

CROSS Connection



The Cross Connection is a monthly publication of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod published for its clergy, members, deacons, lay leadership and ecumenical partners.

October 2017



Bishop Kristen Kuempel Is Installed

Lord God, you have placed me in your church. You know how unsuitable I am. Were it not for your guidance I would long since have brought everything to destruction. I wish to give my heart and mouth to your service. I desire to teach your people, and long to be taught your work. Use me as your workman, dear Lord. Do not forsake me; for if I am alone, I shall bring all to naught. Amen.



Presiding bishop

At the table together

By Elizabeth A. Eaton



Old recipes are precious things. They give instructions about how to prepare a dish, but they are so much more. They are filled with memories. They connect families as they are passed from one generation to the next. They bring events and people from long ago right into the present.

I am looking at a recipe card that has that effect on me. It's my mother's recipe for stuffing for turkey. It's written in her neat hand—a skill I never mastered. It's a basic recipe, just bread and butter and onions and celery and poultry seasoning. I don't even have to read it now when I make stuffing, but I like to look at it because it puts me right back into Thanksgivings past.

Thanksgiving in our family was an *event*. The Eatons have been gathering for Thanksgiving dinner for nearly 70 years. We traded off between our house and my aunt and uncle's home. When it was our turn we got up early and started cooking.


Out came the recipes and equipment. There were no food processors in those days. We had a cast iron food grinder that clamped on to the edge of the kitchen table. It was kept in its own special box. It only made an appearance once a year and its emergence signaled that Thanksgiving had arrived. Grinding the celery was no problem. Onions were another story. My brothers and I spelled each other at turning the crank until we were overcome by the fumes.

My parents and my aunt and uncle established this tradition shortly after World War II. We have always had three and sometimes four generations present. A lot has gone on in our family and in the world these past decades. Marriages, children, moves, deaths, war, recession, elections, the '60s. We are a lively bunch and none of us lacks an opinion or the ability to express it. Conversations were spirited and sometimes heated. My father and my uncle served in the army during World War II. My older brother and older male

cousins didn't support the Vietnam War. We belong to different political parties. We are Lutheran and Catholic and members of the Unification Church and unchurched. We are liberal and conservative.

But no matter what, when my mother or my aunt announced, "Supper's ready," we all came to the table together. We were family, we shared our lives, we loved each other.

A lot is going on in our church and in the world right now. We are a changing church, which brings its own tension. We live in a wired world where news is instantaneous and continuous. We don't agree on everything. We belong to different political parties. We have varied ethnicities. We're liberal and conservative and everything in between. We're in an "either/or" world. And we are contending with cultural forces that exacerbate division. But by the tender love of God, by this ceaseless pursuit of the Spirit, we are members of the body of Christ. We are family. We share our lives. We love each other.

Here is another simple recipe: flour, water, wine, the body and blood of Jesus. A meal of healing, forgiveness and thanksgiving. No matter what, when our Lord tenderly and urgently invites, "Supper's ready," we all come to the table. There in our common brokenness we meet each other in Christ. 

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address: bishop@elca.org.



Call Process Status

A Process beginning/congregational study	I Interim	AP Associate/Assistant Pastor
B Names received or on-site visits in process	P Pastor	VP Visitation Pastor
C Call in process/issued	CP Co-Pastor	D Deacon
NV New Vacancy	LP Lead Pastor	L Lay Position
TC Term call	SP Supply Pastor	TM Transition Minister (available for the open-ended call)
VP Visitation Pastor		

POS	LOCATION/CONGREGATION	STATUS	PASTORAL CARE	
P	Chelan, WA – Fullness of God	C		
P	Cheney, WA – Emmanuel Lutheran	A	Ward Robak	I
P	Cheney, WA – Campus Ministry EWU	A		
P	Chewelah, WA – St. Paul Lutheran	A	Bob Edwards	SP
P	Colville, WA – St. Paul Lutheran	B	Doug Stensby	I
P	Davenport, WA - Zion Lutheran	NV	Stacey Friedlein	TEEM
P	Davenport (Egypt), WA – Christ Lutheran	NV	Stacey Friedlein	SP
P	Ephrata, WA - Holy Trinity	A	Teresia Calene	I
P	Goldendale, WA – Christ the King	NV	Mary Johnson	SP
P	Kennewick, WA – First Lutheran	NV	Alan Berg	I
P	Leavenworth, WA - Faith Lutheran	A	Misael Fajardo-Perez	I
P	Lind, WA – Good Hope Lutheran	NV	Ginny Johnson	I
P	Mattawa, WA – Grace Lutheran	NV	Ginny Kreckling	I
P	Otis Orchards, WA – Peace Lutheran	A	David Olson	TM
P	Quincy, WA - St. Paul Lutheran	A	Teresia Calene	I
P	Spokane, WA – Messiah Lutheran	NV	Betty Krafft	SP
P	Spokane, WA – St. Mark’s Lutheran	A	Eric Dull Kate LePard	CP
P	Toppenish, WA – Faith Lutheran	NV		
P	Sunnyside, WA – Our Saviour’s	NV		
P	Twin Falls, ID – Our Savior	NV	Dick Sansgaard	SP

