



The challenges that have come with the pandemic are far more than just the virus and its effects. Since early 2020 the opportunity to go into the mission

field has been greatly limited. The first months were completely shut down with no travel at all. Then, we saw the impact of the virus within individual countries, and safety was an issue for everyone. After the first year, things looked like they may improve; however, travel remained locked down. Over the course of the next several months, things began to change for everyone, and the outlook of travel began to be a hope again. Today, we find ourselves in a unique place. Here at home things are improving and our ability to move around and get back to some normal behaviors has been very refreshing. The whole world is not in that same place.

Throughout the months of the pandemic, we have remained in touch with all of our brothers and sisters in the various locations we have been serving. Although some of those locations are now accessible and travel is allowed, things are not the same as they were in 2019 when we last were there! The pandemic has changed the scope of work on the ground in many places. The protocols and restrictions during these two years have altered the way many are doing ministry in other countries. These changes, along with the issues we still face in travel protocols, have caused us to do some very hard and yet needed introspection. The ministry, as we have known it, for the first twenty years is at a cross road of change. This article is our attempt to be transparent and ask for your help.

Many of you reading this know that One Way Ministries is a dream and vision from the earliest days of ministry in our world. The larger vision for the ministry has always been there, but mostly on the back burner. These days have caused us to think about the other ways that the ministry can be effective and lead out in evangelism and serving others. We have been involved in many different avenues of ministry through the years. Short-term missional experiences have been the primary focus for most of this time. These years of ministry, combined with the experiences we have had with many other strong leaders in our lives, lead us to this point.

In the next several weeks, we will begin exploring the ways One Way can expand its ministry to other areas of work that will continue

the heartbeat of our ministry and meet the needs we have in front of us currently. The primary goal at this point is to remain focused on serving and leading in ministry areas that will reach people with the Gospel message and teach the Word of God boldly as a compliment to the work of the church. One thing that has been at the core of our ministry has been transparency. We typically involve a whole team in making tough decisions on the field. We seek out wisdom from others each time we face a decision that is tough or challenging. This is one of those times. We are reaching out to all of our One Way family to ask for your help in moving forward.

First, we obviously need you to pray with us about the decisions we have to make and the direction we are moving in the coming days. Pray for discernment and wisdom as well as courage to make hard decisions. In addition, we need you to share your wisdom and thoughts. Sometimes the path forward is tough to see while standing in the midst of a storm. We need some of you to share your perspective and views of the ministry and its path to help us gain insight into a broader perspective of where we are, where we have come from, and where we are heading. Please use jt@1wayministries.org to send your thoughts, ideas, wisdom, and advice. The third piece of the request is for support. The pandemic has hit pretty hard financially. Without any notice, we went from a full schedule planned to nothing planned. We have been in a holding pattern now for two years and are simply running out of gas! We need a financial boost to allow us time to plan for the future and the ability to take steps toward new areas of focus. This is not easy to ask for during such tough days, yet I want to be transparent and open about where we are and what we need.

In the immediate days ahead our situation will continue to look very much as it has from early in 2020. Sheryl is continuing to homeschool our children as well as three others, leading/teaching at the Brook Hills Co-op, and tutoring students in ACT prep work. JT will continue to work in various projects of home renovations and construction related opportunities. We will be actively seeking the next steps for One Way in the next few months. Please join us in any way you can as we seek His face and listen for His voice!



As I write this, the war in Ukraine has just begun. It is the largest ground invasion in Europe since World War II. There has been much loss and injury already, and these figures are expected to rise. We don't know what will happen in the next few weeks, but, as believers, we are called to care for those who are created in His image. We urgently cry out to the Lord to help them.

We pray for protection for the citizens of Ukraine. May their lives be honored and may they be protected as this war continues. We pray that Christians in that country will respond with steadfast faith and trust in the Lord and be a witness to those around them. May their hope in the Lord lead others to a relationship with Him. May they be free of persecution and abuse.

We pray for those fleeing the country. They may not be able to return home again and we ask God to allow them to feel His love and welcome in whatever country they find safe shelter in. We pray for the leaders of Ukraine as they defend their freedoms and all leaders around the globe. May their decisions be made out of wisdom and discernment and not out of tension or strife.

We pray for the leader of Russia. May his heart be changed like only the Lord can do. We specifically ask that he would regret his decision and choose to withdraw troops and end the aggression. We are walking in dark times, like none we have seen before. The enemy is very real and present. Pray that in this time, we can be the light of Christ. Through our words, thoughts, and actions, we can bring hope to his people and help to a hurting world.

He is still in control. Pray his Word is proclaimed, His mercy is shown, and His hope is felt.

I encourage you to spend some time in His word daily. Draw on the faithful leaders who have gone before us and whose example we should follow (Hebrews 11, Deuteronomy 11, Exodus 33, Psalm 6, and Nehemiah 9). God's Blessings to you all,

Karen

The pics below represent a smattering of short-term mission trips throughout the years (from China, Swaziland, Bahamas, the Gulf Coast, etc.).

