

Missions Sunday March 24, 2019

The Global Missions Team invites you to participate in this year's Missions Sunday on March 24th. The Global Mission Team exists at Christ Covenant Church to educate people, encourage prayer, and entreat participation in God's global vision for the nations. One of the ways they seek to educate people is through **Missions Sunday**.

This year Phil and Wendy Stogner will be with us. Phil and Wendy are currently missionaries with Mission to the World (MTW) preparing to serve in Scotland. They believe that to plant a church is the greatest way to bring new believers to Jesus. To encourage the heart of a church planter and his wife with Jesus' gospel is the greatest way to encourage a church plant.

Phil and Wendy have served in the ministry of church planting for over 34 years. After having met during college in Charleston, South Carolina, they married and spent their honeymoon on the road to Covenant Seminary. Following the call to be a church planter has taken them from North Carolina to Florida to Utah and finally back to Charleston, South Carolina, as they began new congregations. With a passion for pastors and their wives, they feel gifted and called to come alongside them with the gospel to support them and their families in their ministry.



The Stogners are committed to the Free Church of Scotland's vision to plant 30 new congregations by 2030 (30 x 30). They will be working with the Glasgow City Free Church to encourage pastors in this large and strategic city. Believing that "it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace," Phil and Wendy will serve the national pastors and their wives who seek to grow gospel-centered churches for the glory of God in Glasgow. Their desire is to coach, counsel, and care for the Scottish shepherds who have a vision to see Christ's wee little flock grow into healthy churches as the gospel grows outward in Glasgow.

Phil Stogner will be preaching the morning worship sermon: "Reaching The Un-Reached Near & Far" from Acts 1:4-9. Phil writes, "Jesus invites us to go with Him next door & into all the world to share the greatest story ever told. If you are someone who gets sweaty palms when you think about sharing the greatest story, or your schedule suddenly gets full for Missions Sunday then this message is for you. Jesus knows your fears, your woundedness, and your lack of bible knowledge just as the first disciples experienced, and He led them to become "men who turned the world upside down". Jesus loves your neighborhood, your city and the world so much that He includes you in His plan to reach the yet un-reached near & far."

Phil and Wendy will be leading a Combined Family Life Group following morning worship. The Life Group will cover two parts:

❖ **Part 1. Overview of Mission to the World (MTW)**

- ❖ MTW is committed to developing churches that transform communities throughout the world. MTW sends Christian workers all over the world who are committed to the establishment, growth, and maturity of the church. All that they do flows into, rests within, or flows out of the local church.
- ❖ Establishing a new church might require people who can teach national leaders, or evangelize through sports ministry, or provide a local medical clinic. These ways of serving can reach and equip future leaders and build connections in the community.
- ❖ Serving within the church would be church planters, assistant pastors, disciplers, teachers, and others who directly support the growth and maturity of the church.
- ❖ Flowing out of a healthy, growing church will be ministries that transform the community and continue to draw others to the gospel message, such as teaching English, caring for orphans, art and music outreach, or serving refugees.

❖ MTW has an urgent and ongoing need for church planters; but even if you're not an ordained minister, you can serve in church planting in myriad ways—in as many ways as God has gifted you.

❖ **Part 2. “Scotland The Secular”**

❖ The most frequent response to our call to serve in church planting is “Why go there? They are a Christian nation.” Sadly, that day has long past into the most secular country in Europe with an estimated 1.5% of the population as Christian. Can she be won back into the Kingdom of Christ? Join in this presentation with Q & A as to how the gospel can be presented in a secular culture.



Catalyst Sermon Series

You can listen to the Catalyst Sermon Series: *Gospel Centrality - Galatians 2:11-21, Stewarding a Gospel Movement - 1 Peter 2:4-12, God Seeks Worshipers - John 4, God Builds Community - Acts 2:37-48, Generous Lives - Luke 10:25-37, and Humble Cultural Engagement - John 5:1-17* at www.ccotc.org/sermons. You can also read summaries of these sermons in the booklet entitled, *Catalyst Sermon Series Summaries*. These are available on our church website or a printed copy through the office at Christ Covenant Church.

Catalyst Conversations...Sign Up for One in the Narthex at Barnwell St.

Please take the opportunity to participate in a Catalyst Conversation by signing up after Worship or Life Groups. Catalyst Conversations are a **one time** opportunity for you to participate with other church members, regular attenders, and guests in a discussion around CCC's Vision and Mission. We desire that you have an opportunity to engage yourselves and affirm together what we believe is God's biblical vision for his church. The Catalyst Conversation is a small group gathering of 8-10 people facilitated by a couple (husband & wife) who will be prepared to lead the discussion. We desire that the Catalyst Sermon Series and the Catalyst Conversations will lead us as a church toward a planning process for the re-planting of Christ Covenant Church at 3100 Covenant Road. Therefore, your participation in these conversations is vital to a movement of the gospel at Christ Covenant Church.

Thoughts for the Lenten Season

It benefits us to look to God's good news as we approach the Easter Event. But the good news of God is only good when we have looked upon the bad news. Isaiah tells us the bad news in these words, "Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away." (Isa.64:5-6) Our sin is pervasive, affecting even our best attempts to live righteously. It is total, and the result is final. Like those leaves in fall, we are dead and lifeless. Our future crumbles in hopelessness. This is the bad news. Yet even in this painful reality we look up and whisper with the prophet, "and shall we be saved?" The Giver of the gospel answers through his cross, "Yes!"