Calls Accepted

Rev. Bekki Lohrmann has accepted the call to serve as Director of Holden Village. Marcus Lohrmann will serve a pastor at Fullness of God at Holden Village.

Rev. Katrina Walther – Our Savior, Sunnyside has accepted a call to serve ****. Her last Sunday is: September **

Pastor Jean Vargo has accepted the call to serve King of Glory, Boise, ID. She will begin in mid-September

Ordination

Marcus Lohrmann will be ordained October 14 at Christ Lutheran Church, Walla Walla, WA

Continuing Education Seminars in Bowen Family Systems Theory

Bowen Systems describes the basis for individual functioning in relation to others within the family emotional system and, by extension, within other systems, i.e. organizations, workplaces, and the wider society. Mature leadership is vital for the health of any of these systems.

Mature Relationships: A Review of Bowen Family Systems Theory will offer an in depth review of the theory for those familiar with it and an introduction for those who wish to learn it. The seminar will be held on the first Thursday of each month from October 2017 through May 2018 at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway, Spokane. Cost for the 8 sessions is \$300.

Leading and Staying Healthy in the Face of Societal Regression will focus on the precipitating factors for societal regression, the participants' experience of it, and the ways in which leaders can develop mature, healthy, system-changing ways of addressing it. This seminar for those with previous study of BFST will be held on the second Thursday of each month from October 2017 through April 2018 also at Salem Lutheran Church. Cost for the 7 sessions is \$250. Contact the Synod Office for more information.

Our Little Congregation

by Ann Taylor, Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Kendrick, ID

Our little congregation occupies a stunning location on top of one of the seven ridges surrounding Kendrick. If you have a good imagination, on a clear day you can see three states from its hilltop: Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Our members drive as much as 20 miles to get to church, and those who don't live "on top" need to go up a steep grade to get there, which in the winter can be a challenge! There are a few Norwegian implants, but most of the members are from German families that came to the area before 1900. We celebrated our 125th anniversary in 2016. We are proudly rural: the church is surrounded by grain fields, and the nearest stores are six miles away down a steep three-mile grade.

We are rural, but are enduring some of the same problems that so many churches are experiencing: aging membership, declining worship attendance, few young families, few children, and the always-nagging problem of finances. We have done some "future-gazing:" what is our mission? What are our goals? How do we to bring God's message to the huge percentage of people who don't think church or God is relevant in their lives? How do we reach out with God's love to today's stressed-out families who simply don't have the energy for church activities? Our geography makes housing or feeding the homeless or needy impossible, so we can't do that. Where is God leading us?

These questions and issues continue to wait for answers even as Cameron does business as usual. Complaints about a few of the people doing all the work don't fly at Cameron: we would have to discontinue most of our activities if that were the case. We have exactly three paid people on the "staff:" the pastor, a very part-time janitor, and a summer lawn person. So how does anything get done? There is an unwritten motto: if you see a need, take care of it! Between the pastor and various volunteers, bulletins get done, newsletters get done, mail is sorted and distributed, and the phone is monitored. Extra cleaning is done as members see the need. Yard work and deep cleaning is done by the whole congregation during semi-annual clean-up days. Members service and repair the lawn mowers and broken things in the church. Whoever gets there first with the big equipment dozes the snow out of the parking lot in the winter, and the first one there on Sundays or for a meeting shovels off the walks so people can get in the doors. The choir director and church accompanist volunteer their time. Our large and well-used library is run by volunteers. There are no official acolytes at Cameron - just a gaggle of little boys supervised by one of the older boys (or a dad) who put the hymn numbers on the reader board and help light candles. Then there's a small stampede the minute the congregation is dismissed as the boys run back up to help take numbers down and put the candles out. Maybe that wouldn't work in more formal churches, but it does here!

