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## Summer Family Reunion

Part 7 – When We Go (2)

Dr. Travis Brawner

We are going on Part 2 of *When We Go*. We're talking about missions. Ted led in last week and the week before talking about The Great Commission – going and making disciples and how we are called as followers of Jesus, to go and make disciples. Last week we talked about some specific missions. As a matter of fact, we have a group as we speak in Mombasa, Kenya. If you don't know where that is, it's right on the eastern coast of Africa. They are there doing some service projects through Manna Worldwide at a school and feeding center there. So far, they have had great safety and success in the things that they are doing.

It's fun hearing back from Ted about the ministry that takes place. Marriage and family is in our DNA as a church. And there are other missionaries that are there with him at that place and the way that our people are getting to pour into the marriages and the families of the missionaries that are doing God work fulltime in other countries, it's pretty neat to see the way that God is using you, Woodland Hills, to the ends of the earth. So, continue to pray for them. We are grateful for what is going on and what they are doing there and for their safe return this week.

Today, I want to walk you through some things with our missions here at Woodland Hills Family Church. The first thing I want to share with you is something you have heard before at some point most likely, if not in Starting Point, then through one of the messages. Our top line budget at Woodland Hills is 90% of the previous year's giving. Jim Sedlacek is a former elder. He has gone to be with the Lord now and he helped put that in place. As most organizations and companies will project with here was income from previous years, here's the pattern, and next year, we are going to budget for this amount. Whereas here, with the 90% rule, we're retroactively budgeting off of what previous years have been. What that does is create margin and margin is a wonderful thing, isn't it. It has helped us to do so many things that we didn't expect that we would get to do.

Then, from that 90%, 13% of all that comes into Woodland Hills Family Church goes to missions. That's the top line number for missions at Woodland Hills. That goes to our ongoing support, ministries that we support on a monthly basis, and also because of margin that we create in that budget, allows us to give one-time gifts and supports and do other things in ministry that we wouldn't be able to otherwise. That is just kind of how we budget as far as missions go.

Now, I want to give you a few of our guiding principles for missions at Woodland Hills and some strategies to go along with that because we need guidelines if we are going to be as purposeful, efficient, and effective as we can be. Here are the basics of our guiding principles at Woodland Hills with missions. First of all, we balance our mission support geographically through local, national, and international. Local, so that we don't overlook needs that are right in front of us, right beneath our nose. National because we live in this country and feel like we have an easier time and can and should reach those within our country. And then international because we are called to go to the ends of the earth.

Now, the needs that are right in front of us, I want to be clear this is not benevolence. We have our benevolence fund which is a separate fund that meets the physical needs of those in our church family here at Woodland Hills. You've heard about that before that we meet needs with electric bills and sometimes rent, sometimes medical bills. Other things, for whatever reason, circumstances have come up and people in your church family need help. That's a separate deal.

We're talking about local ministry when we talk about local, national, and international outside of our church. Now, as far as local goes, a few of those for example is Care for Kids. Care For Kids is a ministry in town that meets the physical needs of students in Stone and Taney Counties. There are 14 school districts within the two counties and Care for Kids provides funds so that teachers, administrators, counselors, and others within the school system can see a child with a need – a coat, a backpack, maybe food, maybe health care or dental care – because they are the ones that are going to see the needs directly with those kids. They have finances, they have resources available through Care for Kids that just meet the need.

So, you participate in that Woodland Hills, and it is, as a matter of fact, the single largest recipient of funds from missions from Woodland Hills and you should know that once again, this month... It's every July that after an entire year of setting back funds for this check, you just sent a check for \$60,000.00 to Care for Kids to meet those needs. That's why you hear, week in and week out, "Thank you for your generosity." You're going to hear several others today that I hope really encourage you as we say thank you for your generosity. It meets many needs. You're going to hear some of those today.

Other local ministries – we disciple educators and youth in our area. Ministries that are involved in crisis pregnancy centers, and also homeless ministries. Those are just some examples of the local ministry that you support.

National – there are ministries that are involved in college discipleship, prison ministry, pastor crisis ministry. Many of you may remember Jimmy Dodd. believe he is going to be here again. He is the leader of PastorServe and helps support pastors in crisis in their lives, in their ministry, because we know that can be a stressful thing, and we want them to continue to do the Lord's work.

