



ShortTerm

MOBILIZING AND EQUIPPING THE CHURCH TO SERVE

**ENGAGING
WITH GOD'S
WORK**

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MISSIONS

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**DEVELOPING
TRANSFERABLE
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RETHINKING

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS



Paul Hahn
MNA Coordinator

“The Gospel is Always about Movement”

Greetings in Christ and welcome to MNA ShortTerm! MNA ShortTerm Missions exists to mobilize and equip the churches of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) to incarnate the gospel in communities that are in need socially and economically, as well as spiritually. MNA ShortTerm connects Christ's people with opportunities to move toward communities of need, often in cross-cultural settings, with options that are accessible, affordable, and repeatable.

The gospel is always about movement, God's movement toward us in Jesus — his coming all the way down into our humanity, into our sin and brokenness, to bring us into the forgiveness, love and life of God. Jesus moves toward us continually, by his word and Spirit and people, that we might in turn move out toward others in the places of their need. As we receive mercy in fresh ways from Jesus, we share it with others, through movements of word and deed.

MNA ShortTerm gets you into this movement, this flow of the gospel, in beautiful ways.

Through MNA ShortTerm experiences...

- The lost and least of the communities you visit and serve will be touched by the love of Jesus.
- The churches that host you will be blessed by your engagement with them in the gospel.

- You will be renewed! You will hear and see the gospel in fresh ways as the host church and the people of the community minister to you.
- And you will be given eyes to see home in different ways, perhaps moved to participate with existing mercy initiatives in your community, or to become the catalyst for something new springing up in your church to serve the surrounding neighborhoods.

So, check out all that is here regarding MNAShortTerm opportunities, or visit us online at mnashortterm.org. We hope to partner with you soon, to share in the movement of the gospel of Christ together!

Paul

Paul Hahn, a native of Lakeland, FL, is now in his third year as Coordinator of Mission to North America (MNA), the Presbyterian Church in America's (PCA) agency giving leadership and direction to church planting, church renewal and missional partnerships in the United States and Canada.



Go and make disciples ...

*Over twenty
locations*

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES
AND CANADA

MNA ShortTerm exists to mobilize and equip the Church to serve by connecting God's people with opportunities that are cross-cultural, flexible, affordable, high-impact, and convenient.

Visit us at mnashortterm.org or call 404-386-4586



MOBILIZING AND EQUIPPING THE CHURCH TO SERVE



MULLINS, SC

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ENGAGING WITH GOD'S WORK

By Curt Moore

Three years ago when I started working with MNA ShortTerm Missions I had one of those “Ah Ha” moments. Think back to the movie “Jerry McGuire.” Tom Cruise plays a sport’s agent who has become increasingly frustrated in an industry which defines success by more clients and more money while forsaking relationships. While on an agency retreat in Miami his epiphany becomes a twenty five page mission statement in which he encourages his peers to emphasize relationships over profits, declaring “The answer is fewer clients. Less money.” Because of my experience in short-term missions I thought, “What if churches stopped calling me back every year looking for another short-term mission trip and instead began serving in their own communities? Wouldn’t it be great if short-term missions could be a catalyst for more long-term ministry.” Let me explain.

For almost five years I was part of a disaster relief site and church plant on the MS Gulf Coast that hosted almost twenty thousand volunteers. By building and repairing homes, these short-term missionaries demonstrated the love of Jesus to a community that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. They also had a front row seat to watch God at work in ways many of them had never seen at home. Many of them developed a passion for serving and dreamed of what they could be doing

in their own churches and communities. Then something remarkable happened. We started having teams cancel trips to the coast to serve in their own cities where the storms of poverty, pain and brokenness had been coming ashore for years. Reports came in from all across the country about new ministries that began as a result of participation with short-term missions.

Since then I have seen the pattern repeated not only with traditional “relief” efforts but also with “development” efforts in communities marked by generational poverty. When short-term teams partner with local churches in a posture of humility, recognizing their own poverty and need for Jesus, real learning, fellowship, and encouragement takes place. The host church, leadership, and community become a means of engaging with God’s work that transcends just “fixing things.” Discipleship occurs, ministry skills are developed, and the seeds of a calling are often planted. Many short-term teams return home with a desire to serve in their own church and their own community. They also become an encouragement to the host-church, leadership, and community as they partner to pray, give, or return to learn, serve, and fellowship.

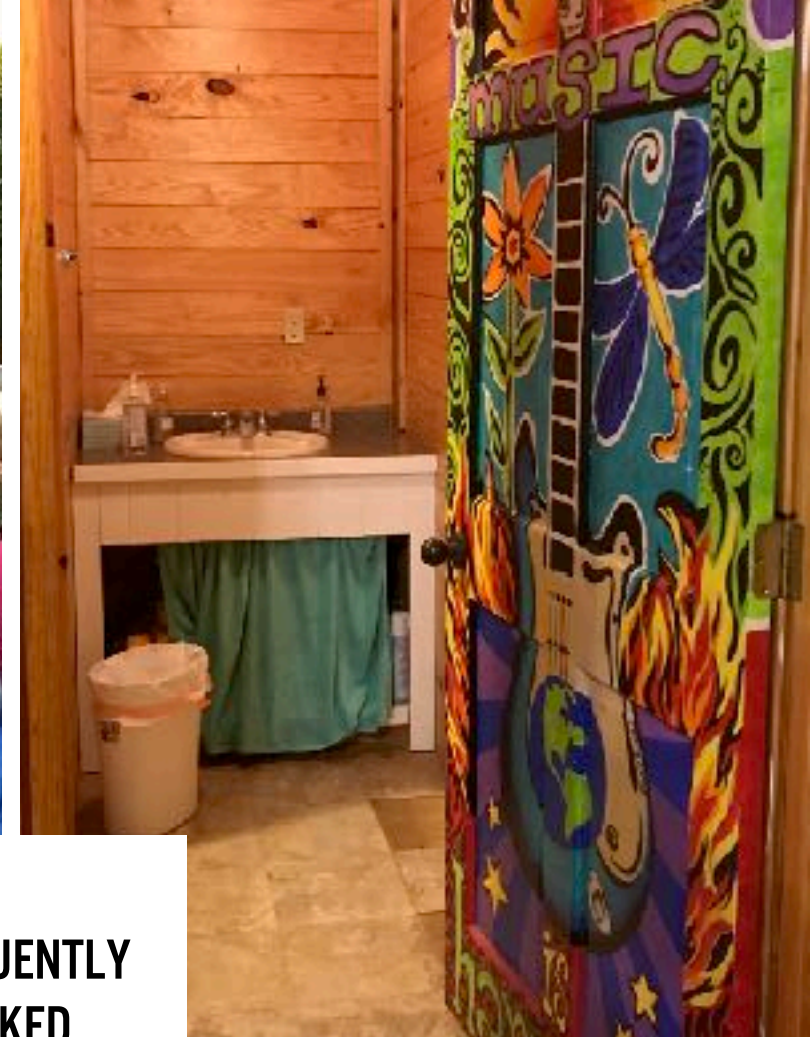
As Brian Fickert and Steve Corbett wrote in *Helping without Hurting*, “When properly designed, short-term trips are an opportunity to learn from, encourage, and fellowship with believers around the world in the context of long-term engagement with God’s work, focusing on understanding His body and our role in it more fully.”



