

ANCHOR

A DEVOTIONAL FOCUSED ON
MISSIONAL LIVING

**POST-FIELD
DEVOTIONAL**

SOLO COMPRE
SUS TIKETES EN
TAQUILLA

INTRODUCTION

You have been on a journey with God during your STMT. The experience probably had its high moments and low moments, and processing your trip may take some time and reflection. This journal is designed to help you in your time of reflection about your trip, but it also designed to help you with your journey forward. Remember, your journey with God hasn't ended...it is a journey that will last a lifetime!

In climbing, an anchor is a tool that helps in both the ascent and descent. The anchor is generally made of a series of points, all locked into a master unit, providing a strong point with which the anchor is attached to the rock. When a climber begins his ascent or descent of a steep rock face the anchor is the tool they need to keep them connected to the rock in the midst of their journey. Just as a climber needs to anchor himself/herself to the rock to safely navigate the mountain, we need an anchor to steady us as we navigate through our lives in Christ. God's Word is the anchor we each need in our journey through life!

It is our sincere hope that this devotional journal, along with the accompanying guide, Abseil, will help you not only in your immediate transition home, but will also help transform your thoughts and actions so that in all things, daily life included, you will continue to grow towards a missional way of living and bring glory to God with your life.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 2 - INTRODUCTION

PAGE 6 - DAY ONE

PAGE 8 - DAY TWO

PAGE 10 - DAY THREE

PAGE 12 - DAY FOUR

PAGE 14 - DAY FIVE

PAGE 17 - DAY SIX

PAGE 19 - DAY SEVEN

PAGE 21 - DAY EIGHT

PAGE 24 - DAY NINE

PAGE 26 - DAY TEN

PAGE 29 - DAY ELEVEN

PAGE 31 - DAY TWELVE

PAGE 33 - DAY THIRTEEN

PAGE 35 - DAY FOURTEEN

PAGE 38 - DAY FIFTEEN

PAGE 40 - DAY SIXTEEN

PAGE 42 - DAY SEVENTEEN

PAGE 44 - DAY EIGHTEEN

PAGE 47 - DAY NINETEEN

PAGE 49 - DAY TWENTY

PAGE 51 - DAY TWENTY-ONE

PAGE 53 - DAY TWENTY-TWO

PAGE 56 - DAY TWENTY-THREE

PAGE 58 - DAY TWENTY-FOUR

PAGE 60 - DAY TWENTY-FIVE

PAGE 62 - DAY TWENTY-SIX

PAGE 64 - DAY TWENTY-SEVEN

PAGE 66 - DAY TWENTY-EIGHT

PAGE 68 - DAY TWENTY-NINE

PAGE 71 - DAY THIRTY

PAGE 73 - INCA LINK INTERNATIONAL

HIS GLORY



**SO, WHETHER YOU
EAT OR DRINK,
OR WHATEVER
YOU DO,
DO IT ALL FOR THE
GLORY OF GOD**

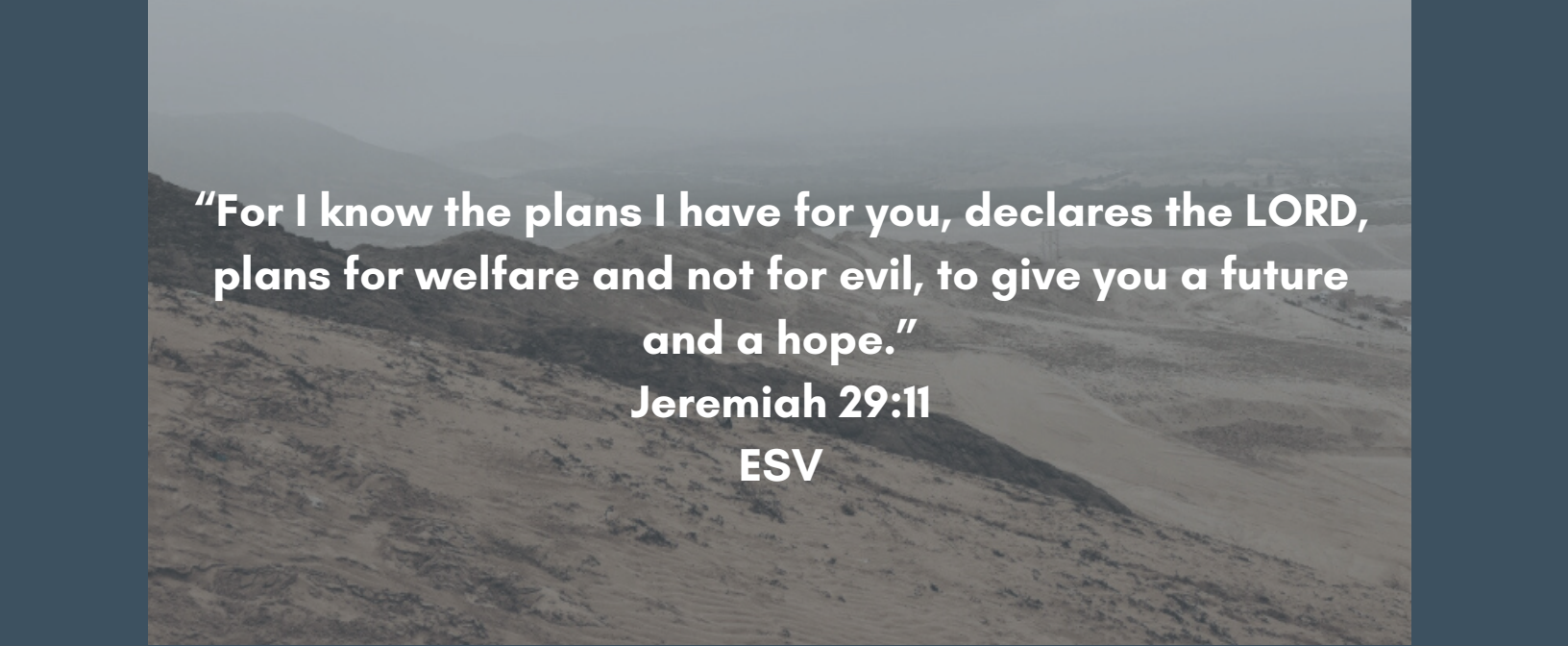
1 CORINTHIANS 10:31
ESV



Returning Home: the Struggle is Real

The first days after returning home to your "normal" life can feel a little like vertigo. You may call your cultural routines and lifestyles into question after the paradigm shift of your STMT experience and you may feel confused or frustrated with your life and the people around you. But God has a plan for you, and wants to help you grow closer to Him as you seek Him through these times of mixed-emotions.





**“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD,
plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future
and a hope.”**

Jeremiah 29:11

ESV

DAY ONE:

Watch Video: [Jennifer Edwards, Inca Link Missionary in Costa Rica:](#)

One truth we often struggle with is the idea that God surely doesn't want to use us, as individuals. Due to our past, due to our insufficiency, our doubt, our weakness, our present circumstances..., but this is not true! God has a perfect plan for our lives when we commit our lives to him.

Describe a time or circumstance when you felt like God could not use you or did not see you. How did you feel in that moment?

Live Fully No Matter Your Circumstances

No sooner had the Israelites been carried off into exile in Babylon than God prompted Jeremiah to send them a letter to encourage and instruct them! This is what we read in the 29th chapter of Jeremiah: a letter sent to people held captive, not living where or how they wanted.

Can you relate to any part of that? In what way?

Surprisingly, God didn't first chastise them, and he also didn't immediately rescue them. Instead, he encouraged them to put down roots and live fully despite their circumstances! When we are going through tough times, it is tempting to hang our heads and throw in the towel. But God says, “Don't give up! Live, thrive! Build, plant, multiply!”

Jennifer, along with her husband Jake Edwards, planted Crossroads Church in Aiken, SC where she was a worship leader and the missions mobilizer. She and her family are now in transition to Latin America as new Inca Link missionaries. Jennifer loves to read and doing anything that involves the outdoors.



Pray Peace and Welfare for Those Who Are Troubling You

This next step is perhaps more difficult than we want to admit. Raise your hand if you have trouble praying for the good of all people around you, including those who are causing you problems. Hand raised here! Goodness, this hits between the eyes! Look at the reasons God calls us to do that:

7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. (Jeremiah 29:7 ESV)

The NIV translates “welfare” here as “peace and prosperity.” Does it sound unspiritual to say this? When the people around us live in peace and prosperity, so will we, and wouldn’t we want that?

Who has been the most difficult person around you to pray for? Why? What would change if you prayed for their welfare?

Will you commit with me today to pray for the hardest people in your life to pray for?

Trust God’s Long-Term Plan

Finally, God calls us to trust his plan for the long-term despite what things look like today. For the people of Israel, the wait for freedom would last 70 long years. They would see kings rise and fall; they would live through persecution and trial.

Remember Daniel in the Lion’s Den and the account of The Fiery Furnace? Those events and countless other trials challenged the Israelites during their time in Babylon.

Yet God encouraged them to hold onto him, to trust in him, and when the time was right, their trial would end.

10 “For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:10-11 ESV)

God had a future and a hope planned for the Israelites, and he does for us, too!

In what ways has it been difficult for you to “wait on the Lord” and his timing?

How would your life change if you committed to both living fully in your present circumstance and to trusting God’s plan and timing for your future?





“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

**Romans 8:28
ESV**

DAY TWO

Watch Video : [Daniel Ascencio, Inca Link Missionary in Honduras](#)

God wants to meet us where we are, in any situation or struggle and teach us that his grace is sufficient. If we love and trust him, he can take the circumstances of our lives and use them for his glory, our growth and ultimately as a blessing.

Life is difficult and heart-wrenching at times; illness, death, financial burdens, depression and disappointment are part of our human condition, but in the midst of these God is worthy of our praise. He wants to find us faithful in trusting him in every situation.

Daniel recounts a period of time of personal struggle and heartache, and how he was reminded of God's sufficiency and love in the midst of sorrow and loneliness and ultimately of God's faithful blessing and provision. A reminder to us all, that God's grace is sufficient and his power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Daniel is married to Nayeli, and together they serve as Missionaries in Honduras. Daniel loves to write music, perform and record it and is part of the band, Corban.



It is often said that hindsight is 20/20, meaning that it is easier to see the events of your life clearly, when looking back. Think about a difficult time in your life when you were struggling with something, but then later realized a "blessing" ultimately resulted. How did it make you feel while you were experiencing this event?

How were you ultimately "blessed" by this experience?

Sometimes this verse is taken out of context, so I encourage you to read all of Romans Chapter 8.

Why is struggle part of our lives?

Why should we glorify God in the midst of our struggles?

Have you ever been so distraught that you couldn't pray?

How does it make you feel to know the Holy Spirit prays for us in these moments? (Rom. 8:26)

How can you know that God has called you for His purposes?

How does it feel to know you are called by God?





"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

**Matthew 6:33
ESV**

DAY THREE

Watch Video: [Will Eason, Director of Bonsai After-School Program, Ecuador](#)

We have a tendency towards exercises in futility in trying to control things and then to worry. We not only worry about things we can't change, but also the little things that don't matter. God knows what we need and takes care of our needs because he cares about us. We need to trust in the provision of our Father, but not only that, we need to keep our primary focus on God and seeking His kingdom and righteousness first.

God's kingdom is wherever his authority is established and recognized. Seeking God's kingdom first is to submit your life to that authority, to his kingship, to love, trust and obey him. When you do that, you become a willing vessel through which God expands his kingdom in the world, into the hearts of people. This is the heart of missions!

What about seeking his righteousness? The first part of seeking His righteousness is recognizing your own righteousness is not enough, You are not capable of keeping God's law on your own. Jesus' mission on earth was to live a perfectly righteous life and then sacrifice that life on the cross. When you believe in Jesus, his righteousness becomes your righteousness.

We are to seek these things first. Why? In seeking his kingdom and his righteousness first, he then gives his fullness and purpose to everything else in your life. As we seek his kingdom and righteousness first, we won't have to worry about anything else, because he is going to take care of us.

Will is husband to Amanda, father to Emery and Selah, and an Inca Link missionary since 2014. Amanda and Will direct the Bonsai After-School Program and he is one of the interim pastors at Bible Baptist Church of Manta. Will enjoys food, music, and video games. Will serves as an Inca Link Missionary in Ecuador.



Describe some of the things you tend to worry about. Why do you tend to worry about those things more than others?

