

# Serving So Others May Go

April 2018



**“CHOOSE THIS DAY”**



Volume 6 Issue 9

Ah vacation...that thing we all look forward to and love but is also sometimes bitter sweet. You're definitely ready for it before it comes, and you prepare everything, head off, and enjoy a fun time of visiting and sightseeing or whatever. But then you come back...and you all probably know where I'm going with this without even saying it ☺ I'm not sure why I thought it would be different. The last couple weeks before I left I was definitely feeling the weight of things and several disappointments that have come up recently. So the thought was that if I left for two weeks and had a good time with friends, I would come back feeling better and things would be magically fixed because that's what vacation does, right? Well, I did leave, and I did have a wonderful time with the Tolberts that I am very thankful for, but when I came back, everything was still here waiting for me. I had just pushed pause, not delete. And just one week after vacation, I was basically back to where I was before I left.

But God knew, and thankfully some things were already in place to help. I didn't know it would be so helpful when I chose it, but I had gotten the new movie *Breathe* on DVD Netflix before I left to have it waiting for when I got back, and then I only finally got around to watching it on Friday night. It was

very touching and good for a lot of reasons (though sadly very clear that he was not a Christian), and I don't want to spoil it for you, but one of the main thoughts was that Robin Cavendish, paralyzed from the neck down by polio at age 28, chose life even in the face of his condition. I am not at all comparing my life or job to his or that movie, but the thought of choice stuck with me that evening. I knew I was still choosing to be upset about things and sorry for myself, and not choosing to see the good.

As I thought about choice that night, I went back and re-read a lot of things: my original application (why I chose to come here in the first place), old newsletters and prayer updates where some of these feelings have come up in the past, parts of a prayer journal I did two years ago, and the final lesson I did for my small group, that again I think was something God prepared for me to have it so fresh in my mind. It was an excerpt from C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* where he talks about every morning needing to shove back all of the other voices and choose to listen to God's voice.

So with all of that, am I instantly feeling better now and back on track? No, but with the Spirit's help, I am committed now to work on holding to Joshua 24:15 and "choos[ing] this day," and every day, as long as I need to, to have a better attitude about things and to serve well for His glory.



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## Financial Report

Checking Account

**Starting Balance** \$18,269.95

### Receipts

Individuals	\$2,595.00
Elliott CofC	\$100.00
Hikes Point CC	\$50.00
Lewis CofC	\$50.00
Ladies Aid	\$60.00

### Expenses

#### Benefits

100 – Salary	\$1,300.00
110 – Medical Insurance	\$130.00
115 – HSA Contribution	\$70.00
130 – Social Security	\$580.00
141 – Roth IRA	\$200.00
150 – Housing Allow.	\$896.00
160 – Utilities	\$90.08

#### Office

661 – Internet	\$49.99
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#### Promotion/Rep.

740 – Home Office	\$100.00
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#### Travel

860 – Connect Gathering in July	\$432.78
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**Ending Balance** \$17,276.10

If you would like to partner with me by sending a donation, please make your check out to “Team Expansion” and mail it to

Teresa Berry  
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Note: In order for your gift to be tax deductible, my name should not appear on the check.

Thank you so much!

## From our President

I don't know about you, but I'm fascinated by tiny incremental steps that, taken together, end up making a huge difference. For example, a tiny stream of water dripping through a limestone crevice, given enough time, can create Mammoth Cave. Here at Team Expansion, we are amazed every time a monthly gift arrives. We thank the Lord for your faithful partnership. For our global force of workers, those monthly gifts help carve out our paths through the rocks, they water our faith, and they smooth out our rough roads. They renew our faith and hope in the future. What's more, they create opportunities for people to hear about Jesus, many for the first time. YOU might think your monthly gift is a small, incremental step. But it's actually what makes the engine of Team Expansion propel the Gospel to the unreached in 40 countries around the world. Thank you for your prayers and partnership -- and thank you for your friendship in the Great Commission.

- Doug Lucas - President, Team Expansion

## Vacation with the Tolbert Family in Ireland



## Prayer Requests / Praises:

- Praise for a good vacation
- For more office help in finances, applications, creative arts, etc.
- To make the correct choice every day
- For more workers around the world

\*Please let me know how I can pray for you as well