We are truly a family, but we depend heavily on inactive and community members to support several traditional events held at Cameron every year, either as participants or as spectators.

What's it like to be a member of a rural parish? It's like being part of a big family - everyone knows everyone, and we care deeply about how each person is doing. Families in crisis for any reason or because of a family death are surrounded with prayer and care and we respond with the same prayer and care to disasters in our community.

LATINO MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

Saturday October 21st 10am-3pm Pasco, WA - Sunday October 22nd 2-5pm East Wenatchee, WA

Open to all clergy and lay people across the synod

Presenter: Rev. Alexia Salvatierra

<http://www.alexiasalvatierra.com/bio.html>

Oktoberfest 2017

Benefitting Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Idaho

October 21, 2017 4-6 pm

1912 Center Great Room

412 East Third Street, Moscow, ID

Bratwurst, sauerkraut, other sides and desserts

German beer and wine for purchase

Live music by Auf Gehts, dancing, silent auction, and other fun!

Adults - \$15(Students \$10) , Child (12 & under) - \$7, Child (0-3) - free

Pray with us



We ask that you keep the ministry of the church, our synod, and the whole world in your prayers, as well as the people listed below . . .

The family and friends of Rev. Roy Jeremiah. Pastor Jeremiah died on Sunday, September 10, 2017. A memorial service will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church (316 E. 24th Avenue - Spokane, WA 99203) on Friday, September 22nd at 2:30 p.m.

The Freeman School District and the Fairfield Community as they try to comprehend and recover from the Freeman High School shooting that left one dead and three injured

Prayer Requests . . . to be included or removed from the Synod Prayer Request list, please send your request to the synod office@ewaidssynod.org, or call 509-838-9871.

A Message From Our Young Adult In Global Mission - Savannah

អរុណស៊ី (Arun-sue-saday, Good morning),

I hope this email finds you all well. I have now been home for a little over a month and so it is about time I send out my final email. To be honest, I have been putting it off a bit because I am still a little unwilling to admit that my time as a YAGM volunteer has come to an end, but alas the time has indeed come.

My final months in Cambodia were simultaneously some of the most wonderful and challenging I have experienced. In my final weeks I continued to soak in all the smiles of my students, the stories of my neighbors and the laughter of my friends and families. These weeks included many a celebration, the return of rain, multiple karaoke filled nights, continued language lessons, hours simply spent sitting in the presence of those I loved and the bittersweet grief and relief at knowing I would soon return home.

After finishing in Cambodia I spent a couple weeks touring Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam with some fellow YAGM volunteers before heading back to the states where I jumped in a car to take a mini-tour of Montana to be welcomed home by many of my family and friends across the state. Now I am enjoying some time with my parents and sister in Spokane while looking to make the move back to the Tacoma area later this fall (if you know of any jobs, let me know!) If you are in the area, also let me know as I'd love to see you. Over the next month I will be talking at a couple different churches in Eastern Washington about my year, so feel free to reach out to me for more information if you're interested.

I don't know where to begin to convey the magnitude of what this year has meant to me. It has reshaped my heart in so many ways and will stay with me my whole life. For all those who reached out to support me during this year, to my community in Cambodia, my YAGM cohort, the ELCA and to all of you, my friends and family who have listened to my stories this year, I will forever be grateful. You have shown me how a community can go with you wherever you go in life, and that even when you have to leave a place, that does not have to mean that the community has to come to an end.

អរគុណច្រើន (Ahkun chjran, Thank you so much!)

With love,
Savannah



ESTATE PLANNING ***for the*** ***HEART***

hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church
656 Tyhee Avenue American Falls, ID 83211
Friday, Nov. 3, 6 - 9pm (dinner provided)
Saturday, Nov. 4, 9 am – 3 pm (lunch served)
Cost = \$30 per person
to register, call Marion 208-522-1135

Estate Planning for the Heart (EPFH) is a six-module program that helps participants examine end of life issues and decision-making as persons of faith. Each module relates to “the conversations” each of us should have (with family and friends) about our:

- *wishes/goals/values
- *choices of health care treatments and long term care options
- *documents that indicate these choices, crafted thoughtfully
- *funeral preferences

These topics are approached from the perspective of our identity in Christ, the relationship of our faith to our culture, and the way Christians might make decisions afresh....in a manner that is respectful and open to one another's diverse views, opinions, lifestyles and cultural traditions.

