

ITEC

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FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Do You Have a Role in Missions?

by Steve Saint

My grandfather, Lawrence Saint, made quite a few of the stained glass windows in the National Cathedral in Washington DC. On our way home from living in Mali, West Africa, Ginny and I took Shaun, Jaime, Jesse and Stephenie there for a short family history tour.

At the cathedral, I remember reading a pamphlet that read something like this. "A man asked a stone cutter what he was doing. 'I'm chipping stone,' the man replied glibly. The visitor asked another man doing the same thing what he was doing. His reply was enthusiastic, 'I'm building a cathedral.'"

When I was in the lime rock mining business in Florida, a long time ago, a man went to one of our open-pit mines looking for me. He asked me if Nate Saint was really my father. I confirmed that he was. Then the man asked, "... and where are you a missionary?"

I had been operating a big machine and was wet and covered with lime rock. I replied, "I'm in the lime rock mining business." He got a pained expression on his face and said, "Oh, I'm so sorry."

Ginny and I were raising our four children to be Christ-followers. We led a growing youth group in weekly meetings showing them how the Bible related to everyday events in their lives. We were living below our means so that we could support the church where we were members. We also financially supported various mission efforts. We were sure this was what God wanted us to be doing. Yet, because we weren't "missionaries," I was a disappointment to this man.

Several years later, Ginny and I sold our interest in the mining business and then went back to Ecuador. We lived with the Waodani at the invitation of those members of the tribe who were closest to my aunt Rachel, whom we had just buried. I could not imagine what we needed to do for the Waodani that many other missionaries had not already been trying to do for them. But, Ginny and I were sure this was our next assignment, the next chapter God wanted to write in our lives.

A long year-and-a-half later we realized that to stay longer would make us part of the "dependency" problem that had been debilitating the Waodani church.

Now what? I was in my mid-forties, exhausted. I couldn't imagine going back into business nor going to another far off part of the world to be a missionary again.

I just kept remembering what the Waodani elders had asked me. "Aren't all God-followers supposed to teach other people to follow God's Trail?" "Yes," I'd replied. "Then why do foreigners keep coming to do and do for us, but never teach us to do?"

The preposterously complicated, but Biblically sound, idea of teaching frontier Christ-followers to meet the physical and spiritual needs of their own people as a door opener to share the Gospel has been my assignment for the last twenty-five years.

Steve Buer, who grew up on a farm and followed his dad and two brothers in farming gave a talk on missions once. A man of few words, he ended by saying, "I guess what I'm trying to say is, missions is for everyone." I am sure he had no idea he would one day lease his farmland and become a key leader of ITEC (11 years and counting).

Steve, Keith, Craig, Julie, James, Mike, and Frank just landed in Orlando. They are returning from a training trip to East Africa.



Mike trains in mechanics in East Africa.

Romans chapter 10 says, "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved... But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?" (NLT)

Every Christ-follower has a role in missions. Please don't be disappointed in the role God has given you. The ITEC team to East Africa included a farmer, an ex-farmer, businessmen, dentists, a dental assistant, retired military service member, and an engineer. And a lot of you 'senders' were on the trip, too. Numerous roles. One objective! To evangelize, disciple, and start or empower a self-sustaining indigenous church.

How Do You Listen to Mission Minded?



We have been very excited to hear positive feedback from the new Mission Minded podcast. On February 27, we release our sixth episode with **Chuck Bentley** of **Crown Financial Ministries** who visited ITEC recently. You don't want to miss it!

If you've never listened or watched a podcast before, it may be intimidating to figure out where to go. The good news is that there are many ways to catch the latest episode:

ITECUSA.ORG: If you visit our website and click on **STORIES** in the top menu, you will see the most recent episodes there. Each podcast post allows you to either watch the video or listen to the audio. Following this link will take you there: www.bit.ly/missionminded



YouTube: If you're not subscribed to ITEC on YouTube, we highly encourage you to do that. Subscribe and you will see when new podcast episodes are released, in addition to other videos. Visit www.bit.ly/mmytplaylist or scan the code to watch Mission Minded on YouTube.

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If you're enjoying the podcasts already, please share them with your friends and family!

Please Pray

As you read this newsletter, we will have teams at a conference in Europe and a team in West Africa doing farm, small engine repair, and solar power training.

This training is in partnership with a trusted partner we have trained with before. We are excited to see how God works through this training in a challenging context.

Please join us in praying for the teams that will be on both of these trips, and other upcoming trips listed below.

Upcoming Trips

Please join us in praying for these trips.

- Western Africa- Feb 2020
I-FARM, I-FIX
- Europe - Feb 2020
Conference
- Southern Asia - March 2020
I-MED
- Western Africa- March 2020
I-FARM
- East Africa - May 2020
I-DENT
- Ecuador - May 2020
I-FIX
- Southeast Asia - June 2020
I-FIX, I-MED & Physical Therapy
- Ecuador - July 2020
I-DENT

PLANNING STAGE

- Europe - October 2020
Trauma Counseling, I-FILM
- East Africa - Summer 2020
I-FILM, I-FIX, I-SEE

WAO VISION TRIP
ECUADOR - SOUTH AMERICA

Join us for a Wao Vision Trip to the Amazon Rainforest of Ecuador
July 2-11, 2020

Visit our website to sign-up or learn more:
itecusa.org/wao-vision-trip

The Wao Vision Trip exposes outsiders to a true hunter/gatherer lifestyle that can only be created by those who live it. This trip is a wonderful opportunity to gain exposure to multiple Ecuadorian cultures while helping create a new vision for doing mission work in a culturally sensitive way. Join us this summer for a unique adventure that helps create an economy for the Waodani.

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