

10,000 HOURS OF SERVICE

For the past month, Pastor Mary has invited us to read, reflect and discuss Greg Mortenson's book "Three Cups of Tea" as a way to inform our journey as individuals and as a community of faith. Further, she has invited each of us to reflect on what impact this book and Greg Mortenson's example has on our "sense of who we are and what we might be about in this hurting world".

As a next step in this journey, the Home and World Mission Board invites the congregation to complete 10,000 hours of service in the next three months. Why 10,000 hours? First, we think it is a nice way to honor Pastor Mary's 10 years of service. Second, we think it is a challenging but doable goal.

The Mission Board has three objectives in launching this initiative: to translate our reflections this past month into action; to generate awareness of the numerous types of service already being done by those in this congregation; and to challenge each of us to find meaningful ways to serve.

We estimate, on average, each person would need to volunteer 10 hours each month, for a total of 30 hours over the three month period. For some people, this may be quite a stretch. However, there are plenty of ways to serve that don't require a big commitment of time. For example, if you can come to church 25 minutes early, you can be a door greeter (sign up at the round table at Fellowship Hall or contact John Marzinik at jmarzinik@comcast.net), or while making dinner, make extra food for Families First (contact Mandy Armstrong 431-2406), or even without leaving the house by calling or writing a note to someone housebound.

On the other hand, some people are already doing many more than 10 hours of service. We want to know what you are doing to serve in church and/or in our wider community.

No matter how many hours you are able to complete, we ask that everyone keep track and report them to us on a regular basis.

Please join your church family on this exciting journey of service and discovery. As Greg Mortenson discovered, you never know where a journey might take you.

Frequently Asked Questions (or so we imagine!)

When do we start and end?

The initiative will be launched Sunday February 28 and will run until May 31.

How do I report the hours I serve?

A form (see below, you can use this one too) will be available on Sunday mornings as you come into Church. We ask that you put the filled-out form in the offering plate. The forms will also be available outside the church office, along with a box to put completed forms in. Or, you can e-mail or call Cynthia Watkins (Cynthia.j.watkins@comcast.net or 868-2185). Instead, if you prefer, for each hour of service you complete, you can put a sticker on the '10,000 hours of service road' in Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to report your hours each week.

How do I report what type of service I have done?

There will be a poster near the '10,000 hours of service road' for you to put down what type of service you have done. Once a type of service has been put down it need not be put down again, although you certainly may if you wish to.

Will I be able to see what progress has been made towards the goal?

Yes! We will be announcing each week in church the number of hours completed. We will also have a '10,000 hours of service road' in Fellowship Hall that will chart our progress.

Do my hours need to be connected to church activities?

No. You might provide a meal for an ill friend, sit quietly and be present with one who is grieving, volunteer at a school, or any of an unaccountable number of ways of serving others.

What are some service opportunities at church?

There are lots, and most can be done once, such as providing altar flowers; selling Equal Exchange products; helping at Fellowship Hour; folding the bulletin or Chronicle; greeting at a church door; Knitting for Peace; Men's Group; Women's Guild; taking care of the church's building; visiting committee; ushering.

Others require an on-going commitment such as singing in one of our three choirs; teaching Christian Education; and serving on a Board or on the Library Committee.

Other service opportunities?

Families First-provide dinner March 1, contact Mandy Armstrong

Soup for the Soul, United Campus Ministry-provide soup March 10 and 24, contact Maura Milner

Providing dinner and hosting Wooster Band members March 8, contact Ann or Chuck Hotchkiss

International Student Furniture Loan, on-going, contact Frank Pilar

Habitat for Humanity work day in March, date to be determined, contact Mark Chutter

Help with evaluation of Christian Education programs, contact Paula Norbert

Bobcat Bolt opportunities available to help with pre-race, race and post race, contact Jamie@bobcatbolt.com to volunteer or bobcatbolt.com for more information on the event

* * * * *

10,000 HOURS OF SERVICE

What I did _____

How many hours:

___1 hour ___2 hours ___3 hours ___4 hours _____hours (fill in number)

Any comments _____