teenage years, I wanted to be a part of the activities and events at the church. In 1980 I began a journey toward serving the church full-time. Everything in my life since those early days has been focused on serving the local church in ministry and mission. The past couple of years have been a part of the journey I did not ever see coming. The pandemic and the situations around the world that stemmed from this worldwide event radically changed my daily work. The struggles of these past couple of years were hard and at times very discouraging. Everything I felt like I had been building toward in ministry seemed to vanish quickly with a shut-down. Even now the world is not back to the way it was and probably never will be.

While wrestling with what to do and how to wait well, I have realized a few things about ministry and mission. We all have seasons of life that come and go as we walk through this journey we are on with each other. In a similar fashion I realize my ministry and work among the nations has seasons that change. This change happens to be a big one! In most changes in ministry the Lord calls us to move to a new location or begin a new work. These changes come with new relationships beginning and old relationships coming to a close or at least a pause. Most of my life I could see the changes coming to prepare and adjust as I needed to for the new challenge. This one hit me hard and has not been an easy one.

With much help from close friends and family, men who are willing to speak truth and wisdom into my life and a wife who remains focused on the big picture of life, I have begun to see the changes that are coming and how to move forward. I have also had an opportunity to evaluate the processes and methods of doing ministry over the course of these months to determine what is critical to moving forward and what are things that need to be let go. Many of our lives are crowded by the voices and sounds of the people all around us sharing their ideas and opinions. Yet, many of us fail to sift through the voices out there to hear and truly listen to the Lord's voice in regard to this journey daily. Sometimes we need to find a way to hear His voice more clearly and seek to understand His words more intentionally.

During the past few months I have returned to some classic music and preaching I listened to in my early years. I realize that we all grow and change throughout our lifetime. Yet,

there are some foundational things that formed who we are and what will direct our steps as we grow. These are the things that we must return to every now and again to remind ourselves of the ways God moved in our past to direct our future. Just as the Hebrews were directed to pick up stones from beneath their feet as they crossed the Red Sea, we pick up stones during the foundational events in our lives. We take those stones and form an altar on the other side. And we remind ourselves of the lessons learned each time we pass by the pile of stones. There is a familiar song we sing that has this phrase, "here I raise my Ebenezer" which refers to that altar building act to remind us later of the decision to obey now in the present.

God has called me to serve the church. For many years I have been fortunate to have many wonderful people come across my path to help direct, teach, guide, and encourage me. The Lord has used these people and many experiences to form and shape me into who I am today. The days of going into the field and walking with my brothers and sisters in missional contexts may be less now than in the past. However, my call to encourage and challenge remains. The time I spend traveling to the ends of the earth or to the forgotten village may change in this season, but my passion for reaching the world has not diminished. Where we go from here is not a simple answer at this point. But what is clear is our call to proclaim the whole truth of the Gospel message in every occasion

God provides for us. As we try to walk faithfully forward in uncertain days, will you pray with

us to remain committed to PROCLAIMING the WHOLE TRUTH of the GOSPEL in EVERY occasion God PROVIDES! It is God who directs our path and provides for our every need. It is God who asks us to be prepared in season and out of season! It is His message of the Gospel that must be proclaimed. We must speak the whole truth when He provides the opportunity, and we must be actively seeking those opportunities to proclaim His Word faithfully! Pray for His guidance as we walk faithfully forward into a season of ministry and mission that will look different from the past. Pray we will remain faithful to the message that has not changed from the day He proclaimed salvation for all from the cross! Join us as we seek to faithfully reach the nations and Teach His Word!



This summer has been unlike any other for our family. It feels like the early days of our marriage when I cut every coupon and saved money at every turn. But, the Lord, in all of His graciousness and mercy has sustained and provided. He is so good! Over and over, He has provided tutoring jobs, an overage check from a medical bill, or some cost cutting measure to show us His faithfulness. We have seen the Lord work in miraculous ways.

Meanwhile, Jett has been working a job that has allowed him to save money for college. God has provided so well for him. We are proud of his work ethic and his ability to get a job done. He moves into Mississippi College in the middle of August, and we are eager to see how God uses him in the years ahead.



Madison will finish her Master's in Public Health program in the Spring at George Washington University. She is already applying to graduate schools for her Ph.D. program. There are numerous schools available, and she is seeking the Lord's guidance for the application process. We love the idea of her remaining in Washington, DC, but we are also looking forward to wherever the Lord leads.

Kaitlyn continues to work her full-time job at a local children's online clothing company while considering a master's program in counseling. Please pray that God would lead her steps and show her exactly what to do next. We are so grateful for the extra time we've had with her!

Zeke and Elly are both learning to drive and just finished their driver's education course. Teaching two kids at once has been a challenge but also a joy. Zeke will get his license soon, and Elly will be able to get hers in September when she turns sixteen. Elly continues to go to physical therapy twice a week after her ACL surgery, and she is progressing well. She won't be able to play soccer this fall but will hopefully return to the field in the spring. Zeke has started back to football and is ready for the season to start. Both of them will be sophomores in high school, and it seems like just yesterday that they were in kindergarten.

We cannot thank you all enough for your love, encouragement, and prayers. We are grateful to the Lord for each one of you.

## Slovenia Trip 2022



Join us from October 21-29, 2022 in Slovenia as we partner with our Wade and Joan Killingsworth. Help this precious family move to a new city to work alongside very few Christians in the area. The estimated cost of the trip is \$2500. Please send an e-mail to [sheryl@1wayministries.org](mailto:sheryl@1wayministries.org) or reserve your spot at [www.1wayministries.org](http://www.1wayministries.org) today!

