

reaching out

# Speak Out!

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Why does the church exist? One of the historic statements of faith says that we exist to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. The question truly becomes, then, how do we glorify and enjoy God?

Without a doubt, we glorify and enjoy God when we gather together as the church in worship. At the same time, we know that the glory of God shines strongly as the church takes our place as “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). In this we return to the calling of the people of Israel through God’s words to Abraham, “I will bless you...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:1-3).

This is a key principle of life with God: we have been blessed in order to be a blessing. As William Temple says it, “The Church is the only organization that does not exist for itself, but for those who live outside of it.”

In other words, we glorify God as we reach beyond ourselves to shine the light of Christ, to bless others in God’s name, and to share the message of Christ in word and deed. This is why one of our aims as a church is to reach out to others through evangelism, community outreach, church planting and missional multisite. We want the blessing of life with God given to us in Christ to overflow into the lives of others.

All through this issue of Speak Out you will encounter examples and stories of how God is at work as we reach out as Eastbrook. My hope and prayer is that God will encourage us and stir us up to join in with Him in ever-deepening ways to touch the lives of others in Jesus’ name!

**Matt Erickson**  
Senior Pastor



FALL 2016



This is Juju, our new neighbor; a new American. Her parents came as refugees from Myanmar to Milwaukee, and her image was captured by Eastbrook photographer Asher Imtiaz as a part of his new work, “New Americans.” The poem found in the sidebar of this page was written by Mari Reitsma Chevako, herself an Eastbrooker and longtime member of the Missions Committee. Together, Asher and Mari are showing a collaborative effort on the Gallery Wall in the Main Lobby entitled “New Americans/Going Home.” Find more of Asher’s work on page 7.

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SPEAK OUT!

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A child pumps her legs hard,  
enduring the scary unknown  
of hurtling back  
to gain the forward height,  
to touch the horizon with her toes,  
and to fling herself off  
and land as far as she can  
without skinning her knees  
or bumping her nose.  
It’s an ordinary, everyday  
life and death wager  
she believes she will win.  
It wouldn’t be fun  
without a touch of fear,  
a hint of danger.  
And though the stakes are low  
and the odds are fixed,  
it’s how she learns  
that nobody goes anywhere  
without taking risks.

So the refugee claims  
the laws of nature  
and trusts they will work  
in his favor:  
if actions have equal reactions  
perhaps every thrust back  
will land him beyond  
what his eyes can see,  
what his hopes can conceive,  
what he’s able to dream.  
And so here you are.  
Welcome to America.  
You have come so far.  
May the Church cheer you on  
at the end of your giant leap.  
And if your face is marred  
by dust and sweat and blood,  
may we not fail  
to help you back on your feet.

# STORY

EMILY HERLINGER

A God Story is a story of His faithfulness and though I am young, I have seen God's faithfulness through every chapter of my life so far. Each day I am seeing His faithfulness more and more as my story with God continues.

My story starts right here at Eastbrook. My parents were involved in the Eastbrook College Age Ministry back in the church's early days and I came along a few years later. I thank God that He allowed me to be born into this family of believers. Eastbrook has been a constant throughout my life; the community being a family to me. It was in the church basement that I "said the prayer" to accept Jesus into my heart when I was a young child. As I grew older, as a student in Student Ministry, I slowly began to understand what actually "having a relationship with Jesus" meant. The Lord worked in my heart and taught me that it was all about His goodness and grace, and that no performance I could muster up would ever be enough to save me.

**IT IS ONLY BY HIS GRACE THAT I AM SAVED AND OUT OF THAT GRACE I AM CALLED TO BE A PART OF HIS GLOBAL MISSION AND THE GREAT COMMISSION.**

As I approached the end of high school I sought the Lord as to what to do with my life, specifically what I should study in college. Being raised at Eastbrook I had an awareness of God's heart for the nations, and I was used to church being a picture of what heaven would be like one day--many languages, tribes and people coming together to worship the Father.

God has placed in my heart a love of learning about other cultures and traveling. I remember being a young child, learning that there were whole people groups that had never heard the Gospel, and my heart broke. Days when missionaries would come and speak about what God was doing around the world were my favorite. I wondered and hoped if I could be one, one day.

The Lord gave me opportunities to see His work around the world through some short-term missions trips and I slowly began to feel His call to become more involved with reaching the nations. A few weeks before I was preparing to go to college, Eastbrook had a MissionsFest with a special seminar on teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) that the Ellners [Eastbrook's field workers in China] led. I attended and heard many stories of how God used ESL teachers to shine His light around the world. Through this seminar as well as other interactions that summer, I knew the Lord was calling me to teach ESL and so that is what I majored in and worked on minors in Intercultural Studies and Bible.