Also, Native American Ministry. We support ministry that goes to different tribes across the nation, discipling and ministering to young people within different Native American tribes. That's our national ministry in a nutshell.

Then we have international. We are going to talk about some of these today, specifically. We talked about some of them a little bit last week. With that, then we have strategies for approaching ministry within missions.

You also know that scripture is our primary source of truth here at Woodland Hills. So, when we are devising any kind of strategy, we are going to look to our primary source of truth as to how we should carry out ministry through missions.

Let's look at Matthew 25: 37-40 – **37 “Then the righteous will answer him, This is Jesus, at the final judgment, speaking to the righteous, those who have been judged righteous. ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’**

**40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’**

There is one of our strategies, one of our guiding principles – the least of these. We know the golden rule, right, in Matthew 7 – do unto others as you would have them do unto you. What we read in this final judgment passage is Jesus saying, “Do unto others as you would do unto me.” He says, “Any of these that you did not do these things for, you didn't not do for me.” As he is judging the unrighteous.

**James 1: 27 – 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

We're seeing another population here that were being directed to that really pared with the Matthew 25 final judgment. We're really reading about marginalized people. When we think marginalized, we think kind of on the outskirts, right? Kind of outside of society. They can be marginalized in many ways. Often times when we think marginalized, we think of material poverty. And that is a type of poverty, but as we are considering marginalized people and those that we need to be serving in missions, we have to understand there are lots of different types of poverty, not just material poverty, that is a thing of course. You can see it; it's easy. There are those that can't get access to food and shelter and clothing and protection and basic health care. That's one type of poverty.

There is also relational poverty – those that truly are lonely that have been outcast for one reason or another – because of something they've done or even sometimes just because of who they are. There is emotional poverty – those that rarely get to experience joy. The situation I think of most is the human trafficking scene and that world and the darkness that lives in that world. There are many others, but often times those that are caught in that world are suffering from emotional poverty.

And probably the most important of all is spiritual poverty – those who have not heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ted gave us some numbers last week of those who have not heard the gospel of Christ. Some don't have access to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, and that is why we go. And that is why spiritual poverty is the one we're most concerned about. That is why Matthew 28: 19, the Great Commission is so important in our strategy. **Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing**

***them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*** In other words, this is the umbrella under which all of the other strategies sit because we can give someone food, we can give them shelter, we can give them health care, we can give them any number of things, but if we are not addressing the eternal need and spiritual security, then we've missed the point. So, everything that we do, everything thing that we support is clothed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is the most important.

Another one of our core values that fits into the strategies with missions is the five purposes, which are the five purposes for you as an individual follower of Christ and also for us as a church. They are worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, evangelism. This really is the lens through which we see the missions work. We try to stay balanced in the same way we stay geographically balanced, we try to stay balanced in the five purposes.

Some will say and some have said that we, as a church..., Again, we've got a group in Kenya, we support ministries all around the world, and some say, "How is it that you can send someone to Kenya when we've got need right down the road?" The answer to that is two-fold. That's why we balance local, national, and international. We are meeting the needs of those within our communities. The other is if we, as a church, address all of local need before moving on to national and international, we would never leave this community. Can you see that there is so much need, so many types of poverty in our community that it is overwhelming when you think about it, isn't it? When you think we are going to meet all this need before we move on outside of our community and then to the ends of the earth as we are told to do in scripture, then we would never leave this community.

The neat thing about that is here comes another core value as we follow the rule do for one what you can't do for all. We can't meet all of those different poverty needs within our community, but we can meet some of them, and so we do. Another neat thing about that is that we, as Woodland Hills, are a church in Branson, Missouri. We are a church in our community. Something that we talked about last week is that we participate in missions around the world, including in our community. How do we do that? As an individual, you are involved with Woodland Hills Family Church, your local church body. In several different ways, you participate in missions through Woodland Hills. And with that, we work with other local churches, the Big C church, the global church, the global followers of Jesus, in order to serve all nations. So, it's neat when you think about the other churches in our community and the ministries that they support, the missions that they serve. They are not the same as our list. They are going to be different and that is a wonderful thing. Because if every church served the same list of missionaries, then there would those that are unserved. There would be people groups, there would be cultures where needs are unmet. That is the strategy with which we carry out our missions at Woodland Hills.

