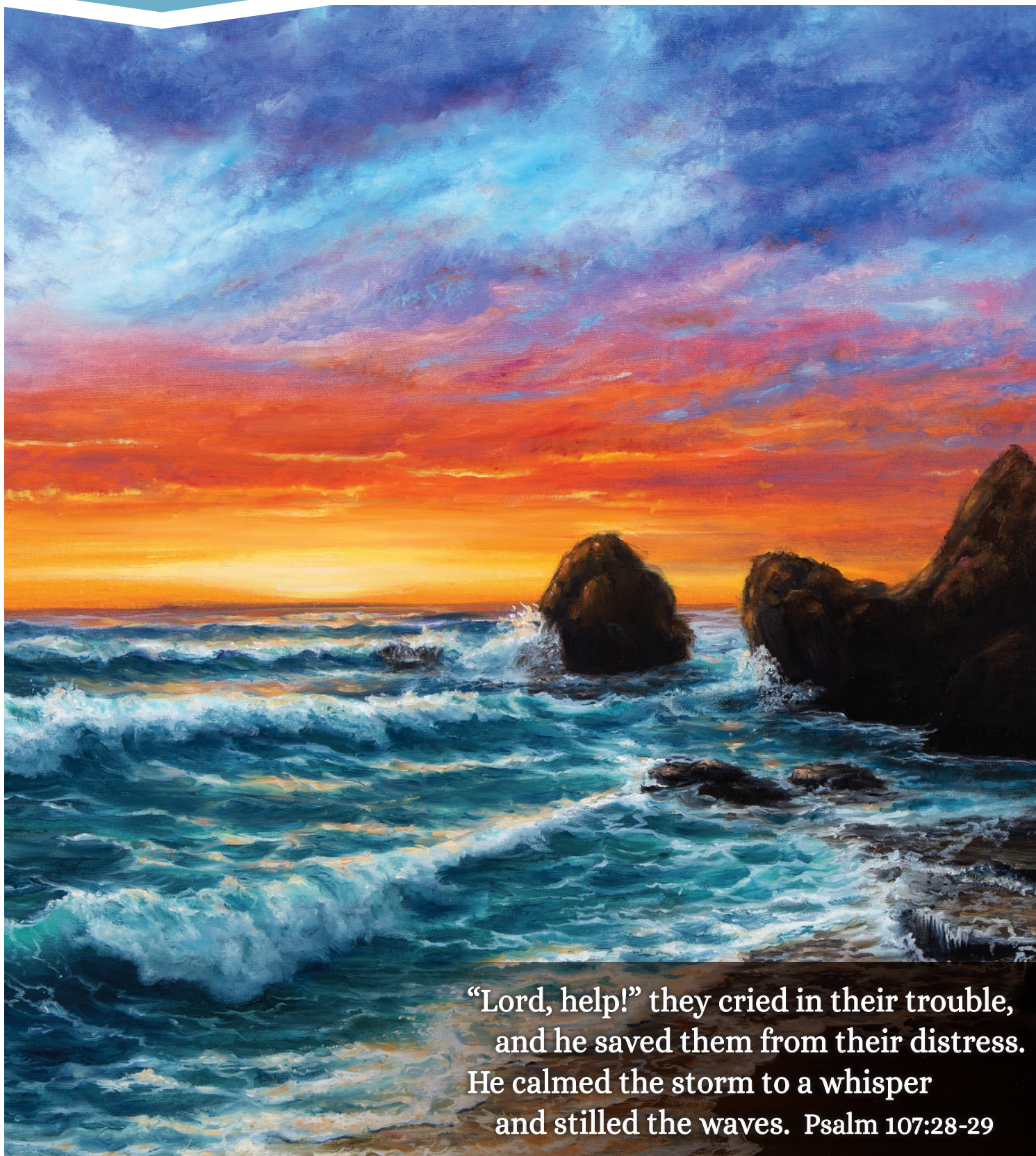


FALL 2019



International Messengers **GOOD NEWS**

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News. Romans 10:15



“Lord, help!” they cried in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
He calmed the storm to a whisper
and stilled the waves. Psalm 107:28-29

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**For detailed donation information
visit: www.im-usa.org/donate**

In Canada: www.im-canada.ca/donate



FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTION

About three years ago, I sensed God was calling me to catalyze a disciple-making movement among the Punjabi people in Abbotsford, BC, Canada. About 97% of all immigrants from India come from one state in the north, called Punjab. Of those who come from Punjab, about 95% are from the Sikh faith. Approximately 35,000 Punjabi people live in Abbotsford. I was amazed to find out that they are considered an unreached people group (see: joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14483/CA), yet they live in the middle of the Bible belt of BC. They mostly live in the western part of town. I had moved to Abbotsford four years ago after joining IM and found a place close to the IM office in the eastern part of town.

