

1 (4s):

Well, good morning. Welcome to arise, church Denver, glad to see all of your smiling faces today. And today's your first day welcome. You're in the right place. Thanks for being with us. My name is Jimmy Smith and I'm part of the global outreach team here at arise. And we have some really exciting stuff to share with you today. First off we have our team that is going to Astoria next month. Very, very soon, just July 8th, we're just a week and a half away of departing and heading to Estonia for our summer ministry there. It was quite a road to get there this year. We had to get special permission from the government or to be able to enter the country. And after we got through all of that difficult work on Monday, they opened up the country to whoever wants to come and stop.

1 (48s):

I have the document just in case things change, but we're very excited to be able to go and serve with Bethann this summer. And we'll be there about two weeks. This is our team, Stephanie and Aisha Hunter, and myself and a B. Please be praying for us. Again, we leave on the eighth. We'll be there through the 24th because we're praying for our ministry for our travel, for health, all those things, just that God would have a great covering over our time that we be able to share the gospel effectively and with the, with the fruitfulness. And also just if you can, we were still trying to get over the top for our support for the team to go. We're about \$2,500 off, I think at this moment and we got a week and a half to go here. So we're getting pretty close. If you'd like to help one of the team members across the finish line with her, that they're fundraising, you can do that at arise, denver.com and just go to the global outreach section or forward slash global outreach.

1 (1m 33s):

The very top of the page, there'll be a link to click on that. You can support one of the individuals, or if you just want to give to the team and we'll figure out where it needs to go best, you can do that as well. And so it encouraged you to help us get over the top of that, if you can. So be praying for our team. We're excited about going and the next year you should be praying about going to, we take another team back next summer. All right. The next thing is very exciting. And really the highlight of today is we have Chris and Mindy player with us today in our services. So Crick and Mindy come on up. Yeah. In the hand as they come up. So Crick and Mindy are missionaries in Estonia. And so while they're here, we're going to go do their work for them in Astoria next week. Now they're on home assignment here for a couple months, and I love these guys so much.

1 (2m 15s):

And they have been in Astoria for many, many years. Now, let him tell all those stories, but this is 2021 in 2011, we started supporting them as a church. So we've been in partnership with them for 10 years now, financially blessing their ministry. Yeah. And beyond that last year, but maybe year and a half, two years ago, they're sending church here in Denver had to close their doors. So they didn't have a sending church anymore. And so we adopted them. And so we are now they're sending church, you know, when you adopt somebody, it's because you really want to do that. Right. And so we love these guys. We really wanted to be

their sending church. And so now we're that, that solid platform for them. And so we're thankful that they're here to share with us today.

1 (2m 57s):

Can I get nostalgic for just a quick minute? It like the old guy for a sec, back in 2009, I'm sitting at my desk and this was before we had this building. We're still meeting in the school. We had offices over in Stapleton, kind of where the Grove apartment building is. It was just kind of this little office space. You know, I got this letter in, in the, in the mail and you know, we get lots of letters from missionaries. And so sometimes you can help out and sometimes you can't. And, but this one caught my attention. I had a DVD inside and this was, yeah, this was many, many moons ago. And so I pulled up the DVD, it dropped it on my computer and watched it. And it was a little cheesy. I'm not gonna lie, but it got my attention. And for one, two reasons mainly is that they were with converge.

1 (3m 40s):

So we're part of convergence network of churches in the U S. And so they were being sent out through converse and they were at a convert search in Denver. And I'm like, well, if we're going to talk to any missionaries, that ought to be the ones with our movement and the ones that are in Denver. And I said, all right. So I picked up the phone and call Craig, Hey, got your cheesy DVD would love to meet with you. And so we met and I'm telling you, we just became fast friends from that moment. And then my wife and I got together with Mindy and Craig and we, we talked and you were pregnant with, with faith at the time. And then in 2000. So we started the partnership then, and then in 2013, after they'd been on the field for a year, we sent our first team to start working in Estonia. And so this is now our sixth team. I believe that we're sending over this summer as part of that in 2013, there was a very special person on that trip named Beth and Ericsson and Beth and Erickson, as you know, that was the beginning of her journey to now be a full-time career missionary in Estonia as well sent out of our church.

