

Jason Vincent - Elders, For your consideration please

From: M Bret Blackford (bret_blackford@yahoo.com)

To: bret_blackford@yahoo.com

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MEMO to FILE

----- Forwarded Message -----

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Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 at 08:48:36 AM CST

Subject: Elders, For your consideration please

GM Elders!

Thank you for all that you lead and serve, and Happy New Year!!

In 2025 there are a few things I'd like to advocate for, and would like to know if MX can be invited to join in.

2 are local. 2 help abroad.

1. Internal & Local
2. Access Point (local)
3. Feed my starving children
4. Panama church support

Additional background (rather, small book) for each below.

MX is doing so much good already (Food pantry, CFS, Acts, & more!) so I tried to not conflict with those, and not to add burden to anyone, nor to overcommit myself (these are short burst & spaced out), but to have collaborative opportunities for things I'm prayerfully planning and would love to do with more of mx (& thus having much greater impact and shared memories).

I am open to whatever you decide, whether that be none or all or some of these being what you judge as good for MX to join in.

For any that you want to do, I'll lean on your help for whom I should work with.

Thank you for considering!! -jayson

For all below,

I pray that any of this within God's will, will be done.

1. Internal & Local

Please let me know whom I can work with for any internal MX help needed. Most recently I've had a request, humbly & graciously, from Arstine, and have set aside a portion to join our MX family in helping each other, separate from Sunday giving.

I'm hoping also to share another update or two spread throughout year via announcements for ACTS, to keep its activities & needs on our mx family mind, would love teaming with Bret & Ron O.

3. Feed My Starving Children

I'd like to invite MX to volunteer together in one event this year, to pack food that primarily gets distributed to other countries, designed for severe undernutrition. Events are typically held at churches around the area. No sooner than April.

Will be my first time with fmsc, I've served with similar.

Please see fmsc.org

4. Panama Missions

My hope for 2025 is to invite MX to support each church with \$2k (\$4k total combined, no more) and to specifically report how our gift helps build the church and God's kingdom there.

For 6 years, I joined AJ & Susan Bennett on the Panama missions trip, along with a team from Mississippi, often accompanied by ACTS campus ministry. We partnered with a church in Las Garzas (one of the poorer and crime suffering areas) to build a church building, host events for the community, provide medical support, distribute common food items, help repair homes in community, host gospel meetings, and to help train new disciples & leaders. Through relationship with Wilka I've gotten to know additional church leaders who have been committed to faithful service for decades, and one family (the Alvarados) continue leading the church that Wilka spent lots of time with after Harding while in Panama, and we visit them often. They have some usa support, ie see conejochurch.org/missions for a picture of them and an older newsletter.

I believe it's a critical time for the next generation of leaders there. I will personally take responsibility for the gift getting to the right hands, and for reporting.

My hope for some point in the next few years is to lead another mission team to serve there. I'd love to have Bryant, and more youth (younger than he & I) join.

I'd love for some of you to join, both to serve, and to enjoy God's beauty in creation (saw my first sloth there) & food, and to see its history (canal, artifacts from prior battles). In every mission trip so far, it seems God does amazing things in relationships during our time in ministry and in fellowship and evangelism and in discipleship and also in our time being together for new shared experiences as we enjoy.

My dream within the next 20 years is to partner with multiple groups to help plant a church specifically in the small town where my wife grew up (san andres), so that a more accessible option is available.

Much smaller than the USA, and we have so much diversity here, but I've experienced the world diversity in panama also, with a large presence of china, decent presence rooted from africa, decent arab population, and several native indian tribes, alongside the spanish influence, and as a 3rd world country there exists widespread severe poverty, so it's a special chance to spread the gospel, to spread Jesus.

2. Access Point (<https://www.accesspointprogram.org/>)

For the last 4 years I've had the chance to serve as director of technology for [Access Point](https://www.accesspointprogram.org/) (AP), a 501c3. At times I've had 20% of my time for Daugherty business solutions allocated to it. At times 100% (as we focused on national growth). I've volunteered too many hours to count now. Daugherty was acquired by CGI in december 2024. This year my focus returns to technology leadership & consulting. Planning to continue as an advisor for AP, and potentially on board. It's expected to be a challenging year for AP. Access Point, in bigger picture, aligns with God's heart for the underserved, as it's intent is to help underserved and underrepresented youth who don't have means for college and career path to get to a new career with one of our partners (ameren, bayer, cigna, edward jones, mastercard, royal bank of canada, & more looking to join) after 1.5 years IT training with AP so that they can leverage financial stability to keep growing. Over 100 kids connected to such opportunity so far, though we aspired for more. Primary focus is

on increasing women, people of color, economically suffering of any color, neurodiversity (autism, adhd, +) but all demographics are welcomed.

There may also be opportunity hosting 1 or 2 pizza & game nights at MX, where AP alumni get together, and MX family can interact.

AP is not a Christian organization, it's just that I see the heart of its work as aligned with God's heart.