



# MOST Ministries

*Impacting the World for Jesus Christ through Short Term Missions*

## How My Congregation and Our Mission Teams Have Benefited by Partnering with MOST Ministries

By Pastor Joel Sarrault (MOST Ministries Team & Board Member)

Most congregations seek ways to serve their community as an expression of their faith in Jesus and in grace-filled obedience to our Lord's words in John 13, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done to you." At the congregation where I am privileged to serve (St. John's in Adrian, Michigan) we have grown together by providing meals at the local homeless shelter, supplies for the Care Pregnancy Center, backpacks and school supplies for the area schools with low income families, a scholarship for High School seniors attending college who might not qualify for traditional scholarship funds, books for the Dominican Sisters' Literacy Center, winter coats for a community charity, Operation Christmas Child, food pantry, Kids Against Hunger and others that many of your congregations have also been blessed to be a blessing.

Most of the time Christians grow in their faith and their personal understanding of Jesus Christ when we serve others as Jesus has served us. Several years ago my congregation and I discovered a great ministry that provided us with the opportunity to serve beyond our local and national borders. *Mission Opportunities Short Term or "MOST" as most of us are familiar with!* MOST Ministries has built relationships in the mission fields of over 50 countries and all of them provide a variety of servant-opportunities for congregations like yours and mine to connect with and serve together in exciting and humbling locations. We have been blessed to serve for three years running in the same village of La Joya, Nicaragua and one year at La Paz, Honduras. And as soon as borders safely open up we can't wait to return to both countries. Our team has developed friendships in those villages with the pastors, their families, and their churches. We only bring to the villages what they have specified they need. We're there to serve them not to push an outside agenda. Over the years we've been able to provide water sanitation, health & hygiene lessons, VBS, eyeglass clinics, and Gospel encouragement for brothers and sisters in Christ.



MOST Ministries provides the training, resources, a team leader, and years of experience in on-the-field ministry. They've been great to work with for our teams and have given us direction and support in ways that on our own we probably could not have done. My congregation has been involved as Prayer partners, Senders, and Goers. It's been a marvelous way to involve the entire congregation in a mission that strengthens our ministry, deepens our friendships, and broadens our understanding of the Body of Christ.

I can't encourage pastors and members of congregations enough to prayerfully pursue a MOST Ministries trip!

Pastors, it has been a richly beneficial experience to go on a MOST trip with my members. We get to serve with each other in a way that just isn't possible "at home." We are blessed to create faith-memories that strengthen our congregation and clarify the teachings of Jesus about serving and loving as He has served and loved us. If you are curious about a MOST trip give me a call (517-263-5012). I would love to talk with you and share our experience and help you take the first steps toward a life-enriching servant event.

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# Celebrating 30 Years of MOST Ministries Eyeglass Ministry

By Kaleigh Bone (MOST Ministries Team Administrator & Communication Specialist)

Have you ever been on a MOST Ministries eyeglass team and witnessed someone being able to read a Bible or see their grandchild for the first time? It is a powerful experience. It helps you appreciate your own sight. Or, if you're like me, it makes me appreciate never having to go without glasses in order to read or see things clearly.

In February, MOST Ministries celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its eyeglass ministry. In those 30 years, MOST's mission teams have distributed 152,279 pair of eyeglasses that have provided clear sight to over 153,000 people who would otherwise not be able to afford prescription glasses. In addition to improved vision, everyone who comes to a MOST eyeglass clinic has their eyes opened to the Gospel. In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus read these words of the prophet Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

When I first became involved with MOST Ministries as a volunteer 10 years ago, I had no idea how much impact MOST's eyeglass teams, volunteers, donors of eyeglasses, and financial partners make on the lives of people. MOST eyeglass teams have blessed tens of thousands of lives over the years with the gift of sight *and* the Gospel message which has the power to "set the oppressed free." Eyeglasses distributed on the mission field do more than just improve vision. They also: enable children to see the words on a chalkboard and finish their education; make it possible for grandparents to read to their grandchildren; help fathers find work and hold down jobs; and allow mothers to thread a needle and sew clothes to provide for their families. Our ministry partners (individuals and organizations) who collect and donate the prescription eyeglasses, our volunteers who refurbish the eyeglasses, and our team members who provide vision testing and distribute eyeglasses to those in need are changing peoples' lives!

