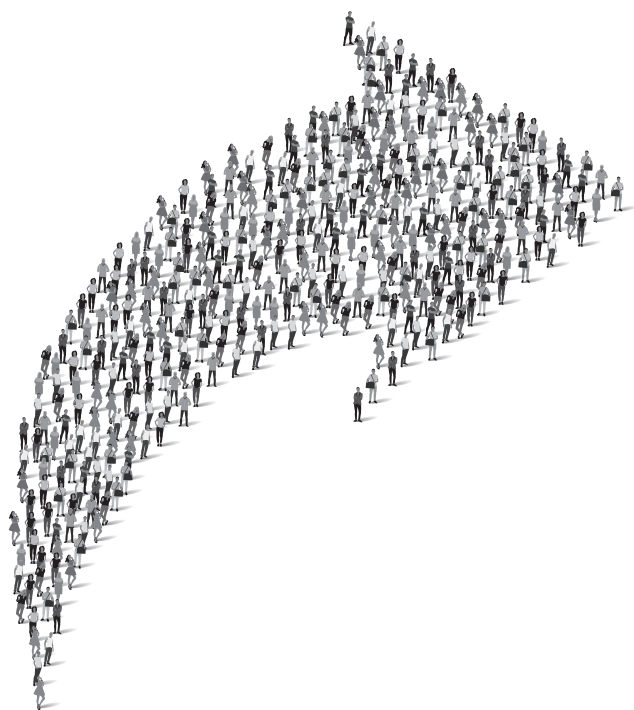




daily | **DEVOTIONALS 2026**





From the Pastor

God is leading WestHills Church to a renewed focus on reaching OUTWARD. We have been SENT! As I shared recently, not only should we CARE for our neighbors, but we are CALLED to reach our neighbors. The call is plain and clear. We have been made a new creation to be messengers, ministers, priests, and ambassadors of the Gospel.

As your pastors, elders, and deacons, we recognize God's movement in this area, and we sense Him moving us to join and lead this work. To this end, one theme will continue to permeate our church for the next several years: MOVE. It's on our wall! We will be leading, challenging, and encouraging every member to MOVE out into the community with the love of Jesus. This initiative is larger than any one of us, yet collectively we will see God MOVE in and through His people at WestHills.

God does not need us, but He won't do it without us. There are three key areas that we must improve in order to MOVE effectively: **SHARE, SERVE, and GIVE.**

The purpose of this devotional is to compel you to consider Jesus and the call He has placed on your life. This little book is a collection of 31 stories of WestHills members and a few of our mission partners. You will read how they experienced life-change, as they have seen God MOVE in their lives through sharing, serving, and giving.

We are being challenged as a church to **"MOVE."** To do whatever it takes to reach this world. As we focus on God daily, my prayer is that as we read how God has changed so many lives in so many ways, we can't help but go and tell others of the hope, joy, peace, and love we have in Christ.

As you look through this devotion tool, you will notice each page is numbered. Our goal is for all of us to begin together on January 1st. What a way to begin the New Year! I encourage you to add this to your daily time with the Lord and reflect in these ways:

1. Pray for those who tell their story.
2. Ask yourself, "What does this say about God?"
3. Pray and ask God to help you MOVE today.

Let's MOVE!

Pastor Tyler

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

MOVE

westhillschurch

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MOVE - Day 1

There Is Power in Your Mouth. I'll never forget the morning she walked up to us at the National Peanut Festival. We'd just started a new ministry reaching out to carnival workers, meeting their needs and sharing Christ. But right off the bat, we hit a wall. Nearly half those workers were Hispanic, and not a one of us spoke a lick of Spanish. Well, we did the only thing we knew to do: we prayed. We asked the Lord to send somebody who could speak their language and share His love the way we couldn't. We trusted He would, but we had no idea He would answer as quickly as He did.

Isaiah 65:24 says, *"Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear."*

The very next morning, while we were cleaning up, the answer showed up. This sweet lady walked onto the festival grounds with no earthly idea we were even there. She'd had a dream the night before about ministering to those workers. In that dream she heard, "You go." So she came. By God's hand, she walked right up to us. She came back the next day, Bible in hand. She started sharing the gospel with the very workers we couldn't talk to. As she spoke, men gathered round. Their faces softened- eyes fixed on her. The Spirit was moving.

Later on, I asked what she'd been saying to them. Before she could explain, I told her how amazed I was at the way she held their attention. She smiled and said something I'll carry with me the rest of my days: "There is power in your mouth." She wasn't talking about being smooth or clever; she meant the gospel itself.

Romans 1:16 says, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.."*

Pastor J.D. Greear put it this way: "The Great Commission is not a calling for some; it is a mandate for all." We don't have to wait around for some special sign from heaven. The sign has already been given."

Matthew 28:19 says, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.."*

The question isn't whether we're called. It's how we're going to respond. Watching that woman obey the Spirit reminded me what it really means to live surrendered, available, and willing to go wherever He leads. This mission isn't just for preachers or overseas missionaries. It's for regular folks like you and me. So, here's the question I've had to wrestle with, and maybe you need to ask it too: Am I walking in a way worthy of the calling I've already received?

A Prayer: Lord, thank You for calling ordinary people to carry Your extraordinary message. Make me attentive to Your Spirit and willing to go wherever You send me. Give me courage to speak, compassion to love, and faith to obey. Use my life and my mouth for Your glory. Amen.

Todd & Dana Morton

MOVE - Day 2

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made." **John 1:1-3***

*"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." **Colossians 1:15-17***

I LOVE the Advent season! One of my favorite traditions at this time of year is decorating the Jesse tree. "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." (Isaiah 11:1) Each night as we approach the birth of Christ, we read a passage of scripture starting from creation to the birth of Jesus, connecting the Old Testament to the New Testament, telling of God's plan from the beginning of time to redeem His people by sending a Savior, Christ the Lord.

John tells us that Jesus was with God in the beginning, and all things were created through Him. Paul reminds us again in Colossians that everything was created by Him, for Him, and through Him, and it is by Him all things hold together. What a wonderful promise! Beloved, let this be an encouragement to your heart! We do not have to hold it together; Jesus already is! The Creator of the Universe is holding our dreams, grief, health, relationships- He is holding it all!

Who in your life needs to hear that Jesus is the One who holds it all together? We challenge you to share the Good News of great joy with those he sends your way!

A Prayer: *Father, help me trust you. Help me see that you hold everything together. Help me share with others that You are worthy of our trust and faith. Amen.*

Jeff & Jaime Meyers

MOVE - Day 3

*“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” **Matthew 25:40***

“Helpplease.... muuguzi.” As I looked up from counting the few vials of vaccinations I had left, I met the pleading eyes of a mother holding her fussy newborn baby. I was 23 years old and working as a nurse in Tanzania. Part of my job was to conduct weekly bush clinics – offering vaccinations and education to moms and babies. These were very long days. An hour-long flight on a small plane into the bush, a full day of clinics and educational classes, and then an hour flight back home. It was the end of the day, and I was tired and hungry and ready to go home.

There are only a handful of times that I can say I audibly heard the voice of God.. and this was one of them. Here was “the least of these” standing right in front of me, sick and in need of help. Of course, I snapped out of my self-pitying funk and quickly got this mama and baby the care they needed. I also learned a valuable lesson that reshaped my outlook on servanthood. That same woman came to several clinics after that day, not because she needed medical help, but to hear the Bible story and teaching that were presented at the beginning of each clinic. Honestly, I don’t know if she accepted Christ. Our lives intersected very briefly, but I learned that small, seemingly insignificant mercies open up a door to share the much bigger, eternally significant story of Jesus’ redemption.

