



MOST Ministries

Impacting the World for Jesus Christ through Short Term Missions

Answering the Call To Serve: Tanzania

By Heidi Metzger (MOST Ministries Team Member)

Whether you are a “goer” and have been on one or more mission trips or you are a “sender” who supports and helps the mission, answering the call to serve is deeply rewarding.

For my husband, Jim, and me, our listening to God’s calling to be “goers” to Tanzania was an amazing, albeit short process. Looking back, everything seemed to align just right for us, which was a miracle in itself. We were sitting in church at St. Paul’s Lutheran in Hamburg, MI, and saw the announcement in the bulletin that there was a need for a few others for the Eyeglass Clinic in Tanzania just six short weeks away. We looked at each other and said we should consider. Our heads swirled with questions like “do we have time”, “what is the make-up of the team”, “do we have the finances”, “what about Visas”, “are we going for the right reasons”, etc. With prayer and contemplation, we said “let’s go”.

This was our second trip with MOST, and as in the first Eyeglass trip to Guatemala, Tanzania was a truly rewarding experience. To be out of our element and comforts, out of our country, seeing others in need and providing eyeglasses and the ability for others to see better was amazing.

We were blessed to serve with Next Life Foundation in a vocational school they support, that teaches young people carpentry and sewing. The school is located in a very poor area near Mbuguni, Tanzania. In addition to their daily life challenges of limited employment and poverty, these villagers and students face a food shortage due to notable lack of rain for over two years. Before leaving, the team collected donations from our churches so that our host could



purchase lunch and water for the locals – over 800 lunches were served throughout the week.

We saw firsthand the struggle that the students and villagers have. We were happy to serve but it was very challenging at times. One day was very hard, and we had several people with such bad eyes that it was a challenge to find anything that worked for them to see better. The clinic seemed to be going very slow in order to help those with special needs. We turned many people away at the end of the day as we just ran out of time. It was stressful for people who walked miles to the clinic and waited so long only to return the next day or not be seen at all. It was stressful for us because we wanted to help.

At the end of the day, we were hot, dusty, and very tired. We asked ourselves if we were doing enough. Scripture calls us to serve, but we questioned whether we were really doing what we should. Galatians 6:9-10: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for

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at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." However, that day we were weary.

At our devotions that evening, we talked about the challenges of the day. To overcome our weariness, our team took the time to raise each other up, saying something positive about each person on the team and how they contributed to serving those at the clinic. We had true leaders, organizers, supporters, optimists, we had motivators, technicians, those with great compassion, humorists, effective communicators, quiet doers, those that multiplied their energy, and kind and calm teammates. We would not have made it through the day (and week) if it weren't for our entire team's individual talents that together, made an awesome team.

It was then that I realized that Jim and I didn't really "answer the call" to serve. God put this amazing team together. He sent us as the "goers" together in a perfect team where we could serve others and also to support each other. Lin, Kelly, Loretta, Deb, Patti, Jan, Penny, Jim, and I - all were "goers" according to God's plan. Whether a "goer" or a "sender", God has a plan. It was a proper time for us and we seemed to "reap the harvest" just as it said in Galatians 6:9.



MOST Passes 250,000!

By Marty Moro (MOST Ministries Executive Director)

MOST Ministries passed a major milestone in February – 250,000 lives directly impacted! This means that 250,000 people have directly received care from our mission team members at one of our eyeglass clinics, medical clinics, clean water outreach, construction projects, or another type of project designed specifically for the local community. This also means a quarter million people who heard the Gospel in their own language through the local pastor and had the opportunity to connect with the local church!

What about the MOST multiplier – the lives indirectly impacted? Think about the person who receives a pair of eyeglasses, glasses that would have cost a month's salary or more and is now able to see well enough to make a better living. In addition to this person, how many others will benefit from their improved eyesight and income? A spouse? Children? Parents? Extended family? And all of this has the potential to positively impact the local church and community!

This all started in 1989 with a single mission trip to Haiti when Don and Gayle Sommerfeld organized a mission team of fourteen people to rebuild a church that had been damaged by Hurricane Gilbert. Don and Gayle, on seeing the extreme needs of the Haitian people, were inspired to do more. Over the next three years they took eight more teams to Haiti. At that point Gayle decided to leave her job and work full-time on international short-term mission teams, creating MOST Ministries in the process.

The mission team projects in Haiti were varied from the beginning, starting with construction followed by medical & dental and then eventually the first MOST eyeglass clinic in February 1991. With their immediate popularity, eyeglass clinics soon became a focal point for MOST accounting for

about half of our mission team projects in our 34-year history. Over that time MOST has sent 557 teams with 6,515 team members and our eyeglass teams have distributed 160,171 pairs of eyeglasses.

Due to our initial work in Haiti, missionaries in other countries began to hear about MOST. Requests started coming in from more locations and MOST mission efforts expanded to Latvia, Panama, Guatemala, Macao, Ghana... eventually to 52 countries around the world.

In Matthew chapter 28 we read,

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

MOST Ministries has been helping everyday people live out our Lord's Great Commission, sharing the Gospel in word and deed with people in need and directly impacting the lives of over 250,000 people in the process. We are truly blessed!

We are blessed through the hard work and efforts of our staff members, board members, missionary hosts, team leaders, team members, an army of volunteers, and friends who support MOST financially. Thank you all for your role in this ministry!

And all of this is only made possible by the grace of God. He sees us through difficult times. He blesses MOST to be a blessing to so many. He blesses us to be a part of His work by being part of the MOST family. He gives us the opportunity to be His witnesses to the ends of the Earth! Thanks be to God!



2017 Guatemala



2005 Nicaragua



2017 Mexico



2019 Thailand



2002 India

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Gifts can be made online or mailed

For information, contact Kelly Bone at 734-994-7909 or kbone@mostministries.org



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