

# 2018 Annual Ministry Report

Submitted by  
Chester and Amy Davis



The **Vision** of GGF is “to advance Christ’s global mandate to make disciples of all peoples,” and our **Mission** is “to enable cross-cultural workers to carry out their distinct God-given vision to make reproducing disciples of Jesus among all peoples.”

**2018 GGF ANNUAL REPORT**

## Chester and Amy Davis

### Your Ministry

#### 1. *What is your vision/mission?*

Our vision is in seeing God's gospel spread; for people to receive the free gift of eternal life graciously given to all who believe in Jesus the Christ and for these believers to embrace a life of discipleship leading to lasting reward.

Our mission is twofold: First, to provide practical support for missionaries and ministries committed to advancing the gospel by removing obstacles to effective ministry and also to encourage and strengthen commitment to clear and sound doctrine.

#### 2. *On a scale of 1 to 5 – with 5 being the best – how is your ministry going?*   **4**

We are pleased with our big project in France, and even our project in Wyoming which started small and has grown large though it has had several difficult lessons for us. We are thankful for some challenges coming early in ministry. We have a good amount to learn in having milestones, limits and balancing the demands of family life and ministry but I think we are in an OK position and heading in the right direction.

Since we will be sharing this report with the elders in our Church as well as making it available to our support team I want to include some accountability thoughts on the projects.

#### **Time management:**

We created a graph of our activity to contextualize time management. This is in part because I, Chet, do not really feel like I am doing anything unless I am running at level 3 or above. When I was starting to organize this report I felt "Honestly man, we hardly did anything this year". When I started putting the visual together I realized this was not the case. Here is how we think of it:

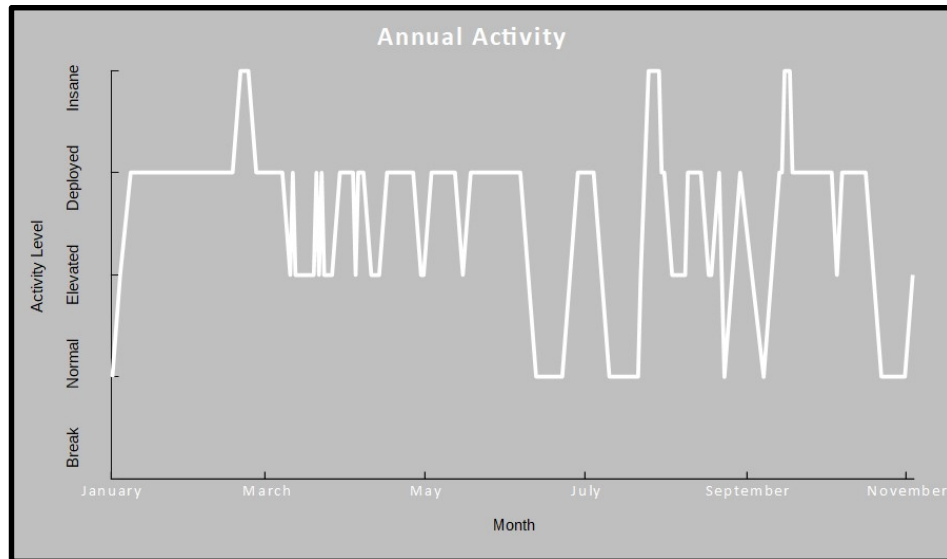
**Level 0** is an actual break or down time.

**Level 1** Normal: localized activity requiring no special preparation or adjustments to accomplish. Example: project development without a time crunch

**Level 2** Elevated: this while still in the localized category it probably requires special preparation, logistics or adjustment to normal life (homeschool, childcare) function.

**Level 3** Deployed: family involvement, significant life impact, high level of focus or commitment, major adjustments required, projects with family of more than a day.

