



June 22, 2026

Lord, Are You Finished, With Me Yet?

Having finished yet another challenging and rewarding STAMP “season”, we may sometimes be tempted to cry out, “Lord, are you finished with me yet?” Whether you were baking muffins, washing out mixing bowls, cookie sheets, building ramps, delivering materials or lunches, cooking or cleaning up in the kitchen, shopping for breakfast/lunch ingredients, installing windows, digging holes, pre-building decks, screwing deck boards, building stairs and railings, picking up job site debris or a myriad of other STAMP duties, you may be thinking, “Why me Lord, are you finished with me yet?”

While working for Habitat for Humanity in St. Petersburg, Florida, I wrote a short press release and submitted it to a local newspaper in Pinellas Park, a working-class community. A retired carpenter named Charlie Lutke responded to the article and became one of our most valuable and valued volunteers. After establishing himself as the “go to” interior finish and cabinet guy, he pulled me aside one day and told me this story.

“Tom, before I started working with Habitat, I suffered from crippling arthritis. I couldn’t even put on or tie my own shoes without assistance. I read your article and wondered whether I could still do carpentry work. The next day I bent down to put on my shoes and had no pain. I put on and tied my shoes myself! I called out to my wife and said, Honey, help me get my tools together, the Lord’s not finished with me yet.”

Isaiah 6:8 speaks to God calling us to service.

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, ‘Whom shall I send and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I, send me.’”

The congregation sang one of my favorite hymns on STAMP Sunday, Here I Am, Lord. The refrain echoes the words and sentiments of Isaiah 6:8. "Here I am Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."

This STAMP week was particularly challenging for many reasons. As a team leader, I found myself experiencing sensory overload as I saw firsthand how folks live, tucked away in hidden hamlets throughout Benzie County. Members of our team installed windows and window trim on the back of a home which had no siding, with gaps in the wall sheathing and loose skirting around the perimeter of the house. Two of the windows, provided by the homeowner, were about 12" short, requiring onsite modifications to the window openings. While attempting to demolish a particularly rotten deck, I managed to fall through it. Fortunately, I was not hurt. I imagine that the deck had been rotting for 10 years or more. I met a very large, somewhat aggressive German Shepherd at one of our homes who was not pleased I was on "his" property. I cowardly took refuge in my car while another STAMP volunteer escorted Cody back into his house.

We gather together and round up the troops every year in an effort to help make our neighbors warmer, safer, and drier, in an effort to love our neighbor as ourselves. We wonder whether we will have enough volunteers to cook, clean, build, and deliver building materials and lunches to job sites. We wonder whether our stamina will hold up for another year. Yet we hear our Lord calling. And so, while perhaps tempted to ask the question, "Lord, are you finished with me yet?", we go forth as best we can and answer God's call, knowing that he will lead and guide us through yet another fulfilling year of the St. Andrews Mission Project, (STAMP), and we will continue to hold His people in our hearts for as long as we can. Praise be to God. Amen!

~Written by Tom Webster

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8190 Lincoln Rd. Beulah, MI 49617
231.882.4241
www.benziestandrews.com





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