

inspire

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

FALL 2018

Hello!

That's a word you see a lot of now at Wayzata Community Church, along with vivid colors, new brochures, engagement cards, new signage, and much more yet to come.

So why all the change?

It all started early this year when WCC clergy began reviewing the best practices of other churches similar in size to WCC. These churches are drawing large numbers of people and families of all ages to their services every Sunday, but *why*?

To answer this question, a group of over 30 WCC clergy, staff, and lay leaders took part in "Operation Imagination", an effort to determine best practices churches use to build community in the Twin Cities area.

Clergy assigned small groups to independently attend churches of similar size, but of many different Christian faiths in the metro area. Their assignment was to observe the different ways that these churches: welcomed visitors, practiced hospitality, created their physical layout, registered children, created and displayed communication materials, church service content, amenities, and more. Here are some of the key things we learned:

WELCOME & HOSPITALITY

For most of the churches:

- *Parking greeters, multiple door and inside member-greeters gave a proper welcome to everyone. For those who asked for our*



“

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

— Margaret Mead

”

{ CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 }

grow

Hello!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

name, they remembered it after the service, and searched for us to see if we enjoyed the service!

- Space for fellowship and connection.
- After service, a five-minute welcome area was designated to learn more about the church. Then if you were still interested, yet another class or tour was offered at that time with more information. "Next steps" were clearly communicated.

Clearly, this area stood out loud and clear. WCC must do a better job of welcoming guests and new members, while promoting a clear message about our church. For welcoming, we started with our new Hello areas at each entrance. Each has a kiosk with new brochures and engagement cards to help people get involved.

The clergy do a seven-minute welcome talk after each service in the "Hello Spot" in Founders Hall for visitors. It's an opportunity to talk with clergy or someone who is up-to-date on all WCC programs and ministries.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Fun and safety are the keys to describe the Children's Ministries at these churches. Bright colors, clearly marked areas, well established security protocol, inviting conversation areas, and exciting new programs were key in drawing new families to these churches.

Beginning this fall at WCC, we have a new Children's Ministry program that combines child development and theology to create a comprehensive strategy to help children develop a deeper faith, build stronger relationships, and make wiser choices.

In addition to our colorful new "Hello Spot", clearly marked signage and a colorful directional stripe help families find their way from the east to west entrances. Most importantly, we have a new child security protocol that ensures the safety of every child who is registered at our church.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS & COMMUNICATION

"Less is more" defines the written materials that these churches offered. Each piece defines the group and invites the reader to contact the program leader to get involved. Kiosks by the Welcome area filled with cards invite visitors to participate in groups and programs. Their websites were designed with the visitor in mind, streamlined with minimal copy, and always include a contact for more information.

The communications team reviewed all the print materials collected from the other churches. From those materials, we determined key topics and how they categorized the various areas of their churches. At the same time we developed a survey to better understand how visitors and members alike use the information we currently have available.



“ We developed our four new paths: Worship, Grow, Serve, and Community. ”

From these results, we developed our four new paths: Worship, Grow, Serve, and Community. Every piece of communication, from our welcome brochure to our new quarterly catalog, give the reader information about events, programs, and ministry information specific to that area, and a contact person.

In addition, we are currently assessing other communications like the Wednesday Weekly Message and the monthly *Inspire!* to improve content, design and purpose. Prior to Easter, we will launch our new website and App with a bold new look, creative content, and ease of use... and our 9:00 a.m. Sunday service is streamed live on Facebook!

All of this and more is coming to make your worship more spiritual, grow your knowledge, experience the joy of serving, and build a stronger community. Together, we are Wayzata Community Church.



FOR THE MOMENT

REV. DR. JOHN ROSS
SENIOR MINISTER

Proving Jesus Wrong

"You will always have the poor among you..."
— Jesus of Nazareth (John 12)

After a dinner in Jesus's honor in the home of his friend Lazarus (previously deceased), Mary pours a pint of very expensive perfume all over Jesus' feet and rubs it in using her hair as a rag. Judas accuses her of wasteful behavior, claiming that the perfume could have been sold for a large sum of money that could have been given to the poor. Jesus silences Judas and says: *"You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."*

These are among Jesus' most famous words. It's very likely that they are familiar to many of you. And, these words are often used to excuse tight-fistedness and justify indifference toward the poor. But now, these words of Jesus are being put to the test!