Although passing reference is made to Wills and General Durable Powers of Attorney, this program is NOT about estate or financial planning. There are hosts of other professionals available to help with that. Our focus is on the health and housing decisions typically made near the end of life and how to have conversations about your preferences.

PORTICO INFORMATION

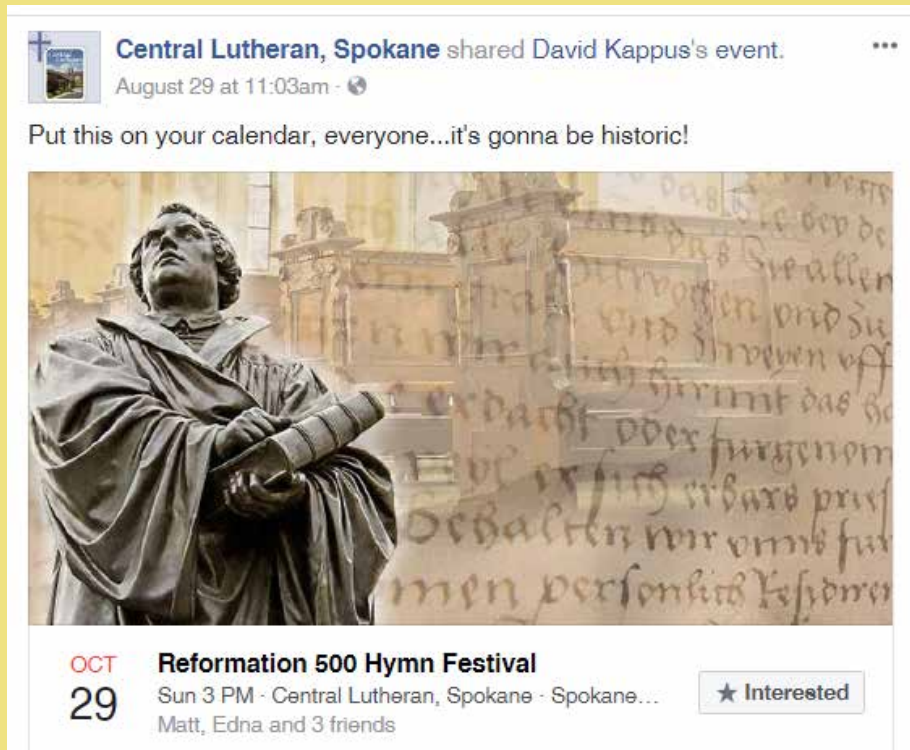
2017 Live Well Challenge - earn up to \$400 wellness dollars for ELCA-Primary members and spouses

1. Register & Complete Your Health Assessment by November 30 (new extended deadline): Earn \$100 Each
2. Save or Implement a Retirement Plan With Your Spouse by November 30: Earn \$200 Each
3. Report Your Healthy Change by November 30: Earn \$100 each

For more information go to MyPortico and Log in at: <https://myportico.porticobenefits.org/>

2018 ELCA-Primary Health Rates and Benefit Changes Webinar

Sept. 19, 11 – 11:30 a.m. (Central), we'll describe the trends driving 2018 rates and why brand-name prescription drug costs are increasing for most members. Please register to attend online at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3202285119351842563>



Don't Forget!

Central Lutheran - 512 S. Bernard - Spokane, WA 99204

Will Host a Reformation 500 Hymn Festival on Sunday, October 29th at 2:00 p.m.

THE CROSSROADS DATES FOR FALL ARE SET!

The seminars are scheduled for November 2-3, 2017 in Seattle.

For more information, please contact the Synod Office

Please plan to join ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on Tuesday, Oct. 31, as she co-hosts a commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

The event, which will include speakers and a service, will be at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Bishop Eaton will be joined by co-hosts Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop Bill Gafkjen, ELCA Vice President Bill Horne and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Bishop Dick Graham.

The event is open to the public and will be available online via livestream. All are invited to participate and honor the Reformation anniversary as we bear public witness to Christ, who frees us to love and serve our neighbor, and as we look to the future to which God is calling us.

Please note this date on your calendar. More details will be available in the near future. Stay up to date on event changes at the event calendar posts.