1 (4m 34s):

So I'm so glad I opened that letter. So many wonderful things have come out of that personally, in my own life, in the life of our church, all the great ministry things you're going to hear about today. We are a part of like, because we are supporting them because they are sent missionaries. Like we get to celebrate and all of this great stuff, all these stories that Chris is going to share today. And they're really good. And I got to hear him first service. And so we're very excited for them, but please just give these guys a hand, bless them, welcome them to our church. And you're going for a good message today. And guys, we're so thankful for you. Love you so much. All right, go get them.

2 (5m 13s):

Good morning. Oh, you guys were a little bit better than the nine o'clock 33 months had an extra cup of coffee or something to really wake you up a while. Wow. It's so great to be here. Finally, after a 12 month delay, due to the pandemic, not being able to leave Estonia, it just feels so good to be here. And the series

that the church is going through beyond our walls, and really this church is all about that. Going beyond the four walls of this church, into their community and around the world. And we've seen for the past 10 years, how our right church had partnered with us to physically go there, to pray for us to, to financially support different project, that various different thing.

2 (5m 57s):

So we're just thankful to have a ride to church. Now as our home church, our sending church, this is our church family now, and we're, we feel very blessed by that. And Jimmy kind of mentioned already when we first met, my wife was eight months pregnant with our daughter faith. And she's going to be 12 that just shows how long this journey together had been. And when the first team came to Estonia, our son was seven days old and we had an intern that worked with the team. And so the church had just been going above and beyond to serve the gospel outside of these walls. And for us personally, we, the first time we shared was over at the high school, we were here for the grand opening of hanger 61.

2 (6m 41s):

And we also were privileged that you sent out one of your best to Estonia Bethann, Ericsson, who we just have the privilege of working with. And we just love her. And we just love seeing what God is doing in and through her ministry. So I personally want to say, thank you for caring and loving and supporting for her and her ministry as well. So, as I was preparing for this message, I was toying with a couple of different things. What do I want to share? What would be the one thing that I could, that maybe I can bring forward a scripture or something? And I was sharing a story about what happened to me with one of my fellow coworkers who actually had the missionary in Uruguay.

2 (7m 25s):

And he's like, that's your story? That's the scripture. Keep telling that story. So thanks to my friend, Dave, I'll be sharing that this morning, but before we dive into that, I want to read the scripture for you. If first Peter three 15 and God brought this birth to my heart in 2019. And I've seen how over and over again, through 2019, a pandemic of 2020, and our transition back here on home assignment for two months, how God keeps revealing himself through this verse. So let's read together, but in your heart Revere crisis, Lord always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect.

2 (8m 13s):

Let's pray together. Haven't we father. We just thank you for this beautiful day that you've given us. Lord, thank you that we have the opportunity that we can come together to worship you and Lord. I just pray as I share the word that they will not be my words, that they will be your word and let it be an encouragement and a challenge for each and every one. One of us, including me, Norby love you and Brie too. Give you the Gordian, your son's name. Amen. So always be prepared. That's the line that duck out. So it kind of ironic as I was trying to prepare for this, I didn't know what to do. So being prepared. So the scripture came to me

while I was on a student photography trip with Cru of Estonia and we left Estonia and we went up into the Arctic to do various different things, dog sledding, hiking, mountain, taking pictures of Northern lights, like the picture right there that I have.

2 (9m 8s):

And, but before we go into that story a little bit, I want to give you a little background on the book of first Peter, the where the scripture that God revealed to me up into in the Arctic. Peter obviously wrote the book and he is one of the 12 disciples. He wrote this letter to a group of Christians in churches that were scattered throughout Asia minor, which is modern day Turkey. And he had probably had preached the gospel in various of the churches. These churches at that time were suffering from religious persecution and Peter letter with to encourage his reader, to endure the suffering and persecution that they would remain faithful in times of distress, knowing that God would vindicate them and that they would certainly enjoy the salvation that the Lord had promised.

2 (9m 60s):

Even in the difficult time in these stressful time, he's like always be prepared, be prepared for anything. And as I keep looking at this verse over and over again, the story I'm going to share it, not about me. It's about what God did through my mistakes, my shortcoming, my, my fault and how God still kept his promise. And he was faithful through all of this. So let me ask the question. How many of you love the pack for a trip? Oh, we got one right there. I didn't think I saw a single hand in the first thing I know. I know I'm a missionary. I know I travel around, but I do not like the pack.

