



WHERE LIFE & PURPOSE CONNECT

FALL 2017

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES TO **SERVE** | MESSIAH MISSIONS

This summer was filled with countless mission opportunities stretching across the globe and into local metro areas. All ages had the opportunity to take part and see the profound impact that a few hours of time or multiple days of work can yield, while also generating positive changes and demonstrating God's service to others.



A Messiah team served in Pine Ridge, South Dakota with Re-Member in June.

Messiah's missions have evolved through the years, and this year a group of Messiah members and friends embarked on a new mission to the Pine Ridge Reservation in western South Dakota, with the non-profit organization Re-Member. Kay Schultz, who is a member of the Messiah Missions Team, helped coordinate the mission trip along with Nicole Hultgren, who has been a board member and actively involved with Re-Member since 2006.

"This was my first mission trip to Re-Member and it had a great impact on my life. I see things from a much different perspective and have a growing need to find ways to continue to help those at Pine Ridge," said Kay.

The mission to Re-Member is guided by the aspirations of the Oglala Lakota Indian communities. Re-Member seeks to improve the quality of reservation life through

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Tami Luckhardt, Executive Pastor
Dick Ellis, Pastor of Congregational Care

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Kami Pohl, Director of Community Engagement
Sami Tierney, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

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Inquires and questions can be sent to [sst@messiahchurchmn.org](mailto:ssst@messiahchurchmn.org)

a public safety Servant

BRYAN KOSTER

Being a firefighter takes an array of skills and courage. It is a combination of physical and mental capabilities put into action for the lives of others. These assets, along with a desire to protect and serve others, propelled Bryan Koster to pursue a role with the Plymouth Fire Department over three years ago.

The Plymouth Fire Department has shown its role as a community partner by participating in various community-wide events, including the annual Waffle Breakfast fundraiser, Night to Unite, and other grassroots efforts for citizen awareness.

Bryan, along with his wife Jessica and their three sons, had attended several of these events prior to joining the

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Bryan and Jessica Koster, with their three sons, Landon (9) and Grayson (7) and Paxton (3).

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE | MESSIAH MISSIONS

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relationships, shared resources and volunteer services. Through site visits and cultural immersion, a growing circle of advocates stand in solidarity with the Indian people of Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

The impact of this mission trip resonates with the attendees, months later. The team came home with a fulfillment of being able to make a home for those on the reservation a little bit more comfortable. Messiah's Missions Team was able to help build and assemble bunk beds to be placed in homes where families don't have access to a bed for each family member.

Donations helped fully furnish the bunk beds with sheets, pillows and blankets. Children's books were another impactful item passed along on this trip. With each new bunk bed, 6-8 age-appropriate books were given to the children. Kay recalls how special an Elmo book was, given to a two-year-old boy as he crawled into his new bed. This simple gesture has had a deep effect on many and has transcended into other mission opportunities.

For Nicole, this year was extremely special, as Re-Member has been a calling for her. To see such welcome and acceptance from Messiah Church to organize this mission trip was very gratifying. Nicole has been associated with Re-Member for the past ten years, beginning when her family resided in Michigan.

"I was honored to share details about Re-Member with a small group not long after our move to this area," said Nicole. "It demonstrated how the right moments can come together and it has been a blessing to experience how God is working in us."

Along with attending Re-Member with Messiah Church, Nicole has also embarked on specific youth mission trips with her children. Over the last ten years, her children have seen Nicole dedicate countless hours to help change lives through her Re-Member mission work. She was purposeful in being a part of the youth trips this year as well, to see the impact her children could make.

"It has been a true blessing to support my children as they participate in youth mission trips, and an opportunity for us to work together," said Nicole. "This is a wonderful way to connect with them and God, while serving and caring for others." ●



On the Horizon

Kay and the team continue to look at ways they can partner with others to build and construct more bunk beds. The bed pattern is even being shared with another Messiah mission, Imara International. The Imara organization is looking at how they might incorporate bunk beds into their village construction project for housing accommodations.

"It is so welcoming to see how one mission's work can be shared with another," said Kay. "Our goal in all of these mission projects and opportunities is to help fill the bucket — one drop at a time. There are so many ways we can contribute to these causes — it all counts!"

Messiah's Missions Team is led by 8 individuals that meet once a month to coordinate, brainstorm and explore mission opportunities within Messiah Church. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month — everyone is welcome to attend. Check out the latest Servant Catalog for mission opportunities. Connect with Pastor Tami Luckhardt or a Missions Team member about further interest in mission work.

