



Covid continues to impact our schedule for teams and trips in 2021. Our hope of summer trips being a reality is not materializing, but we are beginning to see hope for the fall. Each week we walk the journey of the pandemic and recovery, the hope of the day we once again return to the field grows stronger and more necessary. For far too many weeks, we have not been able to walk alongside our brothers and sisters in other locations to serve and share. As we return to some form of normalcy in daily life here in the US, we get a little closer to stepping off that flight in another context to journey with the church to the ends of the earth. Join us in preparing our heads and our hearts for the days we will have on the field.

In addition to feeling a sense of hope for the fall of this year to return to the field, we are approaching September and a time of celebration. I recall a few years ago sitting with an old friend and reflecting on our last days in college. During those days we made a very rough video about One Way Ministries and the vision of future ministry. My friend said to me, "You realize you have done it, right? You did what you said you wanted to do. One Way Ministries is a reality and you are fulfilling the calling God gave you!" Man, I need to hear that these days. September of this year brings us to our twenty year celebration of One Way Ministries, and it looks to be the beginning of an exciting year.

As I reflect on getting here, I recall two key individuals from my high school years. Growing up in Fayetteville, GA, I connected with Hugh Kirby through FCA and youth ministry. Hugh was the youth pastor at a nearby church. Even though I was not a member of that church, I attended worship there often and interacted with Hugh through FCA often. He was one of those men in my life who set an amazing example of faith and athletics. Every time Hugh would walk through the door of the weight room, the whole place would light up and all of us would leave much more encouraged than we started. Hugh's example and

encouraging spirit would help me be bold with my faith, follow faithfully the calling on my life, and never give up on my friends! Even later in my life, my path would once again cross paths with Hugh in seminary and he continued to be that tool of encouragement to press on!

In high school I also crossed paths with a young minister named Bo Thompson. Bo was another youth pastor at another church who frequented the weight room where I seemed to spend most of my time. He would come in and lift some with us and use the time to pour into us the Word of God and the value of a real relationship with Jesus. The Lord used this relationship to challenge my faith on key issues and help me wrestle with my beliefs to confirm my understanding of key truths. These two men, Bo and Hugh, were part of the network of men and women God placed around me to shape my world view and confirm my calling. I am so thankful for the faithfulness of these people of faith who encouraged me and challenged me to keep pressing on!

As the protocols begin to become more clear, and the doors begin to open for travel, please begin to plan with us for the day we step onto the field together. Pray for the church in

Guatemala, Peru, Mexico and Slovenia to remain strong and faithful during the tough days they

face. Prepare your world for the opportunity to travel by understanding the value of tests and vaccines as well as changing protocols for travel. Provide resources for the church to go into the field to share and show the Gospel with giving to the local church and evangelistic efforts. Play your part in God's plan as trips begin to open up, and join us as we form teams for the fall to go to Guatemala, Mexico and Peru! Join us as we remain faithful to the call to reach our world and teach the Word!



We have all found ourselves in a season of busyness whether it be home, school, work, or church activities. Covid has changed the face of everything in our lives. Many may say they have experienced positive change, but others find it is considerably worse. It is during these times we unintentionally step away from the very place we need to be. We tend to lose sight of our priorities.

The Bible tells us of two sisters who were busy getting ready for Jesus to come to their house. When He arrived, one sister, Mary, turned all of her attention to Him. She sat at His feet and hung on every word He had to say. The other sister, Martha, was worried about details. She probably was hurriedly making sure her home was pristine, a good meal had been prepared, and that everything was perfect for this special guest! All the while, Mary just sat at Jesus' feet. This angered Martha and she asked Jesus to make her sister help her. She didn't think that it was fair that she do all the work while Mary just sat. Jesus gently corrected Martha and reminded her that although her intentions were good, her priorities were not. She had put the emphasis on the details and not the person. He reminded her that the personal attention that she gave her guests would always be more important than the details surrounding their visit.

Mary and Martha both loved Jesus, and they both sought to serve Him. On this day, they did both serve Him, but in different ways. Martha did not stop to recognize, that in all her busyness and preparations, she actually was neglecting her guest. Mary was actually serving in the better way by spending time with Jesus, giving Him all of her attention.

There are important lessons for us to learn from this story:

- Just as in any close relationship, spending time alone with someone allows us to really get to know them. We are to be with God this way also. We must sit at His feet and hang on His every word. We might even have to drop some things in order to do this. Nothing is more important than us spending time getting to know Him like He knows us. When we spend time with Him, we get to know Him in a different way.
- If we don't spend time with Him, there might be consequences for us. For Martha, her distractions led to worry and anxiety over not accomplishing certain tasks. We will find that our connection to Him will be weak, we will be distracted, our priorities will be out of place, and our needs will not be met. Most importantly, we will not be able to hear Him.
- We must take time **daily** to spend time with God; it is essential. It will help us to focus on what is most important and help us discern what is **good** and **BEST!**

We all need to do a self-check. Are we so busy doing things of life that we aren't spending proper time with Him? We can't let anything take us away from sitting at His feet and hearing what He has to tell us, spending time in His word, and being aware of the things He is doing in our lives. We need to set priorities and make sure that, in our busyness, we aren't getting caught up in the details and no longer giving Him our devotion. Jesus is always present in our lives, and He deserves our full attention!

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!

