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I have enjoyed learning all the different systems, procedures, policies and details of the Assemblies of God World Missions department, under the leadership of AGWM Executive Director Greg Mundis, during this first year (2018) of being the AGK World Missions Director

I am thankful to Superintendent Terry Yancey for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading AGK World Missions. I am also thankful for the opportunity to follow Pastor John Hollis, who served this Network as World Missions Director, for 25 years.

Over the past year in this position, one of my greatest joys has been time spent with our AGK missionaries. I love hearing stories from veteran missionaries about how God has worked miraculously through their ministry. I also love hearing the vision and passion of first term missionaries as they either prepare to itinerate or prepare to leave the United States for the country of their calling. Kansas has some of the greatest missionaries serving around the world. As of right now, the Kansas Ministry Network has 26 missionaries serving in different locations globally.

As WM Director, my desire is the see our Network work *Better Together* in three areas for world missions: ***Relationships, Resourcing and Recruiting***.

***Relationships*:** As a Network we do a “pretty good” job helping our missionaries raise their budgets and get on the field (we can do better). However, once our missionaries get to the country of their calling, they receive very little, if any, contact from their supporting churches. As pastors, we have taken the position that our missionaries should be reaching out to us. I think for us to have a true relationship with our missionaries we should be reaching out to them as well. It doesn’t take much time to send an email, Facebook message, text, or even a hand written note. We can easily use Facetime, Skype or some other video calling system and connect with missionaries “face to face.” Also, when a missionary calls or emails about a service or support, please take time to return their call or email. Even if you can’t support them or have them for a service, let them know. When you see a missionary at Council (or another Network event) don’t avoid them because you haven’t called them back. Engage in conversation with them and build a friendship…a partnership.

***Resourcing:*** Above, I mentioned we do a “pretty good” job helping our missionaries raise their budgets. This is an area in which I know we can do better. As leaders, we need to keep missions and missionaries in front of our people. I believe when we increase missions awareness in our churches, we will increase missions giving in our churches. Pastors, don’t let the amount of the offering you think you are able to do, or your church attendance, limit you from having missionaries in your services. Missionaries don’t come just for an offering or monthly support; they want a relationship with you. Missionaries, however, do need financial support to get on the field and to stay on the field. That support comes from only a couple revenue streams: church support and individual support. Our AGK missionaries need our support! They need pastors and churches partnering with them in prayer and finances to help them fulfill the call God has placed on them. Remember, when it comes to giving, it isn’t always about the amount; oftentimes it is about the obedience of our hearts.

One other area we can help our missionaries with resourcing is by taking teams to the mission field (we have two trips planned for the fall of 2019 ([www.agkansas.com/honduras](http://www.agkansas.com/honduras)). Almost all the missionaries I have connected with this past year have expressed how they could use a team to come and help them with a project (construction, evangelism, training, and more). Taking teams from our churches is a great way to help raise the missions awareness with our people. Once a person goes on a missions trip, their heart is opened to what the Lord does through missions. They want to keep “supporting” that missionary long after the trip is over. Missions trips are also a great way for people in our churches to build relationships with our missionaries and each other.

Giving to special projects also is a great way for us to resource our AGK missionaries. When missionaries raise their budgets, they raise a personal budget (living expenses) and a ministry budget (ministry expenses). Just like in the local church, our missionaries experience unexpected projects or are presented with new ministry opportunities they did not initially plan or raise money for. As a Network, we can help with these unexpected projects and opportunities. If one missionary is facing a $10,000 unexpected expense, how great would it be if I could reach out to 20 of our AGK churches and ask each to give $500 to this special project? Working *Better Together* will enable us to help that missionary say “yes” to a God moment.

No matter the size of our churches, we all can do something to support our missionaries. As a Network, in 2018, we gave $2,425,599 to AGWM. What an amazing blessing for the work of missions around the world. However, we had several churches that gave zero dollars to World Missions in 2018. I don’t mention that to make someone feel bad or embarrassed. I mention that to say that we all need to raise our own missions awareness so we can raise the missions awareness in our churches and Network.

***Recruiting:*** Last year at the AG World Missions Commissioning service, there was no one from the Kansas Ministry Network commissioned. Pastors, part of raising missions awareness in our churches and Network is ensuring that our people hear about missions and begin to explore the possible call to missions God has placed on their heart. The AGK Network is seeing more missionaries retire than going to the mission field. I believe there are future missionaries sitting in our churches trying to figure out what to do to answer this call. We can help them.

Over this past year I have been working with Supt. Yancey on a packet that we pastors can hand to people in our churches who feel called to missions. This packet will help walk them through the beginning steps of exploring this call on their lives. It will also guide them through the process with Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM). The Network is also working on some additional “on ramps” to World Missions. We will be rolling these out over the next year.

If there is anything I can do as the AGK World Missions Director to help you and your church with missions, please let me know. I have resources, such as how to plan a missions convention (which is one of the best ways to raise missions awareness). I would also be happy to meet with you and talk missions. We really are ***Better Together***!

Blessings,

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Andy Parks

AGK World Missions Director

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A group of people in front of a house

Description automatically generatedA group of people walking down a dirt road

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A group of people standing in front of a building

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A wooden table

Description automatically generatedA group of people sitting at a table eating food

Description automatically generatedA group of people in a room

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