

TECH INTERCESSOR

May/June 2012

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Reflections

Highlights of the 2012 TECH Annual Meeting

by Randy Harris

Missionary TECH Team's annual three day Trustee meeting is always a highlight as we review the previous year reports and solidify goals for the coming year. Some very exciting things happened!

We built upon our October meeting where we "re-affirmed" Birne as our President. We also outlined very important goals to increase leadership development within our current staff and press toward expanding the staff with new people. God has been gracious in that we have been able to offer specific leadership development workshops. I'm thrilled to report that all of the staff participated. In being around the office March 22-24 over our annual meeting dates, you could sense a positive "climate change" among the staff. In my mind, God has assembled a great team to serve at TECH. It is encouraging to see them take advantage of leadership training to expand their opportunities to serve.

Another encouraging event was the appointment of Patrick Schnell who will use his architectural skills in the Facilities Planning department. Alan VanDoren and wife Debbie, look forward to joining the team where he will assist Birne in administrative leadership while discerning further how God would have them serve in the future.

We added two new TECH Associate Board members. Kirk Reynolds and Nathan Winters. Kirk comes to us from the Chicago area and is involved with the Navigators and Nathan comes from the great state of Wyoming and is an Associate Pastor. The addition of new folks into the ministry of TECH needs to be the "norm" as we look to future growth.

We had terrific meetings as we continue to seek God's mind in all of our discussions. And once again God showed Himself strong on our behalf. It truly is a joy to see how God literally continues to use the ministry of Missionary TECH Team throughout the world.

There continues to be needs for more staff in all areas of service. Project requests are constant, for which we are thankful. Our hearts desire is that God would continue to use us to serve His choice servants around the globe. We see new opportunities on the

horizon and strive to be on the cutting edge of effective service.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve the Savior as a board member for TECH!

*Randy Harris, Chairman
Board of Trustees*



President Birne & Board Chairman Randy

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“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that they may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.”
Philippians 1:9-11

In light of leadership development that is going on and the expanding number of opportunities to serve, please lift the above prayer from Philippians up to the Lord . . . all to be used to fulfill the callings of God for the Team members individually and for Missionary TECH Team.

1. **Dan & Renee Harding** (Maria, Jonathan, Ruth, Bethany, Grace, Sarah, Philip, & Nathanael) – As we begin writing software specifically for smart phones, please pray for discernment in how to make that most effective in the ministries we serve as well as professional development on my part as we learn all the intricacies of the devices.
2. **Governing Board** – There is rejoicing in seeing how God is using the Mission but it is our desire to see current, as well as new, services more fully developed and made available to an even greater number of ministries worldwide.
3. **Mechanical Services** – The Lord seems to continue to affirm the value and need for this service. However, its growth will be limited until the Lord provides a full-time mechanic. Additional challenges face us related to technical aspects of scheduling, preparation of vehicles and decisions about when it is prudent to take a vehicle with high mileage out of the fleet and replace it for greater reliability.
4. **Joe Comroe** (Brenna) – I came here to serve at TECH with many skills, most of which I cannot use due to the sudden onset of severe health problems. Since these have mostly stabilized I would like to explore expanding my areas of service at TECH. One of the areas I foresee is being involved in the development of new products in Graphics. Please pray for me to be able to expand my service in this area and others that God may show me.
5. **Facilities Planning** – We have adopted a vision statement, “To serve and glorify God by providing professional planning, architectural, engineering and landscape services for facilities that will assist other ministries in the expansion of His kingdom locally and globally”. Pray that we would stay focused on serving and glorifying God in all that we do.
6. **Jim & Alice Englund** – Alice and I came to TECH with the impression that we would continue our professional work in “retirement”. Serving God in this way has been a rewarding and satisfying way to spend our years beyond age 65. We hope again to continue this in our second “retirement”. To Him be the Glory.
7. **Computer Services** – Pray that we will become more proactive in developing programs and applications that will assist our sister ministries and missionaries to be even more effective in reaching and discipling others.
8. **Birne & Lynella Wiley** – The Lord has impressed on us the need for increased discipleship involvement and mentoring in the lives of others. Ask the Lord to make clear how this can best be accomplished and for wisdom in knowing the ones that would be most open to such relationship. Too, ask that we will have the wisdom and discernment needed to optimize such situations.
9. **TECH Reserves** – Persons having needed expertise within our various service areas are such an encouragement when we lack those disciplines or our project schedules do not allow time to address needs. The TECH Reserves program provides an excellent opportunity for people to be used of God while remaining in their current job, home and church assignments. Pray that more would consider being involved.
10. **Mission Representation** – It is our intention to have TECH represented at the tri-annual URBANA conference to be held in St. Louis from December 27-31. To assure a good return on the investment both financially and with personnel, much planning and preparation must be completed to maximize the effectiveness of such an activity.
11. **Ken & Katie Selden** – My personal goal for this year is to expand my role as mentor and example to our TECH Team Architectural Interns as they develop their professional skills. Ephesians 4:1 “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some pastors and some teachers.”
12. **Leadership Development** – While every person is a leader in some manner, it is our intense desire to hone the leadership skills of each person serving at TECH. Ask the Lord to help us understand that “leadership” isn’t necessarily defined by a title or position, but instead its through relationships and the influence God uses.
13. **Missionary Kids (M.K.’s)** – These are very special young people! It is a joy to see them mature. Pray that our loving Father will guide each of them this summer whether taking a “vacation” from school, seeking to discern where and what God would have them do for higher education or seeking employment to help with college costs. Several will be serving in ministry this summer.
14. **Tim & Kay Meadows** (Isaac, Ethan & Alex) – My personal goal for this next year is to be able to focus again on just one area of ministry, Computer Services. Please pray for the TECH board as they evaluate Mechanical Services and make plans to either shut it down or find someone to run it. Also pray that we find someone willing to do the accounting for TECH, which takes about 8 hours per week.
15. **Graphic Services** – One of our goals for the division is improvement of our product line. We seek to design and build displays that meet our client needs. Pray for us that we have clear, innovative thinking as we work toward this goal.
16. **Doug Shively** – A goal for my ministry at Missionary TECH Team is that I would *work smarter and not necessarily harder*. There are always many different ways to improve my personal work or ministry. Saving time and just putting out a better and a more professionally looking product are just two areas.
17. **James & Ruth Wood** (Christina & Stephen) – As I approach the age of retirement one of my concerns is who steps in to take my place. Pray that we choose the correct person and wisdom to know how to prepare this person.