Now, I'll give you a couple of numbers. First, is that we support 14 ministries on a monthly ongoing basis. That is a relatively short list, a relatively small number of ministries. Many churches you'll see may have on the order of 100 or more, depending on the size of the church, ministries or missionaries that they support. There are two reasons that we have a relatively short list. One is we go big with our support of our missionaries. Our monthly giving, our baseline is \$1,000.00 a month, whereas many churches might give \$75, \$100.00 a month to a missionary. We are at \$1,000.00 and there are some that are more than that, depending on the organization. The other reason is we don't want a list so long that we can't have relationship with those that we're supporting and those that we are helping serve. If we can't, it's just a check and a newsletter. We don't want a check and a newsletter.

We want to know what's going on in your family, we want to know when your family is in crisis, either financially, relationally. We want to pour into that. We want to help you through that. We don't want to just send a check and get a newsletter. We want to truly partner with you in your ministry that you are doing. So, we have fewer, and we're able to go bigger, and we're not stretched too thin. We don't want to be a mile wide and an inch deep.

In addition to our roster of ongoing support, because of that margin that is budgeted, we are able to do some one-time gifts. We do several of them as needs come up. One of them that you've heard about recently is Convoy of Hope. Now, Convoy of Hope is a Christian disaster relief ministry that when you get up in the morning and you see the news feed about a disaster that took place last night and you're just learning about it, Convoy of Hope is already on their way there. They are based out of Springfield and when you wake up and see that news feed, don't you often times wonder if there is something you can do? You see those that are hurting and those that have suffered loss and you want to know how you can help? That's why we, as a church, realize that by the next Sunday, if we decided to get some people together, throw some people in a truck, send them to wherever this natural disaster was and try to serve, first of all, we wouldn't know what the need is or how to carry that out. But with Convoy of Hope, we often send a 20-to-25-thousand-dollar check, so we are funding that truck that is on the way to the disaster. We are grateful for Convoy of Hope because we, Woodland Hills, get to go without going. Again, another way that you're giving, and your generosity is used in the ministries at Woodland Hills.

A few years ago, we took on some missionaries that are in Fiji on our ongoing support, our ongoing roster. You may be thinking the same thing that I was thinking because I didn't know much about Fiji and when I think of Fiji, I think of tropical paradise, right? As a matter of fact, when I was thinking I need to learn more about Fiji. So, on my Google Search, Fiji – A country in the south pacific is an archipelago of more than 300 islands. It's famed for rugged landscapes, palm lined beaches and coral reefs, with clear lagoons. ""Here, my Lord, send me." When you read that description and you think of Fiji, you may think of a post card that looks something like this. And it fits the description. It's like, "Fiji, alright, we're supporting missions in Fiji. This is what Fiji is. We're talking about poverty, right?"

Here in Branson, we have post cards too. They look a little bit more like this though. A little more hillbilly, but it's us, isn't it? Attractions and shows and outdoor adventures and all kinds of different things. This is more like our postcard. As you look at this, you realize also that there are millions of people that come to Branson every year. And for the millions of people that come to Branson, this is what Branson is. It's a place to go and have fun, right? East a funnel cake or whatever it is that you do in Branson.

Ray Pitman is one of the missionaries that's in Fiji. When we were talking about this issue of Fiji being this tropical paradise, Ray said, "Travis, you've got to remember there are two sides to every postcard." What does he mean by that? This is what the back side of the postcard looks like. It's not so flashy. It's going to likely have an address on there from the people that are there. You're going to read about what is going on there. Let's be honest, sometimes the back side of the post card is pretty ugly. As those that live and work in the community of Branson where many travel here and they see that flashy redneck post card, that's what they think. You and I know that you don't have to take too many turns off of the strip to see the many types of poverty that we have all around us.

As a matter of fact, you don't have to leave the strip or any attraction, you can just see it in the eyes of those that live and work in the community even in the attractions. That struck a chord with me because as we see a lot of tourists, we have our post cards and we realize the back side of the post card. So, when we think of places like Fiji, we realize there's a back side of the post card at Fiji and anywhere else that may seem like a neat place to be, a neat place to live, a neat place to visit.

