



Wade Allen

Lead Pastor

David McEuen

Pastor of Family & Worship

John O'Connor

Pastor of Community Engagement

Ron Fields

Pastor of Senior Adults & Care Ministries

UGANDA Missions Trip

David McEuen

Pastor of Family and Worship

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples! –
Psalm 105:1

Last May, I got a call from my close friend, Billie Carter, who attends the church I served prior to coming to Temple. He shared with me that he was in the process of planning a mission trip to Uganda through International Missionaries for Christ (IMFC). He had been to Africa with this organization twice before, but this was the first time he was leading a group and wondered if I would pray about joining his team. I agreed and told him I would give him an answer by the end of the month per his request.

To my shame, it took me longer than I would have liked to call him back. I kept going back and forth whether I believed God wanted me to go on this trip. It's not that I was disinterested, I was just concerned about the effect that this would have on my family. This mission trip would have me away for two weeks...in another continent...in the middle of the school year. It's not exactly what you would call ideal timing.

But I couldn't shake the feeling that God had placed my name on Billie's heart for a reason and that I needed to seriously consider going. After some prayer and further back and forth in my head, I finally agreed to join his team...a few months later. (Thankfully, he was still hoping I would be a part of the team.)

Then came the next obstacle: Finances. I wasn't as concerned about those because I knew if God was sending me, He would supply the funds to get me there. My only real prayer in this area was: "God, I'm not a huge fan of fundraising. I'll do it if I have to, but if you really want me to go, would you just provide the funds?" And God graciously honored my request. He has gone above and beyond my expectations and completely funded my trip in large part thanks to your generous support and obedience to the Holy Spirit. (Thank you!)

And so, February 3rd I'll be joining a team of seven other people headed to Africa to share the gospel in the slums of Kampala, Uganda. We'll be doing a few other things while there but our primary focus will be providing a simple gospel presentation from John 3 utilizing the Five-Finger Gospel method. I'm excit-

(Continued in "UGANDA" on page 3)



MOTIVATED or Indifferent

John O'Connor

Pastor of Community Engagement

“What's my motivation?” You might say, “I'm just not motivated.” Well, what motivates you?

I heard a speaker recently describe motivation as “doing the thing you want to do.” So, what do you find yourself doing? Entertainment? Checking your phone? Hunting? Making money? Work? Are their things you wish you did, but you aren't motivated to do them?

Towards the end of Jesus's life, we find the greatest example of being motivated by the correct thing. When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, Matthew 26:39 says “And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’”

Jesus is no stranger to sacrifice, but going to the cross wasn't just death—it was God's judgement. His flesh did not want to do that; however, Jesus' motivation was to serve God. Thus “not as I will, but as You will.”

Salvation is accomplished only through Jesus' death on the cross. Without it, we would have nothing! So, when you think on the things that you do or don't do, what motivates you? Be motivated by serving God, serving His will.



GENEROSITY Brings God's Provision

Ron Fields

Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

Many years ago, our family committed to give generously, of our time and our resources, to God, through and including our local church. Initially this was a simple ten percent of income, on the gross and not the net, and included gifts and interest. We sought to bless others by providing for their needs not just through money but in other ways as well.

It was never our intent to live and give in this manner to receive the same. We just wanted to obey God and be a blessing to others. However, Paul said, in Acts 20:35 “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” We have found that you cannot out give God.

I love to share this illustration: During the 1980's our church was preparing to build a new building. We were challenged to ask God for funds above and beyond our normal income, that we would promise to designate for this building project. Our kids came to us and asked us to pray with them for money they could give. A few days later a big wind blew for several hours. Later, as our kids were running through the piles of leaves left in our yard, they discovered the wind had blown in with the leaves, several bills, one's and five's. Can you imagine their joy when the time came for them to present this offering to the Lord? Luke 6:38.

Eternal Value of Short-term MISSIONS

Wade Allen
Lead Pastor

Missions and mission trips has been a part of my life for over 30 years now. My first mission trip was in the fall of 1991. My father and I went on a medical/work trip to Central Mexico with Central Baptist Church of Prescott, AR. The work I did on that trip was not life-changing for the people of Mexico, but it sure was for me!

One-and-a-half years later, I spent 10 weeks serving as a VSM (Volunteer Student Missionary) in the Philippines. At that point, I knew that God was calling me to serve Him abroad. It was nine years and two degrees later before I was able to return to that mission field. Throughout our time of waiting, my calling never waned.

During our twelve years serving overseas, we hosted many short-term mission teams and short-term missionaries. We have learned a lot about the do's and don'ts and expectations of these temporary assignments. Here are a few things that we learned.

First Do No Harm

Just like the Hippocratic Oath taken by doctors before they begin practicing medicine, it is essential for the short-term missionary to vow to

(Continued from "UGANDA" on p. 1)

ed and I believe God is going to change many lives while we are there!

Many of you have already given so much in support of this trip but I have one last request. Would you pray for our trip? Pray that God would provide our team with fertile soil in the hearts of the people of Kampala. Pray that God would provide safe travels as we're in the air and on the ground. And pray that God would

not be the cause of long-term difficulties for the host missionary.

Second Mitigate Expectations

Adoniram Judson was a missionary to Burma, what is now known as Myanmar. It took years of faithful service among those people before he was able to see the fruit of his labor. How can we expect to have a tremendous impact on a people group in just a few weeks or months?

Third Expect Great Things from God

Another missionary, William Carey, lived by the mantra: "Expect great things, attempt great things." This may seem like a contradiction to my previous point, but it really isn't. God will always accomplish His work in this world, but sometimes it is difficult for us to understand what that is.

When joining in a short-term mission effort, often the greatest work of God is in the heart and life of the missionary! A softened heart. A changed perspective. A new level of gratitude. These are just a few of the treasures that can be found while serving in short-term missions. Please pray for Rachel and Pastor David as they serve Him in Africa. Pray for God's work to be done!

strengthen and sustain us and give us boldness as we share the gospel in a new place. And if you're able, would you check in with Emily from time to time? Be the church to her. I know she would be greatly blessed by this and it would mean the world to me as well.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and your kindness! I look forward to returning and sharing all that God has done to further His Kingdom.

Mark Your Calendars
UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 2** **Christian Seniors**
- Feb 3-18** **Uganda Short-term Mission Trip**
- Feb 13 & 27** **Ladies Bible Study**
6:30 PM
- Mar 2** **Christian Seniors**
- Mar 13** **Ladies Bible Study**
6:30 PM
- Mar 20-24** **Spring Break**
Community Groups Dismissed
- Mar 22** **Club 267/TSM Dismissed for**
Spring Break
- Mar 26** **Gideon Service**
- Mar 27** **Ladies Bible Study**
6:30 PM



Hello Ladies! Mark you calendars for Saturday, February 18 for a:

*Spring
Anticipation
Get Together*

- Where? TBC Fellowship Hall
- What time? 11:30 - 1:30
- What to bring? Finger Foods

We are planning a craft — a choice of either a spring gnome or a spring wreath. There will be a sign-up at church so we'll know how many supplies we'll need. (Or you can text Miriam and tell her your choice. 479-659-1725) A small donation to cover the cost of supplies would be welcome. We hope everyone will come and enjoy a time of "sistership." If you're interested in "crafting," just hang out and visit.

