

March, 2020 - Journey Missions Update

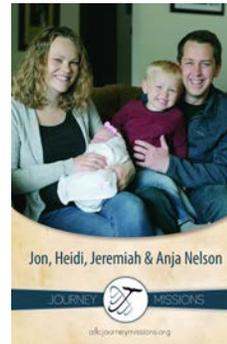
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Family and friends,

This past month we were able to participate with the Free Lutheran Bible College students in a few different settings. The topic of "God's call" was brought up and made me think about the ways God has led and directed me throughout my life.

Several years ago I spent a summer working with a ministry in Israel. About 3 days in, I remember thinking, "What in the world have I gotten myself into?" That day as I was praying, I wrote in my journal asking God to give me "hope." That same evening we went on a hike with some people from the church. I spent most of the time talking with this woman who was so encouraging and challenging me in my relationship with Jesus. Her name was..... Hope. God answered my prayers and confirmed my "call" to be there by literally sending "Hope."



After the summer, I returned to Minneapolis, where I worked at a crisis pregnancy center called City Life Center. Their motto is "A Light of Hope in the darkness."

The following year, I spent the summer in South Africa, working with a friend at a church called Ithemba, which in the Xhosa language means "hope."

When I returned to the US, I served as the children's ministry director at Hope Lutheran Church in North Minneapolis for seven years.

Sometimes God leads in very clear ways. He's given me a word, picture, dream, Bible verse, someone has prophesied over me...it's been a "wow" moment! However, most times, following Jesus has simply meant that an opportunity presented itself and my prayer became, "Lord, if this is not from you, please close this door." Sometimes those doors close and sometimes they stay open. Maybe God is tugging at your heart about an opportunity today...whether that's joining journey missions or maybe it's something completely different...new job? School?whatever steps God's calling you to take, do it!

Our life is a Journey. That means we are faced with decisions daily about continuing to press forward in the direction God is leading. And as we take that next step, God wants us to do it with confidence. That's not always easy, but we can ask God for faith like the centurion, "I believe, Lord help my unbelief." Lately, my prayer has been that I would be so confident about where God's called me, that even when the hard things come I would trust God and His plan, without any regrets, second guesses, or fear of others' opinions.

Let us know how we can be praying with you about your next step.

Continuing to serve Him with you,

The Nelson family (Jon, Heidi, Jeremiah, and Anja)

Ministry Trips

Brazil - January 17 - Feb 1, 2020

Thank you for your prayers as we traveled and worked in Brazil!! We had a great team and partnered with our Brazilian friends as we worked. Thanks be to God for the ministry in Brazil!! To see more photos and updates of what we were involved with please see our [Facebook Page](#).

Next Trips:

- * Nogales, AZ/Mexico - June 19 - 27 - **Trip Closed for Applications**
- * Brazil - July 16 - Aug. 6, 2020 - Student Focused - **Open for Applications**
- * San Antonio - Aug. 20-24, 2020 - Outreach Focused - **Open for Applications**
- * Israel - Nov. 9-20, 2020 - Tour & Outreach Trip - **Trip Closed for Applications**

If you, or your church, have an interest in going on a trip we can walk through the process with you! Reply to this email and let us know!

As we travel, if you'd like to join the trip through photos and updates please join our [AFLC Journey Missions Facebook Group](#). We'd love to have you!

For more information on trips click [HERE!](#)

Short Term Assistants (STAs)

We continue to praise the Lord for the individuals serving as longer-term volunteers. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for all God has in store for them! If you're interested in learning more about the program please click [HERE](#) for more information.

Being an STA is a volunteer position where STAs raise their own funds to minister internationally. If you would like to support the STA program or an individual STA, please click [HERE](#).



Emily Olson is currently serving in Celeya, Mexico working with Pastor Milton Flores.

Emily is continuing to learn Spanish and will be working within the congregation.

Please be in prayer for her as she continues to develop her ministry in Mexico working with the congregation in Celeya.



Casey McLoughlin is seeking to spend some time in the spring and summer in Brazil working with missionary Jonni Sliver at the Miriam Home.

Please pray for her as she continues to prepare and as we seek for one additional person to travel and minister with her.

Giving

Did you know that Journey Missions is only possible because of the generosity of others? We are fortunate to have had individuals, small groups, and congregations who have supported us. Our family is considered to be "missionaries at home" and, as a family and ministry, we are reliant on the financial support of others.



We finished 2019 below our budget but are encouraged by a number of partners who have increased their support this past year. Our prayer request is for additional people and churches to join our support team, and we are always grateful when people bring our family, our ministry and our needs before their church leaders and missions committees.

If you'd like to give, please click [HERE](#) or to the logo to the right.

If you'd like to discuss further the ministry of Journey Missions please let us know, we'd love to talk with you. Thank you for your considerations and thank you to you who are faithfully giving and praying!

Please continue to pray for those who are considering becoming a volunteer or joining a short-term team and praise the Lord for the many lives that are being touched because of your support and the willingness of those who have "gone."

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, joining a short-term team, learning more about Journey Missions, or would like us to come and share with your church or small group, we'd love to hear from you!

For a PDF version of this email please click [HERE](#)

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