The Pitmans live there and they minister to the local communities, which are largely Hindu and they work through the schools doing tutoring programs and ministering to young kids with after school tutoring programs. The neat thing about the Pitmans is that in this community where the schools they are going into is largely Hindu, right across the street from the Hindu temple. They get to go into this school and proclaim the name of Jesus Christ. They get to feed into the spiritual poverty of these young people that may have never even heard the name of Christ. They can learn the need that they have in Christ and the salvation that they can receive through him.

They also have Oasis Farms that they serve the physical needs of some of the residents there, teaching them certain farming methods, all under the umbrella of preaching the gospel of Christ, making sure they know 1 Peter 5:3, the reason for the hope that is them and the reason they want to serve these people.

Now, I want to talk to you a little bit about the ways that we engage missions on different levels and basically different types of missions that we do. You've heard about a couple of them and that is our ongoing roster, our ongoing support. After that, we have vision trips that we occasionally assist financially in people going on, and then we have short-term trips.

Let's talk about each of those. With our ongoing support. As we provide support to the people that are in these places, doing ministry, they know the culture, they know the communities, they know the best way to communicate, they know the heart of the people that are there. So, when we give, we have relationship with them and we know what's going on, but we're not going to micromanage the ministry that they are doing.

One of those examples is the Trueloves, Austin and Kaelee. Y'all may remember a few years ago, we sent them from within our church. They are in Percy Haiti. This is Austin and Kaelee and their seven kids. Percy is the hometown that Austin grew up in. He was a child of missionary parents, so they have gone there to live and to minister there. Austin and Kaelee know the culture, they know the community and we don't. Many of you are like me. You're from the Ozarks. I grew up in the sticks of Taney County. I know the people and the community here. We know different things about it like catching crawdads in the creek is a spiritual discipline. Various things about our community. They know their community that way, so we want them to pour into those people and reach those people the best that they can because they are going to be able to be more effective.

Another missionary that we support through Project Hope, an organization out of Springfield, Missouri, that Travis and Tammy Stearns work with. Travis and Tammy are originally from Southwest Missouri, and they felt a calling to go about 11 years ago and live in Nicaragua. They had gone on a short-term trip there and were drawn to move and live there.

Their passion is for the dump in Managua Nicaragua, the capitol city of Nicaragua. The first time that Tammy visited there, she saw this scene and you can see why she would be drawn to that because of the need that is there.

As you drive... The drive back there... This is the back end of the dump where the trucks come in and dump the refuse. In the drive back there, you see houses lining the dump. Why would anyone live in a dump? First of all, houses being sticks and tarps and boards and anything they can find to make a shelter of some kind. Why would you live there? This is where leftover food, clothing is thrown away or other tools or things that they might be able to use. This is the scene all day. Everyone from the elder to the very young digging through the trash just to survive.

Tammy's heart is especially for young girls that are in this setting. She came to learn that by the time they are 12 years old, most girls in the dump will either be pregnant or in a relationship with an adult male. I say relationship in air quotes for a reason. Her heart is for these young girls to know the value that they have in Christ to learn who they are in him. And to know that is not his desire for what they should be doing and what they should be in and the life that they should have to live. Through discipleship and education, she feeds into these girls and helps raise them up, knowing their value, giving them an education. Some of them even going on to high School. Most young people in the dump are only educated to the third to fifth grade level. Knowing that an education can help raise them up out of that situation. There is even one in college right now. Woodland Hills, that is what you do when you give. You support Tammy and Travis Stearns feeding into these young people. they have so many ministries other than that. There is a prostitution ministry where they help women understand their value and show them God's desire for their life.

Next are vision trips. Those were a couple of our on-going, supported missionaries. We also have vision trips. Vision trips are different from short-term trips in that we would consider that almost like a summertime, a two or three month trip where someone may have gone before, and they feel a calling to go back and spend maybe an entire summer or a chapter of their life there. We encourage that because we think that may be for some a step into moving fulltime into missions. So, financially, we do come alongside folks in support in that because we want to encourage that.

