

**PRAY
GIVE
GO**



**McCurdy Devotionals
August 19-25, 2017**

Day 1 – Saturday, August 19

IN TRAINING

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." - 1 Peter 4:10

Darting into the hair salon, I hoped that the line would not be long so that I could be quickly on my way to continue my errands for the day. I was greeted by a shy young lady who quickly asked me if I preferred a stylist or one that was still in training. This caught me a little off-guard, and as I thought this through for a few seconds, all I could hear in my head was a phrase my husband quips: "the difference between a good haircut and a bad haircut is a matter of two weeks!" I quickly answered that I would like the one in training (which turned out to be the greeter) and I prayed all the way to the chair that I wasn't her first real haircut! The trainer provided her with careful instruction and the haircut was just as I desired! However, as I left, I wondered, how many people had turned this young lady down without giving her a chance? How would I feel if someone hadn't given me a chance many years ago?

Leaving on a mission trip can be a similar experience as we are all in training for what the week holds. While we may have a general idea of what we will be working on, most of the time the projects evolve as the week unfolds. While a few team members may be accomplished in a select skill set, most of us learn by on the job experience – working side by side with team members figuring out the best way to accomplish the task at hand and sharing a lot of laughter along the way. During devotional time each evening, we share what we have worked on during the day – including trials and triumphs. It always amazes me what God can do through our team when we are ready and willing to work for Him.

Day 1 – Saturday, August 19

So how will you use the gifts that God has given to you this day? Since we are all still in training until the day we leave this world, listen to the nudges where God sends you and be bold in your response. It may be going out of your way to help a younger person learn a new skill or help that neighbor down the street who can no longer do for themselves. Each of us has received a gift to serve one another.

PRAYER: Thank you, God, for the people you have called to be your hands and feet for this mission team. Thank you for the gift of community that we will share with those on this team and those we meet along the way, whether it is in an airport, on campus or work site. Open our hearts now to share your love. Amen.

Lori Riddle
Mission Team Lead

Day 2—Sunday, August 20

SERVING IS REWARDING

“I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.” - Jeremiah 17:10 (NIV)

I remember many years ago when I went on work camp for the first time. With me being new to this scene, I was a little anxious and maybe a little nervous also. Wanting to see what this was all about and what was done during the week, I kept an open mind. Although I was serving in other small ways back home, this was much different. I really did not know any of the people that were there to serve. So this took me out of my comfort zone somewhat. I am not a shy person, so I got to know many of the servants during the week. This led to more work camps and other areas to serve, which led to my first mission trip at McCurdy Ministries in Espanola New Mexico.

We have some new members on our 2017 team that have not been to McCurdy before. And for some this is their very first mission trip. Some may be a little anxious or a little nervous as was I. That’s ok and probably normal. Been there, done that. I remember the words of Jesus “Do not be afraid, for I am with you.”

Day 2—Sunday, August 20

We are called to serve because Jesus came to serve. I have found that from serving comes joy and satisfaction. Not only are we the hands and feet of Christ serving others, we are building relationships within our team and with those we serve. Many of my friends have come from serving alongside them. The benefits, which can't be measured, outweigh the sacrifice.

During one of my recent devotions I ran across Jeremiah 17:10. As I read that it gave me pause. I believe we all serve out of gratitude to God for salvation in Jesus and not looking for any rewards. But our God is a gracious God. So therefore it looks like serving is much more rewarding than I thought.

Prayer: Gracious God, I pray for our McCurdy team that we may shine the light Jesus to all those we serve, all those we encounter during our trip and to each other. May our actions and deeds be a witness of your love. I pray for safety during our stay and travels. We trust in the words of Jesus. Amen

Dale Lynde

Day 3 – Monday, August 21

PLANTED BY THE WATER

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” - Jeremiah 17:7-8

I love being around water oceans, lakes, ponds, rivers. I believe this is due to me growing up around the Tuscarawas River and Atwood lake where Ginny and I hung out in the summer. It was quiet and peaceful Ginny and I were just young teenagers in love and we still are in love. But the river is where it began. Come with me for a journey along the Tuscarawas River to my spot. I would fish and take my guns along just to shoot bottles flowing down the river. When I was 12 I would walk or ride my bike and thoughts of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn loomed in my mind. Do you see it just around the bend on the meandering river "my place." it's about a three mile walk through the sandy bottoms of the South-side of New Philadelphia but you can see it now, the island, my island, about a three foot drop off the bank. The rocks had made a narrow bridge crossing over to my island. Wow I haven't been there in years. I remember taking my place on the bank of the island and just sit and listen. I would take my shoes off and put my feet in the cool water and all is well. The walk in the heat of the day is but a fleeting moment now.

