



BAPTIST COURIERS FOR CHRIST

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What is a CFC GO-Trip?

by Joshua Stertz

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

This command from our Saviour is just as applicable in 2026 as it was the day he spoke it to his apostles and the disciples gathered with him about 2000 years ago. I am so thankful to be the beneficiary of the hard work and effort that the senior members of Couriers for Christ have put into all the facets of this ministry throughout the years. One of the things that God gave them was the vision to start the CFC scripture distribution campaigns.

For any person who has been a team member on a past campaign, it immediately conjures up a mental picture of camaraderie between the teams, morning team meeting revival times, long days of scripture distribution, and the anticipation of the “evening with the Bible” at the close of the trip. Couriers have directed over 40 of these campaigns since 2002, and we are looking forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary of the CFC campaign next year.

However, in my relatively brief time as director, I’ve noticed some common concerns regarding our tried-and-true campaign format, which I believe necessitates an additional opportunity for service. In 2024, our pastor, Jason Brennstuhl, had a vision of a collaborative effort in the Caribbean with our local church ministries (BPS-Oshkosh, Wings as Eagles Mission Air Service, and Couriers for Christ) to do an outreach in several islands across the Caribbean. That culminated in the EPIC (Evangelizing People In the Caribbean) outreach of 2025. God used my involvement in that to work in my heart concerning a new type of outreach for the Couriers ministry. Our ministry core focus is “assisting church planting through scripture distribution,” and this new outreach fulfills that directive. Let’s explain a GO Trip in simple bullet points.

- 7 or 8 day trip (typically Monday to Monday or Monday to following Tuesday)
- Somewhere in our hemisphere (Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, etc), which will negate the time lost in travel around the world and the jet lag associated with it
- Lower cost due to proximity of air travel, shorter trip duration, and less expensive accommodations in country
- Smaller groups (likely 20-25 people max)
- Working annually with the same missionary or national pastor in their evangelistic efforts for THREE consecutive years, enabling us to develop a more personal relationship with them, their families, and their church folks
- Giving the first option to sign up for years two and three (with no obligation) to those individuals and church groups involved in the first GO Trip to a given country
- Focusing on scripture distribution in a variety of methods: youth camps, sports outreaches, youth meetings, park outreaches, street distribution, etc., and coordinating our efforts with the missionary to help him in types of outreaches that will best help him with the furtherance of the gospel
- Eventually having three different GO Trips per year between January and July with a CFC campaign in the fall primarily focused on a European city



Preaching the gospel in public schools

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1. Door to door distribution and invitations to the events of the GO Trip

2. Giving Bibles to basketball all-tournament team players

3. Kelli visiting with woman who received large-print Bible in 2025 who is still using it now

4. Preaching the gospel to this crowd who came to watch basketball tournament

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GO stands very simply for **Gospel Outreach**. We will call these according to city or country such as GO—Dominican, GO—Honduras, GO—Grenada, etc. There will be a digital sign-up area on our website (couriersforchrist.com) specifically for the GO Trips in the near future. If you are a pastor interested in taking a small group from your church on one of these GO Trips, please reach out to me at josh.stertz@gmail.com, and we can discuss future opportunities. If you are interested in participating as a team member but you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the above email.

We are NOT replacing the campaigns with GO Trips! We will continue to reach into Europe through shipping of scriptures and through holding scripture distribution campaigns with missionaries. However, we are excited to offer this new opportunity to believers across the USA that cannot take two weeks off for a campaign, or to those who find the expense to be prohibitive. It is our earnest desire to place as many scriptures as possible into the hands of those without it across the world while we can, knowing that the Holy Spirit will do a work through God's word.

“...Behold, a sower went forth to sow...”

Matthew 13:3 I love the parable of the sower, and there are so many parallels we could pull from it, but I want to focus on one found in the above verse portion. Notice that the word *went* in the English language is the simple past form of the word *go*. The command is to go, and answering that call has produced millions of believers through the centuries that went to sow the seed of the word of God in the regions beyond. We would love to have you join us on a future GO Trip for the furtherance of the gospel.