**Level 4** Insane: Not a sustainable level, heavy family involvement required, no-margin operations, multi-avenue deployment, long work hours 14+ or 24+ manhours/day



### Deployment:

We were a little surprised to see that we had spent 21+ weeks deployed on various projects this year. The major deployments were:

- 1 trip to France, for 7 weeks
- 1 trip to Tecate, Mexico for 11 days (older Davis kids only)
- 9 trips to Haven on the Rock, Wyoming, totalling 11+ weeks
- 5 trips to Glad Tidings Bible Camp, totalling 3+ weeks
- 1 trip into northern Germany

### Project Descriptions:

Schoolhouse rebuild  
Stefan & Rochelle Van der Veer, Roujan, France

The Van der Veers are missionaries in southern France. They are minimally funded through supporters and primarily tent-makers. They have been using their inheritance and savings to purchase and rebuild a schoolhouse into a facility which generates income in the tourism season, allowing for ministry and homebase throughout the year. This was a great project for us to start with. Stefan and Rochelle were great hosts and we connected well with the family. It was refreshing and invigorating after a long time of school drudgery. We spent 7 weeks deployed on this project and put in 1500 manhours into the project. The work included wrought iron fence repainting, installing storm water drainage, door restoration, repairs of exterior walls, building interior walls and many others. God was incredible in keeping the costs under control and providing. There were many times we saw God's hand involved and we had a great time giving appreciation for His faithfulness.

Farmhouse consultation  
Joerg & Carla, northern Germany

During the trip in southern France I (Chet) took a long weekend trip to northern Germany where Joerg and Carla as well as Buddy and Krista have been involved with helping ladies get out of prostitution and other outreach. Joerg was purchasing a farmhouse for ministry. I performed building inspections and developed recommendations on repairs and maintenance, I also created drawings of the house and property which were required to complete the sale of the house. Amy & kids were in France alone during this excursion and transportation was a real battlefield but God was gracious in making details work out and in His protection. This was a good small project with future potential. Further involvement with building repairs could accompany other projects in the region.

Sabre Missions annual trip  
Tecate, Baja California, Mexico

Micah, Eva and Moriah took an eleven day trip to Mexico with Sabre Missions (from Colorado Springs, CO). Steve & Betty Reinke have been collaborating with local churches in Tecate for 20+ years to lead a missions team for helping the local church, discipleship training, and outreach. Currently they have been building small houses for people in need and leading a three day VBS. The local churches are heavily involved in selecting the housing recipients, preparing the site, housing and feeding the team. The Vacation Bible School usually attracts 30+ kids. We include this trip as part of the family missions endeavor even though Chester & Amy were not a part of the trip this year and its funding is separate.

Bath house design and project management  
Haven on the Rock, Ft Laramie, WY

Zach & Karissa Bennett work hard in reaching the unchurched and have done a great job in restoring this camp over the last 5 years. Unfortunately, our project development did not establish community ownership and this was a huge problem when it came to critical work parties. Our initial involvement on this much needed bath house was evaluation and redesign work for lower maintenance costs, reduced construction costs and to allow construction with volunteer work parties. We have continued by working the construction and leading work parties, we have made at least 9 trips and more than 1200 manhours in design work, site layout, plumbing, and foundation.

This project been very difficult in many things: spiritual warfare, material shortages, weather damages, construction problems, and having the project stall or work parties flop because nobody showed up. We are developing a plan for passing on-site leadership to others, however, this project remains a little painful in the lessons we are learning.

Service projects  
Glad Tidings Bible Camp, Bloomfield, NE

We have spent a fair amount of time serving at this camp with all sorts of projects from painting signage, laying in drainage culverts, vehicle & equipment repairs, cabin leading, program director, cooking, speaking and training, and yes, baptizing a tractor in the lake (no, it wasn't intentional!). Gil and Jamie Kimmons have been leading the camp for about five years and are fun to work with. They have a good heart toward discipleship and we enjoy some deeper conversations with them. GTBC is a ~3.5 hr drive making it an easy trip. The kids love working out there in part because the work, while hard, is always combined with fun and fellowship.

Sewage repairs  
Dan & Hannah Tate, Bellevue, NE

The Tate family is a mission minded family from Church who had a problem in their plumbing whose repair was going to be over six thousand dollars. Over the course of a few days we were about to help get it done for around \$800. I did some fun dirtwork and plumbing replacement 10 ft underground. Their 5 young boys (now 6) were able to try their hand operating a real excavator. This was a great opportunity to provide practical assistance and encouragement to other missions minded believers.

