

PRAY. GIVE. GO. NOV. 5TH, 2017



*Access  
Sunday*  
RIVERSIDE MISSIONS

# MISSION

# VISION

Jesus' last commandment to His followers was to "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations..." We know that Jesus wants His church to share His love with people from every continent, ethnicity, and language group. That's why every year we take time to emphasize God's work around the world through Riverside Church and our partnership with the C&MA (Christian & Missionary Alliance).

At Riverside this passion is lived out through our relationships with C&MA partners in both Burkina Faso, West Africa and Taipei, Taiwan, as well as our personal connection to international worker Chuck Fanberg. We also support the C&MA's Great Commission Fund which enables over 760 international workers in 67 countries to assist local churches to start new churches, and help people become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

This Sunday, another way to be personally engaged is to go to the gym where you will experience a bit of the Aroma Coffee Shop from our partners in Taiwan, and can also pick up a water bottle to remind you about the well digging and church planting we partner with in Burkina Faso. Most importantly, pray about how God wants you to participate in Riverside missions this next year by supporting our partnerships through prayer, financial gifts, or going and helping on location.

*Pastor Tom Lundeen*  
SENIOR PASTOR

"What does this have to do with me?" You might be asking this question right now... I get that. Sometimes missions can seem somewhat removed from our everyday lives and can feel like a very big project that should be left to the professionals and the super committed. However, helping people gain access to the best news in the world isn't something that one person has to figure out, and carry out, all on their own. We are a church family, we get to do this together! As a family; we do 3 things: we PRAY, we GIVE, and we GO. Each is vital to the success of what we do and each is accessible for every one of us. We are all able to participate in one or more of these things. And why not? There really are lost people out there who don't have access to the Gospel and God really does want them found. He chooses to use us to make that happen!

So today listen to Chris explain the mission of the Aroma coffee shop and church. Listen to the stories of changed lives. Read these materials and see what God is doing. Maybe you've been thinking about missions for a long time or maybe you haven't thought about it until today; I challenge you to make today the day when thinking turns to taking a personal step to make a difference around the world.

*Pastor Nate Sickler*  
SMALL GROUPS PASTOR

## HOW YOU CAN PRAY

- ◆ Use this magazine to learn about our partnerships & what is happening around the world.
- ◆ Fill out the enclosed card to receive monthly updates from our partners with specific prayer requests.
- ◆ Visit our webpage at any time to pray for current needs at [MyRiversideChurch.com/pray](http://MyRiversideChurch.com/pray).
- ◆ Check out our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/RiversideOnMission](https://Facebook.com/RiversideOnMission) for updates & information about our partnerships.



# MY MISSIONS STORY

I had the honor of going on a one-month internship in Taiwan. This was a great stepping stone as I am going to school to do missions full time and headed to Ghana for a 16-month internship in September 2018. Our main focus was teaching English. I used to think teaching English was not a skill I would have due to my dyslexia. But English is such a gift, it is something that draws people in and gives others an opportunity to grow professionally. I discovered that I love teaching English and am now using it as ministry where I'm teaching women English. At the end of each class we get to share the Gospel with Hindu and Muslim women.

Another highlight from the trip was working in a special needs center. We walked a group of young adults to a food court. The second time I went there, a young man remembered me from the time before. The whole time we were out he kept saying "Hello Katie, Hello Katie, I love you Katie." I have the honor of working with students with special needs at my school now and would like to work with people with special needs in the future. The Lord opens doors. If you have the opportunity to go on a mission trip, I pray that the Lord gives you the courage you need to step out of the boat and GO!



Five years ago I went on my first short term mission trip to Burkina Faso. I never imagined how fond my heart would grow for the people and work God is doing there. January 2017 I had the opportunity to return to Burkina on Riverside's well drilling team, which impacted me in several ways.

First, it changed how I pray for missions in Burkina. I had the opportunity to observe and learn about some of the physical, emotional, and spiritual struggles they face on a daily basis. I also witnessed the joy Burkinabe believers have in Jesus despite these obstacles. Being a part of the well team, I saw the joy believers and non-believers alike experienced when God provided a successful well as a source of safe water in their village. Now my prayers for the missionaries and Burkinabe are more specific and my heart is connected to what God is doing.