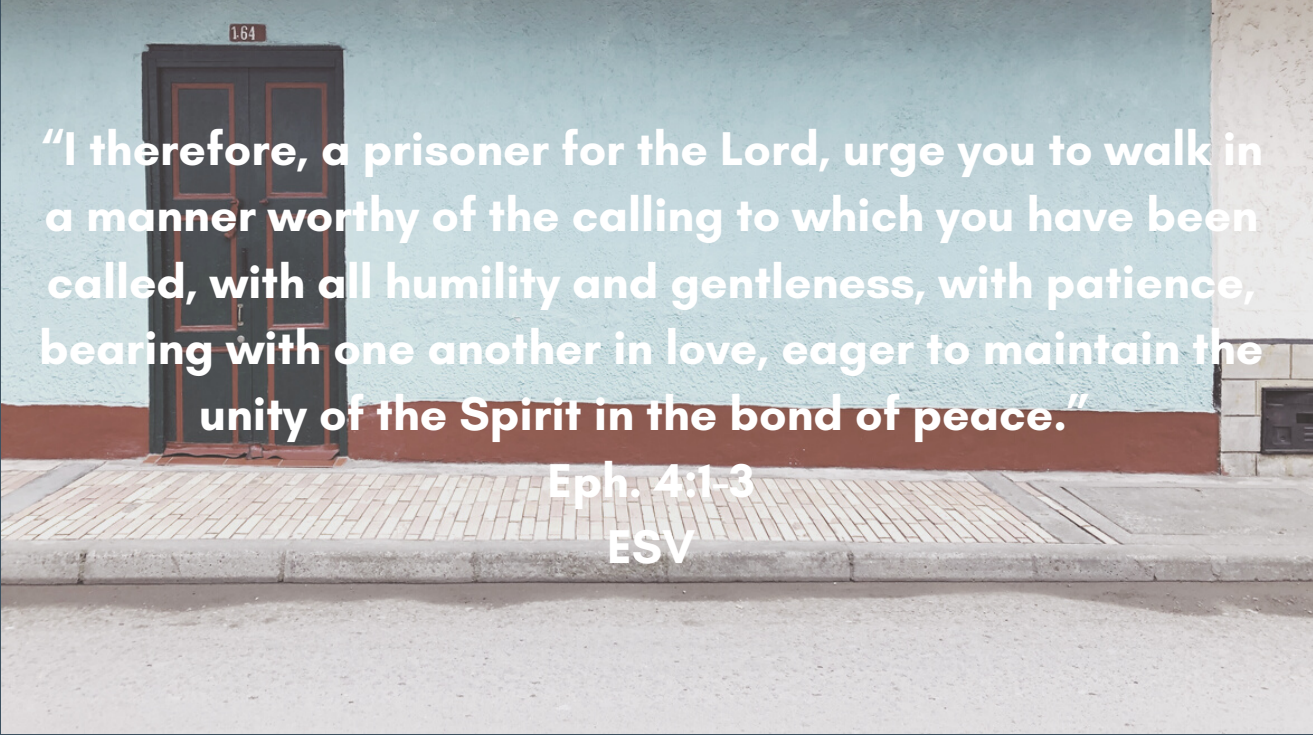
What does seeking God's kingdom first look like in your life?

Why is it important to remember to seek Christ's righteousness instead of seeking your own righteousness?

Describe a situation where you found yourself more focused on a problem and less on God's reign & righteousness in your life. What were the effects that it had on you? What were the effects it had on others around you? What did you learn through the experience?

What impact does seeking God's kingdom and righteousness first, have on your daily life?





"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

**Eph. 4:1-3
ESV**

DAY FOUR

Watch Video: [Tolu Solola, Associate Pastor, First Alliance Church, Calgary, Alberta, CA.](#)

Paul wrote this message to the Ephesians following one of his many short-term mission trips, but he didn't just write it for them, but for us!

Paul points out that while he may be in prison, his present circumstance was no excuse to give up on his calling to share the Gospel. He gives us four powerful words of advice, each a reminder of what Jesus said to his own disciples, teaching them and us not to be discouraged by our present circumstances, but to live fully devoted to Jesus.

Paul reminds us to "live out our calling" as Jesus did in John 12:49-50. To "be gentle and humble", as Jesus told us in Matt. 11:29. To "be patient and loving" as Jesus' words in John 13:34-35. And to "make every effort to keep unity", as Jesus urged in John 17:11. Paul is reminding us to not just hear the words, but to live the life that Christ has called us to! He is inviting us into Christ's likeness!

Sometimes missions can feel discouraging and can even test our faith. It may feel impossible to reach the lost or heal the broken. BUT Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and salvation belongs to him. It is through his strength and through the resurrection power that we can live out his calling in our lives. This good news brings us the hope we need to live for him, even if we feel imprisoned by discouragement.

Tolu became a Christ-follower in her youth. She has three jobs, and her favorite is being a wife and mother. She enjoys travelling and experiencing new cultures.



In what ways is it most difficult for you to "live worthy of the calling"?

Why is it important to remember not to try to live worthily in your own strength and abilities?

How have you been/felt discouraged when seeking to serve the Lord? What do you think made you feel this way?

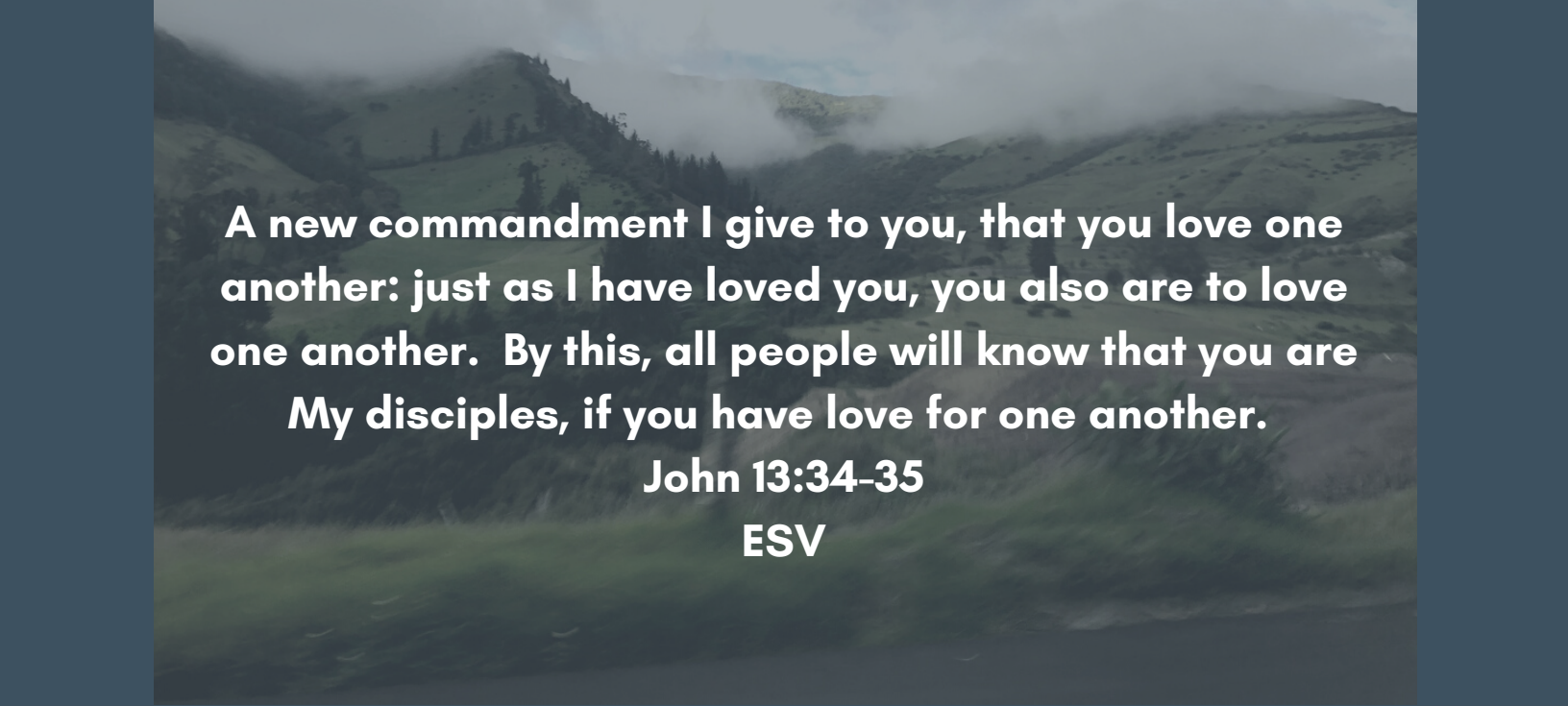
Which of the four "behaviors" listed in Ephesians. 4: 1-3 is the easiest for you to live by? Why does it seem easier?

Which area is the biggest challenge for you to live by? What needs to happen for this to become a more natural behavior?

What steps do you need to take right now to live a life worthy of the calling?

Remember...you cannot do take these steps in your own strength! Seek the Lord's strength, through prayer and time in his Word.





A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this, all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

ESV

DAY FIVE:

Watch video: [Elisa Shannon Brown, International Worker & Founder of Inca Link](#)

Loving other people isn't an option, it is a commandment. Jesus commands us to love others as he has loved us. But, is loving other people easy? Loving others is not a job description, but it is the foundation of missional living.

Why does Jesus call it a new commandment? The call is no longer to simply love others the way you love yourself, but to love them more than we love ourselves. Loving them the way Jesus did. His love was missional love. He commands us to be being willing to lay down our lives, to die to self in our love.

We must be little Christ's in our community, living with the people, close enough to know them and their needs, close enough to serve them. We need to recognize the resources God has given us, turning them over to God to multiply. Love is a resource! We can only love to the extent that we have received Christ's love for us. God will take our small sacrifice of love and multiply it to others. Love is the key ingredient to missional living and without it mission can not take place.

Everything else done without love is an empty act (1 Cor. 13). Self-giving love is missional love.

Rich and Elisa have been missionaries for over 28 years in Ecuador and Peru. They started Inca Link to reach the 300 Million youth in Latin America. Elisa loves music and singing with Corban. Elisa serves as a missionary with the Canadian Christian & Missionary Alliance.



Why does Jesus call "loving one another" a new commandment?

Why is it easier to love some people and more difficult to love others?

What are some of the characteristics of people who are more difficult for you to love?

Do you share any of those characteristics?

Are there any people groups in your community that you have avoided getting to know? If so, who are they and what are their needs?

If the golden rule, (Do unto others and you would have them do to you) was born from the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself, how would living out the golden rule change for you if it was based on Jesus' command to love others as he has loved you?

How would this change your family? Your neighborhood, school, workplace, church? Your city, country, world?

What has God revealed to you about loving others? Submit these things to the Lord, and ask him to help you love others through his love and strength.

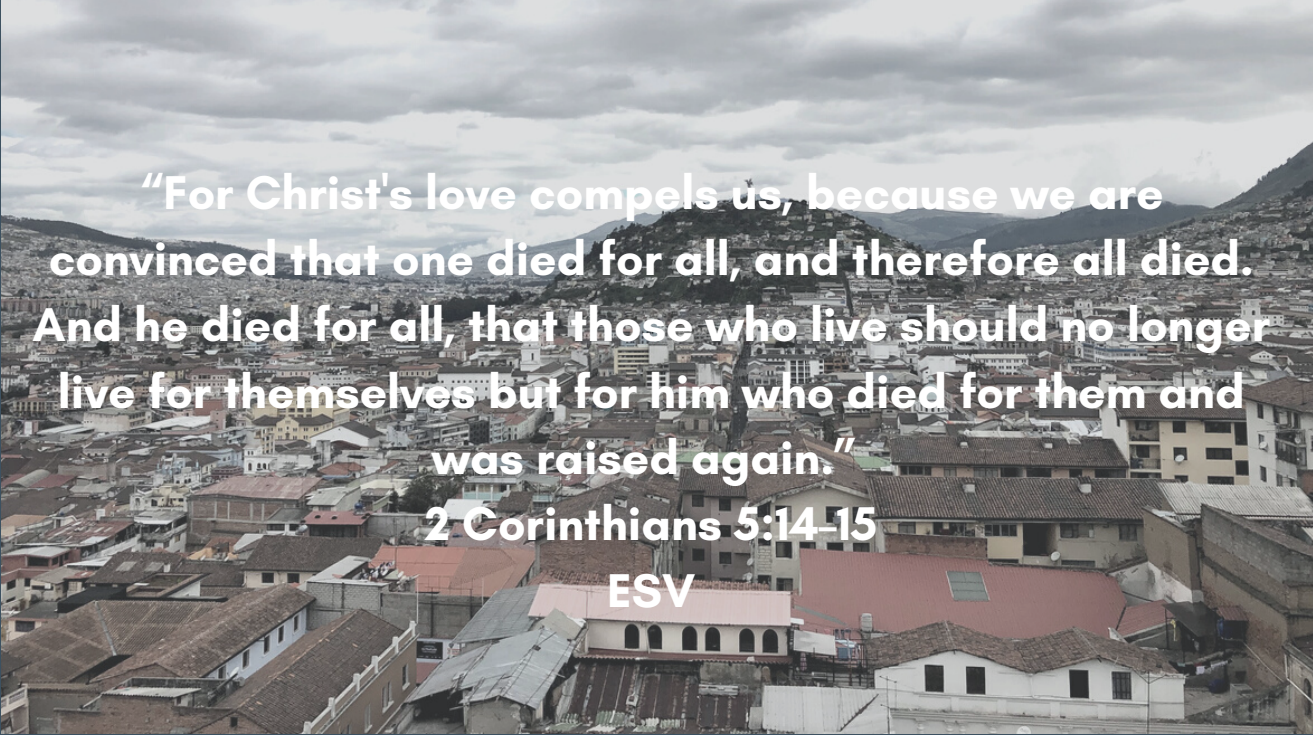


Moving Inside Out

A call to missional living is a call to have an inside/outside focus.

God calls us to keep our inside focus on Him in order to be transformed into the image of Jesus. He also chooses to use his people (us) to reflect his character and love to other people, especially those who do not yet know Him. What an honor, and responsibility to be Christ's ambassadors to the world!





“For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15
ESV**

DAY SIX

Watch video: [Jen Schepens, Director for Envision, US.](#)

Compelled by Christ's Love

Christ's love compels us to love others, and no longer live for ourselves. Why? Because he died for us, and in doing so, took our death to sin upon himself giving us a new life. But his death wasn't just for us, it was for all who were and are yet dead in their sin. Sharing the new life that comes from the freedom from the consequences of our sin, through Christ is what missional living is all about! May we be so rooted in the love of Christ that we are compelled toward mission, because we can't help but want to bring life through Christ to those around us who are spiritually dead in their sin and state of loss. May we be motivated toward movement in sharing the life for all that Christ offers through his death and resurrection. Apart from Christ there can be no life. Because of Christ life can be brought to others.