Meeting a person’s basic needs – food, clothing, and medicine - prepares the way to share the deeper message of salvation. A few years after I returned to the states, I read the book, “Kisses from Katie” by Katie J. Davis, which details the 18-year-old’s overwhelming call to leave behind her college plans and her familiar life in Tennessee and serve as a missionary in Uganda – ultimately providing education, food, and care for hundreds of vulnerable children. Katie says, *“I have learned that I will not change the world; Jesus will do that. I can, however, change the world for one person. And if one person sees the love of Christ in me, it is worth every minute.”* This truth is always at the forefront of my mind - in every situation the Lord puts me in and for every person He puts in front of me.

A Prayer: *Lord, help me to be obedient, even when I don’t feel like it. Help me not make excuses or resist your leading. Help me be the light and love of Jesus.*

Tyler & Shelby Brown

MOVE - Day 4

Part of fulfilling the great commission is being aware of the evangelistic opportunities around us. I have heard of countless Christians who pray for opportunities to share the gospel within their workplaces, while neglecting the opportunities already in front of them. The reality is that every co-worker, friend, and family member is an open door for the gospel to be shared. We are God's plan to reach our friends.

My wife and I experienced this with her co-workers on Long Island. Over the years, she had developed friendships with her female co-workers, which over time began to open doors to sharing the gospel with them. Though each one had a different story and religious background, they all had questions for Leah regarding her faith in Jesus. Her witness for Jesus was found as she read the Bible on her breaks, shared her personal testimony, and asked her co-workers about their beliefs, which contributed to many spiritual conversations. Sharing the gospel was not a one-way conversation to force someone to convert to Christianity. It was a friendly conversation in love, encouraging and challenging her friends to consider where they would spend eternity.

There were a few times when my wife called me asking for advice on how to continue spiritual conversations, or answer questions about Christianity that enveloped their minds. Leah and I realized that each spiritual conversation we had with her friends was planting seeds that the Spirit was sowing in their hearts. At one point, one of her friends came to church and gave her life to Jesus, which was a huge blessing! We recognized that sharing the gospel was not about forcing a spiritual conversation to happen, but gospel conversations naturally arose in the progression of friendship and showing love to them.

Jesus modeled this for us as He said, *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* **John 13:35**

The evidence of a true disciple is love. Love breaks down doors. Love is one of the greatest forces to break down walls for the unsaved to welcome the gospel of salvation. Something God has taught me is to always be prayerfully aware of the opportunities He has put in front of me. To be prayerfully aware is to have a constant communication with the Lord as I go about my day. Asking Him who He would want me to share my faith with next, and to provide the strength to do it. God has placed each of us in the jobs and schools we are in to share the Gospel with others, invite them to church, and advance the great commission for His Glory.

A Prayer: *Dear Lord, help us to be prayerfully aware of the opportunities you have placed around us. Help us to realize the importance of abiding in you as we share the gospel, relying on your strength. Guide us in our relationship with you, and help us to love those around us with your love, to break down walls for your Spirit to MOVE.*

David & Leah Foreman

MOVE - Day 5

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." **1 Peter 4:10**

Kathy returned from taking her aunt to the doctor's office when she started describing to me how bad her aunt and uncle's yard looked. She told me that the grass had gotten so tall that you would think no one lived there. I had no idea that the yard was in such bad shape. However, her aunt and uncle were getting ready to move into another home, and Kathy vowed that she would not let the yard of the new house look the same as the old one. We decided that we would take care of the lawn for the new house. It was something that we really did not even have to discuss; we both love serving when there is a need and feel like that is what God has called us to do.

We won't pretend that there aren't days when we don't necessarily feel like loading up the equipment and making the trip over to her aunt's to cut the grass, but once we are done, it's always worth it. I don't think many people even know that we are cutting it (until now), and that is the way we had wanted it. I'm reminded of a poem from a book entitled *"Improving Your Serve, The Art of Unselfish Living"* that had a great impact on me. It goes like this,

"You know, Lord, how I serve You. With great emotional fervor in the limelight. You know how eagerly I speak for You at a women's club. You know how I effervesce when I promote a fellowship group. You know my genuine enthusiasm at a Bible study. But how would I react, I wonder, if You pointed to a basin of water and asked me to wash the calloused feet of a bent and wrinkled old woman, day after day, month after month, in a room where nobody saw, and nobody knew."

We are thankful that God has placed it on our hearts to care for and serve others. We have found out that it has helped us as much as the person being served.

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." **Galatians 6:10**

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." **1 Peter 4:10**

A Prayer: Lord, give me opportunities to serve those around me. Help me see with compassion and desire to help those in need.

Leslie & Kathy Sexton

MOVE - Day 6

*"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." **Luke 12:48***

Over the years—through marriage, parenting, and building businesses—we have learned a lesson that continues to reshape our lives: nothing we have is truly ours. Every resource, opportunity, and blessing belongs to God. We are simply stewards. And stewardship requires open hands. When we hold tightly to what God has placed in our lives, our grip becomes a barrier—there's no room for Him to give, and no freedom for us to release. But when we live open-handed, God creates a rhythm in us: a rhythm of receiving and a rhythm of giving.

Luke 12:48 became foundational for us. We take those words personally. God has been generous to us, and we want our lives to reflect that same generosity. In our early years, giving was not easy. Money was tight. Business was uncertain. We were building dreams with more prayers than profit, and **generosity often felt impractical**. But even then, God was teaching us: trust Me first, not last.

So, we tithed when it was uncomfortable. We helped others when it didn't make sense on paper. We sowed when it felt safer to store. And time after time, God met us there. Not always with immediate financial increase, but always with peace, unity, and provision that only He could orchestrate. As God grew our businesses, He grew our hearts right alongside them. We prayed that success would never make us inward-focused or tight-fisted. We have been the couple in need, and we have been the couple God used to meet someone else's need—both positions marked us deeply. The more we gave, the more clearly we saw God at work.

Sometimes in finances, sometimes in relationships and sometimes in opportunities we could never have created ourselves. Giving changed our question from "How can we get more?" to "How can God use what we already have?"

We don't give to be noticed. We don't give to achieve anything. We give because we have been given everything—forgiveness, grace, family, calling, and provision. God has trusted us with influence, with resources, and with people. Our responsibility isn't to guard them, but to release them back to Him. Generosity is not about wealth; it's about willingness. It's the practice that keeps our hearts soft and our hands open. It's the reminder that God—not us—is the Provider.

If we could encourage anyone who is afraid to step into generosity, we would simply say: Start somewhere. Trust grows through action. We have never once regretted giving. Only the moments we hesitated.

A Prayer: *Father, thank You for every blessing You have entrusted to us. Keep our hearts soft and our hands open. Teach us to give cheerfully, sacrificially, and joyfully. May our lives reflect Your generosity, and may our resources advance Your Kingdom. Use us however You choose. It is all Yours. Amen.*

Chris & Jenny Elliott

MOVE - Day 7

In the late spring of 2025, our daughter was trying to end a toxic relationship and find housing for herself and her four children, while being heavily pregnant with her fifth. She had a divine encounter with a pastor at a local church, and he spent weeks trying to assist her. He eventually led her in a prayer of salvation.

