

## Missions Stories: Rilee Conard

(continued)

While the team was in Vermont, their goal was to minister to the large homeless population. One way was through coffee evangelism; handing out free coffee with the hopes of telling others about Jesus.

"No way, I am not doing that. I am not talking to people about Jesus. That's not me, I'm not an evangelist", she thought.

But one day while they were ministering outside Walmart, Rilee felt the Holy Spirit come over her and tell her, "You are doing this. All God's children are to evangelize."

So she began talking with and praying for those she was sent to minister to and the real adventure began.

One day a lady approached them and gladly accepted a cup of coffee. She had been crying and was clearly distraught. Rilee asked her about her story.

The team was able to pray with her, give her a hug and buy her all the necessary items she needed. She even accepted the invitation to come to church the following Sunday, and although she didn't stay for the entire service, she left with a Bible.

But why should people go on mission trips outside their area when needs are all around us?



"Because that's what Jesus calls us to do", said Rilee. "It's not like it is here in other countries or even other states. We have such easy access to church and Bibles and Vermont was not like that at all."

She also did not expect to form such strong bonds with a team of people she just met. Quite a difference from the first day when she didn't know a single person and was homesick.

Though Rilee went on the mission trip to minister to others, she feels she truly received a blessing.

Rilee says, "I had never felt more myself. I felt so comfortable, so energized. And not only that I found out I actually do have a gift for evangelism and prayer. This is actually a gift God has given me. It was incredible to watch Him move through my life."

*Written by Susan Zurcher*



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If you're unsure whether to go on a mission trip, just ask Rilee Conard. She will tell you, "go, make it happen".

This summer Rilee was a part of the Rutland, Vermont mission trip team sent out from The Orchard Church. While Rilee encourages everyone to go on a mission trip, initially she wasn't so sure.

She felt God opened up her heart and schedule but had no idea how to finance the trip. Rilee picked up the trip information sheet, saw the cost and thought there's no way. That's when she spoke to Pastor Josh about fundraising.

The task seemed daunting, but God provided and Rilee raised exactly the amount she needed. But that's not the only confirmation she received . . .

*(continue reading Rilee's story on p. 4)*



## Praise the Lord!

Each quarter we have the opportunity to look back over the past few months and Praise God for all that He has done in and through our church!

- Held largest leadership rally ever with over 200 leaders/volunteers helping live out Ephesians 4:11-12
- Held largest VBS ever with 24 children expressing a desire to profess Christ as Lord and Savior
- Partnered with Mission City Church (VT) by sending a team of 14 on mission
- Partnered with Philadelphia Dream Center by sending a team of 14 on mission
- 130 people have joined The Orchard Church in membership and 35 have been baptized in 2023
- 130 people have completed or are actively involved in the one-on-one XChange discipleship program
- Celebrated 123 rededications and salvations since January 2023
- Partnered with Fellowship of Christian Athletes to feed local school athletic teams
- Partnered with churches to minister to 500 families at the Hazelwood Elementary Back to School Bash
- Improved the lobby to accommodate the growing number of people
- Major progress in development of the new office building with hopes to move in by the end of the year
- Celebrated the addition of new staff members to help continue to minister to those here and coming
- Currently launching our NEW Mosaic Ministry - a special needs ministry for all ages

## A Word from our Pastor

**"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)**

Jesus not only told us to pray this prayer we affectionately call "The Lord's Prayer," He also gave us individually and the corporate church instructions on how to live out this mission. Our church is committed to being a church united on mission to see lives transformed through the ministries of mission, discipleship, worship, and prayer. From the inception of The Orchard in 2020 through today, we celebrate all the lives being changed through the work of the Holy Spirit and the service of His people. And, we continue to see growing opportunities to continue ministering to those inside and outside the church. Join us as we seek to fulfill our mission to be the church to the community!



*Dr. Stephen Buys | Lead Pastor*

## Stay in Touch



### Church Center App

Stay connected with your LifeGroup, register for events and Bible studies, check in your kids on Sunday mornings, and access mobile giving.



### www.theorchardnc.com

Access livestreams, submit prayer requests, and find out more about who we are, what we believe, and what God is doing through TOC.



### Bible App

Dive into our church-wide reading plans, cross-reference passages with every translation, add friends from our church, pray for each other, and more!



### The Orchard Church Podcast

This quarter we began streaming our Sunday sermons as podcasts! Find us on Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music.



### @theorchardnc

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube to keep up with and be a part of what God is doing in and through TOC.

## Ways to Give

Your generosity and tithes are essential resources that enable The Orchard Church to make an impact in our community, region, nation, and world.



### In Person

Drop it in the various drop boxes we have throughout the church!



### Online

Visit our website [theorchardnc.com](http://theorchardnc.com) and click on the give tab at the top!



### Mobile

Download the Church Center App or text 84321 with the amount you would like to give!



### Mail

Mail in your tithes and offerings to our church office!

## Gather with Us

Sundays @ 9:15 AM | 11:00 AM | Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM

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