

Special Issue

Together

AT DAWSON



GO LOVE TELL

Declare His Glory Among The Nations

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF MISSIONS

Birmingham | Maine | Northeast Africa | Southeast Asia | Tanzania

Together

AT DAWSON

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Pastor David 2
Mission Impossible? 4

Volunteer Stories

Southeast Asia 6
Maine 8
Tanzania 10
Northeast Africa 12
Birmingham 14

Partner Stories

Christ's Ambassadors 16
A Universal Language 18
Reaching The Summit 20
Answered Prayers 22
The Sparrow Project 24
The Learning Center Q&A 26

Declaring God's Glory

What Did We Give? 29
What Did We Build? 30
What Did We Purchase? 32
Where Were Believers Trained? 33
What Churches Did We Support? 34

Project Summaries

Birmingham 36
Maine 37
Northeast Africa 38
Southeast Asia 40
Tanzania 42

What's Next?

Church Revitalization 45
Second Gen Church Planting 46
Unreached People Groups 47

On The Cover

Photos from 5 years of Go Love Tell mission projects from around the world.

JOIN US

Sunday Morning Worship:
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Hispanic Worship: 11:00 a.m., Chapel

WATCH LIVE

live.dawsonchurch.org



dawsonchurch.org/AfterThoughts

From



Dr. David Eldridge
Senior Pastor

Pastor David

I'm so excited to share this issue of our *Together at Dawson* magazine with you. Throughout the following pages, you will read of God's work through the faithful praying, giving, and going of our church members through the bold missions commitment made over five years ago called **Go Love Tell**. The overarching thrust of this God-sized commitment was to go into the world displaying the love of God while telling people about the source of that love found in a saving relationship with Jesus.

During this time, God has worked in and through our volunteers so that countless men and women across Birmingham, Maine, Northeast Africa, Southeast Asia, and Tanzania have seen the tangible outpouring of His love through word and deed. This edition of the magazine brings together some of those stories as we look back celebrating His work in our midst. There is no doubt that there are many stories that could be shared, but these stories give you a taste of how God has used this emphasis, not only in the life of our church but also far beyond.

As we look back with gratitude, we also want to look ahead with anticipation to the next chapter that He alone seeks to write in and through our church. We will continue to go, love, and tell. While many of the specifics will be different, the same heart and focus will be with us as a church. We are excited about the stories that have been told and the stories yet to be told. Let us join God in His work as we GO, LOVE, and TELL.

Dr. David Eldridge
Senior Pastor



This dairy farm, provided by Go Love Tell, continues to open doors for numerous partners to serve in a place that is closed to the Gospel message.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

AT OUR FIRST MEETING WHEN THIS IDEA DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A NAME, WE KNEW GOD WAS IN IT.

We were trying to do something much bigger than ourselves—something only God could do. And He did. God blessed each and every project through our planning, financial commitments, prayers, and willingness to serve here in Birmingham, in Maine, and in countries around the world.

On a personal note, **Go Love Tell** provided me the opportunity to come out of my shell. I made new friends at Dawson during all of the meetings that took place, in addition to having the opportunity to visit several of the **Go Love Tell** sites and connect with so many amazing people. While visiting the new pediatric clinic in Tanzania, I met an older Muslim nurse who works in the Pediatric Wing. We became friends, and the day I was leaving she asked if she could get a picture with me. Even though she is not a believer, she makes sure all the parents and children are quiet and listening when Dr. Pepper prays for them during his rounds. This beautiful facility could easily be a satellite hospital in our community, and unlike any construction project I've ever seen, the costs came in \$120,000 under budget. During my visit to our Southeast Asia site, I really got to know the local team there. We saw God moving in several different ministries sponsored by **Go Love Tell**. (I also sampled foods I didn't know existed.) Today, we still keep up with each other on social media.

This side of heaven we will never know the full impact of **Go Love Tell**. What I do know is that I am so thankful to be a part of a church that follows God's command to share the Good News. Through the missions emphasis of **Go Love Tell**, each of us were given the opportunity to share our gifts with others and then see God richly bless those who received them.

On behalf of my fellow co-chairman, Hayley Young, and myself, thank you for your contributions to **Go Love Tell** and for sacrificially giving over and above your tithes and offerings. Thank you for praying for these projects without ceasing. Thank you for serving in places you never would have imagined before but where God knew in advance that He could use you.

As we take a moment to celebrate all of the wonderful things that have happened these past five years and to glorify God for all He has done through **Go Love Tell**, I am reminded of Matthew 25:21 that says: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."

Our work is not over. **Go Love Tell** was only the beginning, and I for one am excited to see what God has in store for us next!

Scott Swedenburg

Go Love Tell Campaign Co-Chairman

"Wow! Has it really been 5 years?
I know I'm sounding like my Mom,
but the time has flown by..."



The new Pediatric Wing, provided by **Go Love Tell**, at Kigoma Baptist Hospital in Kigoma, Tanzania.

Scott Swedenburg has served with children and adults at Dawson for 30 years. While he helps nonprofits around the country raise money for their ministries, working with **Go Love Tell** has been one of his most rewarding and impactful experiences.



Southeast Asia

Volunteer stories

WHY HAVE YOU COME?

BY BETTY SANDS

Dawson has been ministering to the people of Southeast Asia since the tsunami in 2004. Most of our ministry was centered around using English as a Second Language, often by leading seminars, and providing instruction to English teachers, as well as, teaching students in various cities, universities, and ESL centers. One of the great things that Go Love Tell brought to this ministry was funding to provide a full-time presence in the leadership at the ESL Learning Center. Having this connection enabled us to serve in the same location each year and build on the relationships that had been established.

Often, these relationships brought more trust from the students and allowed more doors to be opened to share our faith. One of the great door-opening questions that was asked is, "Why have you come here?" My simple reply has always been, "Because the God that I love and serve has placed a love in my heart for you." After this opener, amazing discussions seem to follow! Most of the time, I am able to explain that I am a follower of "Esa" (Jesus) and that I have a personal relationship with Him. One young man asked me, "How is this possible?" As I answered him, I noticed how intently he listened to my response. I believe a seed was planted that day, and our team at the Center continued to follow up with him after we left. Our time spent at the Center was also used to encourage the local believers, especially those who volunteer or work there.

The local Baptist Hospital is another entry point where Dawson's Ministry has played an important role. My husband, Charlie, has been able to meet with a young pharmacist named Martianus Peranginangin and built a relationship with him. Over the years, Charlie has encouraged him to pursue a doctoral degree in Clinical Pharmacy. Martianus has since completed this degree, and he and Charlie still communicate with each other on a regular basis.



Another young lady, Dr. Hanna Sung, participated in a summer internship at the hospital, which was sponsored by Dawson. Dr. Sung did an amazing job of displaying the love of Christ while training and working with the pharmacists on the hospital staff.

On my last visit, Andreas, a worker at the Center, told us about a gentleman who had stopped going to his church.

We asked if we could visit this man, so Andreas took us to the gentleman's home. While there, we were able to have a deep conversation with him about many things. He had gotten upset and hurt about something that had happened at the church, and he said he would not go back. We had prayer with him, along with a good talk about how none of us are perfect, and that our faith needs to be rooted in God, not in some imperfect person. We explained that since we all make mistakes, our focus should be on God and not on another person. Before leaving, we assured the man that we understood his pain and that we were sorry that this had happened. We apologized on behalf of the individual who had hurt him and asked him to please consider returning to the church so that he could worship and serve God. Later, Andreas sent us a note to say that the man did, in fact, come back to church.

These accounts of how God moved in the lives of people, in a country that is very closed to the Gospel, should encourage each of us to remember Paul's instructions found in 2 Corinthians 2:15: For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.



Betty Sands has been part of Dawson's Family of Faith since staying in the missionary home in 1988. Besides working closely with Go Love Tell in Southeast Asia, Betty has also served at MPower, Kids Connection, and with Dawson's ESL Ministry.

BROKEN VESSELS

BY SARAH BISHOP

WHEN OUR CHURCH FIRST ANNOUNCED OUR NEW MISSION EMPHASIS, GO LOVE TELL, I IMMEDIATELY FELT A STIRRING DEEP INSIDE AND WAS EXCITED.



I asked the Lord, "Is this what I have been praying for?" For some time, I had been asking God to provide me with an opportunity to serve. Little did I know that the Lord would far exceed my expectations, stretch me way beyond my comfort zone, and humbly teach me more about His love and grace through the people of Southeast Asia.

Truly, sending me literally halfway around the world to serve was not what I originally had in mind. And working with people who wanted to learn to speak English properly was definitely not on my agenda. The thought of being completely immersed in a very different culture was overwhelming at times. If I'm being transparent, I felt unequipped for this challenge since I was not eloquent with words. Not to mention that I was also shy and very comfortable in my own little bubble. Could God use me here even though I am a broken vessel... a sinner?

But God, in His infinite graciousness, helped me say "yes" to this opportunity to serve Him. In fact, I kept saying "yes" for over four years. It didn't take me long to realize that this journey was never about me, but it was about Jesus revealing Himself to the precious people in Southeast Asia. He did not need me, but kindly allowed me to be a part of this Kingdom work. That work was not only about sharing the Gospel with others, but somehow it also changed my life personal testimony.