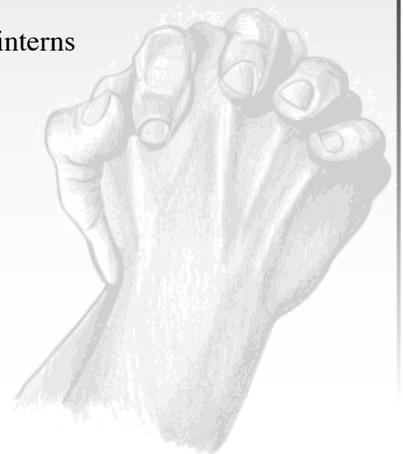
- 19. Technology Upgrades** – There is a constant “tension” in endeavoring to keep up with technological changes that present themselves. At times such upgrading is absolutely necessary. At other times it would be advantageous but not necessarily mandatory. Then there are those times when it would seem to be so nice or helpful but really is on the “wish list”. Ask the Lord to give us clear discernment in determining in which category the opportunity resides.
- 20. David & Nancy Leventry** (Tim) – Pray that I would be flexible, productive and content with all that the Lord has for me at this time. Please join us in praying regarding the changes that will occur in the life of our youngest son who graduates from High School on June 1st.
- 21. Ministry Development Services** – Our goal is to see additional churches, and perhaps other ministries, utilize the “Spirit Led, Christ Centered and Prayer Driven” program in both church growth and in meeting financial needs implemented to the glory of God – all this to see others come to know Him and grow in their relationship with Christ.
- 22. Bill & Joyce Daniel** – One of the blessings, yet great challenges, of missionary service is to see how God works in the life of each family member. Every member of the family encounters particular struggles in dealing with being a “missionary or a missionary kid”. It is most encouraging to see how our loving Father works in each life to draw us to Himself and so often uses those struggles to grow us as parents, as M.K.’s and the resulting testimony to those around us!
- 23. Joel Kreider** – We [Graphics] had an encouraging round-table discussion with several board members this year. As we talked, several interesting areas for development appeared on the horizon. These ranged from interactive media creation on phones and tablets, new display concepts we can fabricate [in-house], that meet ever-shrinking carry-on dimensions. Our task and prayer need would be this: discerning the avenues that best serve our sister missions, as well as the amount of time and resources to invest in each area. We thank you so much for enabling us to support the work of others through the ministry of TECH.
- 24. Retirees** (Basil & Ada Bickel, Ken & Irene Edgar, Mary Ann Kuechler, Phyllis McClelland, Buel & Gerry Meadows, Larry & Lois Turner and Betty Wiklund) – These dear servants have been used significantly for the cause of Christ through prior service. However, it doesn’t stop with “retirement”! Ask the Lord to make clear ways in which their lives can continue to be used of God.
- 18. Patrick Schnell** – Since I have been accepted by the Board for an initial two-year appointment, I am hoping to meet many new people who will partner with Missionary TECH Team and me and that I will see God’s hand over all of my endeavors. “...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” Philippians 2:13
- 25. Bob & Jan Schill** – Our personal goal is to exalt Christ more and more during these years of heavy involvement in TECH projects. We have seen God’s work strengthened and increased through the work of Missionary TECH Team by our visits abroad. Praise Him! Our prayer request is that God continue to give us the strength and ability to serve His kingdom worldwide through various projects.
- 26. Our Nation** – Our nation is in great need and only Christ is the answer. May the goal of each believer be that we first of all live in obedience to Him and secondly that our lives reflect the joy of the Lord in all we do and say. Pray that there will be a great turning to God during this year not only for the USA but also literally around the world.
- 27. Teri Comroe** (Brenna) – Web sites and apps are a big part of the present and future of communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ. TECH does not have a web master in Graphics. I have set a goal of greatly improving my training and understanding of web development. My vision is to take on new web sites and deliver a robust, comprehensive product. Our economical prices save ministry dollars thereby enhancing their message. Several of us in Graphics have begun some online training courses. Please pray for quick understanding and God’s leading in this training.
- 28. Summer Workers and Interns** – Summer workers are those who come for shorter periods of time while the interns come with a greater degree of knowledge and experience. Both are very important to the accomplishment of projects the Lord and His people entrust to our care. Ask the Lord to make it a win-win situation for both those coming and for us in interacting and relating to them.
- 29. Church Relationships** – Scripture is very clear as to the place of the church in the life of believers. We are most grateful for those churches that have chosen to partner with TECH, both individually and corporately, in ministry. Join us in praying that additional churches will be led to become ministry partners this year.
- 30. Les & Gina Brown** - One key element of leadership is to empower others to develop their full potential. Pray that as I lead others in Facilities Planning, that I would have the wisdom to lead in a way that would encourage and empower others to develop their own personal potential.
- 31. Christian Camping** – Camping programs remain one of the most productive means of ministry outreach ever devised. TECH has had the privilege of serving many camps and conferences around the world through virtually every ministry area: facilities planning, graphics and computer services. Our goal is to continue to serve them well but also to enhance and multiply these programs.