What better way to serve people while impacting the world for Jesus Christ! One of our hosts in Tanzania wrote, "Every [team] member demonstrated a great love towards the people. The gospel of God was a great lesson to the community...There were two girls who never wanted to discuss God or smile, but after the team arrived, those girls now talk about God and smile at each other." Our host in South Africa wrote, "Some clients [of the eyeglass clinic] have asked how to join the local church. We have made inroads into the community." We are all just a part of God's bigger picture!



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God's "bigger picture" included touching the hearts of Don and Gayle Sommerfeld 30 years ago when they led the first MOST Ministries eyeglass team to Haiti in February 1991. Ever since that first team returned home, MOST's eyeglass ministry has flourished. In the past 30 years, MOST has sent 202 eyeglass teams to serve in 39 countries ranging from major cities in Guatemala to rural parts of Tanzania.

Since my days as a volunteer, I joined the staff of MOST Ministries and currently serve as the Ministry's Team Administrator and Communication Specialist. I have loved the experience of being able to work with our team members, team leaders, volunteers, and international hosts and watch our collective lights shine as we, together, impact lives and share the Gospel. To everyone who has supported MOST's eyeglass ministry during the past 30 years – thank you! You are truly a blessing to MOST and to all of the people around the world who continue to be impacted by your generosity. If you or someone you know may be interested in serving on an eyeglass team (or any of our other short-term mission teams), please contact me by email at: [kaleighb@mostministries.org](mailto:kaleighb@mostministries.org); or by phone at: (734) 994-7909 Ext. 3. I would be thrilled to talk with you!

*"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*



Despite only sending two teams in 2020, MOST Ministries distributed

**911 Eyeglasses**

**72 Water Filters**

We are blessed by everyone who helped our teams impact the lives of

**1,308 People**

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Members of congregations, is the Spirit urging you in a new direction of service perhaps in one of the 50+ locations abroad that MOST serves? You will be challenged and rewarded in this new experience. Whether you can develop a team of 2 or 12, MOST would love to work with you and help you find your sweet spot with a new mission experience. If you would like to speak to some of my team members just call me and I'll put you in touch with some of my super servers!

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

This is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one.

### IN MEMORY OF

Carsten Bjornstad by Susan Crosbie  
 Hope Kappes by Calvin Kappes  
 Curtis List by Janice List  
 John & Sue Vandevusse by Glenn & Rosemary Vandevusse

### IN HONOR OF

Pat Carlson by Charlotte Campbell  
 Don & Gerrie Kirst by Lorrie Kirst  
 Friends in Latvia, Poland, Peru & Nicaragua by Dennis Neumann  
 Karen Heiling by Scott & Patricia Peters  
 Martha Leonard by Robert Leonard  
 Ruth Richert by Greg & Sarah Gorham  
 Dennis & Roxann Leidel by Ruth Barritt  
 MOST Volunteers by Lillian Keller  
 Don & Gayle Sommerfeld by Michael & B.J. Connor  
 Don & Gayle Sommerfeld by Kay Haab  
 Ren & Sandy Hardies 50th Anniversary by Mark & Judy Pflug

Gifts can be made online or mailed.  
 For information, contact Kelly Bone at  
 734-994-7909 or [kbone@mostministries.org](mailto:kbone@mostministries.org)

*Senior Pastor, Joel Sarrault, has been serving Jesus at St. John's Lutheran Church in Adrian, Michigan since 1999. Prior to moving to Adrian with his wife, Dawn, and their two boys, Zachery and Nicholas, Pastor Joel served congregations in Scott City, Missouri and Mt. Forest, Ontario, Canada. He thoroughly enjoys pointing people to Jesus through God's grace, worship, counsel, AMen's men's ministry, classes, involvement in the community, and challenging members to grow up in their baptismal grace. Along with loving to preach and teach, Pastor Joel runs marathons, gardens, fishes, canoes, cooks, reads too much, tutors adults in ESL, and takes pleasure in family time. MOST Ministries is blessed to have Pastor Joel on its Board of Directors.*



Pastor Joel & Dawn Sarrault with members of St. John's in La Joya, Nicaragua presenting a baptismal font to Pastor Marvin Donaïre on their 3rd MOST mission trip.

## Team Members Needed for 2021 Teams:

Tanzania Eyeglass (#2109)	Aug 5-17
Guatemala Eyeglass (#2114)	Aug 28-Sept 4
Thailand Water (#2107)	Oct 6-20
Panama Eyeglass (#2115)	Oct 30-Nov 6

Click the "team info" tab on our website to see the complete 2021 Team Schedule.



## Mission Opportunities Short Term

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 734-994-7909 | [mostministries.org](http://mostministries.org) | [most@mostministries.org](mailto:most@mostministries.org)

