



### The Foothills Flyer: *Keeping the Church on Mission*

## Engage Global Trip - Minneapolis

Value: Global Missions

by Pastor Joe Eastman

Last month a small group from Foothills took a trip to Minneapolis to experience a “Muslim exposure trip.” The purpose of the trip was to “expose” some of the people in the church to Muslim culture and religion, a

crash-course in Islamic relations. The trip was a fast paced week filled with all kinds of interesting cultural exchanges and experiences. It was filled with thought provoking content, delicious food, and much conversation. While we were there we

ate Somalian and Afghan food, visited a Somali museum, crashed a traditional Somali wedding, visited a Mosque, had a question and answer session with an Imam, visited a Somali market, a worldwide market, attended class session, workshops, and had numerous conversations with Muslims and those reaching out to them. During the week not only did I learn some very important things about Islamic and Somalian culture but I also learned some very important things about God, myself, and the team which I was a part of.

Regarding Islam, the most interesting thing I learned was how ingrained it is culturally to the people I met. Whether they practiced it or not, they considered themselves Muslim. For them being Muslim isn’t something you do it is something you are. They can participate in the religion or not but they are still Muslim. As a matter of fact when my son asked the Imam (Islamic Pastor) if he believed Christians go to Hell, he responded that even bad Muslims can get out of Hell, but Christians cannot.

While there are many similarities between Islam AND Christianity, this one foundational difference is like night and day. For them you can be good on the outside and bad on the inside and it doesn’t matter. The Imam himself told us that you can think whatever you want and it’s not a sin, it’s only when you actually do it. It reminded me of Jesus when he rebuked the Pharisees for being “white washed sepulchers” clean on the outside but inside full of decay. It really made me feel sorry for those who are in bondage to a religion that keeps them from ever really being changed and which asks for them to do the impossible and punishes them when they can’t. Not only did we interact with Muslim people and Islam (by the way Islam is the religion and the people who follow Islam are Muslims) but we also spent significant time looking at what the



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Bible says as far as our mandate to reach the unreached.

The organization who hosted us, “Engage Global”, has an emphasis on the 10/40 window. They reminded us how many unreached people there still are in that part of the world and reminded us that the mandate to reach ALL nations, peoples, tribes and tongues is still on the table. For me, it was a good reminder that we are to proactively be about God’s business, even for those of us who aren’t specifically called to be missionaries, and that everyone has a part to play in helping God’s story play out to reach all nations for Him.

Finally, I want to mention our team. We were led by Tom Routsen and Lisa Myer Hagen and it was really a blessing to be able to spend some time getting to know them more. They did a great job interacting with the kids and in administering the trip and I know that the success of the trip was due in large part to their work. Moreover, I was impressed by the youth. Overall, they showed a real heart for the lost. They all worked to engage people and took seriously the entire experience. It was awesome to watch them engage with people, with the material and with God and I can’t wait to see how God uses them to impact the world.

# Welcoming Guests - Baked Goods

Value: Hospitality Without Exception

by Melissa Eastman

Many of you may know that Joe and I (Melissa) were some of the very first people baptized here at Foothills current location. But, what you may not know, is that our baptism came after visiting several months earlier. When we visited Foothills for the first time, we were greeted with two things that really made an impression on us: Nice greeters and baked goods! When we got home, we enjoyed the banana bread and remembered feeling at “home”. Our visit didn’t feel like we were just walking into a building of worship, but it felt like a place where “FAMILY” worships together.

Fast forward about 14 years later when we found ourselves back at Foothills again, the very first sermons we heard from Mike were about hospitality, or Philoxenia, which means “to love strangers” in Greek. That word has stuck with me as I minister to people I don’t know, desiring that they feel welcomed, as if they are not strangers, but part of the family of God! ENTER OPPORTUNITY!!!>>>> Lately, our church has been blessed with a fairly steady stream of visitors. While we all agree that our greeters do a fantastic job every Sunday, (THANK YOU, by the way!) I think that if our visitors also leave with something delicious in hand that it will just add a little something extra. Like a “welcome home hug” if you will. So, in that spirit, we are offering a tangible opportunity for you to serve in the way of philoxenia here at our church!

I am looking for anyone who would be willing to bake some cookies, small cakes, or any delicious baked goods (some gluten free ones as well), to have on hand to be given out to visitors to leave them with that little extra feeling of “welcome to the family”. Keep in mind, that we want baked goods that can be easily distributed, and stay fresh for a week or so. Once we get all the willing hearts on board, we can work out a baking rotation schedule of some sort! If you would like to be a part of this ministry, there will be a sign up sheet in the foyer, and you can talk to Melissa Eastman, or email [jmkd811@yahoo.com](mailto:jmkd811@yahoo.com), if you have any questions.



# International Student Ministries

Value: Unity in Community

by Pastor Joe Eastman

One of the things I am looking forward to this summer is the Engage Global trip. On this trip I hope to be able to bring some of the experience and wisdom which we will gain back to the church. I hope to do this in order to share with you all so that as a church we can gain something of a feel for life in North Africa and our personal place in the mission to reach our Muslim friends there.

In our church, however, we have a fantastic opportunity to get involved with Muslim people and you don't even have to leave the comfort of your city. The opportunity is to participate and help with International Student Ministries. In case you didn't know, this ministry works by ministering to University students who attend UNM from all over the world. The ministry conducts Bible studies, builds relationships and connects students with friend and host families. It is essentially taking advantage of the fact that the world comes here to study, and that when students come they are in great need of someone to be their friend. Moreover, since these students are away from their parent's culture, they are often open to new ideas and thoughts, such as the Gospel.

God has always had a special place in His heart for the traveler and the lonely. May we duplicate his heart by considering ministry to those who have come here leaving all they know and come to a new place in the hopes of building better lives for themselves and a better future. Considering that many of these students actually end up going home taking what they have learned back to their home countries, and because of their education, often end up as leaders in their communities. Imagine the opportunity we have to show them the love of Christ without ever leaving home and make lasting impacts which will change their lives and ours.

Right now is a great time for you to get on board with ISM. This summer there will be several opportunities for you to get involved with this Great Commission focused ministry. So, if you're gifted at all in evangelism, helping, hospitality, or just want to make a difference, please consider getting involved.

## Schedule

**July 19th/ August 2** - training/ orientation at Foothills

**August 2, 9, 16** - Students will be visiting Foothills (great time for the church to flex its hospitality muscles)

**August** - Welcome parties at various locations (ISM could use help with these)

**August 15** - ISM picnic at UNM

The Foothills Flyer is a monthly newsletter under the oversight of Pastor Joe Eastman and designed by Rachel Gard that is aimed at Keeping the Church on Mission and committed to our 9 Core Values.

**OUR MISSION:** Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshipping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally and globally.

**OUR CORE VALUES:** 1) Jesus Christ, the Head 2) Biblical Leadership 3) Everyone A Minister 4) Ancient/Future Worship 5) Hospitality Without Exception 6) Unity in Community 7) Intentional Families 8) Global Missions 9) Holistic Discipleship