The Global Summit of Opportunity International (a WCC mission partner) was recently held in Minneapolis. The singular vision of this organization, that serves the poorest of the poor in 22 countries, is this: ***"The worldwide eradication of extreme poverty in our lifetime."*** It appears our purpose is to prove Jesus wrong! Or perhaps, Jesus meant something different from what we've always assumed. I believe he did.

I think it's possible that Jesus was prompting a response from the people in the room that day— a response that came directly from scripture. A response like ours every Sunday when clergy asks, "What does the Lord require of us?", and all together, the gathered congregation answers: "...do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God."

Remember: Jesus was a Jew, as were most of his followers. They didn't have printed Bibles or an App on their phones. Beyond the temple it was an entirely oral tradition. They knew these words from Deuteronomy 15 by heart: ***"For the poor you will always have with you... Therefore, You shall open wide your hand to your brother/sister, to the needy and to the poor, in your land."***

Without even saying the words himself, but by prompting his followers to remember the command from scripture, Jesus prompts us to open wide our hands to the needy and to the poor in our land. May this season of thanksgiving and gift-giving be shaped by the joy of giving our hearts to those in need. Who knows... maybe we'll even prove Jesus wrong.

For the moment,

John



Polite Conversations

THINGS WE DON'T TALK ABOUT AT DINNER PARTIES

Jesus talked more about money than any other single topic. Jesus was deeply engaged in the politics of His time. Jesus was a devout, practicing Jew.

Respecting the wide diversity of opinions and beliefs held by members of WCC, we will explore the place and importance of money and politics in a life of faith— without espousing particular positions on specific issues. Join us for this new Sermon Series beginning in November.

ON A MISSION



I'm going to let you in on a little secret that I've learned while working at a church. Sometimes when you are busy "planning" the God moments for other people, you forget to leave margin for God in your own life.

Well, at least this is something that I have come to realize for myself.

It might be because I'm a planner or because I'm an achiever or because I struggle with slowing down, but this summer, I definitely was blessed by God in unexpected ways when life was hard.

**BY CHRISTA WORKMON
MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

it an incredible week for our kids.

They gave me margin to let me see that God was walking this journey with me. That God was saying, "Let them cook dinner tonight. Take my hand. Walk away. Enjoy being present with the incredible youth. Go take a moment to call your husband. Go sit."

During the last week of July, I, along seven other adult leaders, had the pleasure of taking 25 Middle Schoolers to Fargo/Moorhead and Fergus Falls for our Middle School Mission Trip. It was a week of joy, of serving others, of renewed hope and of love. As I write this, the metal ring of my bracelet that says HOPE continues to make noise on my laptop. These bracelets were made at the end of the week by all trip participants to remember how they were feeling. My feeling was a renewed sense of hope.

I like to think I'm a pretty hopeful and joyful person, but this summer took me on a ride I wasn't prepared for. After receiving the joyful news at the start of June that Mitch and I were going to have a baby, three days before we left for the mission trip I found myself in the hospital having surgery to have a miscarriage, after we found out the pregnancy wasn't viable. But, I decided to go ahead and go on the trip, as I realized that each of these middle school kids was somebody's miracle baby. I would get to love and support healthy kids in a way that I never had seen them before I had this new lens.

I knew that I was blessed by the adult leaders but I didn't know that these adults would make it emotionally (and physically!) possible for me to still lead the Middle School Mission Trip. Leading up to the trip, they cared for me with hugs and time spent helping me pull things together. They made sure I didn't lift anything too heavy. They gave me time when I needed it during the week. They read my mind of what was next and what needed to happen to make

As a whole group we were blessed by the people we served during the week. The Great Plains Food Bank gives food to the Emergency Food Pantry in town and the Ronald McDonald House and CHARISM gets food from the Emergency Food Pantry, so we got to see all the steps in the process of food sharing. We were in awe to see how many people were helping to make sure their neighbors got to eat every day.

“As a whole group we were blessed by the people we served. We were in awe to see how many people were helping to make sure their neighbors got to eat every day.”

