

envisioning vocation

Speak Out!



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VOCATION**

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TO REMEMBER**

Over the course of the last year, I have had more than one opportunity to speak on the topic of integrating faith and work. Last fall, we did a series at Eastbrook called “God at Work” where we unpacked how to live for God and make disciples in the workplace. This past May, I had the privilege of speaking at Elmbrook’s Unleashed Conference on the topic of work as worship. One thing that has stood out to me is that when we talk about integrating faith and work, what we are really talking about is vocation.

The word ‘vocation’ comes from the Latin, *voco*, which means, ‘I call.’ It is a word that carries the sense of God’s calling to us as His people both individual and as a community. It is the sort of thing the Apostle Paul brings to light in 1 Corinthians 7:12 where he writes: *“each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them.”* As Os Guinness mentions there are two dimensions to calling: 1) our primary calling to know and follow Jesus Christ, and 2) our secondary calling to live entirely for God, whatever we “do” in our daily lives or work.

Clearly, vocation—or ‘calling’—is not something just for pastors or missionaries. We are all called to Christ first, and then called to serve in certain ways, whether as engineers, doctors, assembly line workers, lawyers, hospice caregivers, musicians, or more.

Because of the Gospel—the good message of Jesus’ redemption and future restoration—we live now with a powerful sense of calling, first to God and then to life. We celebrate that this calling is all a gift from God, but we live it out with all our might. This is why Paul recognizes, in his words to the Corinthian believers, that *“each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them.”* Part of our depth of discipleship is that we live in our work lives for God.

Vocation is more than what we do for a paycheck; it is our God-given call, discerned in prayer and community. God has set each of us apart for a specific purpose. He has put each of us in touch with a unique network of people in a specific context. He has given each of us a distinct personality and skill set to use for His glory. In these pages, you’ll find stories of Eastbrookers who answered a specific call from God, individuals who are using their call at work, and those who ventured into the unknown to discern their call. As you read, think about your own friendships, acquaintances and experiences. Ask for God’s help in envisioning your call and living it out for Him.

Matt Erickson
Senior Pastor



What is it that we are made for? What is it that God has created us to do? In this issue, as we wrap our minds around vocation, being called by God, and what our individual roles in His mission are, we thought there was no better image to set the tone for this issue than this photo of Production Assistant Zack Johnson, atop Eastbrook’s bell tower, as captured by photographer and Holy Grounds Barista Seth Herlinger. Follow Seth’s photography on Instagram at [@seth_and_the_city](#). Follow Zack’s photography at [@the_other_zack](#).

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SPEAK OUT! TEAM:

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VO•CA•TION

NOUN

from Latin *vocatio(n-)*, from *vocare* ‘to call.’

- a summons or strong inclination to a particular state or course of action; especially : a divine call to the religious life
- the work in which a person is employed : occupation
- the special function of an individual or group

SYNONYMS: calling, life’s work, mission, purpose, function

From Merriam-Webster



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STORY

Christina Winrich

In high school, I considered myself a very “deep” person, too spiritual for Jesus or Christianity. I was really involved in classical music, was reading atheistic philosophy and looking into Buddhism and meditation. I grew up in a Catholic school, going to Mass, but had walked away from God at 13.

While I was at UW-Madison studying music, my two best friends were very committed Christians. They seemed different. They were faithful friends who showed me the love of God, even though I wasn’t interested in church or the Bible. I transferred to Bloomington for two more years of undergrad and while I was there, I began reading [Søren] Kierkegaard. I learned about the truth of God by reading Kierkegaard. At 23, while studying in France, all of the pieces kind of came together: the love and the truth. And I gave up a 10-year struggle against God and I declared Him the winner.

When I became a Christian at 23, I just thought God was so awesome that I promised Him one year of my life on the mission field.

Within the next couple of years of my journey, I realized two things. First, that God wants all of our lives, not just one year. Second, that everywhere we are is the mission field. It’s not just “out there.”

My life has been quite a journey since then. I went from France back to Indiana. I worked in Texas and Maine, working in classical music and special education, and then I served in China for 5 years. Although I’ve done a lot of different things along the way, the call is the same: to show people the love and truth of God and what it means to be human.

At the end of my 5 years in China, I felt that I was called to long-term overseas ministry but I did not feel like that place was China. I also knew I needed Bible training so I went to Bible college in Canada. While I was there, I learned that Japan is only 1% Christian and there’s a big market there for teaching English. I

fell in love with the people, the culture, the food, and so this September, I am headed to Sapporo, Japan, to study Japanese and discern my long-term placement.