John Lyoch (left) and Peter Doefler at
Day Spring Camp & Retreat Center, Fairmont, WV.
Serving with Impact WV.



“When short-term teams partner with local churches in a posture of humility, recognizing their own poverty and need for Jesus, real learning, fellowship, and encouragement takes place



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Clockwise from top left:
Hope for Atlantic City, Hope Hollow,
Impact WV, Restore St. Louis



Curt Moore
MNA ShortTerm Missions Specialist

Where will our team stay?

All ministry partners provide sleeping, shower, and bathroom accommodations. Unless otherwise noted groups will need to bring their own bedding, pillows, and toiletry items.

What should we expect regarding meals?

Most of our church partners provide meals and the cost is covered in the weekly per person rate. Several of our partner ministries provide access to their commercial kitchens where teams are responsible for preparing their own meals.

Are there age restrictions for groups?

Unless stated otherwise all trips are 16 years of age and older. Several host partners permit children as long as a parent is present.

Do I have to have insurance to participate?

Everyone that participates must provide proof of insurance. Release waivers and emergency contact information will also be collected upon arrival.

Is transportation provided during my trip?

All groups are responsible for their own transportation.

Do we need to bring our own tools?

The ministry coordinator for each project will let you know what to bring. A detailed list will be provided. Some locations provide all or most tools and encourage groups to bring only the tools they are most comfortable, secure, or proficient using.

What should I pack for this trip?

Once you have secured a date with the ministry coordinator you will be provided a list of what to bring.

What is the cost per person?

Costs vary depending upon the location. Prices range from \$0-495 per person per week.

What can I expect regarding a daily schedule?

Once you have secured your date and completed your paperwork the ministry coordinator will provide a schedule with your orientation packet. Here's what you can expect: Each morning time is set aside for devotions and quiet time. The leaders of your host site will lead a time of orientation and debriefing. Several locations provide a time of Biblical instruction and worship. The daily activities are normally split with physical work in the morning and Bible Clubs or sports clinics in the afternoon.

As the MNA ShortTerm Specialist Curt brings a wealth of experience to help your church find their place in short-term missions. Curt began his work with Mission to North America in 2006 as a pastor at Lagniappe Presbyterian Church, a church plant established after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Mississippi Gulf Coast. During their five years as a disaster relief site Lagniappe hosted approximately twenty thousand short-term missionaries. Curt also served for ten years as an MNA Disaster Relief Specialist, establishing basecamps where teams could assist communities impacted by natural disasters.

in the same way
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT
THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY
YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN



LONG-TERM IMPACT

By Randy Nabors

Short-term missions makes a difference. I recall two stories about mission trips and mission teams that have to do with Harvard University. Once I was in Cambridge, MA speaking to some leaders at a church about mercy ministry. A young lady, whose father had taught at Harvard Law, leaned over to me and told me that she was now a teacher in the inner city because of me. She told me she had come down to Chattanooga on a mission team to visit our Hope for the Inner City ministry and it had redirected her life. At another time, in Tulsa, OK, I met a man who had just come back from acquiring a Master's degree from Harvard, centering on Urban Studies, and he told me he had now come back to Tulsa to head up a Community Economic Development Ministry. He told me it was a mission trip to New City Fellowship in St. Louis that had started him on this journey.

We have actively used mission teams to help our ministry in Chattanooga for 34 years. Over that time thousands of young adults, teenagers, and families have spent a week or more with us, and some of the churches that have sent them have continued to send teams over and over again. In turn these teams have helped us to share the Gospel with thousands of inner city children, helped many widows, elderly, and poor people repair and improve their homes, and they have learned about cross-cultural ministry and worship. They have worked under and alongside African American leaders and been exposed to a part of America that most of them have been used to avoiding. Some of these young people came back to become a summer intern with us,

and some were deeply affected in terms of their faith, and their direction in life.

We, as a church, have sent many of our own people out on mission, and as part of mission teams. We have sent our young people to do inner city ministry in other urban and poor areas. We have sent disaster response teams to many different places. We have sent inner city young people, who struggled with their own poverty, to do ministry in places where the poverty was much worse than anything they had ever experienced. We have always sought to involve those who came to us, and those we sent, in direct evangelism and to work under indigenous leadership in other places.

FINDING YOUR PLACE

We don't believe in "drive-by mercy or evangelism," we are not attempting to encourage "mercy tourism." Mission teams cannot replace an active local church or substitute for it being involved in its own neighborhood. We believe in building and supporting the local church, both our own and in other places. So teams come to help the ministry of our church, and our church in turn seeks to train them and expose them in evangelism and ministries of mercy to the poor in a cross-cultural setting that they can take back home. One of the congregations that sent mission teams has planted a church in their own city because of what they learned here with us, and we have sent teams to help them and saw people led to Christ who became part of their church.

Some criticize the whole idea of mission teams and we admit there can be problems, and we have certainly made our mistakes. Mission teams don't eliminate poverty, teams in fact can be made up of well-meaning folk but do damage to our ministry through cultural insensitivity or an unwillingness to humble themselves. Some teams we have had to send home. It is obvious churches and youth ministries have their own goals and agendas in sending teams, and we work hard at helping them understand they come here as servants and not saviors, and we are not simply a vacation location. Their value is in helping the local church achieve its ministry, evangelism, and mercy/development goals.

We confess that we "ride 'em hard and put 'em up wet." They have worked hard, slept rough, sometimes been a bit scared, but usually fed well. Their funds have helped us hire and sustain



ministry. In terms of money for missions it is a truism that "money follows mission" especially by personal experience. To think churches or folks would just send us a check because we ask is a bit naïve, but after personal exposure and involvement an emotional investment takes place.

Mission teams have worked best when our own people have been involved and participated in ministry alongside those who have come to us, usually when small groups have taken a week to do Bible clubs alongside them. Overall it has been a multifaceted ministry; to the community, to our church and for our people who have hosted them, and to the teams and churches that send them. I believe it has made our connections stronger as both a denomination and Kingdom wide. I am certainly humbled by the stories I mentioned at the beginning, when I see those people living out a life of ministry and service, in the name of Jesus, because of a few short but very intense days of ministry among us. Thanks be to God for any good that has come about, and thanks to those of you who came, and who go.

Randy Nabors is pastor emeritus of New City Fellowship in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he served as lead pastor for 35 years. He is the coordinator for urban and mercy ministries for Mission to North America for the PCA and the coordinator of the New City Network. He and his wife, Joan, live in Chattanooga and are the parents of four grown children.



OVER 20
Locations

Short-Term OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, LEARNING,
FELLOWSHIP, AND ENCOURAGEMENT



MNA ShortTerm exists to mobilize and equip churches of the PCA by communicating short-term ministry opportunities that exist within churches, mission churches, and other PCA ministries throughout the United States and Canada. Churches and individuals looking for opportunities of service will find more than a destination. Because God's presence exists in every community through fellow image bearers, we seek to promote opportunities as collaborative relationships. This means that rather than coming as people who have all of the answers and resources, we may enter a cross-cultural community as equals, seeking to learn, fellowship, and provide encouragement, along with whatever physical acts of service are requested.



Through participation with our various ministry partners, churches and individuals will experience a pathway to learning and discipleship that will continue long after they return home. To find out about lodging, meals, scope of work and daily schedule please go to mnashortterm.org.