Recently, God has led me into some unlikely places to serve and teach ESL. In college, an internship led me to places like Jordan and Southeast Asia. Now years later in my current teaching position here in Milwaukee, most of my students are from Southeast Asia or the Middle East. At the time, I had no idea that going to those countries would be a huge way that I would connect with future students. The Lord is leading and tying different parts of my story together and it is so interesting to watch it unfold. Now back in Milwaukee after teaching overseas for the past year, the Lord is putting great mentors and brothers and sisters in the faith to teach me about living on mission. Getting involved on the southside has been a huge part of this.

**GOD'S WORD IS CLEAR THAT WE ARE TO LOVE THE FOREIGNERS IN OUR LAND AND I AM ABLE TO SEE THAT LIVED OUT IN REAL AND PRACTICAL WAYS BY THOSE AROUND ME AS WE SERVE TOGETHER.**

I am learning a lot by watching people open their homes to internationals or giving hours of their day to help meet physical needs of families.



**GOD IS TEACHING ME THAT "LIVING ON MISSION" IS NOT SOMETHING THAT IS DONE ON JUST CERTAIN DAYS OF THE WEEK OR HOURS OF THE DAY. LIVING ON MISSION IS A HOLISTIC THING. OUR JOBS, OUR INTERACTIONS WITH FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, PEOPLE AT THE STORE, OUR FREE TIME, IT ALL TIES IN TOGETHER AS THE LORD LEADS US THROUGHOUT THE DAY.**

As Pastor Matt has been talking about, we need to be intentional to see how we can seek first God's Kingdom in all areas of life. It is not something with an "on" and "off" switch. We are called to be living for Him and with Him everyday, all day. There is so much need in this world, even here in this city. This quote about reaching the nations from George Ladd sticks with me, "Christ has not yet returned; therefore, the task is not yet done...So long as Christ does not return, our work is undone. Let us get busy and complete our mission."

May we, Eastbrook, join together as we focus on "becoming 7" to reach our neighbors, city and world, and I thank God that He has allowed me to be a part of it with you this far. ■



My "shopping cart" at Aldi



Healthy food is ready for pick-up!



# A Week in the Life of a Local Outreach Intern

Nancy Taylor

## Monday

6-8:30pm  
Serve at the Food Pantry

## Tuesday

9 am  
Attend monthly staff meeting at Eastbrook

## Wednesday

10 am  
Help unload food arriving from the Hunger Task Force

## Thursday

10 am  
Weekly meeting with Local Outreach Pastor

11 am  
Administrative tasks for the Food Pantry

## Friday

8 am  
Pickup fruits & vegetables at Feeding America

1 pm  
Pick up of food at Hunger Task Force or Aldi's

## Saturday

9-11:30 am  
Serve at Food Pantry

12:30 pm  
Help move the Food Pantry to our new location

## Sunday

Recruit more volunteers to serve at the Food Pantry

### My Faith Story...

I grew up in the Catholic Church, but I sensed "something" was missing, but I did not know what. I thought it might be a different Catholic Church, but that was not the answer. I had just moved into a new apartment and my next door neighbor, Maribeth, came over to meet me and she explained the gospel to me. I immediately knew it was Jesus I was searching for. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior that day. I first came to Eastbrook when it was meeting at Hartford Avenue School about 35 years ago. I was involved in the food pantry early on for a few years when Eastbrook was meeting at that location. Since then I have attended the women's bible study and a couple of years ago I started to volunteer at the Eastbrook Food Pantry again.

### My Calling...

The Lord has given me a passion to serve Him and our community, and I feel like I am right where God wants me to be when I am serving at our Food Pantry. I want to be used by God to "feed" people both physically and spiritually. I love to serve people and get to know them in a loving way simply by listening to their story. I also really enjoy working together with others from Eastbrook who serve on the Food Pantry team. I enjoy getting to know new people who come to serve each month and it is encouraging to see the community that is developing at our pantry as we serve the Lord and our neighborhood together!

### Serving as a Local Outreach Intern...

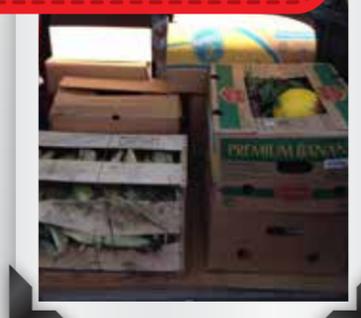
When I heard about the opportunity to serve as a Local Outreach intern here at Eastbrook, I jumped at chance because I am eager to further develop the gifts that God has given me, and I wanted to spend some focused time learning how I can serve the Lord more effectively through Local Outreach. Each month as I serve as an intern, I feel privileged to attend church staff meetings where I am learning and growing as I listen to a little bit more of Pastor Matt's teaching. I am amazed when I hear about all the work that is done by the staff in order to facilitate ministry and to equip everyone at Eastbrook Church to serve the Lord and live out their calling. I appreciate our staff a whole lot more now that I know a little more about what they do day after day.

