Recently I was notified by the local government to report for jury duty. In the county where I live there are no automatic excuses, so even healthcare workers in private practice must report for duty. I ended up sitting in the jury pool all day before being assigned a case and eventually being dismissed by the judge. It turns out that the case was a medical malpractice suit, and the attorneys didn’t want any potential juror with a healthcare background.

To help pass the time while I waited, I read a book by Aubrey Malphurs entitled A New Kind of Church. The author makes the case that we have many present-day churches that are narrowly focused in their ministry. He likens them to churches that fill a particular niche. Maybe they are a teaching church, a seeker-friendly church, a social church, a mission-minded church, or a church that primarily targets young families. You get the idea.

Malphurs encourages a fuller, more wholistic approach to ministry in which congregations engage in teaching, fellowship, worship, evangelism, and service. Pastor Rick Warren in his book The Purpose Driven Church argues for a similar, more well-rounded mission for the local church.

A review of recent church history reminds us our presently limited view of ministry is nothing new. Some of our evangelical churches have traditionally had a strong passion for saving souls, at the expense of caring for the individual’s physical needs. In contrast, during the Social Gospel movement of the early 1900’s, emphasis was placed upon caring for people’s physical needs, with little energy directed toward eternal matters.

The challenge for our churches, and for us as individual disciples of Christ, is to live out our faith. It’s understanding that while Jesus commissioned us to “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15 NKJV), He also told us that the righteous are those who offer food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, and clothing to the naked. (Matthew 25:31-40)

Even James writes, “If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does that profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:15-17, NKJV)

Herein lies one of the reasons I’m proud to be an active member of the Christian Chiropractors Association. We are the voice for Christ in our profession. We also witness to our patients, and our acts of mercy and justice can be powerful testimonies in our local communities.

The CCA has a glorious history of supporting missionaries on the field, sending doctors on short-term mission trips, and more recently of providing...
Faith & Works, concluded,
scholarships to needy chi-
ropractic students. I can
also remember helping to
provide new mattresses
for children in a Ukrainian
orphanage, and funds to
help build a church in Bra-
zil.

Opportunities to put
our faith into action con-
tinue. Last year, the CCA
raised enough money to
purchase 97 pairs of new
shoes for children liv-
ing in the slums of Mon-
tego Bay, Jamaica. I was
blessed to be there when
the shoes were handed out
to the children and to see
the smiles on their faces.

This year we hope to
be able to provide new
shoes for 200 children.
We estimate the cost to
be around $5,000. I know
that sounds ambitious, but
I also know we serve a
mighty God who can do
amazing things. Through
your generosity, we have
already reached over half
of this goal, and I thank
you all so much. I would
like to personally invite
you to partner with me and
other CCA members by
sending in a financial con-
tribution to purchase these
shoes and reach this goal.
Make your check out to
the CCA, and mark “The
Jamaican Children’s Shoe
Fund” on the memo line.

May God bless you
for your generosity and
your willingness to live
out your faith. Together
we can minister in a more
all-encompassing way, all
in the name of Christ. May
it be so.