



# MOST Ministries

*Impacting the World for Jesus Christ through Short Term Missions*

## In Loving Memory of Gayle Sommerfeld

Co-Founder and Executive Director of MOST Ministries

By Don Sommerfeld, MOST Ministries Co-Founder and Emeritus Board Member



On September 24, 2025, after 88 years of life and 68 years of marriage, Jesus welcomed my dear wife, Gayle Sommerfeld, into heaven as I held her hand. Although this is undoubtedly a time of sadness, it also provides an opportunity to celebrate, reflect upon, and marvel at how God's plans unfolded throughout our lives.

Gayle had a big heart and was frequently motivated by her faith to help meet the needs of those around her through church activities and local non-profits. However, at age 50, a pivotal and life-changing moment occurred while she was watching a video by evangelist Tony Campolo. It was then that she felt called by God to become actively involved in international missions.

As an initial step toward responding to this calling, in 1989, we both participated in a short-term mission trip to Haiti. From that experience, we recognized the importance of creating opportunities for people from all walks of life to answer the call, "Here I am, Lord. Send me!" through short-term mission teams. After much prayer, Gayle and I helped organize another team to return to Haiti and laid the foundation of what ultimately became known as MOST Ministries.

Gayle's passion and faithfulness led to 10 teams to Haiti in three years, with all the details planned from a tiny desk, a phone, and a fax machine in the spare bedroom of our home. From these small beginnings, requests for short-term mission teams started to come in from churches around the world.

Gayle possessed a boldness of character and the ability to think "out of the box," operating confidently and flexibly amid challenging circumstances. These personality traits certainly served her well in the mission field. But Gayle did not rely solely on her instincts; she was always on her knees, seeking the Lord's will and guidance. Even the MOST Ministries staff knew that Gayle's first response was to "go to her knees" and seek the Lord in all circumstances.

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As she led teams around the globe, Gayle found strength from Isaiah 58:6-9. In these verses, the faithful are challenged to consider that the sacrifice, or fast, that the Lord seeks is not putting on sackcloth and ashes, but to care for those in need. We are challenged to share food with the hungry and provide shelter for the poor. Then the prophet declares: *Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.*"

Gayle knew that if God was leading her to serve the poor, then he was going before her and watching behind her as her "rear guard". She took comfort in the thought that God had her back.

A fact that few know about Gayle is that she personally led or co-led *80 teams!* Guiding and developing teams was a passion for Gayle, who approached her leadership responsibilities with utmost seriousness. The strategies she developed to train team leaders and team members, to work effectively with global partners, and to help all involved be open to God's work in their lives will be listed among her many legacies.

After years of witnessing God's grace and serving him around the world, Gayle felt called to share her stories. In 2016, with assistance from our daughter, Sandi, Gayle published the book, *Beyond Sight: God's Vision for Using Ordinary People to Impact the World*. Together, they brought to life the amazing beginnings of MOST Ministries while also delving into how God had prepared Gayle for these acts of service, just as he prepares each of us to serve in our own unique ways.



Who, but God, could have imagined that Gayle's faithfulness to answer that call in her own life would have resulted in MOST Ministries sending (to date) over 600 short-term mission teams comprised of physicians, dentists, construction workers, teachers, optometrists, counselors, and thousands of willing individuals to over 50 different countries.

So, in memory of Gayle and all that is possible within Christ, I encourage you to answer the call to serve others, whether that is through MOST Ministries, your local church, your family, or community. You, too, may be surprised at how even small acts of faithfulness may grow to have a profound impact on those around you.

## A Taste of What Is To Come

By Melissa Kasper (MOST Ministries Staff Member, Mission Team Support )

I was recently able to go on my first MOST Ministries eyeglass team! I have been on several mission trips over the years and was really looking forward to traveling and using my Spanish again. As the trip approached, however, I found I was more nervous than I thought! Doubts started creeping into my mind. Would I really be able to share Christ's love with people by handing out eyeglasses? What if my Spanish was horrible? What if something happened to my kids while I was gone? What if I got sick?

I tried my best to prepare and pray the doubts away, and hope God's purpose would be clear to me once we arrived in Honduras to serve. Well, I didn't have to wait long. From the very first day we were greeted warmly by members of the congregation, the pastor and his family, and our translators. We headed to the church immediately to unpack and set up for our eyeglass clinic. We then attended a church service the following afternoon.

