



GOD IS ON



MIDWEST MISSION
Sending Hope & Empowerment

THE MOVE



Dear Midwest Mission Family,

In the last 23+ years of ministry, we have grown exponentially, assisting people around the world by providing basic resources so they can live with hope and be empowered to make a better life for themselves.



Chantel Corrie, Executive Director

The extent of the work that has been done and the lives that have been changed are not because of human capabilities. Don't get me wrong; we are deeply grateful for our donors who give generously of resources and volunteers who give generously of time and talents – this ministry would not function without your gifts! But even more so, we are grateful for God's deep investment in this place, which is continually evident in all of the ways we are given to serve His people.

I have talked about it before, and I will keep talking about it (because things keep happening!): one of the biggest blessings of being around Midwest Mission is the experience of continual God Moments. It is so apparent that God sees and hears our needs – the needs of the people we get to serve – and we witness Him meeting those needs in His time.

Some people call these moments coincidences, but we know God is behind it all, for "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

AWE! That is the word I would use to describe our response to this and the response of volunteers when we share these stories at break times. One volunteer told me, "You might be the most blessed group of people I know." But we know that isn't true. If we look closely, we all experience these holy moments, we just need to share them, and other good news, more often. The world is focused on the negative and the acts of man. We choose to focus on the positive and the acts of God.

We invite you to join us in celebrating what God is doing through you and your partnership with Midwest Mission as you read the God Moments here. Enjoy the evidence of God's influence and heavenly hand in this ministry.

We encourage you to share with others the God Moments in your life and please share ours too. This ministry is an amazing example of God at work in the here and now, bringing all the pieces together to make a beautiful masterpiece.

In awe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chantel Corrie".

Chantel Corrie

GOD CONTINUALLY PROVIDES DISASTER & TRAVELING MERCIES

It is always humbling to be on the receiving end of God's perfectly woven together story. At Midwest Mission, we specialize in Disaster Relief, and we are always in awe of how God provides the right items at the right time. But, when we are the ones in a moment of crisis, it is special to see how God provides for us too.

There have been several recent God Moments displayed through traveling mercies. Here are a few:

Gene Turner, our Mission in Motion Manager, was driving back from a Rice Meal Pack on I-55 when he ran out of gas and had to pull over to the side of the road. At the same time, Midwest Mission volunteer and NOMAD, Ray Trent from New Lenox, IL, was driving the same way on I-55 and saw the Midwest Mission trailer pulled over. He was able to stop and assist Gene in getting gas. Before he knew it, Gene was back on the road!



Just a few weeks ago, Chantel Corrie, Executive Director, was just outside of St. Louis, MO when her car died, and she didn't have a way to jump it. She called long-time Midwest Mission volunteers Jeff and Jane Johnson from Glen Carbon, IL, and they immediately came to the rescue and jumped her car. Jane leads the sewing group "Sew Much Joy" in her basement. Chantel stopped at the Johnson's house on the way home to see the infamous basement first-hand, and to collect donations they had for Midwest Mission.

Most recently, Midwest Mission Board Member Pat Baumer and his wife Sharon were traveling back from Midwest Mission to their hometown in Noblesville, IN. They were pulling a full Midwest Mission trailer behind them containing supplies for upcoming Rice Meal Packs in their area. Unfortunately, part way through their trip, one of the trailer tires blew, and the jack they had was unable to lift the heavy, full trailer to change the tire. Thankfully, a man from a nearby store let them use a trailer jack, free of charge!

With how much we are on the road for Off-Site Events, speaking engagements, and donation pickups and deliveries, we are so grateful that God grants us traveling mercies, and provides what we need when we end up in a moment of crisis. Thank you, Lord!

TORNADO AT MIDWEST MISSION BRINGS EVIDENCE OF GOD AT WORK



As we initially shared in the Summer Mailer, in May a tornado rolled through Central Illinois causing damage to Midwest Mission's local community. Because God has perfect timing, staff and volunteers found safety in the freshly cleaned out storm shelter on campus. The team spent time after the storm assisting Sugar Creek UMC and a nearby elementary school in branch cleanup.