We learned of her situation shortly before she gave birth, and we felt led to offer to help her, despite our relationship with her historically being strained. We could not afford to pay for weekly lodging at her extended stay hotel. Getting her and the children set up in a house or apartment quickly was not possible, and a long-term women's shelter was not available. We made the decision to finish a portion of our basement for her and the kids, but quite honestly, we briefly wrestled with that decision, based on her history of not always making good choices. After praying about it, we chose to believe that her salvation was genuine and that God wanted us to help her. **Galatians 6:10** says, *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith."*

We began work on finishing the basement, believing that a safe place for her children would best help her get on her feet. Steve's home repair/remodeling business suddenly began experiencing an unusual slump, which allowed him to build out the basement in about three days. That slump was a blessing in that regard, but it also brought fears about how long the reduced income would last and how it could affect our ability to stay afloat in the coming months. We asked how we were going to feed six extra people when groceries for two were expensive already. On top of those concerns, it seemed like there were other new challenges and surprises every day, including many expenses and issues associated with our daughter's personal obligations. We leaned on God's promise to supply everything we would need (Philippians 4:13), which has always been a great comfort to us in past times of uncertainty.

We shared our concerns with friends here at WestHills and were absolutely blown away by the quick response and overwhelming generosity of the church as a whole. It was humbling to be on the receiving end of physical gifts and funds, as it was a reversal of roles for us. However, a great burden was lifted and borne by our brothers and sisters in Christ, exemplifying **Galatians 6:2**, which says, *"Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* Most of all, the prayers and encouragement were what got us through. This entire situation served to embolden our faith that the Lord God will provide, especially in ways that we might not imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

A Prayer: *Dear Lord, thank you for being so faithful to us during uncertain and challenging times. Let us use the testimony of Your faithfulness to show others the love of Jesus. We are blessed to be a part of a church that teaches and demonstrates sacrificial giving and unconditional love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Steve & Natasha Spurrier

MOVE - Day 8

*So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. **Galatians 6:10***

This is a simple yet powerful passage. Let's break it down:

As we have the opportunity. I would argue opportunity to do good is not a rare occurrence. In fact, it is constant. When we get gas, buy groceries, go to work, eat a meal, attend church, and on and on.

Do good. Be kind to those around you. Love even when you don't feel it. Serve sacrificially. I think we all get the idea of doing good, being like Christ.

To everyone. This is easy. Everyone means (serious Bible work here) everyone! All people.

To the household of faith. Doing good to those in our church family is and should be a priority. As we serve the body for the common good, we are doing as God desires.

This is Paul encouraging the church to serve others often, especially within the church family. It is a call to all believers.

A couple of questions:

How often do you do good for others?

Is it easier to do good to others inside or outside the church? Why do you think that is?

A Prayer: *Ask God to open your eyes to all the opportunities to do good in the next 24 hours! Ask God to help you do good as you see those opportunities*

Tyler & Shelby Brown

MOVE - Day 9

Early in our marriage, we committed to the regular tithing of our income. With only one of us having a full-time job and the other finishing up college, our budget was tight. One Sunday, the time came to give our tithe check; yet we knew that giving it meant we wouldn't be able to have enough left to pay one of our utility bills. We decided to trust God and obey by tithing from what we received and not just using whatever was left over at the end of the month. After leaving church and going home to our apartment, we checked our mailbox, which we hadn't done in a few days. To our amazement, we had received a refund check for an overpayment that we didn't even know had occurred.

It was a simple yet clear reminder that God does provide and bless when we obey. Keeping the right perspective ensures that our safety isn't found in money and stuff; it's found in trusting that God is our everything. Scripture says, "Whoever brings blessing will be enriched," and we've been enriched beyond anything we could have ever imagined. We're not talking about financially. We have witnessed time and again the power of trusting God with the giving of our time, service, and lives, and the countless ways He provides for us while refocusing and growing us. Blessings, in whatever form they may be, are given in order to be used for His glory and purpose.

*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. **Proverbs 11:24-25***

We challenge you to trust God with your time, interests, and security. Look for ways to be consistent in sacrificially giving, not only of your money but yourself.

A Prayer: *Lord, help us to remember that You are what we need for our security. Help us to trust you with our finances, our talents, our desires, and our very lives. You are enough. Give us the strength to live that out daily and pursue knowing more of You.*

Alan & Rebecca Vincent

MOVE - Day 10

Serving others is something that Jesus took pretty seriously in his ministry on Earth. He was constantly teaching and showing this as an expectation for those who followed him. In Mark Chapter 10, James and John petition Jesus to sit at his side in glory. The request was met with a pretty strong rebuke from Jesus, as the question indicated they were missing the point of his mission and their calling.

*"And Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. **But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**" Mark 10:42-45*

I feel a strong sense of duty to serve those around me. The sense of duty comes from a responsibility to share the blessings that God has given to my family and me and not hoard them. As I am writing about being a servant to those around me, I know how it actually looks in my own life. I am willing to serve those close to me, my family, my church, my home group, my co-workers, and friends, but every day I pass up opportunities to serve those along my path that I do not know personally. I have, at times in the past, helped people on the side of the road, hitchhikers, the homeless community right here in Villa Rica, but the reality is I miss more opportunities to serve than I take. It is convicting for me to think about the LOVE that Jesus showed for the world (me included) and to know the actual response I have (I could and should do so much more). He sacrificed his life so that we could live, and I struggle to sacrifice the time or money to see the needs of those around me. It's almost like running for me. I never look forward to it, but I am always glad I did it afterward.

A Prayer: *Father in heaven, you are so good. You have made this life worth living. My prayer is that I would resolve to be a servant ALL THE TIME as you demonstrated. I know that left to my own devices, I will continue to struggle, but God, I want to grow in this area. I pray that the Holy Spirit transforms my heart to be committed to helping those close to me, but also the strangers in my path. Please, Lord, use me as a vessel for your goodness and glory. Amen*

"By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:35

Marcus & Angela Byrd

MOVE - Day 11

*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again, Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." **John 20:19-22***

Have you ever been uncomfortable, at a loss for words, or downright scared to talk to someone about the Good news of Jesus? The disciples apparently were because they were hiding behind locked doors. Jesus said to the disciples when He appeared to them that He was sending them like the Father sent Him. He was telling them (and us) that we are called to spread the good news of the Gospel. He prepared us for the task by giving us the Holy Spirit because He knew we couldn't do it ourselves.

Sometimes it can be uncomfortable to speak to complete strangers. If you allow the Holy Spirit to flow through you during those experiences and times of fear, God can use you to bring people closer to Him, and that is how I came to know Christ. A man named Fred and his wife Michelle had no idea the prayer the Lord was answering through them when they spoke to my (now) wife one evening at a restaurant where she was serving tables. Crissy had been asking me to go to church for quite some time. We were unmarried, living together, and in a very dark place. I was not seeking the Lord by any means, but she was feeling the pull to go to church. Then came Fred and Michelle Mello. During college, Crissy worked at O'Charley's in Douglasville. One Saturday night, Fred and Michelle sat in her section and began a conversation about Jesus. After a brief conversation about her beliefs and her history with the church, Fred spoke of the church he attended and invited her. He also explained he was a landscaper and offered to maintain our lawn for free in exchange for placing an advertisement sign in my yard. Fred showed up like clockwork week after week, making my lawn look amazing, but never put up a sign. Crissy steadily asked me every week about going and seeing Fred at his church because he was maintaining our lawn for free. After several weeks, I conceded, and after a few months of attending his church, I accepted the Lord. Both Crissy and I attended church growing up. During our teenage years, we strayed, but the Lord is faithful to His promises.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." The Lord used Fred and Michelle to bring us back to Him, and now, 20 years later, we are training our children the way they should go. We never know how God might use us for His glory and His kingdom. One night, God used a husband and wife to change our lives forever and the family they didn't know we'd have. But God did. So go out there prepared with the Word and equipped with the Holy Spirit and have those conversations, and if He leads you, mow some lawns.