2 (10m 41s):

I don't like it. I'm not organized. I don't give myself enough time. And now my wife, thank goodness. She had the list that you can check off. She has, oh, this is how many days that we are going to be gone. How many nights and it orderly. But when I pack, I pack more light. This, I just throw stuff on the bed. I don't know what I'm taking. I don't know if I have enough. Maybe I'll forget my toothbrush. I mean, I don't really want to forget those kinds of things, but miraculously, I was able to get everything together, thanks to the guidance of my wife and stick it in that backpack for the Arctic trip. So the purpose of the trip, they go to the Arctic every year crew to engage students in, in discussion, into conversations of the gospel, through common talent and hobbies that we have.

2 (11m 32s):

And they, I am a photographer. I love to do photography. I love to go out in the nature and just try to capture the beauty that God has out there for us to enjoy. And the team has asked me year after year to go, and I just couldn't make it work. I didn't feel right about it. But in 2019, at that time, I was an interim pastor of a church plant in Tartu and our church with meeting inside their facility. They had a cafe that was open to the public. So we have church right in the cafe. So they thought it would be really great. If you could come and be able to connect with these students and invite them to church or invite them to the cafe, to learn more

about Jesus, it just seemed like a natural fit.

2 (12m 17s):

So they got me all excited. I'm like, yeah, this is perfect. I can go to the arts. I can do photography. I'll have a chance to share Jesus with students. So to give you an idea where we're coming from. So tier two is Tonia is in the Southern part of the country. It takes three hours to get to the border. A ferry across is another three hours. It takes 18 hours to get up to the top of where Sweden and Binman connect. And another 12 hours to get all the way over to the Lofoten islands of Norway. The entire trip takes over 40 hour by van. Now I'm like perfect. Lots of time, right? 40 hours, lots of time to get to know people.

2 (12m 59s):

Well, things turned out a little different than what I thought they would be. So we're going in January. So, you know, there's not much light in the sky at that time. You're, you're above the Arctic circle and we were riding in a mini bus and you can see there's like a bunch of stuff behind me. I'm just afraid that they don't hit the brakes. And a suitcase will kind of come behind and hit me in the head. So I, within the back of the van, I within the middle there, this much like room, my legs are up like this. Imagine 15 hours. Oh, also the heat and the band broke down.

2 (13m 39s):

We, oh, if 35 below zero in Northern Finland. So we had to put the cardboard in there to try to try to keep warm. I'm wearing snow pants long, John, I didn't have wool socks on me. I bought them at a gas station just trying to stay warm, but I'm like, it's okay, because this is my chance that I can share about Jesus with others. One thing about the Estonian culture that you quickly learn about is if they don't know you, they don't feel the need to talk to you. They want to engage their energy and their time into people that they really know. And there, the good thing with that, you can, once you get to know them, when you can dive deep, you can have a deep friendship, deep conversation, but that all takes time.

2 (14m 23s):

So while I'm writing 18 hours on that first day, I couldn't talk to anyone. All, all the students were just quiet the entire time. Try to get the name just quiet. So that kind of brought to my attention. I'm like, oh my goodness, I am not able to talk to anyone. So then we spend the night and we wake up and it's a beautiful Arctic morning. And then we continue on to go up to Norway. So it's another 12 hours to get to where we want to go. 10 hours into the trip. Again, no one will talk to me. I'm texting my wife. I'm like, this is, this is hard.

2 (15m 4s):

I've been doing ministry. I've been serving in Estonia at that time, seven, eight years. But this is tough. And I'm feeling discouraged and I felt defeated. There's still no heat. And the night before our cabin heat also broke down. So I don't know what God was trying to teach me in that moment to trust him, even when all the

heat goes out, but we survive. We were okay. But, so I realized about 15 minutes before the Norwegian border. I'm not giving this to God. I'm trying to do this all on my own. Just constantly just thinking I have the plan. I got it all figured out. And I just pulled out my phone cause I could barely get anything out.

2 (15m 48s):

And I opened my Bible and it went to and where I was in my study within first Peters. And so I read the verses first, Peter three 14 to 17. Now this was the scripture that really stuck out with me while I was reading it. So let's read it together and over here. So you can see, but even if I should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. I felt like through the loss of heat to lots of conversation, I felt alone. I felt isolated. I felt defeated. Do not fear. Their threats do not be frightened, but in your heart, revered Christ as Lord always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asked you to give the reason for the hope that you have, but do this in gentleness and respect.

