

ITEC

develop | train | equip

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Giving Along the Way

by Steve Saint

I was surprised this morning when we were told that our church, in a backwoods county in central Florida, is going to invest in starting a satellite church in a nearby wealthy, upscale retirement community called The Villages.

I was even more surprised to feel my heart drawn to invest some of our personal financial resources to help start a church in this somewhat hedonistic community of over 180,000 retirees.

We have good friends who live in the Villages. I don't want to offend anyone in this large and rapidly growing 55-and-over community. In fact, the parents of two of our daughter-in-laws (we love them and share 16 grand children with them) started and still lead a church in the Villages.

Many people think my only real interest is foreign missions. That's because they know I grew up on the mission field. And, yes, I have written books about missions and have helped make movies about missions. But Ginny and I decided a very long time ago that we are merely short-term stewards of the discretionary funds God has entrusted to us. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 4:2 that stewards need to be faithful. Remember the story of the three stewards in Matthew 25?

Ginny and I decided a long time ago that we need to do our giving where it is needed most here at home, as well as in places that most North Americans know little, if anything, about. We refer to this giving concept as "Giving Along the Way." This idea came from a friend I took to the jungles of Ecuador about 40 years ago. He wanted to help people in the jungles, which is very hard to do with money. It is incredibly easy to create dependency, the insidious poison that ruins more indigenous communities than it helps. Every time he would ask, "Could I give some money to build that school building or to build that church building out here in the jungles or to buy an outboard motor for that canoe?" I would painfully say, "No. If you build one school building or one church or buy one outboard motor, they will get the idea that outsiders should build all school buildings, and should build all church buildings, and should supply everyone with an outboard motor."

When we got back to the US, I received a call from a ministry aviation organization thanking me for a gift of \$100,000 to help

them buy an airplane to be used in the Ecuadorian jungles. I had no idea what they were talking about. The friend I had taken to the jungles, it turned out, realized that the small jungle communities could build their own schools and churches and could even buy an outboard motor once in a while. But they couldn't even afford one propeller for the airplane that had flown us into the remote Waodani village where "apparent" needs were all around us. He did not give where it would have felt good to him but would have hurt the Waodani. Instead, he helped buy an airplane to carry nails and gasoline for chainsaws so the Waodani could make their own boards to build schools and church buildings, and to carry critically ill tribespeople to the nearest hospital. He was "Giving Along the way."

I want to thank the growing number of you who actively support, through prayer and giving, the incredibly gifted and dedicated people at ITEC. You are helping the team DEVELOP new tools, TRAIN indigenous Christ-followers to meet physical and spiritual needs around them, and EQUIP others to do the same both domestically and abroad.



Trained student conducts and eye exam in Western Africa this year.

It isn't always apparent, but you are "Giving along the way." When you support ITEC, you aren't building school buildings or church buildings. You aren't sending medical specialists to hold clinics in frontier areas. You aren't sending ITEC to give out "fish." You/we are teaching them to fish. And then, together, we go one step further whenever possible. We teach them to start making fishing tackle so they can become the DEVELOPERS, TRAINERS and EQUIPERS.

Upcoming Trips

Please join us in praying for these trips.

OCTOBER

- Haiti- Oct 19 -26
I-MED

NOVEMBER

- Kentucky USA- Nov 7-9
Global Missions Health
Conference

PLANNING STAGE

- Europe- Date TBD
Trauma Counseling, I-FILM
- East Africa- Spring 2020
I-DENT, I-FIX
- Southeast Asia - Summer 2020
I-FIX, I-MED
- Western Africa- Feb 2020
I-FARM, I-FIX
- Western Africa- March 2020
I-FARM
- East Africa - May 2020
I-DENT

Equipping Others to do the Same

The ITEC team has been blessed with a group of talented and passionate employees skilled in numerous fields. As we develop tools and continue to train Christ-followers overseas, we always strive to learn and improve what we do.

When companies develop new products or launch new service, they are commonly doing so with the hope of growing their business. Even the non-profit world can be tempted to not share new innovations or resources with other organizations.

Our desire, as ITEC continues to learn and grow, is not to hold our cards close. We, as believers, will only succeed in the task Christ has called us by focusing on cooperation between churches, organizations, and individuals. ITEC will only succeed if there is both a continued focus on innovation internally and teaching others outside of our organization what we have learned.

The 'Equip' focus of ITEC can be best summed up in sharing knowledge and resources with those on the front lines as well as people interested in training on short-term trips. This recently released video shares one story of how ITEC partnered with and came alongside a fellow missions organization to solve a problem.



Visit <http://bit.ly/missionscolab> or scan the code with your phone.



New Podcast Coming in January

As we continue to explore how to best "Equip" others to explore training in short-term mission, we wanted to invite the extended ITEC family into the discussion. The ITEC team has been hard at work on a new podcast that will start in early January.

The goal of this ongoing podcast is to sit down with partners, mission pastors, ITEC staff members, missionaries, and more to engage in a dialogue about mission sustainability and training. While we are far from having all of the answers, we wanted to start the dialogue, inviting you and your friends to join us. If you read this newsletter, you represent the extended ITEC family, and we consider it an honor to have you participating in the podcast dialogue when it begins.

The podcast will be delivered through Apple Podcasts, Google Play, YouTube, and our website. You will be able to sign-up to receive notifications when new episodes are published through your favorite platform. We will also launch a new email address where listeners can send in questions and engage in the conversation. You will learn more about the new podcast in next month's newsletter. We will also share more in upcoming ITEC emails and on Facebook, scan the code above with your phone or visit <http://bit.ly/itecupdates> to subscribe to ITEC emails.



352.465.4545
INFO@ITECUSA.ORG

itecusa.org

10575 SW 147TH CIRCLE
DUNNELLON, FL 34432

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