One of our group's favorite projects was at a place called Ruby's Pantry. Each family pays \$20 to receive food each month. While we were serving, one of our Middle Schoolers, Sarah, helped a 9-year-old named Sarah who had been sent to get her family's food while her parents were at work. It was an eye-opening experience to see this young girl collecting the food for her family while our Middle Schooler helped her carry and pick out her items and make friendly conversation.

That week in northwestern Minnesota helped me to be reminded that God has big plans for all of us and that God is constantly walking this journey with us all. When we allow ourselves to pause and just be, that's when we see God's love in action.

The Sacredness of Death

BY REV. LINDY PURDY



When I was a kid, cemeteries scared me. I was nervous walking past them and terrified to walk through them. The scariest stories at sleep-overs were about cemeteries, ghosts, or spirits and usually included spooky sounds. As an adult, I was able to convince myself that cemeteries were really not scary, but they were very, very sad. They made me think about death, a topic I rigorously avoided.

What a difference a few years have made for me. These days, as Minister of Pastoral Care, death is part of my core ministry and I have the privilege of visiting cemeteries often, experiencing the presence of the great spirits of those who are buried there, and enjoying beautiful memories of lives well lived. Celebrating physical life as it comes to an end, and remembering the essence of life at the edge of the grave, are sacred and inspiring moments.

As I gather with families, we take time to remember the ordinary moments of an ordinary life, lived out in extraordinary ways. Whether a long life or a tragically short one, each life matters and deserves to be remembered and celebrated. We laugh; we cry; we remember the joy we shared with our loved ones. We have even celebrated with a 100 year old bicycle and a kite flying in the Sanctuary.

I believe what it says in the book of Hebrews, "Though he has died, yet he still speaks." People who have been with us in life still communicate messages of love and character and witness to those virtues that cannot be defeated by the grave. We continue to learn from them and use their lives as guideposts for our own. If you have the opportunity to walk through a cemetery, or sit a spell in our Columbarium, read the names of the saints who have passed through this life. Let their lives speak to you and may the peace of God be with you.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Following the 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services on All Saints Sunday, November 4, we will have a short prayer of remembrance at the Columbarium at Wayzata Community Church.



HILARY FLYNN

As most of you are aware, our Seminary Intern/Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries, Hilary Flynn, has faithfully led WCC's camp ministry for 7 years. Hilary has been at the center of this budding ministry and we are grateful for her vision and service from its inception to the present.

This fall Hilary began her final semester of seminary training. She is working, learning, and ministering fulltime as a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Intern at Abbott Northwestern Hospital.

Following this semester, Hilary will enter a process with The United Church of Christ, called "Member in Discernment" in order to be prepared and approved for ordination. Hilary will still be a member of our staff, but have no responsibilities related to WCC while working through this final year. This is an exhaustive process. We want to support her as she prepares for a call, so, we have covered everything related to our camp ministry for the short term to make certain everything moves ahead on schedule and plan to complete our long term staffing plan soon.

Of course, you will still see Hilary around as she continues to worship with us and engage in the life of WCC. Please be in prayer for her as she enters into this next phase of her seminary and ministerial journey. — *Rev. Rustin Comer*

Ken Melrose Leading by Serving



Through the generosity of many people, including Ken Melrose, we were able to complete and close out our Raise the Roof capital project earlier this year. To honor Ken's gift designated to the development of a Center

for Youth Ministry on our 3rd floor (known as "The Loft"), this area of the church will bear Ken's name and personal motto: "Leading by Serving". Special thanks to Ken and all who invest in our future through our young people!