Jen serves as the Director for Envision, US, overseeing the 23 Envision sites around the world and in the United States that aim to create innovative spaces for developing leaders. She is a Mets fan and loves baking, antique shopping, and exploring the beautiful Colorado trails. She is passionate about using her business and seminary background, paired with her own story of God's redemptive work, to create environments where young leaders can encounter Jesus and develop in both soul and skills and be launched on mission.



What does it mean to be "compelled" to do something?

What specifically compels you to share Jesus with others?

What holds you back from sharing Jesus with others?

Who are the people who are unworthy of Christ's death and redemption?
(Romans 3:10, 23)

According to 2 Corin. 5:14-15, who are the people that Jesus didn't die for?

With this in mind, are there people you are hesitant to reach out to that need to know that Jesus died for them and longs to give them life? If so, who are they and what makes you reluctant?

Take some time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any hesitation you have about sharing Jesus with certain people groups. Confess this as he reveals it in your heart and seek his empowering to love those who are lost.





"Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out not only for his own interest but also for the interests of others."

Philippians 2:3-4

ESV

DAY SEVEN

Watch video: [Katie Beth Craig, University of Kentucky](#)

Living in a missional way and serving people through the love of Christ takes a humble laying aside of our own wants and needs to place other's needs ahead of our own. It can be so easy to seek our own comfort and desires, without even realizing it! Grasping for self needs/wants first even in the smallest of things. competes with our desire and ability to serve. It requires that we ask the Lord to reveal our hearts and bring an awareness of the needs of others.

The Lord calls us to missional living in the context of where he places you wherever he places you! We often get the idea that serving God somewhere else is more important than the time and place where he has you at present.

Serving the Lord whole-heartedly even in the small/simple ways, where you are right now is key!

Stephen, in the book of Acts, was called by the disciples to meet the needs of the people in the town where he was, so that others could serve by traveling to share the Gospel.

Laying down our own needs and desires, including the need for recognition and respect in order to focus on meeting the needs of others is not possible in our own strength, but God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower us to lay aside our self-focus and place others first.

Katie is a 3rd year nursing student at the University of Kentucky who is still figuring out what she wants to do in the world of healthcare. Getting to know people from all over the world and practicing her Spanish are two things she deeply enjoys! Katie served as an Inca Link Link Year participant in 2017-18.



Why do you think Philippians 2:3-4 specifically points out our need for humility in serving others?

In what areas did you find yourself focusing on your own needs during your mission trip? In what ways was this a challenge to serving on your trip?

What personal needs/desires did you set aside on your trip? What was the outcome?

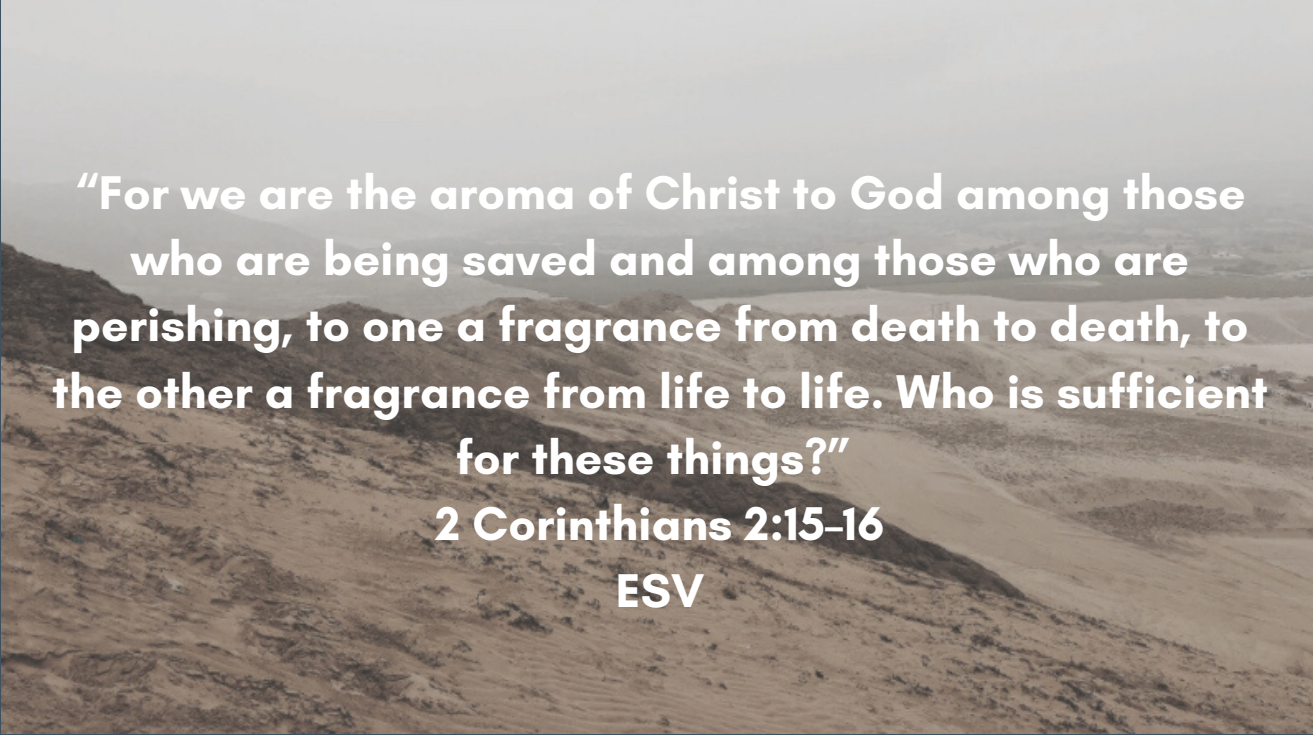
What are some ways you can/do serve at home?

What self-needs/interests would you need to lay aside to serve in these ways?

Do you find serving in your "home" context more difficult or easier than serving on your STMT? Why?

Pray for eyes to see the needs of those around you and opportunities to serve with humility.





“For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?”

2 Corinthians 2:15-16

ESV

DAY EIGHT

Watch video: [Paul Overmoyer, Coordinator Inca Link Colombia](#)

Have you ever wondered why you can quickly connect to some strangers who are also followers of Jesus? You knew that there was something you shared that drew you together. Christians have a particular body odor that nobody else has, the aroma of Christ! This aroma either attracts repentant to Jesus as they smell the sweet scent of forgiveness and life or causes unrepentant sinners to reject him, as they find the reminder of their death in sin repulsive. This aroma, although offensive to those lost in their sin, is a reminder of God's love and that they need his forgiveness and life.

There are three truths that we can find in 2 Corinthians 2-3. The first is that God always leads us to triumph in Christ. He has already guaranteed our success in spreading the aroma of Christ to the world around us! The second is that God manifests the sweet aroma of knowing Jesus through us. God uses you to let other people know how great our savior is. He uses you to spread Jesus everywhere you go! The third asks, "Who is adequate to do these things"? Who is adequate to share the Gospel, to let people know that life is in Jesus? We are! The secret to this is that our adequacy comes from God. Not in our own strength, but in his! He has given us everything we need to be the sweet smell of Jesus to those around us, and a reminder to those who do not know him yet.

Paul and his wife, Lineth, are Inca Link Missionaries in Colombia. He is an M.K. – born and raised in Colombia. Paul enjoys traveling and taking day trips outside of Bogota.



Describe a time when you felt an instant connection to another follower of Christ.

What was it that helped you feel connected?

How does it make you feel that some people will be attracted to the "aroma" of Jesus they sense in you?

How does it make you feel that some people will be repulsed by the Jesus they sense in you? Does this ever make you want to disguise the "aroma" of Jesus in you? Why or why not?

Knowing you are guaranteed to succeed at being the aroma of Christ, both sweet and repulsive, and this is God's means of drawing people to life in Christ, what does that mean for you in living a missional life each and every day?

In what ways do you feel adequate to share the Gospel? In what ways do you feel inadequate?

Submit your sense of inadequacies to the Lord, allowing his strength to prepare you to share the aroma of Christ.



From Home Into The World

Missional living begins at home, with your family and all who enter your threshold, but it doesn't stop there! There is a whole world of people needing to hear and understand the Gospel. God has placed you in your family to share His love and truth, but He will also strategically place you before the lost in other areas, if you allow him to use you for His glory.



“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ESV

DAY NINE

Watch video: [Alan Rathbun, Director of Multiplication, Eastern PA Alliance](#)

In the beginning, God...these first four words from the Bible reveal the truth, that there is no life outside of God, he is the source of Life and all life depends on him.

While on your mission trip, it may have been easy to find yourself immersed in daily dependence on God, but now that you are back home, you may find it more difficult to maintain your daily focus and dependence on God. So how do you maintain your dependence on God? By loving him with all that you are, beginning with your heart.

The heart determines what really matters to you. Love of God is a personal interactive relationship with God where he is more valuable than anything else in your life. And if God is the most valuable thing in your heart, it will also be reflected in your strength, in your thoughts and every other part of who you are. How do you keep your focus on him, by allowing God's truth to shape everything you do in your life, your friendships, your work, your school, the kind of son or daughter, father or mother you are. How do you allow God's truth to flow through your mind so that it shapes every aspect of who you are? You meditate on God's truth, think about it, internalize it and live through it, as the overflow of your heart.

This produces a truthful, life of God filled-actions. Your heart, what you value, what you are committed to determines the course of your life, and you can shape your heart with God's truth.

Alan is married to Sandra and the father of 3 adult children. All five were part of an Inca Link trip to Trujillo, Peru in 2009. He is a leader, coach and trainer for church planters in Eastern PA for the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Alan loves the outdoors and loves to read and have great conversations.



Recognizing that your heart is the seat of all you value, what are the things in your life that your heart holds in highest value?

Why does God deserve to be on the top of your list? Is anything keeping him from the top?

What are some ways that you can fill your heart with God's truth?

How will you allow God's truth to shape and saturate all of your life?

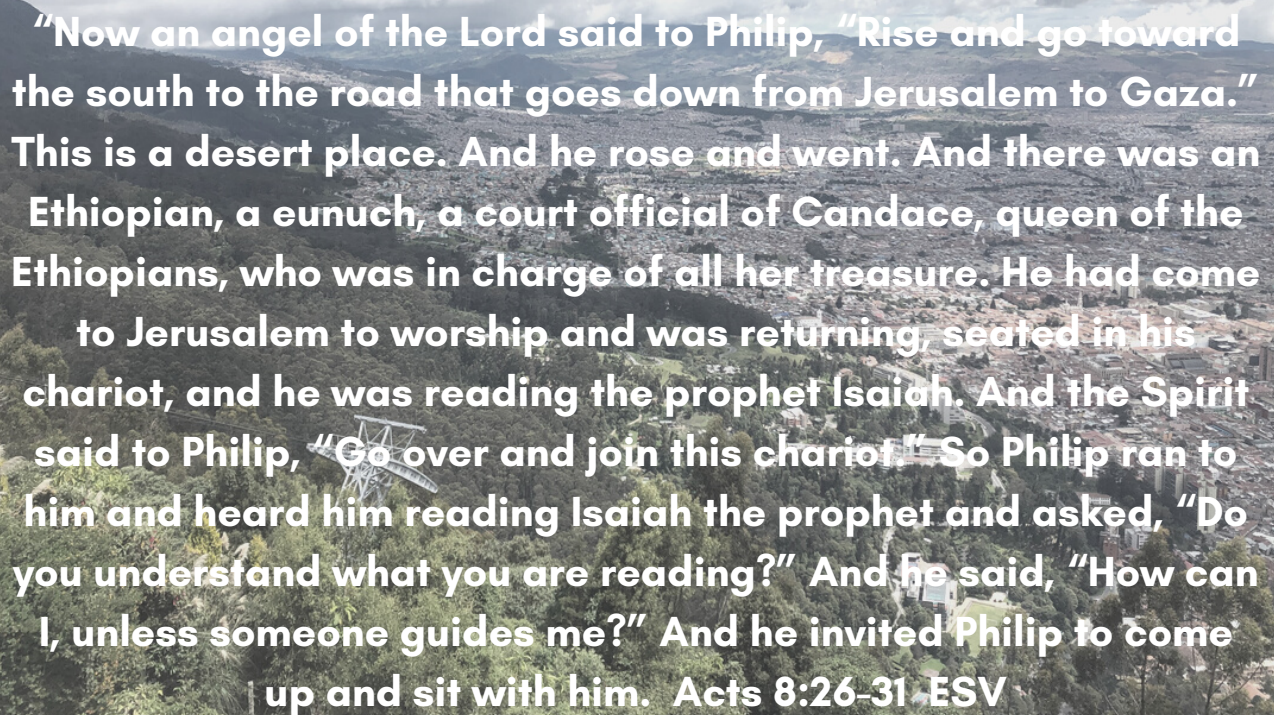
How is God's truth part of your relationships?

How does God's truth shape your schooling or work?

How does God's truth impact how you live a missional lifestyle?

Focus your prayer today on God's worthiness and his truth, asking the Holy Spirit to fill you with an awestruck awareness of God's glory and holiness.



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Jerusalem, with a prominent church steeple in the center. The city is surrounded by green hills and mountains in the background under a cloudy sky.

“Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Acts 8:26-31-ESV

DAY TEN

Watch Video: [Juan Carlos Cevallos, Regional Director](#) with Nexus International Missional Living

The story of Phillip and the Ethiopian teaches us four points about living a missional lifestyle.

The first comes from verse 26, when the angel tells Phillip where to go. This shows us that God is reaching out and speaking to us, calling us and He wants us to obey when he calls.

The second is found when the angel tells Phillip to go to a particular place. God wants us where we are right now. Only God knows his plans for you, and he has placed you exactly where you are for those purposes. You don't have to wait to go somewhere else, missional living happens wherever you are. Where you are is where God wants you to be.

The third principle is in verse 29, The Spirit told Phillip what to do. The Holy Spirit talking to us, he is active and we need to listen. Take time to slow down, quiet down and listen to what God is saying to you. Listen.

