



MINISTRIES

One of the most challenging aspects of the pandemic has been the loss of urgency in missions. When we first canceled trips in

2020, none of us thought we would be struggling to get back to the field like we are. In fact, the struggle we are seeing is reminiscent of the early days of missions. The length of time we all were focused on our own daily survival during the pandemic somewhat reset the focal point of much of our lives. The daily journey back to “normal” life has shown a re-calibration of priorities. The once passionate drive to reach the unreached and help the church outside of our typical context has given way to a limited risk approach to missions and ministry. Whether it be fear, uncertainty, or simply the new landscape of vulnerability in our world,



we all have adjusted our priorities and focus. This modified position is not quite so committed to the risk of missions or the sacrificial support of those willing to take the risks.

As we begin to work ourselves back into the field, we are facing a multi-faceted challenge. We are having to work extremely hard at recruiting and building teams as the numbers of people willing or capable of going on a short term missional experience are far fewer than they once were. In addition, the finances available for those of us who are pressing into the field are greatly diminished. Added to these challenges is the complexity of travel and navigating a world impacted by a pandemic. The extra steps of precaution necessary and the added steps of answering the “what if” questions have greatly increased the costs involved. For our family and ministry, the added rise of expenses simply to live here in the US and

try to work abroad has greatly limited our ability to go to the field.

Some of you are aware of how we have survived these days of the pandemic but for those of you who are not, I will share a bit. As the pandemic lingered and the opportunity to travel remained at a stand still, Sheryl and I both pressed in to other skills and opportunities. Sheryl was already very deeply involved in our homeschool co-op at the church as an administrator and teacher. She ramped up her additional work as a tutor for math and ACT prep. She continues to tutor students in time slots all week that she has available when she is not teaching or leading at the co-op. On average she handles 16 students each week in cycles of teaching and preparation for the next ACT or their math class progress.



This is consuming her time, and yet it does not completely fill the void. Early in the pandemic I sought to remain busy through a variety of work. The boys and I cut a lot of grass and assisted with yard work and projects. I began to be more involved in helping friends with their home remodels and eventually was working almost everyday on a project. I have continued to do this until December 2022 when I had shoulder surgery.

We are hoping to get back on the field more and more in the coming months but it is an uphill climb. It seems almost like twenty years of ministry evaporated overnight with the pandemic. We are struggling to hang on and remain focused on the future. With the challenges we face and the complexity of the working in between two worlds, we are a bit strained. As you read this newsletter, please hear my heart as we desire to remain focused on the opportunities that are in front of us to partner with our brothers and sisters in various contexts. Yet, we are not seeing a clear path forward as our needs to make it each week are greater than we can cover in many ways.

In response to all of this, here are things that we could use help with moving





forward. We need to build some teams to join our friends in the field who are in need of some help. Guatemala, Peru, Mexico, Slovenia all have open doors for us right now. However, we do not have

enough people stepping up to go and fill the needs in each location. We need your help in sharing about the opportunities available and helping us develop some teams. Secondly, we need some help with support. It is something that seems to never end, the requests for support, but it is a real need that we are facing in a somewhat critical fashion. We need some supporters to join us monthly simply to help sustain the family. We also need help in coordinating some intentional fund raising. We have never actively planned a fundraiser to rally support in large amounts to cover our costs. We need to consider doing this now and need help to coordinate the effort. We also need opportunities to share about the ministry and how people can be involved. There are many churches represented by those of you reading this newsletter. We ask that you help connect us to your church leadership and mission minded friends to share with them the ways we can partner together in Kingdom work. For example, this year we have the opportunity to lead evangelism training events in two countries. We have financial

support to anchor these events, but need others to join the work through going with us and supporting the training of local church members in two other contexts. An additional way we could use your help is to connect us to companies or organizations you are involved with that have a heart for reaching this world. Each trip we take requires supplies and support for materials to be used in projects and ministry during the trip. We could use some organizations to come alongside us and help provide the tools for the work through donations, finances and expertise.

This theme is becoming a regular point of conversation for me these days: we need help! We have not walked this journey to this point alone. We cannot continue down the road alone. We need you to join us in some way to help us press on in ministry and mission. The days are short for the Gospel to be shared with everyone. We are willing to go and share in every context the Lord opens up for us. We need your help to make that happen. Join us as we REACH the World and TEACH His Word!



All photos are from the mission trip to Slovenia in November of 2022.

2023 Mission Trips

March 26 - April 1	Peru	Orphan Care/Comm. Outreach	FULL
April 1-7	Peru	Community Outreach	OPEN
April 21-29	Slovenia	Kids' Club/Church Plant Support	OPEN
May 27 - June 3	Guatemala	Community Outreach/Food Dist.	OPEN
July 8 - 15	Guatemala	Community Outreach/Food Dist.	OPEN
July 15-22	Guatemala	Community Outreach/Food Dist.	OPEN

Sign up to join a trip at www.1wayministries.org!

