

Building A Culture of Missions

Eden's Song Ministry

Eden's Song Ministry is a non-profit, 501C3 Corporation impacting missionaries through humanitarian work providing positive support to those they serve as well as offering resources that embolden them to disciple the nations.

If you have the same heart for the mission field, perhaps this manual can help you begin your own project.

INTRODUCTION

It all started with this insatiable need to know and understand Africa as well as the people of that nation. At 4 years old, I would sit on my Daddy's lap perusing the National Geographic with him and learning as much as I could about the different peoples of the world. I grew up in a Christian home with no thought of people's differences being denoted through looks; I just knew we lived diversely in other parts of the world. And I wanted to understand every little nuance.

It took years (and years) before I came to a place of understanding that this was all part of God's call on my life and then it took more years to be in a place of readiness. As always, though, when God released me it was ON. I've not looked back. I will never look back. Roy & I absolutely love being a part of a group of boots-on-the-ground Kingdom warriors. We're privileged to be a small part of discipling nations through missionaries and honored God has offered us the ability to provide for our hero's physical and sometimes financial needs. We love meeting those they serve through their eyes. There is just nothing I don't love about what God is creating Eden's Song Ministry to be. There is always a hunger for more. More in-depth discovery. And that's where our missionaries come in. Roy & I realize our journey through our conversations, newsletters, the off-chance meetings and their love for the nations.

There is a call beyond our comfort zone. A call beyond the desperate need. A call beyond what is normal.

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If you have the same heart for the mission field, perhaps this manual can help you begin your own project. With a goal of touching as many missionaries around the world we can, we pray you can gather from us some ideas and suggestions to attend to missionaries we may never be fortunate to meet.

You are also welcome to reach out to us for products and services. We are here to help the best we can or connect you to the right people.

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A CULTURE OF MISSIONS

CHAPTER 1

A CALL BEYOND – OUR WHY

This morning the word from the Lord in my dreams rang in my head. What is a culture of missions & what does He want me to do with it?

In a particularly vulnerable moment of overwhelming feelings of inadequacy I asked the Lord to remind me the WHY. He took me back through my growing up years where I continuously displayed the love of Africa all the way to the day a dear friend showed up at our doorstep to declare a dream over us that she believed came from God. Immediately, truly without hesitation, Roy & I began the work to obtain a 501C3, name the ministry, pen what we thought was the 'mission' and write the bylaws. Then we sat. It took a few months, a move across the country & new friends before we realized the intent of this ministry God had given us dominion over. Rev. 22:2 "The leaves of the tree are for the healing (*the glory, given for service, the nurture and care*) of the nations." We just felt called to run after what seemed like a daunting (and often certainly has been) task.

But it really began with a couple from Bungoma, Kenya, a trip to Mozambique, a missionary family in Tanzania, friends serving in Angola and grew as we reached out to a couple serving in Uganda (who became mentors and close confidants), Nairobi, India, Belize, Scotland, Russia and on to over 65 countries. I can't count all of them anymore; I don't even try. I just know my heart is full of their stories, needs, desires, hopes & dreams. I feel I know so many missionaries, though I haven't met all of them in person. Roy & I are getting out as much as we can to meet those living in the states and serving overseas whether in short or long-term capacities. We want to learn what their days are like, what the culture does and doesn't provide so we know how to pray. We also recognize that your life there is just as daily as it is here!

This morning God reminded me that in Acts He sent out disciples and apostles to spread the good news, build bodies of Christ lovers because He is hungry for a bride that is ready for Him to gather up. He impressed upon my heart to build a *culture of missions*. A vision of God's glory being magnified in the joy of yet-unreached people groups captured around the world! And we are working on getting names (except, of course, those in sensitive areas), stories and needs out there to illicit prayer, intercession and practical resources.

So this is our story, a missionary's book. How we bring the discipleship of the nation's back to those being sent out. How we reestablish pride in being a missionary to the missionaries. How we Serve Those Serving Others.

CHAPTER 2

OUR WHAT

Our Mission Statement and Focus

Serving Those (our missionaries) Serving Others (those they serve)

We are a global ministry connecting missionaries with resources to provide positive support to those they serve as well as offering measures to embolden them to disciple the nations.