MIDWEST

LIVING HOPE CHURCH

Chicago, IL

Living Hope Church is PCA church plant on the south side of Chicago that reaches both the Woodlawn neighborhood and The University of Chicago, a very diverse group of people from different colors, classes, and cultures. God is bringing a living hope through the redeeming grace of Christ. People from diverse races and nations, both rich and poor, gather together as one family to worship and serve our Lord. And through Hope Works, a Living Hope-based community development organization, they are helping those in need to find employment, housing, other resources. They have also started a thrift store to generate jobs and income. The church is advancing, the needs of hurting people are meeting God's grace and help, and the gospel is being displayed in word and deed. Every summer Living Hope runs a six-week gospel-based kid's camp for 60-70 neighborhood children. They have built a reputation among families as an ideal summer camp, yet far less expensive than other camps in Chicago. Volunteer teams are needed to help provide support for their camp as well as participate in various construction projects. Teams are welcome any time of year.

RESTORE OKC

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

Restore OKC is a faith-based community development ministry operating in NE Oklahoma City. Just as there are many facets of the cycle of poverty, Restore OKC has many ministry arms. These arms currently include Two Roosters (job training), Stone of Hope (school/education support), Freedom Farms (youth job training, community gardening and education) and Workday (basic home repair for seniors and widows).



Restore OKC affirms that the Church has the resources, creativity and calling to engage and bring lasting transformation. Restore OKC loves to host teams, so if your group is looking for a way to serve for a morning, weekend, or week-long summer team they would love to host your group! Participation is with Workday, a ministry that exists to engage and equip the body of Christ to do Spirit-led deeds of justice and mercy primarily on Oklahoma City's Eastside.

RESTORE ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS, MO

Restore St. Louis (RSL) seeks to manifest the love of Christ in places labeled "blighted" and to people deemed "undesirable" in our city. Workday gathers willing volunteers from local churches, colleges, small businesses and every place in between to provide basic home repairs and rich relationship for the poor and vulnerable. Whether it's a skilled plumbing job to install a walk-in shower or a simple job of pulling weeds, RSL strives to provide servant hands and personal connections for "the least of these" in our neighborhood. Groups that participate with Restore St. Louis will serve through Workday, the community outreach arm of New City Fellowship. Workday equips, encourages and engages volunteers in Spirit-led deeds of justice and mercy. Participation with Workday may also look like building a ramp for a shut-in homeowner, sitting and



laughing with a senior living alone, turning a jump rope for a kiddo during a summer Bible club, or teaching a newly arrived refugee vocabulary for a supermarket excursion.

NORTHEAST

ASCENSION PCA

FORREST HILLS-QUEENS, NY

Ascension Church is a PCA church launched in 2006 in Central Queens. Forest Hills and its immediate surrounding communities are home to peoples from 117 different nations (2000 Census). It has become the community to live in and raise a family for people from the four corners of the globe. One of Ascension's core values is promoting and building their community based in Central Queens. They endeavor to be a resource and support for the families and businesses, desiring their community to flourish in every way. Ascension is in need of teams to come assist us with their VBS and Easterfest, their community wide Easter outreach. Easterfest, service opportunities are from Good Friday through Monday- to help advertise the event to passersby, help set up the event, talk to folks during the event and assist with breakdown and cleanup.

From left:
Restore St. Louis-
St.Louis, MO
Mission Mullin-
Mullins, SC.
Rebuilding Hope-
Dalton, GA

Clockwise from
top left:
Mission Mullins-
Mullins, SC,
Hope for the
Inner City-
Chattanooga,
TN, Mission
Mullins, Mullins,
SC, RV Ministry,
Brevard, NC



CITY CHURCH BALTIMORE, MD

City Church Presbyterian is a church plant in the historic Roland Park district of Baltimore city that loves to bring outside missions groups into the city to serve with them and their diverse partners. Youth groups that come have had the opportunity to work with inner city students from low socio-economic areas, clean up urban forests and green spaces, sort and deliver food for the poor, and clean apartments for mixed income housing projects. All the projects are in partnership with local non-profits.

CHRIST THE KING BOSTON, MA

Within a one-mile radius of the neighborhoods of Jamaica Plain and Roxbury lies one of the most racially, culturally, ethnically, and socio-economically diverse neighborhoods in all of Boston. Through sports camps Christ the King Church is building lasting relationships with children and their parents. Their desire is to run sports camps throughout the Summer with a different mission team coming to assist each week. During the Sports Camps they will run various sports activities, such as kickball, soccer, basketball, etc. Mission teams will also help church members teach short Bible lessons, serve food, reach out to the community, and pray for the neighborhood. CTK's desire is to see the families they minister to join in Sunday worship, where they may continue to hear the Gospel, be encouraged to worship the living God with His people and help minister to others in their community.

EMBRACE DOVER, DE

Embrace is a program of the non-profit Arise (Grace PCA-Dover), a ministry focused on helping families affected by disability discover hope, overcome barriers, move forward. Embrace serves families who have individuals with disabilities through various programs. The programs Embrace offers are monthly respite, day camp, after school programs, and sensory friendly/accessible events. Embrace Family Camp is a week long camp devoted solely to loving families affected by disability while at the same time giving them an opportunity to get away from day to day life to be encouraged, refreshed, and loved in a safe environment for their family member(s) with disabilities. Embrace Family camp

provides opportunities for parents to, kids to be loved, parents to be encouraged and refreshed. Teams participating with Embrace will assist the Embrace staff to run Embrace Family Camp which is currently one week in the Summer.

GRACE PCA MERIDIAN HILLS, MD

Grace Meridian Hill exists for the holistic renewal of our neighborhood—called to love our neighbors, compelled by God's transforming grace. Every year the church has a Fall Retreat to which they invite visitors and members for three days and two nights in a beautiful and relaxing environment in order to have fellowship and learn together about a certain topic. Families are encouraged to attend and childcare has been provided by paid childcare providers as well as by rotating volunteers out of the Retreat activities. Grace Meridian Hill's desire is to have structured activities and lessons provided by a short term mission team. This way, children can be engaged in a more structured and guided experience through play and bible learning. It will also provide a better opportunity for parents and visitors to focus on learning and relaxing in community with one another.

HOPE FOR AC ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

Hope for Atlantic City is the Christian Community Development ministry of New City Fellowship. Hope for AC engages, invests in and empowers their neighbors to restore dignity and bring economic stability to their community for the glory of God through Jesus Christ. Summer Urban Ministry Teams (UMT's) will assist New City Fellowship with evangelism and development efforts of select Atlantic City neighborhoods. This is a great opportunity for teams to develop a vision for racial reconciliation and ministry to the poor that can be replicated once they return home.

SERVE THE CITY BALTIMORE, MD

City Church Presbyterian is a church plant in the historic Roland Park district of Baltimore city. Although a smaller congregation they love to bring outside missions groups into the city to serve with them and their diverse partners. Youth groups work with inner city students from low socioeconomic areas, clean up urban forests and green spaces, sort and deliver food for the

poor, and clean apartments for mixed income housing projects. All the projects are in partnership with local non-profits and organizations.