The desire of my heart since I was a very young child was for a family and a home. It’s been ironic that the journey that God has taken me on has, in many ways, uprooted my life. But it’s been in that process of uprooting that I’ve found that my roots are in Jesus. Following God’s call is costly.

In Luke 18:29-31, Jesus says, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many

times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.” I’ve seen the cost in terms of my own family and constantly having to leave and say goodbye. But at the same time, I’ve had the incredible joy of making friendships all over the globe, and living out my faith in communities where there are only a few witnesses, like in northwest China. So while there is a cost, the joy is worth it. In the Gospels, there is an account where the disciples saw a group of needy people. You would think that Jesus would say, “let’s go heal them, let’s go feed them.” But instead He said, “ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38). When I look at a place like Japan, where there are so many broken people, and I see that the church is struggling—they need more workers. I just feel like the call from Matthew 38 is true for each and every one of us;

the Lord is looking at our world this way and He has uniquely gifted each one of us to be a worker.

To be a worker doesn’t mean you quit your job, sell your car, and move to Japan, although it might. It could mean that you go down to the south side one day a week and tutor an Iraqi woman. It could mean that you work one day a week at the Neighborhood Learning Center and tutor an adult learner who is pursuing their GED. It definitely means that you live for Christ in the place God has put you, whether at work or at home.

I fell in love with Jesus when I was 23 because He suddenly felt so real to me. I hope I can be a faithful friend to the Japanese people and show them the love and truth of God in a very real way.

Pray for Christina as she prepares to leave for Japan this September. Contact the Church Office at info@eastbrook.org if you’d like to be added to Christina’s prayer list.



AT THIS POINT IN YOUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY, HOW DO YOU ENVISION YOUR CALL TO GOD'S MISSION IN THE WORLD?

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." —Fredrick Buechner

As believers, we are given the responsibility and privilege to participate in God's mission in the world. But as individuals, uniquely created and formed by Him, we go about joining in His work in different ways. For this issue of *Speak Out!*, we have been musing over what it means to be a multi-ethnic church on mission, uniquely created and called to live for God in a variety of different occupations, locations, and stages of life.

Where does your deep gladness meet the world's deep hunger? At this point in your life, how are you being asked to live out your part in God's mission? We asked 17 Eastbrookers, and here are their answers. ■

1, Ruth Carver. 2, Marshall & Terri Plant. 3, Cheri Meyer. 4, Matt Erickson. 5, Amy Miura. 6, Michael Ford. 7, Dena Jabbour. 8, Bianca Calderon. 9, Aboud Korkis. 10, Christina Winrich. 11, Michael Simmons. 12, Eric Hobbs. 13, Bill Wenzler & daughter Deborah Wenzler Farris. 14, Paul Sinclair. 15, Melody Seip.

This question comes from Fuller Theological Seminary's Center for Vocation and Formation and is a discernment tool aimed to help any and all of us who are envisioning our vocation.

1. ...to point people to Jesus and help them deal with reality.

2. ...to attract Arabs through art, music, dance and fitness in order to love and encourage them with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. ...to electronically and bodily provoke Holy Land Arabs to open God's Word that they might encounter the Word of God.

4. ...to wake up each morning and say, "Jesus, I'm yours," and then move forward by God's grace.

5. ...to be near to the brokenhearted and provide a space for people to feel heard.

6. By God's grace, to use the gifts and experiences He has given me for His purpose.

7. ...to raise my boys to know the depths of God's love for them, our dependency on Him and to model His calling to love others.

8. ...to love orphan children from all different cultures and teach them that they have been adopted by God through Christ.

9. ...to keep speaking out and speaking into people's hearts. Speaking love, joy, and hope.

10. ...to show people the love and truth of God and what it means to be human.

11. ...to be an example and let the light of Christ shine through me.

12. ...to respond to a comprehensive call on my life. (This includes my husbanding and fathering at home, my lawyering at work, my advising on boards, my nurturing and loving of friends, friendships and strangers, my caring for neighbors, my studying of the martial arts, my ministering at church and elsewhere, and my praying for and loving my city, my state, my nation, and my world.)