A Prayer: *Father, help me be like Fred and Michelle. Help me to step out and share the Good News of Jesus to my neighbors, friends and family! Amen.*

Derek & Crissy Watson

MOVE - Day 12

"Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4.

This was a verse Lee shared on the night in 1995 when we were commissioned as career missionaries to Botswana. After 25+ years in Southern Africa, it was time. After a lot of prayer and counsel, we made a decision. Tim says it was the hardest decision we've ever made while, at the same time, the easiest decision we've ever made.

Hard - because we would be leaving a part of the world deeply planted in our hearts, people and cultures we love dearly, the continent our children call "home." African wildlife. Amazing weather. Dear friends.

Easy - because God made it so clear to us. Life was changing for Lee's mom and dad (now 92 and 101). It was time for us to be nearby for their twilight years. We are so thankful God made it clear because we sure would have loved to stay in Africa!

This is not the first time God has asked us to move. Tim had always called Johannesburg our "Ninevah". Do you remember when God asked told Jonah to go to Ninevah? *"But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish" (Jonah 1:1-3).* In 2009, God told us to move to Johannesburg. We went...in obedience, but with heavy hearts. Then God gave us ten beautiful years in that big and bustling African city.

After spending our first two years of marriage living in the Atlanta area in the 80s, we knew we never wanted to live inside the perimeter of Atlanta. But now it seemed it was time to pull up our African roots and transplant to ITP (Inside the Perimeter).

One of our kids recently wrote us a note acknowledging the sacrifices we've made in moving to Atlanta. But as we have walked in obedience, God has opened door after door of blessing. He has allowed Tim to do his Africa mission job from Atlanta. He dropped a most fulfilling ministry job in Lee's lap for this season. He has given us a home on a hidden gem of a lake, ITP! And there is great joy in serving Lee's parents, especially as we lived far from them for 35 years.

We have found Psalm 37:4 to be true. As we walk closely with Jesus, He plants His desires in our hearts, then brings them to fruition. We excitedly followed Him to Africa - first in 1987 - where He gave us a life we never could have dreamed of. And He has now brought us full circle, granting gifts all along the way.

A Prayer: *Dear Jesus, There is no sacrifice we could make that comes anywhere close to the sacrifice You made for us. Thank you for always reminding us there is no greater place to be than right where you want us to be. Thank You for giving great meaning to life when we walk with You. Amen!*

Tim & Lee Shaw, JMB Partners

MOVE - Day 13

1 Chronicles 29:12-14: *"Wealth and honor come from You; You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand."*

Our family has been on the receiving end of giving more times than we can count. Once, as a Single car family, our engine blew up. We literally received everything we needed to repair the engine: funds from another believer that randomly showed up in the mail, a call about a cherry picker that was ready for pick up at an auto-parts store, and even friends to help with installation. The Lord also provided every single dollar of the fees associated with adoption, and even frequent flier miles to get us to China. It was incredibly humbling. Receiving such extravagant gifts bolstered our faith in the Lord as provider. Our God is able to provide abundantly more than we can think or imagine. Because of experiencing these mercies, when we are tempted to worry, a natural response has become, "God provided before, I know He will provide again."

Early in our marriage, WestHills facilitated Crown Ministry financial Bible studies as well as Dave Ramsey classes. We attended them and learned how to Biblically think about money: It's all God's, and we are simply stewards of it. In light of this training, when we sold two houses in 2019 and were building a home, we were faced with the decision: should we tithe off the profit made from these sales?

We began praying about what the 'right' answer was. Some experts claimed that these funds didn't count as profit because they were put directly back into another home. During that time, in our Bible study, we read the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 5:4 states, "And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal?" While we understood that this is a historical account, we also knew that God desired that we hold everything with an open hand. We knew we must tithe off the sale of our homes. We are not rich by the world's standards. Budgets felt tight, and we were afraid that by giving this money we would be stretched too thin. We began to pray over our new mortgage payment amount specifically. We even had friends come alongside us and pray over this number. Closing day came, and the paperwork announced our new payment: it was within \$30 of the number we had prayed over. We felt seen by the Lord as he provided so specifically for us once again. Not to mention, sharing with our friends that God answered all of our prayers brought great joy to us all!

A Prayer: *God, you are our provider. You are completely sovereign and use everything, including money, to teach us to trust You and to show us Your power. While money and giving are personal, they help us to remember that our spending reveals where our hearts lie. Reveal to us those places that we need to see.*

Anthony & Brittany Parker

MOVE - Day 14

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for man." **Mark 10:45***

Due to our unfortunate nature of being self-centered, we often display that more often than serving others. As we learn to love God and love others, we learn to serve others in love rather than obligation. As we live life, we serve others more genuinely. It calls for more than just actions; we must adjust our hearts and attitude towards people to serve them in love.

Jevail and I have always believed that when we serve someone, we see God's love in action. One occasion comes to mind for us sometime around 2017. Our youngest daughter became friends with a coworker who was dealing with homelessness. We felt the need to help her in any way that we could. The coworker was a full-time employee, a full-time student, and a single mom, and she needed help. She was able to find housing, but she had nothing else but their clothes. At the time, we had furniture and a couple of TVs that were not in use. We were able to thrift a bed that they could use until she could do better.

*"So, in everything do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the law and the prophets." **Matthew 7:12***

At any time in our lives, we may need help. We certainly have had times when we were in need. God has blessed us with people who served us when we were in need. We are forever grateful. So, helping this person was a no-brainer. We had furniture in our basement that wasn't being used. We helped her move into her new apartment. To see the look on her face was payment enough. It is a good feeling when you know God is using you.

*"So whether you eat, drink, or whatever you do it all for the glory of God." **1 Corinthians 10:31***

When we serve, we try to do it in a way that gives God the glory and only Him the glory. We want to be intentional with our service and love for others. So here are five different takeaways we can all begin to put into practice to be intentional towards others.

1. Take the time to listen
2. Change your perspective
3. Care no matter the cost
4. Realize the issue may be larger than us
5. Allow others to serve us

A Prayer: *Dear Father, I pray that you give us more compassion for people and a selfless heart, wisdom, and strength to help those in need. May what we do bring glory and honor to your name. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Greg & Jevail Walker

MOVE - Day 15

Humility- The Key to Serving, Sharing, and Giving

Philippians *Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

This is one of my favorite NT passages because it is so foundational for a fruitful Christian life. It encompasses service, sharing, and giving in a profound way because it is the essence of the life of Jesus. The road to glory is named humility.

Paul gives us several imperatives that are not simply good things to do, or virtues, but are actually “the mind of Christ Jesus,” and at the core of that mindset is humility. So, he gives us 2 things not to do and 2 things we need to do.