Weeks after, we received another unexpected blessing. Several of our roofs needed to be replaced before storms came through, and it was in the plan to begin fundraising to replace them in order to put solar panels on. We found out later, insurance would cover all expenses of the roof replacements. In late September, the dorm, gazebo, Twice Giving, and the staff house all received new roofs. Praise God!

DONATION OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES ANSWERS GREATEST NEEDS

Back in June, we traveled to Rochester, MN to pick up a load of donated medical supplies and equipment from a medical warehouse. The generous folks there donate supplies to Midwest Mission multiple times a year, but, interestingly, we never know what we are going to get until we start unloading the truck.

For several weeks, we had onesies on our Current Needs List because we need two onesies or undershirts for each Layette Kit. Without these items, Layette Kit assembly was stalled, and couldn't continue until more supplies arrived, because we don't send incomplete kits.

Several people responded, and onesies began to trickle in, but it still wasn't enough to complete the substantial amount needed to fulfill kit requests. We were going to put onesies on the list for another week, but as we began to unload the medical supplies, we discovered 1,694 onesies on that truck! There was a need, and God provided, in the right time.

Similarly, we experienced a God Moment with towels. Bath towels are not something we always have on hand. They do not go into any kits, and we don't accept them unless they are new. Occasionally we will have some from donations that have come in. For several weeks in July, we were planning a shipment to the American Indian Christian Mission in Show Low, Arizona. One of their requests was bath towels.



Pictured above: Jody, St. Joseph UMC, IL and Darla, First UMC Watseka

"They said they had a huge need for bath towels," Brad Walton, Midwest Mission Operations Manager explained. "So, I went and looked at our inventory, and we had 30 on hand. Not much, but we would send what we had." So, they continued planning the shipment, and while they were doing that, they were also unloading medical supplies from that same truck from Minnesota.

As they were unloading, they rolled a linen cart out. They turned it around, and it was full of bath towels. Volunteers counted and folded the towels. The total? 570 towels!

"That's how things happen around here," Brad said. "We have a need, and then it just shows up. We didn't plan for the towels to show up, but we were able to send 600 towels to Arizona." We didn't plan it, but God sure did. Now, 600 people will be blessed with needed bath towels. We thank God for continually showing up, opening our eyes, and blessing this ministry with God Moments.

In total, the donations from that shipment saved us over \$10,000 in what we would have had to purchase otherwise. Because of this, we prayerfully decided to purchase new trailers to allow for monthly pickups at the medical warehouse in coordination with pickup and delivery at our Iowa location.



MIDWEST MISSION IOWA UPDATE



Pictured above:
Cedar Falls UMC and
Jefferson Regulars

Midwest Mission Iowa has been busy! Danille Curtis and volunteer leaders, Alaire Willits, Bill and Connie Ridgley, and Brett and Kristi Ahrens, have done an amazing job cultivating a new home for Midwest Mission. Volunteers have been busy at work, making Sleeping Mats using looms, packing Rice Meals, and assembling kits. There have been teams coming from Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Come and check out Midwest Mission Iowa: call our Reservations Coordinator to set up a time to volunteer in 2024 – 217-697-4063 or visit midwestmission.org/iowa.

Since Midwest Mission *officially* opened the Volunteer and Collection Site in Iowa, they have received 3x the amount of donated supplies as the Permanent Collection Site had before! It has been amazing to see the word spread about how we can show God's love in a practical way around the world and around the corner.

CHANGES

As of September, Danille will be transitioning to the role of Midwest Mission's Iowa Public Relations Specialist. Danille played an integral role in opening our second location, and she will now be working to spread the word about Midwest Mission in Iowa and to coordinate efforts between Iowa and Illinois. Danille will also be available to speak at churches in the Iowa area. If your church is interested in hearing from Danille about Midwest Mission, you can email her: danille@midwestmission.org.