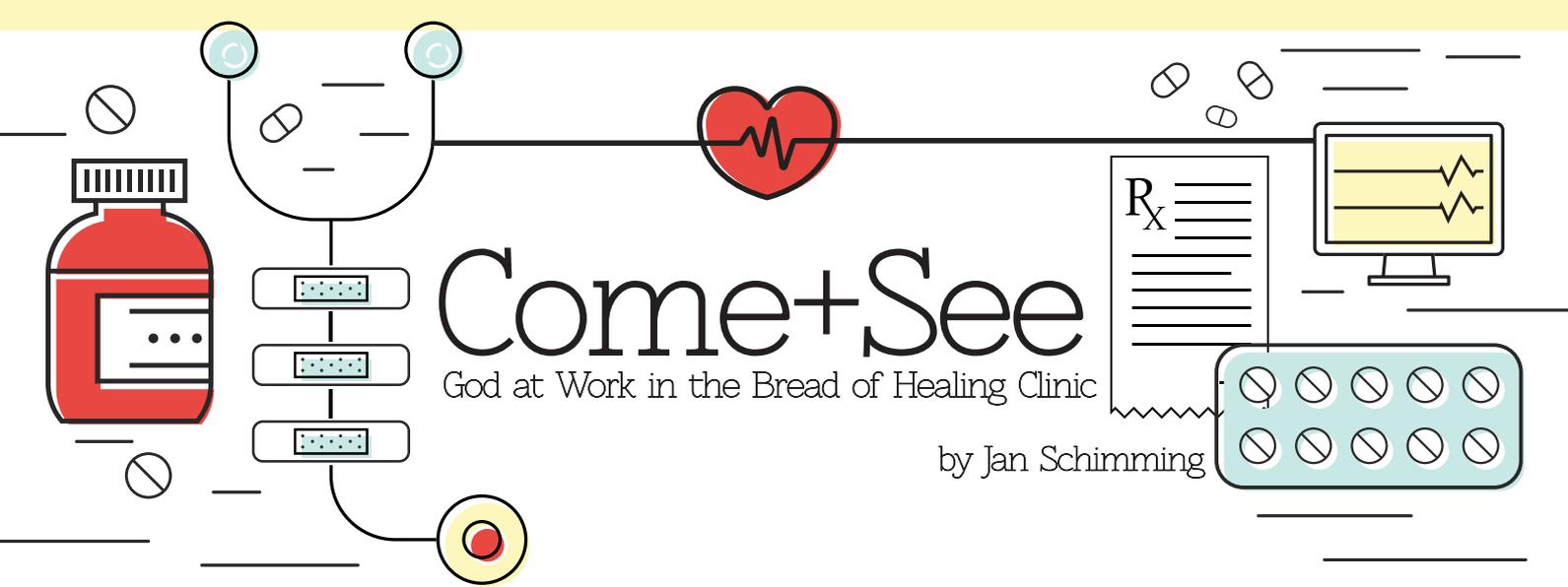
13. ...to keep being thankful.

14. ...to get out of God's way so His Spirit can pour into me fresh each day and I can be a vessel of the Fruits, and yes, like Dad, to give thanks.

15. ...to be in the lives of many people as an educator, friend, and disciple-maker.

16. ...to follow God's call to places that are simultaneously uncomfortable and life-giving.

SO...HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER THIS QUESTION?



Come+See

God at Work in the Bread of Healing Clinic

by Jan Schimming

On the lower level of Eastbrook Church, next to Fellowship Hall and below Worship Hall, is one of Eastbrook's best kept secrets. The Bread of Healing Clinic is a non-profit that has three sites around Milwaukee, one of which is located inside Eastbrook Church. Each of the three Bread of Healing Clinic sites provide cost-free primary medical care to adults without insurance in Southeastern Wisconsin. An all-volunteer team is committed to achieving health, which also involves the spiritual health of the patient. One of these volunteers is Jan Schimming, who was fundamental in bringing the clinic to Eastbrook many years ago. We had the pleasure of interviewing Jan this month. Here is the story of the Bread of Healing Clinic, in her own words...

Come to 16th & Walnut + See

When my family returned from the Mission field we eventually moved to Milwaukee. We had been living in the country called Zaire and is now called the Democratic Republic of Congo. During our adjustment to life in the states, I began praying about how I might serve here. I can't recall how or why, but somehow I learned about a small clinic that was starting at 16th and Walnut inside Cross Lutheran Church. It was like God said to me, *there's this place called the Bread of Healing Clinic, I want you to come and see what I am doing here.* At the time, the clinic at Cross Lutheran was only a doctor, a parish nurse, and a vision for serving the uninsured. I did not tell them that I had a nursing background, I just came on as a volunteer and began serving with them. We were the only three people back then.