Day 3–Monday, August 21

Do you hear it? Listen again water flowing, birds singing and stillness. Your mind can imagine all sorts of things. For instance, I wonder if Indians ever camped near here or settlers came through this area on their way to their promised land. As I sit on the bank my eyes focus on the larger bank across from me and I noticed how big the trees are their roots growing deep within the bank almost as if they are drinking up the fresh water from the river.

My friends I hope at some point on this mission trip you can take a moment to look around and see, hear, and yes soak up all that God has created for us.

Prayer: Precious Jesus in the power of Your Holy Spirit may my spiritual roots find the depth to encounter greater love, stronger faith, and wisdom to go the extra mile. That others will fix their gaze upon my life and see Christ in me. Amen.

Pastor Bob Mathias

Day 4 – Tuesday, August 22

IF YOU WAIT

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

I spent 25 years as an Executive Administrative Assistant with a large retail company and it was a position filled with high expectations, unbearable stress, long hours, working most weekends and dealing with corporate greed, politics and deadlines. When I was offered a retirement package on my 25th anniversary, I felt like I had to take it just to keep my sanity. I didn't know what would happen. I didn't see the offer coming and I had no plans and I felt like I was being forced out. My husband, Dale, had a small sporting goods store in Pickerington and I worried about how we would live without my salary coming in and what I was going to do. But I thought at least the stress wouldn't be eating me up anymore. Little did I know what God had in mind for me.

Day 4–Tuesday, August 22

Two years later, I was working for Hospice, the best job I've ever had and it has become a calling for me. A year later, Dale and I went to the Holy Land, a trip of a lifetime, and we went on our first mission trip to McCurdy. A year after that, we became Sunday School teachers. Two years later, we did a second trip to the Holy Land, became VBS leaders and decked out the Hummer for our first Trunk or Treat. I'm now in my 10th year of service with Hospice. This will be our 12th trip to McCurdy. We've been Sunday School teachers now for 8 years and 5 years as VBS Leaders and this October will be our 5th Trunk or Treat. So many blessings, so much joy since the day I left that job. WOW! Did God have a plan for me or what?!?!

PRAYER: Lord, forgive me for ever doubting what you had planned for my life and thank you for always being there giving me hope. Watch over our Mission Team as we do Your work this week at McCurdy. We are blessed to serve in Your Name. Amen.

Carla Chambers-Lynde

Day 5 – Wednesday, August 23

DIVINE INTERRUPTIONS

“We are hard-pressed on every side, but not crushed; Perplexed, but not in despair; Struck down, but not destroyed.” 2nd Corinthians 4:8-9

I need to confess...I hate interruptions....Like when I am in the middle of mowing the grass, and the one cloud in the sky decides to release all of its moisture, right above my house. I need to stop the mower and wait until the wet grass gets dried up by the sun to resume my chore. Or when I am in the middle of completing a project and I get a phone call from a college just wanting to chit chat for 15 min.

But I think one of my most frustrating interruptions is when the show or movie I am watching on TV is right at the climax and the network decides to air 6 minutes of commercials before showing the ending. How did we manage before DVRs?

These are all minor interruptions. I have also experienced many major interruptions in my life... The loss of a loved one to cancer, another's heart stop beating, a child in intensive care...We all have our lists. For me an interrupted life is never a joy. Just when it seems like every day is a dream...Boom here it comes...

A few weeks ago I read a devotion on interruption that opened my eyes and mind. The writer wondered if Mary thought of Jesus as her great interruption when she received the news that she was to give birth to our Lord and savior.

Day 5 – Wednesday, August 23

The writer also pointed out that Jesus had a few interruptions during his ministry. Many times the disciples offered their doubt-filled questions and faithless feared messages to him. I wonder if at times Jesus just shook his head in prayer, saying, “Really Father, this thing would be moving along so much faster without these 12”. I am confident that Mary, Jesus and all those we read of in Scripture, who were submitted to the leading of the lord, managed interruptions great and small in this way:

They never let their detours move them from **interruptions** to **disruptions**.

I don't know about you, but this is not an easy practice for me. Too often with interruptions I get side tracked and I am prone to complain. I become forgetful of God. I turn my cares every direction except upward. I know that this should not be... I need to keep my eyes, seeking His face, and my God given lips, calling his name. I need to remember that the spirit IN me, becomes the spirit about me, when I lean on God in the heaviest times.