2 (16m 42s):

Always be prepared to give an answer. I'm ready. I thought I was ready. I was constantly waiting, trying to have conversation, but I couldn't do that. I had to wait, but the birth that really stuck out, but do this with gentleness and respect. And you're going to understand why God brought those words to me, continuing on in verse 16, keep a clear conscious so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander before it is better. If it is God's will to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

2 (17m 23s):

So we get to the border and, and we are up in the mountain, third drift, there's ice there, darkness. Third wind is cold and we get stopped. That's the toll way. And I was so happy to see that building because I knew I could get out and get warmed up in this building while they do their routine check. So I was happy, right? So they, so everyone in the group is the stone me. And they asked for all of our ID. So my Estonian ID is pink though, like my residency card, but all the other Estonian card they're blue. So you pull them all out and it looks like the old maid and the deck, you know, the pink card.

2 (18m 5s):

You don't want to pick that card, you know? And the, the person, the offers, they're working at the border with like, oh, who's the pink card. Oh, that's me. Oh, I see you're from America. Yes. Yes I am. And I live in Estonia and he's like, oh, so what are you doing here with the purpose? Oh, we're doing a photography trip up in the Arctic to take Northern. Might do hiking though. Different thing. He took my card and he's like with your job. And he flipped the card over and on my card, it says pastor. So I'm there on a religious visa. As soon as he saw that the color in his face just drained.

2 (18m 49s):

And it went from semi friendly to hostile on his faith. He became very sarcastic. He became pushy became

just to a point where I was getting uncomfortable. And he's like, oh, so where's your Bible. And I was like, well, it's packed away in the back, but I have my phone. What are you studying? What are you teaching on? And he started drilling me question before I know it. They took me and they took me out and I'm like, wait a minute. I'm in the border of Sweden and Norway. What is happening here? And they took me away and they were asking me question. They were drilling me with questions. I have four guys in the room.

2 (19m 29s):

I am so confused. What's going on here? And you just kept pushing and just kept pushing and kept pushing me, kept asking questions, kept pressuring me. And remember that whole thing about gentleness and respect. I come from an Italian family, anyone know anything about Italian. We kind of get hot about things. You know, we kind of just deal with it. And then we move on. That's just how we are. But in that moment, I felt like God gave me those scriptures to do gentleness and respect. That's hard, especially when I haven't done anything wrong. And so after an hour of that, they finally let me go back to where the van was.

2 (20m 14s):

They're like, okay, we need to check every camera. We need to check all the pictures. We want to take the seats out. We want to open suitcases. We want to do everything. And I'm like, I don't understand what's happening here. And the whole time, they're only talking to me. The other 15, 17 people are just waiting. They're just waiting for me. And so I was like, I don't understand what is happening here. So I keep asking questions and they keep asking me a question. So what happened was what came out. And by the way, as I'm telling them all this stuff, I am sharing the gospel with them because they're asking me which verses I'm and why I'm reading those. And what's the point. So in the midst of all this, the, my scratching, my head, like what's what's going on here.

2 (20m 56s):

So what ended up happening at, at the end, they go, to be honest, we had one question in mind. Why would an American ever be with a group of Estonian? That's what they asked me. It doesn't make sense. Why would you move to a Stonier to be in the church, to be with Estonian and go all the way up to the Arctic with these students? It doesn't make sense. And before I know it, I only have one answer. And so I share this all with them. And what they thought was that I was be clear.

2 (21m 39s):

I am not

1 (21m 41s):

Nor would I ever.

2 (21m 43s):

And that the Estonian where my workers and I was like, no, no, no, no. And so anyway, so that all happened.

They finally let me go back to the group of people. It's been about two hours at this point. So all of a sudden I went from three days of no one talking to me to two hours of interrogating question and assumption and thing, a million worth of minutes and all, while I'm trying to be doing it in gentleness and respect. So then I go back to the group. So this group that I had was not connecting with at all. Often they all huddle around me and they're like, oh my goodness, are you okay? What happened? And before they kept asking me the similar question, they're like, we saw your hand away and aren't you mad what happened?

