

Sent Out With Superlatives

by Paul Borthwick

The other day, I was mulling over the famous “Great Commission” statement of Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20. As I pondered these last words of Jesus, the superlatives simply jumped off the page.

The resurrected Jesus begins by establishing **our platform for outreach: his supreme authority**. “All authority” is his. Our commission into the world is not denominational or local church based. It is not primarily motivated by human need nor by strategic opportunity. We’re sent out by the authority of Jesus. And it’s no small authority; it’s ALL authority – in heaven and on earth.

Knowing that we stand on his authority gives us boldness to speak. It gives us courage because we realize the authority behind it is the power that raised Jesus from the dead. It empowers us to address the pluralistic spirit that proclaims all “truths” are equal and none is absolute. When we go forth in outreach and proclamation to others, we stand on the superlative authority of Jesus.

Jesus goes on to give **the content of our proclamation: ALL that he taught**. As we are

going into the world, we are supposed to teach ALL things that Jesus commanded. We cannot pick our favorite texts at the expense of the tough ones.



Paul Borthwick

Nor can we serve people just the sweet parts of biblical faith, a sort of “Christianity light.”

Our commission is to teach everything that Jesus taught and exemplified. We cannot avoid the stuff about standing strong in the face of hardship, the challenges to take up our cross daily, and the exhortation to forgive the people who have hurt us. We need Jesus’ superlative authority to enable us to teach his superlative truth.

Then Jesus articulates **the destination of our outreach: ALL nations** (or all ethnic groups). We cannot focus just on the people

who look like us or fit into our culturally specific enclave. Jesus wants no one to be left out. His superlative vision is for all the peoples on earth.

With all the diverse ethnicities of the world in mind, our outreach takes us to our neighbors, but Jesus likewise opens our eyes to the Cambodian guy at the supermarket, the gang member on the bus, the Muslim who owns the 7-11, and the physically handicapped person that we might find easy to overlook. Jesus says, “God so loved *the world*, and I want you to love *the world* too.”

The platform of Jesus’ authority stands strong, but teaching “all things” and going to “all nations” seems overwhelming. To keep us from being intimidated by the challenge, Jesus closes with a **superlative promise: “I am with you ALWAYS.”** In other words, Jesus says, “There’s no place you can go that I won’t go with you. I’ll give you the words to speak and the love to share. I’ll be the one empowering your words, and I’m the one who can break through to enlighten peoples’ hearts.”

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A Lesson on Discipleship

by Jon Ritner

As far back as the Garden of Eden, God's heart has always been to spread life. In the same way God commanded Adam and Eve to multiply *physical* life, Jesus commanded His disciples to follow in His footsteps in spreading the good news of *eternal* life. As He commissioned them, Jesus instructed the disciples to have a Personal, Local and Global strategy to their new mission.



Jon Ritner

That strategy is still relevant for us today. In fact, if Jesus had been crucified, buried, and resurrected right here in Williamsburg, the Great Commission of Matthew 28 might read: And Jesus said to them, "You shall be my witnesses both in Williamsburg, and in all Hampton Roads and Richmond, and even to the most remote countries in the world."

The Chapel desires to see every follower of Jesus Christ involved regularly in the process of making disciples personally, locally and globally. We encourage you to take some time to pray as a family about where and with whom the Holy Spirit might be calling you to get involved - personally, locally and globally - in the mission of making disciples. Chapel Missions offers a variety of opportunities for you to

be involved in Global Missions by participating in short term trips, serving on hospitality teams for visiting missionaries, or by becoming financial, prayer, or encouragement partners.

We believe that God has given each person a unique spiritual gift set that He wants to use to make disciples. As you reflect on your gifts in the area of service, hospitality, teaching, administration, or other areas, we hope that you will also see the various Chapel volunteer needs as a way to be a part of the disciple making process in our local community.

Disciple making is nearly always a team effort among a community of God's people. "(Paul) planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth."

