

All right. You guys are settling in and the youth is heading out. I want to make you aware that this morning we have a special guest. So if I could invite Martin Winslow up onto the platform. He is here with his bride, Amy. And one of his assistants, Olivia. And this morning, we give the get the opportunity to have Bethlehem Christian Academy represented. Martin is the founder of BCA. And some of you in this church have went overseas to either Senegal or Zambia with BCA or the Living Well Project, who partners with them. And so every year we try to get the people that we support as missionaries who help us engage in what God's doing across the globe here so you can meet them and, and converse with them and hopefully get on board not just with prayer, but also support relationships. What the Christian church is all about. We've been supporting BCA for about ten years or more, so it's my honor to introduce to you Martin Winslow.

Well, thanks so much for having me here today. We're going to be in acts chapter one this morning. And listen, just a plug for what the Living Well project is doing around the world. I've seen firsthand the difference that that's made. Of course, the fish fry after church today, they're doing a fundraiser. I would encourage you, even if you can't stay for that, to give. We've been partnering with Paul and Ashley in different places around the world. In Africa, and I have seen firsthand the work that Living Well does. And they are really a gateway. They open the door for gospel sharing through drilling wells and giving clean water and poor areas. I've seen that firsthand. Not too long ago, just a few months back, I was over in Kenya and I had seen one of the wells that they had drilled in an area, a small village, and the the water was actually for a missionary and his family up on the property. But what they had done is they had made it to where it could share with the community. So they ran water lines down to the end of the property. And outside of this little fenced area. And while we were there, they had just turned on the clean water and people were coming from everywhere thanking us and praising God that they finally had clean water. And we said, where were you drawing your water from before? And they showed us and and took us down. This real deep hill down to like a little creek where they had been drawing dirty water to, to drink from every day and to wash with. And so the work that Living Well project is doing, I can't say enough about them. They've been great partners with us. We have schools in. Of course, you guys will learn a little bit more about what we're doing around the world, but we have a sponsorship program where we provide food and education and clean water for kids around the world. We have 11 schools across five countries, and we use those schools to open the door for young people to come in and hear the gospel of Jesus so that they can be born again and saved. And we plant churches then after that. So they have healthy churches to go to. But love the Living Well project. So thankful for them and for their partnership. You

know, sometimes as we look at this passage in acts chapter 1 here in just a minute, sometimes we have to hear things a few times before we actually believe them. When my daughter was little, she'd probably be mortified if I told you this story this morning, but I'm going to tell you, when she was little and she would wake up. She was my oldest daughter. She would walk into the room and maybe she had a new dress on or something, and I would say, my gosh, you are beautiful. When I would see her, you know, and she'd get all embarrassed. And dad, you know, and, and, you know, this was just kind of like a thing in our life. She would try on a new dress or do something, or maybe as she got a little bit older, you know, she would she, you know, you could tell she was trying to look nice. And I would be like, honey, you are gorgeous. And she'd be like, you're just saying that, you know, because you're my dad. And I'd be like, no. Objectively you are. You're pretty. You're you're beautiful. Like, you have to understand like no other people would say this about you as well. And she'd be like.

No, I'm not.

You know, and not really. Believe me. But I remember distinctly when she was about 11, she was riding in the car with me down to Ironton to go see her grandma and grandpa. She's 20 now, but when she was 11, she's riding next to me and she goes, dad.

You know.

How you're always telling me I'm really pretty and stuff? I was like, yeah. She goes, well, I was looking in the mirror the other day and you're right, I am very pretty. And I was like, yes, yes. You finally believe it. She's like, yeah, I am. And. Sometimes we have to hear things a few times before we believe them and before we'll act on those things. Now, I suspect since you're in church today, that many of you are born again, you've given your life to Jesus. Maybe he invaded your space like he did mine. Whenever I was 17 years old and I was at a conference in Saint Louis, and I'd grown up in church, I knew all the right answers, the Sunday school answers and things like that. But that night, that particular night, when I heard the gospel and and a good friend of mine was standing right next to me, his parents are here in the room today, Shane Claywell, and we were at the same conference. I hear the gospel, and in that moment I just knew I'm a sinner and I need to be born again. Like I need Jesus. And in that, in that moment, as I walked down, I think, I believe before I ever got to the altar, my heart was in a place of submission. I'd received the gospel. I'd trusted that he died in my place for my sins. And and I was transformed and changed and and some of people that know me would say I was