Your interest and willingness to serve through missions, locally or beyond, is a drop in a bucket that is contributing to positive and impactful change!

a public safety Servant

BRYAN KOSTER

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force. Bryan learned the department was seeking recruits and took an interest in learning more.

"You could say it was ideal timing, as I had recently sold my window-cleaning business and would potentially have the time to pursue being a recruit," said Bryan.



Bryan Koster protects and educates the community as a Plymouth firefighter.

After careful consideration, along with both Bryan and Jessica attending an orientation and learning the recruit training process, Bryan submitted his application.

With faith and patience, the Koster family waited, as the candidate selection process is lengthy. Bryan applied in June and interviews started in the fall. Candidates go through hands-on training with timed courses in full firefighting gear, dummy-drags, crawling exercises, ladder carry and opening hydrant drills. Candidates also

participate in several psychological tests and interviews with the staff and City of Plymouth leaders.

Bryan participated in various training receiving first-hand knowledge in hazardous materials, and tactical and emergency medicine services. The academy training lasted 6 months, with Bryan also participating in the West Metro training academy for further firefighting service training.

"Training and gaining knowledge on the latest procedures is vital for firefighters," said Bryan. "Being knowledgeable and proficient for all scenarios is important and takes a high level of discipline."

For Bryan, the training also required juggling to maintain his work and family schedule. Throughout the training period, Bryan maintained his full-time job in property management, along with being a husband and dad. Through it all, the Koster crew kept a positive outlook, seeing the value of Bryan protecting the community.

Last June, Bryan reached a milestone in his training as a deemed 'Rookie,' allowing his training to be put into action. "I was able to put my training to the test and work as part of the team on various calls we received," he added.

Last fall, Bryan reached his one year mark of training and was sworn in as an official firefighter with his state certification. As a paid on-call firefighter, Bryan is a member of the Plymouth Fire Department, providing innovative fire suppression, technical rescue, hazardous material response and public education programming to residents, businesses and visitors in the City of Plymouth.

The Plymouth Fire Department responds to an array of fire, emergency, traffic crash and medical calls in

"A Public Safety Servant" continued on page 11

Never Too Late to Serve

Helping those without a voice has become a passion and drive for Leslee Jaeger. As an active advocate for women's health issues, Leslee has been on the forefronts serving on several non-profit organizations to actively educate and protect women around the world. Her drive began over ten years ago, when asked to participate in an international medical mission as an Ob-Gyn, assisting a general surgeon in Haiti.

"The timing to attend this mission worked with my family's schedule and I felt that attending a medical mission would accomplish a goal. Little did I know it would be so much more gratifying and lead me to see that there was an even greater need than I realized," said Leslee. "Following this mission trip I knew I needed to step forward and help."

"I learned it is never too late to help make a difference in other's lives. I realized that by becoming an advocate I am able to share my passion."

Leslee believes strongly in demonstrating your faith through various actions or service and is a strong advocate of Messiah Church's profound testament

of being the hands and feet of Christ. After witnessing the life of women in a third-world country, action took place. Leslee was able to see a vivid picture of the lives and health concerns in Haiti and developed a non-profit organization to help address these health needs and generate opportunities for women to create business opportunities for themselves.

Countless missions later, along with developing the non-profit Helping Haiti Work, Leslee has assisted



Helping Haiti Work now includes a sewing program to create much needed menstrual kits.

Haitian women to improve their communities by providing renewable small business loans.

"I learned it is never too late to help make a difference in other's lives. I realized that by becoming an advocate I am able to share my passion," added Leslee, who has served as an Ob-Gyn for the past 26 years.

From one non-profit, Leslee has been exposed to other areas to serve and help in Haiti. In the last two years, a sewing program has been developed to create much needed menstrual health kits, along with education on hygiene and care. Leslee is also a part of a coalition of individuals working in Haiti to develop a cervical cancer screening program.

"One program and cause has led to many other ways to help advocate, educate and provide care to those in Haiti," said Leslee. "The work I am doing in Haiti is profound and is helping me live out my faith in being the hands and feet of Christ."

"Never to Late" continued on page 6

Launch! Finding your Purpose

Messiah has recently created a program designed to help guide individuals towards answering "how God has created you for purpose and prepared you to serve." Seeking to better understand how you were meant to make a difference, consider

attending an upcoming Launch! event. Contact Kami Pohl at kpohl@messiahchurchmn.org or (763) 473-6968 ext. 114 for further information on the next Launch! event.

