



## THE GIFT OF EMPOWERMENT

### NOTES:

**Matthew 6:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> "This, then, is how you should pray:

    "Our Father in heaven,  
    hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
    your will be done,

    on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
    as we also have forgiven our  
    debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from the evil one.'

**"We know we have succeeded when children  
begin to stand up and find their voice."**

– Reegan Kaberia, Chief Program Officer, ZOE Kenya



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## ZOE Vision

Our vision is to see a world where all orphans and vulnerable children become secure, healthy, connected, and able to care for themselves and their siblings.



## ZOE Motivation

We are motivated by the Biblical call for Christians to help one another. ZOE reaches out in love to all vulnerable children and those wishing to partner with them, regardless of their beliefs, so they may experience the love of God with physical, social, psychological, and spiritual healing.



Group Formation



Food Security



Secure Housing



Healthcare/Hygiene



Child Rights



Education



Income Generation



Community Connections



Spiritual Development



Rev. Gaston Warner is an elder in the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Gaston has led congregations in inner-city, multi-ethnic, and suburban settings, from Chicago to Bristol, England. He has consulted with and served on a number of non-profit boards and as staff for Habitat for Humanity, Duke Divinity School, and Duke University Chapel. Gaston

joined ZOE as a board member in 2007 and currently serves as CEO.

Zoe currently facilitates the empowerment of over twenty-eight thousand orphans and vulnerable children in seven countries and across three continents including: Africa, Asia, and Central America. Gaston earned a BA from Brown University; an MDiv from Duke Divinity School, and an MBA from The University of Durham in England. He lives outside of Abbott, TX (population: 356) with his spouse, the Rev. Dr. Lacey Warner, who teaches at Duke University Divinity School, their daughter Clare, and various pets and livestock.

**Day with Dads – Kewanee:** Providing incarcerated dads with the opportunity to interact directly with their children in a variety of fun and tactile environments.

Over 100 dads spending one-one time with their kids is the HUGE win for all!

This is moving to twice/year due to the great need and awesome success.

**Esperanza Center:** Faithfully providing a center for community collaboration.

Over 20 different partners utilized the space in 2018.

Hundreds of families supported and empowered through relationship.

**Esperanza Bus Stop:** 30 unique children provided with a safe space to prep for school.

7 of 14 needed volunteers love and serve these kids each morning.

Bus tokens, breakfast and free hugs given...all before the bus arrives!

**Esperanza Legal Assistance Center:** Serving 260+ clients from 33 different countries.

Over 50 successful cases; 42 cases pending.

20+volunteers serve in a variety of crucial roles.

**Jefferson Food Pantry:** Serving 30 different families and 170 individuals/pantry.

20+ volunteers staff this needed team each pantry.

Praying for and encouraging each family that we love!

**Mobile food pantry – Esperanza Center:** Awesome family-serve opportunity.

381 different families served in 2018; Over 40 volunteers/pantry.

Almost 27,000 lbs. of food given to food-insecure families!

**RI County Jail:** Weekly commitment to create space for men and women to have Christ-centered connection in the jail.

4 teams/2 each weekly for group interaction; About 20 people ministered to weekly.

**Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch** - Encouraging the caregivers who are providing Christian homes for abused, neglected and at-risk children in Missouri. Supporting the holistic mission of meeting the spiritual, emotional, educational, social and physical needs of each child.

2 leaders and 14 team members lived SENT this summer as they travelled to be present.

**Sunshine Gospel Ministries** - Connecting Heritage with people from different backgrounds in Chicago to promote shared understanding of the unique challenges facing inner-city communities through active learning engagement.

5 leaders & 14 students crossed this relational bridge in July 2018.

**Teacher Encouragement Partners:** Monthly encouragement opportunity as we support teachers serving in tough environments.

Jefferson - 47/73 teachers/staff matched

Thurgood Marshall - 18/40 teachers/staff matched

Lincoln-Irving - 0/28 teachers/staff matched

**Thurgood Marshall Market:** Serving 24 unique (large) family groups each month.

Addition of hygiene items through our GoKids partnership.

Love and encouragement supplied in abundance.

## Now What? [For Further Reflection]:

:: Read Matthew 6:5-14.

:: Share a time when you experienced a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

:: What does provision of 'daily bread' look like for you?

:: How does forgiveness extended in both directions impact our provision in this prayer?

:: What are some of the distinct characteristics of the Zoe model of child empowerment?

:: Discuss the difference between relief and empowerment.

:: What are some of the inherent challenges in making this important shift?

:: What is one thing that jumped out to you from the sermon this weekend?

:: What is your response to that insight?

:: You are invited to continue to pray John Wesley's Covenant prayer every day this week and record how God answers this prayer in your life.

:: As we continue to lean into our Go.Be.Love. series, we invite you to prayerfully consider how God might want you to engage personally with bringing The Gift of Presence/Empowerment/Love to our corporate spaces of engagement.

:: Identify someone you trust and ask them to pray for you and hold you accountable as you do this.

Lord, hear our prayers...  
"I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, rank me  
with whom you will.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by you or laid  
aside for you,  
Exalted for you or brought low by  
you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have  
nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to  
your pleasure and disposal."  
-Wesley's Covenant Prayer

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## How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

**Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness.  
I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I recognize  
you as my Savior; and I offer all that I am to you as my LORD.  
Help me to faithfully follow you until the end of the fight.  
In Your name, Amen.**

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].  
Gaston Warner & Beth Cossin (@bthcoss) – November 10 & 11, 2018

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