Finally, the Ethiopian is reading from Isaiah, Phillip steps in and explains the Gospel. It is important that you continue diving into scripture, dwelling in God's word so you are prepared to share the good news. Be preparing yourself daily to share Jesus.

Juan Carlos enjoys life with a cross-cultural family, he was born and raised in Ecuador and Colombia. His wife is from the states, and their 3 kids were born in Costa Rica and Ecuador are now living in the U.S. He serves as a Regional Director in Latin America for Nexus International and when he is not traveling, he serves as the Next Generation pastor at Red Stone Church in East Tennessee. He loves experiencing and teaching about discipleship using the mountains and extreme adventures.



Which of the 4 points for missional living do you find the easiest for you to follow? Why?

Which do you have the most difficulty with? Why?

Have you ever said "no" to something God was calling you to do? What was the result?

In what ways does the Holy Spirit speak to you?

Why is spending time in God's word so important to missional living?

Describe an example of a time and place that God used you as his witness in an unexpected way.

Do you find it easier to share your faith when you are in your hometown or when you are far away? Is there a difference? Why or Why not?

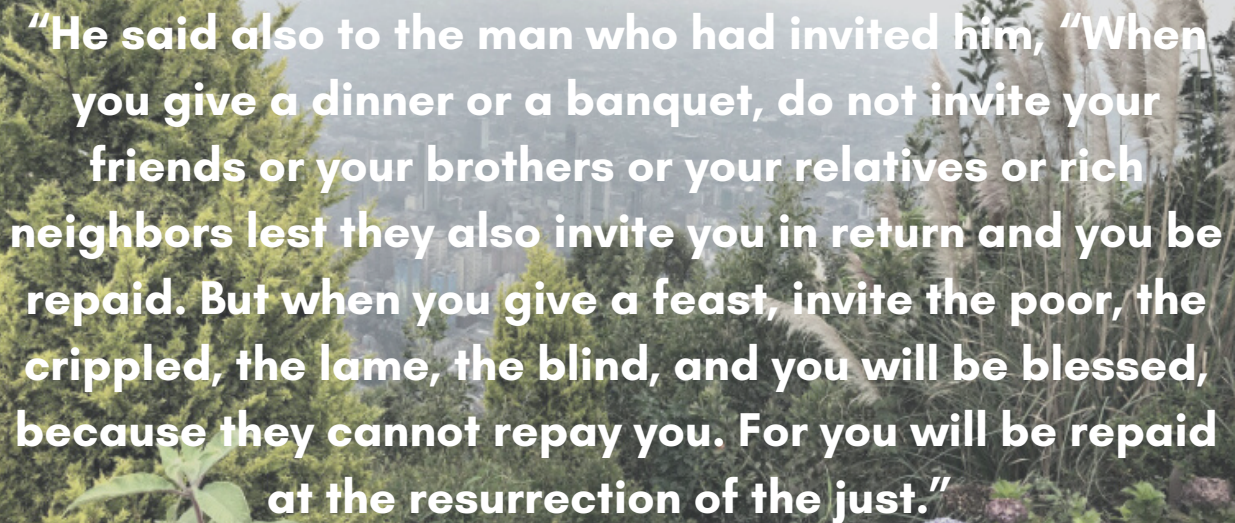
Spend some time praying about the four points, submitting them to the Lord and asking him to reveal any weak areas, and any actions he is calling you to take.



Social Justice and Hospitality

Loving "the least of these" was a recurring theme of Jesus' ministry and of the apostles which followed after him. Yet somehow in many ways, the church has forgotten Christ's call to serve the poor, broken, outcast and prisoners. May we live in such a way to bring up the station of the lowly through love, support, hospitality, advocacy and sacrifice





“He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Luke 14:12-14

ESV

DAY ELEVEN

Watch video: [Dan Kasnick, Co-Founder and Director of Camp D&D Perú](#)

Our society is very transactional in mentality...putting the emphasis on the reciprocal; "I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine." This passage is quite counter-cultural in that aspect. It is easy to marginalize the importance of going beyond the transactional and truly learning how to "host" others without being motivated by what you may get out of the experience. Both the action and the intention are so very important.

On the mission field it can seem easy to live to serve without being served, because it is built into your time and purpose on the trip. But when you return home to your routines, the importance of living to give and serve can be easily forgotten in the day by day. It requires us to be intentional and seek out what God has intended for us right where we are. It is easy to mislabel the "mission field" as a specific place, but the mission field is wherever you are right now.

Dan is an educator at heart and is the curriculum coordinator at an international school as well as the co-founder & director of a camp aimed to build inclusive, sustainable and thriving communities through camp experiences for all ability and socio-economic levels. Lima, Perú is his home where he lives with his wonderful wife and lovely daughter. He loves to travel and experience as much of God's great creation as possible, immersing himself in the cultures and nature he finds himself in. Dan was an Inca Link intern in 2006.



How do you feel when you serve others? What are the benefits you gain from these experiences?

It is a blessing when God provides these "benefits and blessings" when we serve others, but why is it so important not to allow ourselves to become motivated by the blessing we may receive?

Who are the people that are marginalized in your community? Your work place? Your school? Your church?

Why do you think it is so important to be intentional in seeking to serve others without reciprocity in your community? What has been your experience?

In what ways can you intentionally set out to serve the marginalized you have identified above?



"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:31-40 ESV

DAY TWELVE

Watch Video: [Rich Brown, International Worker & Founder of Inca Link](#)

There is a difference between those who do what Jesus asks them to do and those who do not. What does Jesus ask us to do? Love others, especially those neglected by society.

The question at hand, then is, "How can I serve the least of these?" Love is the answer! Little things done in love have Kingdom impact! You don't have to do big things, but small things done in love, empowered by prayer demonstrate the Gospel to a hurting world. God wants faithfulness in the small things. Mother Teresa said, "We are called to be faithful, not successful." God is in control of the outcome. He continues to do miracles as we faithfully obey him, even in the small things. Jesus asks us to serve those in prison, the hungry, the thirsty, those who are in need. Serve and give of the little you have and God will be glorified. Chapter 2 of the Book of James reminds us that faith without works is dead, may your faith grow as you serve others in love.

Rich was born and raised in Ecuador to missionary parents. He and Elisa have served 28 years as International Workers. They founded Inca Link to reach the 300 million youth in Latin America. Rich loves playing and watching soccer and playing Fantasy Soccer. He also loves being a Grandpa - "Abuerico" is his name! Rich serves as a missionary with the US C&M Alliance.



What are some small things you can do in your community today to demonstrate love to those in need?

How have you experienced God's miracle from someone's act of faithfulness.

"It's always easy to give things that do not cost you anything." If this is true, how does it relate to our call to "offer ourselves as living sacrifices" when loving and serving the "least of these"?

What does Doris Day's statement, "A true atheist is one who negates the image of God in the least of these." mean to you? What then would reflect a "true Christian"?

What does it mean to you to "scream the Gospel with your life"? Do you? What would need to change for you to do so?





“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Hebrews 13:2

ESV

DAY THIRTEEN

Watch video: [Mark Byrom, Pastor of Global Connections](#) (Appleton Alliance Church, WI)

This is a pretty amazing passage when you think about the implications of sharing hospitality with strangers. Looking back at Genesis 18, we find Abraham entertaining angels unaware, and how God used that experience to bless his family and ultimately, the whole world! God reminds us in this story of how we should treat everyone we meet, because we never know the implications nor the impact of our hospitality.

Hospitality does not depend on language or cultural barriers, nor should it be impeded by prejudice, grudges or differences. Hospitality should be delivered with the highest attention to being the hands and feet of Jesus as we love on people in amazing, but simple ways. American (US) culture is often not the most hospitable, especially to strangers, but it is an area we, as Christ's followers, are called to, and it is particularly important to missional living.

Ask God for opportunities to share hospitality in such a way that it brings strangers into His kingdom.

Mark is blessed to be the mission pastor at a church that's partnering & sending all over the globe. He gets to connect & build collaborating partnerships with churches on five continents and back up their sent ones serving in many cross-cultural locations. Amazing enough, He loves traveling to new places and meeting new people!



Describe a time when you shared hospitality with a stranger, or when a stranger shared hospitality with you. What thoughts and emotions stood out at this time?

What is the difference between sharing hospitality with family members and friends and sharing it with strangers? Is it easier for you to do one over the other? If so, why?

Sharing hospitality is difficult for many people in the United States, why do you think this is so? Do you think this is more true in some regions than others?

What are some practical ways you can demonstrate hospitality to strangers?

What are some less practical ways you can demonstrate hospitality to strangers?

What are some of the potential benefits of sharing hospitality with strangers (for you), (for them), (for God's kingdom)?

Name some of the barriers you personally have to sharing hospitality with strangers.

Submit your barriers to God in prayer and ask him for opportunities to share hospitality in such a way that it brings strangers into His kingdom.



“It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it ... They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. It was for the sake of the Name that they went out... We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may be fellow workers for the truth.”

**3 John 3, 6-8
ESV**

DAY FOURTEEN

Watch video: [Ciro Castro, Trips and Marketing Coordinator at Envision](#)

John is writing this letter to commend the Church for their faithfulness and the messengers of the Gospel and to remind them to continue to show hospitality.

Demonstrating hospitality is an important way to demonstrate the love of Christ and work in partnership with the Lord and His kingdom workers to hasten the sharing of the Gospel with the world around us. Yet, hospitality comes at a cost.

Hospitality is about more than sharing our things, but in sharing our time and our lives with others.

Hospitality becomes a challenge for us due to our busy agendas and requires a re-shaping of our lives and a re-imagining of our priorities in order to develop a culture of sharing our lives, and thus demonstrating a hospitality of presence for those desperately needing relationship.

Ciro Castro is originally from Brazil but lived in Turkey for 18 of the first 21 years of his life. He has the honor of creating opportunities for people to join what God is doing all around the world through short-term mission trips. Soccer is a big passion of his and he loves how such a simple game can be used to bring people together, foster relationships, and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ.



Describe a time when someone went beyond sharing their things, but shared a hospitality of presence with you.

How did this make you feel?

What did it cost them to share their hospitality with you?

Why is it important in God's Kingdom for a follower of Christ to demonstrate hospitality?

What obstacles get in the way of your ability to demonstrate hospitality?

What would you need to change in order to develop a lifestyle of hospitality?

Ask the Lord for wisdom, guidance and opportunities to remove the obstacles and make the changes so that you may share hospitality for the sake of the Name above every name.



Staying Grounded in God's Strength

As God prepares and calls you to live for Him, He provides the strength and ability to do so. This strength is provided through our connection to God through His Word, by persistently focusing on Him, by resting in Him and through communication with Him in prayer.



"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:1-5

ESV

DAY FIFTEEN

Watch video: [Dillon Petrarca, Associate Pastor of The W Church, Newport Beach, CA.](#)

We have a tendency to try to things in our own strength and ability, quickly forgetting that God is our strength! When returning from a mission trip, we try to regain control over our day to day, forgetting that much like a small child, we need our father to take care of our every need. We as believers are called to abide in our father, to sit and be with him, remaining and resting in the presence and abilities of our God.

Our mission is the same at home as it was internationally, to make disciples. But we can only accomplish this by abiding in God and allowing him to use us as we live for him in our everyday lives. In this God will do immeasurably more than we can ever hope or imagine (Eph. 3:20). We tend to trust in our abilities to do good things for God, but apart from God, we truly can do nothing. Everything we do as a follower of God must come from our daily walk with God.

Dillon Petrarca has the privilege of pastoring ministries and staff at The W Church. He and his family are Disneyland Passholders so you can find them at the parks at some point during the week!



"As you serve God, the more he reshapes (prunes) you into his image." How has God been shaping you lately?

Why do you think it is easier to rely on God's strength while on a mission trip than when you are in your daily routine?

In what ways (areas of your life) is it easy for you to abide/rest in God?

In what ways (areas of your life) is it a challenge for you to abide/rest in God?

What are the differences between the easier and more difficult areas?

What needs to change in your daily walk with God to help you abide in him more, especially in those areas above which are more difficult?

Spend some time in prayer, asking God to reveal the areas of your life where you try to have control, and submit those areas to him.



“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:12-14

ESV

DAY SIXTEEN

Watch video: [Annie Rose Ansley, Advancement Advisor, HOPE International](#)

Crossing the Finish Line

Paul describes everything in life as being "worthless" by the comparison of knowing Christ, and that as citizens of Heaven, we one day will be made perfect through Jesus. In the meantime, we are called to pursue Christ and grow in our knowledge of him. As we pursue Jesus, we will get to know him better, day by day, and one day we will know him perfectly!

As we think about missional living, let's think about how we can grow in our pursuit of Christ-likeness, by knowing him more on earth and by helping others know him, too. How can we know Christ more? We can abide in him by setting time apart to grow our relationship. We can seek him in his word, where he has already revealed himself. We can pray for opportunities and empowerment from his spirit to share Christ with others.

Annie Rose has worked in the Dominican Republic and Lancaster, PA, for HOPE International, a Christ-centered economic development organization. She and her husband, Hamilton, have a toddler named Hazel who takes up most of their spare time. But in a free moment, you can find Annie Rose running or pretending to be a chef. Annie Rose served as an Inca Link Intern in 2011.



What "good things" in your life get in the way of your pursuit of Christ and growing in your knowledge of him?

Is your growth in the knowledge of Christ more about head knowledge (facts and details) or heart knowledge (relationship)? Is one more important than the other?

What needs to change in your life in order to abide with Christ?

