

Fathers and Brothers,

I am grateful for this opportunity to report to you on my ministry over the last year. Thank you for your prayers and continued support of my family and me.

During the latter half of 2012 I continued in an interim pastorate role at FPC Jackson, overseeing administration and missions. It was a joy to be able to turn over responsibilities to TE Ralph Kelley over a period of several months and has been a blessing to see the beginning of his ministry there. I am very grateful for his ministry to FPC, as I know that the church is, and to my family, as well. He has been a friend now for several years and has ministered to us as the MTW pastoral associate to the MTW UK teams. In November of 2012 I left staff at FPC Jackson to support raise full-time and get to the field.

During the first 5 months of 2013 we were on the road more than 2/3 of the time as we visited churches and individuals all over speaking with missions committees, meeting with potential supporters, and speaking and preaching at several missions conferences in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, and South Carolina. When we were in Jackson we were meeting with as many individuals and churches as possible. During one 3 week period in May I had over 30 meetings with individuals. The Lord has used that hard work to bring the support in for us to leave for England. As of mid-June we have reached 100% of the support we need to head to the field. 92% of that is in pledged support from individuals and churches and the other 7% is one-time gifts we have received that have been prorated over our first 4 years. This means that as we head to the field we will still be raising this last 7% over the next 4 years, but that we are able to begin that process.

Just as we were finishing up the support raising we were scheduled to attend Cross Cultural Ministry Internship (CCMI) with MTW in New York during the month of July. So we were intending to move out of Mississippi in mid-June and attend the training, then leaving for the field when it finished. As we were packing up and preparing to move I started having troubles at the beginning of June with very low platelet counts and had to go through a series of tests to determine what was happening. I ended up having 3 doctors appointments and a bone marrow biopsy the week of General Assembly which precluded me from attending. This also kept us from being able to attend CCMI in July. Thankfully the biopsy and other tests came back negative for cancers and major illnesses that would have been life threatening and I was diagnosed with something called ITP which I am now being treated for. We have moved to South Carolina temporarily, and are staying with my in-laws during this treatment. My doctor is trying to determine whether my ITP is just a one-time occurrence or if it is something chronic and figure out how to stabilize or manage the condition to get me to the field with the hope that we will be leaving sometime this fall.

We are so very grateful to have seen the Lord provide our support after a lot of hard work. Now we're waiting on his timing with my health to allow us to leave for the field in the next few months. We would ask that you continue to pray (1) for our family and the ministry the Lord is calling us to in Northern England as we prepare to plant a church in [Hexham](#). TE Bill Schweitzer (MTW England) has begun a monthly Bible Study out of [Gateshead Presbyterian Church](#) that will be the core team for our church plant and they are waiting for our arrival. Also (2) for my continued healing and my family's spiritual and physical health and protection as we prepare for the field.

In Christ,
Josh Rieger