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### 3 Lessons learned on our N!ger trip

by Pastor David

Most of you know Kelli and I recently returned from an 18 day trip to N!ger, Africa. The purpose of our trip wasn't to build houses or share the gospel with the Tam@jaq people. No we were there for a very different purpose.



Our reason for going was to serve the people that were serving Niger – we were there for the missionaries. And what a privilege it is to encourage, support, and teach the families that have sacrificed their lives to share Jesus with the lost. It's one thing to lead a conference in America with English-speaking Americans in attendance. It's a whole other beast when teaching in a 98% Muslim country to missionaries from literally all over the world. How challenging and oh how humbling an experience it was! We trust God used our trip to accomplish the mission we set out to do – support the SIM Missionaries. I know the feedback we received was very positive. But along the way God taught us a few things as well. I want to share three of those lessons with the Vignette.

**God's word transcends culture:** We know it, but how often do we experience it. Kelli and I had the opportunity to teach marriage and parenting to some Howsa Christians during the final of three conferences that we led. It required us to use an interpreter. It also demanded a new level of trust in proclaiming God's word. Things that we thought would be offensive to people (even Christians) growing up in a Muslim country instead were embraced – not because of anything we said, but because God's word cut through the cultural divide.

**We must pray for our missionaries:** God answers prayer and we need to keep praying for those called to the mission field. They aren't fully Nigerian and they aren't fully American (or wherever they call home) – at least not culturally while they live there. Of course they are fully American, but the children of missionaries are known as third culture kids. The truth is anyone on the mission field is living a third culture; a cross between their home culture and the culture of the country they now live. If you think it's hard to grow a healthy family in America, consider the unique difficulties raised by feeling unattached to the culture in which you live. And where do you go if your marriage is going through a storm – everyone that might understand you is either your co-worker or your boss. So we must uplift them in prayer.

**We must be open to how God wants to use those closest to us:** I know we often get challenged with the thought of how is God wanting to use us. But what I've been reading recently and then Ralph Sauer's sermon and now this trip to Niger has challenged me in a new way – how am I praying about what God is going to do with my children and my grandchildren and those members of our church family (i.e., the Durigas). While in Niger, we were struck by the stories we heard. Families growing up half a world away from grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends. It reminded me of what we ask in our parenting conferences... "what is our end goal for our kids?" Is it to be highly successful in the world's eyes (nothing wrong with that) or is it to ultimately answer God's call to ministry. I'm not even suggesting those two things are automatically mutually exclusive, but what are we praying and hoping for with those people closest to us. With my grandchildren numbers growing I'm struggling with the thought that God might call some of them far away from us, and yet...

So pray about how God might use you to take his word into other cultures... please pray diligently for our missionaries... and consider how God is going to use those closest to you. I'm reminded of the Durigas: loved by many in our church and trying to raise their support. A tangible way to be open to how God is choosing to use part of our family!

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### Children's Spring Pageant - Sunday, April 28 at 4:00 PM

by Niki Oury, Children's Ministry Director

Join our brave hikers as they explore God's beautiful creations and discover ways that the journey through life is comparable to an uncertain hiking trail. The 25th annual Summit Challenge is a test of faith and skill as hikers trudge on rocky paths to the top of a mountain.



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### LC3 Celebration Report

- a report of God's work in and through the LCCC family

**Report #1** - Praise God for outstanding results at the Annual Spring Food Drive.

- At least one family was motivated to visit our church for the very first time
- 48 volunteers served for 81.5 hours
- 2000 pounds of food were donated
- \$1,128.75 was contributed (the most cash ever collected at our food drive!)
- Many people saw Jesus' love for the hungry through us!



[Click here to read four \(4!\) more reports of God's work among us this week.](#)

(For important celebrations of God's work at LCCC each week, always click on the LC3 Celebrations link at the bottom of each *Vignette*.)

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Want more info? Try these links.

- [LC3 Website](#)
- [LC3 Celebrations - April 10, 2013](#)
- [LC3 Calendar](#)