

TECH



INTERCESSOR

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVING

When sharing the need, availability and opportunities to use their technical and creative skills in the context of missions, Birne Wiley reports that he often hears, "I had no idea those kind of situations existed!"

The opportunities for volunteer, short-term and full-time service are numerous. The following story highlights how the Lord led in the life of Les Brown who serves effectively as the Manager of Missionary TECH Team's Facilities Planning group while still maintaining his livelihood within the 'business world.'

Les Brown shares his journey . . .

My interest in missions really started when I was a young child. I saw pictures and heard stories from missionaries who came to our church's annual missions conference. Occasionally one would stay at our home while they were in town and I'd get to meet them up close and personal.

In my growing up years, I was most interested in building or repairing things that didn't work. I enjoyed math and science, and loved mechanical drawing classes. I studied engineering in college. After graduating, I wasn't exactly sure what to do. I had several job opportunities with international corporations, but decided to stay at home in upstate New York and work for my Dad who was a mechanical contractor, designing and installing heating and air conditioning systems. I had the opportunity to

attend the Urbana '79 Missions Conference and was really challenged by the speakers to consider serving the Lord in missions. However, I wasn't sure how or where. I attended a session that addressed "Architects and Engineers in Missions" led by an architect from Missionary TECH Team. He told of the need for architects and engineers to design buildings for missions around the world. That was the first time I heard that engineers could be used in missions. That captured my interest! Later, I made a trip to visit friends in Texas and made a side trip to Longview to visit Missionary TECH Team. I spoke with Birne Wiley and Dave Carnahan about TECH and what being a missionary there really entailed. I learned that it was more than just wanting to design facilities. It also meant a higher level of commitment to serving the Lord and total dependence upon the Lord to provide financial support. It became evident to me that I did not have the level of spiritual maturity required for full time mission service. Therefore, I submitted information to become a part-time volunteer.

Later that year I decided to move to Texas, near my friends in the Dallas/Fort Worth area,



Les reviewing design documents

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Less discussing project involvement with Jim Englund

and see if I could find employment in the then booming Texas economy. I found work with an engineering firm and settled there.

A year later I got a call from the Volunteer Coordinator at TECH, asking if I'd be willing to do the mechanical engineering design for a jungle hospital

in Shell, Ecuador. Of course I would. He sent me plans, I did the engineering design, marked up the drawings accordingly and sent them back. That was the first of dozens of TECH projects I worked on over the next several years. I helped on projects for Wycliffe Bible Translators, JAARS, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Rio Grande Bible Institute, Word of Life Conference Center, and many others. It was a tremendous feeling, to be able to use my engineering abilities and be a part of the Team in meeting the facilities needs of these ministries. It was a real blessing to know that the Lord was using me to help meet the needs of other ministries.

My professional engineering career continued to develop as I did mechanical engineering design on large and complex building projects. In 1992, I became a founding partner in a new engineering firm that has enjoyed the Lord's blessing and has grown steadily. At the same time, I continued to be drawn toward my volunteer missions work. I wondered if there was a way that I could increase my involvement, perhaps even to a full-time level. I just wasn't able to find a solution to how I could make it all work, to meet the needs of my growing family, my career, and also be able to increase my involvement in missions.

I visited the TECH office again to meet with Birne Wiley. Perhaps he would know the answer. During our meeting in 2003, he said that it looked like the Lord was at work in my life, and that perhaps I should let the Lord provide the solution. That seemed to make sense to me. During our visit, he invited me to attend the next Board meeting for the Mission that would allow a complete picture of TECH, rather than the limited view I had

from involvement in facilities design projects. Perhaps involvement on the Board would be a possible way to expand my involvement.

I attended the Board meeting in March of 2004 and did get a larger view of TECH and its inner workings and needs. One need I was drawn to was that for the past year, the Facilities Planning group had been without a resident Manager. Over the course of my career, I had experience in managing engineering projects, engineering departments, and an engineering company. Perhaps I could help in this area, but this would require more involvement than I could give as a volunteer in a location remote from the TECH office.

Then the Lord brought to my mind the new policy we had developed in our engineering firm allowing principals in the firm to take extended periods of time off. That provision allowed a principal to take off up to 40% of the regular work schedule. In my mind that could relate to two days per week. It seemed this was the opportunity for which I had been praying. Therefore, in June of 2004, I began to spend two days per week at TECH's office. At the end of 2004, some of the other principals in the engineering firm expressed that they never intended the new policy to allow for this much time out of the office. They would not have objection to my continuing this work schedule as long as I stepped down from my position as principal, sold my ownership in the firm, and reduced my pay to a part-time salary. Believing that the Lord wanted me to continue my involvement with TECH, I made the necessary adjustments to my employment agreement, and have since continued my weekly involvement in the TECH office.