This country is the largest Muslim country in the world, and from what we have encountered, Islam is very much a part of their culture as well as their religion. While it was legal for us to be a Christian, it was illegal for us to evangelize. Because of this, we had to be patient. People weren't coming to the Lord left and right. There were no weekly announcements that celebrated how many people had come forward and made their profession of faith.

Even so, these challenges made me look harder and trust deeper. In what seemed like a hopeless place, the Lord was and is always moving in mighty ways. He met with these people through many dreams and visions. It is obvious, too, that He is drawing the people here through the "bule" (or foreigners) that visit the country. God is using the English language to connect people across the globe. These are His people, and He wants them to be saved. He wants a relationship with them, and He taught me how to have a genuine one with them as well.

Our team's role was to work in the ESL Center that Go Love Tell helped establish. We have watched the Center grow from just a few faithful students to "standing room only" during each hangout night. Our team was also asked to develop a curriculum for an English Camp geared towards young adults, and that has been our focus over the past three summers.

During the second year of camp, we were able to develop a relationship with the local Islamic University. This opened up many opportunities for the missionaries to work closely with the university's leaders and students. This past summer they bought out every spot for camp. Several of the Islamic students who attended had come the previous year, so we were able to deepen our relationships with them. The closer we became, the more conversations we were able to have about our beliefs and the kindness and love of our Savior.

These people have become my dear friends. I pray for them regularly and I continue to watch them grow. I get to celebrate the good in their lives and mourn the hard. I love them and I miss them. What a sweet gift that is! Only through God am I able to love and share life with these friends on the other side of the world!

So what now? We hope. We pray. We wait expectantly. We may never see the full effects this side of heaven, but we know that the Lord has and will continue to use our time and the relationships built in Southeast Asia for His glory.



Sarah Bishop has attended Dawson her whole life, except for those four years she was at Auburn (War Eagle!). Sarah is a third grade teacher at Vestavia West and loves serving with Dawson's Hearts & Hands Ministry.

Maine

Volunteer stories



BIGGER THAN ME, CHAPEL CHOIR, AND DAWSON

BY CAMERON HUGHES

IN JUNE OF 2017, DAWSON'S CHAPEL CHOIR WENT TO MAINE ON MISSION TOUR AS PART OF OUR GO LOVE TELL INITIATIVE. THAT YEAR WAS MY SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL. FRANKLY, I WAS SKEPTICAL THAT ANY TRIP COULD TOP MY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES IN AUSTIN, SWITZERLAND, AND DENVER.

However, I was gladly proven wrong! It was in Maine that I first understood (with dirt under my fingernails) the power of the local church and how it embodies the Gospel story in the community. What made our mission tour in Maine unique is that through **Go Love Tell**, we were able to partner with local church planters that Dawson already had relationships with to meet the needs they didn't have the resources to meet on their own. We participated in "We Love Gorham" day, which was a full day of manual labor serving local elementary schools. We pulled weeds, shoveled mulch, and provided a school with a playground accessible to students with disabilities so that they could play with their classmates and not be separated from them. Removing barriers, raising up those whom others have cast away: this is what God in Christ does for us, and that is what we are called to do in the world. That is what we did.

One of the most moving moments for me personally was when we served dinner and gave a concert at the Salvation Army in Portland. Our guests were primarily those who were experiencing homelessness. We were encouraged to sit and talk with them during dinner. I ate with a woman named Evie, who told me her life story fraught with pain, abandonment, and sorrow. When we got up to sing, I was struck by the juxtaposition of singing words filled with hope in the midst of people who had experienced a kind of pain that few of us could ever imagine. It felt almost pointless to sing about hope and redemption. I silently prayed that they weren't insulted when all we could offer them was a hamburger and some music.

At the end of that day, during our group debriefing time, I expressed these feelings, and my adult leader was able to offer this reminder: We are not alone. The hope we sing of is not dependent on us, it is dependent on Jesus, and Jesus never leaves nor forsakes us.

A common refrain repeated in preparations for and while on Chapel Choir Mission Tour is: "We do not take God with us to the places we travel, but we join in on the work God is already doing there." This truth was shown to be abundantly clear in Maine. Through joining with local churches and church plants, we were able to do more with our time and talents than just entertain people with our music. Working alongside the mission and project goals of **Go Love Tell** meant that our ministry in Maine would have a long-term impact which would be evident for years to come.

All of my time in Chapel Choir was incredibly formative and shaped the way I see missions and ministry, but it was our mission tour in Maine that taught me that the redemptive mission of God is bigger than me, bigger than Chapel Choir, and bigger than Dawson. Praise be to the God who blesses us, keeps us, and lets us in on the mission.



Cameron Hughes grew up at Dawson and is in her last year at Carson-Newman University. She is also preparing to spend Trinity term at Oxford's Regent's Park College doing Baptist research. Cameron sees her participation with **Go Love Tell** during her time in Chapel Choir as an integral part of honing her love for music and her call to ministry.



Tanzania

Volunteer stories



IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

BY ROGERS REDDING

My trip to Kigoma, Tanzania, made me much more aware of the power of missions and the impact that our church can have on the lives of people in need. Through that experience, I have become much more understanding of how the love of Christ transcends the normal human barriers of race, culture, nationality, and economic condition, and that people who are very different from me are made in the image of God.

Kigoma Baptist Hospital has a long history of serving western Tanzania. The building of the new Pediatric Wing could not have happened without God creating a partnership with the hospital and Dawson. Their most pressing need was a facility to serve the children who were being cared for in crowded and inadequate conditions. **Go Love Tell** funds directly and specifically made this new facility possible. Because of this, the hospital was able to attract a full-time pediatric physician to join Dr. Larry and Sally Pepper, IMB missionaries, in their healthcare ministry. Connecting with the Peppers has given me a personal appreciation and commitment to missions that would not have come about in any other way. One miracle that I witnessed was seeing a Muslim woman accept Christ as we visited her in her home. She overcame the possibility of being rejected by her family to make that decision. I also had the privilege of seeing God at work in many lives of people in a small town on the western boarder of Tanzania.

As the missionaries in the hospital work to meet the healthcare needs of the people in the Kigoma region, they are also laboring to meet their spiritual needs. Discipleship training, home visitation, and church planting in the local villages are key strategies that need our continuous prayers.



We thank God for His grace and mercy in strengthening the team through the addition of a number of doctors and nurses. We ask God to move in the hearts of the people of the region, most of whom are Muslim and in desperate need of the saving power of the Gospel. People who were living in darkness are experiencing the light of Christ—for this we offer humble thanks. The impact of **Go Love Tell** continues in the work of the Peppers and their team of healthcare missionaries. Dawson members can continue to support this work through our prayers.

God has richly blessed the Dawson Family of Faith by allowing us to play a key role in the physical expansion of the hospital. Tanzania is a long way from Birmingham. As in the case with every mission effort, we did not take God to Kigoma, He was already there.



Rogers Redding has been a member of the Dawson Family of Faith since 2008. He teaches a Senior Adult Life Group and has served as a Stephen Minister.

COMPASSIONATE LOVE

BY DONNA ADKISSON

Early in the process of **Go Love Tell**, I was privileged to be sent to Kigoma to learn the needs of the hospital. For most of my life, I did not know many people who were not believers in Christ, but God used this trip to show me the scope of Christian love in a part of the world that is primarily Muslim. In Kigoma, the missionaries and hospital staff use their medical and nursing knowledge to lovingly treat both Christian and Muslim patients. I'm not sure what I expected, but I never expected to find the Christian people of Kigoma to be so joyful, not only at church, but also while working at the hospital. The people of Kigoma were truly amazed that an American church in Alabama was willing to give money to build a pediatric wing for their hospital. They all praised God for the blessings of Dawson.

Walking through the hospital that first time, I was surprised to see two and three children in each bed. Even though I am a nurse, my experience is not in pediatrics. But as the mother of a daughter and son, what I saw made quite an impact on me. These children were very sick. While we were there, a young boy was very ill with an unknown illness. He deteriorated quickly and died while we were taking care of him. All I could do was cry with the child's father who had just lost his son. I will never forget that day or that child. Of course, a new pediatric wing won't cure all of the children who come there, but it does go a long way in decreasing the spread of germs and giving the children who are sick room to be treated.

I did not expect to love the people who come to Kigoma Baptist Hospital, but I truly do. I pray for them often, as well as, Dr. Larry and Sally Pepper, missionaries based in Kigoma. I am overwhelmed, too, by the members of Dawson who gave above and beyond their regular tithes and offerings to help build this pediatric wing so needed in Kigoma. Your prayers, love, and support over these past five years have shown the people of Kigoma what the compassionate love of Christ, and His people, truly looks like.



Donna Adkisson has been an active member of Dawson for the past 35 years. A cardiac registered nurse for over 43 years (now recently retired), she has led medical mission trips to Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Haiti, Guatemala, and Tanzania.



I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO ON TWO GO LOVE TELL PROJECTS IN NORTHEAST AFRICA. THE FIRST WAS A MEDICAL MISSION PROJECT TO HELP IN A LOCAL CHRISTIAN HEALTH CLINIC IN A REMOTE VILLAGE.

This rural clinic was run by a remarkable Christian doctor known to the locals as Sister K. The people in the area surrounding the clinic are under the influence of a religion that encourages them to worship anyone and everything including Jesus, Mary, all saints, local saints, the devil, witchcraft, and demons. The people believe that if they worship them all, they are safe having covered all their bases. Even more distressing is that the government, as well as local religious leaders, are very opposed to people becoming Christians and they actively work against our faith and persecute Christians.