Never Too Late

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Leslee hasn't been idle state-side either. In the last two years, Leslee, along with several other women from the area, have launched Tapestry Interfaith Women. This group, from all from different faith backgrounds, developed following the Paris terrorist attacks as fear was on the rise. The idea was to bring women together to build interfaith friendships and understanding, leading toward a more peaceful world. The group meets throughout the year, learning about different cultures and backgrounds and working together on local service projects.

The objective of Tapestry is to harness an understanding of various religions and beliefs, with an open dialogue, said Leslee.

"The more people can experience the lives of others and their customs, the more we can develop greater understanding and appreciation for one another," said Leslee. "Tapestry has allowed me to grow and broaden my horizon and develop friendships in a new faith community." ●

love & joy in Serving

When asked why they volunteer for Bloom Early Learning & Child Care, a common theme emerges from responses of Messiah members – love and joy.

Gerry Tucker makes weekly visits to the infant room to help rock, feed and hold the babies. The best parts of volunteering, Gerry says, are getting his "grandpa fix" and being a positive male influence for the children during their days at Bloom. "The smiles I get when they recognize me just make my heart melt."

Puppeteer Melissa Hood comments, "I volunteer at Bloom because I believe in the mission and I believe in the beautiful children who come there to learn and grow. After being with the children and the staff, I always feel so joyful and blessed."

Marty Bradbury makes quilts for the children. (When they move from



Melissa Hood, Kayliana Austin and Allie Hood were honored for their volunteer work at Bloom's Annual Meeting in June. This mother, daughter, granddaughter trio script puppet shows for the Bloom children.

the infant to the toddler room, the children receive a special quilt to be used at nap time and to be used when they move on.) "I love children and I love to quilt," Marty says. "And besides, I believe that we are here to serve others. What a fun way to do that! Bloom is such an important ministry that I am happy to be a part of it, even in a small way."

Gerry, Melissa and Marty were among a small group of people whose volunteer work for the children of Bloom was honored at the center's Annual Meeting in June. Executive Director Melissa Musliner introduced the honorees, emphasizing how important community is to the success of Bloom.

Others recognized included Story Time Matters volunteers Sharon Hegele, Sue Branyon, Dar Whitman, Pattie Jacqua and Pearl Brown; Virtues Puppet Show volunteers Linda Seaton, Allie Hood and Kayliana Austin; Quilts volunteers Joan Thompson and Mickey Ellis; and Santa volunteer Bill Westhoff. Ann Garland was recognized for maintaining immunization records for the program, and Sondra Weinzierl was recognized for conducting staff training.

"The support from Messiah and its members contributes in a major way to the community feel that the families and staff experience at Bloom," says Center Director Mary Olsen. "The children are exposed to the many talents shared with the classrooms by volunteers. The interactions with other positive adults create opportunities for building new social experiences with the children."

This sense of community distinguishes Bloom from other childcare and early learning programs. Before the center opened as Kids' Care Connection in 2000, Messiah Church embraced the idea of loving the children who would be coming through its doors. Mickey Ellis remembers initiating the effort to provide quilts for each child: "A handmade quilt was a visible symbol of the love and commitment from Messiah members, along with their prayers and financial support."

To meet the initial goal of providing a quilt for each child, quilters from the congregation (both experienced and novice) gathered for workdays during which they cut, pieced, and "sandwiched" quilt tops with batting and backing. "Making a quilt is about sharing your love and prayers with whoever will be using it. The group members of the quilting project talked about how much some child would like the colors, the print, or the idea that it was *their* quilt," Mickey recalls.

Proof that the work of volunteers really does have a lasting
"Love & Joy" continued on page 11



Top: Each child receives their own handmade quilt when they move from the infant to the toddler room. Middle: Through puppetry, Bloom kids learn about the importance of being kind, generous, and patient, among other virtues. Bottom: Gerry Tucker makes weekly visits to the infant room to help rock, feed and hold the babies.

Bloom Early Learning & Child Care will hold its annual Planting the Seeds scholarship benefit on Friday, October 6. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and takes place at the Plymouth Creek Center Ballroom.

In addition to raising funds to support the program's ambitious goal of providing scholarship assistance for 50 percent of the children attending the center, the purpose of the gala is to celebrate Bloom's success and to advance its mission and vision.