As I was struggling to follow along in the Spanish hymnal, our team was invited to partake in communion together. I joined our team to kneel at the altar and heard the pastor's words in Spanish, offering me communion. I couldn't help but think of how this is what heaven will be like one day. "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out in a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Revelation 7:9-10



One day, we will join with all nations in celebrating the resurrected Jesus. We will see people from every different country and hear praise in every different language. I feel like I get a tiny glimpse of this amazing picture every time I am able to go on a mission trip. Every opportunity I get to be with members of the Body of Christ that look and sound differently than me, I get a small taste of what is to come. And I get to take part in Christ's work in the world, through His Church, to reach all nations for Him.



## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

This is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one.

### IN MEMORY OF GAYLE SOMMERFELD

Anonymous	Jeff & Nancy Heimsoth	Cynthia Pine
Charlotte Campbell	Jack & Judy Heuvelman	Ken & Sue Pingel
Gerald & Jean Christensen	Gloria Hickey	Plante Moran Co.
Michael & B. J. Connor	Alan & Rebecca Hoppensteadt	Ed Radwan
Breck & Mari Crandell	Dennis & Sheryl Jammer	Bill & Nancy Reichenbach
Susan Crosbie	William & Laurie Johnson	Bob & Penny Selle
Matthew Denman	Robert & Deborah Kasper	Denise Shepard
Margaret Deradoorian	Joan Koerschen	Brad & Judy Sommerfeld
Doug & Jill Ebeling	Ronald & Kathleen Kohnke	Scott & Cynthia Sommerfeld
Harry & Marilyn Edenfield	Kenneth Krubsack	Mark & Katherine Supiano
Steve & Lori Gaines	Linda Lenfestey	Les & Joyce Syring
Judy Garmy	Michael & Jennifer Madsen	Michael & Cynthia Thomas
Jan Gerzevske	Gary & Betty Masch	Don & Deanna Veitengruber
Greg & Sandy Gessert	Karen Mensching	Lois Vogt
Robert & Susan Hegel	Marty & Audrey Moro	Alan & Eileen Young

### IN MEMORY OF

Steven Bone by Gerald & Joyce Bone	William & Marjorie Case by Richard & Patricia Greene
Mark Charles by Michael & Pat Kalmes	Betty Crossland by Gerald & Jean Christensen
Neil Finkenstadt by Barbara O'Connor	Rosemary Fry by Jim Fry
Karl Fuhlbrigge by Mary Fuhlbrigge	David Turner by Diane Turner
Jonathan Gourwitz by Paula-Puleo Winsky	Viola Gruber by Susan Gruber
Lance Jennings by Lewis & Cindy Grubbs	H.H. Kasten by Paul & Joyce Kasten
Louise Krubsack by Kenneth Krubsack	Jane Kirchhoff by Mark & Judy Pflug
Donald Mensching by Karen Mensching	Marion Miller by Keith & Ruth Dwyer
Jack & Jean Moeller by Kathleen Dickerson	Allen Pollard by Gerald & Joyce Bone
Duane & Katie Renken by John & Susan Drach	Matthew Richardson by Marvin & Vicki Koglin
Pam Schroeder by Mark & Judy Pflug	Vera Scott by Leon Scott
Betheny Stresow by Laura Stresow	Father by Andrew Tomashewsky

### IN HONOR OF

Charlotte Campbell by Joel & Christine Lehmann	Daniel & Gretchen Thompson by Henry & Kimberly Vester
David & Nancy Cronce by Cynthia Reinhold	Cindy Reinhold by Anna Reinhold
Bethel Larsen by Scott & Gail Smith	MOST Staff by Lillian Keller
Cindy Pine by Elizabeth Frederick	Anne Shinn by Fred & Laurie Metzger
Cindy Pine by Fred & Laurie Metzger	Janelle Meckes by Her Children



Mission Opportunities Short Term

655 Phoenix Dr. Ann Arbor, MI 48108

734-994-7909 | [mostministries.org](http://mostministries.org) | [most@mostministries.org](mailto:most@mostministries.org)