Blessings to you as we commemorate this historic occasion in our church.

**EASTERN
WASHINGTON
IDAHO SYNOD**

of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

314 S. Spruce St., Suite A
Spokane, WA 99201-5823
509-838-9871



**October 2017
Newsletter**

Let Down the Nets
Lifting Our Vision
Jesus First, Last, Always
God's Grace, Our Gratitude
The Spirit Powers Us
No Fear! Transformation
Connections Multiply Miracles
Go, Tell & Serve



Please reproduce any and all articles for publication in congregational newsletters or bulletins.
The **Cross Connection** is also available on the synod website at
<http://www.ewaidsynod.org/synodpublications.html>.
Deadline for articles is the 5th of each month.

Synod Calendar

September 2017

October 2017

- 4-6 Bishop's Convocation - Boise, ID
- 6-8 Idaho Discipleship Conference
- 13-14 Global Mission Meeting - Kennewick
- 21 Latino Ministry Workshop - Pasco, WA
- 22 Latino Ministry Workshop - E. Wenatchee, WA
- 29 Hymn Fest at Central Lutheran - Spokane

November 2017

- 2-3 Crossroads Seminar - Seattle, WA
- 5 Lutheran Community Services Annual Luncheon
Spokane, WA



Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our Hands

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THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

EDITOR: CYNTHIA WOOLEVER—WWW.THEPARISHPAPER.COM

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SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS THAT YIELD LONG-TERM SUCCESS

Reporting on the popularity of short-term mission trips, sociologist Robert Wuthnow estimates that in the US, 32 percent of congregations sponsor short-term overseas volunteer trips every year. About a quarter of the US population has taken part in a short-term mission experience at some point in their lifetime.¹ In fact, the prospect of embarking on a short-term mission trip, fueled by well-resourced, energetic people of faith, can be exhilarating for both participants and the community being served. Still, despite the best intentions, such trips often fall short of expectations for all involved.

Worst Mission Trip Ever: A Case Study

Moments after the ten-passenger van arrived in the Central American village of San Valente, Jenna pulled out her camera to photograph the dozens of patchwork buildings made of corrugated metal, plastic, and wood. Matt said, “Wow! This reminds me of last year, when we were in Mexico.” Scott, the trip’s coordinator, asked the group to help hand out the goods to community residents that would arrive via truck that afternoon.

This mission trip’s purpose was to lay the foundation for a new community church. The mission trip leader sent money in advance to hire someone to dig the foundation trenches. However, when the group arrived at the work site, they were shocked because the trenches were only half-finished. Miguel, their host, explained the reason: They preferred to hire local workers with hand tools, not a single person with heavy machinery, so that more people would be employed. “Looks like it’s going to be a long week!” Jenna exclaimed.

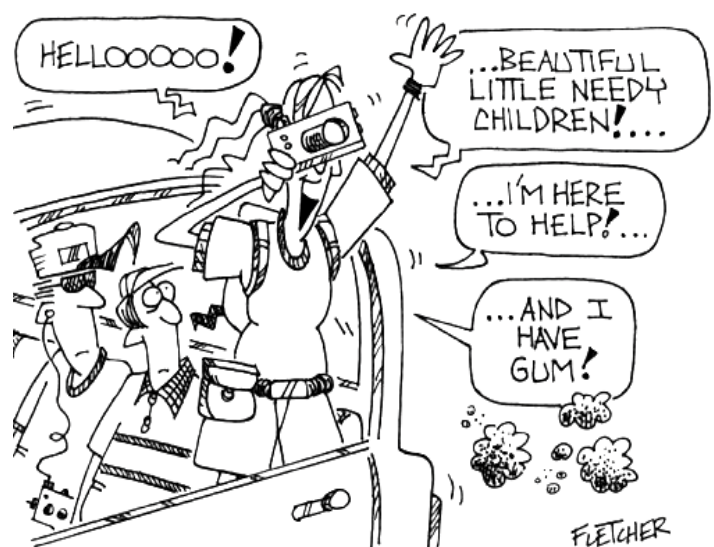
While this story is fictional, it contains instructive examples of misguided actions.²

- Before Jenna reaches for her camera, she and the other missionaries should be advised to get to know their hosts, and gain an understanding of what it is like to live there. Otherwise, the trip—whether to El Salvador or inner city Detroit—becomes voyeuristic or like a tourist destination.