Bloom, which opened its doors as Kids' Care Connection in 2000, seeks to transform



Emcee Kim Insley, KARE 11 Sunrise co-anchor, will guide guests through the inspirational program on October 6.

the lives of economically disadvantaged families and alleviate the unmet need for early learning and childcare.

To date, 477 children have been served by Bloom, with 208 receiving scholarship assistance totaling over \$1.3 million.

Yet the need to provide quality childcare and education for low-income families in the community

continues to grow: 500 young children remain unserved.

Emcee Kim Insley, KARE 11 Sunrise co-anchor, will guide guests through the inspirational program. The keynote speaker is Frank Forsberg, Senior Vice President of Systems Change and Innovation for the Greater Twin Cities United Way. Forsberg is also chair of the Executive Committee of MinneMinds, a statewide campaign to significantly increase state funding to improve access to quality early childhood care and education in Minnesota. Supported by a broad base of organizations and thought leaders, MinneMinds aims to make the state's youngest children its most pressing priority and most important investment.

The Wayzata High School Y.E.S. Program will be honored as Community Partner of the Year, and Carly Glomstad, aka Carly Valentine, will be recognized as Volunteer of the Year.

The evening also will include dinner, musical entertainment by World Beat Connection (led by Pastor Lyndy Zabel), a Wall of Wine, and Silent Auction for unique experiences and gift baskets.

Tickets for the evening are \$65 each or \$600 for tables of 10 and can be purchased online at www.bloomearlylearning.org or by calling the Bloom office at (763) 449-0600. ●



Faith through Work

Jim Yount believes in putting your best foot forward every day and providing the best possible service to your customers. This is a standard of excellence that Jim lives by. For the past ten years, Jim and his family have been striving to run their company business, Twin Cities Tile & Grout Professionals, with a high level of morals and crystal clear ethics. "We treat our customers with the utmost respect and provide them with the best service possible," said Jim.



With his company business run out of his home, both family and non-family employees are treated with the same amount of respect, with the goal to provide excellent customer service. Jim values each of his employees and the individual talents they bring to the teams. Each employee walks by a cross on their way to the family office each day, and though Jim isn't quoting scripture to his team at weekly staff meetings, he lives out God's

word each day through his actions. Jim's faith is also illustrated and reflected in how his employees treat their customers and the pride they take in their workmanship.

Jim's resume goes back many years to the corporate world before venturing out on his own. He always felt a higher calling and would leave his position to go into seminary. Upon leaving his corporate position, he was asked to write an announcement letter, allowing his team and peers to know of his future goals. "The response to my announcement was very consistent," said Jim. "People wished me well and noted they always knew I was unique through how I handled my work with integrity and high morals. Through all my roles and positions, I have always stayed true to who God made me to be."

"People noted they always knew I was unique through how I handled my work with integrity and high morals. Through all my roles and positions, I have always stayed true to who God made me to be."

Living out his faith is similar to breathing, added Jim. He confidently can identify who he is and doesn't take any blessing for granted. He strives to demonstrate his actions by being loyal, truthful and treating others as he would want to be treated. He is open to sharing his walk of life with his employees, customers and friends, in a humble and friendly manner. Jim is truly a man of faith, through the way he lives and by the way he runs his business — a true blessing to all who encounter and know him. ●

leadership starts with heart

Overcoming tough and challenging obstacles is something Brian Dreibelbis has learned to face head-on and overcome, by leaning into his faith and living it out each day. Brian battled with Type 2 Diabetes as a youth. Through the encouragement of his family and particularly his pastor, Brian was able to find strength to face this grueling obstacle head-on and even provide service to others.

When you walk into Brian's office at the corporate headquarters of Land O' Lakes, there is a large wall hanging with the saying, 'Leadership Starts With Heart'. This is a testament that Brian measures his life work by — both inside and outside of his office. As Land O' Lakes' Senior Director of Supply Chain Human Resources/Labor and Employee Relations, Brian

"By putting people first the way Jesus did, we are making the transition from being a Christian to being a true disciple of Him. Service is a verb that describes action. I want to remain active in serving others in my life, both at the office and around my community."

"It all begins with how we treat people — be it those we manage, advise or lead," said Brian. "How we treat people today will determine how they treat you tomorrow," is a powerful quote that Brian believes in and works to demonstrate to his peers and team.

Even in a large corporate environment, Brian keeps a heart-mind mentality. He actively demonstrates service to his team and wants to continue to create and nourish



"I share the importance of being a ladder holder and not a ladder climber. It is far better to help others and be known as one who values their team than a ladder climber and alone at the top."

a working environment that builds relationships with employees. Brian's acts of service in the workplace mirror how he wants to live his life each day.