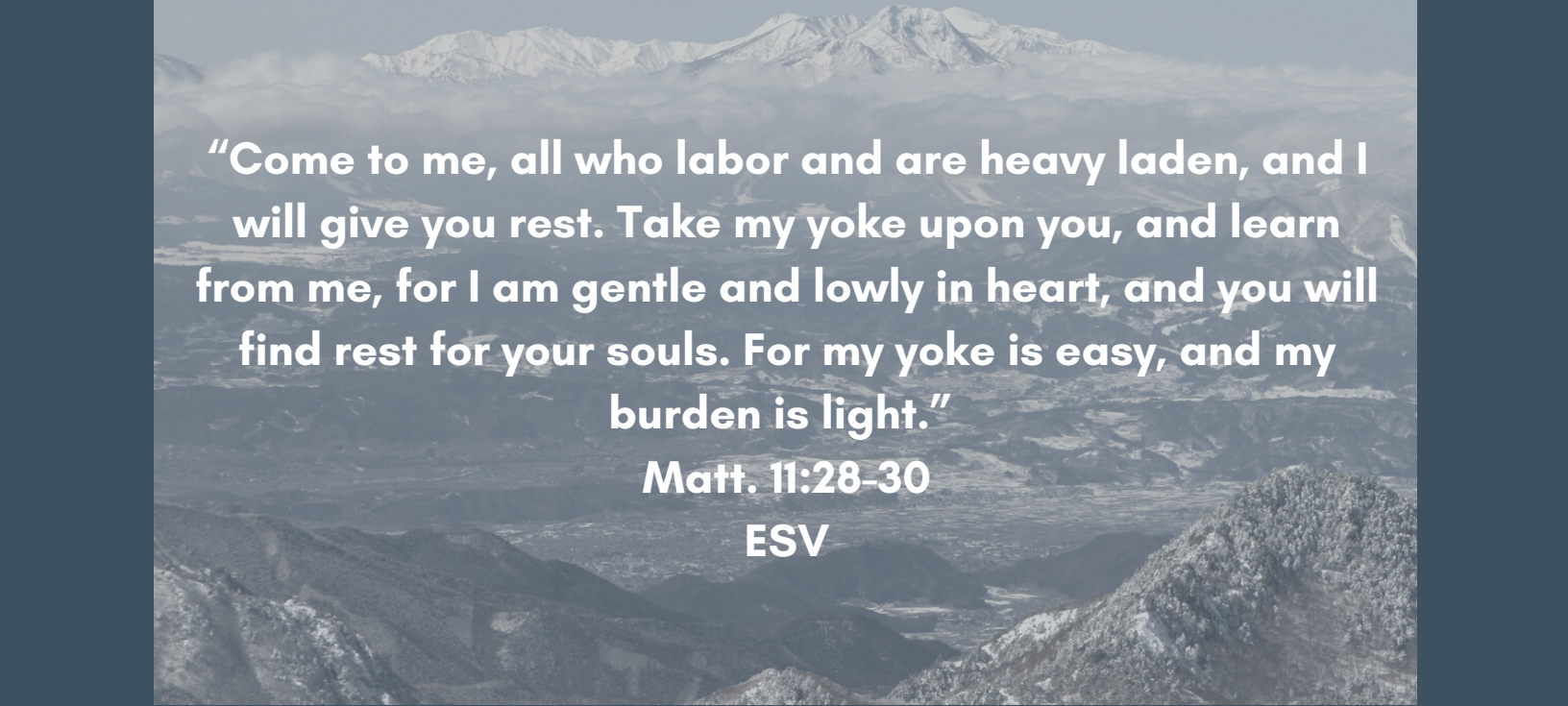
Does anything ever hinder your time in God's Word? If so, what are some practical things you can do to overcome this hindrance?

What does it mean to be a disciple who makes disciples?

Why is knowing (head and heart) Jesus important to living life on mission?
How can you encourage others to pursue Jesus along with you?

Pray for opportunities and empowerment to share Christ with others and to help them grow in their knowledge of Jesus.





“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matt. 11:28-30

ESV

DAY SEVENTEEN

Watch video: [Ignacio Mireles, Director Ninawachi Mission Institute, Ecuador](#)

Rest, Rest

In Matthew 11:28-30, we find two invitations to rest. The invitation of verse 28 is the one Jesus uses to save people from the burden of sin. The invitation of verses 29 and 30 is the one Jesus uses to give Christians rest from the burdens of the Christian life.

The invitation of verse 28 is an invitation to stop fighting sin not by giving into sin, but by laying sin down at Jesus' feet and letting him carry its load. Jesus said; “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Mt. 11:28 NIV) Therefore, the first rest (v. 28) is the rest that comes through salvation. It is a PASSIVE REST. We receive this rest by laying down our sins at Jesus’ feet.

The second invitation to rest, from verses 29 and 30, is not a passive rest. It is an ACTIVE REST. It is a rest that WE MUST FIND by following Jesus and learning from him. It is a rest offered to Christians who, at times, get so busy with life or ministry that we stop following Jesus and instead work on our own plans and in our own power. As a consequence, life becomes hard and heavy. During these times, Jesus says to us, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Mt. 11:29-30 NIV).

Ignacio was born in Mexico and lived in Idaho and in Colorado most of his life. He is the Director of Ninawachi Mission Institute and loves to teach and play golf. Ignacio is an Inca Link Missionary to Ecuador.



How might the burdens of non-Christians differ from the burdens of Christians?

How is resting from the burden of sin different than resting from the burden of everyday life?

Think of two practical ways in which you can help non-believers stop working for their salvation.

Why is working against God's will for your life a burden?

How could submitting and learning from Jesus give you rest?

What are some possible reasons you are not allowing Jesus to lead you?

Write down three actions you will take to find rest in your Christian calling.

Why would suffering be a sign of you departing from God's will for your life?

Take a few minutes to ask God to reveal the burdens you need to hand over to him and submit yourself to his sweet rest.



“Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.”

Ephesians 6:18-19

ESV

DAY EIGHTEEN

Watch video: [Jordyn McPherson, Children and Family Ministry Director of Groundswell Church, Ontario, CA.](#)

We as Christians are called to take a stand against the enemy. How? Prayer upon prayer! Pray in any way, as much as you can! Prayer is powerful in missions! Just as Paul asked believers to pray for him and his work on mission, we need to pray for other believers as they serve, and have believers praying for us as we serve!

Just as Paul did, bring people along for the journey with you, through prayer! Find the people around you who will pray with you and for you and for the lost. There is power when believers come together in prayer! Pray missionally for the world, for international workers, for local opportunities to share the Gospel, to make the transitions when going to and returning from the field. Pray intentionally and you may be surprised to see all that God will do in and through you. Prayer keeps us connected to God and helps us remember that he is always here with us!

The best way we can live missionally in North America, is through a healthy prayer life. Find at least three people to join with you in prayer. Pray for the lost, pray intentionally for opportunities to make your life more missional at home.

Jordyn works as the Children and Family Ministry Director at Groundswell Church. Through the week, during the day she works as an educational assistant. She loves to read and spend time outside. Fun Fact: She loves crocs! Jordan served as an Inca Link Intern and Linker for several years.



Describe a time that God answered your prayers in a way that surprised you.

Why is prayer such an important and powerful tool in missional living?

Who prayed for you while you were on your STMT? What did their prayers mean to you while serving?

Have you ever felt covered by prayer during a particular event in your life, and then sense an "absence" of prayer when things returned to normal? If so, describe the experience.

Who do you pray for regularly, and why are your prayers important for them?

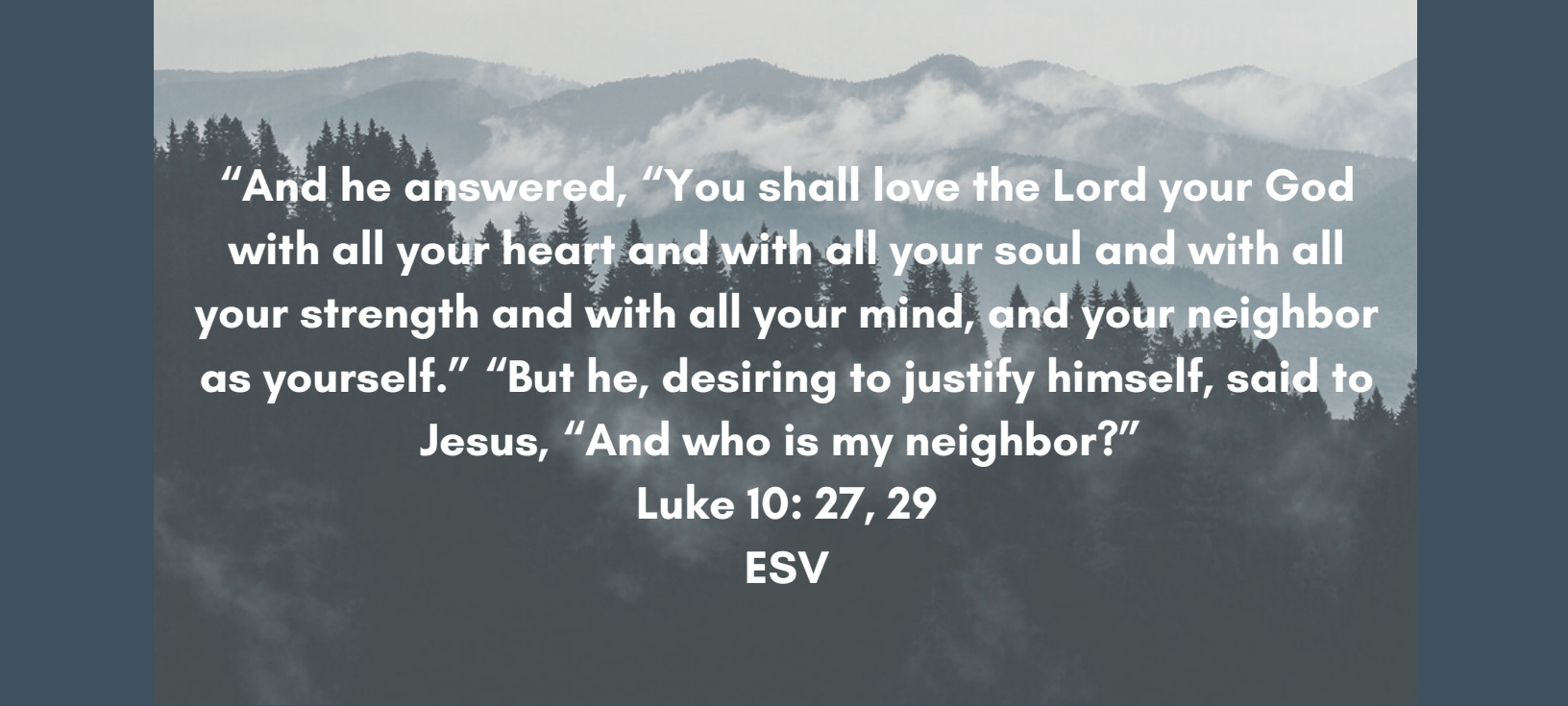
It was stated above that, "the best way we can live missionally in North America, is through a healthy prayer life." What does this mean to you?



Bringing Christ's Love to Your Neighbors

God's call to love our neighbor is a call for seeking common ground, sacrificially providing care and support, investing in relationship building, sharing the Word and modeling Christ's love in what we do and how we live.





“And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” “But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10: 27, 29

ESV

DAY NINETEEN

Watch video: [Amanda Burge, Inca Link Missionary in Mexico](#)

Chances are that you have heard this passage many times before, yet as Jesus is responding to a question from an expert in the law...we may miss this key word **"and"** and we replace it with, **"yeah but"** and make excuses for why we can't love our neighbor. Jesus is very clear when he calls us to love God with all that we have. The natural fruit for our love of the Lord will be seen in the way we love our neighbors.

Neighbors are not limited to the people we know well and share commonalities with in close proximity, but also includes the people who are different than us. It can be scary to step out in obedience to interact with people who are different than you, who have a different culture, dress differently or speak a different language or are in a different living situation. Learning how to love your neighbors as fruit of your love of the Lord is an incredible gift.

When you Love the Lord your God **AND** love your neighbor as yourself, your "yeah, but" will become "But God" as he works through you to demonstrate his love to the world.

Amanda and her husband Shane, along with their two boys, live in Baja California, Mexico. They work primarily in the fight against human trafficking in the border region of Tijuana and San Diego, as well as with a second step ministry for recovering addicts. They are a very active family and love to spend time outside and sharing their passion for sports with others, often utilizing their active lifestyle to share the love of Christ with others.



As you have recently returned from serving overseas, you may have a lot of questions about who are where you are called to serve. Be honest with yourself and honest with God as you ask and answer your questions.

Who are your neighbors? What makes you identify them as your neighbors?

What are the questions you have about your currently circumstances in your life and your future, in regards to loving God and loving your neighbor?

Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to live differently and practically? In what way?

Is God calling you to something or somewhere different than where you are now? What makes you believe this?

What needs to change in your life to allow you to love God *and* love your neighbor with everything you have?





“One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.”

Proverbs 12:26

ESV

DAY TWENTY

Watch video: [Dan McPherson, High School Pastor at First Alliance Church, Lexington, KY](#)

Today's society, especially in a post-covid world, has become one that promotes isolation from the people in your community. We increasingly find ourselves valuing our privacy, hiding in the "safety" of our homes, keeping to ourselves and only interacting with the people we want to spend time with. So the question that arises when we think of Proverbs 12:26 is, "How can you be a guide to your neighbors if you don't know and interact with them?"

It can be very challenging to find creative ways to connect with your neighbors. How do you make those connections? Do you know your neighbors? Do they know you? Do they know you are a follower of Jesus? Are you a guide to them?

Perhaps the first step is to find opportunities to reach out to the people you don't know. Then, when you do get to know them, seek opportunities to be a guide to them by reflecting Christ through missional living.

