

TrailNotes speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the “landscape” we are passing through in this trail-laced wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. *TrailNotes* is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we’re learning and doing.

ElderTalk / Mission to Chad: “a complete success!”

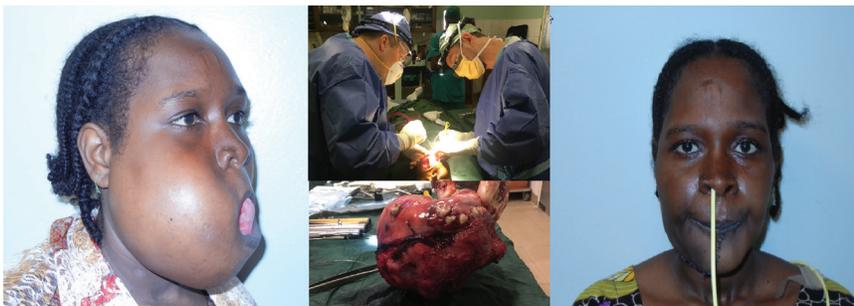
Mark 9:35 (NIV)

JON VEGA

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last and the servant of all.”

In my eyes, the mission to Chad this past July was a complete success. The team completed 14 surgeries in over 80 hours over six days. For me, it was a whirlwind of learning and working. We arose early at 6:15 am, ate breakfast, hydrated, and began wound care rounds by 7 am. By 8 am we began to bring in the first patients for preoperative IV placement and any other preliminary preparations. Often, surgeries ran through lunch and the team took quick bites of food and hydrated whenever possible. Most nights we were done by 7 pm, but a few nights ran several hours later.

Nothing makes a meal taste better than being hungry, but a few nights after a busy schedule, I returned to the guest house and drank a full 2 liters of water before eating. All in all, despite eating well, I managed to lose seven pounds during the mission...which I have gained back.



Before the surgery

The operation

The results

Some of the lessons have taken more than a month to fully process.

1. **We, as a society, are obsessed (paradoxically) with accumulating things and yet we are a disposable society. I saw trash in Chad, but it was fairly useless trash that even the goats didn’t eat.**

In contrast, many of the medical supplies we used were the discarded yet unused portions of surgical kits from the U.S. They had never touched a patient, but were considered “single use” and not repackagable. My own medical training was put in sharp contrast to the necessities of where we were. I had to adapt not my level of patient care, but the economy and purposefulness of that care. There was no insurance to cover waste and no supply room to pull from if we ran out.

(Continued on page 2)

*Thank you,
from the Netherys...*

Dear GFC Family,

Eunice Nethery’s celebraion of life service and reception exceeded all of our hopes because of you. We Netherys, Feias, Gardners, and Caloris are so grateful. It took the army of Grace Fellowship to make this occasion so beautiful, meaningful, well-ordered, and delicious.

We want to thank each one of you for your generosity and time: baking, cleaning, organizing, setting up, tearing down, cleaning up, welcoming guests, parking, weeding, power washing, running the sound system, and on and on it went. You made everything perfect. We felt so blessed, and Eunice was completely honored by you.

Thank you, our brothers and sisters, for going above and beyond to make this occasion such a wonderful experience for all.

With love,

Ray. Tori. Jackie. Tom. Beth, Jenny, Kati, Bob, and all Eunice and Ray’s grandchildren



Mission to Chad... *(continued from page 1)*

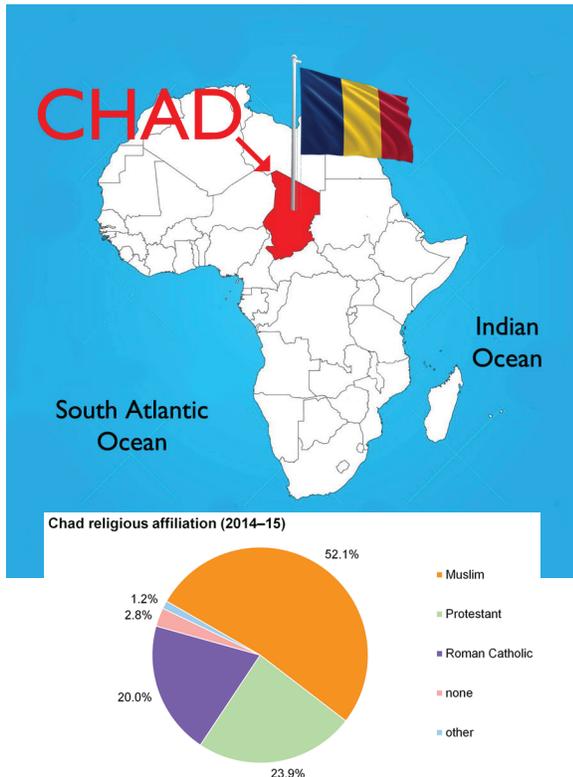
2. Even the worst parts of Mansfield are fairly safe.

Although I never felt unsafe in Chad, it was always in the back of my mind. We were briefed that waking up to gunfire meant scaling the wall of the compound or lying flat on the roof of the guest house and praying that the aggressors would be too busy to look up and wonder where the westerners were. During the day, I was too busy to worry, but it put a new emphasis on nightly prayers and my devotional reading.

3. The LORD provides.

As it says in 1 Peter, *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time."* I was (and continue to be) humbled. From the donors that covered almost every monetary aspect of the trip, to the prayer warriors that brought my family through a difficult time (it was the first time that Angel and I have spent more than a week apart in over twenty years), to the angels that clearly protected me during my misadventures in Ethiopia, I know God provided and lifted me up in His due time, not mine.