**The Kendrick B. Melrose
Youth Ministry Center— "The Loft"
Dedicated December, 2015**

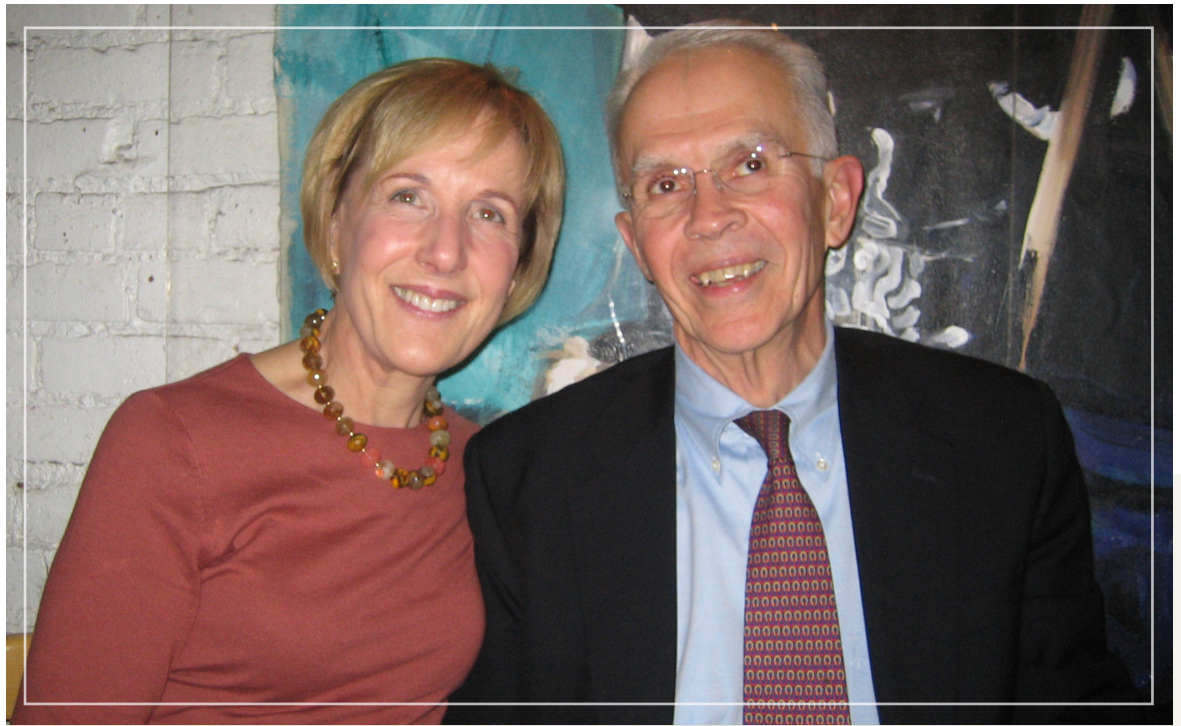
The legacy of Ken Melrose is one of servant leadership. He not only built a career on the model of servant leadership, he witnessed in Jesus. Ken built his life on this principle. It is with the hope that our youth will learn from and desire to imitate Jesus that Ken made this Youth Ministry Center possible. "The journey of leadership is about becoming and not attaining a final destination." — Ken Melrose



All Church Potluck

Join us on Sunday, November 4 for an All Church Potluck! Aimee Lee and The Snazzy Band will provide family-friendly entertainment in the Sanctuary. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the show starts at 5:30 p.m. The potluck will begin in Mithun Hall immediately after the show. All are welcome— bring a friend!

Register at
wayzatacommunitychurch.org/fallregistration



Meet the Mitchelsons

Judy and Peter Mitchelson became members of WCC in 2016, capping diverse personal and spiritual journeys. They grew up in Detroit and attended the same schools and Presbyterian Church. After high school they went their separate ways in education and in life (Peter to Canada and Judy to the west coast). Miraculously, they reunited in 1995 and are enjoying their retirement, five children, and ten grandchildren.

Judy and Peter have attended church throughout their lives, participating in several denominations. When they began attending WCC, they were greatly moved by the authentic atmosphere of openness, friendliness, and excellence throughout the preaching, music, youth activities, and fellowship. It is the combination of all of these positives that led them to join enthusiastically.

Judy and Peter were taught as children to share life's good fortunes and they have practiced this principle in three areas of special interest to them: music, education, and spirituality. They both particularly like helping small entities grow and/or expand. Peter's gift of time and talent has benefitted choral groups such as VocalEssence, as well as the Minnesota Council on Economic Education. Judy's devotion is to Francaise (AF) in Minneapolis and Mes Amis French School in Hopkins. The couple's love for supporting growth opportunities takes root and blossoms in the spiritual area, as well, with their support of WCC's Raise the Roof Campaign and the Cranberry Ridge housing development.

The Mitchelsons strongly believe that joining Wayzata Community Church is one of the best decisions they have ever made.