— 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6-7



The Moogs

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Our initial perspective on having a part in global missions was that it was too big a job. Where would **we** ever begin? We began to see the answer to that question as we listened to the stories of people we knew who had built relationships across cultural and religious barriers, and then had the joy of sharing Christ with their new friends. The experiences of our friends the Stoddards (Ukraine), the Toupins (Ghana), Chris and Angie (Middle East), and many others touched our hearts and placed

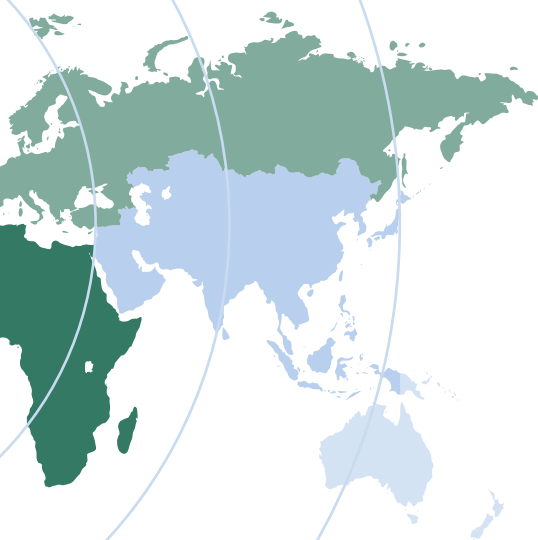
within us a desire not only to serve the Lord—but to participate in the joy of sharing the love of Christ with new friends from other cultures.

God has given our family



Wendy Moog serving the children of Ukraine

several opportunities to serve Him globally in this way. In the last few years both Doug and I have participated individually in Chapel missions trips to Ukraine. Our daughter, Aubrey, has had the life changing experience of serving orphans in Nicaragua. Last summer, Doug and I had the privilege of leading a Chapel short term family and singles trip to Kherson, Ukraine. We observed and experienced relationship building and sharing Jesus first hand. By seeing the Lord work through us in one-on-one connections, He showed us how global missions is simply about



Eddie and Grace Liu entertaining in their home.

one friend meeting another friend wherever he or she is on their spiritual journey. In being willing, God took us and used us to do what we could never have asked or imagined.

Grace & Eddie Liu

GLOBAL & LOCAL MISSIONS

Born in China, Grace and Eddie Liu came to the U.S. as students nearly 40 years ago. In 1987, they opened the Dynasty Chinese Restaurant and met Dick Woodward, our Pastor Emeritus, and many others that they knew to be Christians. As they got to know these folks they wondered, "How is it that these Christians have so much joy? We want to have that." Former members, Bob and Jean Davis, invited them to the Chapel, took the time to help them grow in their knowledge of Jesus, and awakened in them an interest to serve Him by loving Chinese students at the College of William and Mary.

Grace began to invite the students' wives to their home, helping them to adjust to living in the U.S. by teaching them English and mentoring them in the many

things young wives want to know – especially while living in a new culture. Soon the young men were joining their wives around the Liu's dinner table and all were hearing the Good News of Jesus from their exuberant hosts.

Three years ago, the Lius moved into a small home near the college to be more accessible and better able to serve their new friends. Each Friday they open their doors and welcome one and all to an authentic homemade Chinese meal followed by singing, and reading and discussing the Bible. Through the Liu's joy-filled lives, God is continuing to draw many Chinese students to Himself.



Ann Orteig

LOCAL MISSIONS

The jail ministry exists to change lives. We conduct classes for women on how to know themselves, how to discover the Truth, how to recover spiritually, how to build relationships, how to live a new

life in Christ...and how to write their stories. We use drama, films, discussion and Bible study.

For me personally, it is one of the most satisfying and challenging things I have done in my life. It requires that I am willing to share all that I have learned, experienced and regretted through the years. There is an absence of small talk or pretension. We are searching for the subplot – that is, the Truth that lies beneath what is being said to cover up the feelings. The inmates write about it and talk about it. I am sometimes tempted to cancel a class, but then I always come away exhilarated and closer to God for

having been there.



