

Roger and Jacque McElroy

A little bit of background on the McElroys:

- The McElroys have attended Meadowbrook Community Church since 1984, for 36 years. They previously attended Windsor Road Christian Church.
- At Meadowbrook, both Roger and Jacque have served as hosts and co-leaders of small groups
- Jacque has served as a Greeter and Nursery Care Giver; prepared meals for funerals and church meetings, as well as individuals' post-surgery.
- Roger has helped on projects around the church building, both inside and outside, including yardwork and painting. For 13.5 years he served on the Meadowbrook Deacon Council. Roger reflects that the nine deacon members didn't always agree on everything, but they left their meetings still brothers in Christ.
- Jacque's favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13, which helped her get through Nursing School. Roger's favorite scripture is Jeremiah 17: 5 – 10, "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord....."
- Jacque's favorite hymn is "How Great Thou Art", which opened every Sunday Service at Windsor Road Christian Church. Roger likes Southern Gospel music. He listens to Squire Parsons sing "Sweet Beulah Land". Another favorite hymn of Roger's is "Calvary Answers for Me,"... "Satan may condemn, but Calvary answers for me", played at funerals for Jacque's Dad and their son, Greg.
- Did you know that Jacque is a retired nurse and was also a cleaner at Busey Bank to help pay for her children's tuition for Christian Schooling? And before Meadowbrook, Roger served as a fairly young Deacon and Elder at Windsor Road Christian Church?

God placed on the hearts of Roger and Jacque His love for Missions. Roger was the Chairman of the Missionary Committee at Windsor Road Christian Church, and support for missionaries grew from one to 8 or 10. Jacque and Roger supported the work at children's homes while at Windsor Road. Their involvement in Missions at Meadowbrook began in 2004 with members of their small group telling the McElroy's about their missions trip to El Salvador and the construction of a church for Pastor Miguel. As a result of those discussions, Jacque and Roger have helped plan and organize 12 mission trips to El Salvador and went on 10 of them. Most of the Mission Trips to El Salvador involved a Meadowbrook Team of 13 – 17 persons. Roger and Jacque were in charge of logistics, including scheduling and setting the trip's agenda, arranging the flights to El Salvador, organizing packing of suitcases, and coordinating with "Enlace" (meaning "to link"), an organization that took care of housing and transportation for the Team once in El Salvador. Suitcase packing included medicines, children's toys, and hygiene articles such as soaps and toothpaste. The Team also packed eyeglasses to help some of their patients resume a more normal life with the ability to read and to sew for the women. Other MCC members have stepped forward to serve. Dr. Bill Pierce headed up the medical team, and Richard Beachy headed up construction team. Doug Steele, from another church, served as the construction team translator. As well as working to improve the daily living conditions of the El Salvadorians, team members also took opportunities to improve their spiritual lives by teaching the Word of God.

Roger and Jacque served as pharmacy techs with Dr. Pierce. In four suitcases, the Mission Team took antibiotics, Tylenol, and medicines for treating parasites, respiratory issues, and allergies. Roger and Jacque were assigned to count out medicines once the Doctor saw the patients. People of El Salvador are very patient waiting for their medicines.

After initially working in Pharmacy on early Mission Trips, Roger worked later with the construction crew. Roger became familiar with those on the construction crew, working with the same people in years following. Only two construction workers were hired for the projects; the remaining crew were the Meadowbrook Team and local church and community members. The people who lived by the road of the construction project had to work on the section of the block they lived on. Construction projects included water tank erection for clean water, establishment of eco-stoves, and construction of retaining walls and roads. The majority of construction was accomplished with manual labor, as equipment found in the United States was not available. Roger reflects that God took care of the health of the Team; after carrying big buckets of rocks up-hill for a day, there would be no soreness at the end of the day. Even after encountering bad water, Roger was able to function in the construction field.

The McElroys believe that the Church's health is very much related to involvement in Missions, and God has been faithful to Meadowbrook Community Church thru their Mission involvement. Meadowbrook has historically allocated yearly budgets of \$100,000 toward Missions. Above and beyond their support of the missions work in El Salvador, Meadowbrook has also included sponsoring the following:

- In years 2008 – 2009, a missionary from Siberia visited Meadowbrook, and requested support for constructing church buildings at \$7,000 each. The Church committed support for three years at \$7,000/year, plus three donors supported with individual offerings of \$7,000.
- Meadowbrook Youth teams have worked on church-related projects in the United States, locations including the states of Missouri and Kentucky as well as international locations.
- Meadowbrook has supported 50 missionaries world-wide. Meadowbrook members have travelled to places such as Indonesia on mission trips to support their missionaries.

Meadowbrook Seniors continue to pass the Missions baton to younger generations. There have been plans for the Youth to work in Cincinnati or Washington D.C. with Missionary Jay Covert of East St. Louis. The Deacon Council, when hiring Youth Pastor Cooper Frank, knew that Cooper and his wife had the desire to become full time missionaries in the future. In time, Pastor Cooper and Miranda will go to the Mission Field from MCC.

The McElroys equate church growth and financial stability with Meadowbrook's Mission focus. Parallel to Meadowbrook's Mission focus, the Building Committee made plans for church additions. After the classroom addition to the original youth worship assembly room, a \$4 million sanctuary and café addition was completed in June of year 2008. Members raised \$1 million towards the addition; \$3 million was financed. The church has never waived on making payments; in fact, double payments have been made on the building loan. Only \$400,000 remains on the loan presently.

God has blessed Meadowbrook with their Mission focus, and also He has blessed those who take the Mission Trips with many inspiring moments. The McElroys recall a woman by the name of Marina from El Salvador who gave them great incentive and drive to work diligently in Missions. Marina is in her late 60's years old, only 5 feet tall. She was working on construction at a well site with a fully loaded five-gallon bucket on her head. She also carried loads of three large bricks high on her head all day. Her youngest son in his late teens had cerebral palsy. She carried her son on her back, about a mile to a river to bathe him, and then carry him back home. The projects being constructed by the Missions work in El Salvador gave Marina the incentive to work to bring running water to her home.