NORTHWEST

SACRED ROAD
WHITE SWAN, WA

The goal of Sacred Road Ministries is to be a unified and growing community of believers who have a passion for God, for each other, and for the lost, and who are prepared and equipped to serve the Lord by ministering in the community of Native America and the world. The Sacred Road team reaches out to the community through: Hope Fellowship church services; children's ministry, youth ministry; Kingdom Kids after-school program; a variety of acts of service and mercy; recruiting, hosting and organizing one week service teams, etc. Approximately 75% of the children we work with have fetal alcohol syndrome or other conditions related to their mothers doing drugs while pregnant. Many of the children are neglected and/or abused in a variety of ways. Most teens in White Swan would be considered "at risk". Thirty percent of the teens in White Swan are technically homeless. The dropout rate in 6th grade and up is approximately 65%. The concepts of marriage, parenting, and family are almost non-existent. Short-term teams serve with Sacred Road staff and Hope Fellowship church members to bring the hope of the gospel to a hurting Native American Community.

SOUTHEAST

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN MISSION
HAYWOOD CO., NC

After twenty years of providing students with unique and exciting mission trips, CM2's focus is now extended to the whole family. CM2's desire is to create a missions experience that will stretch participants mentally, physically, and spiritually. Groups will work with a variety of non-profit ministry partners and churches as they bring the love of Christ in





both word and deed to one of the most impoverished regions in North Carolina.

COMMON GROUND **MONTGOMERY, AL**

The mission of CGM is to glorify God by being instrumental in redeeming impoverished and under-resourced communities through spiritual and community development. While many organizations are actively involved through various initiatives and programs in serving our communities, Common Ground Montgomery is seeking to implement a strategy that fosters long-term transformation in a distinctively Christian way, that is incarnational and holistic in nature. Ministry is to the whole person, both

physically and spiritually. To do this, Common Ground seeks to address the needs of a community: spiritual, physical, health-care, economic, housing, educational, and recreational. Short-term teams will assist Common Ground through participating with their housing ministry, after school tutoring program, sports camps, and VBS.

DISASTER RESPONSE WAREHOUSE **ROME, GA**

The purpose of this facility is two-fold. First, to support the relief efforts of the PCA by marshaling critically needed resources, supplied by God's people, to communities in desperate need which have been affected by natural disasters and man-induced calamities. Second, providing a place for pre-event training to help the PCA be prepared for the certain coming disaster events. Groups that participate at The MNA Disaster Response Warehouse will assist staff receiving, sorting, and packing flood buckets. Groups will also assist the DR Warehouse manager with whatever projects are necessary to maintain this facility.

IMPACT WV **FAIRMONT, WV**

Impact WV is an exciting and rewarding outreach ministry, designed to encourage and equip individuals with no missions experience or to challenge those who have done it for years. It is well suited for high school & middle school groups, college students, families with children and all adult teams. The outreach ministry is set in and around Fairmont, WV which is in the heart of West VA's 'coal country'. This is a unique culture that will inspire and reward everyone open to investing in it. Teams partner with Christ Community Church (PCA) in Fairmont WV as they serve together in both Word and deed. Groups will assist Christ Community and the Impact WV staff as they focus on serving the widow, orphan and others in need. Scope of work includes home repair, building handicap decks and ramps, painting, and yard cleanup. Work may also include nursing home visitation, serving in the kitchen, leading Vacation Bible School (VBS) and sports clinics.



Clockwise from top
left: *Mission
Broadmore, Jackson,
MS, Sacred Road-
White Swan, WA,
Sheds of Hope-
Panama City, FL*



DALTON, GA



BREVARD, NC

RIDGE HAVEN

HOPE FOR HATTIESBURG
HATTIESBURG, MS

The Hattiesburg metro area is home to about 150,000 residents with almost thirty percent of the population living below the poverty line. In 2005 the damage from Hurricane Katrina brought unbelievable opportunities for First Presbyterian Church to move outside of their church building to incarnate the love of Christ in tangible ways. Hope for Hattiesburg exists to build close relationships with residents of East Hattiesburg where mutual dignity builds trust and where the Gospel is proclaimed through word and deed. Through a partnership with Ebenezer Baptist Church groups will fellowship, learn, and serve residents with painting, minor home repairs, etc...

HOPE FOR THE INNER CITY
CHATTANOOGA, TN

Join with Hope for the Inner City (HFIC), New City Fellowship to assist in the evangelism and development of urban neighborhoods in Chattanooga. The purpose of Hope is to bring Hope to families residing in extremely hopeless. Group will develop a vision for racial reconciliation, cross-cultural urban ministry, mercy and development ministry among the poor, and joy in worship in the heart of Chattanooga TN. Groups will see lessons lived out through sweat evangelism, live in the community, and labor to revitalize it. Participants will be filled through relevant daily devotionals, joy filled worship, and engaging speakers. Each participant will be required to share their faith through Bible clubs and at ministry day.

HOPE HOLLOW
CANTON, MS

Hope Hollow's mission is to provide a place where children & young adults with special needs may enjoy the independence, fellowship and adventure that a camp experience provides as they share Jesus' love with others. As a year-round camp for children and young adults with special needs and disabilities, Hope Hollow is always in search for buddies for their campers. That is where short-term missionaries come in. Groups will have the opportunity to develop long-lasting friendships through various activities such as arts & crafts, music, dance, horse rides, water activities, gardening, and much more!

MISSION BROADMORE
JACKSON, MS

Mission to Broadmore is an extension of the vision and ministry of Redeemer Church, PCA. They promote community development and personal growth through buying and renovating homes, overseeing a community garden, and initiating various outreach activities focused on building relationships within our neighborhood. Foundational to all of this is a desire to share the love of Christ in word and deed. Groups will participate with construction work on several home renovation projects, working with the children in the community, prayer walking, and assisting with set up their urban school.

MISSION MULLINS
MULLINS, SC

Mullins, a town of roughly 5,000 people located in the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina, has suffered recently from the loss of industry and high unemployment. Many of its residents, as well as many others in surrounding communities, are still struggling to recover from the devastation of hurricane Matthew (2016) and Florence (2018). Mission Mullins is a ministry of Mullins Presbyterian Church which is designed to share Christ's love with those who are hurting. Groups will participate with: minor home repairs, light painting, yard work, debris removal, mold remediation, small construction, etc...

REBUILDING HOPE
DALTON, GA

Grace Presbyterian Church developed a vision for reaching Dalton and surrounding areas by bringing in mission teams to work in the local community. We began hosting mission teams in the summer of 2007 and the ministry has been growing steadily ever since. Rebuilding Hope hosts teams throughout the year. Work includes repairing and building homes for the elderly, handicapped, and destitute. High-skill and low-skill groups are needed to help with the ongoing projects.

RIDGE HAVEN

BREVARD, NC

Ridge Haven Conference and Retreat Center provides mission projects for individuals, churches, presbyteries, men's groups, and women's groups. Work includes tree clearing, landscaping, trail improvements, and general cabin maintenance.

STREETS MINISTRY

MEMPHIS, TN

The mission of Streets Ministries is to serve impoverished youth in the Memphis metropolitan area by unconditionally representing the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed in such a way that underserved adolescents have the opportunity to see, hear, and respond to the Good News of the Gospel, and to be empowered to live a life of obedience to God. Streets touches the lives of hundreds of young people each week through education, mentoring, and recreation. As groups assist the Streets staff with these endeavors they will be exposed to community development, mercy ministry, and issues in urban ministry.