changed slowly. okay. But there began to be progress in my life. And I began to love God and love the gospel more and more over time. And as time went on, I realized my heart as well. Not just because the Bible told me to do it, but I really wanted other people to receive that same gospel that I had received. And over time, he made pathways for me to also help the church, to be faithful in helping others to become gospel speakers as well. In Latin, there's this saying, and I used to teach Latin for classical school repetition est mater studiorum. Repetition is the mother of studies. Sometimes we have to hear something over and over before we actually take it into our hearts and believe that thing. And so we hear it over and over and over again. How many of you parents have told your kids, brush your teeth, right? Brush your teeth. They're 12 and you're like, are you joking me? Brush your teeth, right? It's just something until that habit is actually a part of who they are, the Bible tells us in acts chapter 1, I want you to look there in your Bibles. Acts chapter 1. We're going to read the words of Jesus here. After he had appeared to his disciples. Post-resurrection for 40 days, he's going to tell them something really important, really going to be the marching orders of the church. And, you know, we Jesus does this a lot in the New Testament as well. He'll repeat things over and over again. And if you're reading the Gospels carefully, you're going to notice. You're going to think these disciples are knuckleheads. Why? Why did they not pick it up the first time? Right? But Jesus has to tell all of us things over and over again. Don't we all need warnings over and over again? That's why we come back to church. Each week is to be fed again, to hear the gospel afresh, to remember the things that God tells us, to constantly be immersed in those things. We just have to hear them over and over again. And we refer to this passage that I'm going to read here in just a minute, as the Great Commission, Matthew chapter 28, verses 18 through 20. Many of you could probably quote that passage of Scripture, but really, we've got it all wrong. We should refer to these as the great Commissions, because in Jesus Post-resurrection you won't find him talk about anything more than going taking the good news beyond our walls to the ends of the earth. He speaks about it five times in six chapters Matthew chapter 28 18 through 20. Jesus gives the Great Commission in one location in Mark the 16th chapter. If you read it carefully, he's in a different location and he says it in a different way. In Luke chapter 24, Jesus gives the Great Commission again, but he says it in a different way and in a different place. John chapter 20 same thing. And now, after 40 days of being with his disciples, guess what? He's going to say it a fifth time. He's going to say it the last words that he tells the church. He's going to make it very clear what he wants. The church to do. And that's acts chapter 1, verses 8 and nine. If you're able, go ahead and stand with me. This morning we're going to read God's Word. The Bible says in verse 8, This is Jesus. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and

in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. And when he had said these things as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. Father, we thank you for your word this morning, and we pray that we would take this very seriously. We know this was what was on your heart as you ascended into heaven. The very last words go and tell the world about me, Lord, may Parkland Chapel be faithful in that not for their glory, but for yours alone. In Jesus name, Amen. You may be seated. The Great Commission is repeated five times in six chapters. You know, the last thing I say to my wife on the way out the door is the most important. Everybody saw the news this week with what happened with Charlie Kirk, and it makes you think even more like you never know when it's going to be your last moment. And as I leave the door in the morning, the last thing I say to my wife is the most important. I love you, usually followed by a kiss, slightly passionate, sometimes depends on the morning. So I kiss her. I say I love you and that's the last thing that I say. Because if something were to happen to me, I want that to be what she remembers for Jesus as he leaves and ascends to heaven. The last words is, guys, listen, this good news of the gospel that so transformed your life just like it did me when I was 17. Right? Just like it did many of you in this room and whatever situation you were in when you went from darkness to light, when you went from death to life, that good news is not just supposed to stay with you, but but guys, remember this, right? It's not just for right here in Jerusalem. It's for Judea, a little south of us. It's for Samaria, just north of us. And guys, don't forget this. It's for the remotest parts of the earth. It's for every person, every tribe, tongue, nation, in people. Revelation five says, will be around the throne of God. Guys, don't forget that. Now I'm going to fly off to heaven, right? It's not a singular event. It's the fifth time we've got to get it through our minds that this is the marching orders of the church. The main point of this text is when the Holy Spirit comes on his disciples, those disciples will be empowered for the purpose of being witnesses to the ends of the earth. The ascension in verse 9 is the hinge of the Gospels, and Acts marks the ending of Jesus earthly ministry. His heavenly reign now, and the age of a spirit filled church. And Jesus had already told this in John 14 and 16. It was to our advantage that he leaves, because what he's going to do is give us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Each one of us, we're going to collaborate, work together in local churches. A lot of our local churches will come together in associations, and we'll come together, and we will do things great for the kingdom of God and for his glory. By reaching people who are lost and lost and desperate places around the world. It's been said that verse 8 serves as a table of contents for what comes in the rest of the book of acts. So if you think about this, if you took a big rock and you threw it in the middle of a pond, what you see is this splash that happens and then this ripple effect that begins to go out from that. And we see that in the book of acts. The first eight chapters are all about