When I live out of my “conceit” or desire for recognition, I may serve or give to others, but not because I really think they are more significant than I am. In fact, when I do this, I am actually looking out for my own interests and not theirs because I’m doing it for recognition. It’s a constant battle to count others as more significant than myself and make their interests more important than my own. But if we truly want to serve, share, and give as Jesus did, we need to think as He did. 2 examples from Jesus’ life display this perfectly. In **Mark 10:43**, He says, “*whoever would be great among you must be your servant...*” If there was ever someone who deserved to be served, it was Jesus. But in **John 13:12-15**, we see Jesus in complete humility serving His disciples by washing their feet as a slave would do in their culture. “*If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example- that you also should do just as I have done to you.*”

Paul tells us how we can actually do this: *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...* In other words, when we think like Jesus, we act like Jesus, and counting others as more significant than ourselves is really doable.

A Prayer: *Father, help me be like Jesus, Help me to embrace the role of a servant. Help me humble myself before the Lord, knowing it is by grace not merit that I am saved. Amen.*

Curt Kicklighter

MOVE - Day 16

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Mark 10:45**

The truth is that most people are self-centered and have bad habits that serve themselves and often hurt others. This is due to our sinful nature, which tells us that serving ourselves is best and will make us happy. As Christians, we are called to live a life different from the rest of the world.

Jesus is the perfect example of serving others. He healed the sick, showed compassion to the poor, fed the hungry, and even washed the feet of his disciples. Serving others can be as simple as offering a helping hand, a listening ear, or a kind word. These small acts can have a big impact on people's lives, but sometimes we can do more.

I know you've seen people on the corner begging. Instead of giving them money, we give them a "Blessing Bag." The Blessing Bag is a Ziplock bag that contains a bottle of water, crackers, peanuts, Slim Jims, a toothbrush, toothpaste, Wet Ones, a pair of socks, and a Gospel tract. Hopefully, this small act of service can show the love of Jesus.

In **Hebrews 6:10**, it says, *"God is not unjust, he will not forget your works and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."*

Another way we served others was by giving up a week of our vacation to go on mission trips with our former church. These missions ranged from building or repairing churches to repairing homes or building ramps for members of the church or community. Helping those people was our favorite. They were always so appreciative and often wanted to know what they could do to help. We would simply ask them to pray for our safety. We were always blessed more by this service than those we served. That was never the reason we served, but it always happened.

There are people around us every day that we can serve in word and deed.

A Prayer: *Lord, show us who we can serve today. Help us to say Yes!*

Scott & Cheryl Morris

MOVE - Day 17

When we think about serving, it can be easy to dread the thought of waking up earlier than normal to get to church, giving up the little bit of free time we have, or going out of our way to interact with a stranger. However, it is a convicting thought to read *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45)*. The act of serving should be seen as a privilege, which I will be the first to admit- sometimes I fail to view it as.

When we think about service in our lives, one of the examples that comes to mind time and time again is the meals the women and families of our church have given us when we welcomed a new baby home. We cherish that time, and it means so much more when our Church comes to our side and gives us that little bit of help. It may seem like a small thing, but it has made a huge impact on our lives. and in return, taking the time to provide a meal for those who are going through something. In some cases, it is our first time meeting the family, and it's a great chance to connect with them. It is not always convenient, but it has always been worth the time and resources.

It is helpful for us to remind each other since Christ was willing to come down to us and serve; we have no right to begrudgingly give our time and effort to perform the good works, which God prepared beforehand (Ephesians 2:10). A wise friend of mine recently defined a good thing as something that is pleasing to God. After hearing it put that way, I could not agree more.

And we know that we are not alone. When Jesus was speaking to his disciples in John 15:5, he told them that apart from Him, they can do nothing. So many Sundays, I sit in my seat at church during worship, asking to be closer to God. But I really start to feel closer to God when I serve and see the good works He prepared for me being accomplished- and knowing that apart from him I could not complete these tasks. I see his work happening on Earth through me and know that he is with me.

A Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank you for the example of servitude you yourself gave us. Please let our service not become about ourselves but keep it about you and your glory. As we walk with you on this day, let us serve your people around us with a happy heart and give you the glory. Amen*

Nathan & Sarah Jo McCloskey

MOVE - Day 18

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.." James 1:2

Joe and Wanda. I often hear them referred to as JoeNwanda as if it's one name. Joe and Wanda became a part of WestHills through the merger between WestHills and Summit churches. What a blessing! All of our elders and deacons were given the task of writing a devotion for this MOVE booklet. Unfortunately, Wanda's health has been a challenge, and so writing a devotional wasn't possible. She has been battling cancer for some time, was recently hospitalized with blood clots in her lungs, and just yesterday (at the time of this being written) had surgery to try and stop the bleeding in her lungs. And that's just the half of it.

The reality is Joe and Wanda are fighters. They show up even when it is hard. They smile, encourage others, hug your neck, ask how you're doing, host a homegroup, serve at local schools, share the Gospel, help the homeless, and participate in just about everything. They have every excuse to sit things out and take days and weeks off, but they don't. They show up and demonstrate the hope and joy found in Jesus. I know it literally hurts sometimes, but they are present, and we are all better for it. The way they live their lives is a devotional to us all. They inspire and compel all of us to show up.

A Prayer: *Help us all to trust God no matter what. Help us to live faithfully without excuses. Help us to serve and love even when we aren't "feeling it." Help us all to be a little more like Joe and Wanda.*

MOVE - Day 19

It was a normal Saturday. Hot, humid. Errands to run. I headed out to Tractor Supply. I was standing...debating... totally in my "which trailer-hitch is best" mind box, when a guy came out of the back and asked if he could help me. As we started talking, I heard the Holy Spirit whisper into my spirit. "This is the guy." A few years ago, if I had heard this indistinct yet pervading Consciousness, I would have ignored it...brushed it off... disregarded any inclination my inner man had towards spiritual things in the middle of Tractor Supply. That was the old Daniel. But the new Daniel had learned a few things in the last several years.

Although I was born again and started my journey in "being made new" when I was about 8 years old, the Holy Spirit was always teaching me fresh things... if I would listen. About 7 years ago, I made a new habit. Every morning, I ask God to send me a "God-prepared person." Someone with a "ripe" heart. Someone who is ready to respond to the Gospel. Someone who needs encouragement or prayer. As I go out into my day each day, I realize that my time, my list, hey - my life - is not mine. I am on His time, and the first thing on my "To-Do" list is 1. Advance His Kingdom. "This is the guy." The nondescript 40-year-old with squirrel-colored hair, standing on the cold, white tile floor, looking at trailer hitches, was my God-prepared person for the day. I tuned out the familiar country song on the store speakers and chose not to tune out the Voice in my spirit. I didn't resent His intervention in my day. The new Daniel had discovered the rich treasure of obedience. I wanted to please Him more than I wanted what I wanted.

I easily pivoted the conversation to spiritual things. But the enemy is as crafty now as he was in the Garden. Before I could get to the Gospel, my God-prepared person was suddenly called away. Good thing, our God is as faithful now to pursue us as He was after the Garden. Two months later, on another sunny Saturday, I headed back to Tractor Supply. I really had no expectation of seeing Mike again. But here he came - same quirky smile! He excitedly told me that since our conversation, he had been impressed to read his Bible. For the first time ever! The Holy Spirit had, like jumper cables, jolted his spiritual nature awake. He asked me a spiritual question, and it was a natural transition for me to share the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation with him. Mike is searching for answers that he said he thought he knew, but realized he didn't. After I shared the Good News with him, we exchanged phone numbers, and I told him I would be praying that Jesus would reveal Himself to him.