Finally, I am more convinced now, more than ever, that *"anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."*



Eunice remembered...

Following Eunice Nethery's Memorial Service at GFC on September 7, 2019, the many friends, "old" and "new," who had come from far and wide, gathered to share memories over some light refreshments as captured in the photo below...



"GROWING DOWN"

in

OCTOBER 2019

- 5** Moving Day for the Keys, 1097 Marianna Drive; meet there at 9:00 AM - call 419-994-5165 first.
- 6** Eric Byrom preaching on Eph. 4:11-16, "Growing down in Belonging," 10 AM. Japanese visitors present for worship.
- 12** Fall Family Festival, 5 to 8 PM.
- 13** Eric Byrom preaching, on 1 Cor. 1:10-17 "Growing down in Belonging," 10 AM. 
- 19** Men's retreat with Harvest Christian Church of Elyria, at GFC, 9 AM to 5:30 PM.
- 20** Eric Byrom preaching on 1 Cor. 12:12-27, "Growing down in Belonging," 10 AM. Deadline for submission of Trailnotes articles to bucytenant@aol.com
- 27** Jadaé Fox preaching on Heb. 13:7-21, "Growing Down in Belonging," 10 AM. 

Arlen Yoder—missionary to the Amish



My name is Arlen Yoder and I do the grant writing for Mission to Amish People (MAP). I worked over 28 years in community mental health before retiring in February. My wife, Dee, and I have been involved with MAP

for about 12 years, so the transition to working part-time at MAP came naturally. In my previous job I successfully wrote several grants, but I am still learning what it takes to write grants on a steady basis for a growing ministry.

Part of my job is to engage foundations about grants, but I also have been enlisted by Joe Keim, MAP's executive director, to do tours of the MAP campus and to regularly inform the public and supporters of MAP what is occurring in the ministry.

We are excited to announce "A Day in the Life of Mission to Amish People." If you want to learn about MAP, you can contact me about taking a two-hour tour of our campus, meet our staff, and find out some of the exciting things we are doing. Please call me at 419-641-7872 or write me at ayoder@mapministry.org.



"We gather together to remember..."

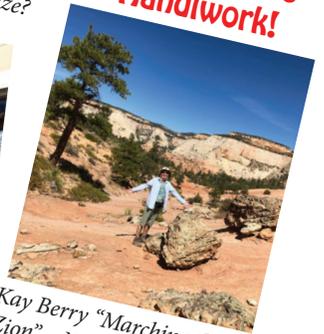
September Photo Gallery

Familiar faces at Eunice's Memorial Service



"Tis good to remember...
How many can you recognize?"

Behold God's Handiwork!



Kay Berry "Marching through Zion"...National Park that is!

Teen Connect



Outdoors...



...and indoors

Thanks,
Everyone...

Work Day Labors



New Window up close



Can't wait 'till it's installed!



...for a job well done!



The simple way to raise little evangelists



-JEN WILKIN

In fifth grade, I received evangelistic training from my church. It went something like this: memorize a series of verses (the famed “Roman Road”), identify an unbelieving friend, ask her to get together, share the gospel, and invite her to place her faith in Christ.

I’m not here to knock my well-intentioned teacher, but my husband and I chose a less formulaic approach to train our children to be invitational, relational, and convictional in the speech they use to share the Good News.

1. We should train our tiny evangelists to be fluent in kind words. Forget sarcasm, bullying, teasing speech for encouraging and affirming speech.

2. We should train our tiny evangelists to be fluent in reconciling words. They should ask for and extend forgiveness at an early age. As children learn the power of these words, they build language skills that will shape their understanding of the gospel.

3. We should train our tiny evangelists to be fluent in slow words so that they might be “quick to listen, slow to speak.” (James 1:19) Parents who coach and model when to be silent prepare their children for future conversations of well-timed and well-chosen words of life.

4. We should train our tiny evangelists to be fluent in eternal words. By giving our kids the discipline of loving the Bible, we prepare them to invite others into their faith.

5. We should train our tiny evangelists to be fluent in hospitable words. Invitations to join the family of God often begin with invitations to the dinner table. The home offers the ideal setting for them to learn to share with parental support.

Whether we teach our children the Sinner’s Prayer, the Roman Road, or the Four Spiritual Laws, let us train them with the building blocks of all evangelistic speech: words that are kind, reconciling, slow, eternal, and hospitable. They are the kinds of words that Jesus employed with regularity. May Christian parents and their children be found with these words on their lips.

*Excerpted from Christianity Today
September 2019*

*JEN WILKIN is a wife, mom, and Bible teacher.
She is author of None Like Him and In His Image.*

Juli Parsons finishes 2nd window!



“All that’s left now is to find a skilled carpenter to frame it for installation!”

Each “square-ish” piece of glass around the Light was signed by a person in the church.



Kids helping with the window back in February 2018

Thanks, Juli (and the kids who helped). It’s beautiful!

Grace Fellowship Church

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Eric Byrom	Presiding Elder/head pastor
Jadaé Fox	Elder
Andy Heining	Elder
Robert Key	Elder
Jon Vega	Elder
Jon Vega	Treasurer
Kay Berry & Karen Gates	Women
Lori Barker	Missions
Andy Heining	Worship
Circle Church Serve Group	Greeters
Angel Vega	Dance
Judy Nichols	Prayer Chain
Kay Berry & Jadaé Fox	Office
Kathy Barth, Manfred & Janet Adalem	Communion
Andy Anschutz	Sound/Power Point
John and Donna Kurtz	TrailNotes