I'm thankful the Lord has given me opportunity to serve as a part time volunteer for nearly 35 years. The opportunity to put my engineering background and experience to work in serving the needs of other ministries who are serving the Lord all over the world is most rewarding!

“It was a tremendous feeling, to be able to use my engineering abilities and be a part of the Team in meeting the facilities needs of these ministries.”



Les interacting with mission intern Juan Bastardo

Our prayer is that this Intercessor article on how the Lord led Les Brown will challenge and encourage you to prayerfully consider how the Lord could use you, your skill set, and giftedness . . . hopefully within Missionary TECH Team! If you would like to explore how the Lord might use you, your skill set and giftedness in ministry, please contact Birne Wiley at bwiley@techteam.org or Randy Harris at rharris@techteam.org

TECH INTERCESSOR



"Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:17-19 (ESV)



1. Matt & Molly Ackerman (Sam & Suzanne) - We are thrilled with the talented group of staff and volunteers God has assembled here at MTT, but know we could have an even greater impact and meet even more needs with an expanded team. Please pray with us for an additional architect and structural engineer to join our team full-time.

2. Software updates are needed to stay relevant in today's technical world. Pray that we would have the capacity to maintain a high level of technology and know how to better help the churches and mission organizations we are privileged to serve.



3. Doug Shively - I would like us to pray for our summer interns. We don't have a completed list yet, but God knows who they are even before we ask Him. They have always been a big blessing to us. Lord willing, they will be able to help us, and we will be able to help them as well.

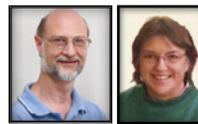


4. James & Ruth Wood - I have worked in two departments of TECH. In both areas I have seen and felt the need for a person with writing skills. Pray with us that God will fulfill this need in His time.

5. Pray for the potential interns who will join us in the months ahead. They bring a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm and are excited to serve. Our desire is to see them grow in the understanding of their specific skill set and, more importantly, strengthen their walk with the Lord.



6. Dan & Renee Harding (Jonathan, Ruth, Bethany, Grace, Sarah, Philip, & Nathanael) - Please pray for God's direction in finalizing the plans of interns who have expressed a desire to serve in the Computer Services department this summer.



7. David & Nancy Leventry (Tim) - We are grateful that our current digital printer has performed well for many years. Pray with us as we look into replacing it. This is a major expense, and we are trusting the Lord to provide the necessary resources in order to serve our sister ministries well through Graphic Services.

8. We recognize our ultimate dependency on God's leading of Missionary TECH Team. We want to be highly sensitive to hear His voice and quickly respond. We sense the days are short before His return, and we desire to serve Him to our utmost.

9. Graphic Services - Graphic Services does work that requires equipment, printers, vinyl cutter, laminate press, and more. We give praise and thanks that we have the needed equipment to do the work, and we know that He will supply new items as needed.



10. Les & Gina Brown - We continue to pray for additional architects and engineers to join the Facilities Planning team. Pray that the Lord would work in the lives of those professionals that could retire early and use their professional skills to serve the Lord here at TECH.



11. Patrick & Hannah Schnell (Emogene) - The Technical Library in Facilities Planning is a valuable resource for building codes, cost estimating data, planning information, construction details, and other technical data. Many of these resources need to be updated in order to stay current with present day technologies and building code requirements. Please pray that the Lord would make the resources available to update our library materials.

12. The Lord has blessed us abundantly with a facility and with equipment that we use for His glory. Pray that we would not become comfortable and content with what we have, but we would press on to increase our opportunities to reach the lost for Christ worldwide.



13. Ken & Katie Selden - We were privileged to witness GOD's grace as Dennis (our brother-in-law) was allowed ample opportunity to talk, witness and pray with family, friends, colleagues and students as he prepared to go home to be with our Lord (on February 2nd). *"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; My God; in Him I will trust.'"* Psalm 91:1-2.

14. Computer Services - PRAISE! Thanks to Renee Harding we are getting some very thorough testing of our software done. She is coming in on a weekly basis and finding many, many items that our users won't have to report!

15. We are often approached by a church or mission that has a dilemma or specific situation that needs resolved. Pray that God would grant us insight to help solve those issues and the ability to clearly communicate a plan of action.



16. Birne & Lynella Wiley - God has graciously provided finances both personally and corporately for TECH for 47 years. What a blessing and encouragement as our loving Father has confirmed the validity of this ministry. It is a distinct blessing that TECH is able to underwrite the full medical sharing program for all staff. This is a significant monthly expense, and we would be blessed to have additional financial partners in underwriting this program.