Our team's assignment was to provide medical training to Sister K and her staff and to treat patients each day. When we arrived, we discovered that the clinic lacked electricity, a lab, and basic medical equipment such as stethoscopes, otoscopes, and basic medicines. As a result of **Go Love Tell**, Dawson was able to greatly improve Sister K's clinic by providing a new lab, birthing suites, medicines, and appropriate medical equipment. These upgrades enabled the clinic to receive government approval to administer additional services. Receiving this approval was extremely important, because the clinic is the only source of medical care for these people for miles. The next closest one is a two-hour car ride, however, no one in the community had a car.



People walked three hours to see us, and the waiting lines wrapped completely around the clinic. Sister K and her staff never missed a step and took every opportunity they had to pray with their patients and share the Gospel. Most of the patients came with long term problems that had been going on for years, not just one or two days. One child I saw had cerebral palsy, but her parents thought a demon or evil spirit was causing her symptoms. They had done all kinds of religious ceremonies to remove the evil spirit. In addition to me explaining that the symptoms were probably caused by the lack of oxygen to the baby during birth, the Christian nationals shared the Gospel with this family, and for the first time, they understood the truth of the Gospel and believed. As they left the clinic, they told us they were going to tell others in their village the story of Jesus. Even though I could not do much for their child physically that day, I know I will see them again in heaven. Many others accepted Christ while we were working in the clinic through the witness of the local Christians.

My second **Go Love Tell** project was in the same country, but this time our Dawson team worked with a new group of partners. This project moved me even further out of my comfort zone, because it involved a trekking expedition to mountain areas with villages that are very difficult to reach.

The purpose of our trip was to support our **Go Love Tell** partners in the northern area of the country who were using trekking groups to gain access to unreached areas. Our ultimate destination was a famous monastery at the base of a mountain. When we made it to the monastery, we were told that the local people believed Mary came to that place when she was pregnant with Jesus and that either her water broke or she cried (we heard both) and a river formed. Because of this story, the stream behind the monastery was thought to be holy water and had healing powers. People from all over the country come to bathe in it in an effort to be healed. While we were visiting the monastery, we met a man who became blind three years earlier who had come to the holy water stream to be healed. When he told us he had not been healed, we shared the Gospel with him and his daughter, but unfortunately, their hearts were hardened. They believed the holy water could heal them, and not that the true healer is Jesus Christ. We prayed that a seed was planted in their hearts and that one day they would come to know the Lord.

As a result of our trekking project, our **Go Love Tell** partners were able to identify a potential location for a future mobile medical clinic. The government granted permission for the project and expanded the area in which they could hike on future trips. This expansion opened up access to the B. people group. There are about 50,000 B. people, and only 20 percent of them can read and write. The characters for their alphabet are still being created, so currently there is not a Bible in their language, and the few believers that are there must worship and pray in a second language. Our team brought electronic devices with recordings of Bible stories in the heart language of the people that were provided by **Go Love Tell**. The stories we have heard since we returned, of people coming to know the Lord because they heard the word of God in their native tongue have been truly amazing!

God works in all kinds of ways to reach people wherever they are, and **Go Love Tell** is an incredible example of how He does that. These projects changed my life. Seeing the way others who have never heard of Jesus live, taught me that we should always be looking for new, creative ways to reach the lost. I am grateful for the opportunities given to me to serve because of **Go Love Tell**.



Janie Stagner has been a member of Dawson for almost 20 years. She is now a "retired" pediatrician staying home with her family. She currently serves on the Dawson Missions Team and has participated in two trips to Northeast Africa as part of **Go Love Tell**.

Birmingham

Volunteer stories

A LEARNING CURVE

BY JIM RIVES

—THE—
LEARNING
CENTER



AS GOD WAS LEADING US THROUGH THE CONCEPTUALIZATION OF **GO LOVE TELL**, AND EVEN AFTER IT HAD BEGUN TO TAKE SHAPE, I SAW MYSELF SERVING IN MAINE OR SOMEWHERE NEAR MY OLD NEIGHBORHOOD IN SOUTHWEST BIRMINGHAM, WHERE I LIVED UNTIL I WAS 6 YEARS OLD. NEITHER OF THOSE HAVE HAPPENED YET.

As The Learning Center was being formed, I had volunteered to lead a men's Bible study there. It was scheduled to be on Tuesdays; one hour each week. No problem, right? While leaving Bible study that first week, I heard the staff say that one of the Language Arts instructors was ill and wouldn't be there. For some reason (more on that later), I said I would stay and see if I could give it a try. With no way to get references from my long-gone English teachers, they let me stay. In that moment, the staff had no idea that God was about to alter my life by shaking up my priority list and changing my view regarding my own personal ministry. I've taught Language Arts ever since, and it's actually for three hours each week, not just one. It involves reading comprehension and developing written communication skills by using grammar and proper sentence structure. Although I never was a teacher by training or profession, I had taught several things, but not like this.

God is resourceful. I had never thought about that word until coming to The Learning Center. This crazy, but obvious chain of events has shown me more clearly than ever how effectively God exercises His great wisdom and uses us in the most unexpected ways. Some of us may be too slow in picking up on His signals. You see, God wanted to use me to help some wonderful people get their GED, but also, He knew that teaching Language Arts was something that I would never even consider. Ever. God drew me in with the Bible study, then slammed the door behind me. Now, that's resourceful; no, it's ingenious! By the way, I still get to do men's Bible study, too.

At The Learning Center, the students are grouped according to a range of skill levels, and it is interesting how some students test at the same Language Arts "level," but their strengths and less-proficient areas differ greatly. Because of that, it doesn't take them long to begin helping each other during class. Their attitudes are amazing, and they are all experiencing a closer relationship with God and with each other. This is nurtured both through Bible study and by attending other classes led by believers. These two things have led to a growing expression of Christ-like love and support among the students. Our informal four-step, error-fixing process is this: catch it... laugh... correct it... move on. They all want the best for each other.

One day, I was quite taken aback by a student in Language Arts. We have "words of the week" (WOW) that students are challenged to use properly in a complete sentence. When "predictable" appeared one week, this student boldly used that word when describing one of his friends, which he then worked into a Biblical conversation. Hearing that word used correctly by the student, in addition to the context that it was used, was an exciting moment that I won't soon forget.

If all of that wasn't enough, working with my fellow instructors has been amazing. It is such a joy to serve in such a wonderful environment in which leaders are more than willing to help and support each other. The students correctly perceive us as a team working for their good and the good of God's Kingdom. Simply put, that kind of fellowship is created by the love of Christ and a desire to serve Him well. Karen Coghill is one example. She teaches math at The Learning Center right before my classes begin. She is great with the students and is an excellent teacher. Last year, I had to miss a few days. I hated to miss being with my students, but when Karen immediately agreed to stay late to teach my class, I knew they would be in good hands. Upon my return, the students said they missed me, but they gave me permission to miss a week any time if they could have Karen! They know she's a great teacher, but mainly they know she cares about them. The Learning Center's leader, Ryann Mitchell, models for us every week an important characteristic of a leader: the ability and willingness to be a helper. Our students notice this and appreciate it.

If a student ever thinks that any of us are trying to "change" their lives, I make sure that they know the bottom line. We can't change anyone; they can only be changed by God and by themselves. We're grateful, though, that God gives us the privilege of being His partners as He continues to shape us into the people He wants us to be.



Jim has been married to Sandi for 53 years, and followed her to Dawson after their wedding. He teaches Language Arts and Bible Study at The Learning Center, and had the joy of serving on the Missions Team when **Go Love Tell** was conceived and established.



CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS

BY KEN & JONJA J.

{ I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel. }

PHILIPPIANS 1:4-5

Go and make disciples of all nations. We moved to Southeast Asia as Christ's ambassadors almost 30 years ago. God called us, the church sent us, and our partnership with Southern Baptists is the way God has sustained us. Over the past five years, God has also called out 15 teams from the Dawson Family of Faith to our province. These faithful volunteers have given their time, knowledge, and skills to love and serve in strategic ministry alongside us—primarily in the areas of Education, ESL, and Healthcare. Together we have been the hands and feet of Christ among the people of Southeast Asia. Through **Go Love Tell**, the Lord has opened new doors for ministry, changed countless lives, and has served as a source of encouragement to many.

English Language Center. Dawson's initial investment of \$30,000 helped to rent and renovate a house for the start-up of a business that undergirds an English Center. The Center currently has more than 153 members who are ages 17 years to 70 years old! For the past five years, Dawson has financially supported our key national partner who the Lord called specifically to this ministry. Initially, the Center had only three staff people, but today it's grown to a staff of seven people, with three of those employees being Muslim. The Center has hosted and facilitated three different English summer camps with the help of Dawson volunteers, touching the lives of 85 university students.

Through the educational services that they offer, the Center has developed a strong partnership with the largest Islamic University in town, which allows the Center to lead training events for faculty and students.

Elementary School: With \$120,000, Dawson helped our Baptist elementary school build a new wing on their current facility. Over the last five years, the school has added five new classes and 100 students. Their new auditorium was named "The Alabama Hall." Partnering with the foundation of this school, Dawson volunteers brought in educational experts to help with an annual teacher training event for small Baptist Pre-K and KG schools from all over our island.