Structure repairs  
Merlin & Peggy Davis, Memphis, NE

Chet's folks live in an older house with multiple issues. They needed repairs to unsafe electrical problems and structure repairs accomplished to receive some help from HUD to weatherize the house which would have a big impact on their finances. I organized this project and with the help of several family members was accomplished over the course of a month or so. We are still waiting for the HUD guys to come out but we are very thankful to deal with the safety issues.

*3. How do people become followers of Christ in your ministry?*

Here are a few examples of recent outreach efforts:

We invited our neighbors to a Graham Cracker house building party near Christmas. One non-Christian family came specifically due to our invite, and several other friends and family members came. It was a fun and relaxed way to get to know them better.

We helped some Japanese students whose large truck broke down near our house. While spending most of a day (~7 hrs) hosting and talking with these international students we were able to get the truck running again and send them off with some good memories and conversations about culture, values, Jesus, and other things that matter.

We volunteer once or twice a month at the area youth center. It's run by a coop of local churches and includes several of the "rougher" crowd of teens. It is a safe place where there is some food, fun and some spiritual content. We are getting to know the kids who attend and have had a few conversations with them. Chester taught a devotional on victory in Jesus there

one night and recently took a van full of middle schoolers to Winter Jam where one kid became a Christian.

4. *How do you equip the saints under your oversight to do the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:12)? What kind of results are you seeing?*

I am going to sort of blend these two questions together into one because I think the way we evangelize and how we respond to the imperative of Hebrews 10 “let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works” are functionally the same. We look to and point to Jesus as fully sufficient both for eternal life and for walking through life today. We share our reliance on the grace of God with an emphasis on the reasoning for our faith and we live out our faith publicly.

When I am talking with people of any sort and of any background I sort of hold in mind a single and simple idea “how can I share God’s love with this person, what can I do or say which will help them see Jesus as worthy of their trust”?

For unbelievers there are any number of obstructions but for starters they need to see that Jesus’ offer of eternal life is completely dependent on His ability to deliver on His promise and that He is faithful. They need to believe Jesus alone for eternal life.

For a believer we constantly affirm Jesus is the faithful, lifegiving messiah and that our performance can in no way degrade or add to His once for all sufficient sacrifice. We want believers to see that Jesus is worthy to be trusted and followed, that He is pleased to help you follow Him, that He rewards them who seek Him. Thus we work to include people of all shapes and sizes in the projects we are doing because we want people to experience for themselves the blessings of being involved in what God is doing. We try to live in modeling honest, grace filled, loving service with sound doctrine as the basis for sound living.

Here are some examples of recent experiences and conversations:

Just this month I was talking with an Indian lady at a restaurant after taking Hudson and Kristina Shires to the airport in Denver. This was a very gentle conversation about cultural values and family life. What seemed to connect well was talking about being connected to family and what a parent would do to see their family restored. I shared with her that the God of creation offers restoration.

I was with a guy in Wyoming who just witnessed another believer completely lose it, speaking and acting with uncontrolled anger and vengeance. It was a good time to be vulnerable and honest about my own struggles. John writes “if we confess our sins He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” calling to mind that complete forgiveness is based on Jesus faithfulness not our faithfulness. When I stumble and acknowledge my sin God is right in freely forgiving because Jesus sacrifice is completely sufficient. We prayed that we would follow the example of complete free forgiveness and see God’s restoration.

I had a great conversation with another believer who was developing some programming for camp service and one of the issues that came up was a pretty common concern “how can we see Christians engage in their faith”. We were able to talk through some of the dangers of bad choices of language or doctrine. The same way we receive eternal life is the same way we can walk in newness of life as disciples; by grace, through faith, in Jesus. When we examine

ourselves, if we believe in Jesus for eternal life, we are permanently secure, so our examination is to see if we are walking in fellowship with God. When we understand God's grace it calls us to respond in appreciation and worship.

In Wyoming during a very important step of the project our work was undermined with unexpected heavy rain and hail. After cleaning up the disaster and repairing most of the damages, 40+ man hours of repair work, it happened again. Significant damages due to heavy rain. Even now the memory evokes strong emotions. While singing "blessed be your name", and adding a few tears to the rain, I was blessed to share some hard earned lessons with a couple guys. We choose joy in difficulty not because the various trials are fun but because we trust in a wise God who cares for us. When we respond rightly in difficulty our faith deepens and character grows in the way God desires.