When Jesus was physically here, God made his appeal to us through Jesus. Now, God is making His appeal through ME! And through YOU! We are His Ambassadors...authorized representatives and messengers for His kingdom.

"So we have been sent to speak for Christ. It is as if God is calling to you through us. We speak for Christ when we beg you to be at peace with God." 2 Corinthians 5:20

A Prayer: Holy Spirit, please lead us to God-Prepared People every day... in our day... as we go... about our normal business... Oh, let us be about Your business.

Daniel & Sky Scott, IMB Missionaries

MOVE - Day 20

Money is always a touchy subject in the church, but Jesus talked about money and giving a lot. Is God really concerned with the amount we give? Is he concerned about getting enough to carry out what he wants to do in this world, and does he need our financial support to meet those goals?

In Genesis 4, it tells us about two brothers, Cain and Abel. They both gave to God, but Abel did so out of a heart of gratitude and faith (Hebrews 11), and Cain, according to some commentators, did it out of requirement. God has all the cattle on a thousand hills (Ps 50:10), meaning he has all the wealth and possessions he needs. What he wants from us is our hearts!

Our heart naturally follows what we value; one very strong indicator of that is where our money goes. What do we give our first and our best to? Do we give out of an abundance? Do we wait to see what we have left over at the end of the year and give from that, or do we give God the first portion and trust him to provide the rest? Nowhere in the Bible are we promised wealth or that we will be financially blessed. What it does promise us is that if we seek after him, he will draw near to us (James 4:8).

In the crusades, before going off to battle, warriors would sometimes get baptized, but they would hold their swords out of the water. In doing so, they were saying I give my body to God, but I'm going to hold my sword for myself. Today, we often do that with the things He has given us. I'll get baptized, but I'm going to hold my wallet out and still use that for me. God doesn't want some of us; he wants our whole life and complete devotion.

My challenge to the church is to give your first and your best because we are called to be like Christ, who gave His first and best for us in His Son. Giving is an act of worship and a recognition that it is all His anyway; he has just entrusted us with these things for a while. My prayer for us as a church is that we would be a church that worships and gives with abandon because we realize that God has delivered us from death to life. As incredible as that is, He goes further and makes us sons and daughters with him. When we truly understand that He is for us and not against us, it frees us up to worship and give freely.

A Prayer: *Lord, help us fully grasp what you have done for us through Christ. Help us to respond to that truth with complete trust and commitment. Reveal to us anything we are holding onto and trust that back to you. Amen.*

Adam & Brittany Hanes

MOVE - Day 21

*"Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus." **Acts 18:24-28***

In Acts 18, we are told of a very gifted and accomplished orator named Apollos. He is described as "eloquent," "mighty in Scriptures," and "fervent in Spirit." As a Jewish Christian raised in Alexandria, he was well equipped to spread the Gospel. However, he was incomplete in his knowledge of all that Jesus had done. He taught what he knew, but he didn't know everything that he needed to know. That's when he meets up with the husband and wife team of Aquilla and Priscilla. Seeing his potential, they took him aside and taught him more accurately the way of God. Fortunately, Apollos was humble enough to have listened to them, and the church greatly benefited from his giftedness. The Apostle Paul would refer to Apollos several times throughout Scripture. Some even think that he was the author of the book of Hebrews. All of this ministry happened because Apollos was humble enough to realize that he didn't know everything and that he could be taught by Aquilla and Priscilla. Don't let your pride make you miss out on opportunities that God may bring your way. Your pride can be a major hindrance to following the will of God.

A Prayer: *Lord, help us to submit to your authority. Help us to be humble, always in a posture of learning and growth in Your wisdom. Father, if we don't feel equipped or ready to share the Gospel, help us seek out training and understanding. If we are simply looking for excuses to inaction, please convict us of our disobedience. Help me be light in the darkness. Amen.*

Tyler & Shelby Brown

MOVE - Day 22

Tressa and I recently found a new area of service. Well, I think it would be more accurate to say that the service opportunity found US! We were invited by a family member to take a tour of the Pregnancy Resource Center in Carrollton. Not long after that, Tressa began working there as a nurse. But for Tressa, it's so much more than just a job. It's an opportunity to serve our community and to participate in the kingdom work that God is doing all around us.

Everything they do at PRC is Christ-centered. I (Jeff) also recently volunteered at the PRC as a fatherhood mentor and was able to spend time with and pray for a nervous new dad. We view this as an opportunity to follow Jesus' example...

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Mark 10:45**

When we offer our time and energy to serve, we are giving ourselves TO HIM. Pray that God would open your eyes to opportunities to serve at WestHills or in your community. It's such a blessing to be used by Him!

A Prayer: *Lord, help us see the many opportunities to serve in your name. Help us to participate in the life of our church- serving for the common good and your glory. Help us, Lord, to serve those in our community with the love of Jesus.*

Jeff & Tressa Rakestraw

MOVE - Day 23

I have been a police officer with the Villa Rica Police Department for 19 years. If you ask someone who works in law enforcement what they are known for, the answer will be just that. They will say they are known as "The Cop." Oftentimes, when I get introduced to someone, the phrase "police officer" follows. Now, I am not ashamed of that. I am very proud of being a police officer, but it is not the most important thing in my life. I want to take a moment to compare my "identity" as a police officer and what I really want to be known for accomplishing in my life.

When I started at the Villa Rica Police Department, I was assigned a badge number, and that number was 323. Whenever dispatch called me, they would say, "Dispatch 323" and my response would be, "323 Go Ahead." Needless to say, an officer is known by their badge number. When officers talk to each other, call for back up, or announce they are on a scene, they call out a badge number. The character of the officer will also be associated with his/her badge number. Are they a person of high moral character who polishes the badge and makes the profession look better, or do they tarnish the badge and make a bad name for all police officers?

So, when I am gone from the Villa Rica Police Department, what are they going to say about badge # 323? As a Christian, that is an even more important question. What kind of eternal impact am I making at my workplace, how am I leading my family, and how am I serving others? When I leave this earth, what are people going to say about how I loved God and loved others?

As we bring 2025 to an end and MOVE into 2026, let us reflect on the verses below.

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the Glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31. In all the things in my daily life, am I seeking to glorify the Lord in all my decisions, actions, and intentions?

If I proclaim to be a follower of Jesus, does my life reflect that I love God?
John 14:15 says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

No matter the consequences, are we willing to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow the Lord? Matthew 16:24 says, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

A Prayer: Lord, help me to serve you better in 2026, to love others more in 2026, and glorify your name in 2026.

Steven Lujan

MOVE - Day 24

"Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you.'" **Corinthians 12:8-10**

I was saved by grace, and Paul's words remind us of a profound truth: God's strength shines brightest when we feel weakest. Paul begged God to remove his "thorn," yet the Lord's response was not deliverance but grace. Why? Because God's power is not limited by our frailty—it is revealed through it.

We often view weakness as failure, something to hide or overcome. But in God's kingdom, weakness becomes a way to reveal His glory. When we reach the end of ourselves—when our plans crumble, our strength fades, and our resources run dry—God steps in with sufficiency. His grace is not just enough; it is abundant, sustaining us in every trial.

Paul didn't just accept his weakness; he delighted in it. That sounds counterintuitive, but it makes sense when we realize that weakness draws us closer to Christ. It teaches dependence, humility, and trust. In hardships and difficulties, we discover that true strength is not self-reliance but Christ-reliance.

Through the trials that my wife and I have faced. We can both attest to God's power in our weakest times and how others saw Him through us just by surrendering and not allowing the enemy to overtake us.

