October 2020 Newsletter

The importance of missions

Reaching those around us – here and across the ocean

By Ruth, a JHC donor

I first met Julie and Cyrus Mad-Bondo seven years ago while visiting Julie's mother, Mae, as a hospice nurse. Hearing the story of how Mae had saved Julie as a child and about her ministry as a nurse in Africa was incredible.

A legacy of love

What a legacy Mae left — and what an impact Julie and Cyrus continue to make as Christ's love and example ripple through the lives of all they minister to.

I have moved on from my hospice role and now work in orthopedic surgery. My husband, Jeremy, is a pilot and we have two children: Jackson, 5; and Ellie, 3.

Jeremy and I both grew up in conservative Christian homes and professed salvation when we were both young. But, as adults, we are learning there is much more to a



Jeremy and Ruth with their two children, Jackson and Ellie.

relationship with Christ than what we knew as children.

Unreached people groups

We were both introduced to missions at a young age. As part of my homeschool curriculum, I was "encouraged" to write to missionaries. Jeremy had the privilege of flying a missionary from India while he was earning his initial flight hours as a young pilot.

We both understood the importance of missions, but as a young couple trying to pay off school loans and get "on our feet," we shied away from any kind of

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financial giving. That all changed, however, after hearing a pastor's passionate plea about missions.

While living in Lynchburg, Va., we heard David Platt speak about the alarming number of unreached people groups in the world. People who would die and go to hell without ever knowing that Jesus loved them. Jeremy and I both felt God convicting our hearts.

A "Radical" decision

We both decided to read Platt's book, "Radical," which only solidified in our minds the urgency and importance of supporting missions. We were impressed from reading of Christ's example in the Gospels that God rarely reaches someone's soul without also meeting their physical needs.

Today, we are learning as a family how to best reach those directly around us — to reach out to and disciple those in our own backyard. However, we still understand the great need of unreached people groups across the globe – those who have no access to the Gospel. So, when Julie talked to us about her ministry, Julie's Heart Cry, we did not hesitate in signing up to give.

GIVING DEADLINE EXTENDED!

As Thanksgiving nears, remember the young mothers in Kenya who will struggle to feel thankful for anything – including their unborn babies.

We are extending the deadline to Dec.

31 for donations to build a home where these girls can complete their education and the lives of their unborn babies will be saved. Every \$1 you give makes a difference because children's lives are depending on it. Contact Julie to learn more.

Hearts for missions

Here was a couple we knew personally. We understood their hearts for missions and reaching others. We had heard their testimonies of how God had brought them through difficult circumstances: the loss of their daughter, Irene, and losing their home to a fire. I also witnessed firsthand Julie's faithfulness in caring for her mother when she was ill those last few years. Through it all, Julie and Cyrus remained steadfast, humble, and continued to praise God through every circumstance.

We are grateful to be a small part of Julie's ministry.