Jerusalem. You remember the stoning of Stephen. And in acts chapter 8 is he's being faithful, telling that this was God's story from the very beginning was to reconcile the world through this Savior who was going to come. And then you see it begin to move to Judea, then to Samaria. And then we have Paul's missionary journeys. And that begin in chapter 13 through 15. He has a second missionary journey, a third missionary journey. And we find Paul at the end of the book of acts, chapter 28, in Rome, on trial for his faith, the gospel began to go all over the world, just like a rock falling into the middle of a pond. Jesus told us in Matthew chapter 24, this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations. And then the end will come. So we're part of this global church that is supposed to be reaching the ends of the earth. I saw these young people down here worshiping, and I was just like, man, my heart was totally moved there. The next missionaries, they're the next leaders and pastors and people hopefully that will be passionate about getting the gospel to the ends of the earth. But how is the global church doing? I've got a slide I wanted to show you. It talks about an area known as the 1040 window. Go ahead and show that first slide. It's this part in this rectangular box right here. It reaches the areas it starts over North Africa, moves through the Middle East and Asia. We've been talking about the 1040 window for as long as I can remember. Even whenever I was a little kid, I remember hearing about it. It's the most unreached place in the earth, and it's still the most unreached place in the Earth. In fact, that place is called. It's referred to sometimes as the Resistance belt. There's a lot of resistance to the gospel. And so BCA, Bethlehem Christian Academy, we are like, how can we get into this area and engage it with the gospel? How do we mobilize God's people just like you at Parkland Chapel? Or we have partners all over the state of Missouri. We have some partners outside of the state. How do we mobilize you to reach these people with the gospel? And so I'm going to talk a little bit more about that. But this resistance belt belt is composed of what they call the thumb people thumb. Just think of your thumb t h u m b tribal Hindu, Unreligious Muslim and Buddhist all the way across this area. So it's super hard to reach. See, it goes all the way over into China. Unreligious atheistic. Much of Russia is as well. North Africa, Islamic. If you know anything about history, church history, the six seven hundreds. As Islam began to spread, it's still a stronghold of Islam in North Africa. And then once you go sub-Saharan, you're going to see a lot more Christianity. But this area is just incredibly difficult to reach because it's entrenched with false world religions, and it needs to be engaged. 68% of this area is considered unreached with the gospel. That's 3.4 billion people. Listen. Who will be born, who will live lives, who will die, and most likely never hear the gospel? That should bother every single one of us who, like me at 17 years old, came to faith. What are we doing strategically? Many of us, we work at jobs where we have strategic plans.