*"Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say  
Blessed be the name of the Lord"*

Here's some additional examples:

Chester and Amy are involved with a once-per-month men's and women's group that meets for encouragement and Bible Study. We are often hosts for these times of encouragement and accountability.

We are in an almost-weekly family Bible study with other families from our church and other churches in the area. There's regularly 2-3 other families and a couple of singles too in the study too.

We just started joining a local missionary for supper weekly. She offered to host us at her house because our Wednesday schedule is quite hectic. This is answered prayer as we were asking God for a place where we could stay in town to eat supper rather than travel back home for supper.

The kids are involved with an AWANA chapter with the older kids leading.

Chester helps lead worship music in our church. Sometimes Amy does also. We also teach children's Sunday school about once per month.

### **Goals and Direction for the Future**

1. *Have your goals changed in the last year?*

Yes. When we started I am not 100% sure what we expected but we had a general goal of 'diving in' with a fuzzy purpose of supporting missionaries with practical help and encouragement. We were hoping that our first year would give us enough good as well as tough experiences to help us develop a good game plan. Our overall purpose has not really changed but we are working on adding some clarity to the how, who, what, where, why etc. One of the biggest things which is a real priority is the development of an advisory team in two key areas 1. Ministry partners 2. Professional partners. The other major need is to develop enough

perspective and experience for effective language and communication. Right now when people ask me what we do I really struggle to have enough clarity for a clear description.

2. *Do you have a long-term ministry plan, i.e. 3 to 5 years? If so, please share with us.*

Yes we have a plan but the specifics are pretty fuzzy. Right now it is really just trusting God and following Him, doing a lot of praying and examination, waiting for God. We are working toward several things: developing an advisory team, getting clearer picture of our role, developing how key decisions are made, and getting a better hold on paperwork and records keeping administration.

3. *Have you been able to develop working relationships with other people or groups that you consider an important part of your work on the field? Yes No With whom do you collaborate or strategize?*

Amy brought out a good point, perhaps one aim of your question here is relationships with the people on-site for a project, my answer is oriented toward totality of ministry and if we have relationships where they are part of our development of strategy.

As to the on-site. Yes, we worked well with each of the people in the projects and they are critical in developing the immediate strategies on a given project. Our level of communication with Haven On the Rock was hampered later in the project by Zach working in remote areas with limited ability to make or receive phone calls.

In the overall ministry I am not really satisfied with our level of relationships and networking as yet. I, Chet, have a small network of people (~15) who are professionals in various fields (designers, automotive, systems, electrical, plumbing, teachers, woodworkers, etc). Most of these are willing to assist if I need input related to their field but they are more like friends and acquaintances, not so much partners in our ministry. We need several partners with whom we can develop plans around the professional, personal and ministry challenges. This is part of our goal in developing an advisory team.

4. *If your responsibilities and/or location changed since January 1 of last year, please provide details.*

Our location is dependant on the particular projects which we are involved in. Our 'home base' is in Ashland, NE but we are mobile and are working to develop a more modular and flexible system for easier deployment.

Our responsibilities are very dependent on the needs of the individual project but we have come to understand that we really need to make sure that there is significant 'buy-in' or ownership on major projects so that we are not the primary actors on major projects.

5. *May we have your permission to quote, with discretion, from your letters? Yes*  
*(Please provide us from time to time with an encouraging experience and/or a photo that we might share with our supporters. Photos showing interaction with the people to whom you minister are especially desirable. If this is not possible, you could send us good local faces or picturesque scenes.)*

Do you guys at GGF want specific stuff sent your direction separate from being on our email list or is that good enough?



## Personal

### *1. How is your health? Are there special concerns?*

In general the family health is pretty good. (*Ironically, as we edit this, four of five kids are sick. But this is unusual*). We do an acceptable job of making sure that our kids health does not suffer in the performance of our missions projects. However, there are a few things I will mention: I, Chet, have always had difficulties with ear infections which can limit my ability to interact with people effectively. God has been very gracious in helping me deal with the discomfort and communication challenges but there are some problems that creep in. Secondly, I have been realizing that my general level of conditioning is less than what I consider to be an acceptable level. I am starting to put some additional physical stretching and increased activity into our normal mix to make sure that I stay in good shape. Lastly, I have adult ADD. In practical terms this means I will “go-go-go” at a moderately insane level. It requires real effort for me to slow down and Amy is a real help for me in noticing when I need to back off. It also helps out to have responsibilities of parenting because I have to look out for the needs of the kids, this also forces me to slow down sometimes. Also paperwork and administration is definitely not one of my strengths.