This is when, yes I may be interrupted, but I am not disrupted. I am not disturbed. I am not moved from the Rock!!

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for this beautiful day, and the opportunity to live in a country when we can worship you openly. When interruptions come our way, whether they are big or small, help us to turn our eyes, and lips to you. Thank you for loving us. It is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Jeff Puckett

Day 6—Thursday, August 24

RADIANT FACES

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD.

Exodus 34:29

Several years ago, I had decided to be more intentional about spending time with God in His word. I was so busy with the demands of life. Everything seemed to crowd out the time I needed with the Lord. So I became creative, and found moments throughout my days to spend time with him, even if it was only for a few moments.

One day, while I was teaching early childhood movement and music classes for parents and children, I had an hour in between classes. I decided this was a good time to slip away and read the Bible for a while. I don't recall the verses or the chapter that I read, but I remember leaving that time with a great deal of peace and joy. It just so happened that we had a new family observing the next class I was to teach. We had a wonderful time, and afterwards, the parent remarked how enjoyable the class was, and how during the class, my eyes sparkled and my face was "radiant." Just then, I recalled this verse from Exodus, and God reminded me that spending time with him each day can bring joy not only to me, but can positively impact the lives of those I might encounter that day.

Day 6—Thursday, August 24

Maybe our faces don't shine with radiance each time we spend time in prayer and study with the Lord, but we do see the results in our everyday lives. Maybe we are more patient as we wait in a long line, or we have a kind word for someone who is struggling. Or the Lord will bring to our minds the verse he showed us that very morning, so we might share the message of the love of Christ with someone who needs it. As we go about our work each day, let's take time to be with the Lord, so that through us, God can reach someone who may need his loving touch.

Prayer: O God, we thank you for your love, and for the opportunity to serve you and others. Please remind us to take time with you, so that not only would our faith be strengthened, but that we may be able to strengthen others. In your name we pray, Amen.

Day 7 – Friday, August 25

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5: 14-16

Most of us live a pretty crazy life. We work 10-12 hour work days. We rush home to get to soccer practice, and then we rush home from practice to eat dinner. After dinner, we rush the kids to bed. By the time all the kids are in bed, we are wiped out and we go to bed ourselves, just to do it all over again tomorrow.

Day 7 – Friday, August 25

I was listening to music on the way home from work the other day and a song by Steven Curtis Chapman came on. The song is entitled “More to this Life.” It talks about there being more to this life than living and dying. It got me thinking about the scripture above. We get so busy with life that we sometimes forget why God put us on this earth. The scripture reminds us that we are to be the light of the world.

Wherever we go in this world, on a mission trip or our everyday lives, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ. LARK!! (Live and Reveal the Kingdom!)

PRAYER: Dear Lord,

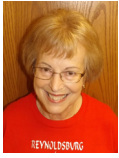
Our lives are so crazy. Forgive us when we forget to be your light in this world. Help us this day to see the opportunities You put before us to be Your hands and feet. In Your name we pray,
Amen.

David Marshall

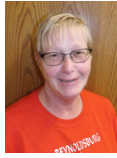


REYNOLDSBURG
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

McCurdy Mission Team 2017



Barb Acker



Barb Wharton



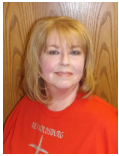
Becky Patterson



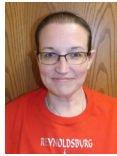
Bill Patterson



Brenda Sharpe



Carla
Chambers-Lynde



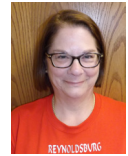
Cathy
Baughman



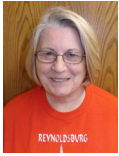
Dale Lynde



Dave Broehm



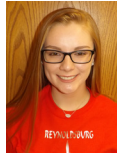
Debbie Broehm



Dorothy Bauman



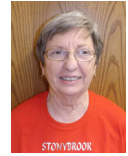
Emily Keener



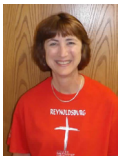
Hannah Carter



Judy Beck



Liz Dillon



Lori Riddle



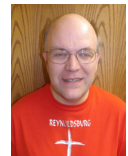
Mark Kline



Martin Adams



Rebecca
Osborne



Robert Andrews



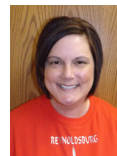
Rudy Sutter



Sheryl Marshall



Speed Dillon



Wendy Carter