Mission Minded Teams

Our Assembly Teams gather twice weekly to develop our humanitarian aid packs which include:

School Backpacks (age-appropriate supplies for preschool, elementary & secondary students)

Mid-Wife Kits (medical supplies for the mid-wife plus baby layette & mama gift bags)

Feminine Hygiene Bags (4 each washable pad & shields all-in-one, drawstring bag, soap, undies, washcloth, plastic bag for soiled pads)

Specialty Kits:

Hospital Bags (children's 'recovery' bags with small blanket, toy, stuffed animal, crayons/coloring book and washcloth)

Men's and Women's Grooming Bags (zippered cloth bag with grooming items plus gift)

Mid-Wife kits for Life Choices Clinic and Glory Reborn (made to their design)

Sewing Teams (work at home, locals gather monthly to assemble the Feminine Hygiene Bags)

Receiving Blankets

Drawstring Tote Bags

Zippered Grooming Bags

Crochet hats and booties

Media 4 Missionaries

Desk Top Computer Stations (including licensed software, flat screen monitor, keyboard & mouse/pad)

Laptops (including licensed software, Microsoft word and our ESM Learning Center)

Kindle Readers (Read only with over 1200 books included)

Tablets

iPods (including the Audio Bible, Worship, sermons & conferences)

Resources/Training & Learning Center

Learning Center: UPOADED conferences, teachings, classes

Resource Center: links to resources

Training Center: links to Training

Partner Outreaches

Eden's Song partners with other like-minded ministries as well:

Life Choices Clinic – our pro-life clinic

Go Send Me Global – missionary training & sending ministry

Servant Care – missionary respite and (individual/family counseling)

Bungoma Children's Home – Our children's home in Bungoma, Kenya

CHAPTER 3

WHO AND WHERE

Our Missionaries

I was the Mission Director for our AG church for many years so when we began the ministry, I contacted the missionaries I knew. It didn't take long to figure out they really didn't need or want most of our resource ideas so again we turned to God. He shared how He wanted Eden's Song to help stand-alone missionaries who didn't have the covering of an organization, so I started 'googling' missionaries online and the first name to pop up was Show Mercy Intl. They worked with orphans in Uganda and were a few more years on the field than we were and encouraged us as we explained our concepts to them. We traveled to Oregon to meet with them, make some initial plans and investments for Midwife Kits and 15 years later we are still partners! They have since become invaluable mentors to us and both our ministries have flourished together as well as separately.

I was cooking dinner one evening and as I looked at my window I saw new neighbors moving in across the street. The Lord told me to take them dinner. I called Roy and when he got home from work we took a casserole over only to find out they had just returned from Kenya! A couple hours later we came home full of stories and so much shared joy. One specific thing was that Roy & I were looking for mosquito nets for our children's home in Bungoma and this couple had stayed at a lodge where a women's sewing team met. They sewed mosquito netting for bunk beds and sent them anywhere in Kenya at only \$5 per net. We spent the next month finding this ministry, connecting with the founder and making plans to visit that year during our Kenyan visit. It happened that the founder of HEART Ministry, Vickie Winkler, was raised locally in Lewiston & Pierce! One of our ESM team members was their first Sunday school teacher. 15 years later we still have a successful partnership in ministry.

Roy & I have a story for every one of the hundreds of missionary's we have met & worked with over the years. One of the most important lessons we've learned is that the relationships are priority. It is essential to get to know them, the children, their living accommodations & the culture they live in to know what they need. Not only in product (we only provide so many kinds of kits and electronics & though we can vary them to meet a specific need, we rarely added to our list) but to encourage, strengthen, disciple and love on them.

We also stay in contact with missionaries who have come off the field in retirement, to raise families, manage health challenges or burnout, to repair relationships. Being on the field, living in other cultures, traveling consistently can be a strain no matter how much you love it. Roy & I added Partner Ministry's that provide counseling and respite homes for that side of mission work to our On-Line Resource, Teaching and Learning Center.

CHAPTER 4

HOW

Training Manual

Will you choose to become a 501C3 to care for your own missionaries, volunteer for ESM or allow us to care for your missionaries? If you prefer to volunteer or have us connect with your missionaries you can contact us via email at edenssong@gmail.com. We will begin working with you immediately.

If you are excited to start your own ministry to mission workers, this last chapter is for you. Remember these are all just ideas, suggestions & helpful hints to build a foundation. You find out what your missionaries need and go from there, but if you decide to use us as a prototype, **we will provide a model of each kit with direction, pictorials and advice to get you started**. We can be here for you every step of the way until you take off!

Become a non-profit

ESM became a 501C3 Corporation. There are many ways to do this. Our accountant did all the leg work for us, though we had to build the name, mission statement, bi-laws & board members. You can also use places like [501C3 Go](#) which provide a lawyer to walk you through each step.

Roy & I manage all the finances, fundraising, administration & communication with the missionaries. We have a great advisory board & our treasurer is in on all the finances & we set a maximum amount to spend without her approval. ALL our donations are put back into providing for the missionaries and we personally provide for our travel and admin costs. You don't have to do it that way, it's just how God has led us. Many non-profits allot a certain percentage to the administrative & travel costs.

Build your website - or direct your missionaries to our resource center:

Our website at www.edenssong.org has a plethora of information for you to pick and choose from including a specific page for donor or missionary. We also boast a **Resource Center** with links to amazing resources offered to missionaries as well as a **Training Center** with links to training to enhance our missionaries to mission trips and/or life overseas. Visit our website for more information. The **Learning Center** is a stand-alone link for our missionaries furnishing classes, conferences, on-line PDF books and so much more. Though we offer this to all our missionaries it is geared toward those specifically living overseas in the more remote areas with little availability to classroom environments.