A couple of questions to consider:

- Where in your life do you feel weak or inadequate today?
- What would it look like for you to boast in your weakness instead of hiding it?

A Prayer: *Lord, thank You that Your grace is enough for my wife and me. Help us to embrace our weaknesses, knowing that they make room for Your strength. Teach us to trust You fully and to find joy in Your power at work in our family's lives. Amen.*

MOVE - Day 25

Leading worship together has become one of our favorite parts of marriage. It isn't just music or a Sunday routine; it's a privilege God has invited us into. But if we're honest, there are Sundays when we walk in tired, discouraged, or distracted by things going on throughout the past week. There are weeks when our voices feel weak, when life feels crazy, when Sunny is struggling through pregnancy, or when the enemy whispers that we're not enough to lead anyone anywhere. The coolest thing, though, is that God still meets us there.

One Sunday in particular stands out. We were both worn down from a busy week, and spiritually, we didn't feel like we had much to give. We stood there during practice, asking God to fill in every gap we felt. As we began to worship, we both looked out and saw hands lifted and people worshipping as God's presence moved through His people. It was such a good reminder that worship has never depended on our strength but on His Spirit.

Jesus said, *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."* **Matthew 18:20**. God doesn't ask us to 'perform' perfectly. He simply asks us to show up and point people to Him through worship. Serving isn't about being strong, polished, and put together, but it's about being fully surrendered.

When we lead worship, God uses the most imperfect moments to reveal His goodness. A wrong note, a missed lyric, or even a weary heart at times... He takes it all and turns it into praise when we offer it to Him. Some Sundays feel like a celebration, others feel like a battle. But every Sunday is a chance to show our church that Jesus is worthy, even when life is heavy!

One of the greatest joys we've experienced is seeing God move in ways we never orchestrated. We've watched people respond during songs we didn't plan to do until the Lord places it on our hearts mid-service. We've had to step out of the way and let God do what only He can do.

Serving through worship has taught us to trust Him deeper. We get to lift our eyes higher than the stress, the schedule, and our own weaknesses and remind our church family to do the same. It's not about the sound, the lights, or even the songs. It's about Jesus. Always. The most beautiful part of it all is that we get to serve Him together, which is such a gift. We don't have to be perfect to worship or lead others in worship. *God fills the gaps when we simply bring Him our hearts and surrender to Him.*

A Prayer: *Jesus, thank You for the privilege of worship. Help us to serve You with humility, joy, and trust... not relying on our own strength, but on Your Spirit. Use our worship to draw hearts closer to You, and remind us each week that You alone are worthy of our praise. Amen.*

Stephen & Sunny Holliman

MOVE - Day 26

There have been moments in my life when God's voice was clear, yet His timing was not. A few years before my husband Chris and I moved to the Dominican Republic, I remember the Lord speaking one simple word to my heart: "Go." I didn't know when, I didn't know how, and I certainly didn't know what it would require. But I knew it was Him. So, I waited. We waited. And we chose to be faithful in the waiting, trusting that when the time was right, He would confirm it.

One of the scriptures that carried me through that season was **Proverbs 3:5-6**:
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Those verses connected so deeply with my story because I didn't understand the timing. I didn't have the full plan. But I could still trust Him with my whole heart. I could submit my timeline, my comfort, and my ideas of what life "should" look like, believing God would make the path clear.

And eventually, He did. A few years after I first heard the Lord say, "Go," He spoke the same call to Chris. That was our confirmation. We sold almost everything we owned, packed what little we had left, and moved to the Dominican Republic. It was a sacrifice, but somehow it felt like an easy yes because it was exactly what we were both called to do.

We spent 3.5 years serving disadvantaged teen boys, sharing the gospel with them through weekly Bible studies, relationships, and daily presence. We watched God move in miraculous ways—doors opening that we could never have pushed open ourselves. We saw hardened hearts soften. We saw young men begin to believe that God had a purpose for them. And we saw what happens when you take your own plans off the table and serve with open hands, letting God write the story.

It wasn't always easy. There were days we missed home, days we felt stretched, days we questioned if we were making a difference. But every time doubt tried to settle in, we remembered our yes. We remembered that God had called us there, and obedience always brings a peace that circumstances can't shake. Looking back, it was worth every sacrifice.

That season taught me that when God calls, He equips. When He speaks, He sustains. And when we trust Him with every unknown, He leads us exactly where we're meant to be. Obedience becomes easier when I trust that God's plans will always lead me where my own understanding never could.

A Prayer: Lord, help me trust Your voice even when I can't see the full path. Give me the courage to say yes to Your calling and faith to wait for Your timing. Teach me to hold my plans loosely and follow You with open hands. Amen.

Chris & Abby Tanton

MOVE - Day 27

Back in 1994, when Albany, Georgia had experienced tremendous flooding, I had the privilege to go minister and serve those affected by the storm and rising water. At the time, I was either a 6th or 7th grader and probably wanted to go for the adventure of it more than anything. However, God used that time spent in Albany to help me see what being dependent on Him means. He was using our team, with all of our different ages represented, to be His hands and feet. To give and to pour out what was so desperately needed to comfort souls and help mend hearts. I look back on that time and realize I wasn't at all prepared, or even properly equipped, but I believe I was willing, and that is what Christ is calling us to do. Our prayer in these times should be *"Here I am, Lord, send me."* I know that seems cliché, but also note how simple that is. He will send where He leads!

I also think about the emotions of that week. From the highs of helping people save precious memories from their washed-out houses, to helping feed hundreds of displaced families and volunteers, and to the lows of seeing the heartache of people who had nothing left. As the song says, *"You give and take away, but my heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be your name."* We can trust that even in sorrow, the Lord will provide.

Even now, I want the zeal I had when I was young. Whatever situation you find yourself in with the Holy Spirit calling you to MOVE, be willing, and He will make you able. That is our prayer for 2026.

We can use the example of **Philippians 2:3-8** as our example, the example of Christ.

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

A Prayer: Lord, lead us to the hurting. Help us to be available and willing participants of loving, serving, and sharing with others. Give us your zeal for those in need.

Carson & Laurice Ray

MOVE - Day 28

*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." **Matthew 25:40.***

In March of 2024, through our dear friend Mr. Christopher Allen, we were introduced to Ms. Tamara Burns. Tamara was homeless and had been living in her car for 2 years. Chris had been assisting her for about 3 weeks, but soon realized that she needed more assistance than he was able to provide. He asked us if we thought our church would be willing to help her.

Upon meeting her, it was quite apparent that she definitely needed immediate help, because not only was she homeless, but like a lot of people in our society today, she was dealing with some severe mental issues. I know that what happened next was nothing short of the Holy Spirit stirring our hearts. We asked her, "Would you like to come to our house, take a hot shower, and eat dinner with us?" That's when Chris stepped back, looked at me like a deer in headlights, and whispered to me, "Are you crazy? You don't know anything about her."

He was right, we didn't, but we knew she needed help, and we could at least give her a warm place to stay and a hot meal. If I'm being completely honest, I wasn't thinking that we're doing God's will, so everything is going to be okay. What I was thinking is that Stevie is stronger than her is so if this goes left, he can take her! She lived with us for about 3 months, till we could find her housing.

