

# #beyondthebuilding

## April 6th - Kent Williams Missions at Home and In Our Neighborhood Acts 1-8

We have literally been pushed "out of the building." Now it may have been to go stay in our homes but that is where missions begins and missions are where the rubber meets the road. We will spend this week challenging you to be the "missionary" that we all should be. We will all eventually get released out of our homes and I hope with a renewed sense of wanting to be a part of your world.

Acts 1:8 gives us 4 categories of places we are challenged to be missionaries:

- Jerusalem: Home / Neighborhood
- Judea: Knoxville / Knox County
- Samaria: Tennessee / USA
- To the ends of the earth: International

Today we are emphasizing Home / Neighborhood

First you've got to make sure the "instruction" of missions begins in your home. Deuteronomy 6:4-7 makes it very clear that it starts in the home. One of our biggest failures as Christians is that home instruction doesn't happen. We rely only on "Sunday School" to give ourselves and our kids what we need. We need to see Christ/missions taught and modeled first in the home. The rest of these categories will be fulfilled if missions start flowing out of our houses.

So what does an urgency for people to know Christ and to be taken care of look like from the home?

I am so glad that you have already been challenged with having a time of worship in your home. That means the conversation about what we are going to "DO" should be an easy follow-up. Missions is doing. What oh what to do?

Pray for your neighbors. Prayer walk your neighborhood. Go to "BlessEveryHome.com" and you can find your neighborhood and names of your neighbors and sign up to pray for your block. Speaking of blocks, Adopt-A-Block is a way to show commitment to praying for your neighborhood. You can make phone calls and send cards to neighbors and church members that are not as mobile as they once were. Cooking food or treats to be taken to your neighbors just to say we are grateful to be your neighbor. Inviting neighbors into your home to see what your home environment is like. Let God help the conversation flow to spiritual subjects.

This is not an exhaustive list but hopefully it will get you started thinking. It all begins in the home.

What are some more ideas? What have you learned works or doesn't work? Enjoy the journey.



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## April 7th - Kent Williams Missions in Our Town, City, and County Matthew 15:32

"...in all Judea..."

Some day we will all be released!! It is going to be a rush of freedom and people may literally run out of their houses and down the street. What a glorious sight that will be. Once they get tired of running then life will get back to normal, but hopefully with a new perspective. What have we learned in our time of quarantine? People!!!! Interaction!!!! Touch!!! That is what we were built for. To interact with God and then interact with His creation.

Missions to our city and county is where we can once again, in a practical way, interact and share the love of Christ with PEOPLE.

My D group just read through Matthew 15. Look up Matthew 15:32, "Jesus had compassion for the crowd (people)..."

That's our model. Jesus knew that if the people were hungry the effect of His ministry would be less. Food speaks and begins conversations. Conversations lead to knowing people and knowing them opens doors to know where they are spiritually. But you've got to get out there and as Pastor John says, "smell like sheep."

So where are these sheep? Norwood Elementary is loaded with them. Wallace is currently volunteering to feed children who were used to getting food for the weekend. Look for a sign up on our website. The Baptist Center is remaining open because it is considered "essential." They give out food and clothes every Tuesday and Thursday all year long. Have you ever paid it forward in a laundry mat? Walk up to the machine and offer to pay for their laundry cycle. See where that leads the conversation. The KARM stores are loaded with donations that have to be processed every day. They can always use an extra hand. We have a team going to our local hotels and offering a kind "touch" to the housekeepers as well as the "residents" (yes people live there). Once you start looking there are endless possibilities of how to "touch" people locally in the name of Jesus (and I didn't even mention Oneida, Townsend and Wallace Medical, single parent car care, school supplies...Oops, I just did). You can be a part of us making Wallace known as the place where people care about people.

We are always open for mission thoughts. What do you see around our church and in our town that needs our touch?

Are you moved by people and the need they have for Jesus as well as survival?

I'll close with Psalm 139:5:

*"You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me."* NASB

I hope you have felt His protection in these uncertain times.



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## April 8th - Sam Martyn\* in Central Asia Around the World Psalm 67

John Piper begins his classic book on missions, *Let the Nations Be Glad*, with these memorable lines: "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't." In all four gospels and in Acts, but perhaps most notably in Matthew 28:19–20, Jesus inaugurates the church's mission by commissioning his followers to take the gospel into all the world. Yet the driving aspiration of the disciples' mission isn't merely obedience to Jesus command—though that is crucial—and it isn't even love for the lost—though that is important too. Instead, the driving goal of missions is to see the earth filled with worshippers of the one true and living God.

The triune God, our Creator and Redeemer, deserves the praise of human creatures made in his image and redeemed through the death and Resurrection of Christ. God deserves to be worshipped and glorified for who he is and what he has done because he alone is worthy. Psalm 67:3 says, "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let the peoples praise you!" But how can those who have never heard the name of Christ or been told of his great salvation give him praise? The implication of passages such as Romans 10:14–17 is they can't and won't.

So, we go into the broken places of the world bearing the message of hope and restoration, so that by hearing many would believe and by believing they would be transformed into worshippers. We give so that the nations may embrace Christ as their joy and treasure. We pray so that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

Only zeal for the glory of God will drive us to the ends of the earth through prayer, giving, and going, and sustain us once we are there. The question for each of us, then, is do I love the glory of God like that? Do I delight in Christ as my joy, passion, treasure, and life? Do I long for the nations to give God the worship he deserves?