Build your Team - Find a place to meet and build your assembly team.

The **Blessing Barn** is where our teams meet to assemble the kits. It was named by one of our missionaries years ago and it just stuck. We have dear friends who believe in what we're doing and donated their (finished) basement to the cause. Our teams are blessed to have enough room to house our inventory, set up assembly tables, ample shelving for completed kits, a packing and shipping area and the ability to come and go as needed. We have 2 assembly teams meeting weekly, our sewing team, plus 7 outside teams who collect items for our kits, sew receiving blankets, totes and teddy's, create 'love notes',

for our backpacks, make sewing kits (for the mama gift bags & eldest girl's backpacks) and so much more.

Our team began with just 3 of us in one half of our garage and we have stayed rather small for the amount of product we put out each year. We have about 18 steady volunteers to assemble and ship close to 3000 kits & media products per year. We have 3 amazing team leaders that train and lead their groups weekly. We have no paid staff, though we'd love to pay them all! We meet with our leaders monthly to keep them abreast of everything going on and at the Blessing Barn we keep a running white board with names, quantities and ship dates listed so the teams stays on track. Roy & I ship product as needed, usually twice a month.

Build your physical resource offerings

Roy & I felt God's leading to choose just a few items to provide our missionaries on a humanitarian level. These items allow them access into many people groups and areas of ministry which opens the door to the Gospel as well. You choose your own. Once you do that, we can help you with companies we purchase product from to get you started.

Media & Electronics

Our media department is very specific. Roy's background is in media & computer repair, so he is incredibly adept at refurbishing computers, hence we provide Desktop & Laptop computers, Tablets, Kindle Readers and iPods. Roy fills them with appropriate software & media to make them the perfect gift. You are welcome to use us for this need.

Kits

Attached are examples of how we assemble each kit. Contact Deb @ edenssong@gmail.com for samples or a meeting. You may want to change what or how many you put in each kit.

We provide full blown **Mid-wife kits** with complete medical bags, a New Testament & a layette for baby & gift bag for mama.

We offer age-appropriate school **Backpacks** for 3 different age groups; preschool, elementary & high school. Since many countries send their children to boarding schools for secondary education our eldest backpacks are fuller. Our Preschool packs contain less school supplies while our elementary packs contain a year's worth of school supplies. All contain a lightweight drawstring backpack, flip flops, a Book of Hope or New Testament, a small bag of grooming supplies, gifts & an encouraging note.

Keep girls in school with washable **Feminine Hygiene Bags**. Ours are provided by an outside team that sew and assemble them for us.

Hospital Bags are made for the children's hospitals as a gift to the kids staying a few days to recover from surgery or procedures. We add small blankets, teddy's, overnight grooming supplies, coloring book & crayons and a Book of Hope.

Men's & Women's Grooming Bags are requested from a few of our missionaries who work with schools and want to bless the teachers. We provide grooming bags with travel shampoo, soap, toothpaste & toothbrush, washcloth, pen and tablet, men's or women's gift and a New Testament.

CHAPTER 5

FUNDRAISING

Frankly, a lot of this information is on our website, but truth be told we aren't the greatest fundraisers. We'd do better having one as a volunteer. God has always provided our every need but we also feel that 'faith without works...' doesn't work, so we have found a few ways to fundraise. We use social media a lot to promote what we do and what we need to do it. Of course our friends, family and church members are a blessing as well. Here are a few ideas.

You need money, so exploit what you do to everyone you know. Hold get-togethers, luncheons, auctions, vision meetings! Sending out newsletters and sharing your needs with others is important. ASK them for donations and send a return envelope for them to use. Each dollar is important so treat everyone the same. Send thank you notes a LOT.

We use Amazon to make a wish list that we send out to everyone. Some people have more fun shopping and would enjoy buying product to donate. You need it!! It's fun and simple for everyone. There are other places you'll find you purchase items through that also provide the ability to make a wish list, like Dollar Days. We can help you with that as well.

Wills, Charitable Roll over gifts, IRA's etc. are another way to ask people to give. It can get a little complicated, but there are others that can walk you through it should you go that direction.

WRAP IT UP

These are just our thoughts, suggestions and ideas. You are welcome to use any of them, adjust any to your own missionaries or (even better) develop them to a whole new level of good.

We are happy to help you on any level so feel free to email Debi (edenssong@gmail.com) for an appointment to discuss your needs.

Our hope is to bring an awareness to missionaries! These boots-on-the-ground warriors for Christ spreading the gospel & making disciples around the world. There is no greater honor than to serve these amazingly fearless & selfless singles and families. Get to know them. Learn their stories, read the books and share them with everyone you know. Plant seeds. That's how we create a culture of missions.