We have KPIs, key performance indicators. We have all these things that we try to live up to in life. We have plans for our future. We think about retirement. We've got all these strategies. What's our strategy to reach this area with the gospel? Do we have a heart to do that as a local body? All local bodies should have a heart to do that. Even more than just throwing money in the plate. Unfortunately, only 5% of missionaries engage this part of the world. So if there's 100 missionaries in the world, only five of them are going to be in this area of the world because there's so much persecution, it's difficult in those areas. One of the things we're able to do, though, because we have Christian schools, especially in West Africa, is we're able to not share the gospel in the streets. If you do that, you can get deported. If you're a national and you live there and you share the gospel with a student in the streets, you'll go to jail. But what you can do in the areas where we work in West Africa, in fact, we have five schools, over a thousand students in our schools, is we build the school building. And once parents have allowed those kids to come into the school, guess what? You can openly and freely share the gospel. And we're seeing kids come to faith in Jesus. Kids from a muslim background in an area that's considered 96% Islamic, we start Christian schools. They come, they eat, they hear about Jesus, and many of them are born again. In fact, in a place that's 96% Islamic, I want I want you to listen to me. We have a church planter that we work with that has helped us plant 73 churches in a country that is 96% Muslim. We have five schools with almost 2000 kids in this area. Of the 1040 window. So we partner with like minded churches, just like your church that comes along and says, let us help you to build those buildings that you need to to get more square footage in area, just like you're doing here, so that you can come here and worship. We want worshipers of God in the 1040 the hardest to reach places in the world. Amen. You can say Amen. It's all right. Go ahead. Just try it. Let's try it this morning. Amen. Yeah, I think you believe that. So let's get excited about it. I heard a story years ago about Hudson Taylor, who was the founder of China's Inland Mission and preaching in China. He was in a place called Ningpo, and he was preaching the gospel. And one night an elderly Buddhist leader, he stood up after a message and and he he told he told Hudson Taylor, he said, my father and my grandfather were all searching for this truth. And I'm so happy that you have brought this truth to me. And I believe this truth, and I know this truth needs to, to to transform my life. And so I want this for myself. But overcome with emotion, the man continued in this conversation with Taylor and he said, how long has your country and your people known this truth? Hudson Taylor looked at him and said, well, we've known this for hundreds of years. And the man said, then why has it taken you so long? My parents and my grandparents, who were seekers of the truth, all wanted it, but died before you could bring it. It's our obligation. It's incumbent upon us as a church to make sure that Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and

the remotest parts of the earth, that we're passionate about it. Because if we're not passionate about it in this room, in the church, then it's not going to happen. God uses his people. We are the vehicle of the gospel for the world. Go ahead and go to that next slide. Go and go to the next slide if you don't mind. These are the areas where Bethlehem Christian Academy is currently doing mission work. One of our strategies, like I said in West Africa, is the school. We also work with Ashley very closely. We're really grateful for her relationship because she has went into areas that is also helping to open a gateway by well-drilling and offering clean water to people you know as you stand in the shower in the morning and you just let that water go into your mouth, try doing that. No, don't try doing that. In Africa, if you come on a mission trip with me, that's one of the things we warn everybody about is don't get your mouth open. And don't forget when you brush your teeth to use that bottle of water. Otherwise, you're going to have major problems. okay? But she goes into these places, she drills wells for people, and it transforms and changes their life. And she does this for us all over the world. So we're super grateful for her. Liberia, Malawi, Burundi and Zambia are all areas that are considered sub-Saharan. Our strategy there is the same as it is in West Africa and West Africa. Like I said, you can't you can't share the gospel without getting in trouble. But inside the Christian school you can. So we use it and it's super important. Plus we have teachers and we mobilize people. In fact, we have a trip that's coming up in January. You have until October 1st. Many of you have been with us overseas to West Africa. That will close. That will close on October 1st, but we still have nine spots available. If anybody would like to come with us and experience that, I'll never forget. Alana was in the room with us and you guys had taken a trip. I was on that trip and we had this driver who was with us in West Africa. He was a muslim guy and we were doing some baptisms that day. So a young man had been the first in his village to get saved and give his life to Jesus. And so we brought him into town because he would he would get in bad trouble out, out in the bush where he lived. We brought him into town and we baptized him in a swimming pool in the back of a yard. Alana was there and we were playing music and we were playing this song. Death was arrested. okay. Our driver was a muslim guy his entire life. He was late 30s and he heard this song going on and he was so overcome by all of the singing and the words he was asking in the Wolof language, what does that mean? I got to know what these words are. And so Alana and others began to explain to him that here's what these words mean. And they start walking through. Death was arrested, and this guy is just overcome. And he's like, I want that, I want. And in that moment, that guy surrendered his life to Jesus. His name is El-hajj. He's still walking with the Lord two days later, El-hajj got baptized in that same pool. This is what God is doing all over West Africa and some of the hardest to reach places. But because of your partnership, amazing