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## April 9th - Megan Weinhandl Unreached and Unengaged People Groups Matthew 24

People have tried to predict when the end times will be. March 25, 1988, May 21, 2001, and December 12, 2012 are just three of the dates that have been thrown out there. So many theories and interpretations are circulating about the end times and the tribulations that will occur. However, we read in verse 36 that no one knows when the Son of Man will appear among us. Not even Jesus himself knows! One thing that is certain though, Jesus will not come back until the the gospel is proclaimed to the entire world, to every tribe, nation, and tongue. When that happens, then the end will come. Simply put, the reason the end times have not happened yet is because we still have work to do.

One great resource for reaching the world for Christ is the Joshua Project ([joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net)). Here, you can find every unreached and unengaged people group in the world and helpful information on them – including how to pray. An unreached people group means that there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with sufficient numbers and resources to evangelize without outside help. If a people group does not have any known active church planting happening, they are listed as an unengaged people group.

Here at Wallace, we partner with missionaries whose life work is sharing the gospel to unreached and unengaged people groups. By the year 2025, it is our prayer that we will have adopted an unreached people group on every continent. Now is the time to get to work. Not when this quarantine is lifted or when other circumstances change. Now.

We can give. We can pray. We can research. We can encourage missionaries. We can step out in faith and make plans.

We can be ready. When the Lord does come, may He find us faithful.

What part of the world are you praying for?

How do you see yourself as part of God's plan to reach every tribe, nation, and tongue for His glory?



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**April 10th - Megan Weinhandl**

**Praying for Missionaries**

**Eph 6:16-20; 2 Thess 3:1-5; Col 4:2-3; Acts 13:1-3**

Watching salamanders capture and eat flies was the only entertainment I had for hours upon hours as I sat in a jail house in rural India. My work visa was accidentally issued for the wrong state and as soon as the government found out I was there working in a Christian school and living at a girl's orphanage, they went from being cooperative to fix the problem to threatening to throw me in jail. As soon as I was released to return home, I immediately reached out to my supporters and prayer team. It still took several months to resolve my visa, but – I firmly believe because of people around the world praying on my behalf – peace came upon my troubled heart and the mission God had assigned me never skipped a beat.

People's prayers for missionaries is essential to the work of reaching the lost for Christ! The Apostle Paul was never shy about asking people to pray for him as he traveled the world proclaiming the good news of Jesus.

He asked for prayer for:

- open doors (Colossians 4:3)
- boldness (Ephesians 6:19)
- the Word of the Lord to spread rapidly (2 Thessalonians 3:1)
- deliverance from evil (2 Thessalonians 3:2)

In Acts 13 and 14 we read about a crucial moment in world missions. Paul and Barnabas were commissioned in a worship service that included singing, praying, fasting, and the laying on of hands. In the words of John Piper,

*"This moment of prayer and fasting resulted in a missions movement that would make Christianity the dominant religion of the Roman Empire within two-and-a-half centuries and would yield 1.3 billion adherents of the Christian religion today with a Christian witness in virtually every country of the world."*

What started in prayer should continue in prayer. May we not abandon our missionaries by forsaking to pray for them. Let us read their newsletters with our full attention and commitment to respond to their needs with prayer and an open heart to how God may use us in their lives to encourage them. Praying for missionaries is crucial to reaching the world for Christ!

How else can we pray for missionaries around the world (those we know personally and those we have never met)?

If you were on the mission field, how would knowing people are praying for you encourage and spur you on even in the face of persecution, discouragement, and loneliness?



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## April 11th - Jeff Stevens Giving to Missions Romans 10:13-15

"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."

We almost cringe at the word "give" because it means we have to give something away. However, many of us have wrong ideas about supporting missions. Some may feel like they are not called to support missions. Some feel like giving to missions is a burden. Some will not consider going simply because they lack the money. These kind of perspectives on missions hinder God's great work.

But isn't the Christian faith about giving up our own wants and desires to follow Jesus? As a follower of Jesus we are called to deny selfish wants and become more like Jesus.

Giving to missions should be part of who we are in Christ. In Matthew 28:19 we are called to go and make disciples of all nations and baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. This is a call for the gospel of Christ to be spread throughout the world. If we as a church only go to Knoxville then we have failed. As a church, we have committed to support over 3000 missionaries on the field around the world through what is called the Cooperative Program. Through your giving here at Wallace, the gospel of Jesus is able to be shared with others all around the world. Even though there are 1000's of missionaries around the world, the call from God is not finished. There are still lots of people who need to hear the gospel, many for the first time.

In the New Testament, especially in Paul's writings, we see a call for the churches to support the work of the missionaries and pastors. In Galatians he instructs the church body to financial support the teachers of the faith (Gal. 6:6). In Paul's quarrel with his detractors in Corinth (1 Cor. 4:12, 9:1-18, 16:5-6, 2 Cor. 2:17, 8:1-9:15) he argues in favor of the church supporting laborers of the gospel. He quotes the gospels (Luke 10:7 and Matt. 10:10) when in 1 Timothy he tells the church to allow the servants to eat (1 Tim. 5:18). Paul thanks the church at Philippi for supporting him (Phil. 4:10-20). Throughout his letters Paul clearly encourages the financial support through the church. Much of Paul's writing was not focused on missionaries caring for their own financial needs, but rather Paul's desire for the church to provide for missionaries. It is good for us to remember that God has chosen to do the work of missions through the financial support of faithful followers of Christ in the church. Please hear me church family, it's not about how much you give, but rather it's about you heart and how joyful you can give. The goal is not to store up more for ourselves (which in the end will all burn up), but to give so that others can have the chance to hear the greatest story that has ever been told, the story of Jesus! Knowing that we are called to ..."go and make disciples of all nations.", how should our attitude towards our money change? How should our attitude toward giving change? Do we cherish things of this earth more than the opportunity for the gospel of Jesus to be heard around the world?

"Then he said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