Healthcare: Dawson sent professionals to help teach the staff at our Baptist hospital. Students from Samford's School of Pharmacy and the School of Nutrition & Dietetics spent up to eight weeks on the hospital's campus as part of their education. \$10,000 was used to renovate an apartment on the campus, which housed many of the Dawson guests who came to town. The hospital uses this apartment to offer housing for their own short-term guests. Dawson volunteers helped in ESL classes at a junior college, breaking down misperceptions of Christians and foreigners. They also encouraged the minority Christian medical students at that local junior college by joining their weekly Bible study.

The Gospel has been proclaimed in both word and deed through the loving service of Dawson volunteers who have truly been letters of love, the aroma of Christ, and His ambassadors. Your faithful support through prayer, finances, and feet on the ground has helped bring others to Jesus. It has been our joy to follow-up with those the Lord is drawing to Himself.

Through the English Center, three Bible studies have formed, and those believers have been mobilized to take the Gospel to the lost. All employees and hundreds of students at the English Center have heard the Gospel. Intensive follow-up is in process with several who are pondering the claims of Christ. God has opened doors for Gospel proclamation to the professors at the Islamic University, and minority Christians have been encouraged in their faith and encouraged to also share their faith.

We thank the Lord for your partnership and investment these past five years. May the Lord establish the work of our hands, resulting in much fruit that remains, for His glory!

Ken & Jonja are IMB representatives in Southeast Asia where they have lived for the past 30 years. They are members of the Dawson Family of Faith and have hosted Dawson volunteers since 2004. Ken's parents have been members of Dawson for over 20 years. Ken & Jonja count it a privilege to have facilitated a **Go Love Tell** project as an extension of Dawson.



Elementary students from KARIM Christian School.



Students at the English Language Center.



A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

BY ADE G.
Director of The English Learning Center

IN JANUARY 2015, IN MY HOMETOWN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD REPRESENTATIVES IN THEIR HOME. THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE INTERESTED IN STARTING AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER.

Little did I know that what they truly needed was someone who heeds a specific call from The Highest King. That started a month later, when I answered "yes" after taking time to think and pray. I was introduced to the **Go Love Tell** project. At that point, I didn't understand and see the vision quite yet. However, God led me to be obedient, and then I quickly adjusted to the work rhythm in the team. I remember really enjoying intensive Bible study, which was an essential part of the preparation for the job. As the team grew bigger, I could see very clearly that this project was something initiated by God and not by man. One of the **Go Love Tell** representatives that visited left us with a memory verse from Psalm 90:17, "May the favor of the LORD our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands." Now, when I look back, I have nothing but thankfulness, and I am truly humbled. God, indeed, has established the work of our hands.

The English Language Center opened in April 2016, and has grown into an ongoing business with many projects and programs, both offline and online. It now has seven employees and 153 active members. The love that God has shown to the non-believing employees through us has made them notice the difference. The way we act towards them often raises questions, which then leads to divine conversations.

All of our programs are designed to enable engagement with the students and members on a personal level. Peer group discussions, for example, have been one of the activities where many of the members have heard the Gospel. The Center has also been able to develop healthy relationships with many other institutions. In fact, one of them is the biggest Islamic University in the whole city. (In case it is not obvious, this is a really big deal!) Islamic Universities tend to choose to only work with other Muslims. The Lord, however, has allowed this unique relationship to

happen for His divine purpose. Because of this, we have been provided with multiple opportunities to share the Good News with many of the University staff.

Through the love and faithfulness of the people supporting this **Go Love Tell** project, many lives have been touched and transformed including my own. Since high school, it has always been my dream to run an English Language Center to help others learn English more effectively. It never occurred to me that, even beyond what I could ask, the Lord would prepare and lead me to help people hear and learn the most important thing in life: The Good News of Jesus Christ. Not only that, but people are coming to faith, small groups are being started, vision is being cast, and Jesus' name is heard more and more every day in this city. Praise the Lord!

Ade G.



REACHING THE SUMMIT

BY TRAVIS BUSH



IN OCTOBER OF 2016, I MET WITH A GROUP FROM DAWSON AND DREAMED ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE TO HOLD A COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT THE NEXT SUMMER THAT WOULD BE CALLED "WE LOVE GORHAM."

Soon after that initial meeting, I assembled some local pastors together and members of the Navigators Collegiate Ministry to plan what the "We Love Gorham" day would look like. One of the pastors at the table was an interim pastor at a church two miles away from my church, SouthCoast, called South Gorham Baptist Church. After some meetings together, Pastor Doug and I began a discussion about what it would look like if our two churches, SouthCoast and South Gorham, merged into one church. South Gorham had been without a pastor for years and had a mature body of believers and on the flip side, SouthCoast was made up of mostly young families and college students. A merger between the two could be an answer to prayer from both churches.

For about seven months, our two churches walked through a process of determining whether or not the merger was where God was calling each congregation. In the end, we knew that it was! And on January 28, 2018, both congregations voted unanimously to merge, and we became Summit Community Church. The church was named Summit in the vein of spiritual parenting: discipleship.

If it had not been for the initial meeting with folks from Dawson to dream about an event called "We Love Gorham," Summit Community Church would not be where it is today. We have grown by over 100+ people since merging and are healthier than we have ever been as a church. For years, my wife, Kristin, and I had prayed that God would send us workers, and He did that through our merger. That would never have happened without Dawson's Chapel Choir Mission Tour coming to Maine.

Summit Community Church has benefited in countless ways from our wonderful partnership with Dawson. In the summer of 2017, Dawson sent a group of volunteers, along with significant funds, to help us with the development of "We Love Gorham." That event now continues to serve and support the community each summer. In 2018, Dawson sent another group of volunteers to assist in the execution of a week long Vacation Bible School for our church and community.

When we began our discussions about the merger, Dawson offered us wise counsel throughout the process. In the fall of 2018, Dawson provided a great resource to our church family by sending us the help of Tom Thompson.

With Tom's experience working for and with churches, along with his business background, he was uniquely able to assist us in a consulting process that laid the foundation for the future of our church. That process resulted in a clearly articulated vision, core values, and measurable goals. Over this past year, Summit Community Church has made significant progress towards those goals in becoming the church that we believe God has called us to be.

Our church has greatly benefited from many things over the last five years through **Go Love Tell**, and we will never be the same. Every person who has helped us with VBS, worship conferences, served during Choir Tour, and more, has been such a blessing to us all. We look forward to seeing what God will do in the future as a result of the work that was begun here in Maine because of your faithfulness. We know that as our partnership continues with Dawson, the best is yet to come!

Travis Bush has been the lead pastor at Summit Community Church in Scarborough, Maine, since its inception in 2018. Previously, he was the pastor of SouthCoast Community Church from 2011 until 2018 when SouthCoast merged with South Gorham Baptist Church to form Summit.



Travis with his wife, Kristin, and their four children, Bria (12), Myka (10), Ezra (5), and Vera (3).



ANSWERED PRAYERS

BY SALLY PEPPER
IMB Missionary, Kigoma, Tanzania

My husband, Larry, and I have seen the miraculous ways that God has been working at Kigoma Baptist Hospital. But even still, the harvest was great, yet the workers were few. We knew that God would provide in every way as He always does: Just the right person at just the right time. Meanwhile, in the USA, a young doctor had been talking with the IMB about how to use her pediatric skills once she finished her residency. An international rotation unexpectedly brought her to a different part of Tanzania rather than to her first choice in another country. The IMB person connected us together, and we were able to speak with the young doctor and tell her about the plans for the new pediatric ward, and how she could serve there with us. Later on, Larry wrote to her and said, "That is your mission here to be as the hands and voice and show the love of Jesus to kids and families in the hospital and their homes." In March 2017, Dr. Meggie Hixon wrote us this: "My greatest desire is to go where the Lord wants me. If that is Kigoma, I know He will work everything out for me to go." When the new building was opened and dedicated in March 2017, we were hopeful, but still unsure whether or not Dr. Meggie would come join our team. We opened the building, and the community was thrilled to have such a beautiful facility for their children. A few months later, it was confirmed that Dr. Meggie would be joining the team. When she arrived in Kigoma, in September 2018 after finishing language school, she dove right into the work and to the ministry. The following are stories from Dr. Meggie:

"I had been expecting Queenie and baby Iddi as I was told about the young Muslim mother and her baby who had been visited by my teammates. She recently moved from Burundi after her husband left her and the child. During their visit, my teammates noticed Iddi was clearly malnourished and developmentally delayed. They shared the Gospel with Queenie, but she did not seem interested at the time. Afterwards, they encouraged her to go to Kigoma Baptist Hospital to seek help for her child.

Children who are malnourished require several weeks of treatment. During that time, Queenie heard the Gospel again and was visited by Kelly and Fidelis's Bible study group. As the baby gained weight and his health improved, the day finally came for him to leave the hospital. As I was preparing Iddi for discharge, I was thinking about how best to talk to Queenie one more time about the hope only Jesus could provide.

Before I could say a word, the same woman who had a sad, stern countenance just a few weeks before, looked up at me with a huge smile on her face and announced that she was going to the Bible study the next day. I was shocked! I then asked her if she had been thinking about following Jesus. She said that she had already prayed to do so. As we talked some more about what that meant, the other mom in the malnutrition room, Mama Justin, told me she was going to Bible study as well. As promised, they both showed up the next day, and they both have been faithfully attending ever since then. We had the joy of watching their baptisms this past March. Praise God for His work in their lives!

