

**Thank You!**

ALL GIFTS CAN BE  
MADE PAYABLE TO:  
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UPCOMING TRIP TO  
DENVER, CO  
GOSPEL ADVANCING  
SUMMIT / DARE 2 SHARE



UPCOMING TRIP TO  
BALTIMORE, MD  
YOUTH MINISTRY  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



UPCOMING TRIP TO  
NEW YORK, NY  
JENNIFER WEEKEND  
VISIT WITH JACLYN

# HOLLIDAY ADVENTURES



## Global Leadership Gathering in Ephesus, Turkey

Six continents were represented at the global leadership gathering I participated in earlier this month. We met at a conference center on the Aegean Sea just fifteen minutes from the historic ruins of first century Ephesus. While much of our time was spent sharing with and sharpening one another for the movements we help to lead, we also took the opportunity to tour Ephesus and Pergamum, two of the seven churches from Asia Minor Jesus addressed in Revelation 2-3. In December 2020, as I was finishing up reading through the Bible in a year, I found myself in Revelation 2, meditating on Jesus' words of affirmation for the faithfulness and perseverance of the Ephesian church. But He had this against them. They had forgotten their first love. Jesus was inviting me then to rekindle a first love intimacy with Him. Walking the stone streets of ancient Ephesus, a "random" heart-shaped rock



**REMEMBER YOUR  
FIRST LOVE!**

caught my eye. How amazing! A heart-shaped rock in “first love” Ephesus :) We concluded our Tour of Ephesus in its famed amphitheater with Dann Spader, the founder of Sonlife, encouraging each of us to remember our first love, Jesus.

A handful of us stayed on an extra few days to plan a global gathering back in Ephesus in March of 2023. The hope is that we would have 250 disciple-making leaders from 120 countries for that leadership summit. Back in 2015, almost 200 leaders from 53 countries gathered at our last summit in Israel.

## Leadership Team Retreat

Just before leaving for Turkey, we hosted the Sonlife Team in Florida for a team retreat. We're so grateful for the generosity of friends who opened their homes to host team members flying in from Portland, Dallas, Cleveland, Chicago, Atlanta, Toronto, Nashville, Pittsburgh and Wichita. We had a great two days together, concluding with a dinner and bonfire at our house, before attending the two day Youth Pastor Summit in Orlando. Our Sonlife booth was a hub of activity with all kinds of wonderful connections with youth leaders. The bonus was getting to hear challenges from great communicators like Greg Stier, Brent Crowe and Bob Goff. We're working on a strategic partnership with Student Leadership University, who puts on the Youth Pastor Summit. They already have annual events in Orlando, Nashville, Dallas and Southern California, with over 5,000 youth leaders attending, and they are hoping Sonlife can help them expand to a fifth location, YPS Chicago.

Jennifer and I had a wonderful weekend with our dear friends, Rick and Lynn Ver Hage. They recently moved from New Jersey to the Low Country just outside of Savannah, GA and Hilton Head, SC. We had fun exploring the Low Country, but most of all, we enjoyed sharing stories of God's work in our lives and praying for one another.

We're so grateful for the dear friends God has given us through the years. Your faithfulness in praying for us, your encouraging words, and your generous support means the world to us. God has used you, and continues to use you, to carry us forward with the call He has placed on our lives. Thank You!

*Serving Christ together,*

*Doug and Jennifer*