"By putting people first the way Jesus did, we are making the transition from being a Christian to being a true disciple of Him. Service is a verb that describes action. I

want to remain active in serving others in my life, both at the office and around my community," Brian said.

Brian actively shares his ways of service as he provides insight and guidance to others, speaking at various colleges through the U.S. as a guest speaker on supervisor training. "I share at each class the importance of being a ladder holder and not a ladder climber in the corporate world. It is far better to help others and be known as one who values their team than a ladder climber and alone at the top."

Even when traveling to various locations for work, Brian takes the time to serve others outside the workplace. When Messiah's Newsletter Editor caught up with Brian he was in Washington D.C., and had just taken a walk, offering a meal and a cup of coffee to two homeless people on the streets of our nation's capitol. The opportunity to serve and treat others with love never escapes Brian, both in his job and through his daily life.

A quote Brian proudly works to live by each day is "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me'" by Erma Bombeck. It is apparent that Brian strives to lead by his heart and faith in all that he does, showing others how to serve through actions and putting people first. ●

a public safety Servant

BRYAN KOSTER

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addition to providing mutual aid to other communities. Plymouth uses a combination of full-time employees and paid on-call firefighters to serve the community.

In addition to fire service, Plymouth firefighters spend hundreds of hours each year providing public safety education in schools, homes and community organizations. Bryan works a combination of hours each month at the firehouse, along with being readily available when on-call. And the training continues, too.

"I am only as good as my last training," he said. "We respond to many different calls. It is important to stay prepared and well-informed."

There is also a special camaraderie Bryan has developed with his fellow firefighters, as they all share the same drive to serve their community and neighbors. "This role is a great way to interact with the community, and though we hate to see emergencies occur, we are ready to respond—day or night." ●



In the fall of 2016, Bryan reached his one year mark of training and was sworn in as an official firefighter with his state certification.

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love & joy in Serving

impact on the children is illuminated by the story of one of the program's first students, who returned as a teen volunteer and happily found that the children still receive handmade quilts. She told Center Director Mary Olsen that she still has her quilt on her bed and loves it!

Mother, daughter and granddaughter trio Melissa Hood, Allie Hood and Kayliana Austin lend their creative talents to scripting puppet shows that help reinforce the virtue of the month introduced in classrooms. Through their puppetry, they teach the Bloom kids about the importance of being kind, generous, and patient, among other virtues. Kayliana, a

nine-year-old Bloom graduate, helps keep the scripts relatable to the young audience. The three perform the shows in the classrooms during the summer months. During the school year, Linda Seaton joins Melissa. "The best part of being a puppet performer," Linda says, "is hearing the children giggle during the show."

Whether members are rocking babies, sharing stories with preschoolers, entertaining toddlers with puppets, or sewing keepsake quilts for every child, Messiah Church keeps Bloom Early Learning & Child Care wrapped in love and joy. The feeling is reciprocal. ●



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

WHERE LIFE & PURPOSE CONNECT

Save the Date

- **Messiah's Open House**
Sunday, September 10, 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. services
- **World Communion Sunday**
Sunday, October 1
Global music featured at both services
- **Bloom's 2017 Annual Scholarship Benefit**
Friday, October 6, 6:30 p.m.
Plymouth Creek Center Ballroom
- **Flu Shot Clinic**
Sunday, October 8, 9:45 a.m.–noon
- **Make a Difference Day**
Saturday, October 28
Save the date to serve!
- **Imara International's Annual Gala**
Sunday, November 5, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West, Plymouth

Fall Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Service Times:

8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
(Live Streamed*)

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
(ASL Interpreted,
Live Stream* coming soon!)

*Streaming Live!

Sick? On vacation? Headed to the lake?
Ball practice? Stormy weather? Join the
8:45 a.m. service delivered Live! to
your mobile device or home computer.
Worship with us, register your attendance,
give an offering, send a prayer request,
and receive the weekly study guide, all in
real time. (And if you missed it on Sunday,
tune in anytime to see the rebroadcasted
service.) See it for yourself at
www.MessiahChurchMN.org/live.

Available Online

You are one click away from being connected
at Messiah. Recorded sermons from
Messiah's Sunday Worship Services and
ATM (All Things Messiah) are available
online at www.MessiahChurchMN.org.