Mama Habibu arrived in the hospital with her baby who was found to have a congenital malformation leading to the obstruction of both nasal passages. Since birth, the baby was unable to feed. On admission, she was malnourished and suffering from an infection. When she did try to feed, she would have occasional episodes where she completely stopped breathing and required resuscitation. At only six days old, this little one was fighting for her life. Despite attempts to help stabilize her, the baby's condition continued to worsen. Her only hope was to travel 12 hours by bus to another hospital. As the bus wasn't scheduled to leave until the next morning, I strongly suspected the baby wouldn't survive the night. That evening, I sat and talked with Mama Habibu about heaven. She was Muslim but had been open to me praying for the baby several times during the admission. As I shared the Gospel with her, she showed great interest and asked insightful questions.

When I asked her if she wanted to follow Jesus, she said she wasn't really ready at that time because she had so much on her mind. However, she eagerly accepted a Bible and expressed the desire to start reading it that night. Miraculously, the baby did survive the night, and they left early the next morning to catch the bus. Unfortunately, I don't know what happened to Mama Habibu or the baby after that point, as they live far away and did not return to Kigoma, but I do know that the Holy Spirit was clearly at work.



I pray that she chooses to follow Him one day. Even though we couldn't provide the surgery the baby needed, the pediatric ward did provide a safe place to love and pray for Mama Habibu and her baby. This opened doors to sharing about the love of Jesus with her as it has for many others who pass through our doors.

It was Christmastime when Mama Abasi's child was admitted for malnutrition. She heard the Gospel and the Christmas story during her admission, each time listening with great interest. In fact, given her enthusiasm, I had assumed she was already a Christian. One day while on rounds, I felt the Holy Spirit leading me to talk more with her, and when I did, she surprised me by telling me that she was a Muslim. When I asked her what she thought about Jesus, she quickly expressed the desire to follow Him even when I explained that it meant turning away from Islam and facing possible persecution from her family and friends. The timing of all of this was clearly not an accident. Several days prior, another mom in the malnutrition room came up to me and proudly proclaimed that she was a Muslim, but is now following Jesus, and that she initially faced persecution because of her faith.

This young mother was now able to reassure Mama Abasi that Jesus was worth being persecuted, for and she was able to help her start reading the Bible. Mama Abasi prayed to receive Christ the very next day."

There are many more stories like these that happen every day. Because of the generosity of Dawson members through the **Go Love Tell** missions initiative, not only does Kigoma have a pediatric ward built especially for the children and their families, but the hospital continues to be a beacon of hope for all who come there, both physically and spiritually. Thank you for your love, support, and prayers over these past five years.

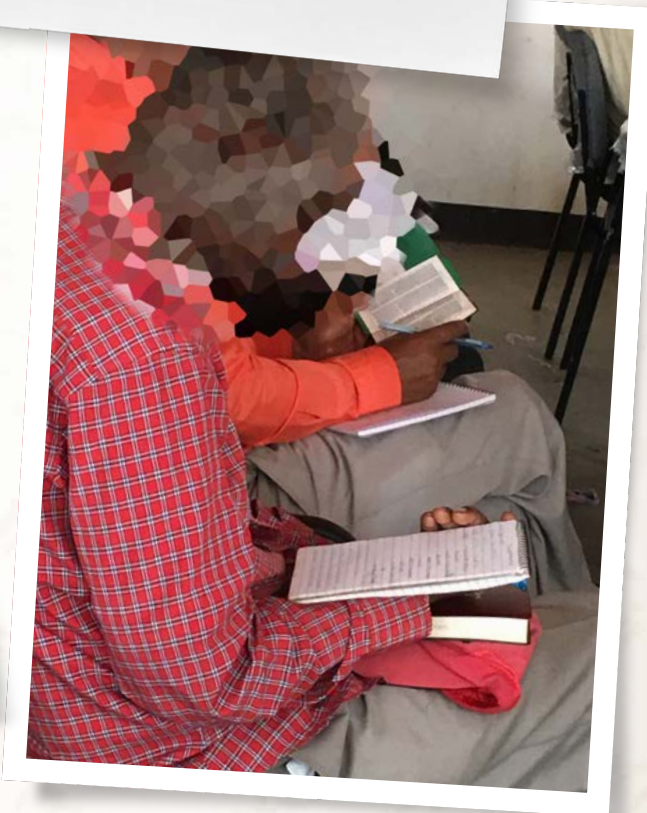


Sally Pepper, and her husband Larry, have served with the IMB since 1995, first in Uganda, then Lesotho, and since 2011, in Kigoma, Tanzania, where they serve at Kigoma Baptist Hospital. They use healthcare strategies to reach the lost, disciple new believers, and plant churches.



Dear Dawson,

On behalf of the Sparrow team working in Northeast Africa, we would like to thank you for the partnership we have had with Dawson over the past five years. Your generous partnership has allowed us to dig deep into a very hard, unreached people. *Go Love Tell* has been a catalyst for our team and the Sparrow people. Your "going" has provided quality teaching and training in areas of leadership development. Your "loving" has provided us access to people who have never heard the truth. Your "praying" has sustained our team and national friends as we have striven to serve with wisdom and courage. We and the Sparrow church are eternally grateful.



Pictured above, students at Foundations Training.
(Facial features have been blurred for safety concerns.)

THE SPARROW PROJECT



BY BEN & CANDI W.

FOUNDATIONS

Over the past five years of Foundations Training, more than 90 believers, 15 of whom are women, have received theological training that otherwise would not be possible in the countryside. These believers meet four times a year for two-week modules. These modules include classes such as Hermeneutics, Biblical Theology, Old Testament, New Testament, Contextualization, Church Planting, and others. Particularly, over the last two years, a number of these courses have been led and taught by nationals who have previously participated in these modules. We believe that in the near future these classes will be taught exclusively by national believers. This training is focused on providing quality teaching to better prepare believers for leadership in the Sparrow church. This training has been embraced by the Sparrow church and is playing a crucial role in the turning over of the Sparrow church to the Sparrow people.

GOAT PROJECT

Dawson has been heavily involved in this project since its inception. There have been more than 200 women beneficiaries who participated in this project over the years. These poor, and often widowed, women receive goats to help them start a new life and care for their children. The project educates women in how to use the goats to make money and also allows us unlimited access to women deep in the countryside. Throughout this time, our team and national partners have shared the Gospel with scores of women and families and have witnessed decisions

by the dozens. Without this project, we would not be able to be involved in these women's lives.

DAIRY FARM

Seek the welfare of the city, because in its welfare you will find peace (Jeremiah 29:7). We have claimed this as a promise from the Lord throughout our ministry, and He has always been faithful to fulfill this promise. The dairy farm has been expanded over the past few years to accommodate cows with the hope of becoming viable and profitable. We have been able to improve the genetics of the herd, acquire quality veterinarians to care for them, purchased medicines, developed solutions to water and power shortages, improved feed, and purchased a tractor for the purpose of diversifying and growing our own feed needs. This business entity provides a quality product to the community and allows our team to serve here legally.

RESOURCES

Thanks to your giving, we have been able to give valuable resources to many new believers and fruitful partners. We have given cell phones to more than 100 people for the use of evangelism and discipleship. On these phones, the memory cards have music, stories, lessons, and *The Jesus Film* all in the Sparrow language. This is a big help, because our people do not have God's Word in their language, yet. We have distributed more than 500 memory cards with resources in the Sparrow language. In addition, we have also distributed more than 300 solar radios to believers who have been trained in strategies to lead "listening groups."

We pray that these groups will become churches in communities where there is no institutional church.

TEAM

Through *Go Love Tell* we have been able to provide our teammates with regular times of rest and care. Your generosity has allowed us to acquire specialized member care for our team, which provided us a way to facilitate times of renewal that have resulted in a strong and unified team. We have also been able to solve some housing challenges for our team and volunteers by building a bunkhouse out of shipping containers. Over the years, these containers have housed countless volunteer teams, families, veterinarians, college students, professors, and teammates. Without this option, we never would have been able to leverage others who are gifted and talented—in ways that we are not—for the sake of the Kingdom.

These strategic projects support our Kingdom-prayer for our people, that Sparrow disciples will disciple others, gather as a church, and plant other Sparrow churches. Thank you for your relentless heart for the nations and for your commitment to go, love, and tell.

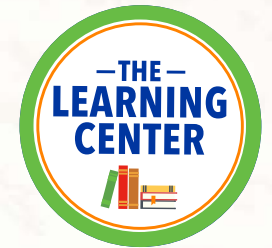
Sincerely,
Sparrow Team

Ben & Candi are long time Dawson members who have been serving faithfully in Northeast Africa for many years. Over these years they have stayed connected with Dawson through their Life Group and the volunteer mission teams that have worked with them.



Recent graduate, Quontarius Hayes,
from The Learning Center.

LEARNING FROM THE LEARNING CENTER



THE LEARNING CENTER IS JUST TWO MILES FROM DAWSON'S CAMPUS ON GREEN SPRINGS HIGHWAY. RECENTLY, WE TOOK A FEW MOMENTS TO ASK RYANN MITCHELL, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, TO TELL US HOW THIS MINISTRY IS IMPACTING LIVES ON A DAILY BASIS.