We need **Volunteer Leaders** to support the Iowa Site Volunteer Coordinator for day-long periods. If you live near Jefferson and you are interested, email barb@midwestmission.org.



LAYETTE KITS DISTRIBUTED TO NEW MOTHERS IN HONDURAS



Layette Kits bless new mothers with items for their baby that they wouldn't have otherwise. After welcoming a new baby into the world, a mother shouldn't have to be worried about how she will keep her baby warm, or where she will find diapers. Layette Kits provide basic clothing essentials to start mom and baby off on the right foot.

This is especially a blessing for low-income mothers and those who don't have access to a hospital.

We recently received pictures from Food For The Poor in Honduras who had distributed items to Sotero Barahona Maternal and Child Center and Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital, where many low-income mothers are served.

This is what they shared:

"Thanks to the donation of beautiful quilts, receiving blankets, pillowcase dresses



and onesies, new moms were filled with hope and joy to see the items they would be taking home for their newborns. This type of donation brought hope to each one of them and all expressed joy looking forward to seeing their babies wear the new onesies, sleepers, and lovely little dresses. Thank you for this beautiful donation of assorted baby items that has brought so much joy to the new moms."



MAUI WILDFIRE SHIPMENT – A PERSONAL CONNECTION

In August, wildfires sparked on the island of Maui that quickly led to an inferno that destroyed the historic community of Lahaina. Midwest Mission was in contact with Convoy of Hope who was on the ground in Lahaina distributing disaster relief within a week of the fires.

On August 28, Midwest Mission loaded requested Bed Packs, Hygiene Kits, and Rice Meal Bags on a container. Everyone gathered to pray for the safety of the shipment and for those who had been impacted by the fire.

What was already a heart-wrenching moment became more personal as NOMAD volunteers, Mary and Mark Grant, shared their personal connection to the disaster:

"Our son Nick and his wife Beth have been in Lahaina for about eight years now, and they lost everything," Mary shared. As the fires spread towards their apartment complex, the couple fled on foot to safety.

"They don't have much, but they care about being a part of that community. They really feel that Lahaina has become home. They have realized that most of the people who live in Lahaina are the ones who do the work on Maui - the ones who serve all the tourists and fix things and teach the kids. They want to be part of that community and help them as much as they can through all of this."

We were grateful to hear the personal connection. Our prayer continues to be that the supplies and love that was sent with them bring hope in the midst of the crisis, and peace in the chaos.

Celebrating the Impact of Giving

Solar Panels on First Warehouse Cut Energy Bill by 96% in September



In August, the Solar Panels on the first warehouse were turned on, beginning our solar journey. Before we could turn the panels on, there was a long journey to raise money, place the solar panels, and run tests. We are proud to say that our energy bill for our warehouses for September 2023 was **only \$27.84** in comparison to \$655.96 for September 2022 before solar.

Quonset Hut Finished, Garage Repaired, Allowing More Space in Warehouses

Thanks to the NOMAD volunteer team, and donations we received from our previous Brick By Brick campaign, the Quonset Hut is finished with a complete enclosure, and the garage has been repaired. Now, machinery like lawn mowers and tractors can be moved into the two buildings, creating more space in the warehouse for supplies.



Break Area Relocated for Better Volunteer Experience

Chuck Porter, long-term Volunteer Leader, installed a new kitchen in the third warehouse near the break area. Break time will be more enjoyable for everyone, with a shorter walk to get food and drinks. Because of Menards rebate donations, this was possible.



GIVING TUESDAY STUDENT KIT CAMPAIGN

Giving Tuesday is coming up on November 28th, which will launch our year-end campaign to raise \$70,000 to make 10,000 requested Student Kits for people in need.

Through our partnership with the U.S. Southern Command, we will be providing Student Kits for elementary-aged kids in their 2024 Resolute Sentinel humanitarian aid mission in Peru. They will be gifted school supplies they wouldn't have otherwise.