John Foubert

LOCAL MISSIONS

John Foubert, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Higher Education at the College of William and Mary. Dr. Foubert is the author of two books, *The Men's Program: A Peer Education Guide to Rape Prevention* (3rd Edition, 2005) and *Lessons Learned: How to avoid the biggest mistakes made by college resident assistants* (2007). In 1998 Dr. Foubert founded what is now the national non-profit organization One in Four. While serving as its President for 10 years, he led its growth to have 30 campus-based chapters and began a nationwide "RV Tour" with four recent college graduates who present the most effective rape prevention program ever evaluated in the research literature. John and his wife, Susan, recently celebrated the birth of their

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We're sent out on a superlative mission by a supreme Lord. All his truth must be proclaimed. All people must have a chance to respond to his love. But don't worry: he's not just the supreme commander; he's also the supreme companion.

This article originally appeared in Paul's 'Outreach' column in REV Magazine. Reproduced with his permission.

Home This Month

Arnold and Gerri Polk, GHANA

We are glad to welcome Arnold and Gerri Polk home from Ghana, West Africa. For the past 16 years, they have ministered in a number of Ghanaian villages, Arnold teaching the people how to build pure water systems, and Gerri helping women to start small businesses through co-ops and to improve their lives by teaching them sanitation principles.

A major development during their last few years in Ghana was the "block machine." This machine makes possible the inexpensive on-site construction of Lego-like building blocks which can be used for water catchment systems and building construction, resulting in a completed project in a fraction of the time previously needed.



The machine has proven so beneficial that it is in increasing demand by many other ministries and organizations. In the months ahead, Arnold and Gerri will be traveling to Liberia to train a group in block building construction at the Carver Mission campus.

As they pray for God's guidance in responding to the many other invitations and opportunities to serve mission efforts in this way, the Polk's believe God is leading them to be based in the United States rather than in Ghana. Please pray for them as they make the transition from their much loved Ghanaian culture back into American life and seek how God can most effectively use them in the months and years ahead.

Missions Information ONLINE

Learn about Chapel missionaries and where they serve on the Chapel Missions Portal.

www.wcchapel.org/missions

Chapel 2008 Missions Trips

We want to invite you to consider three of the many opportunities that God continues to unfold before the Chapel. Each allows us to further our involvement with friends of the Chapel whom God is using to raise up reproducing disciples.

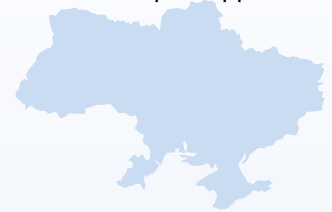
KIEV, UKRAINE

Evangelistic Biking Trip with Nikolay Ponomarev, Pastor of the Tent Church

July 24 – Aug 6, 2008

Travel in Ukraine by bike and participate in evangelistic outreaches along the way! Join people from the Tent Church in Kiev and participate with them in outreaches including sports, crafts, puppets, and music. Our host for the trip, Nikolay Ponomarev, is a Chapel-supported pastor with a fruitful ministry of evangelism, discipleship, and church planting.

Maximum team size: 10



KHERSON, UKRAINE

Sharing the love of Christ in Word and deed with Andrey Revtov, founder of House of Hope

July 30 – Aug 13, 2008

Serve at a summer camp for orphans, 'street kids', and homeless children on the beautiful Black Sea. Touch the lives of children of all ages by teaching bible lessons, engaging them in sporting events, crafts, and everyday tasks such as cleaning and cooking. "This is where many children come to know Christ because they see Christ at work in their leaders 24/7" –Andrey Revtov. *(This team is open to anyone over the age of 10; children must be accompanied by at least one parent.)*

Maximum team size: 20

LONDON, ENGLAND

Paul and Lorraine Abeyta

**Late September
(exact dates TBA)**

Serve and work alongside Paul and Lorraine, who share their lives and faith with Muslims. Meet and hear stories of Muslim-background believers. Seeing their ministry first hand, learning about Islam in order to pray more effectively for Muslims, participating in a "Meeting for Better Understanding" with people of other faiths, and encouraging these extended members of the Chapel family are objectives of this trip.

Maximum team size: 8