### *2. Do you have someone to share your spiritual highs and lows with? To pray with? To be a “friend closer than a brother”?* Yes

Both Amy and I have a group of ladies and guys with who we can share life honestly and support each other. Still, I have always struggled with connecting at a deeper level and suspect this will require constant vigilance. Amy and I try to invest ourselves in developing and maintaining strong relationships and I think because of our level of intentionality we are alright for now but always realizing that there is room for improvement.

### *3. How are your immediate family members doing?*

**Amy:** I think Amy struggles with feeling connected to ministry and the life balance of family, ministry, making money, and time management. We are working through the initial stages of fleshing out the practical realities and establishing some boundaries so that we are doing something that can be sustained for the long haul. We do not want to lose our minds, destroy relationships, or damage our bodies, we do not see that as good stewardship. We want to keep the passion without burning out.

**Our kids:** Our kids have done well with our half nomadic existence. We try to make sure that we are keeping a healthy family environment where there is a good relationship connection and transparency. It is interesting to us now as we are starting to see the process of kids growing towards independence. We are not sure exactly how that will tie into the ministry but anticipate that we will have some interesting challenges in the next half dozen years. At least one of these is that Micah, our oldest, is now employed and driving. It already has some impact on who is joined up with a project on site.

**Our parents:** Amy’s folks seem pretty reasonably healthy. However, Chet’s Dad, Merlin, is in the later stages of Alzheimer’s. It has been an ongoing challenge to understand how to encourage and support Mom and help Dad in being faithful to the end of his life. We believe God has us located here in part due to the support we can provide Chet’s folks. With Alzheimer’s there is no way to know when Dad will sign out and join Jesus, that said I do not really see Dad making it much beyond the next year. It is hard to see how Dad’s passing will

change things but know that it will.

4. *When did your last furlough end? When is the next one planned?*

We have never really taken “vacations” or a furlough but have made sure to include interesting breaks and recovery as part of the traveling and ministry process. We are trying to make sure that we maintain ourselves and are not pushing ourselves outside of health and sanity. That said we are beginning to understand that the development, training and interaction with our support partners is a serious and significant part of what we are doing and we will need to plan for that within our ministry. We have not really talked with our direct advisors at GGF on this part of things.

5. *Do you have plans for further education or training in the near future?*

Yes but what and how we are not sure. We are going to be developing some ideas as we proceed but one of the key elements is making choices around the question “what contributes toward God’s purposes in our ministry and lives”. For now we are taking the Perspectives On the World Christian Movement course. Along with the kids we are working on developing language in Spanish and French using the Fluenz program. Chet would like to add a better understanding of Greek.

Every bit of development has value but in all things we need to not add too much into our schedule because these choices affect our ministry capacity. We need to make these decisions with purpose.

6. *What are you doing to further your personal growth in the area of missions? Any recent missions-related courses or books you could recommend to other GGF workers?*

Amy recommendations:

**Funding your ministry, Scott Morton,**

This was a pretty solid book with valuable input on having a right perspective toward the issue of fund raising as well as real practical advice on getting the job done. This is a book we would recommend not only to missions minded people but also Church elders, people in non-profits, volunteer organizers, etc.

**MPDX.org**

This is a good website/resource for managing, tracking donations and contacts. They have many useful tools such as organizing contacts with tags, creating and logging tasks, tracking response to specific appeals. They also have good MailChimp integration.

Personal growth. I read a lot of studies, and articles from a wide range of disciplines. A significant number of the books I read are sci-fi, or other novels which spark my imagination. However, I include a good amount of history, science and faith books and journals from various Christian conferences. These are a handful of books I read this year with some type of

applications in life, faith and ministry which I would re-read or recommend, sometimes with reservations. They are in no particular order.