GENEROSITY



The last three years have been very significant in the life of our church: from completing our "Raise the Roof" capital improvement project, to hiring top-talent staff in every area of the church— clergy, education, and music. Building on our strong foundation, we are well-positioned for the future. We have great opportunities ahead of us as we open our hearts, open our hands, and open our doors! There are three critical areas of need before us:

Open our hearts...to our Parables Special Needs Ministry.

For six years our Parables Ministry has opened our hearts to families with children and young adults with special needs. By the generosity of time and talent given by Rev. Leslie Neugent, Parables has become a WCC ministry making a profound impact. Our next step is to create and fund a paid staff position to work alongside Leslie in this ministry that so uniquely... **OPENS HEARTS.**

Open hands... to affirm and support our church staff.

We have a gifted and talented staff which is inspired to learn, grow, and serve our multigenerational church. To retain quality staff, we need to affirm their work, keep pace with cost of living, and provide quality benefits. Our goals for next year include giving pay raises (no increases were possible in 2018), covering healthcare increases, and building our staff's capability to... **OPEN HANDS.**

Open doors... to welcome our neighbors and the world.

Our beautiful and updated building serves our members, as well as our neighbors and guests. We need to maintain our building and be prepared to meet unexpected needs, such as a recent boiler failure. To remain the relevant, transformative, and welcoming church that we are, we need to invest in our... **OPEN DOORS.**

To meet these needs will take \$225,000 in additional pledges in 2019 over 2018— an increase of just over 10%. We hope you will prayerfully consider these critical needs as you make an informed and faithful decision for 2019. Your increased gift will have an impact in opening hearts, hands, and doors.

Ways to give

Your pledge helps our community open its hearts, hands, and doors to the ways God works in our lives.

Pledging is easy...

- Go online at wccpledge.org, or
- Drop the pledge form in the pledge card boxes (located in the east and west entrances and at the Hello Spot in Founders Hall), or
- Mail your pledge form to the church.

If you have any questions, please contact Ashleigh Kreider in the Business Office, 952-473-8877, ext 211.

We are asking all members to consider an increase in their 2019 giving by at least 10%, recognizing that this is a larger request than usual. Keep in mind that if you give at the average WCC pledge of \$3,000 per year, a 10% increase (\$300) is less than \$1 per day.

Every gift matters! Thank you for your generous support of the worship and ministries of Wayzata Community Church.



CELEBRATIONS

We would love to hear from you when you have a new baby or grandbaby, so we can share the good news with your church family.

BAPTISMS

- Henry Nicholas Walk, son of Nicholas & Susanna Walk
- Lenna Arnell Carron, daughter of Brent & Christen Bauerly-Carron
- August Dean Schumann, son of Dean & Megan Schumann, grandson of Dean & Nancy Schumann
- Ellie Christine Madgett, daughter of David & Kristin Madgett
- Walker Rives William Chalmers, son of Alexander & Anna Chalmers, grandson of Bill & Sandy Seibert
- Guinevere Larson Gorka, daughter of Stephen & Elizabeth Gorka, granddaughter of Scott Goldsmith & Lynn Schwie
- Maddox Oliver Schutte, son of Aaron & Marie Schutte
- Skylar Ocean Shamrokh, son of Benjamin & Michelle Shamrokh
- Hadley Jane Bennett, daughter of Dax & Molly Bennett
- Benjamin Robert Mazorol, son of Al & Gina Mazorol
- Penelope Eve Gassen, daughter of Clark & Margo Gassen
- Abigail Tuesday Schreiber, daughter of Brent & Kim Schreiber, granddaughter of Karen Schreiber
- Owen Michael Oleksa, son of Michael & Rebecca Oleksa
- Sam Ryker Ward, son of Jay & Stephanie Ward

CARES

If we can be helpful before or during your hospital stay, please call our Pastoral staff at the church, 952-473-8877.