What is The Learning Center seeking to accomplish?

We desire to serve others in the name of Christ through adult education. By teaching our students how to better understand what they read, how to reach their goals, and how to study their Bibles (all parts of classes we offer), we pray that they will come to better realize that they are image bearers of Christ, worthy of more on this side of eternity but, more importantly, worthy of an eternity with Christ.

Who are the students?

Our students are adults from multiple demographics and backgrounds and at varying levels of education who all have the singular goal of earning their GED.

How have you observed the Dawson volunteers teaching them?

Volunteers serve in many types of roles. Some are classroom instructors who teach a subject to four or more students at once, some are small group instructors who work with groups of three students or less, and many are one-on-one instructors who work just as it sounds, one-on-one with students, usually on Math or Reading. Instruction, however, goes beyond academics. I know of one story where an instructor finished his Math lesson with two students then expressed that he was proud of them for their hard work.

Both were a little taken aback and agreed no one had ever told them they were proud of them. Both of these women are at least in their 30s, and this was the first time they could recall hearing those words? I think without explaining it, our instructors are also teaching what it means to serve in the name of Christ.

Is their one particular student story that has impacted you?

We had one student who came to us at the recommendation of his girlfriend. At the end of his first week, I did his intake interview and found out he needed to go to court for an outstanding Child Support case the next week. He had lost his job, but the amount he owed was never adjusted. As a result, he owed his children's mother more than he could afford and was likely to be arrested when he showed up at court. We got him in touch with a volunteer lawyer program in town, and they helped him work out a lower payment plan so he could stay out of jail, continue to support his family, and continue to work on his GED. A year later, he completed his GED and got a better paying job. He's now supporting himself and all of his children and has plans to marry his girlfriend very soon. Also, his cousin came to see him graduate and then started classes the next semester.

Through **Go Love Tell**, this man's situation in life has completely changed. Instead of going to jail where he certainly could not support his family, he earned his GED. Now his children are better taken care of, and he's setting an example for others to follow.

What is a Bible verse that is used a lot at The Learning Center?

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:17).

How has Go Love Tell impacted the lives of the students?

Since opening our doors on February 14, 2017, we have seen two students baptized, countless students have gone back to church, 13 students earned their GED, more than 60 GED sections have been passed, and the students' average improvement after one 12-week semester is two grade levels in both Language Arts and Math.

What are a couple of brief statistics that indicate academic improvement at The Learning Center?

- 2 Baptisms
- 13 Graduates
- 62 GED Sections Passed
- Students average two academic year's worth of improvement in 12 weeks in RLA and Math.

Declare His Glory Among The Nations

Psalm 96:3

WHAT DID WE GIVE FINANCIALLY DURING GO LOVE TELL?

The total amount given to **Go Love Tell** is **\$5,913,471** with **\$716,330** in pledges still expected.

During the time that Dawson members were giving extra to **Go Love Tell**, giving to the regular budget of Dawson increased **7.5%**.

Nine percent of the money given to **Go Love Tell** was used for administration to operate the emphasis so that **91%** was used in direct missions work.

Because of the generous giving and wise expenditure of available funds, **\$2,132,159** will be available for ongoing extra missions work after the end of the initial five year period of **Go Love Tell**.

TOTAL EXPENSES TO DATE (by Project)

Go Love Tell General Expenses	\$ 363,376
Go Love Tell Birmingham Expenses	\$ 834,104
Go Love Tell Maine Expenses	\$1,052,445
Go Love Tell Northeast Africa Expenses	\$ 669,314
Go Love Tell Tanzania Expenses	\$ 436,391
Go Love Tell Southeast Asia Expenses	\$ 384,163
Go Love Tell Future Projects	\$ 37,519
TOTAL GO LOVE TELL EXPENSES	\$3,781,312

WHAT DID WE BUILD?

FACILITIES THAT WERE CONSTRUCTED OR RENOVATED

El Clinic in Northeast Africa

In 2016, this medical clinic was upgraded to ensure government approval. It now provides a launching point for evangelistic ministry by national believers into remote mountain villages.

English Language Center

This education center in Southeast Asia opened in 2016, near several major universities. In 2019, enrollment reached capacity of **153** students, and all of the students are non-believers.

Three Special Needs Playgrounds

These playgrounds were built in 2017, at three public elementary schools in Maine. **140** Dawson Chapel Choir members and sponsors worked in conjunction with local churches to build them in one day. **Go Love Tell** subsidized the volunteers, paid for the equipment, and did the installation.

The Learning Center

This adult education center opened in 2017, on Green Springs Highway in Birmingham. Since its founding, **200** students have been enrolled, and **85** volunteers have worked with the students providing literacy training, GED preparation, and job skills training.

Kigoma Baptist Hospital Pediatric Wing

This facility opened in 2017, as one of the best facilities in Tanzania. Tanzania has one of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the world, with high-risk pregnancies widely under-attended. Because of this facility, a pediatrician who works with the International Mission Board now serves on the hospital's staff.

Hospital Guest Apartment

This guest house, located at Immanuel Baptist Hospital in Southeast Asia, provided housing for Dawson summer interns as well as other volunteers working with our **Go Love Tell** partners.

KARIM Christian School

The expansion of this Christian elementary school in Southeast Asia enabled enrollment to increase from **250** to **325** students. We also installed a fence, gates, a new library, and a computer lab.

Bunkhouses, Pastures, and a Water Tank

These ensured the operation of a Northeast African farm and a platform for multiple missionary families.

Living Stone Community Church in Standish, Maine


Finishing work was done on their new building, and a water purification system was installed to make their water potable.

Windsor Christian Fellowship in Windsor, Maine

Work was done on the welcome center, restrooms, and front entrance to modify this historic building for contemporary use.

Grace Point Church in Biddeford, Maine

Funds were used for the remodeling of their children's wing and conversion of an old events center into worship and education space.



Kigoma Baptist Hospital
Pediatric Wing, Kigoma,
Tanzania.

WHAT DID WE PURCHASE?

EQUIPMENT AND EVANGELISM RESOURCES

75 evangelism media devices called Mega-voices were purchased for Northeast Africa partners.

100 devices to equip radio listening groups in rural Northeast Africa.

Solar powered **audio Bibles** were purchased for Northeast Africa Partners.

Medicine & supplies for medical teams serving in Northeast Africa.

An M-Turbo **ultrasound machine** was purchased for Kigoma Baptist Hospital in Tanzania, as well as, **50** fixed and portable Vital Signs monitors, **6** oxygen concentrators, **38** pediatric hospital beds, **50** IV stands, hospital desks and tables, and **1** digital X-ray system.

A **bull** was bought for the dairy farm in Northeast Africa.

The **New Testament** was printed in the heart language of the Riquet people, an unreached people group in Africa.

A **John Deere tractor** was purchased for the dairy farm in Northeast Africa to enable the farm to be self-sustaining.

200 new library books were purchased for Washington School in Titusville. Overall, **2,712** books were donated, and our volunteers invested **2,159** hours reading to **139** children at Washington School in Titusville.

A **15** passenger van was purchased for use by churches in Maine for events, activities, and volunteers.

Recon Fitness, a **gym** in Westbrook, Maine, was created as an outreach ministry of Neighbors Church. This was made possible through financial support from **Go Love Tell**. People are coming to Christ through this ministry.

Dairy farm in Northeast Africa.

WHERE WERE BELIEVERS TRAINED FOR SERVICE?

Maine

- Vacation Bible School leaders were trained in several local churches.
- Small group Bible study leaders were trained from multiple churches.
- Local church members and church staff members were trained in personal financial management.
- Two marriage conferences were provided for local church members.
- Training for worship leadership was provided for local churches.

Northeast Africa

- The medical staff at the El Clinic were equipped and trained to conduct mobile medical clinics in the mountains surrounding their clinic.
- Believers received MegaVoice recorders and were trained on how to use them to show *The Jesus Film* and listen to Bible stories.
- New believers were disciplined in a manner that matured them spiritually in preparation for church planting.

Southeast Asia

- Christian school teachers received training in lesson planning and classroom management.
- Volunteers were trained to use English as a Second Language as a means to share the Gospel.

Tanzania

- Hospital nurses were trained to use basic sanitation procedures.
- Hospital employees were trained to use health education as a means to share the Gospel.

Birmingham

- Local church members were taught how to improve their health by living a healthy lifestyle.
- Second grade students at Washington School received assistance with their reading skills from volunteer mentors.
- Teachers and tutors at The Learning Center were trained to assist students seeking to obtain their GEDs.
- Students at The Learning Center received training that introduced them to basic computer skills.

WHAT CHURCHES WERE STARTED & SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY?

Centerpoint Church in Portland, Maine, is reaching a diverse group of non-believers in the heart of the largest city in Maine.

Seven Mile Road Church in Kennebunk, Maine, has experienced steady growth, and they are now planning to plant other churches.

Redemption Hill Community in Lewiston, Maine, is a missional community model church that is in the heart of a heavily Muslim area and is reaching the community through practical acts of love and kindness.

New City Church in Bath, Maine, has a heart for the community and starting other new churches.

The Pursuit Church in Rockland, Maine, was a creative plant from an older congregation, and they have now merged into one multi-generational church.



