

# Serving So Others May Go

August 2018

~

“IT WAS A TRAIN”

~

Volume 7 Issue 1

It's crazy how much can change in one month or even one week. Last month in my newsletter I talked about being thankful for our growing financial team. Slowly but surely we were starting to make progress. There were, and continue to be, multiple issues with online giving, but between Jon, Brittany, Rachel, and I, we were working through them, and I was even able to spend a few days working through the clean-up process in Aplos that really needs to be done but I could never get to before with the normal day to day duties. I was actually starting to see the “light at the end of the tunnel.” Though, just in my own sarcastic sense of humor, I had joked with several people, “Yeah, there’s a light at the end of the tunnel. It might be a train, but there’s a light.”

It was a train.

On Thursday just before lunch, Rachel came into my office and told me that she was quitting and she wouldn't say why. She finished up a few things and left not long after that. At first I was just shocked, but then as the day continued and I realized the impact this would have, I felt like I had been hit by that train. It just didn't make any sense. I tried to go to my boss for the reason, the one thing that would have at least brought some sense of closure and peace to my mind, but she refused.

So Thursday night was pretty terrible. I wanted to give up and was really considering it. But in the end my sense of duty won out, so I went into the office on Friday to work on the end-of-the month tasks that needed to be done, though I still wasn't really feeling like it. But during the day, I got a call from one of our overseas workers. She was asking about transitioning to the Collaborative Model, but I explained what had just happened and how that just wouldn't be possible right now. She was sympathetic and prayed for me, and towards the end of the conversation she said, “Now don't you quit too.” And my immediate response was, “Oh, I won't.” After hanging up I thought about that. It was so fast of a response, did I really mean it? And during the rest of the day I resolved that yes, I did mean it. It's going to be really hard, but I'm committed.

There are many people who have really helped this past month. I'm thankful for my mom who's been talking me through all of this the past month. I'm thankful for Brittany who remains faithful and has an optimistic personality to offset my realism ☺ I'm thankful for the Harris family who have provided a lot of support and fun times away with their family. And I'm thankful for many of you who have sent notes of encouragement and for your prayers. (Continued on the second page)



**Teresa Berry**

~

## Contact Information:

[tberry@teamexpansion.org](mailto:tberry@teamexpansion.org)

6017 Wooded Creek Dr.  
Unit 202  
Louisville, KY 40291

~



4112 Old Routt Rd  
Louisville, KY 40299  
[www.teamexpansion.org](http://www.teamexpansion.org)

## Financial Report

Checking Account

**Starting Balance** \$15,972.57

### Receipts

Individuals	\$2,625.00
Central CofC	\$500.00
Elliott CofC	\$100.00
Hikes Point CC	\$50.00
Lewis CofC	\$100.00

### 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.	\$891.00
160 – Utilities	\$91.93

#### Office

661 – Internet	\$49.99
Promotion/Rep.	
740 – Home Office	\$100.00

**Ending Balance** \$15,934.65

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  
6017 Wooded Creek Dr. Unit 202  
Louisville, KY 40291

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

### How Do We Know God's Will?

In olden times, Saul asked a witch to bring up Samuel, the prophet. (Oops -- she foretold his death.) In the New Testament, they prayed then "cast lots" (like throwing dice). Today, don't you wish that God would just text us? One Team Expansion worker testified that, on a recent morning, while seeking God's will, he thought he heard God say, "Wait for what's just up around the bend." As he rounded the bend, he immediately saw the most beautiful rainbow ever. Whether we read the Bible, pray, ask Christian friends for advice, or seek Godly discernment in our circumstances, God can and will lead us. One thing is sure: He is sovereign. We can trust Him to care for Team Expansion workers in faraway (and even dangerous) lands. Thanks for your partnership and shared vision! May God guide you this month!

- Doug Lucas - President, Team Expansion

(Continued from the front)

I'm also thankful for my church and a very timely sermon. I know I shouldn't be surprised when God provides the right message at the right time. If any of you want to hear it, you can watch the video here:

<https://vimeo.com/287937553>

The sermon was about our work and finding purpose in the workplace in the midst of stress. Jeff talked about one of the hardest “work” days for Jesus in Matthew 14 where He had to deal with interpersonal conflict, grief, fatigue, and His limitations as a human. But He set the example for us by withdrawing from the people for a time to pray and refresh, by learning to say “no,” by surrounding Himself with believers, and by staying faithful

to His task. And I will be putting some of that into practice this week.

Again, I'm sure God knew what would happen because weeks ago I solidified my plans to take a vacation and go back home to Iowa for a week just to rest. With the enormous amount of work that now comes back on me, I think this break is even more important now. So I'll finish up the beginning of the month tasks, but then I hope to leave on Thursday. I'll be able to take care of some needed appointments at home and also celebrate my grandma's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday. And then hopefully be ready to come back and continue on, and hold to this quote: I don't know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future.

## Prayer Requests / Praises:

- Praise for support of family and friends and for time away
- For more office help in IT, applications, creative arts, admin, etc.
- For a replacement for Rachel to come soon and for time to train
- For God's Kingdom to come

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