Drilling wells also impacted my life by changing my perspective. I am now more grateful to God for basic things that I often took for granted living in the US. I see the important roles of not only the people going on a mission trip, but also the people who are faithfully praying for the team from home. Every believer has a role in spreading the Gospel!

I've had some amazing opportunities over the years to serve on Riverside teams in both Burkina and Taiwan. This past summer was different, though, when I was able to serve as an intern for one month in Taiwan. Serving a bit longer than a 10-day trip allowed me to connect better with local Taiwanese people as well as other interns and staff at the Aroma Church, building lasting relationships. It also allowed me to serve in unexpected ways including a mission trip with other interns, volunteers and staff to Hualien where we helped children learn English and about the Bible. We were so excited to see 15 kids say YES to Jesus while we were there! In a country where many have to give up family relationships to follow Christ, relationships with other believers make a huge difference in them coming to a saving faith. I am so thankful I had the chance to go back to Taiwan and see how God might use me; each trip or internship has been different and I encourage anyone to GO when God opens the door - you'll never regret it!



I always wanted to go on a mission trip with Riverside, but wondered if I was too old. At 68, I have MS plus both knees have been replaced. But after hearing a message where they quoted Isaiah saying, "Here I am Lord, send me!" I knew then I was going to Burkina Faso.

Yes, I was the oldest in our group, but the seven of us clicked and worked like a well-oiled machine! We had three days of briefing upon arrival before we traveled in three large vans to a remote area. During our time there, we played games and gave lots of hugs to the kids, demonstrating love to all. During the day we worked on building a hangar that will be used for a church; at night we helped with outreach events. The temperature was over 100, but I never felt hot; I was grateful to show others all that God has done for me. There were challenges - like sleeping on a cot with netting over me to keep bugs away, and taking a bucket bath (one time with a baby pig and a chicken) - but how many of us can say we did that!?!

I look at things differently now. The Burkinabe are so happy with what little they have. I don't take things for granted and have a closer relationship with Jesus as a result of seeing a part of the world through His eyes. If you ever have the opportunity to go on a trip - TAKE IT! You'll find God's grace in it and will continue to even once you're back home!

14 PEOPLE WENT ON MISSIONS TRIPS/INTERNSHIPS

50% OF AROMA CHURCH LEADERSHIP SAID "YES!" AT THE AROMA

60% OF AROMA CHURCH LEADERSHIP ARE TAIWANESE

3 CHURCHES BUILT AND WELLS DRILLED

\$ 27,000 GIVEN TO CAMA RELIEF SERVICES

\$ 242,144+ GIVEN TO THE FUEL FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS FUND

**WHAT GOD HAS DONE THIS LAST YEAR!**

## MEET OUR MISSIONARY PARTNERS



The O'Dell's coffee house ministry - The Aroma - provides great opportunities to help bring access to the Gospel to many different people. They are currently assisting with teaching English and are launching the second coffee house/church.

**CHRIS & JAMIE O'DELL**

John and Betty Arnold have served in Burkina Faso, West Africa since 1987. They currently bring leadership to the ongoing effort to build church hangars and dig clean water wells with the Dogose people in the Comoe area.

**JOHN & BETTY ARNOLD**



## FROM BUSINESS TO MISSION

How does The Aroma Coffee House in Taiwan share the love of Christ?



It all begins with a sip of coffee at the Aroma...



then an invitation to a special Coffee House event.



Friendships are made. Jesus is shared!



The Aroma also doubles as a church where services, YES! decisions & baptisms take place!



## FRESH WATER TO LIVING WATER

How do our partners in Burkina Faso build churches & equip pastors to share the living water of Jesus?

It starts with fresh water. The national church determines where to dig wells...



the land is surveyed & wells are drilled.



Missions teams build a church hangar by the well.

Missions teams help witness! The church is launched, local pastors are trained & sent to plant other churches!