ST. ROCH

NEW ORLEANS, LA

Years after the largest natural disaster to hit the US devastated New Orleans, the need for relief continues to be great. Housing and education require reform and hurting families need spiritual care and comfort. Through their relationship with various ministry partners in the city, St. Roch is diligent about supporting works of development at the community and individual level. Groups participating with St. Roch will learn about community development from their staff, assisting in whatever their particular needs happen to be at the time.

SOUTHWEST

FOR THE NATIONS

DALLAS, TX

The mission of For the Nations Refugee Outreach is to provide educational and acculturation services that help meet the practical needs of refugees and to share with



HAYWOOD CO, NC

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN MISSION



them the gospel of Jesus Christ. For the Nations serves refugees from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. There are more than 80,000 refugees and special immigrants being resettled to the United States each year, and Dallas currently hosts more than 200,000 refugees. Many refugees are coming from non-Christian backgrounds, but most are very opened to receiving practical aid, and are seeking a message of hope, peace, and good news. Through mission trips with For the Nations, volunteer teams add greatly to our ministry and to the quality of our services by providing more individualized attention, helping immigrants develop relationships with Americans, and showing love through service to some of the most needy people in our midst. Volunteers will help with educational programs to adults and children, acculturation services, and with sharing the gospel in word and in deed. Teams will learn compassion as they meet people who have experienced pain and suffering, and they will experience joy as they take part in sharing the good news of the gospel and the love of Christ with some of the newest residents to our country.

BARRIO NUEVO **PHOENIX, AZ**

New City Phoenix is an intentional multicultural and community development nonprofit that is embedded in an under resourced neighborhood in South Phoenix. Their passion is to see their community go from being marginalized to becoming healthier. NCP is part of the Presbyterian Church in America which works in

association with other church and nonprofits in the city. Their desire is to bring Biblical truth in a wholistic fashion into our neighborhood to see lives transformed. Groups participating with NCP will work with local partners to provide tutoring and mentoring of youth. Other activities include painting, yard work, and lite home repair under the supervision of NCP staff. These tasks are another way NCP builds bridges for the gospel as they serve individuals and families that are under-resourced.

CANADA

AMAZING GRACE **LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA**

Amazing Grace Community Church is a church plant in Lethbridge, Lethbridge a city just a 1½ hr north of Montana and due east of the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Canada. A city of 85,000 that is known for its beautiful sunshine, yet many people live in the darkness. Lethbridge a city that once was called "Deathbridge" for its high rate per capita of suicides in all of Canada is a broken city in need of the gospel. Groups will help with Kid's Summer Camps, sports camps, assist with local outreach and worship service, as well as to assist the church in its work with the homeless.

For more detailed descriptions of each work including scope of work, daily schedule, meals, lodging, etc... please go to mnashortterm.org or call 404-386-4586



COME AND SEE. GO AND DO.

By Santo Garafalo

I have led six short-term missions trips and have been receiving missions teams in Atlantic City, New Jersey since 2010. As I write this, I am currently on a short term mission trip as part of a small team coming along side of a young church plant.

It is a wonderful thing to see the gospel preached to inner city children. It's a joy to see low income folks given a hand-up and some sorely needed encouragement. And it's truly a blessing to witness folks of different ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds simply sharing a meal, a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on.

These are some of the incredible things you get to be a part of when you go on a short term mission trip. And if I've seen it once I've seen it a hundred times, those who come on the trip are often surprised to find that while they came to bless the church plant and city they have been sent to minister to, they are the ones who walk away challenged and renewed by the gospel of Jesus - proclaimed and lived out in the community.

I have witnessed first hand how the Lord uses short-term trips to grow His people in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to disciple them in missions and urban ministry.

Pam Hess, the missions coordinator of Step of Faith Ministry in Brick, NJ shared this testimony at NCF of AC's 10th anniversary celebration this past April. Pam said, "One of the highlights of our numerous mission trips to Atlantic City happened 6 years ago when some of our team members were so impressed at what was happening in Atlantic City, (they were being taught how to do



mission work in the inner city and how to understand the people and how to bridge the community to the church) that they asked Step of faith if we could start something like that in our home town of Brick, NJ. We said, 'yes.' And we were able to start the Maple Leaf Tutoring Program in the community of Maple Leaf which is a low-income community right here in our back yard."

For the past six years we've been able to pour into the kids ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade. We provide homework help every week, we provide a meal, and once a month we do a Bible Club for all the ages. We've watched kids come to Christ, we've seen families connect with the church, we see hope coming out of this community. We've had returning students now in college coming back and speaking into the lives of the younger kids saying, 'you need to listen to these guys. They really do care. They really do love you.' All of that is because of what's happening down in Atlantic City. While it's difficulty to plant a church in an area like Atlantic City, the spiritual fruit has poured over into Brick Town and we are so excited to be a part of that."

When you read the Gospels you can't help but notice that Jesus discipled the twelve on the field. In other words, He taught them the truth of the gospel, how to pray, how to live a kingdom-centered life and how to serve and worship while on the mission field. I believe that's one of the reasons short term trips have such an impact on those who participate in them. It's an intensive week or two of not merely filling heads with Biblical knowledge but learning the truths of God's Word while sharing the love of Christ in word and deed with the community.

I personally have used Short term mission trips to help build a culture of understanding and respect for folks of different ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds. I've used them as a training ground for team building and learning to exercise spiritual gifts and natural talents. I've used them to train teens and adults on how to share the gospel. And of course I've used them to expose my team to Bible believing, gospel centered churches that strive to make the Bible's teaching on serving the poor a priority.

While serving Jesus on the front lines of gospel ministry in the community can try your faith, it can also strengthen and grow your faith. It puts you in situations where you're completely dependent on God to show up and cause your ministry of the gospel to bear fruit. I could say a lot more about how effective short term missions are in fostering growth, fellowship and worship in the lives of God's people but I'll close with this testimony of a teen who served with us a number of years ago:

"I gotta say this is probably the greatest missions trip I've ever been on because we got to see God work first hand. And whether we're from different countries, different backgrounds or from the same city or just different areas, we were all united by Christ."

Santo Garafalo is the church planting pastor of New City Fellowship of Atlantic City, NJ.

“

I have witnessed first hand how the Lord uses short-term trips to grow His people in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to disciple them in missions and urban ministry.

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Next Steps



1

Contact an MNA ShortTerm Specialist who will talk you through options to help you narrow your options. Please email cmoore@pcanet.org or call 404-386-4586

2

You will be directed to our ministry partners. These ministry leaders will provide greater details and help with logistics to get your team to their ministry destination.

3

Begin recruiting and communicating with your church through informational gatherings. Once your team is established you may want to meet 2-4 times prior to departure.



INTERNSHIPS

Spring Break- RUF students from the University of Washington, Western Washington University, Stanford, UC Berkeley, and UCLA.

WHITE SWAN, WA

SACRED ROAD



MY PLAN. GOD'S PLANS.

By Sarah Niemitz

I had a plan. It was good- Kingdom oriented even- but it got all messed up.

From eighth grade on I was going to be an RUF (Reformed University Fellowship) intern - for life. I know, it's only two years. But I had a plan - two year internship, followed by staff position, followed by forever.

