

OCTOBER 8, 2013 – “I used to be afraid of failing at something that really mattered to me,” Bob Goff writes in his book *Love Does*. For years that statement defined my approach to life. I felt called to be a pastor, but feared I would be terrible at it. “Now I’m more afraid,” Bob Goff continues, “of succeeding with things that don’t matter.” Of all the reasons we feel called to Ghana to serve at Ashesi University, we find that reason the most compelling, that this work we are going to do really matters.



You can be a part of what we do there. You may not think of yourself as a missions person, and yet at the same time, feel God calling you to missions. Sometimes we think God needs two types people in missions: those to *send*, and those to be *sent*. Really, all God needs is people who will answer Yes.

In this October edition of *PrayerMatters*, Suzanne writes of *An Unexpected Joy*, we get a lot more specific on how you can pray for us, and we preview some of our Ghana items that will be available at the Serving In Ghana Benefit silent auction hosted by St. Philip’s United Methodist Church on October 19 at 5:00pm.

An Unexpected Joy

When I first realized that being a missionary would require raising 100% of our support, I must admit, I dreaded it. Asking people for money is just not comfortable! However, God has led me through a remarkable process of discovery about the joy and benefits of raising support to go do something scary and bold.

First, to go out and do something you feel called to do that is scary and bold *should* require help from others; if we could do it on our own, it wouldn’t be scary and bold. Having a network of people who care about us, pray for us and financially support us is a “safety net” that we already access for prayers, advice, and moral support. Reality tells us that not everything will go perfectly all the time, and people “watching our backs” and lifting us up makes it easier to persist, and dig deeper for what it takes to succeed.



Serving In Ghana Benefit
 Chili Cook-off & Silent Action
Saturday, October 19 5:00pm
 St. Philip’s United Methodist Church
www.stphilipsumc.org

Second, when I truly believe in something, I really enjoy talking about it, and sharing my passion. We are trying not to coerce people into hearing about our mission who are not genuinely interested in it. When we know we’re talking to people who have a genuine interest in hearing more about what we’ll be doing, then it’s not that hard to let people know what we need, and to ask them to help us meet our goals so we can be successful. This leads to my next realization: that many Christians are looking for meaningful ways to give money. By sharing our mission, it simply gives people an opportunity to give money toward a good work that we believe will help bring about God’s Kingdom in one area of the globe. When people say “no thanks,” it is often because they are already giving their money toward other kingdom-focused projects, and to that I say

Contacting Us

Donations:
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Dell Matching Funds
The Mission Society is one of Dell’s approved receiving agencies.
Five Star Church Supported
United Methodist Churches can support The Bucheles via The Mission Society and receive Five-Star Credit.

Our Timeline

October 2013 - Our sending church, St. Philip's United Methodist Church in Round Rock, will hold a chili supper and silent auction fundraiser for us on **Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013**. If you live in the area, please mark your calendars and come to this important support-raising event! Bring friends and neighbors!

August - December 2013 - We contact and meet with potential ministry partners to raise our monthly and support.

December 2013 - Suzanne finishes at Southwestern; Anna comes home for the holidays, Grace graduates from Ursinus College; Grace's fiancé, Ryosuke, joins us for the holidays.

January 2014 - The wedding of our daughter Grace. The Mission Society worldwide gathering in Florida.

February 2014- Steve & Suzanne move to Ghana!

Praying for Us

As you pray for us, we ask that you pray ...

For us *personally* for our own walk with the Lord.

For our *children* that they grow into the people God created them to be. We pray each morning at 7am for our kids, let us know if we can pray for yours.

For our *ministry* at Ashesi University—pray that we connect with the students, faculty, and staff.

Join our prayer team!
ServingInGhana.org/pray

Greetings from The Mission Society Leadership Team!

We have asked Steve & Suzanne to include this note from us in their update. One of the ways to help missionaries continue to be effective in their ministry, thrive in their lives, and remain in service is occasionally to bring them together for times of development, spiritual renewal, and personal connection. Every two years we gather them regionally for times of sharing, teaching, connecting, and ministry.

In January 2014, for the first time in our history, we are gathering all of our missionaries together for a global gathering. These events can be life giving for the missionaries and for the missionary kids, who love opportunities to get with their peers.

We would like to invite you to consider a special gift to their account—perhaps as part of a Christmas offering—to help The Bucheles be able to attend this year's gathering, which is being held at an inexpensive retreat center in central Florida. This is a very tangible way you or your church can bless Steve & Suzanne and help them continue to grow in the Lord and in their ministry. Feel free to contact me or one of my colleagues if you have questions or need more information.

In His Service,
Jim Ramsay, Vice President Mission Ministries



An Unexpected Joy, continued

"great!" The body of Christ has many parts, and that is by design.

Last, but by no means least, raising support

gives us a great "excuse" to connect with new friends and re-connect with old ones. How often do we say something like, "we really ought to get together with them"? Now we are calling people, meeting with people, and it's fun! It also helps us gain closure. As

we are closing down our lives here to move to Ghana, we get the chance to see people one more time. Our intention is that when we

meet with people who do not feel called to give to our mission, there is no "pressure" to give. I am just thankful that we can share our story, and what God has done and is doing in our lives, with old and new friends!



All in all, God is blessing this time in our lives as a way to share His work and our story with old and new friends, and I am very thankful for the "burden" of support raising! As Romans 8:8 says, "In all things God works for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose." I couldn't say it better myself.



**The Mission
Society**

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