Dan and his wife Hope have twin 3-year old boys, Ezra and Emmett, and an 8-month old girl, Addy. They live in Kentucky where Dan is the high school pastor at First Alliance, Lexington. He loves to play basketball, read, and hang with his family!



Do you ever find it challenging to interact "meaningfully" with the people who live around you? Why or why not?

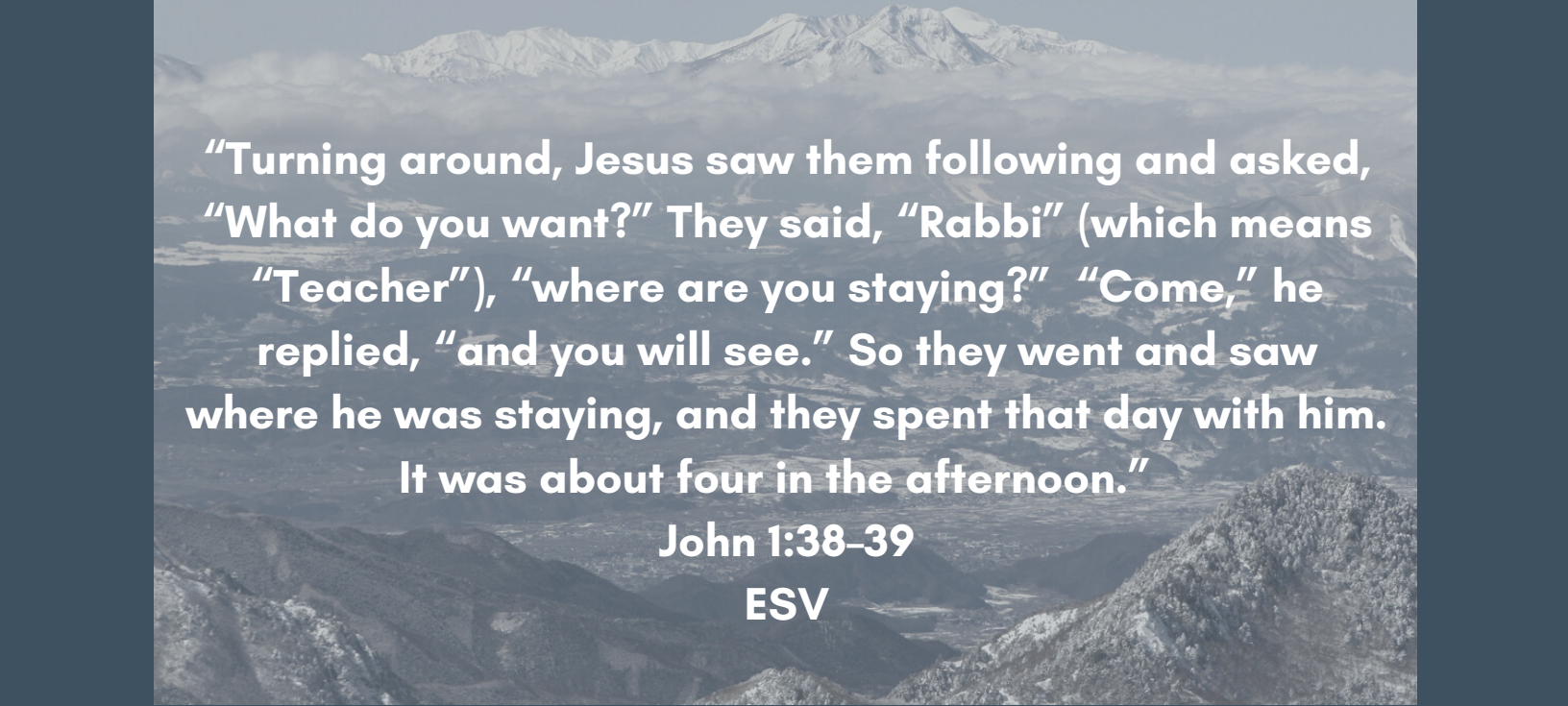
Why is it important to build relationships with people before you attempt to "guide" them?

What are some creative ways that you can build connections with and get to know your neighbors in a meaningful way?

In what ways may the Lord be challenging you in your relationships with your neighbors?

Jesus called his followers to be his witnesses, starting in the very city they were told to wait for the promised Holy Spirit in, Jerusalem! (Acts 1:1-8). This is a good reminder that missions begins right where you are! Ask the Lord to help you be his witness to your neighbors by building relationships and guiding them to Jesus!





“Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.”

John 1:38–39

ESV

DAY TWENTY-ONE

Watch video: [John K. Smith, Retired United Methodist Pastor](#)

The Importance of Being Really Present with People

Jesus realized that to truly minister to people, you need to spend time with them. John 1:14 emphasizes that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us! As Christ's chosen ambassadors, we are his representatives dwelling among lost and hurting people, and are called to His ministry of hope. Eighty percent of ministry is simply showing up! It's not that what we say and do isn't important, but we can't say or do anything if we don't show up!

One of the biggest hinderances we have in our society today, is that we have become experts at ignoring the people around us by being distracted, especially by our phones (phubbing). If your "face is buried in your phone", you can't connect to the people around you and you can miss the opportunities to be a vessel of the ministry of God's love. Who is God calling you to be present with today? Who do you need to be aware of, to share God's love with and minister to?

The good news is, God will be present with you today, through Jesus, and he calls us to be present with the people he has placed in our path.

After over 40 years as a local church pastor, John is serving as a team coordinator for a ministry to Russian orphans called Orphan's Tree. He is High School Chaplain at Shalom Christian Academy, and has recently published a book on the biblical doctrine of the Trinity titled Rublev's Trinity. He loves biking, both outdoors and in the winter on his spin bike.



If Jesus, Emmanuel means "God with us", what does that mean if we are called to be his ambassadors (2Cor. 5:20)?

If the above statement is true, how important is it that followers of Christ pay special attention to being "present in the moment" with the people around them?

How does this relate to living a missional lifestyle?

What implications does this have for you, personally?

What are some steps God is calling you to take to be less distracted and more aware of the people and circumstances around you?

Who is God calling you to be present with today?



"A sower went out to sow his seed." "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience." Luke 8:5A, 11-15

ESV

DAY TWENTY-TWO

Watch video: [Crystal Yang, New Life Fellowship Church, Kansas City, KS](#) - Women's Discipleship Coordinator

On your trip, God allowed you to share his Good News with those you served with. You gave up your time, money, home comforts and energy to share your faith with others. James said that "faith without works is dead" and when you served overseas you demonstrated that your faith is alive.

Likewise, as you served the "least of these" abroad, we hope that the experience has inspired you to seek ways to serve the "least" you encounter near your home. We pray that through your experiences that God's word has been sown deeply into your hearts so that He will continuously use you in his redemption plan wherever he places you. Even as you seek to sow his word in the hearts of others.

Crystal Yang is the proud mother of her first son, Hezekiah, Mini Aussie, Hazel, and wife to her wonderful husband, Jay. She is currently attending Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to pursue an MA in Biblical Counseling.



In what ways was sharing God's love easy (easier) during your mission trip?

Why was it easier?

What was the Word of God that has been sown in your heart during your time serving on your mission trip?

What opportunities do you have where you are right now to share the love of Christ with others? List them here.

What are the "rocks and weeds" that stand in your path, making it difficult to share the Gospel with others? List them here.

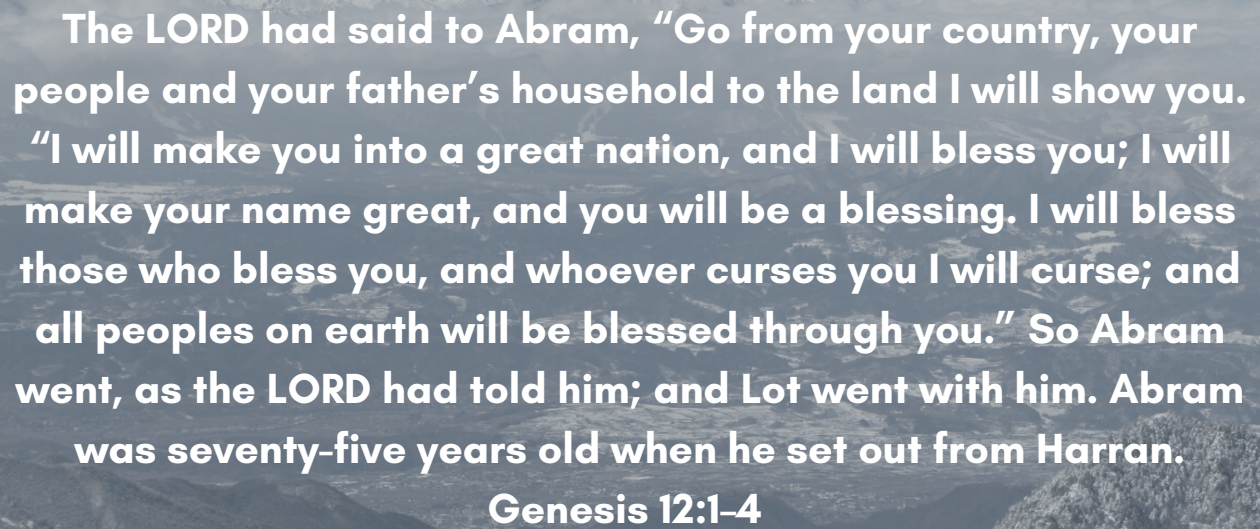
Take the opportunity right now to submit those items in prayer. Ask the Lord to remove the rocks and pull the weeds that keep you from sharing his love with the "least of these" in your area of influence.



A Call to Action and a Great Commission

God wants you to join Him in his kingdom work. Reaching out, in love and obedience to God's call to share the Gospel is what every believer is called to do. You are God's plan for reaching the lost! How amazing is that?





The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

Genesis 12:1-4

DAY TWENTY-THREE

Watch video: [Shane Burge, Inca Link Missionary in Mexico](#)

You may be wondering and praying about what God is calling you to do.

When God called Abram, he stepped out and went. For us, it is often much more difficult for us to do that...to step out and go.

In Luke, chapter 9: 57, 59, 61; Jesus reminded us of the real costs of following him, all pointing back to the truth that Jesus has to have greater value to us than anything or anyone else. The most important thing is for us to go and share the Gospel, even when other good things must be set aside. Abram answered the call, unlike the three men in Luke chapter 9.

Henry Francis wrote a poem describing all that he was willing to give up to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. God knows what our future holds, even while we do not. We are called to step out in faith and follow where he leads to be obedient to him. To step out and go, like Abram.

Shane and his wife Amanda, and their two boys, live in Baja California, Mexico. They have lived there over 2.5 years and work alongside local leaders to serve the region as God guides. They work primarily in the fight against human trafficking in the border region of Tijuana and San Diego, as well as with a second step ministry for recovering addicts. They are a very active family and love to spend time outside and sharing their passion for sport with others, often utilizing their active lifestyle to share the love of Christ with others.



Do you feel that God is calling you to something requiring stepping out in faith and obedience? Describe this calling.

What do you feel are your greatest challenges/obstacles in stepping out into this call?

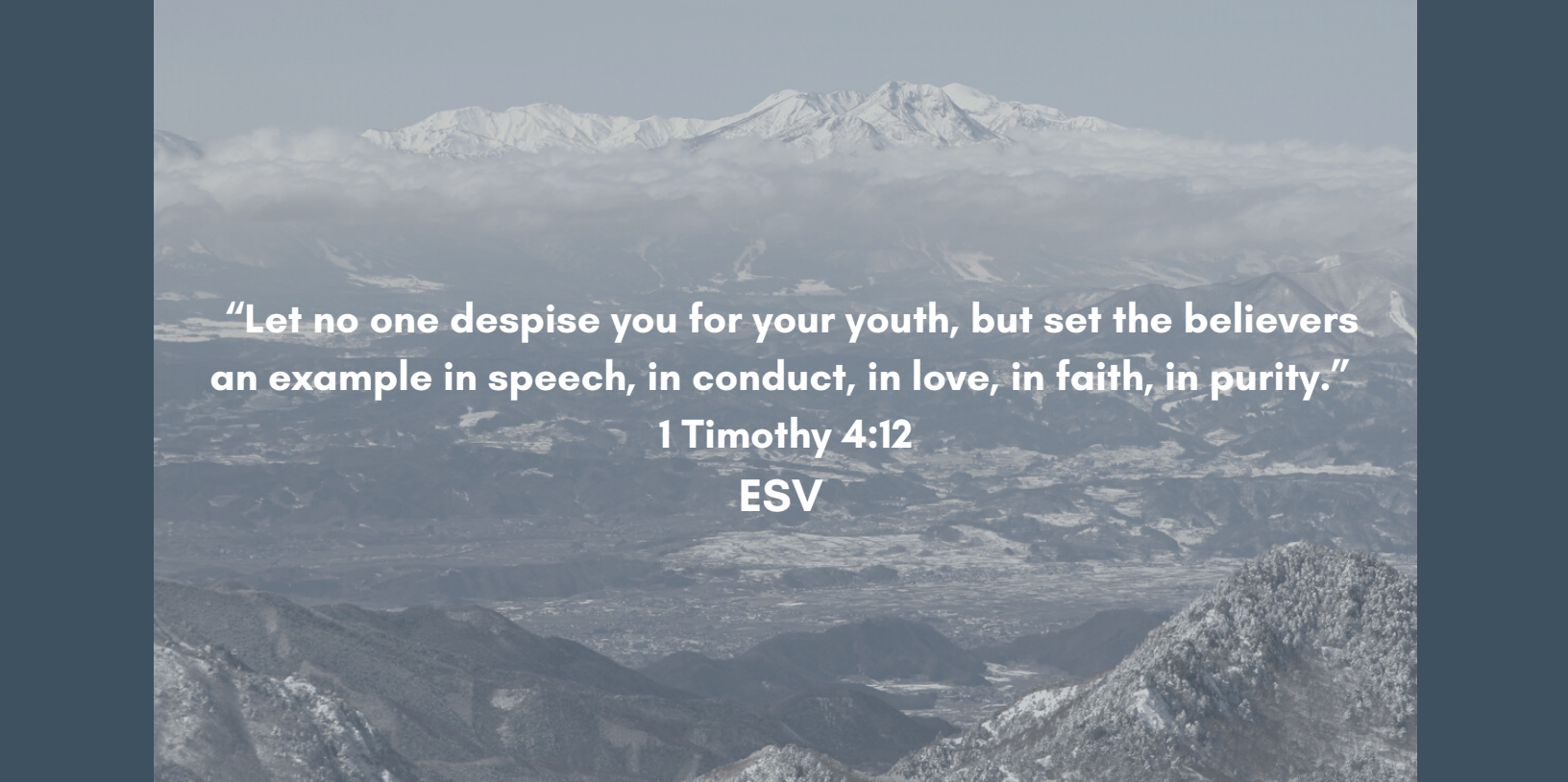
Why do these things challenge you?