2 (22m 29s):

And so I was sharing with them well, and they saw my ID and they saw that I was I'm a pastor. And then they're like, well, what happened next? Well, they asked me to see my Bible and I have it on my phone, really what next? And before I know it at that moment, I would able to share the gospel messages to all of them right then and there, right there in the tall, on the border of Norway and Sweden. And I'm just reminded through the scripture, always be prepared in the moment that I had finally let it go and try to take control of it.

2 (23m 10s):

And I gave it to God and I read the scripture and I prayed about it. God's like, watch me, watch what I can do. And through that, praise God, someone with the crew leaders and ourselves became a believer and they were baptized last summer. Cool. It was a team effort. Now. Not all of them are believers. Some have heard the gospel. So continue to pray for those young people that did hear the gospel at the border. There. Some of them, when we got back to Estonia after the photography trip, they were helping us set up church in the crew cafe, even though they didn't believe so, God had just opened the massive doors there.

2 (23m 55s):

And on top of that, once we got into Norway, we had seven days together and I was able to have a conversation individually one-on-one with all 15 of them. And so just amazing how God works in that way. Always be prepared. And what I love about this morning, I know that God wanted that song to be sung this morning. I see a victory. What the enemy plant that you had for evil you're can turn around and use it for. Good. And I saw that in that moment that he, the enemy was trying to stop what's happening here and you can't stop God.

2 (24m 37s):

So as I think about those scriptures, what can we learn from that? What can we take away from it? What can I learn from the mistake that I made that I can share with others the whole way they don't make the same mistakes I did. So in verse 14, it said, but even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed, do not fear their threats do not be frightened. The first time I shared this message with, at a church in Boston in 2019. And I found a quote from a pastor from Stonebriar community church in Frisco, Texas, near where my parents used to live. And he spoke these words.

2 (25m 18s):

Now, remember these words were spoken pre pandemic. It's kind of, kind of gives you kind of a whole different understanding of what's being said here. And it says unjust and unforeseen and suffering is one of the great problem that gripped the hearts of people today, pre pandemic fine. We struggle with the frustration, anger and uncertainty when trial strange and unexpected lands on our doorstep too often in those most difficult moments of our lives, confusion, reigned, while contentment, Wayne questions arise while prayer subsides.

2 (25m 59s):

And so that, and just a reminder, like we are not to be frightened in uncertain time. So even when I was up in the Arctic and the confusion and I was isolated, I was alone. I would not understanding what was happening. I didn't need to be fearful. I have Christ in my life. He will guide me through it then in verse 15, but your heart Revere Christ as Lord Revere honor, honor Christ as Lord always be prepared to give an answer to everyone. Everyone, doesn't say a few people, this person over here, we're called to be prepared for everyone at any time, whether you're in the Arctic, whether you're in jungle, whether it's your next-door, we're called to be prepared, all always did.

2 (26m 49s):

Did you answer to everyone who asked you to give a reason, the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect? So if there are the Italians and here, we, we all got to work on that one. That's a tough one for us, but how can we do that? How can we accomplish? How can we honor Christ? Well, first it really is for me. I realized it just being in his word. When I realized I would end the band and I wasn't giving it to him, I wasn't opening the Bible and studying the word. I wasn't reading it. I wasn't meditating on it. And I would remind it in Joshua one eight through nine, keep the book of the law, always on your lips, meditate on it day and night so that you may have the, you may be careful to everyone written in it.

2 (27m 35s):

Then you will be prosperous and successful. So when we meditate and we, we read the word and we study, it will become successful because it's a part of who we are. We will be honoring God in that way. Have I not commanded? Would you be strong and courageous at any time, be strong and courageous, do not be afraid there at that birth again, do not be afraid. Fearful, do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged for the Lord. Your God is with you wherever you go. And I was reminded in that moment. He was with me in that moment. So study the word, be in it, meditate on it. Dig. If you're looking for, if you have questions, this is where we can find the answers. We just have to open it up.

2 (28m 16s):

I was reminded of that that day. The second piece is again, by praying, we should be praying about all things. If we're confused and we don't understand, or we're, we need to give it to God. That's what I have learned. Once the moment I dug into the word and I prayed about it and I said, here, God, this is too, this is too big for me. I need you. And with that, he was able to say, watch me work, watch me do what I can do in

verse 16 and 17, it says, keep a queer conscious so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ, maybe ashamed of their slander, where it is better.