I never had another plan. Seriously. I picked my college based on this RUF internship. I chose classes and extra-curricular activities around my RUF schedule. I even took a day long aptitude test that confirmed my ideal career was, essentially, being an RUF intern.

Then Katrina hit the gulf coast my junior year of college, and that spring my RUF took a mission trip to help roof houses in Biloxi Mississippi. That same summer I decided to join a group of 15 crazy college kids, like myself, who wanted to volunteer at Lagniappe Presbyterian Church, drink water from aluminum cans, and help rebuild the coast. I never left the compound because my glamorous job was running the tool shed. I literally checked out hammers, cleaned paint brushes, and drove a fork lift. That fall I headed back for my senior year of college, studied to become an RUF intern....and then in the middle of my internship interview I decided to go back to the Mississippi Gulf coast and work full time at Lagniappe Presbyterian Church. I had officially abandoned the plan and, as you recall, I had no back up but God used that "detour" to redirect my heart in three important ways.

First, he taught me that Jesus was the hero, not me. I was a put together person with an "appropriate" need for Jesus. I had a theological ascent to my total depravity, God's sovereignty,

and the sufficiency of grace. But honestly, I had just been so darn good at life up to this point that I offered others a lot of me and not a lot of Jesus. God began dismantling that at Lagniappe. I tipped over a fork lift with \$10,000 worth of sheetrock; I hurt people's feelings and I forgot the promotional materials for a huge fundraising trip out of town. This could be a long and deeply personal list, but I'll spare you. Long story short - Jesus showed me that He was both theologically and pragmatically the hero.

Second, he taught me that His kingdom is upside down. I grew up attending an affluent church, school, and university. In general, I was accustomed to being a resource person. Whether experience, money, or time I was the "giver" and others were the "receivers." But then we built a ramp for an elderly woman's FEMA trailer, and she started having me and a few other interns over for dinner every Monday night. If you do the math, she quickly outpaced me in the "financial sacrifice" category, but it was more than that. Mrs. Inez offered me community and familiarity in a



town that was not my home. She showed me that whether God has given me a trailer, a home, or a mansion I can invite others in. To this day my family hosts friends on Friday nights for the most casual, crazy evening of kids, conversation, and food. It is not glamorous, but I think Mrs. Inez would like it.

Third, God taught me that He loves His church and wants to use her in this upside down kingdom. If you are part of a local church body you already know this - the church (big C and little c) is a mess. It is full of sinners, literally FULL of them, and it is easy to look for a more efficient way to accomplish kingdom work somewhere (sometimes anywhere) outside of the church. And believe me, our non-profit friends are important - this is nothing against them - but God is still interested in using His church too! During my time at Lagniappe I helped to host a lot of church group from large churches around the country. God also grew in me a passion to help equip those churches (or one of those churches) to do missions and outreach a little differently. I was not the expert; I read books by the experts. My passion was to share what God was teaching me

about his upside down kingdom - where Jesus is the hero and the poor are at the center - and help an affluent church engage well.

Today I live in Huntsville Alabama, where I worked for six years as the Community Development Director for a large church called Southwood Presbyterian. I am married to a wonderful man and together we are raising four little kids. God is continuing to teach us the same lessons - He is the Hero, His kingdom is upside down, and His bride the Church matters in this kingdom. We are different church members, neighbors, spouses, and parents today because of the things we started learning at Lagniappe Presbyterian Church, and for that God gets all the glory.

Many of our ShortTerm Mission opportunities utilize Summer interns to help fulfill their mission and vision for ministry. If you are interested in finding out more about how you might serve through a ShortTerm Missions Internship contact Curt Moore at cmoore@pcanet.org or Sherry Lanier at slanier@pcanet.org.



Sacred Road, White Swan, WA





RESOURCES

ON MISSION
DEVOTIONS FOR YOUR
SHORT-TERM TRIP

A missions trip provides unique opportunities to experience God’s grace in ways that we often miss during our day-to-day routines. Over time, however, these spiritual lessons tend to be forgotten as the memories of the trip fade. On Mission is an expanded daily devotional guide, designed to help you make the most of your experience by: spiritually preparing for your trip, staying connected to Jesus each day, and reflecting on what God has taught you and finding new ways to stay missionally engaged after you return home.

Mission trip leaders, youth pastors, and pastors will want to use this devotional to guide mission trip participants, provide for in-depth learning together, and spark lifelong change. Each of the ten daily devotionals features a bible passage from Christ’s life and ministry, an article to help the reader understand the spiritual lessons of the passage, and journaling exercises to help connect what they are learning with events and lessons experienced on the trip. On Mission is applicable to a broad range of missions trips and suitable for audiences from high school students to adults.

On Mission is designed to be a comprehensive spiritual resource for your short-term trip. At the heart of On Mission are ten daily devotionals specifically written for individuals and teams participating in short-term mission work. But On Mission also contains material to help you prepare for and debrief after your trip, travel features to give you a place to record the details and memories of your adventure, additional ideas for devotionals and journaling, and lots of extra pages to let you capture your experiences and conversations with God.

"Patric Knaak's On Mission is a wonderful resource not only in helping short-term missionaries prepare, reflect, and debrief their short-term missions experience but to draw closer to our Lord Jesus Christ."

Lloyd Kim

"I highly recommend this new book that provides devotions for short-term missionaries while on their mission. It includes methods of debriefing after returning home with studies to assist them to continue in mission while at home."

John E. Kyle

"Accessible and helpfully formatted, On Mission realistically identifies the challenges of mission teams, especially cross-cultural ones. Through looking at a number of stories and incidents from the life of Jesus, it focuses on applying the transforming good news about Jesus to the heart rather than simply offering skills or techniques. It also provides important encouragement for debriefing, including helpful material on how to tell your story. The final sections ensure that readers are encouraged to think about how to develop as world Christians rather than just seeing the trip as a self-contained event. I hope this short book is widely circulated, and I can see its first users/readers becoming the best publicists."

Cassells Morrell



Barrio
Nuevo

PHOENIX, AZ



RECIPROCAL BLESSINGS

HOW ONE CHURCH CONTINUES TO BENEFIT AND
BE A BLESSING TO THE COMMUNITY THEY SERVE

By David Temples



Why are we sending a mission team back to Dalton, GA? The question was not intended as a criticism. In fact, I was expecting to be asked it at some point. It was the spring of 2014, and we were preparing to return for our fourth summer mission trip to Dalton. We had told our church that we would send a team there to learn how to do missions better in a local context, and then see what would be transferable to our church and location. But the more we went, the more we experienced the value of building a long-term relationship with ministries in a different location that reach people we don't ordinarily reach.



“
So why do we keep going back? We go back because this trip is accessible, affordable, practical, cross-cultural, and transferable.
”

“

We have gained the confidence to hold backyard Bible clubs in Dothan, built wheelchair ramps, and assisted with a major renovation of a home that will be used as a transition home for girls aging out of foster care.

“

The two ministries we work with in Dalton are Rebuilding Hope Ministries and Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA). During the day our team assists Rebuilding Hope in meeting people's needs through construction-related projects. These are always well-organized and tailored to the skills of our team. In the evenings, we assist Grace PCA with their outreach to the local Hispanic Community by hosting backyard Bible clubs.

