



AdventureServe

— MINISTRIES —

A Meeting With Our Founder by Andy Bathje



Our ministry has undergone many changes over the years. As Executive Director, I've tried to steward the essence of our founder's mission. I was able to meet with John Charles Bell in Birmingham, AL recently. John continues to be an encouraging friend of the ministry. Even after moving our base from Tennessee and re-branding the name, John would say, "An organization is like each new group of participants or summer staff crew, dynamics will change. The most important thing is loving Jesus and serving together."

You can see how much the ministry means to him on his law office walls. Memorabilia include a wooden carving of the first logo (top right), a sketch of Stone Door—a favorite wilderness feature (bottom right) and the first brochure of the ministry (bottom left); alongside artwork

from all over the world.

I told John about a few unique 2017 trips. Responding to specific interest, we will be in Pennsylvania combining missions with the Creation Festival again; in Chattanooga with a 120-person group from Tulsa; and guiding one mission trip to Costa Rica! Trinity Evangelical of Indiana had loved our trips and now want us to take them outside the U.S. By God's great design, Lisa Troyer, their former Mystery Trip director was in Costa Rica last fall and ready to plan exactly what they were looking for! Our main focus continues to be the needs and adventures of Kentucky.

John couldn't believe it, "Costa Rica – that was where we took our first international missions trip in the late 80's!" And guess what, they also served in San Jose where we are heading this summer! It was another confirmation of a continuous missional theme for over 35 years.

ASM History

Seedthought Highlight

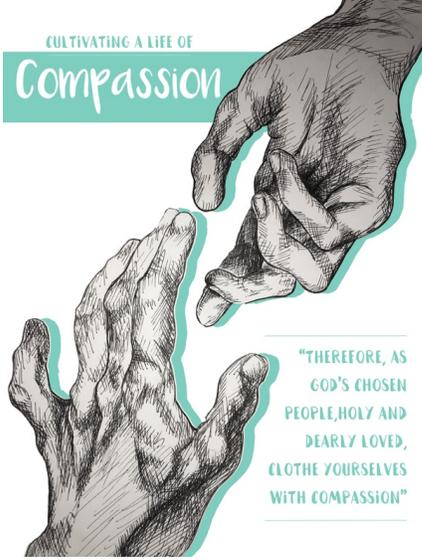
AdventureServe refers to morning devotions as Seedthought time.

We call it this because we believe at the beginning of the day a seed is planted by our efforts of taking time to pray, be present with the LORD, and study God's word. Then God takes over and begins to cultivate the ideas and lessons throughout our daily activities.

This year we are going to focus on Compassion. Through the materials of God's Word and Henri Nouwen's book *Compassion*, we will study what it means when God calls us to "suffer with" (the Latin meaning of compassion) and be moved with compassion like Jesus was moved with compassion when he touched the leper. Groups will take time to talk about how we cultivate a life of compassion.

Compassion is a word we use often in our everyday language but how often are we truly understanding what it means? Paul says "*Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion...*" (Col 3:12). Be

CULTIVATING A LIFE OF
Compassion



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clothed with compassion is to have a mentality to suffer with others.

A mentality that is so deep that the Greek verb, to be moved with compassion, refers to this desire coming from the **guts** of a person – the place where we hold our most intimate emotions. That's a pretty intense and tall order!

As supporters of AdventureServe will you please join us in praying for our groups who will be studying this idea of compassion this year. We highly recommend any of Henri Nouwen's books, especially *Compassion*. May Paul's call to be clothed with compassion hold deeper meaning in your life.

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