### **Irresistible, Andy Stanley**

A book exploring the compelling early Church and some ideas on why this is not the case now. I found the writing a great mix of very accessible language and pith. I'd highly recommend this book to any Christ follower as a good prompt in thinking and application of faith.

### **Drunks, an american history, Christopher Finan**

A book which looks at some of the different early approaches to treating addictions including some very interesting history on American Indian response to alcohol. This book promoted some ideas on discipleship with backgrounds including compulsive or addictive behavior.

### **Kingdom Man, Tony Evans**

Tony has always been one of my favorites. He has a real passion for God's grace, the Bible and practical application. There is always something which sort of punches me in the gut. Kingdom man is a great start in seeing Christian men step up to the plate in discipleship.

### **An effective life, Stephen Covey**

Some principles of life management or improvement. I did not find the writing to be personally compelling. However, there were a few applications which were good.

### **The reason for my hope, Billy Graham**

I loved the early clarity in presenting the gospel by Billy Graham but it seems this clarity has softened around the edges. Compare early example "*Just as salvation comes from believing in Christ alone, so does assurance.*" with this quote "*I will free you from the chains of sin. I will settle the conflict within and give peace to your soul. But you must come to Me with a repentant heart.*" There are some very good things in this book, but sadly also some pretty foggy doctrine.

### **Word by Word, the secret life of dictionaries, Kory Stamper**

For those of us who care about language and choices of words this is an enjoyable read. A little wit but sometimes dull, Kory offers some experiences and history from working with merriam-webster dictionary. A reminder that careful selection of words is critical to those who present important spiritual truths.

### **A prairie girls faith, Stephen Hines**

Here is an enjoyable book which has a few hidden punches. Stephen has a look at the spiritual background and writings of Laura Ingles Wilder.

### **Can't nothing bring me down, Ida Keeling**

After a spat of poor books around race issues this was a refreshing read. Ida, a record holding black runner, tells of her experiences growing up in Bronx through civil rights as well as depression times. I particularly appreciate how her reliance on a loving, powerful God comes through the pages.

### **Trauma Stewardship, Laura Van Lipsky**

I would recommend this as a good read for any, including missions people, who are involved in emotionally challenging work. Laura uses a little formal language such as "Trauma exposure response" when I think saw someplace else as "compassion fatigue". An OK book dealing with burnout but be prepared for a little tedium getting there.

**The gospel according to the son, Norman Mailer**

This is a horrible book with exceptionally bad theology and doctrine, however, I would recommend it to mature Christians as exposing distorted perspectives on Jesus and faith. It did however increase my appreciation of the authenticity and clarity of the gospel writers.

**Loving God, Charles Colson**

I appreciated Chuck as a guy with great boldness in his faith. This book has some very good insights on what Christian love looks like. It can be very motivating at times, however, it has some very damaging portions which equate eternal life by faith as only valid when accompanied by some type of action or good works. Thus, it is a book I'd only recommend to those who understand the Biblical problems with works based salvation.

**The Arabs, a history, Eugene Rogan**

I'm trying to understand Arabs and Israel history a little better and this is another perspective on some of the history of the region and people. It does delve some into non-religious reasoning for some of the conflicts of the Arabic nations and culture.

**The four loves, CS Lewis**

I appreciate a lot Lewis' writing as compelling and engaging but for some reason this book while having great content does not really do it for me. However, it always sparks some deeper thinking and application and one which I read every few years.

**The meaning of marriage, Timothy Keller**

I committed to reading a-book-a-month related to marriage last year and was very challenged by this book. The content is very solid and pretty well written. I think Timothy probably has a real good handle on the grace-love of God towards us and puts that understanding into some wise counsel on marriage. I'd put this as the number 3 book on marriage I've read this last year.

**Hands free life, Rachael Stafford**

A decent book with some good insights on avoiding distraction and focusing on the parts of your life with have true significance.

**Own the moment, Carl Lentz**

Hillsong pastor authors an easy reader which exemplifies the bumper-sticker, soft-doctrine christianity being peddled in certain parts of the mega-church movement. This book looks a lot at Carl's journey but is pretty light reading in sound teaching. There are some real compelling sections but sadly Carl mixes in works salvation.