17. Teri Comroe (Brenna) - The challenge we face in technical missions is to balance the need for reliable and efficient equipment with wise use of funds. Our particular field is subject to an ever increasing scrutiny of excellence. Please help us pray as we research needed equipment to match the wonderful work the Lord has called us to.

18. The Lord is opening many doors of service opportunities for folks who are just learning of TECH. We ask the Lord

for wisdom as we strive to plug these folks into the work load. Along with that, pray that we would discern how to balance the project requests.



19. Bill & Joyce Daniel (Paul) - Many times when our facilities planning staff are working on projects, particularly projects with tight deadlines, we miss not having a full complement of engineers (structural, civil, electrical, etc.) in our Longview office. This causes delay and more complexity in completing the projects. Please pray the Lord would bless us and those we serve by bringing missionaries with these skills to TECH. The salvation of multitudes may depend on it.



20. Gene & Maxine Williams - The Ministry Development Services of Missionary TECH Team is in the initial stages of planning and promoting a training symposium to help mission organizations and churches develop resources to be used in expanding and facilitating their ministries. Pray and ask God to give wisdom to all those who are involved in the planning and promotion of the event.

- 21.** Pray for our Board and Staff as we continue the process of leadership transition. The transition has a big impact on all levels of the ministry. Our desire is to see God glorified in this process. We believe that will happen and are praying and working to that end.
- 22. Mechanical Services** - We continue to pray for a coordinator and full-time mechanic. We are also praying that God would give clear direction in the days ahead as we strive to continue this vital service to missionaries home on furlough. Our current staff are stretched to the limit in trying to keep this service functional.
- 23.** We have spent the last several months working through our vision statement. Our vision is to be the service mission like-minded Christian ministries may turn to for technical assistance and know-how. Pray that we would be renewed and energized in the days ahead as we seek to win the lost through the technical skills God has entrusted us with. And, pray that our gaze would be fixed on the end results – many coming to know the Savior.



24. Bob & Jan Schill - Thank You, Lord, for the overflowing blessings of equipment, personnel and finances You have given us at TECH to use in serving others for Your glory! May we use these diligently for Your service as resources to continue to honor and glorify You through Missionary TECH Team. The King will reply, *"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me."* Matthew 25:40. Help us to do more as we yield ourselves to You.

- 25. Facilities Planning** - We are thankful for our Mechanical Engineering Intern, Amanda Lefever, who has provided much needed help with developing mechanical designs for several building projects. Pray that the Lord would continue to send interns and volunteers as needed to complete the project load to which we have already committed.
- 26.** Some of our staff are battling life threatening diseases. Please pray with us that God would show Himself strong on their behalf. Our desire is that the staff would grow as a Team as we walk this path with them and share in their burdens.



27. Joel Kreider - As a team, our desire is to provide effective, professional results for the ministries we serve. In order for us to expand into potential avenues of ministry, this will

most likely involve newer skill sets and some newer faces. We covet wisdom in finding ways to make our presence known to those with a heart to serve. *"With Him are wisdom and might; To Him belong counsel and understanding."* Job 12:13.

- 28.** We request prayer specifically for our annual Board meeting to be held here in Longview March 26-28. We certainly need God's wisdom as we seek His direction for the days ahead. Pray with us that we would be quick to hear His voice in all our deliberations.



29. Tim & Kay Meadows (Alex) - Pray along with us for more staff in Computer Services. We need one more full-time person who can do demos, installations, training and support of our software.



30. Randy & Connie Harris - We are looking to the Lord to provide personnel in the area of administration. There is a real need for a bookkeeper, and a representation/public relations person. God continues to give us many opportunities to share TECH's story and serve around the world reaching many for Him.

- 31.** We ask the Lord to provide safety as many of our staff will travel for deputation, projects, and representation of the Mission. Our desire is to reflect the Lord Jesus to those we come in contact with and to be faithful to His calling in our lives.

Urgent Need....TECH has identified six specific full-time staff needs: registered architect, civil engineer, computer software person, graphic artist, writer, and mechanic. We also see the need of additional full-time staff in administration areas. We have many positions open and are praying that God will fill them soon.

Because You Prayed...

-  We continue to make contacts in universities to look for summer interns. There are many conversations taking place and much enthusiasm as we anticipate the summer months.
-  God is working in and amongst us in our day-to-day activities. In the last *Intercessor*, many requested prayer for their daily walk with Christ. There is a terrific spirit at TECH as we are passionate about serving Him.
-  God continues to grant us favor and wisdom in dealing with the variety of projects around the globe. Thousands of folks have made life changing decisions because of the work of TECH.
-  God continues to answer prayer on behalf of our staff who are battling significant health issues.