In addition to serving in a specific ministry like the Food Pantry, as an intern, I am also working on a personal development plan to help me achieve my goals and grow into the person that the God wants me to be, both personally and in ministry. I am working with Pastor J.C. Heiden [Local Outreach Pastor] to set specific goals using

the "Ministry Leadership Growth Model." Using this personal development plan over the course of my internship, I am setting some goals that will help me to grow as a disciple of Jesus, expand my heart and vision for my ministry, and grow in my ability to manage and lead some of our local missions efforts here at Eastbrook. I am thrilled to be able to have an opportunity to keep growing into all that God wants me to become for His glory!

### What's Next...

Looking ahead to the next few months of ministry, I am excited about the new storage and distribution space that God has provided for the Food Pantry here on the Eastbrook Church campus! Over the past few months during my internship, I have joined with a number of people who have been working diligently behind the scenes to make this transition possible. Over the past few weeks we have been in the process of moving our Food Pantry out of the basement of the church office building and into a newly renovated space in the west parking lot. This will open up a number of new and exciting ministry opportunities for our Food Pantry! One of my favorite things to do each week is to pick up fresh fruits and vegetables for the pantry. This new space will allow us to store and distribute more fresh and healthy food to our guests. However, the greatest benefit is that this new space will allow us to spend less time on the logistics of moving around the food, and more time getting to know some of our neighbors who we have the privilege to serve at the Food Pantry. Each and every week here at the Food Pantry, we have the opportunity to live out the mission of Eastbrook Church: "To proclaim and embody the love of Jesus Christ in the city and around the world." Working as an intern here at Eastbrook, I feel excited and energized to be doing what God has called me to do! My heart is full, knowing this ministry is exactly where He wants me to be, touching the lives of the people He sends to the Food Pantry with His love. ■



Corn & beets en route to Eastbrook



Pastor JC shows the staff the new Food Pantry Warehouse, which was then prayed over in Jesus' name!



# the dna OF MISSIONS

Earlier this year, Pastor Adam Shidler, who had been serving as the Pastor of International Outreach for 5 years, felt called to return to the mission field with his wife, Lisa, and their son Christer—this time heading to Turkey. God opened the door for Paul Sinclair, a member of Eastbrook, also a former missionary and missions pastor at Northbrook Church, to step into this role as our new Pastor of International Outreach. Adam, Lisa, and Christer moved to Turkey in August, but we had the chance to interview Paul and Adam this summer before they left. One thing that became evident throughout the course of the interview was that God clearly went before this transition, paving the way for Eastbrook to shift into a new season of ministry, but with continued vision that draws upon decades of history.

### **Paul, what brought you to Eastbrook?**

**P:** I left Northbrook 3 years ago to work at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Around the same time, my wife Lisa and I moved to the south side. We had been attending Eastbrook and after a while I started talking with Adam and he encouraged us to get involved at the ILC [International Language Center, Eastbrook's ministry to refugees on the south side of Milwaukee].

**A:** I knew Paul from when he was at Elmbrook. He spent 10 years overseas. He was one of the first people to move into Sherman Park long ago. When I saw Paul and Lisa at church I was very excited.

**P:** The other piece is that being from the “brook network,” there is sort of a DNA of missions that is very strong in each of those churches. I had always admired Eastbrook and Marc and Nancy's remarkable ministry at Eastbrook over the years.

### **What is the “DNA of Missions” that you mention?**

**A:** Sometimes we forget how rare it is to be a part of a church with international partners that is sending field workers. We have always integrated what was happening, particularly with the suffering church in areas like China and East Africa, into our weekly services. Missions has always been a huge part of the DNA of Eastbrook; it is a dynamic identity marker of Eastbrook. We really care about reaching unreached, unengaged people groups and about the suffering church. Paul brings that same DNA of missions, with the addition of deep relationships with many other “brook churches” and a strong depth in the city of Milwaukee.

**P:** My first engagement with missions was coming back to my Christian faith and sitting under the teaching of Stuart Briscoe at Elmbrook. Stuart invited so many people from the world into Elmbrook, which opened up a world for my wife and me. It didn't feel like missions was happening “over there.” Missions was the very substance of Elmbrook then, and Eastbrook now. For us, it resulted in us going to West Africa for years.