So, why do we keep going back? We go back because this trip is accessible, affordable, practical, cross-cultural, and transferable. Here's what I mean. Dalton, GA, is about a five-hour drive from where we live in Dothan, AL (no passport required). That makes it very accessible, which allows some of our folks who cannot take a full week off work to go for part of the week and then return home early for work. This also helps the trip be more affordable than many others. The cost of \$150 covers three meals a day and a bed in a nice bunkhouse located on the church's property. The only other money someone might need is for meals traveling to and from Dalton.

The experience we've gained assisting Rebuilding Hope Ministries has been very practical for us. Jim Boyd, who has developed this ministry, focuses on "meeting the physical needs of hurting people in order to gain the opportunity to share the gospel." He does a great job keeping these two ideas connected (serving and sharing). He does this by encouraging our volunteers to take time to get to know those we help. Jim is also very thoughtful about who and how he helps, and is a great resource for anyone who desires to develop or improve their mercy ministry.

Our experience assisting Grace PCA has also been practical. Over the years we have developed good, flexible approaches to backyard Bible clubs. Pablo Ayllon, Grace's Associate Pastor for

Spanish-speaking Ministries, has also helped us gain important insights into the Hispanic community. And the combination of a high percentage of Hispanics in the Dalton area (over 40%), Grace's bi-lingual worship service, and our outreach to the Hispanic community provides us with a tangible cross-cultural experience.

As a smaller church, we are not able to duplicate the ministries we serve with in Dalton. But we have found much of the experience we've gained in outreach and construction to be transferable to our church and location. We have gained the confidence to hold backyard Bible clubs in Dothan, built wheelchair ramps, and assisted with a major renovation of a home that will be used as a transition home for girls aging out of foster care.

We are planning on returning to Dalton for our 10th time in 2020. Each year the team dynamics, job sites, and backyard Bible club attendees are different—so even though we go to the same location, no two years are the same. What will be the same, though, will be the relationships. We will see many people we know and enjoy serving with. We will continue to learn and be challenged. And we will continue to find ways to have this trip enhance our ability to serve others in the Dothan, AL, area. I'm looking forward to seeing how God will use this next trip for his glory—in both Dalton and Dothan!

David Temples is the pastor of Westwood Presbyterian Church in Dothan, AL. David grew up in the Florida Panhandle; attended the University of Florida and then served as an infantry and reconnaissance officer in the United States Marine Corps. During this time he also met his wife, Patricia, who served in the Navy as a nurse. After their military service, David and Patricia moved to the Orlando, FL, area while he earned his Master of Divinity degree from Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS).



All photos:
Rebuilding Hope
Ministries, Dalton,
Ga



MOBILIZING AND
EQUIPPING
THE CHURCH
TO SERVE



**MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA
SHORT-TERM MISSIONS**



FINDING YOUR PLACE



SHAPED BY SERVICE

*HOW PARTICIPATION WITH SHORT-TERM
MISSIONS HELPED SHAPE A FULL-TIME
CALL TO MINISTRY*

By John Franklin

From the outside looking in, the trajectory of my life looks rather straight forward. I grew up in a ministry family in the PCA. My parents worked in youth ministry in the PCA for nearly 30 years and now serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators. You could say that the PCA and a life of full-time vocational ministry is in my blood. My grandfather, Ed Robeson, was one of the concerned Presbyterians who helped in the forming of the PCA in 1973. He then served as the first full-time administrator at Ridge Haven. On the other side, my paternal grandparents, Dean and Edith Franklin, served as missionaries to the West Indies for 50 years.

For crying out loud! I majored in Christian Ministry at Bryan College. How could I possibly not know that God was calling me to ministry? Well, that's a conversation for another time. That said, a call to ministry is no more a genetic predisposition than it is determined by an undergraduate degree. No, it is a calling from God. Did he use my families love for ministry and the PCA as a significant influence in that calling? Absolutely! We serve a mighty God who strategically piece-meals our lives in a sovereign way that only he can explain. He used my family, my PCA bloodline, my sin struggles, my sanctification, my undergraduate degree, my friends and mentors, as a means of continually confirming my call to ministry. When you combine all of these beautiful and very ugly aspects of life... voilà! You get (rather God does) a PCA pastor with an undeniable call to the Gospel ministry.

So, what's my point? Throughout my life, God needed to shape me, to mold me, and to sanctify my desires as he continued to prepare me for ordination. He did that through many pieces in my life. One of those significant pieces was



short-term mission trips. I can honestly say that I am a PCA pastor today in large part because of my exposure to short-term missions during my growing up years. You see, in middle school and high school my posse was my youth group. We did everything together, we studied the Bible, laughed, played, figured out strange high school relationships, watched movies, played ultimate frisbee in the dark, hung out, enjoyed countless beach trips, laughed some more, and even went on many mission trips together.

In fact, from age 10 until the summer where I started seminary at RTS in Charlotte, I was involved in both international and domestic mission trips including, but not limited to, West Virginia, Belize, Ecuador, Iowa, Minnesota, and Mississippi. If you want to know the nuts and bolts of how to run an effective short-term trip just ask our fearless leader (my dad, Keith "the count" Franklin) how he did it.

I learned so much through these trips. You need to understand that I have the handy man skills of a duck. God's given me many abilities, but construction is most certainly not at the top of the list. And yet, I'll say it again. I learned a lot through these trips. I learned how to shingle a roof, which means I learned how to use a nail gun. I learned how to hammer nails, shovel dirt, cut grass with a machete, pour concrete, lay a flat roof with cinder blocks and rebar, frame a house, paint, shovel lots more dirt, and to always measure twice and cut once.



On a deeper level, it was through these trips that the Lord taught me much about myself and how he was going to use me for His work. It was through short-term missions that the Lord showed me that I actually had teaching gifts. He showed me how to serve the least of these. He taught me how to be gummy flexible and put the needs of others before myself. It was through short-term missions that, for the first time, the Lord truly gave me a global perspective of His kingdom.

There are few things more beautiful in this world than being able to worship the triune God with brothers and sisters with whom you can hardly even communicate due to the language barrier. Through these events I found that my love for the global church only further increased my love for the local Church. He opened my eyes to see that His bride was bigger than my own backyard. Through these trips, I was given the opportunity to be taught what servant leadership actually looks

like as I was equipped for the work of the ministry (Phil. 4:12) as well as by sharing the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude1.3). I was reminded time and time again that the mission field is anywhere a Christian lives daily life, but it was through short-term trips that I was emboldened with zeal to be involved in evangelism and to strike up Gospel conversations with complete strangers. Short-term missions was a key ingredient the Lord used in my formative years to give me a Kingdom perspective as He shaped my soul in preparation for a life of ministry in the local church.

John Franklin is the Associate Pastor at Olivet Presbyterian Church in McConnells, SC. While growing up in a PCA ministry family, John was blessed to have a wonderful front-row seat in seeing the joys that come with serving the people of God in a vocational setting. John graduated from RTS in May of 2018 with two masters degrees: a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Christian Counseling.



Dr. Carl Ellis speaking at the eighth annual Big Event in Orlando.

The Florida Deacon's Fellowship

The Florida Deacon's Fellowship is a ministry of The Central Florida Presbytery and was created to engage, encourage, and equip diaconates to fulfill their calling joyfully and effectively.

To find out how you might start a deacon's fellowship in your presbytery go to mnashortterm.org and navigate to the Resource page.