- Matt’s memory of last year’s Mexican mission trip highlights that, while changing destinations every year can be enjoyable, the best way to develop a lasting relationship is to make a long-term commitment to one community and return each year.
- The coordinator’s plan to hand out supplies from the back of a pickup truck can be an offensive practice, as it reinforces a pattern of top-down paternalism. Instead, give the items to a local service agency or congregation to distribute.
- The expressions of shock over a half-finished trench remind us that missionaries need to respect that they have now entered their hosts’ world. Logistics and timelines need to proceed under local direction.

Best Practices for Effective Mission Trips

Laurie Occhipinti, an anthropologist who researches economic development, has spoken with missionaries, read scholarly articles and religious leaders’ accounts, and participated in trips herself. With this background,



she offers best practices to ensure that short-term mission efforts are effective.³

Establish Long-Term Relationships. The here today, gone tomorrow quality of many short-term mission trips begs the question: How are we not simply religious tourists? Long-term connection through repeated visits can change the relationship quality between sender and host, assisting team members in deepening their local cultural understanding and allowing those who have made multiple trips to help newcomers learn what to expect and how to behave. Repeated visits also increase the likelihood that local community members will have input into the projects undertaken.

Reflect on the Experience. Orientation and debriefing sessions should be mandatory for groups undertaking short-term projects. These sessions work if everyone provides input. Newcomers should be encouraged to talk aloud about their preconceptions about the trip and the culture. At the final debriefing, group discussions provide an important opportunity to frame the social, cultural, and political contextualization of the encounter.

Work to Ensure the Project Benefits the Community. Good mission trips often resemble successful community development projects undertaken closer to home. This involves practicing good listening skills with local leaders; focusing on resources, not deficits; and considering how the project could enhance community sustainability five or more years down the road. Such steps ensure that the host community, and not just the mission team, receives lasting benefits.

Understand the Role of Culture. Occhipinti notes that mission participants often “collapse cultural differences” by lumping the poor in other countries with the poor everywhere else, disregarding cultural variances. Time invested in learning about the local culture, perhaps even learning language basics, is time well spent.

Work in Partnership. “The question is not *whether* we travel and work with others; the question is *how*.” In other words, the *process* of working with others matters as much as the project’s material output. Unfortunately, Christian mission history is tainted by missionaries’ collusion with colonial governments and institutions seeking to extract resource wealth from colonial territories. Only by continually stressing *partnership* in the project’s planning and execution can both sides of the mission equation—missioners and hosts—learn from each other.

Where Should We Go?

When initiating a short-term mission trip, the most important decision may be the first: where should we go? Here are two possibilities for finding that answer.⁴

Personal Connection. This occurs because a church leader learns about the host community through a friend or business colleague. In one case, a professional woman started a nonprofit agency after learning about the poor living near a Nicaraguan landfill while on vacation. Her home church stepped up to support her with funds and additional support through mission trips. If you choose to rely on a personal contact, do your homework. Contact a nonprofit development organization with contacts in the region you plan to visit, or talk with someone in your denominational mission office.

Institutional Connection. If your congregation is part of a larger denomination with global reach, denominational staff may have institutional ties with nongovernmental agencies in the host region or country. One advantage: the denominational office may be able to help with logistical arrangements as well.

So which is better? Personal connections may appear more direct and less bureaucratic, yet a potential downside is the “side-of-the-road syndrome.” Occhipinti describes it this way: Everybody loves the mission site that lies on the beaten path, while the greater need may lie just inland from there. For example, Juarez, Mexico, located just across the border from El Paso, Texas, receives many American mission teams, while more remote locations receive hardly any at all.

Reflecting on Meaningful Mission

Do mission trips do any good, or are they simply faith-based tourism masquerading as meaningful engagement? When handled effectively, such trips can help missioners from a dominant culture challenge long-held assumptions. Immersion in another culture, especially in a less developed country, cracks open cultural assumptions, as if a fish, always accustomed to immersion in water, suddenly became aware of its surroundings. Such experiences can be transformative.⁵

1. Laurie Occhipinti, *Making a Difference in A Globalized World: Short-term Missions that Work* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2014), 13-14.

2. Mark Radecke, “Misguided Missions: Ten Worst Practices,” *Christian Century*, May 18, 2010, 22-23, 25.

3. Occhipinti, 117-21.

4. *Ibid.*, 95-96.

5. *Ibid.*, 34-38.