Staff Family Update

Josh and Kelli Stertz

At times it seems like the theme of ministry is organized chaos!! We pray and ask the Lord to direct our plans and schedule, and he always does. Sometimes it all goes the way we thought, and other times we have the opportunity to be flexible. In keeping with that tradition, the Josh Stertz family would like to share our highlights and misadventures from the past 12 months.

Since last year in July, our ministry travels have taken us to the states of Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. We have really enjoyed reconnecting with ministry partners and meeting new faces as we travel. We have also done outreaches (or have planned future outreaches) in Brazil, Dominican Republic, Germany, and Italy.

Zachariah turned 13 in June and will start 8th grade this fall. He participated in cross country and theater in school last year, but he really enjoys restoration projects. He is currently working on a 1983 Cub Cadet 682 for a friend of the family. Zach has become quite skilled at detailing, disassembly and reassembly, painting and polishing, and troubleshooting both body and mechanical issues. For his birthday, Josh took Zach to the races, and he fit right in talking shop with the drivers and mechanics on the pit crews.



Jonathan (Judge) just turned 16 in July and is driving.

He was eager to learn how to drive a manual transmission, so we found an old Chevy Blazer to teach him. He's already comfortable driving pretty much anything, but he's still a little intimidated by Gulliver (our giant ministry van).

Last school year he participated in football (playing defensive end), basketball, and theater. He will be entering 10th grade in the fall. Both Jonathan and Zach enjoy singing with Kelli at churches that we visit.

Claudia is 19 and works for a pediatric office in a nearby town. At church she plays the piano and runs the sound board a few times a month. At the moment she is still living at home, but we will get to enjoy that only for a short time. Claudia will be getting married in March to a young man from a church in Michigan. Devon and Claudia met doing scripture assembly and are excited to keep serving the Lord together. They are praying for a house in their price range between Grand Rapids and Holland, and Claudia will need to find a new job once she moves there.

Caleb is getting married on August 29 to Faith, a nurse and pianist from a nearby church. They purchased a home that needed a lot of work both inside and out. Our whole family, Faith's family, and many friends have been helping with the cleanout and repairs. Our boys



have had a lot of learning opportunities! Most projects encounter delays, and this is no exception. Thus, we are down to the wire in getting it ready for them to move in at the end of the month. Caleb works for a window and door business as an installer. On Wednesday nights he is the song leader at church, and he teaches junior church on Sundays. He has a few classes left to complete his associates degree in Bible at our local church (Wyldeewood Baptist Bible Institute). We are so happy that God has blessed our two older kids with spouses that love the Lord and are faithfully serving him.

Kelli enjoys being Josh's right-hand girl in the work of the ministry. She spent some of her time at home this year doing yard work or projects at Caleb's house. She doesn't get to work much at the hospital, but she does get to substitute teach a few times a month at the Christian school the boys attend. This spring she was the volunteer music director for the school play, which turned out really well despite her limited availability between traveling. Her knee still misbehaves (official diagnosis is arthritis), but it hasn't prevented her from hiking the streets of the mission field with 30 pounds of John and Romans on her back.



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Josh Stertz
FAMILY
UPDATE

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Josh has stayed busy as the director of Couriers, asking God for wisdom to guide our ministry to the people and places he would desire. He was invited to visit friends in Israel in December and really enjoyed seeing the cities from the Bible come to life. In May Josh was picking up a heavy object and tore his left bicep tendon. This led to a surgical repair in early June (which only slowed him down a little bit during our campaign in Germany). We are praying that he would regain full function and sensation in his left arm, and it is improving at a pace the surgeon is quite impressed with. Most of his free time over the last 12 months has been spent helping Caleb with house projects, keeping our vehicles in tip-top shape, teaching the boys how to use power tools, and investing in relationships with other men at church.

We covet your prayers as we step into the next phase of parenting--helping our children as they begin their own families. Our calendar is filling up with more ministry meetings, plus trips to Italy, Canada, Dominican Republic, and Serbia, according to the Lord's direction. There will be chaos and interruptions ahead, but we know that the one we serve will get the glory for all we do in his name.



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