things like that are happening all the time. We have to have the culture in the energy of mission within each of our bodies. It starts with leadership that says yes. The first time I met Mike, I was actually giving a presentation at a Lutheran school here in town. Mike came and he's like, dude, you've got to come and speak to my church. And I said, man, I gotta get back. I gotta get back to my job. He goes, I'll give \$500 to your school. And I said, I'll be right there. And so I was out by dairy Queen. Driving home, I turned around, called my secretary and said, I'm not going to be coming. This was a Wednesday. So he said, It's Wednesday night service. Back when you guys were a lot smaller out there in the other room, I shared, and your people were passionate about it back then. And we're like, yes, we want to get involved. Mike's like, then we've got to go. And you guys started mobilizing with us and getting involved in sponsoring kids and changing lives all those years ago, like ten years ago. So we're grateful for your partnership. But I also want to tell you, don't get donor fatigue, don't get worn out. Continue to mobilize with us. The work is not yet finished. So if you're not involved, get involved. If everybody in the room right here sponsored a kid that wasn't sponsoring a kid, we could probably be at full sponsorship for our campuses. We're talking about 2000 kids or more here in the gospel on a daily. I mean, we need your help. We need your partnership. And trust me, you're able to do it. If you cut out one meal out to eat a month, you're probably there. A culture of going and sending is quenched by congregations that won't sacrifice. Sacrifice is what it's all about. And just so you know, I'm the president of Bethlehem Christian Academy. I'm the founder, and I've never taken a dollar for 15 years. I've traveled the state out of state talking about this, because God captured my heart for the poor and the needy in these areas that needed the gospel. I've never taken a dollar. I'm not paid by BCA. I'm really grateful for what I get to do, but I just advocate and I'm a giver. Just like many of you. We have to sacrifice. Many can talk all day about Jesus leaving the glory of heaven for them, but they won't leave the neighborhood for him. Have you thought about that? A lot of you probably travel and do different things. Have you ever taken the time to do an international mission trip? This last summer I had. This guy was in my he's in my church, 62 years old. He's been teaching his Sunday school class for 30 years, and he came to me and I and he said, look, I'm thinking about going on my first international mission trip. And I said, no kidding. I said, well, I think that's a great idea. And he said, yeah. He said, I've been teaching Sunday school for all these years. And I got the gift of teaching. And I said, well, we're doing a pastoral training. Why don't you come and use your gift over here? He's like, man, I'm just afraid about like, I'm not gonna like the food. And I said, dude, that's the least of your worries. Why don't you pray about it and get back with me? He's 62 years old. He went over. He had the time of his life. This guy's traveled the world in other places, but mainly just nice vacation he spots. And he's like, you



know what? I want to go back. It transformed and changed him, and he poured into 58 pastors for a whole week and gave him good theological knowledge that they wouldn't have otherwise. And his family went, his son went. His son started sponsoring kids. It's transformed and changed that family. So if you've never thought about it, don't think it's something that you can't overcome. Or do we make it very easy for people? I think next year we're probably going to take over 100 people internationally to our fields to share the gospel. We do soccer camps, we do Vacation Bible schools. We do. We build things. We do all kinds of awesome things. And the students join right in with us. This last summer, we were painting one of our schools in Zambia. Many of you actually sponsor kids in Zambia. We were painting the schools with the kids, just having a blast sharing the Lord. The text tells us that the coming of the spirit upon the life of a disciple endows them with power. But remember, it's not just power for power's sake. If you have power, that power is connected to this idea of gospel sharing. Right after the Holy Spirit comes, he'll you'll receive power and you will be my witnesses, right? If you have the power of the Holy Spirit, then you're a witness. These sub-Saharan fields, every single day we get to share the gospel with these kids. We mobilize. We've had students also do six weeks. Sometimes we have students that are questioning whether or not maybe God's calling them to full time mission work. We had a student a few years ago that was a group of three that went to Zambia. She spent six weeks in Africa teaching in our schools, teaching English, teaching the gospel. Later she went with Ywam for a little bit. She came back home and she's like, I want to do this. And so she made a two year commitment. Right now she's in West Africa for us and she's working with our schools. She's working with our church plants over there loving on kids. She'll be back on furlough here pretty soon, but she's doing a great job. She's like 22 years old. So students who may be questioning and asking, Is God calling me to mission work? Some of you parents are like, shut up, dude. No, really, really. This could be the best thing, the best opportunity and an easy on ramp to say, you know what? I'm going to go try six weeks in a foreign field and see what God is calling me to do. Last night I was at the 20th anniversary of a school I helped found in West Plains, and the headmaster that's there now. He replaced me ten years ago. His daughter was asking about that. And so we still have those kind of things that we can put together for young people who are seeking what the Lord is calling them to do. The Bible tells us that the spirit doesn't come to like just, you know, shed light on himself, but instead the spirit is sent. The Bible tells us, Jesus says, that he, the spirit of truth, will bear witness about me. So if the spirit is inside of us, the spirit bears witness of Jesus, not just where we're at in the workplace, or maybe with family members who are lost. But we leverage that, that spirit within us to tell anybody, anywhere, anytime about who Christ is. The Bible tells us that the spirit, when he came, he was with