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS

Sherry Davis (mother of Jeff Davis, mother-in-law of Caryn Schall)
Marnie Buratto
Joel Ylavisaker
Julia Beckman

& TRANSITIONS

DEATHS

- Becky Denzin and family on the death of her mother, Jennifer Morscheck, on March 16, 2018.
- Preston Grundy on the death of his father, Mark Grundy, on May 14, 2018.
- Victor Hallberg on the death of his brother, Olav "Erik" Hallberg, on May 26, 2018.
- Barbara Lefky on the death of her husband, Ted Loken, on June 2, 2018.
- Cynthia Brown Polson on the death of her mother, Helen Brown, on June 11, 2018.
- Linda Wotipka and family on the death of her mother, on June 11, 2018.
- Carter Reese, Jr. and family on the death of his mother, Jan Reese, on June 11, 2018.
- Family and friends of Joan Wyer, on June 14, 2018.
- Betsy Ellgren and family on the death of her husband, Bill Ellgren, on June 16, 2018.
- Ann Johnson Stewart and her family on the death of her mother, Mary Johnson, on June 20, 2018.
- Nick Jacques on the death of his cousin, Isaac Engelstad, on June 25, 2018.
- Mollie Nygaard and family on the death of her father, Rich Carlson, on June 22, 2018.
- Jeff Watkins and family on the death of his sister, Vicki Wenzel, on June 28, 2018.
- Heather Page and family on the death of her father, Bob Hudnut, on June 29, 2018.
- Keaton Frees and family on the death of her brother, Craig Cleland, on June 27, 2018.
- Karen Jacques and family on the death of her father, Edwin Poleksy, on June 30, 2018.
- Bill Boulware and family on the death of his step-mother, Marjorie Boulware, on July 7, 2018.
- Peggy Ogland and family on the death of her husband, Jim Ogland, on July 12, 2018.
- Don Amorosi and family on the death of his son, Archer Amorosi, on July 13, 2018.
- Bruce Merry, Elizabeth Merry and their families on the death of Graham Merry, on July 14, 2018.
- Kathy McCuskey and family on the death of her husband, Adam McCuskey, on July 25, 2018.
- Lindsay Peterson and family on the death of her mother, Constance Murray, on August 1, 2018.
- Wayne Majzner and family on the death of his sister, Cynthia Majzner, on August 7, 2018.
- Nancy Webert, Tim Webert, Mike Webert and their families on the death of Maury Webert, on August 11, 2018.
- Flip Carlson and family on the death of his mother, Lillian Carlson, on August 13, 2018.
- Mary Clinton and family on the death of her husband, Dave Clinton, on August 15, 2018.
- Marilyn Mitchell, Mark Mitchell and their family on the death of Barbara Frank, on August 21, 2018.
- Mark and Shannon Marlin on the death of their son, and Linda and Bob Marlin on the death of their nephew, Ryan Marlin, on August 23, 2018.
- Marlys Wallace and family on the death of her husband, Clifford Wallace, on August 23, 2018.
- Jill Lindahl and family on the death of her mother, Betty Varcoe, on August 26, 2018.
- Carol Rovick, Bette and Keith Tjornhom, Jen Idema and their families on the death of Jean Tjornhom Rud, on September 2, 2018.
- Todd Lundman and family on the death of his father Gordon Lundman, on September 11, 2018.
- Rob Peterson and family on the death of his mother, Virginia Peterson, on September 25, 2018.
- Dean Willman, JoEllen Willman, and Preston Grundy on the death of Ruth Willman, on October 14, 2018.

Inspire Magazine

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WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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PERIODICAL TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

AUTHOR EVENT



MARK LUTZ

UnPoverty: Rich Lessons from the Working Poor
Monday, November 26 • 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel
followed by a reception in the Colonnade

The poorest people in the world do not just survive— they thrive lavishly. They enjoy rich family relationships, build vibrant communities and exude deep faith. They have much to teach us about life and inspire us with their ingenuity, persistence, generosity, and self-reliance. Mark Lutz has visited families living in cardboard huts, hiked dusty paths to isolated African villages, and tiptoed across putrid open sewers on makeshift bridges. *UnPoverty* relays those astonishing encounters with unforgettable people: desperately poor, yet abundantly rich. His gripping stories will leave you challenged by what we can and must do and encouraged by what they do with so little. Their poverty has more to do with latitude and longitude than with laziness or lack of intelligence. Through no fault of their own they are poor monetarily, but rich in areas in which many of us are bankrupt. Mark has watched innovative and hard-working people undo the chains of poverty, often with a large ripple effect in their families and entire communities.