**Love and Respect, Emerson Eggerichs**

Some marriage books cut a little deeper. This is one such uncomfortable yet prescient book. It has good personal insights and also exposed several areas where I come up short. This is a good book which I will be reading again. It is my number 2 book for the year but not one I would be comfortable recommending to just anyone.

**His needs, Her needs, Willard Harley**

This is a practical book with far reaching impact. I found this book a lot more personal and compelling than "5 loves" by Chapman. The subtitle nails it "building an affair proof marriage". I've recommended this book many times over the last couple years and have read it quite a few times. It is my number 1 book on marriage. If you have never read it please do, I am confident it will provide some insight into making your marriage better.

## Financial and Administrative

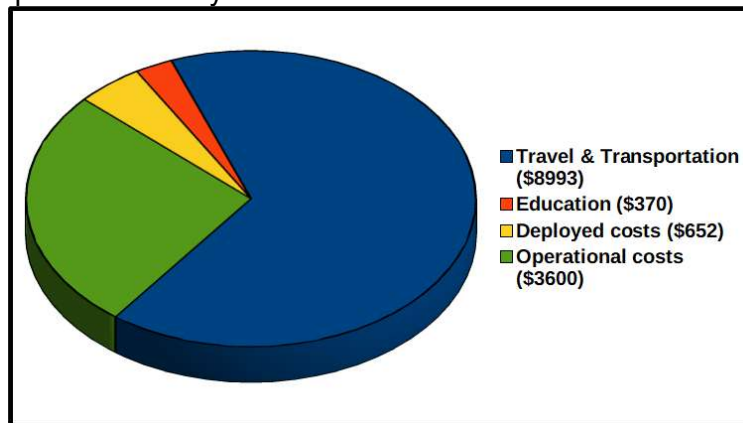
*On a scale of 1 to 5 how would you rate your income donor support on the field?*

3

We are now working to develop the support network. We do not have as many regular donors as we would like. However, it seems to me that thus far God has provided the needs of the ministry. We are being careful stewards in the funds and are trying to make sure our supporters see themselves as partners in ministry. I think we need to continue in diligence to gradually expand and let people know that we are thankful for God's provision through them.

*2. Do you have other sources of income besides GGF? If so, please indicate the percentage (%) and general categories of other support sources, including approximate amounts.*

At present we are tent-makers in that our household expenses are covered from the income of Amy's work and the funding coming from supporters provides for the transportation side of the ministry. I think our ministry funds make up about 15-20% of our annual expenses. Below is a graph of ministry expenses for the year.



Prior to now I would have said I really like the idea of tent making because it makes missions more of a lifestyle. Through experience I now see that this is not without drawbacks, especially in feeling like you're not doing enough or disconnected from the mission work when you are doing the work to fund the ministry. Our thoughts are that we will do that for which God provides with the long term hope that we can increase the percentage of time we spend working for missions.

*If you were to give yourself a letter grade, what grade would you give yourself for keeping in touch with your supporters?*

(A) (B) (C) (D) (F)

If the grade were based on quantity than I think we would get a B+.

We are working through the process of having multiple levels of supporter involvement and we are not 100% satisfied with the details of that yet. Part of that is that we want to be connecting with people at a level that they see themselves as an integral part of the ministry team. I think we get a passing grade in general but we still have some learning and implementation to bring it to the level we want it to be.

*4. How often do you keep in touch with your supporters, and how?*

We send a News & Updates email 1-3x per month (more when we're deployed, less when we're not).

We update our text groups (GroupMe and WhatsApp) regularly with pictures of whatever is happening in our lives or on projects. Slightly less regularly, we update Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (though they get copies of all the news and updates too)

We are trying to funnel new contacts through our website, [projects4missions.com](http://projects4missions.com).

Our basic game plan is in presenting people with a choice of different options based on their own technology preferences: real mail, email, blog, website, WhatsApp, GroupMe, Facebook, instagram, twitter, Marco Polo, etc.

Our basic goal is keep people informed on the various activities and projects, communicate what God is doing in a particular project, reflect on deeper themes or what God is teaching us, and partner with prayer warriors.

I think one area we are a little short in is that we do not have a specific plan to talk in person or on phone with people with some reasonable frequency, this seems a little bit short sighted. I think at least in my case I'll need to have a schedule well defined or it simply will not be a real priority.