George and I were attending at Eastbrook and we were also a part of a medical missions group that met regularly. One day, as we were discussing and praying for someone's passport to come in so they could serve overseas, I mentioned that there is a place to serve in the city where they didn't need a passport. I invited everyone to come and see what God was doing at 16th and Walnut, and two people came, Paul Hoffmann and Scott Karstenson.

Paul and Scott were busy guys with full-time jobs, but they came to see what they might do. They got involved with the Clinic right away. After some time, there was a medical missions conference in Kentucky and a few of us decided to go, including Paul and Scott. While walking early one morning it was like God said to me, *if the Bread of Healing Clinic is good enough for 16th and Walnut, it's probably good enough for Green Bay Ave.*

Come to Green Bay Ave. + See

So, I suggested that idea to Scott and Paul, and God quickly began to move. Suddenly, we were located as the second site of the Bread of Healing Clinic. We originally met in the old Gym of the school (now the lower level of the A-Wing) one morning a month. The need grew, Paul began to speak to the church about having space, and the Clinic just grew. Now we're open on Monday afternoons, Thursday mornings, and one Saturday a month. It has grown to include specialists. Men from Eastbrook Church built a beautiful space for us that includes exam rooms and helps us care for our patients.

Bread of Healing is now a collaboration of all of the Clinics. It's



all volunteer-run with only a few exceptions. We have amazing volunteers from all walks of the medical world, and we are happy to have non-medical volunteers because there are always a lot of administrative tasks that need to be done.

I guess what's behind this is that it's been God's vision all along. He planted an idea for those who started it at 16th and Walnut and He continues to provide in amazing ways. In the beginning, I saw what it looked like: a doctor, a nurse, and myself. Now He's grown this ministry into three sites with amazing resources; He's just multiplied those loaves of bread! God allowed me the privilege of leading me. God led me to come and see and then I just followed Him

One day a few years ago, right here, we had a missionary bring in an Iraqi patient to a Christian clinic to see a Jewish doctor with a Korean nurse. That to me is Eastbrook.

Come, See + Pray

For the past two years, I've been pretty much retired from nursing at the Bread of Healing Clinic because God sent Moe [Maureen Browning] and so we kept her. Now I serve more as the volunteer coordinator at the Clinic.

I tell my volunteers to come and see what God is doing. He takes the 5 loaves of bread that we have been given and scatters it amazingly. When people come and see Jesus in this ministry, they want to follow Him in this ministry. When they begin to follow Him and meet the people that are sent here, whether volunteers or patients, their desire is generally to remain in this ministry and be part of what God is doing here.

There are always challenges and blessings to be found in serving. I think the challenge for a clinic is working with people's health issues and with limited resources. We have more resources now than what we started with, but resources are still limited. But the great joy of the Bread of Healing Clinic

is that it's faith-based and we have all the opportunity to pray with and meet with our patients on a spiritual level. Our patients are uninsured, their needs go beyond physical, and we are able to meet them where they are.

Everything begins with prayer. The most you can do for the Bread of Healing Clinic is to pray: pray for resources, pray for volunteers, pray for patients. I think the least you can do is contact me and see if you can help.

Come, See + Discern

George and I came to Christ later in life, ended up on the mission field, and then returned to the States—not by our choice. So, when we ended up back in the States, it was sort of this question about why exactly did we go through this, to be right back here? I was trying to sort through this in my own life.

What God has continued to tell me and show me is that when we think of doing international missionary work, the reality is that if we're not doing it here, we won't do it there. I think the Bread of Healing Clinic is how God showed me that. He showed me that the things I learned about missions in the DRC was as needed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as it is was internationally. I can make the same application to a situation here.

I think if you're in Scripture on a daily basis, you are being filled with what God has for you that day. So when you see God at work and He invites you into that, that's your calling. I think He uses our experiences included in that. When I think about the story of the Bread of Healing Clinic, or about my own life, calling looks less like "I'm going to wait and have God call me," and more like "God called me to Himself, I have already been called." Now, it's just about what that call looks like on a daily basis. therefore, for me to say "Come and See" is an invitation to see what God is doing. My responsibility is to invite others. And I'm so glad I did. ■

Take a Next Step & Get Involved with the Bread of Healing Clinic:



Come + Pray

You can come and sit with patients in the waiting room to talk and pray with each other. This is one of the easiest and most important roles. We also print a monthly prayer calendar so both patients and volunteers can pray at home.