How would your family be affected if you were to answer God's call? Your friends? Your career? Your dreams and aspirations?

Abram/Abraham's faith blessed generations, even our own!

How could serving God in faith become even greater than what you feel called to sacrifice?





“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

ESV

DAY TWENTY-FOUR

Watch video: [Jake Edwards, Missionary Inca Link Costa Rica](#)

It's not about your age, it is about holiness!

We all want to be valued and live a life of purpose. It is not necessarily about our age, but about our actions. Paul reminds us to be the example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, devoted to spiritual disciplines, so we can grow in holiness. This pursuit of holiness will change the way people view you, bringing glory to God!

Our effectiveness with the Gospel depends on our willingness to immerse ourselves in the practice of holiness. God doesn't favor age, he doesn't favor gender or race, He looks at the inward heart of a person and a pursuit of Christ's likeness...a pursuit of holiness.

Each day is a new day to live on mission with the King of Kings. Every day is an opportunity to be the example of Christ's redemptive love, no matter what your age!

Jake was the founding and senior pastor of Crossroads Church located in Aiken, SC. After God called Him and his family to full-time missions to Latin America, he spent a year transitioning Crossroads Church into new leadership. Jake and his family have now joined the Inca Link team to reach the 300 million youth of Latin America. .



Do you have a particular skill or talent? Play a sport? An instrument? Bake? Paint? Do math in your head? Sing or Act? How did you gain/refine that skill?

If you don't feel like you have any particular skill or developed talent, why do you suppose that is?

Have you ever thought "I am too young", or "I am too old" to be part of God's Kingdom work? Why have you felt that way?

If age doesn't matter to God, what is important to him?

How can you develop Christ's likeness in your life? What are some practical steps you can take toward this goal?



"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.

Isaiah 61:1-6 ESV

DAY TWENTY-FIVE

Watch Video: [Ella Miller, Student](#)

The beautiful words in verse three provide reminders about living missional lives. Oil seeps into everything, and when you pour oil on your body it covers everything, reminding us that the joy God provides seeps into every area of your life. The garment of praise, reminds us of a blanket that covers you in praise in the trials and tribulations and we can trust Jesus. The oaks are big, tall, and strong, with deep roots. This reminds us that we are rooted in Jesus' righteousness and love.

Pastor Paul Smith states "Jesus linked everyday action with the mission of God in the world. I can value mission over comfort and fear". Jesus was speaking life to the lost every single day. Missional living is in the everyday moments, speaking with someone in line at the coffee shop instead of looking at your phone, making conversation with the person next to you, obeying the nudges of the Holy Spirit. Asking God; Where are you leading me? Where are you pushing me to me to better, to be more like you? Asking God to cover your day, his spirit and his presence first in your life.

Ella Miller a high school senior living in Wilmore, Kentucky. She desires to travel while passionately pursuing Jesus in all she does. She loves to explore, go hiking with her friends, and love on people! Ella served on an Inca Link STMT.



What does it mean to you to be anointed to share the good news with the broken and lost?

When you think of being anointed to share God's message of hope, why is it important that you are also covered with the "oil of gladness"?

How can "wearing" praise in the middle of your personal struggles be useful in missional living day by day?

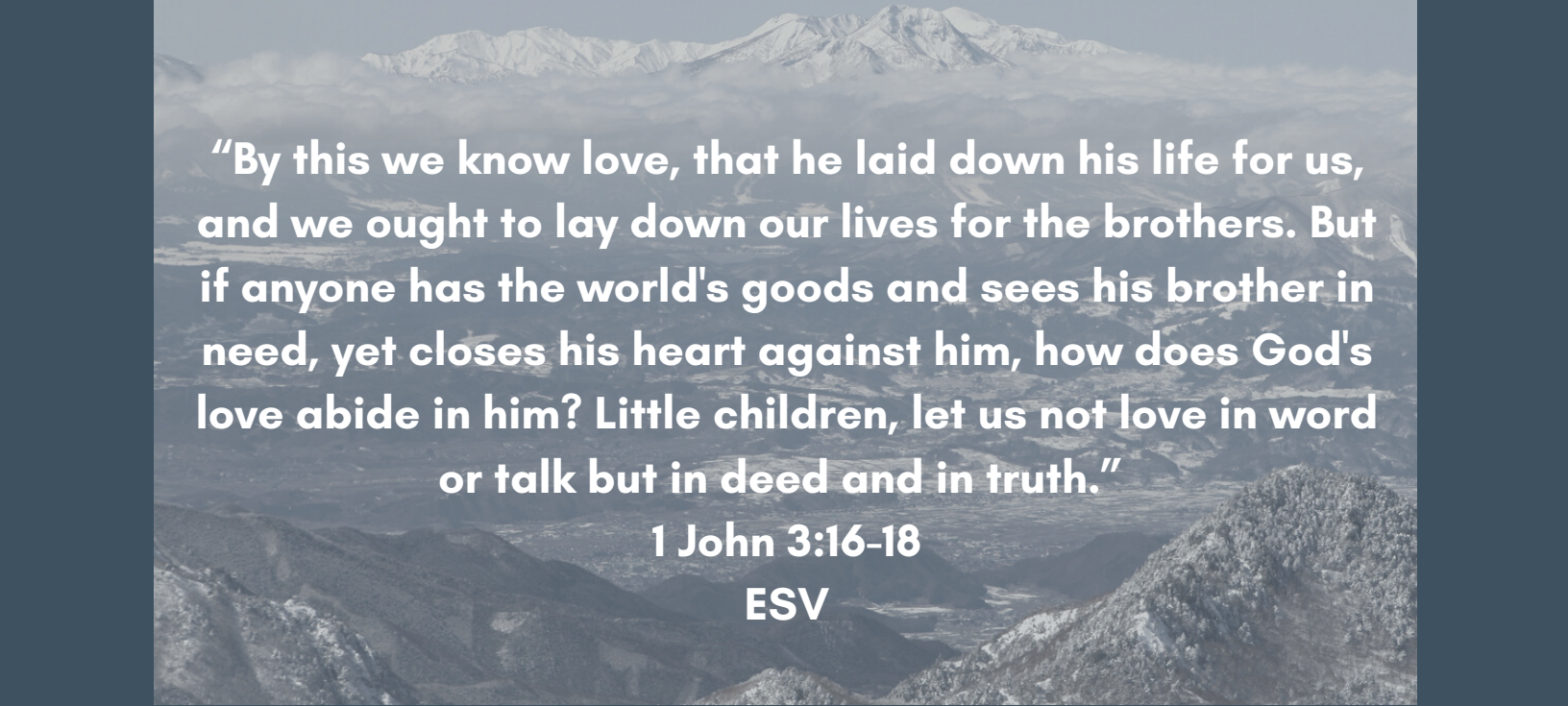
One aspect of missions is being a disciple, rooted in Christ, who then disciples others. What are some things you do (or should do) to become rooted in Christ?

What does it mean to you, personally, to "value mission over comfort and fear"?

What simple adjustments can you make to link your everyday actions to the mission of God?

Ask God where he is "pushing you" to be more and more like him.





“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

1 John 3:16-18

ESV

DAY TWENTY-SIX

Watch video: [Mark Shafer, Founder of Ninawachi Mission Institute](#)
Laying down your life

Christ asks each believer to lay down their lives for others, as he laid down his life for us. The heart of God is for us to love...to love God and our neighbor. Who is our neighbor? Anyone who is in need. And the needs are all around us! The Holy Spirit challenges us to do something with our lives, no matter where we live.

John shows us that loving others requires sacrifice, and loving through sacrifice is what living a missional lifestyle is all about. If we ask the Holy Spirit, he will reveal the needs all around us and equip us to be used by God to meet these needs.

One important step is to take inventory of your life, what you have and what you can give and offer it to the Lord, for his use. Casting off our sin and "everything that hinders us", and fixing our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1) frees us to serve and brings joy to Jesus and to us. Are there things that hinder you from serving the Lord?

Every church has hurting people, every town has people in need, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the things that hinder you from serving and the ways he wants to use you to meet the needs of those around you, for His glory.

Mark is a retired Inca Link Missionary, who founded Ninawachi Mission Institute, located in the Amazon Basin of Ecuador. Ninawachi trains tribal people to become missionaries through Apostolic mission work.



Spend a few minutes in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the needs in your church and community, then record those needs here.

The author of Hebrews writes that we should cast off our sin and the things that hinder us, and fix our eyes on Jesus, what are the things in your life that could be hindering your ability to serve others sacrificially?

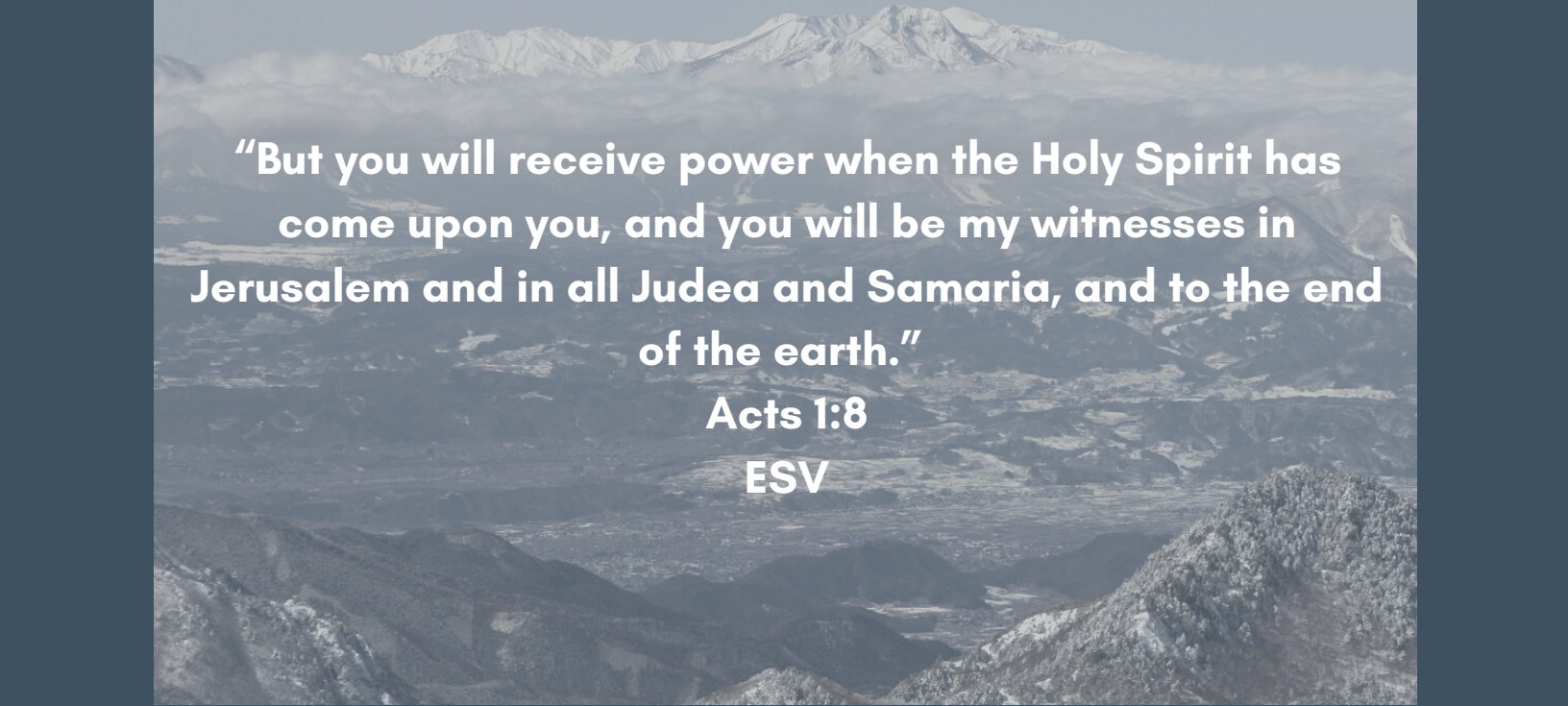
What can/will you do to "cast-off" these hinderances?

In what way do you feel God calling you to serve him, right where you are?

What would have to change in order for you to obey this call?

Look at your list from the top of the page. Pray over this list, asking God to reveal one or two items that he is calling you to take action on. Write down the item(s) and record 1-3 steps you will take this week toward action in obedience to the call.





**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has
come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in
Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end
of the earth.”**

Acts 1:8

ESV

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN

Watch video: [Todd Sovine, Inca Link International Board](#)

Relationship and Responsibility

This passage indicates a cause-effect scenario... when the Holy Spirit is a part of your life he will empower you to be Christ's witness. The relationship you have with God, through Jesus, and His Holy Spirit dwelling within you changes you in such a way that you can't help but share it with other people. This relationship, nurtured through prayer, worship, and time in the word empowers you, through the Holy Spirit, to take on the responsibility to share Jesus with others.