2 (28m 58s):

If it is God's will to suffer, doing good than for doing evil. And the piece that stuck out to me, there is your good behavior in Christ. What does that even mean? Like I kind of asked myself that, what did that even mean? And I realize it's to be like Christ. Well, how do we do that? And we mentioned reading the word praying and following his example, just like when the Pharisees, I asked him at Geeza, what is the greatest commandment? And he answered it to love your God and to love others. And with that with others, we see over and over again in the Bible, love your neighbor, love your neighbor, love your, and when we do that, we started Mindy and I started a Bible study in Estonia.

2 (29m 48s):

And the word for neighbor didn't make sense. It was the word leaky money. And there's a separate word for neighbor in Estonian, but they use the word leaky Manet. So we started talking to our friends like, what does that really mean? And it rocked my world. It literally means it means any person that you come in contact with. And that radically shifted my understanding about love. Other than love your neighbor. It's about anyone that we come in contact with. And when we were really beginning to understand that word and understand that scripture, we realized that 95% of the people that we come into contact with in Estonia is in south dystonia.

2 (30m 32s):

We do camp there. I'm sure you've seen Beth and ministry, which she is involved in south Doni. We help with churches. We help with youth leadership. We'd done all these things, but 95% of it is in south dystonia. And so while we were stuck in Astonia last year, God open a different door that we were not anticipating. We had the desire to start this out dystonia outreach project, because we've learned our leaky Manet. We're one and a half percent evangelical Christian, 98 and a half percent are believers. We found out that there's 300,000 people in south dystonia.

2 (31m 15s):

As we continue to dig more. There's five people, five plus people, groups, which five languages in this one area. And two of those are considered unreached people, groups, and it blew our minds away. And as we continue to pray about this project and we were stuck in Astonia, we realized, Ooh, arise church. Can't come this summer. No one's allowed to go anywhere. We realize we have no staff, no mission trips, no team, no intern, no boss to come over. No one, it was just my wife and I. And while did you ask with closing down to summer is Sonia cases went way low in COVID and we were wide open last summer, no restriction then summer of 2020.

2 (32m 4s):

Can you even imagine that? And so we found ourselves serving in different ways at different camp in ways we haven't done in years. And before we knew it, we were connecting with different youth and leaders and we had a team being developed. These youngest Donius inspired us. And what we realized is in south dystonia, there Christians in various parts of the region, but sometimes they're one of two Christian or there's a small group. And they said, well, they're serving. They feel isolated. So we develop the team to, we could be able to be an encouragement. We can pray for one another. We can help each other with ministry goals.

2 (32m 45s):

We can see how the gospel can be spread even further because we're better together. And we had an opportunity to mentor you. And so on the left, in that picture Tovo and Lisa, Lisa became a believer in 2010 at our teen adventure camp. And she was the one that from a rural community in south dystonia. And she realized no one else in her community knew Christ. And she kind of began to share her story with us way back when, about how she desired the gospel to be spread in her community. So recently they have been missionaries in Africa and they have moved back to south dystonia, Kisqali called them back home and they bought a farm.

2 (33m 27s):

And on their farm, they're planning to build five cabin, to have a place that can be held for Christian camps. This just happened. And then one hour before we got on the airplane to come to America, three weeks ago, I get a text from Tovo and he's like, praise God, we've secured a location for the alpha course, which is a course Bible 1 0 1, it's an introduction to Christianity to help people understand what it's all about and, and the scriptures. And while he secures this location, he, he shared with me that it literally the Firth outreach. So we dedicated to this people group, the Saito people, which is in the very south Eastern corner of Estonia, bordering Russia.

2 (34m 14s):

And so that will be launching this fall. So we secured the locations, care the funding, and we're all praying. So I have you guys to join us in prayer for Toi and Lisa. They take on the effort to outreach into this community. And the Statesville community has a very strong pagan background. So this is a unique opportunity that we are able to do with them. Then we have Anna Kay, who is on the top there, she, the young woman, she is a nurse and she worked in the COVID work throughout the entire pandemic in while she was still doing that. She was a youth leader at the local church in another part of south dystonia and Mindy. And I have known her for a while and we've known the church and they are the only church in their county.