We will also be sending 20 pallets of Student Kits for Food For The Poor's disaster relief pre-stage program in 10 countries that consistently experience hurricanes. In a disaster, Student Kits allow kids to use art and writing as a way to occupy their time and recover from the trauma of disaster. Items arrive in-country in May, and are distributed to schools in late December if they were unneeded for disaster response through the year.

Be on the look out for social media posts and emails as we launch this campaign.



\$7 MAKES 1 KIT



\$70 MAKES 1 BOX OF KITS



\$980 MAKES A HALF PALLET OF KITS



\$1,960 MAKES 1 PALLET OF KITS

Donate: midwestmission.org/donate or mail to 1001 Mission Dr, Pawnee, IL 62558

Celebrating the Joy of Serving

MIDWEST MISSION SERVING MISSION SUNDAY

Sunday, September 17th, was Midwest Mission Serving Sunday. This was the second annual day of service and celebration of the joy of serving for Midwest Mission, and we are in awe of how God worked through his people. There was such energy in the air at each of the Rice Meal Packs that were hosted around the Midwest. Churches who hosted other events such as collections and kit assemblies told us how much fun it was to get together and serve with their congregation. It was truly a celebration! Over 995 volunteers served with us from more than six states. At the six Rice Meal Packs, 27,604 Rice Meal Bags were packed. These nutritious meals will feed 165,624 people in need around the world.

Thank you to everyone who served through volunteering, donating, or praying for the weekend! We hope you were filled with all the joy God had for you. Our prayer is that God will continue to work in and through your congregations, reinvigorating the Church through the power and joy of serving with one another.

Mark your calendars for next year's Midwest Mission Serving Sunday on **September 15th, 2024!**



Webster City, Iowa



Avon UMC, Avon, IN



Volunteers who led tables at Midwest Mission



Glenwood HS Volleyball Team



Asbury UMC, Sioux City, SD

Celebrating the Joy of Serving

OFF-SITE MINISTRY CONTINUES TO GROW

Back in 2019, just after our Off-Site Ministry began, we hosted 10 Off-Site Rice Meal Packs. Four short years later, in 2023, 79 Rice Meal Packs were already held by September!

“God has really blessed this part of our ministry. We are excited to see it continue to grow. More congregations will come together to serve, and experience the joy that comes from it together,” says Chantel Corrie, Executive Director.

As crises around the world continue to arise, there is always a shortage of food. By the time Rice Meals come in from Off-Site Events, they are already scheduled to go out on a shipment. The need is great, and we want to be able to provide.



Manteno UMC, Manteno, IL



Faith UMC, Brillion, WI

GET YOUR CHURCH INVOLVED

Your church can send hope and empowerment around the world from right in your town. With our Off-Site opportunities, all you need to do is get people together and bring excitement, we'll supply the rest.

We have three options:

1. Student Kit Assembly
2. Personal Dignity Kit Assembly
3. Rice Meal Pack

Visit midwestmission.org/off-site or call our Mission in Motion Manager at 217-697-4680 to learn more.

TRUCK & DRIVERS NEEDED

In order to continue to grow the impact of the ministry and provide more serving opportunities for churches, we need:



1. An **F-350 XLT pickup truck** to allow us to be at more events at one time. The truck can pull a trailer and no CDL is needed, opening the opportunity for more people to drive. You can donate by mailing a check to Midwest Mission — 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558, or online at midwestmission.org



2. **Volunteer drivers** (preferably with a CDL, but not necessary) to drive our trucks to and from Off-Site Events, and represent Midwest Mission. This will allow us to book more events, and give our staff members who work several weekends a month a break. If you're interested, email chantel@midwestmission.org.

DOMETIC DONATES COOLERS FOR DISASTER RELIEF



In early September, Dometic, an outdoor equipment company that specializes in vanlife, RVing, car camping, and overlanding supplies, reached out to Midwest Mission about a corporate donation. Dometic's product manager, Jordan Kettler, explained that Dometic had white coolers in inventory that they could no longer sell on the open market because some of them were beginning to discolor. Aesthetically, there were issues, but they were fully functional.

