

*Bristol was a bustling port city, second only to Liverpool in the number of ships it serviced. Like any other English city in the early nineteenth century, it was smoky and dirty. Beggars stood on the street corners, and small dirty children weaved through the crowds, no doubt looking for a purse to snatch or pocket to pick. Yet for all its crimes and poverty, or rather because of it, George had felt that Bristol was a city he could work in, a city that needed plenty of help. (George Mueller: The Guardian of Bristol's Orphans, by Janet and Geoff Benge)*

In some ways, we can identify with this sentiment in regards to our own city. While not as “exotic” of a mission field as some, it is a city we can work in, a city that need[s] plenty of help. Oh Lord, give us faith like George Mueller!!

Since our last letter, three more mission teams ventured here from South Carolina and were a tremendous blessing to our family and church. Pictured are some team members (with the O'Donald kids) who, among many other things, set up a “Snowball Stand” giving away free snow cones each afternoon in different parts of the neighborhood and inviting folks to the next week’s youth camp.



Then, you can see a couple of shots of that youth camp which the next mission team was integral in organizing and carrying out. The Lord richly blessed that time. Our hearts are burdened to have a part in helping children and youth of our community have a better future. That necessarily begins with their own relationship with Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord, one young lady, Mia, has trusted Jesus as her Savior, and she followed Him in believer’s baptism shortly after this camp.



In October, we had two out of town mission teams helping our church have some concentrated times of learning about several topics, including ministry to our own families, dealing with struggles of depression and anxiety. We called this the Change our World Conference. They were also a great blessing in helping with projects on our building!





Austin and Meryl were blessed to attend a two-day conference put on by the North American Mission Board for all church planters in the Northeast. Held in New York City, it was a huge encouragement to our spirits and a beneficial time of corporate worship and being challenged to continue with faithful disciple-making and church planting.

Pray for us as we continue to labor in a place with some tough soil. We praise the Lord for each victory he brings- both small and large. A couple of weeks ago, a woman who is a regular face in Sunday morning worship, brought her grandson for the first time, who is about eight years old. He had never been to church before. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with him that day.

Our family is doing well and in the midst of “birthday season” right now, with all four of our children celebrating birthdays between the end of September and the end of November. What a fun time of year!

Please pray for us to have wisdom to continue into fall and head into winter strong. We are seeking God’s wisdom and guidance in making some decisions about potential new ministries, such as Celebrate Recovery, at our church. We are praising the Lord for a couple of people who have just gone through our New Members’ Class, and we pray people would continue to stay connected through our weekly Life Group, even as days get shorter and weather gets chillier.



Below: Summer of 2015 after just moving to Baltimore



Above: Summer of 2022