RUF Summer Conference- Students participating in recovery efforts from Hurricane Michael in Panama City

MNA SHEDS OF HOPE

“
We aren't bringing
Jesus where He is not.
We are going where He
already is and seeking
to join Him in what
He's already doing.
”

**CHURCH PLANTING
AND REVITALIZATION**
*THE GOSPEL FOR THE LOST
AND FOUND*
By David Eides

FINDING YOUR PLACE



God is always working. A dear friend of mine is fond of reminding me of this ever present reality. Often when we think of short term missions, we think of working for God in another place. We think we will go somewhere, spend a week, and see what God will do through us. But just as often we hear stories of how God has worked in those who have gone. We hear how God surprised team members by working in them through going to the other place. From these two perspectives a debate often emerges. Which is it? Is God working through us? Is God working in us? Is it both? I believe the answer is “yes and even more.” God is always working. He works through us, in spite of us, in us, and bigger than us through the short term missions endeavor. Sometimes He will let us see this bigger view.

For the past 25 years, short term missions teams have been working in Fairmont, West Virginia. Over that span, thousands of adults, teens, grandparents, children, and entire families have spent their week working for God. They have repaired homes, conducted Bible clubs, and visited nursing homes. They have brought the hope of the Gospel in word and deed. They have been the presence of Jesus as the essence of pure religion in caring for orphans and widows in their affliction. For 25 years, God has worked through them.

At the same time, God has worked in them. Some thought they were coming to “help the poor”. Instead God humbled them, showing them their own poverty of a different sort. Some returned to their churches and caught the vision to see with the eyes of Jesus and love those so easily overlooked in the margins of their own communities. Through nightly large group worship, through building lasting friendships with other churches, and to the surprise of many, through those they thought they were coming to serve, God has worked in the short terms team members in life changing ways.

So we’ve settled the debate, right? At least in Fairmont, we’ve seen God working through us, in spite of us, and in us. Yet the question is still asked. Is there any lasting value in short term missions? The answer is “yes”, because our big God is always working bigger than us. He’s pulled back the

curtain and given us the blessing of seeing just a little more of this in Fairmont. Let me try and give you window into what we’ve seen.

To see through the window, we first need to look at the frame. The window into God’s bigger work is framed on two sides by two commands of Jesus and on the other two by two promises of Jesus. Jesus commands us to “go and make disciples” and to “let our light shine before men.” We are to be present and practice the priorities of Jesus, speaking the Gospel and relieving human suffering. But we don’t do these things in our own strength or confidence. We go with the two promises of Jesus. Jesus said, “I will build My church” and “I am with you always.” We go recognizing that we need the presence and power of Jesus working on us in our own weakness. We aren’t bringing Jesus where He is not. We are going where He already is and seeking to join Him in what He’s already doing.

So, as we look through the window we see people bringing the presence of Christ while also receiving His presence already there. But this is often seen as a series of snapshots. When we view short term missions this way, we neglect the key component that changes our vision from a series of still life pictures into the dynamic reality of the bigger work God is doing. That key component that expands our view is time.



When we add the dimension of time, we see that Jesus is using short term missions to do something bigger than work through us or in us. He is building His church.

If we look at one life, one team, and one week, we may not see much. But what happens when that one life is impacted by one team for one week for many years? What happens when one church interacts with the same community for multiple summers? Bonds of love form. Churches continue that relationship long distance throughout the year. Over time, Jesus uses the faithful short term presence of churches to bring together a church in the community being served, while He also strengthens the bonds in the churches that come. Looking through the 25 year window, this is the bigger work that is happening through short term missions in Fairmont. In large measure through the presence of Jesus working through short term missions, an intentional church planting work is beginning in Fairmont in 2020. Jesus is keeping His promise. He is building His church. He’s working through the faithful presence of repeat short term missions teams.

Having served in Fairmont throughout the summers of 1998-2006, from 2015 -2019, and into this next phase of church planting, I’ve had the blessing of seeing the value of short term

missions over time. Short term missions in Fairmont allows us to see our God is always working and Jesus always keeps His promises. He is building His church among the orphans and widows, and among the least of these my brethren. Through short term missions He continues to invite the poor, crippled, lame and blind to His banquet, and all involved are being blessed.

Do you have trouble seeing God working in short term missions? A key to overcoming this struggle is to literally “give it time.” Seek a community in which to invest. Become what we affectionately call in Fairmont a “repeat offender” in that place. Ask to work with the same family or on the same street. Take time to invest in the people. The relationships over time are vital. Keep contact throughout the year. Jesus is faithful. He’ll do a work through you, in spite of you, in you, and bigger than you, all in His perfect time.

To learn more about ways you can partner with Dayspring Community Church in Fairmont, contact David Eades at (919) 675-7270 or via email at colossians334@gmail.com.



- ATLANTIC CITY
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- BREVARD
- CANTON
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Arklie Hooten

MNA Disaster Response
and ShortTerm Director

“God Can Use You”

My pastor, with a ruling elder in tow, showed up at my business in the wee hours one frigid winter morning as I was operating a crane to load equipment. I was surprised and confused at the same time, wondering if there had been an accident in my family, if something was wrong. What would compel men to track me down in 20° weather?

Thankfully, nothing was wrong! The Session had been praying and made a decision to approach me about increasing my service to the church. I wondered what I could offer, not being theologically trained I understood that God only used people in missions that are experts...those who underwent specialized training. And besides, I had a business to run! What more could I do? What I learned during ensuing discussions was that God had orchestrated and given me a lifetime of experiences which uniquely equipped me to serve Him! I learned that I somehow could be useful, which was a great surprise! Wow!

The common thread throughout the collection of stories is that God has equipped you to serve others, to use the unique gifts He has given you for Kingdom expansion, to ‘find the lost and to love well the found’. **You** are the



person that the Lord has equipped for such a time as this; He is calling you to join Him in this important work!

Looking back on the 30 plus years I have been involved in short term missions, I now believe it is the secret plutonium that propels the advancement of the Kingdom in ways like no other method, save the teaching, preaching and hearing of the Word. Now, I simply call this service to the King ‘Evident Grace’ or ‘Labor of Love’! Our team has identified and mobilized in excess of 160,000 PCA folks to places of service in the US and Canada.

I am thankful that my Elders rolled out early one morning and tracked me down; the result of their faithful prayers and actions have been amazing. If you are a Pastor, Elder, Deacon, Mission Committee member, ministry leader, mentor to others, etc., I invite you to prayerfully consider how you can facilitate the movement of God’s people, those in your care, to places of Kingdom service.

As many have said in the preceding stories, they thought they were going to ‘help’ someone when what actually happened was that they themselves were humbled and strengthened and changed. A light came on and when they returned home they reordered priorities in their own lives, and the result was that their own communities were strengthened and the Gospel went forth in powerful ways.

If you are a church planter or a leader of a PCA-connected mercy ministry feeling overwhelmed because the need is great and resources are seemingly scarce, please be in touch with us; we are here to help, you don’t need to reinvent the wheel. We can help you launch a short-term destination for your ministry, a powerful catalyst to strengthen your mission.

Arklie Hooten is the MNA Disaster Response and ShortTerm Director. He and his wife Catheryn have three adult children. A Motor City native, Arklie calls East Tennessee, Home.





MNA SHORT-TERM
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