Christ calls us to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth...all of them, not one or another. This is not a call to pick and choose your favorite destination, rather is a four-fold responsibility of both the individual believer and of the united Church. Where do we get the ability to share Christ? From the empowering of the Holy Spirit!

Todd was born and raised in a Christian home. He collected a few educational diplomas and then the real adventure began. He married his wife Jill in 1990. They have four children ranging from 28 to 21 years old, plus a 4 year old. They have served in the C&MA for 31 years, 16 in local church context and 15 years as the director for strategic advancement in the Central district. In this role he's had the incredible privilege of partnering with a vast diversity of church planting efforts, (urban, suburban, rural, Appalachian, ethnic, house churches, etc.). He's also had the thrill of studying church planting strategies and movements on four continents, partnering on the National Church Planting Team for the C&MA, starting the Mid-West Church Planting Center and working with multiple denominations in church planting training.



When the Holy Spirit shows up, you will be changed and you won't be able to shut up. Does that statement reflect your life and your lifestyle? Why or Why not?

Why is it so important to nurture your relationship with the Lord? What are some practical ways you can build your relationship?

In John 9:25, after a blind man had his sight restored by Jesus, he testified to the one thing he knew, saying: "though I was blind, now I see". His experience of how his life was changed by Jesus became his testimony. What is your testimony of how Jesus has changed your life?

Who are the people in your "inner circle" who do not yet know Jesus? How are you being Christ's witness to them? (Jerusalem)

How are you connecting with people who are "like" you in age, interests, culture or demographics who you may not have daily contact with? (Judea)

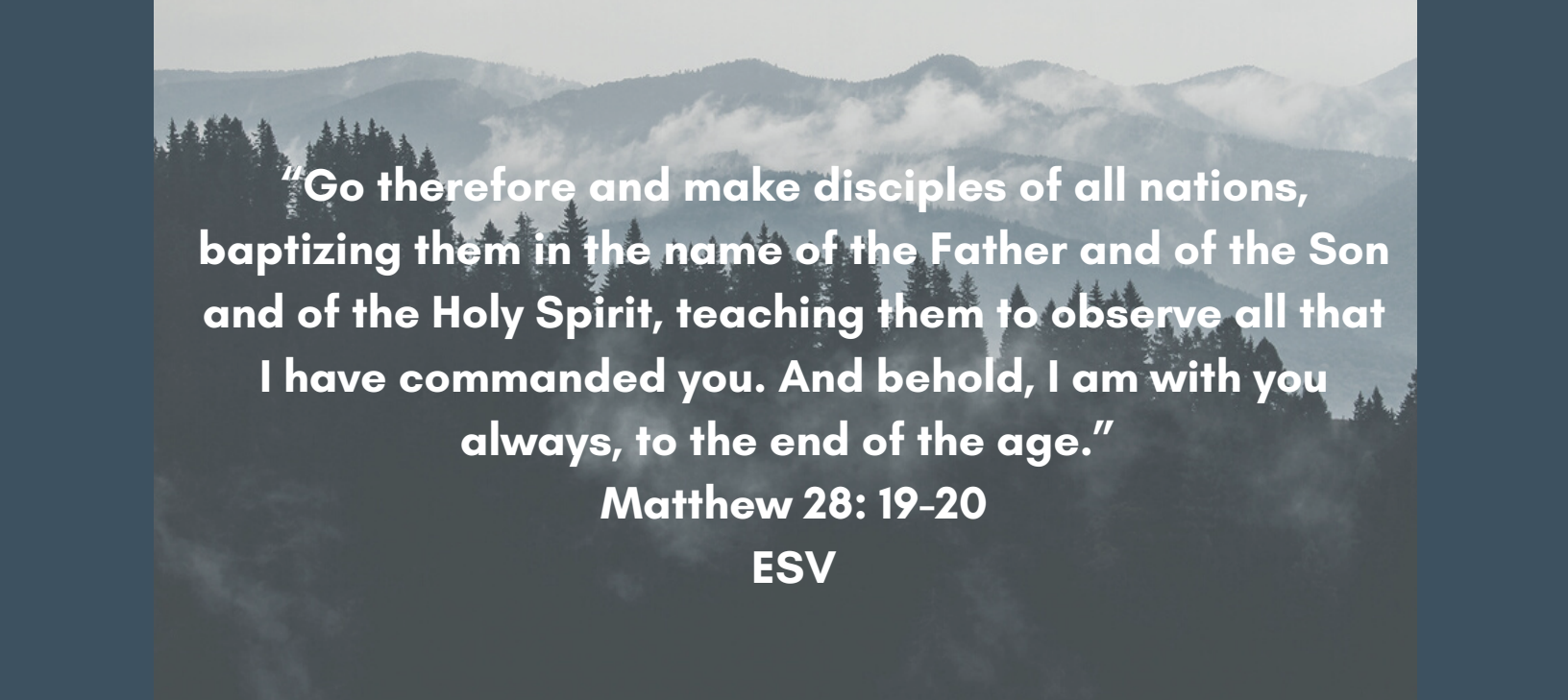
How can you be Christ's witness to the people who are different than you, but live geographically close?

It is easy to identify people who are different and geographically distant, but how can you discern ways to share Christ with those who are unreached in these places?

Read Colossians 4: 3-6. What advice does Paul give to the Colossians about reaching the world?

Pray that the Holy Spirit would fill and empower you, and enable you to discern who represents your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the Ends of the Earth.





**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that
I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you
always, to the end of the age.”**

Matthew 28: 19-20

ESV

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT

Watch video: [Russ Cline, Extreme Response - Leader Mundial - The Barnabas Group](#)

There are Five words that stand out in this passage that give us direction for missional living. The first is "Go". Our obedience to him does not begin by sitting and waiting for him, but by getting up and going. This isn't limited to international travel, but also include faithfulness in your daily life, sharing the Gospel with family, in your school or workplace and in your community.

The second is "Disciple". A disciple is one who follows. Missional living is about helping people follow Jesus. We are called to make true followers, and in order to do so, we have to be a disciple to make a disciple.

The third is "Baptize". There is no magic that happens by immersing people in water, but it is an outward sign of obedience and a changed life. It is a public statement of our personal commitment to Jesus. We are to encourage others to announce their changed life before God and others.

The fourth is to "Teach" (train). It does not have to be a formal process, but a retelling of your story, of what you have experienced and how to live in the way that Jesus taught us. Teaching them to simply do what Jesus tells us to do.

Finally, "Jesus is with you". You are never alone. You don't have to do this on your own. He will tell you where to go, what to say, how to do it. Go, disciple others, baptize them, teach them as Jesus goes with you. Go and be his witnesses.

Russ has been a follower of Jesus since he was 7 years old, and has spent his life pursuing Him and His Kingdom. He comes alongside "strategically placed leaders" around the world and provides coaching, training, resources and community to them. He loves spending time with his wife, their family, and they all enjoy traveling and seeing the world!



Go

Have you ever found yourself thinking an international missionary is somehow more "called" or more committed than Christians who never leave their home country? Why is this untrue?

Make Disciples

Why is counting "verbal salvation commitments" or "conversions" as the role of missions dangerous thinking? What is the role of missions?

Baptize

If baptism isn't required for "salvation", why should we encourage followers of Jesus to be baptized? What significance has baptism had in your walk with Jesus?

Teach

Following Jesus and growing in His likeness takes continual teaching and learning. What does this statement imply for living a missional life?

Jesus is with you, always.

Have you ever felt Jesus' presence in the midst of a difficult or challenging situation? Describe what it was like for you to know he was there, with you.

Have you ever forgotten the presence of Jesus in a situation, and tried to handle things on your own? What happened?





**“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
Matthew 24:14”
ESV**

DAY TWENTY-NINE

Watch video: [Jose Castro and Alex, Directors of Inca Thakhi](#)

In Matthew 24:3-14, the disciples asked Jesus how they would know when his Kingdom would come in the end of the age. Jesus tells them about a lot of dark things will be happening as the end of the age approaches. But... the gospel, the good news about Jesus will be shared before the end!

We should not be distracted by the happenings around us from living our call to share the good news with all the world. It is so easy to get caught up in the things that are going on in our world, the why? How come? But our call is clear...you are professing God's word through your living testimony to all the nations! At the end, evil doesn't overcome God's kingdom, Jesus has overcome!

No matter what our present environment is, we are to be about God's kingdom work! Our lives need to be a testimony of the greatness of our God! Our lives need to reflect our trust in a trustworthy God.

Whatever the circumstances, let God speak through our lives.

Joca is the founder and director of Inca Thakhi (Outdoor Discipleship Ministry). He works in Peru with a vulnerable community committed to raise disciple makers for the future generations through recreation and sports. He enjoys graphic design and sandboarding in his free time. He is married to Alex who serves with Inca Link Canada as a missionary to Peru.



Are you a person who spends a lot of time thinking about the future? Do you find yourself worrying about what is happening now? Describe how you are feeling.

Whatever your present or future situation, it is not disconnected from living your life as a testimony to the world. How involved are you in the tasks that build God's kingdom? Describe your current state.

Think about your testimony...is it pointing back to God? How are you reflecting Jesus back to the world in your day by day? In what ways could you be testifying falsehoods about God by diminishing who he really is?

In what ways do you need to trust him more?

What steps do you need to take to be more effective in testifying God's Kingdom and love with your daily life? Ask the Lord to empower you to serve as his witness!



HIS GLORY



“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Revelation 7:9-10

ESV

DAY THIRTY

Watch video: [Briana Southerland, Share Ministries Pastor at FAC Calgary, Alberta, CA.](#)

This passage in Revelation is the fulfillment of a vision, it is what is to come, what we long for – and what an amazing glimpse of heaven that we get to see in this text! We learn that we will not even be able to fathom or count the number of people who have been saved through Jesus Christ ... although we do not know the number of people in the crowd we do learn that there are people from every tribe, every tongue, every people and language. And we see the diverse multitude crying out in worship to God!

Let that sink in for a minute – every tribe, tongue, nation, people group ... someone from each will be represented! What an amazing vision of the body of Christ!

Sometimes this vision fades in our lives and in ministry, the people group we are working with resists the gospel, the spiritual attack that comes is too overwhelming and we conclude that it just isn't worth it. We grow in our discouragement and sometimes we even grow to be immobile in our commission to take the Gospel to all nations. But Revelation 7:9-10 lets us know the outcome – and that outcome is ...there WILL be people from every tribe, tongue and nation who are worshipping at the throne!

So this is our crossroads - we have to make a choice, do we surrender our lives to live on mission and with the purpose that God created us for or do we sit on the sidelines refusing to believe that God could possibly use us?

Briana is a pastor working with local and global missions, refugee sponsorship, and intercultural ministries. She has been on several STM trips including one to Colombia with Inca Link and has lived in USA, Germany, and Canada (her husband Austin is Canadian). She loves cultures and learning about God's heart for the nations.



What does it mean to you that people from every nation, tribe, people and language will one day glorify God before His throne?

Why do you think God has chosen to use us in his plan for gathering the nations?

As a follower of Jesus, do you long to see people come to Christ, do you weep for those who do not have the possibility to have access to the Gospel?

Has God laid a country or people group on your heart? Describe your heart for this group.

Who can you commit to pray for?

Ask God to show you people in your neighborhood who may represent these groups and to provide ways for you to connect with them.

Take time to pray ...For a God sized burden for the nations That we do not lose heart and that we can continue to step into the dark places with the light & hope of Jesus Christ.





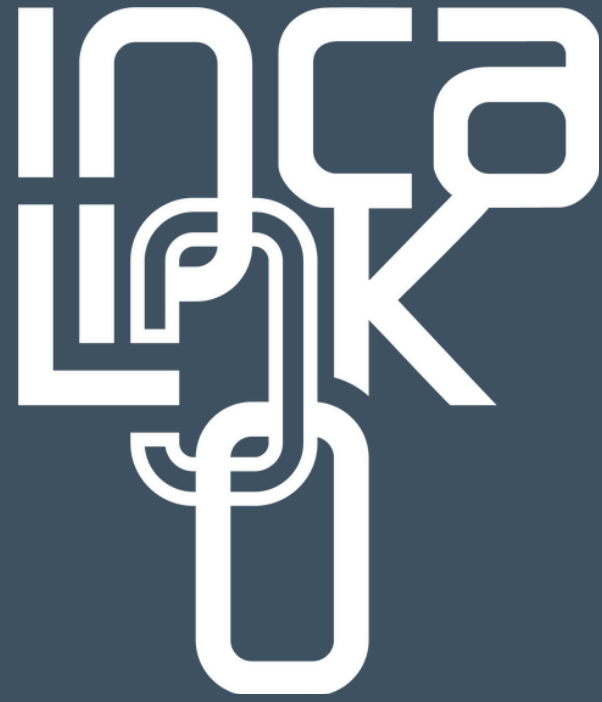
INCA LINK INTERNATIONAL

This devotional was prepared by the team of Inca Link International. Inca Link has been operating and serving in Latin America since 2006 with the mission of reaching the 300 million youth of Latin America with Christ's irresistible love.

One of many ways Inca Link is working to reach youth is through the work of short term mission trips. With years of experience they have witnessed the good, bad, and ugly of STMT. However, through all of it they still believe in the power and ability STMT have as tools in God's kingdom. Several missionaries serving with Inca Link first got exposed to missions on a short term trip. It is Inca Link's deep desire that every trip brings glory to God and through that more Latino/a youth come to know God as their Father.

If you would like to learn more about Inca Link or serve with them on a STMT, Internship or as a missionary check out their website at Incalink.org





www.incalink.org