2 (34m 58s):

And she wrote saying, they're doing their city-wide camp again, there's 1500 people in her town and they already have 150 kids signed up for the camp, 10% of the town and that amazing. And so they will be presenting the gospel and they want to do that entire town. No G so we're helping out with that. We're

mentoring, we're praying, we're brainstorming with her on that. And then the last picture is louder picture with Mindy. So one of the unique things able to do it to do some of the old job we used to do at camp, have anyone washed dishes at a camp?

2 (35m 37s):

Anyone do that? No. Or were there a couple of handbags or while you were in Estonia with us? So you wash dishes with us in the path. So Mindy with washing dishes and she met louder and she got to hear her testimony. And she was so inspired by her story. And she joined ourselves dystonia team last summer. And she will be, I could tell this story, but louder can tell it better than I ever could. So we have a little video that Loda would like to share with you.

3 (36m 15s):

Well, Loda, Restasis, lest it's an extract Gasolina. Oh God. <inaudible> <inaudible>. Yeah. It's Reno act or best at blindly best <inaudible> <inaudible> <inaudible> realistic sciences mean they've been able to run, I guess we've been sad though. It, this, this list that you won a good that game, but officer <inaudible> and that could be north there a university, like I said, I like to guess it <inaudible> under the same.

3 (37m 10s):

All doing the <inaudible> <inaudible> yeah, somebody probably <inaudible> B blue Williams group. <inaudible> <inaudible> <inaudible> so like straight up that I agree. <inaudible> Americas. We <inaudible> with Essilor, the hat, the hat we have <inaudible> here.

3 (37m 56s):

<inaudible> I go to church unrelenting and I have to wake up at 6:00 AM on Sunday mornings to go cause my bus goes out, so reports to arise, like eight, 10, something like that. So it really takes snapshots. And I understand where people don't want to do that, especially with people who are just coming to Christ. So I have to wake up at six to get to church at 11. So yeah.

2 (38m 38s):

So there's people like LAORA in Southwest Donya that just has the desire. It's real easy. The gospel spread. She was 14 when she got the call and this video was made last fall, but I'm, I'm happy to say we're launching that Bible study this fall. It will be the first church in her community ever and being done by a 15 year old girl And so it just, it just, it's overwhelming to hear her story. And I just love her heart. I love her vision. I love her fire for Jesus.

2 (39m 19s):

And it's a reminder that we just got to always be prepared to share the hope. And she's been trying to prepare for this, this fall, trying to invite her students. I have to just join us in prayer for the young leaders that we're working with. We have some other people that are potentially joining the team. We already have

three churches that have partnered with us on this project that we can work alongside to see the gospel in every community in south dystonia. That's our vision, that's our call. And we just want to go beyond the four walls of the church and arrive has been a big part of that. And I'm so excited to say the right team will be working with loader the summer, as well as the sailing camp. So pray for them. If they we'll have a chance to get to know her, to encourage her in the vision that God has given her.

2 (40m 5s):

So I'm going to close us in prayer and the worship team will be coming back up. But thank you for over 10 years of friendship, partnership, love, prayer support. You're part of the you're part of this vision that God has given. And we're so thankful that we can be a part of that with you guys as well. Let's pray, dear heavenly father, thank you for this day. Thank you that you have given your son Jesus breath to give us the hope, the hope that we have. And Lord, I just pray that for the young leaders who are going against the odds going against the culture should go out to the 98 and a half percent that still don't know you.

2 (40m 55s):

So just pray that you would give them the boldness, the courage, not to be afraid, pray for Mindy and I, as we can find ways to encourage them to mentor, to be, to do whatever it is, to see the gospel spread in word. I pray for, for all of us Donya for that reason, just to know you and I pray also not only over there that we pray for this community to beyond these four walls in this central park community, that there's so many people that may not know you yet. Lord, I just pray that we will be prepared to give the answer the hope that we have in your son. Jesus Christ. I just pray that we will remember that your scripture in Peter, that we will find ways to have conversation, to do it in gentleness and respect because it's all about you, Lord.

2 (41m 41s):

It's not about us. And I just pray that you would prepare a heart for this final worship time together that we will make you the focus in the center of it all. We love you. We praise you and your son's name. Amen.