Come + Serve

There are many roles for individuals with medical and non-medical skills. Come and visit the clinic and see where you can fit in. Contact Jan via email, gschim1969@att.net, for an introduction and tour.



Come + Donate

Unused medications that are in date can be placed in the blue bins outside the clinic on weekends. Please black out or remove patient names. Call 414.228.5220 x210 and ask for Paul if you are unsure of what to donate.



Become a Patient

If you are an adult and without insurance, call 414.228.5220 x107 to get an appointment.



DATES TO KNOW



(July-August 2016)

Family Worship Weekend

Saturday & Sunday, July 2/3

eastbrook.org/familyworshipweekend

International Student Fireworks Outreach

Sunday, July 3, 6 pm, Lakefront

Noah's Ark Trip (for Students)

Wednesday, July 6, 8 am-9 pm

RSVP at eastbrook.org/students

An Evening of Worship & Prayer (2nd Tuesdays)

Tuesday, July 12, 7-8:30 pm, Worship Hall

Day Camps (for Kids)

Wednesdays, July 13, 20 & 27, 9 am-4 pm

Register at eastbrook.org/summercamps

YoPro (Young Professionals)

Sundays, July 17 & August 21, 6 pm

eastbrook.org/yp

Wilderness Trip (for Students)

July 21-31, Bob Marshall Wilderness (MT)

Family Camp

July 22-24, Green Lake Conference Center

Worship on the Deck

Tuesdays, July 26 & August 28, 7 pm, Holy Grounds

An Evening of Worship & Prayer (2nd Tuesdays)

Tuesday, August 9, 7-8:30 pm, Worship Hall

Leader Launch

Saturday, August 20, 9 am, Worship Hall

Tour of Milwaukee

Saturday, August 27, 1 pm, UWM

eastbrook.org/tourofmke

DID YOU KNOW?

Find a full, up-to-date list of calendar events at eastbrook.org/calendar.

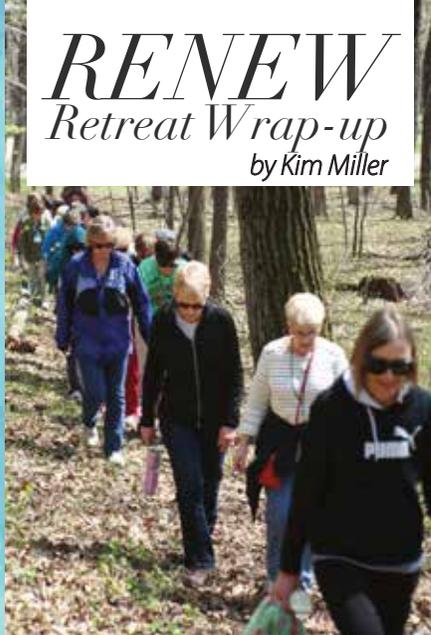
Or, download the Eastbrook App, available on smart phones, and now on Apple Watch!



RENEW

Retreat Wrap-up

by Kim Miller



The women of Eastbrook Church were invited to breathe, listen, retreat and renew over the weekend of April 22-24. It was a time of refreshment and renewal for many. Each part of the retreat was designed to draw each woman closer to our Lord, help facilitate time with new and old friends, and to be still. The worship came from Jenee O'Connor, with a concert on Friday night to help us relax and find joy in the midst of little things! The next morning brought time in God's word, worship, teaching from Terry Heyward, games to get to know one another and a true sense of joy and peace filled Green Lake Bauer Lodge. The afternoon was filled with an art class, (many paintings can still be found at Holy Grounds), hiking the grounds at Green Lake, exercising, watching *War Room*, quiet time and enjoying time with friends. As the evening session began laughter could be heard as we had some fun games lead by Cathy Williams, and then a time to be still before the Lord through worship, teaching and prayer. It was then on to a bonfire, games and laughter as the women spent time together, laughing, sharing and caring for one another. Sunday morning came all too quickly as we had our last quiet times, worship and teaching.

Yet, as everyone headed home there was a sense of joy and excitement for what God had taught everyone over the weekend. "You are my place of quiet retreat I wait for your word to renew me" Psalm 119:114.