5. *Please send us a current family/personal photo if you have not done so within the past year (and large size if by email).* Boom, done.... I think.

6. *Do you have a personal website, blog, Facebook page, etc?* Yes

Website: [projects4missions.com](http://projects4missions.com)

- This has links to all our "news & updates" emails (most of them are also blog posts) and to all of our other social media presences (which includes Facebook, instagram, twitter).

Social media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

Text Groups: We have groups on WhatsApp and GroupMe, where people can "follow" our updates.

7. *Is there a website for your field organization?* I don't think we have any field organization.

8. *If there has been a change, please provide updated emergency contact information for both home and field.* Our contact information should be current in your system.

### **Fund Raising**

*Tell us about your fundraising efforts.*

*What are you currently doing?*

Since we are new we are still working to develop a network of faithful partners in the ministry. This has involved a lot of attempts to connect at a deeper level with individuals.

A few concrete steps we've taken:

- Involvement with AWANA - they had us speak before and after the France missions trip.
- Involvement with church - they also had us speak before and after the France trip, and donated toward that trip.

- Involvement with homeschooling groups - we spoke after the trip to France.
- Last week, Amy extended a business trip to visit a supporter that lives a few hours away from where she had to be for work. She spent two nights and the day between with them.
- We met for dinner with a family that left our church about a year ago, but whom we wanted to keep in touch with. They just set up a monthly donation.
- We sent out a paper appeal for funds in November. God used it to provide enough for the Perspectives class, and most of our monthly operational costs through the course.
- We regularly pray for people who support us, and for people whom we'd like to support us.
- We are planning to attend some conferences to develop partnerships

*How often?*

We keep a list of supporter prayer requests that have been shared with us, and pray for them a few times a week (I'd like to say daily, but it's not quite that consistent). We check on the prayer requests we have regularly - at least once a week (not the same people every week).

We're working toward trying to have dinner with someone we'd like to invite to join us once a month, but this is not yet in place.

*How do you personally thank your donors?*

We send out hand written thank you notes for every non-scheduled donation. For our monthly supporters we try to send out cards and such at least a couple times a year. We sent postcards and cards from France, and brought back several small gifts for supporters. We wish we'd sent postcards from Wyoming, and will make it a point to do so if/when we return.

### **Special Projects**

1. *Did you have any Special Ministry Projects during the year?* No

### **Home Office Support**

1. *On a scale of 1 to 5 – with 5 being the best – how would you rate the service you receive from the home office?* 4

We like that you read our news and updates, and occasionally respond.

We don't feel very connected to GlobalGrace home office or others within the GlobalGrace family. We're not sure whether this is normal, or something that we should be trying to change.

*We appreciate any suggestions on how we can improve our service to you.*

1. We'd like to know when any non-scheduled donation arrives immediately, so that we can get a thank-you note out soon after their donation. Is there a way to automate some of this so that it reduces the workload on you guys as well as making the data available for us quickly.

2. The giving website is difficult to navigate and confusing for donors. We wrote up a tutorial to help people who called us frustrated that they couldn't figure out how to give. It's here: <https://www.projects4missions.com/donation-tutorial/> I'm not sure whether it's helped anyone,

but perhaps it could highlight to the person responsible for coding and maintaining the website what some of the common issues I see with it are. We would be glad to work with whoever manages the tech and data side of GGF and help get things to the point where it is easy for people to sign up for newsletters or send off donations.

3. It would be useful to add integration of donations data and contacts with mpdx.org. We have started using it to keep track of supporters and find it a helpful tool.

2. *Are there other items of concern to you or any prayer requests which you would like to share with us?*

One is developing an advisory team, also in our marriage we are working to understand how our personalities and other things affect our ability to be communicating, loving and supporting each other effectively.

**Closing thoughts:**

It has been a very interesting first year with many great experiences alongside plenty of challenges which remind us that we have a lot to learn and that our reliance is not on our own abilities but rather on Jesus, a faithful leader who has the wisdom and love to guide and protect. We would welcome and encourage your questions and insights.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chester & Amy Davis', with a stylized flourish above the names.

Signature:

*Chester & Amy Davis*

Date: 1-29-2019