We jumped at the opportunity to partner with Dometic. These coolers will be a huge blessing to someone who has lost power in a disaster. It could hold perishable food items or vital medicines that must be kept cool. Being able to offer these coolers in the midst of a disaster has the potential to bring a bit of relief and stability to their crisis.

We traveled to Dometic's warehouse in Litchfield, IL to pick up the 260 small and 140 medium coolers, valued at **\$77,600!**

If you're looking for a cooler, think Dometic. We love to support business who have supported us!

LOOMS BRING CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER AND PROVIDE SLEEPING MATS FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE

The Sleeping Mat Project is a fantastic way to reuse plastic bags, keep them from littering our environment, and give people without a bed a healthier sleep experience. Sleeping Mats are made out of "plarn," plastic yarn made from grocery bags, using a Loom. The Sleeping Mats are great for those who need a barrier between them and the ground, and are distributed locally and internationally. They have been sent for disaster relief, given to the homeless, and those without a bed or mattress. Putting a Loom in a common gathering place allows people to experience the joy that comes from serving while building community and engaging with one another – all while making a big impact. For a \$100 donation that will go toward material costs, we will provide you a ready-to-go Loom. Visit midwestmission.org/loom or contact our Project Manager at 217-457-4030.



Laurel UMC, Springfield, IL

Current Needs

Receiving Blankets (28" x 28" – 32" x 32")

Feminine Hygiene Kit Items

call 217-483-7911 for patterns or visit midwestmission.org/pattterns

Walkers, wheelchairs, canes, crutches, and other orthopedic supplies

(new and used in good condition)



Mail or bring items to Midwest Mission
1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558



Bring items to a Permanent Collection Site near you:
midwestmission.org/permanent-collection-sites

Learn more at midwestmission.org/collect-donate

Get Involved at Midwest Mission



SERVE FROM HOME



Collect Supplies



Assemble Kits



Sew Handmade Items



**Weave Sleeping Mats
Using a Loom**



There are several ways you can serve people around the world from right at home. Get involved in our mission to turn resources into humanitarian aid. Visit midwestmission.org/at-home or call 217-483-7911 to learn more.



VOLUNTEER AT MIDWEST MISSION



Assemble Kits



Sew + Weave



**Build Desks, Refurbish
Sewing Machines + Bikes**



**Work on the
Most Pressing Need**



Volunteering at Midwest Mission allows you to see the total impact of your work. We have two volunteer locations – Pawnee, Illinois (just outside of Springfield) and Jefferson, Iowa (45 mins NW of Des Moines). Visit midwestmission.org/get-involved or call our Reservations Coordinator at 217-697-4063 to learn more.



HOST AN OFF-SITE EVENT



Rice Meal Pack



Student Kit Assembly



Personal Dignity Kit Assembly

Off-site mission events connect congregations by creating a space where community is shared and memories are made, all while actively being the hands and feet of Jesus. Visit midwestmission.org/off-site or call our Mission in Motion Manager at 217-697-4680 to learn more. We are booking for 2024 and 2025!



GIVE



In-Kind Donation of Supplies

← See our current needs on the previous page and visit midwestmission.org/collect-donate for more information.



Monetary Donation

You can send a check to 1001 Mission Dr, Pawnee, IL 62558 or donate online at midwestmission.org/donate. Call our Development Manager with questions – 217-697-4681



MIDWEST MISSION

1001 Mission Drive Pawnee, IL 62558
www.midwestmission.org

GOD IS ON THE MOVE AT MIDWEST MISSION

SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT
around the world and around the corner



JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER!

You can get God Moments delivered in your email inbox every Friday! Sign up for our weekly newsletter to hear about what God is doing through Midwest Mission. Scan the QR code or email mallory@midwestmission.org to sign up.

