



MINISTRIES

"Not what we planned," seems to be the theme of 2021 already. We were eagerly hoping for a summer full of mission trips and seeing our

partners on the field again. But, it appears that those dreams are dying a slow death right now. Covid cases are still on the rise in many parts of the globe, and international travel is out of reach for many people. We are disappointed and saddened by the state of the world. But, in the midst of chaos, we serve a Sovereign God who is good and can be trusted.

JT is a gifted evangelist who loves to share the Gospel and disciple others. Teaching God's Word and sharing the Hope that does not disappoint is his forte. He thrives on building relationships with partners on the mission field and fostering ongoing disciple-making. As you can imagine, 2020 was a rough year. And this year seems to be much of the same. It is heartbreaking to see the missed relationships and the longing for a new day. However, JT Turner has never been one to quit, and today is no different. Since the shutdown in March of last



We celebrated 10 years of Zeke and Elly being Turners in January.

year, he has worked tirelessly to provide for our family. Using his construction and creative skills, he has taken on various renovation jobs. As his wife, I tell you that his work is amazing. He is committed to showing our children that hard work and daily diligence are quality characteristics that honor the Lord. He has spent almost every day of the last year working for

clients on their homes. I am so proud of him and thankful for his dedication!

JT is also leading our family through Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby again. Jett, Zeke, and Elly have never studied this book, and it's been a delight to see them learning new concepts. Every Sunday night, we gather at our dining room table and talk through what God is teaching us. The Lord is good to reveal His purposes, plans, and ways to us through the Holy Spirit.

In addition, JT leads the way in serving others during this time. If you know him, you

know that he will work extra hard just to give to others. He has worked above and beyond what our family needs in order to continue support of our partners on the field. A worldwide pandemic is no reason for us not to help our friends in need.



Madison on her first day of preschool and her last first day of college!

JT has also been involved in food distribution with our church. We

are able to take food boxes to an area of our hometown where food insecurity is high. With some schools still not meeting in person and families with no transportation, students and their parents are able to obtain quality meats, fruits, and vegetables to make meals during the week.

On the home front, Kaitlyn has a full-time job here in Birmingham. She is using her customer service experience while considering graduate school. Madison has been accepted into several graduate schools and is in the decision phase. She is pursuing a master's of public health before going to medical school. Meanwhile, Jett is in his junior year and will begin to look at colleges soon. He loves history and criminology, so we are praying for God's direction for him. He will play football this fall for our cover school, Evangel. Joining him will be Zeke who seems to grow larger and taller every day. It is not uncommon to see him eat four apples a day. He and Elly are finishing up eighth grade and doing well in school. She is playing soccer for Evangel and singing on the student praise team at our church. The kids are a delight, and they have all been troopers during this time.

God has granted me the opportunity to continue to serve as a teacher and administrator at our home school co-op. Additionally, I'm tutoring several students in math and teaching ACT prep classes for math and science. There is never a dull moment.

Thank you all for continuing to support us while we maintain the ministry during trying times. We are praying that God will make a way for mission trips to take place soon! Please pray with us!

As soon as mission trips are a "go," we will publish dates on the website as well as the monthly newsletter. We are eager to get back to New Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, Slovenia, and to start working in Mexico! Join us soon as we Teach the Word and Reach the World!



As a teacher, I often have to speak with my young students about following rules and making good choices. Truth be told, many of us need to have a talk with our Teacher about our selfish side. We don't want to follow the rules, and we want to do things our own way. We may even feel that our way is best.

God teaches us a different and higher way. He says we are to follow His commands for our own benefit and for His glory. The book of Deuteronomy is full of the Lord's commands to follow Him and do as He says.

Obedience is not measured in percentage points. God doesn't say, "Well done good and faithful servant, you gave 90%!" On the contrary, He says that partial obedience is the same as disobedience. We are either all in or we are not.

Obedience does not talk back to God. It doesn't pick and choose and it doesn't make excuses. It says, "Yes, Lord. I will do what You have asked me to do."

To be obedient, we must learn to LISTEN, SUBMIT and RESPOND. Just like when I talk to my students, I expect them to listen to what I have to say, to change undesired behavior, and to respond differently based on what I have asked them to do. God wants the very same for us. We must listen to hear what He wants us to do, completely submit to Him, and respond immediately.

Have you ever heard Him speaking to you and asking you to do something but didn't respond immediately? We must remember that responding **when we want to** is not complete submission. This is saying that we know best. Our heart must comply and respond both inwardly and outwardly at the same time. This shows that we love God, that we are glad to serve Him, and that He is our priority.

Get still today and ask yourself these questions...

- Am I willing to serve God?
- What stands in the way of me serving Him wholeheartedly?
- Am I showing Him that HE is my priority or that He comes behind other things in my life?

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

(Deuteronomy 10:12-13)

Much love,

Karen Katchuk

2021 Mission Trips

Until further notice, all mission trips have been postponed or canceled. We desire to be on the mission field wholeheartedly. At the same time, we must take necessary precautions to keep our friends, family, and neighbors safe. We seek to honor Christ above all else during this pandemic no matter the cost. As soon as we are able to travel again, we will post all trips on the website and in the newsletter. We look forward to working with you all again soon!