the disciples. But after Pentecost he will be in the disciples. And so this witnessing spirit is inside of everybody who claims to be born again in our desire to see the gospel transform people's lives can't just be on a local level, okay. If it is just on a local level, or maybe just for your family members, or maybe people you work with, then you're not getting the God sized vision that God has. Revelation chapter 5 says, every tribe, tongue, nation and people are around the throne glorifying Jesus. Every tribe, every tongue, every nation, every people. This gospel, this good news is for blacks and whites and Hispanics and Asians and every swath of every culture. Everyone is to know and serve Jesus. That's his desire. And if you look at the book of revelation, when people are around the throne, it is multi-ethnic. It is everybody worshipping Jesus. The Bible tells us if we're in Christ, we're a new creation. The oldest passed away. That old selfish person, that person that was only about themselves. That person's gone and it says, behold, new things have come. And it says, all of this is from God. Second Corinthians, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. You have, if you've been reconciled to Christ, each one of you have the ministry of reconciliation that you've been gifted. How are you doing with it? When's the last time you shared the gospel? That is in Christ. Listen to this. God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ. This is our task. If you've received it, you naturally give it right. If you're in the family, you need to be in the field. So our vision can't be small. It's got to be a God sized vision for the nations. BCA helps local bodies like this church parkland to connect to that. One of the coolest things that I love about BCA is that you get to connect individually to students. You get to sponsor kids. Compassion international has done a great job for years. World vision has done a great job for years, and they do some awesome things. And many of you probably sponsor kids and I'd say continue to do it if you can. It's very important, but know this. Our strategy is, is we want kids to actually worship in local churches. Our end goal is the local church is for kids to hear the gospel and then have places to worship. We feed them, we educate them. But our end goal is for them to know and love God and to serve in a local church. The disciples believed. Acts one eight. With everything that was in them. You may be thinking, Winslow, man, you're taking this stuff way too literally. I mean, we hire missionaries for that. God's not calling me to do any of this stuff. It's like I'm just going to toss money in the plate. We're we're not going to exactly know probably where it's at. But every once in a while, I'll hear from people like you. Good job. Way to go. Go eat some fish. Right. That's. But but really, no, it's for all of us to be involved, right? We can pray. We can give, and we can go. And it's important to do all of those things. And to remember that the disciples of Jesus, the disciples, actually took these words quite literally. Peter was