Then last are short term trips. First of all, we believe that everyone should take a short term missions trip at some point in their life. It is something that we as a church don't directly support financially for the individual. Again, we are a growing church, we're a large church. We had 2500 people on campus again last week and altogether about 4,000 attend regularly. So practically speaking and financially speaking, we can't send every single person on a short-term trip, but you, as a church, participate in the short term trips by subsidizing things like paying for building materials an medical supplies and things that the short term trips participate in. Which is what most of the short-term trips are going to be doing – service of some kind, evangelizing of some kind.

Why is it that we think everyone should do one? That's because it is good for the edification and the maturity of the believer. If you go on a short-term trip, you will return home changed. It will change you. The first time that you see some of the poverty you didn't know existed, not just material poverty, but all kinds of poverty, you will be changed.

We do believe that short-term trips are a privilege of sorts and the reason being is that more than 99% of people that come back from a short-term mission trip, particularly the first one, say this line, "I was blessed more than those I went to bless." We see the pattern over and over again.

I want to introduce to you another one of our supported ministries – Cross International that is in the Southern peninsula of Haiti. In 2010, there was a large earthquake that hit at the epicenter of a town called Leogane in the south peninsula of Haiti and caused mass destruction and death. Cross International reached out to us through another ministry partner, asking if we would help them in rebuilding one of their schools. They have 18 divine shelter schools across the country of Haiti, and they asked if we would help rebuild one and then provide ongoing support so that school could be sustained.

We did in 2010. Some of you remember. We raised \$100,000.00 and sent it for the construction of it. And to this day, we provide ongoing funds for teacher salaries and for supplies and things for the school. Something that is neat is we discovered that through that, 75% of the students that attend that school, when they get their lunch meal at the school, that is the only meal they will eat that day. So, we said, What about summertime? They have a similar summer schedule to what we have here in the state. We partnered with others to provide a feeding program so those students can still come back to the school and get that meal that they won't miss out on because of ongoing support and what Woodland Hills is doing.

I want to give you a couple of examples of what I mean by you will come back changed or you will be blessed more than those that you went to serve. We went in 2011 to follow up as a church. We took a group to initiate the construction and then in 2012, I got to go with a group to visit and I took our eight-year-old son Jameson with us. You have to look hard, but you might be able to tell which one Jameson is. The thing that struck me about that... Because I'd never been to Haiti. I knew that it was the poorest country in the western hemisphere. I knew there was horrible material poverty. The thing that struck me as we talked about those different kinds of poverty, I would say they suffer from emotional poverty much less than we do. With smiles on their faces, the joy of the Lord that just shown through their countenance, the way that they welcomed, the way that they love. I was blessed by that, realizing that you don't have to have material goods to have emotional health and joy. That was a blessing to me.

So, they were continuing the construction around the school, and they were working on a wall. Jameson, again he was eight at the time, kind of wanders over and is kind of getting in their business. I felt bad because they were trying to work. The local workers are building this wall. I said, "I'm so sorry. I'll get him out of your way." Through translators, they said, "No, no, we want him here." I asked, "Isn't he slowing you down?" In their words, they said, "When a young person in our culture is interested in working, we want to feed into that." I think we've got something to learn from the Haitians. That was a blessing to me because when we're working or doing something, Mom and Dad, and our kids want to help, what do we do? We've got to get it done. The Haitians taught me that this is an opportunity to teach young people how to work, how to do things. That was a blessing to me.

So, we encourage you to go. Every single one of us should go at some point on a short-term trip to begin with. And then for some of you, you'll be changed, and you'll come back. Guess what you are going to want to do. You're going to want to go again. Then for some of you, after you go again, you're going to go again and again and again. You just can't get enough.



We have those people in our church. One of them is Bobbette Lee. Bobbette just recently got back from Nicaragua, and she has been to Nicaragua I think seven or eight times. She's been to various other countries. She and I went to Haiti. No one has a bigger heart for the people of Nicaragua that Bobbette Lee, I can tell you that. She continues to go back. She just got back because, through project hope, she went and worked a couple days with Tammy in the training center, teaching these girls and women. She also participated in a soccer tournament. This is something Project Hope does every year. Soccer, as you can imagine, particularly in those countries, really draws in a crowd if you tell them you're having a soccer tournament. It drew in thousands of people for the soccer tournament. By the way, you, Woodland Hills, provided funds that bought soccer balls for that soccer tournament, through Project Hope. Your giving goes to Project Hope, and we gave extra funds for soccer balls for this soccer tournament. At this soccer tournament with thousands of people, 504 people placed faith in Christ for the first time. You do for one what you can't do for all.