CENTERPOINT CHURCH



SEVEN MILE ROAD CHURCH



REDEMPTION HILL COMMUNITY



NEW CITY CHURCH

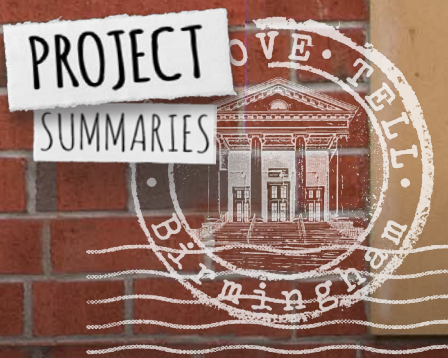


THE PURSUIT CHURCH

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Summarizing the exciting first five years of Go Love Tell is not an easy task. It's a "BIG" story that includes countless numbers of people sacrificially giving their time and resources. It's a story about God allowing Dawson the privilege of being a part of what He was already doing around the globe and in our city. It's also a story that does not yet have an ending. The impact of Go Love Tell continues. Please take time to thank God for all that has been accomplished and ask Him to prepare our hearts for all He has planned for us to do in the future.





DOUGLASS WASHINGTON SCHOOL BIRMINGHAM



GOAL: Develop ministries that directly impact the root causes of generational poverty in order to provide long-term hope to the Titusville community through Reading, Literacy, Job Skills, and Health Education.

Original Budget:	\$1,175,000
Expenses to Date:	\$ 834,104
# of Projects:	21
# of Volunteers:	237

The focus area of the project was Titusville, a historic community located close to Dawson with a high rate of poverty. Recognizing that the lack of a good education has a significant impact on future poverty, we focused on students at Washington K-8 School in Titusville. The centerpiece of our effort was a partnership with Better Basics, a non-profit with an excellent track record of improving reading skills to provide two Reading Intervention Specialists at the school.

In addition to our focus on elementary students, we also provided basic literacy education for adults by founding The Learning Center. Basic literacy and a high school diploma are essential in any effort to achieve financial security. Therefore, The Learning Center provides literacy training, GED preparation, and some job skills training. Bible teaching is also a part of the curriculum. Since opening in 2017, more than 200 students have been served by 85 dedicated volunteers who work both one-on-one and in small groups with students.

KEY ACTIVITIES & FACTS:

WASHINGTON SCHOOL PROJECTS:

- Discovery Club Bible Program
- Birmingham Reads & Backpack Distribution
- Reading/Writing Summer Enrichment Program
- Better Basics Reading Specialists
- Wings of Hope Aviation Club (Reading, Math, and Physics)

TITUSVILLE COMMUNITY:

- Dawson members worship together at Living Church Ministries
- Titusville Community Day
- Dawsonaires Worship Program at Living Church Ministries
- Titusville Development Community Meetings
- Health Education Community Seminars
- Healthy Lifestyles Program – **13** participants (launched January 2018)

THE LEARNING CENTER:

- Currently **31** Volunteers serve as instructors, tutors, and mentors.
- To Date - **62** GED sections passed, **13** graduates & **2** baptisms.

GOAL: Plant new churches and support existing churches in partnership with NAMB Church Planting Catalyst and Maine Baptist Association. Provide financial support and send teams to train church leaders in effective ministry techniques and conduct community outreach programs.

Original Budget:	\$1,270,000
Expenses to Date:	\$1,052,445
# of Projects:	28
# of Volunteers:	318

Our research revealed that Maine is the first or second least Christian state in the country with only about 2% of the people being evangelical Christians. As we looked for partners who needed resources to help spread the gospel, Maine was the obvious choice. The need for additional churches was obvious, because as the culture became more post-Christian, many churches closed their doors.

KEY ACTIVITIES & FACTS:

DAWSON PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO FIVE PLANTERS & THEIR CHURCHES:

- CenterPoint Church, Portland
- Redemption Hill Community, Lewiston
- The Pursuit Church, Rockland
- New City Church, Bath
- Seven Mile Road, Kennebunk

MINISTRY SUPPORT:

- Training sessions held for church leaders on worship leadership, small group leadership, church financial management, VBS leadership, and stewardship.
- In 2017, Dawson's Chapel Choir Mission Tour went to Maine. The choir constructed three handicapped accessible playgrounds at public schools.
- Construction teams from Dawson worked on several church buildings.
- Dawson provided financial assistance to GracePoint Church in Biddeford for the remodeling of their building.
- Volunteer teams and summer interns supported VBS in multiple churches.
- Dawson provided financing so that Neighbors Church in Westbrook could open a gym that has been a successful outreach vehicle.
- Long Range Planning Consultations were provided to several churches as they developed their plans for growth and future ministry.



NORTHEAST AFRICA

GOAL: Partner with national believers to expand a medical clinic and train them to conduct mobile medical clinics in remote areas. Provide financial support to facilitate discipleship training for existing believers. Provide funding for technology to do creative evangelism and also agricultural projects that will impact unreached people groups.

Original Budget:	\$470,000
Expenses to Date:	\$669,314
# of Projects:	22
# of Volunteers:	45

Dawson's Northeast Africa project was selected primarily due to our longstanding relationship with Ben and Candi W., Dawson church members, who were called to serve the Sparrows, a Muslim unreached people group, years before Dawson's mission initiative started. In the early years of their ministry, Dawson members and Life Groups partnered with them to develop a goat ministry that provided income for widows. Little did they know that those early ministry efforts would lay the foundation for **Go Love Tell** in the years to come. **Go Love Tell** has been a window for us to see God's movement among the Sparrows and their neighbors. The spread of the gospel has brought persecution of those who followed Jesus, but believers have remained faithful. The following list includes both **Go Love Tell** results and also pre-**Go Love Tell** activities that Dawson supported.

KEY ACTIVITIES & FACTS:

- For the first time in the history of the Sparrow people, a significant number of people heard the Gospel and believed.
- Listening devices that contained Bible stories and *The Jesus Film* were distributed.
- New believers have been discipled, and churches are currently multiplying.
- Worship songs are now available in the heart language of the people.
- Scripture has been translated into the Sparrow's heart language.
- In a neighboring people group, the New Testament was printed for distribution.
- Sparrows have heard their heart language spoken on Christian radio for the first time.
- Agricultural projects have provided access to people. A dairy farm, complete with a John Deere tractor purchased by **Go Love Tell**, now provides a means for personnel to work in this country. A goat ministry provides income for widows and good will among the people.
- A discipleship program, Foundations, was developed to equip new believers and church planters.
- In a neighboring people group, clinic medical staff have been trained to conduct mobile medical mission projects in remote mountainous areas.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

GOAL: Partner directly with International Mission Board personnel to communicate the Gospel through teaching English (ESL), Christian education (KARIM Elementary School), and healthcare (Immanuel Hospital).

Original Budget:.....	\$845,000
Expenses to Date:.....	\$384,163
# of Projects:.....	17
# of Volunteers:.....	42
# of Internships:.....	10

The site of our Southeast Asia project is in the most populous Muslim country in the world. Dawson has a long history of working with one of our church families that have served there for many years. Our ministry relationship began when Dawson sent a medical mission team to assist with the aftermath of the tsunami that devastated that region of the world in 2014.

KEY ACTIVITIES & FACTS

ENGLISH CENTER

- Fully Renovated ESL Cultural Exchange Center in 2016.
- **153** Muslim Students Enrolled.
- **2** Summer English Camps supported and led by volunteers.
- Currently **95%** Financially Self-Sufficient Ministry.

KARIM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Completed Building Project that expanded enrollment from 250 to 325 children.
- Constructed **3** new classrooms, an auditorium, offices, a courtyard and a library.
- Purchased computers.

IMANUEL HOSPITAL

- Renovated volunteer Guest House on Hospital Campus in 2016.

TEACHER TRAINING CONFERENCES

- Dawson instructors equipped **65** national teachers and administrators on practical classroom techniques and hands-on activities.

ADDITIONAL ONGOING PROJECTS

- Bibles printed in local language purchased for distribution.
- Provided financial support for **10** seminary students.



Students at the English Learning Center.



TANZANIA

GOAL: Provide funding for the construction of, and equipment for a new pediatric wing at Kigoma Baptist Hospital in Kigoma, Tanzania.

Original Budget:	\$590,000
Expenses to Date:	\$436,391
# of Projects:	3
# of Volunteers:	9

KIGOMA BAPTIST HOSPITAL

- Funded and constructed a new Pediatric Wing; completed in 2017.

Kigoma Baptist Hospital was started in the 1980s as an outpatient care facility. It quickly morphed into a full hospital as the need and demand grew. From its inception, the hospital has been a platform for evangelism and a useful tool for church planting, since its location is in the midst of lostness in the Kigoma/Ujiji area. A large Muslim population exists in this area because of the remnants of the Arab Slave Trade business. Patients who come to the hospital are exposed to compassionate care and to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as recovery prayer and ministry from the staff.

Our connection to Kigoma Baptist Hospital came through Dr. Rebecca Naylor. As a retired medical missionary with the International Mission Board, she continues to work to engage churches in medical ministries around the world. She introduced Dawson to missionaries Larry and Sally Pepper in Tanzania. On the first exploratory visit to Tanzania, Dr. Pepper shared the tremendous needs for a Pediatric Wing for the hospital. During this visit, the initial plans were discussed that eventually resulted in the construction of what is likely the best pediatric facility in Tanzania. Due to the sacrificial giving of Dawson members to **Go Love Tell**, this was the first **Go Love Tell** project that was completed. It was completed in 18 months, ahead of schedule and \$120,000 under budget. There is no other explanation other than God moved in Kigoma, so that the Gospel was both heard and seen in the compassionate pediatric care at the hospital.