**You guys have a lot in common. Both of your wives are named Lisa, you both served overseas, you both have 3 children, and are currently wearing plaid shirts! What else do you have in common?**

**A:** Well, we both like smoothies quite a bit [both laugh]. When I went down to the Rescue Mission to see Paul a couple of times I realized that Paul is also a people person. Everyone knows Paul.

**P:** I think we both care deeply about holistic ministry. That it's about how you live. It's not a numbers game, but ministry is an “all of life” thing.

**A:** This is really a huge part of why we knew that Paul, being an outsider in a sense, coming in, would bring a lot of freshness to Eastbrook. With where we're going, and how our congregation is growing, I knew we really needed someone like Paul to ask a lot of questions.

**P:** But our personalities are dissimilar as well. The wonderful part is that we lead differently and God puts people in the place at the right time.

### Adam, what led you and your family to go to Turkey?

**A:** Four years ago, Matt and I were going to go to Antioch. He wasn't able to go, but I spent a couple of days in Antioch. About a year later, we had a refugee family on the south side whose family was stuck in Turkey. I wanted to go see how her husband was doing. I visited Gaziantep—a very special city with almost 500,000 refugees. The church there is a small, young, multi-cultural church of about 100 or so people: Turkish, Kurdish, African and Korean. I went back there 1 more time. My wife and I prayed, and we really wanted to go and serve this church. Our family had been back from China for 7 years and we always knew we'd go back overseas: I thought we'd go after 3 years, but God's timing is perfect. I'm just hoping that by the time people read this I'm in Turkey. [He is!] Turkey has gone through tremendous upheaval. Eastbrook, from the very beginning, has had a strong focus on Islam and engagement with Muslim friends and the suffering church and sharing Christ with Muslims. Lisa and I feel very comfortable to walk in that heritage because it's something we've been doing in Milwaukee for the last 7 years. This is something that I hope will encourage Eastbrook. The Bethlehem 6 Team that went last year was huge. Having 6 people leave their homes, jobs, families, and being overseas. I have to give Eastbrook a lot of credit for that.

**P:** This is something beautiful about this church. Eastbrook historically has adapted well to what God is doing, we've "danced well." And when we learn to dance, we are the followers. We are following the Lord and the church in other parts of the world. That's a fascinating part of this church.

### What Scripture guides you?

**P:** I used to call it my Life Verse, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, "...Christ's love compels us." These are my marching orders: It's Christ's love for me that pushes me out. It's more than just a theological statement. I need to know Jesus' love for a jerk like me. Someone who, countless times, has turned his back on Jesus. And Jesus still loves me.

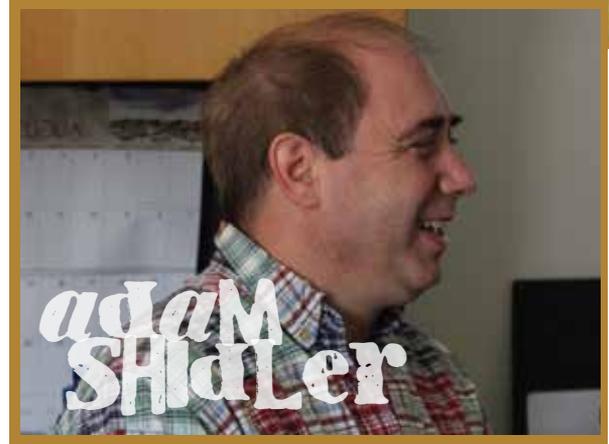
**A:** For me, it's Matthew 28, the Great Commission, and Romans 15. These passages about going to places where the Gospel is not yet preached, are strong, pioneering, encouraging life verses that we took to China with us and saw God do amazing things with. I just think that the apostle Paul is a wonderful role model of preaching to a group of people that, without Christ, he would never even notice. Christ helped him to notice people. To cry out to the lost in his heart. Whether Greek or Roman, he loved them all.

**P:** That's Eastbrook's role in the world. We are one. We are all a part of the body of Christ no matter where we're from or what language we speak.

### So, what's next? Where do we go from here?

**P:** I'm still getting my sea legs, understanding the historicity of Eastbrook and the fruit of Adam's ministry. There are now about 7 churches who are getting behind engaging the nations on the south side. God used Adam and his heart to show us that the biggest thing is hospitality and welcoming people—the foreigners, the immigrants, the refugees. To show them that there are Americans who would reach out to them not out of pity but out of love.