Because You Prayed....

- TECH’s 44th annual Trustee meeting were great. There was cause for rejoicing on a number of fronts. At the same time the Lord gave a spirit of caution on several decisions that were deferred until the fall meeting in October.

- It appears that 4-6 summer interns may join us for ministry.

- Matt and Molly Ackerman rejoice in the safe delivery of:
 Samuel Leeland Ackerman
 Born March 24
 Weight: 7lbs. 3oz
 Length: 20”



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KIRK REYNOLDS



Kirk and Jan Reynolds

Kirk brings extensive ministry experience having served with Camp Barakel in Michigan for three years and with the Navigators as Administrative Assistant to the Vice President overseeing funds for the International & Ethnic US Staff. He also travels with the US African Director of Inner City Development. Kirk has a Masters of Divinity degree from Grace Theological Seminary. Kirk and Jan have three children.

NATHAN WINTERS



Nathan and Christie Winters

Nathan grew up in a pastor's home and accepted Christ as personal Savior at age four. He holds a Master of Religious Education from West Coast Baptist College and has served for six years as Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church in Thermopolis, Wyoming. Nathan and his wife Christie have recently become foster parents.

ANNUAL "FAMILY DINNER"



Jim and Alice England

Each year at the conclusion of our three day business meeting, all staff and families join the Board members for a time of great fellowship, good food and an overview of Board discussions and actions. This year we were very grateful to recognize and honor Jim and Alice England and their 27+ years of ministry with TECH. Their lives have been a constant blessing and encouragement to each of us as they serve so faithfully - Alice in

accounting, and Jim in mechanical engineering. They anticipate a move to Mobile, Alabama soon, to be near one of their daughters.

PATRICK SCHNELL



Patrick Schnell

Patrick has served with Missionary TECH Team at various times while in college and more recently upon graduation from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in Architecture. He accepted Christ while in seventh grade and has been actively engaged in various Bible study groups, church and other relationships that would enhance his walk with Christ. More recently Patrick has served with Missionary TECH Team for 13 months as a mission intern. We enthusiastically welcome him now as a full-time missionary. Pray that the Lord will develop his ministry partnership team quickly.

ALAN AND DEBBIE VANDOREN

Alan has been involved in aviation, primarily in helicopter flights, through service with the New Jersey State Police and then for 13 years with Wycliffe Bible Translators serving with JAARS in Papua New Guinea, Cameroon and in North Carolina. For the past four years Alan has been the Director of Flight Training at LeTourneau University.

Alan and Debbie have been married for 30 years and have eight children: two are married, one serving as a missionary high school teacher overseas and three in various stages of college. Two sons are still being home schooled by Debbie who is very active in a variety of church, home school and family endeavors.

Alan will be assisting the President with his administrative skills as available and needed. His passion is to make others successful in their particular areas of responsibility through his skills in administration.



Alan and Debbie VanDoren