Fast forward to December 2025, and Tamara has become a true part of our family, attending church with us on occasion, girls' movie nights, and this past October, she attended our family reunion. We are in the process of trying to get her the medical and mental help that she so desperately needs. With her illness, it's very difficult for her to trust folks, so as a church family, be in prayer that God moves on her heart to trust us so that she can get the help she needs. Also, pray that God will give us patience when we find ourselves tired and frustrated. Our takeaway from this experience is that not everyone God puts in our path is always going to be humble, grateful, cooperative, and appreciative of our help. We must remember what Matthew 25:40 is saying- acts of compassion, service, and love toward those in need are considered acts of service to God himself.

A Prayer: *Dear Lord, give us a heart of service. Help us to love others as you have commanded us to. Give us a heart to serve with compassion and love our neighbor as ourselves. Give us the boldness to share with others who you are, how much you love them, and that every good and perfect gift comes from you*

Stevie & LaDwanna Walker

MOVE - Day 29

In the Summer of 2012, we were getting ready to welcome our second child into the world, baby Maxwell. Erin and I were both working full-time jobs, trying to figure out how we could afford a growing family in an economy that continued to get more expensive by the year. Three months after Max was born, Erin was back at work, traveling to Atlanta every day. It didn't take long for us to realize this wasn't what we wanted for our family.

After a lot of prayer, we decided God was calling Erin to stay home and homeschool our children. This wasn't an easy decision financially, but we knew God would provide; we just didn't know what it was going to look like long-term. We budgeted as we had never budgeted before. Said no to a lot of things and realized we could live on less and be satisfied with what God was giving us.

Giving faithfully was our main priority. Always making sure we gave our first and best to Him. In Luke 21:1-4, we see a widow lady that put all she had in the offering box. Through her obedience and faithfulness, she trusted God with literally all that she had. I'm sure that didn't look like the smartest decision she could have made, but she knew she could trust God.

I think that the most important part of giving is trusting. He doesn't need our money, but he uses that small act of obedience to draw our hearts closer to Him. That will impact other areas of our lives and help us to trust Him as the poor widow did. Through the years, one of God's characteristics that I have seen through our giving is His faithfulness. I always prayed and said, "God, I know you won't fail me". This was during times when I was scared for sure, but I didn't believe God would put us in this situation to let us fail. He has never let us down. Life may not always look perfect. We may not always have everything we want, but He gives us what we need. He shows us throughout the Bible that He is faithful to those who obey Him. Do you give God your first and your best? What are some areas in your life that you need to trust Him more with? Ask God for guidance as you learn to trust Him more.

A Prayer: *God, I know you won't fail me. Help me to live accordingly. Help me to trust you in everything. Help me not to withhold any part of my life from you.*

Collin & Erin Ray

MOVE - Day 30

The nation of Israel stood on the East bank of the Jordan, looking into the Promised Land, unsure of the future. Even though God had provided and led through their leaders, Moses and now Joshua, the next phase of their journey following God seemed overwhelming. (Joshua Chapters 3-5) Why do we always have such fear? Even when we know God has in the past provided, we still hesitate to trust Him.

Deb and I found ourselves in that situation 20 years ago. We joined other families and lined up behind our pastor, Tyler Brown, to form this journey called WestHills Church. We had a desire to follow God, and we knew it was to form a church that honored Him (2 Corinthians 5:20 - We are Christ's Ambassadors). God has a plan, and it involves all of us, and we can be a part of big things as we yield our lives to Him. Watching Him unfold a miraculous plan here at WestHills Church and being allowed to be a part of this plan is the beauty of our Lord. He allows us to be a part of His work. Only God could put this together and bring about the miracle of this body of believers and the ministry he has for us. We do not need to be afraid of the future but move forward in faith.

So many of the details in growing this ministry were a journey of faith. There have been many decisions and obstacles to overcome, and times I was unsure and questioned the process. It seemed like obstacles to us at the time, but they were opportunities for God to move and show His power and involvement in our church. Today, we are overjoyed by God's work. We are excited about the future and how God will use our MOVE campaign and our new building to honor Him. So thankful for God's leading and for God meeting us at every turn with His faithful guidance. We are excited for what God has in the future for WestHills Church, and we are thankful for the many joys and constant blessings of obeying our Lord.

Look at what God is doing and step out in faith. Trust and obey, and not just say I believe, but live and act upon what we believe. It is time to Move!

A Prayer: *Dear Heavenly Father, when the path ahead feels unclear, and fear whispers in my heart, I turn to you, my refuge and strength. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Guide my steps when I cannot see the road before me. Fill me with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Help me trust your plan, even when it seems hidden from view. Thank you, Lord. Amen*

Wally & Deb Sheats

MOVE - Day 31

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. **Acts 2:42-47***

As the church erupts in Acts 2, an important aspect that is immediately apparent is dynamic fellowship among the new believers. "They were continually devoting themselves to... fellowship" Acts 2:42. The early church did life together. We, too, are called to do life together.

Not that long ago, I was having a conversation with a stranger at Waffle House. Upon hearing I was a pastor, he stated, "I'm a Christian, I just don't do church because I can't deal with all the hypocrisy." The irony? A Christian who refuses to connect with other believers is the ultimate hypocrite. Fellowship is a biblical response to salvation. That is exactly what is happening in Acts 2. To know Christ, to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit, is to be called to a supernatural, life-changing community of believers... THE CHURCH!

Let us eat together, pray together, study God's Word together, worship together, serve together, and share together! Let's MOVE Together!

What things keep you from experiencing the kind of fellowship described here?

How can you fight for that kind of connection in your life and church?

A Prayer: Ask God to help WestHills provide opportunities for all people to grow together, strengthen each other, and fulfill God's purpose. Pray that our Home Group ministry would grow and reflect the supernatural fellowship seen in Acts 2.

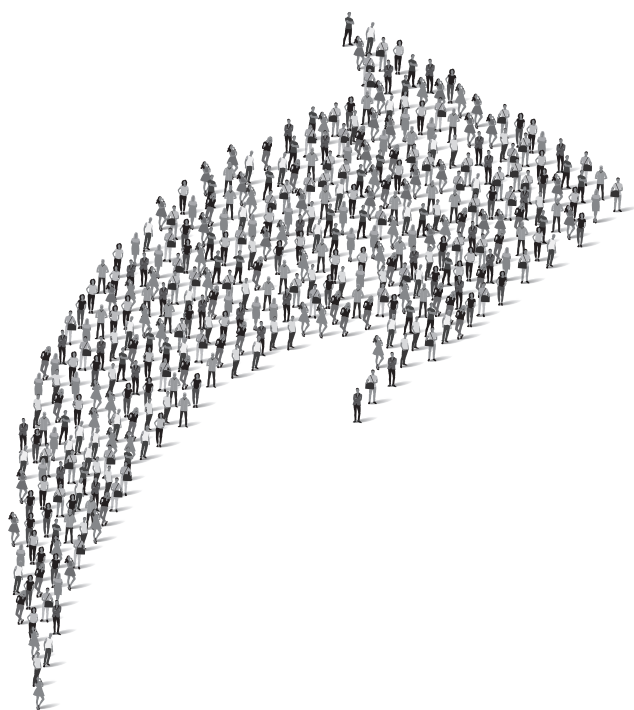
Tyler & Shelby Brown

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MOVE

westhillschurch

"Now to him who is able to do far MORE abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

In the upcoming weeks, you will be able to find current information about the MOVE Initiative at westhillschurch.org. You can scan this QR code, and it will take you directly to the MOVE page. You will find architectural renderings, giving updates, progress reports, and specific opportunities for you to join us as we MOVE!


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