a fisherman from Capernaum when he died, sharing the gospel. Church tradition tells us he was in Rome, 2500 miles away from his home. Paul of Tarsus also died in Rome, sharing the gospel with Caesar, we're told, 1950 miles away from his hometown. Andrew died in Greece, 1819 miles from his hometown, Bartholomew died in Persia, 1355 miles away from home. And Thomas, he probably took the cake, died preaching the gospel in India. He was martyred 2413 miles away from his home. Is he Jesus when he said, Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, remotest parts of the earth, he actually meant it. The disciples understood that, and we stand on their shoulders today, and we're grateful, I think, for the gospel. But we also have to remember the mandate is not over. The work's not finished. Right. And what I would like to ask you today to consider is consider BCA as an on ramp, not just to mobilize, but to help touch a life and to know when you give and when you support a child, that that child will be hearing the gospel. I wouldn't give my money to it if I didn't believe it. That child will be hearing with clarity the gospel. That child will have the opportunity to eat every day, to get a good education, and also to connect to a local church. But also if you're able, come with us, come use your skills to help us to to build a chicken coop or run a soccer camp, or share to VBS, or train or teach. We do women's conferences. We do all kinds of things to where we can reach these villages, where these young people are at. Verse nine told us, and when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up in a cloud, took him out of their sight. Now can you imagine? I mean, I just told you where all the disciples died, right? But can you imagine if they were just frozen in time and they just kept looking up, waiting for Jesus to come back? I think a lot of us, we look at what's going on in the world, we get depressed, we get anxiety, and we're just like, come back, just we're done here, done. So I got my little family here. I've been faithful there. I'm just man, I'm. I'm just tired of this. This place is a mess. Especially after this week. Right? I mean, we're just like, we're tired. We're like, it feels sometimes impossible. The task feels impossible. Like you're standing at the bottom of Mount Everest. You got tennis shoes. You're supposed to climb it like it's just like, man, this is too big. But with the power of the spirit, we know that that's not true. And we shouldn't just get caught looking up instead of looking up. We need to look out. Spurgeon once said, you're a missionary or an impostor. Jesus has called us to go to the nations to be involved. All of us can pray, can give, and can go listen. I am grateful for the partnership that we've had here at parkland for ten years. You guys have been incredible. It's been awesome, but I'm just praying that it's just the beginning. I'm praying for another ten great years. For those of you who haven't been involved, please get involved. Go on mission with us. Olivia. Right back here. Olivia. Come on up here. Just where everybody can kind of see you. She is our executive director. You know what? Let's give it up for Olivia. Let's embarrass her. She does a great.

Job.

Super organized. She runs all of our teams internationally. If you've never been in international, she'll train you. There's four zoom calls that you have to do. She'll get you with your shots ready. She'll help you get your passports. She'll help you all. Everything we take care of. So you don't have to have anxiety about those things. And we take you to fields that are safe and allow you to plug in and do mission work like you've never done before. And like that 62 year old guy. You'll come back and say, I want to do it again, and we want you to do it again. And so we can be an easy on ramp for you to mission. So if you want to know more ways to get involved, catch myself, catch Olivia, catch my wife Amy, I'm going to show you guys a quick video that's going to throw everything I just said into a nutshell, and then I'm going to be finished. Thank you guys so much for having me today. I appreciate.

At Bethlehem Christian Academy, we believe the Bible is clear on the importance of caring for the poor, the orphan, and the most vulnerable in our world, especially children. Yet how do we do this? How do we care for the body, the mind and the soul of the least of these, while also sharing with them the hope that's found in knowing Jesus Christ? Bethlehem Christian Academy's mission is to share the hope of Jesus Christ with orphans and impoverished children through gospel centered Christian education, with the goal of making disciples and planting churches. We carry out this mission in three ways. It starts with Christian education as a pathway to plant churches through partnerships with missionaries. We then support this ministry through mobilizing the church to be on mission to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Our ministry begins with this desire to give each child a distinctly Christian education through our child Sponsorship program, in which children are educated and given nutritious meals every day at school. Our schools are the main vehicle for reaching the orphan and the poor with a gospel, so that children will be equipped for their future vocations and a life in submission to the gospel. Because our schools, at their core, are a church planting strategy. Our end goal is not simply a Christian education. Our end goal is the same as the church. It is making disciples and seeing those disciples follow Jesus and healthy churches. At each one of our schools, we have partnered with local pastors and missionaries in order to plant a church and cultivate the gospel in the community. We believe the Great Commission was given to the church. Therefore, we seek to serve and empower local churches and fulfilling Christ's command of being witnesses to the end of the earth. We partner with the illogically aligned churches to mobilize with us on mission trips that support the work of our schools and

church planting efforts. This is the mission and ministry of Bethlehem Christian Academy, and here is how you can help. Pray. Join with us in praying for God's will to be done through the ministries of BCA. Support sponsor a child or donate in other tangible ways. Go join us on a trip and experience firsthand what God is doing through BCA. Share. Tell your church, your family, and friends about how they can support the Ministry of BCA. Will you join us in sharing the hope of Jesus Christ with the poor around the world? Visit us at [BCA ministries.com](http://BCAministries.com).