As you read this summary, take time to offer a prayer of thanksgiving. God has been good to us and our friends in Tanzania. Please pray for their most recent evangelistic outreach effort called "Clean your hands. Clean your soul." As a part of this effort, 5,000 families were given soap and a flyer that had information about COVID-19 on one side and the Gospel on other. Pray that the hospital will continue to be a place where the light of the Gospel will shine brightly.



Joyful smiles during the Kigoma Hospital Pediatric Wing grand opening celebration.

WHAT'S NEXT?

BY **BEN HALE**
Evangelism & Missions Pastor

In the summer of 2014, **Go Love Tell** was nothing but a really BIG idea. At that time, Dawson's leadership went through a process to evaluate the health of the congregation at that point in its history. As a result, they correctly perceived that Dawson was about to experience a five-year window that would provide an opportunity to expand our congregation's vision to impact the nations, both locally and internationally, for the sake of the Gospel. In terms of finances, the church was on a solid foundation, and church debt was rapidly declining. In terms of ministry, church programs were effective, and membership was growing. In terms of leadership, we were at a point where there was a high level of trust in both staff and lay leadership.

As a result of these and other positive factors, our church leadership stepped out on faith and voted unanimously to challenge our membership to give \$5,100,000, above their regular tithes and offerings and missions giving, to attempt five major mission projects. These projects were in Birmingham, Maine, Southeast Asia, Northeast Africa, and Tanzania. In hindsight, we now know this BIG idea, called **Go Love Tell**, became a reality that far exceeded our expectations. This magazine contains statistics, financial reports, and personal stories of lives that were transformed, and provides evidence that God honored Dawson by allowing us to be a part of what He was already doing. Hudson Taylor, pioneer missionary to China over a century ago, profoundly uttered the statement,

"God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's provision." So, this BIG idea that became a reality now leads us to a BIG question: What's next for **Go Love Tell** since the original five-year emphasis has ended?

The most exciting thing about the success of the first five years is that the faithful giving and serving during those years has paved the way for us to continue to expand our missions efforts for at least an additional five years. One notable difference in these next five years (2021–2025) is that there will not be a need for an additional financial campaign beyond people fulfilling their original pledges to **Go Love Tell**. Future projects will be funded by the generous giving and frugal spending during the first five years. These new projects will focus on three areas that include church revitalization, second generation church planting, and unreached people groups. With the approval of the church at our Annual Conference held on October 4, our four initial partnerships are ready to begin.

The first five years of **Go Love Tell** exceeded our expectations. However, I believe if we live up to our full potential in both serving and giving in the years ahead, we will experience an even greater measure of God's willingness to use us to accomplish His will among the nations of the world. On these next few pages, I am pleased to share with you a little information about these exciting new partners. Please join me in praying that God will find us faithful in the years ahead.



Church Revitalization

BIRMINGHAM

"What I remember most is driving all over the Birmingham metro area and seeing empty church buildings on almost every city block."

In 2014, as we were exploring options for our **Go Love Tell** mission projects, Dawson leaders traveled far and wide. We made site visits to all of our existing partners, in addition to new locations. We evaluated projects in Southeast Asia, Northeast Africa, Tanzania, Haiti, and Maine. However, my most vivid memory of all of these site visits has nothing to do with any of these distant and interesting places. What I remember most is driving all over the Birmingham metro area and seeing empty church buildings on almost every city block. You could tell at some point in their history most of these churches were growing and vibrant congregations. What might God be trying to tell us through these abandoned churches as we contemplate our next five years of **Go Love Tell**? Are there congregations that are currently on that same downward path that could avoid that fate if only a church like Dawson would help them regain their vision and effectiveness? We believe the answer to that question is a resounding "yes!"

What is church revitalization? Churches all over America need revitalization and are candidates to be replanted. Revitalization is a "deliberate, dedicated and protracted effort to reverse the decline of an existing church" (Mark Clifton, NAMB Church Revitalization Specialist). In a revitalization effort, a church, working with its existing pastor, leaders, and structure, moves

forward with a new strategy and energy. The risk is real, but the potential reward is that the church finds a new focus in Christ, the Gospel, making disciples, and impacting their community. Over the next five years, we anticipate that Dawson will minister together with multiple revitalization partners. Selection of these partners is ongoing. However, our first partner has been selected and approved by the Dawson Mission Team. The initial partner will be **Greater St. John Baptist Church** and their pastor, Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Brooks. The church, located in the Powderly Community, was established in 1910. The desire of Greater St. John is to renew their ministry efforts so they can address both the physical and spiritual needs in their community. The first phase of our partnership will involve renovation of classroom space that will be used for Sunday School and discipleship. Other initial efforts will involve the renovation of their Fellowship Hall and kitchen space to enable them to develop a food insecurity ministry, after school program, and summer camp ministry.

We anticipate that our church revitalization partners in the Birmingham metro area will require a large number of Dawson volunteers to be a part of the process. It is not too early to begin praying about how you might be a part of restoring a congregation to both physical and spiritual health.



Second Generation Church Planting

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO GORHAM, MAINE

DURING PHASE TWO OF **GO LOVE TELL**, DAWSON WILL WORK WITH CHURCHES WHO STARTED AS CHURCH PLANTS TO HELP THEM PLANT MORE CHURCHES.

A “second generation church plant” is a new church that is planted by a nearby church that was themselves a church plant. This has proven to be the most effective way to start new churches. One of our second generation church planting partners will be Living Rock Church in the Fort Collins, Colorado metro area. Kelly Parrish is the lead pastor. He and his wife, Brandi, and their four children, started the church in 2015 with a love for Jesus, people, and making disciples.

Fort Collins is the fourth largest city in Colorado and is consistently rated among the nation’s best places to live. Living Rock Church is in Timnath, a suburb of Fort Collins. The area is growing rapidly but is significantly unreached with the Gospel, with only 8% of the people in the area claiming any affiliation with an evangelical church.

Living Rock has already multiplied by starting three new congregations: Grandview Church in Mead, Keystone Church in Loveland, and Living Rock Severance in Severance. We will provide ongoing financial support to all four of these churches as they prepare to launch more new churches in that area.

We will also provide financial support for the next new church plant and its pastor. Our volunteers will serve in projects with the four existing churches, as well as, the new church plant.

Another second generation church planting partner will be Summit Community Church in Gorham, Maine, a suburb of Portland. Dawson has worked extensively with this church during the original five years of **Go Love Tell** (see “Reaching The Summit” on page 20). Now as they continue to grow and move into a new building, we will help them fulfill their passion to plant another church in their area. We will provide financial support for the new church planter to work with Summit Church for at least one year and then when the new church is launched. We will have opportunities for Dawson volunteers to go to Maine to serve with Summit Community Church and with the new church plant as they seek to reach people for Christ in one of the least Christian states in the country.

Begin praying now about how you can possibly volunteer to serve in Colorado, Maine, or the in location of our next Second Generation Church Planting Partner.



Unreached People Groups

CENTRAL ASIA

DAWSON HAS AN EXISTING PARTNERSHIP IN **CENTRAL ASIA** WITH EAST/WEST MINISTRIES THROUGH OUR PERSONAL CONNECTION WITH DAWSON MEMBERS WHO LIVE AND SERVE THERE.

These Dawson members live in a country of over 80 million people where the prevailing religion is closely tied to its national identity. Thus the overwhelming majority of people in the country identify as Muslim (more than 99%). In spite of the fact that much of the early history of the Christian church took place where they live, it is currently one of the most unreached countries in the world, with evangelicals numbering fewer than 10,000 (0.01% of the total population).

During the next phase of **Go Love Tell** (2021–2025) Dawson will expand this strategic partnership in an effort to enable our partners to increase the number of short-term volunteers working with them to strengthen their in-country personnel and expand their outreach and church planting efforts. This five-year partnership will need to involve a great number of people from the Dawson Family of Faith by volunteering and intentionally praying for the growth of the church among this unreached people group. The sidebar to the right includes a special message to Dawson from our Central Asia partners:

*To our faithful family friends,
and partners in ministry,*

Yes, this is who you are! Faithful to the Lord and faithful to us and to what the Lord is doing here among our people group! We want to share with you our profound gratitude and thanks for your commitment to seeing the lost in our People Group reached for Christ. We are keenly aware that you could be doing many other things with the resources the Lord has given you and we are privileged to serve with you. So, please know we appreciate you, we value you, and we could not be here without your prayers and support!

*Thank you!
TS & TS*



We love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19



Dawson volunteers
in Southeast Asia.

2020 STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

GRATITUDE

Giving With A Grateful Heart

2 Corinthians 9:7

Commitment Day
Sunday, November 1

Please pray about your commitment to
support God's work through Dawson.

dawsonchurch.org/commitment



Dawson Memorial Baptist Church
1114 Oxmoor Road
Birmingham, AL 35209
(205) 871-7324
dawsonchurch.org

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 2963

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

PSALMS

Songs of Hope

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

dawsonchurch.org/SongsOfHope