Missions is not a tiered system of Christianity. We don't believe that those who do missions and go on multiple trips and serve, maybe even moving over fulltime, are in some way more saved. It's not that you... As you hear this today, don't hear that you're being shamed into not participating more in overseas missions because we each have a part to play in the ministries of Woodland Hills Family Church.

1 Corinthians 12 takes us there, ***12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.***

If you go on in that passage, we read about what the eye said, "I'm not an ear, so I'm of no worth."

So, we understand that each of us has a part to play, so the question is what role does God have for you to play? Where does God want you?

My good friend, T.R. Lewis says, *"In order to get to where you need to be, you have to be led. In order to be led, you have to be submitted."*

As Christians we often say, "I want to be in the Lord's will for my life. I want to be where the Lord wants me." That's kind of starting at the end if you think about it with what T.R. is saying here. This doesn't just apply to missions. This can be a career change, school choice, moving to another town. Any number of things. "I want to be where the Lord wants me." The question is Are you being led by the Lord? Because in order to be led by the Lord, you have to be submitted to the Lord. So, may we submit to the Lord so that we can be led by the Lord, so we can be where the Lord wants us.

I want to introduce one more missionary couple to you, a family, Chris and Lauren Minor. They serve in Southeast Asia. They are a couple that moved from Branson 10 years ago and felt the call on their life to minister there where it is largely a population of a different religious persuasion. I'm choosing my words carefully because we have to be careful about divulging location and ministry work because as you may know, it can be a dangerous thing if you are going into a foreign land and proclaiming the name of Christ.

That was them when they left (picture) and now here they are. Their family has grown. They are a wonderful couple that felt the leading of the Lord, submitted to the Lord, the Lord led them, and that place is where he wants them. We're grateful for that ministry. Their ministry is training and discipling those who go. So, they are goers who are training goers. Talk about an efficiency of ministry in the Matthew 28: 19 – Go and make disciples... they are making disciples who are making disciples who will make disciples. Making sure to take the Word of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

For you, if that's something you've considered before, it may be daunting, it may be daunting even thinking of going on a short-term trip. Sometimes I ponder what it feels like as a toddler that's walking along, maybe walking where they shouldn't. You go as an adult and pick the baby up. What if we had someone who was four times our size that could do that to us. Wouldn't that be weird? These are the things that go through my head, I'm sorry. It would be weird, right?

But along with that, my wife, Kari, says, "You know what's interesting is when we go somewhere, you put the baby in the pumpkin seat and just take off. That baby's okay with it. Or your toddler, you pick them up and you take them... You may be going to an airport to go somewhere they have no idea of where you're going." But why is that okay for them? It's Because you are with them. God's not going to lead you somewhere to do something and take you like this by the hand. I have this picture in my head. This little girl is looking down. Looks like she's with grandpa. She's not even looking where they're going. She's just going with him. Isn't that what God wants. He's going to lead you and wherever he takes you, he's not going to drop you off and say, "Good luck." He's there with you. On a short-term trip if you go again or you go to stay, Luke 18: 17 says, ***"Truly I say to you whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."***

How is God calling you to be involved? Maybe to give. Again, you're giving goes to so many wonderful things here at Woodland Hills. Calling you to pray. Pray for our missionaries and those that do go. Maybe he's calling you to go or go again or go to stay. Church, wherever God calls you to be, submit to him so that he can lead you so that you will be where he wants you to be and remember, no matter where you are in Branson or around the country or around the world, just remember there are two sides to the postcard wherever you are. There is need. There are marginalized people that need us to go and make disciples of all nations.

Father, we love you and we're grateful for this church and the ministry that's done through it. We're grateful for the generosity of this church so that ministry can be done in ways that it is. We pray for the group in Kenya and for their safe return. For those that decide to go, for those that decide to go again and again, Lord, and for those who decide to go and stay, we pray that you would be with them, and you would help them to serve while taking your gospel to the world.

We love you and we give you praise. In Christ name, everyone agreed and said... Amen.