**A:** One challenge I see next for the church is to know that the application of Eastbrook's missions is happening every day in Milwaukee. When I hear "Milwaukee," I think of the Burmese and Somali refugees who live in the center of Milwaukee. Our area of engagement has been the communities of non-English-speakers that are in our city, feeling restless and abandoned through trauma or other



issues. Our approach to them is we're going to love them into community. So we have places like the ILC, soccer on Saturday nights, Friday night dinners.

**P:** What's significant is that when Adam says "we" do this, it's often not the church at the organizational level. It's often an organic thing—the organic work of God through Eastbrook individuals and families to make those gatherings happen.

**A:** It's about hospitality. Even if there's someone reading this that says I would like to offer my home once a year, or whatever, Paul can use that! Most people who work with internationals tend to be very independent. The challenge for that is that if we want to be a relational network we have to be relational and trust each other. We have to trust God in this.

**P:** If I wanted to learn how to play tennis well, I would have to go someplace that puts me in a place where I can engage with someone who knows, so that I can learn. If someone's reading this and wants to help and do something, my advice is this: you need to place yourself in a context where you can learn and engage with other cultures and from people who know. If you're living far away, it will require intentionality and some movement.

**A:** Paul is going to get someone who can help him play tennis. But Paul is also going to practice on his own. The Sunday Missions Class [at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall each week] is a great place to begin your awareness. Can you take a step of faith to get on the court? We need people on the court.

**P:** For me and my faith, I feel more and more that he wants Paul Sinclair to be uncomfortable. In the sense of seeing reality and wrestling with how I connect my personal faith to the reality in the world of suffering, loss, and pain. Not trying to flee it, but trying to enter into it biblically. ■

If you would like to get on the court, a great place to start is Missions Class on Sundays at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall or contact Paul, [psinclair@eastbrook.org](mailto:psinclair@eastbrook.org).

# DATES TO KNOW



(October-December 2016)

**"Dwell" MissionsFest**  
October 1-9 [eastbrook.org/dwell](http://eastbrook.org/dwell)

**"Life" Student Ministry Fall Retreat**  
October 21-23, Camp Timber-Lee  
[eastbrook.org/life2016](http://eastbrook.org/life2016)

**Eastbrook 101 [Membership Class]**  
October 8 & 15, 3-5 pm -or-  
October 9, 16, 23, 30, 11 am-12:15 pm  
RSVP at [eastbrook.org/101](http://eastbrook.org/101)

**Trauma: Out of the Darkness  
A Living Well Seminar**  
Saturday, October 15, 9 am, Holy Grounds

**New Americans/Going Home Reception**  
Saturday, October 15, 6:30 pm, Lobby

**YoPro (Young Professionals)**  
Sundays, October 16, November 20, Dec. 18  
[eastbrook.org/yp](http://eastbrook.org/yp)

**Fall Events for Kids**  
Saturday, October 29, 6:30 pm

**Boxes of Love Outreach**  
October 29-November 13

**An Evening of Worship & Prayer  
(2nd Tuesdays)**  
Tuesdays Nov. 8 & Dec. 12, 7 pm, Worship Hall

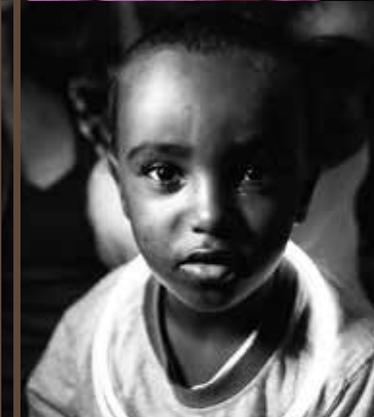
**Surviving the Holidays**  
GriefShare on Nov. 13 at 11 am or Nov. 15 at  
6:30 pm; DivorceCare on Nov. 14 at 6:30 pm

**Family Worship Weekends**  
November 26/27 & December 31/January 1  
[eastbrook.org/familyworshipweekend](http://eastbrook.org/familyworshipweekend)

**Boomers & Beyond Fireside Outing**  
Saturday, December 3  
[eastbrook.org/firesidechristmas](http://eastbrook.org/firesidechristmas)

**Christmas Eve Services**  
Saturday, December 24 at 2:30, 4, 5:30 pm  
[eastbrook.org/christmaseve](http://eastbrook.org/christmaseve)

**Christmas Day Services**  
Sunday, December 25 at 10 am  
*Please note that since Christmas Day is a Sunday  
this year, we will have only one service at 10 am.*



**NEW  
NEIGHBORS.  
NEW  
AMERICANS.**  
**BY ASHER IMTIAZ**  
"Love your neighbor as yourself."  
(Mark 12:31)