# Transcript for Book Trailer: A Smoldering Wick

(Gena)

I think most long term missionaries agree that short-term missions um is just a very difficult thing to deal with as a long term missionary because as short term missionaries come in, those ten days that they are there it’s just kind of like this makeshift plan of what are we going to do right now. For a long time I thought short-term missions just needs to be cut off, we just need to stop doing this. But the more and more I thought about it I think there is a better way to do this and let’s learn from the development side of things and figure out how to merge the two together.

We were missionaries in Mexico for about four and a half years and the first year that we were there we were we were English teachers and we ended up getting a vision for a coffee shop. About a year and half after we went to Mexico we opened up the coffee shop, called El Buho which is The Owl, and then on top of that we started working with a church plant called Mission and just were blown away by the concept of poverty at a whole new level and we just didn’t know what to do with it or how we could help. That really boosted my desire to study about poverty. I then signed up for the graduate degree through Eastern University on International Development. That’s how this book kind of came about was a mixture of this experience, this like, seeing this poverty in such a huge way and then trying to understand academically how to deal with that. Not a lot of people have been able to walk a path of long term missionary life and then come back to the States and think through short-term missions. The idea of short-term missions is a really good thing I think because it allows, it allowed me to see the world beyond myself when I was a teenager but there needs to be more to it than just that. Short-term missions is a smoldering wick but as Isaiah talks about God is not going to crush that, God is not going to wipe that out. He's going to use those smoldering wicks and those bruised reeds to bring about justice on the earth. I wrote this book to better understand this for myself and to offer something to people who are thinking, ‘There’s gotta be something better. There’s gotta be a better way to do this. There’s gotta be um a better standard that we can live by and a better way that we can connect with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world.

When I see international brothers and sisters and American Christians coming together in a way that truly exemplifies partnership and relationship … I believe that it brings God so much glory. That is my heart here it is all about understanding how can the kingdom come now, how can we live that present relatiy of his kingdom coming on this earth through short-term missions. Please check out the website, read the first chapter and talk to me about stuff. Id’ love for this to be a ongoing discussion where we learn more and more and figure out better ways to do this because I certainly don’t have all the answers but I want to ask the questions that help us find the answers.