Almost two years ago, I was frustrated that I had to drive half-way across town just to connect with Punjabi people. I complained to God, "Why do you have me living in a white neighborhood if you've called me to reach the Sikhs?" Then I confessed, "I know that I could start looking for a place to rent in west Abbotsford among the Punjabi and move there, but I am not motivated to initiate that. You will have to do something if you want that to happen." A few days later, I was given an eviction notice! The landlords were selling the house and I was forced to move. This was a strong confirmation that God had called me to reach the Sikhs. It was hard finding a suitable basement suite to rent in a Punjabi home, but eventually, I found one with the help of a Punjabi Christian. I lived there for a year and a half, enjoying being able to walk out my door and immediately meet Punjabi people. Recently, I was evicted again and was not able to find another Punjabi suite to rent. At the same time, my aging mother was needing more care and I felt God was telling me to move in with her. This does not negate God's call for me to reach the Sikhs, but sometimes God has other tasks He wants us to do as well. Please pray that I will stay close to God and hear Him clearly, and obey Him completely.



Wes Isaak

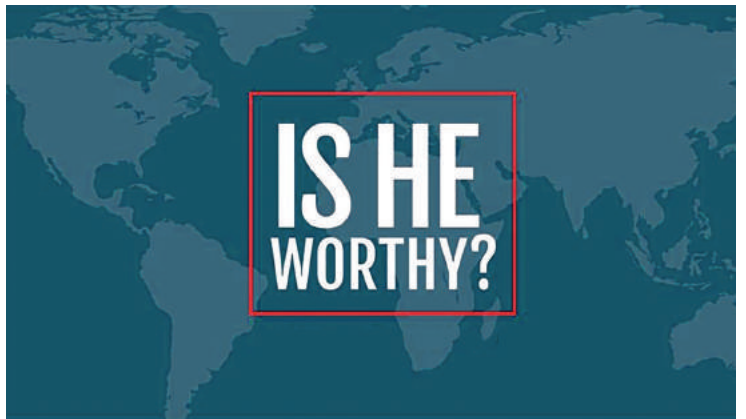
Wes (middle) with a mother and son he is discipling. Wes lives in Abbotsford, British Columbia, and serves in the IM Canada office.

Is HE worthy? HE IS! HE IS!

In late March, Darlis and I realized we were going to lead two back-to-back Evangelistic camps and then I'd be joining our son and grandson in North Uganda for a week of ministry there. We hadn't attempted that length of ministry overseas since we were much, much younger.

We led a Missionary Staff Conference in Poland that week and the talented worship leader attempted to help us with a fairly new Andrew Peterson song, *Is He Worthy?*. We failed miserably to follow him in worship. The depth of what I caught made me curious so I looked it up on the way home. It has now become an inquiry for our souls in times of processing the loss from or the cost of obedience! Many times during July and August I fell back on this question in Beirut, in King Mariout, Egypt, and in Gulu, Uganda. Is HE worthy of this? And my soul was both quieted and strengthened in answering, HE IS!

Going and giving with a high personal cost are usually questioned with things like, "Can I? Should I? Am I called?" Rarely have I ever asked THIS question, "Is He Worthy?" Going and giving as worship requires it, right? Was what the Lord Jesus did enough to warrant this kind of risk? Is His proven love worthy of this sacrifice? The Son of God humbled Himself, gave up His place and rights as GOD, left His heavenly dwelling and died in MY place—the ONE by whom all things were created and HE is the ONE through whom all things are held together. And He took my shame, He took my beatings, He took MY punishment and died in MY place—because He loved the WORLD. **SO I MUST DIE to the WAY I Want to LIVE OUT MY DAYS HERE.** Yes, He is worthy of this! He is!



And now we look back on a month of incredible richness of life. Yes, some suffering, some fear, a bunch of inadequacy, but abundance way beyond anything we might have chased or served in that same timeframe. And we know again what we truly believe at the heart level. We tested our faith and found Him faithful and worthy. His grace was fully sufficient for our needs and we got to see God work in the hearts of those He loves.

We confirm each year that growth towards the image of Jesus (discipling) happens (mainly) when Biblical truths/understanding get applied in the context of Kingdom-related risk (sharing the Gospel!). People learn to trust God by taking the Truth out into faith-requiring ministry with HIM, to test it and see if they really believe it.

What is worthy of risk or sacrifice if HE isn't? Do the things I would substitute for going out of fear, stand up to the same test?



Darwin Anderson

Darwin and Darlis Anderson live in Clear Lake, Iowa. Darwin is the President of International Messengers.

THE BEATITUDES IN PRACTICE

We yearn for peace of heart, for a touch of God's hand, but often while we're buzzing around trying to keep up with our busy lives, we want to "fit God in somewhere."

I've noticed, and it rings true with Scripture, that those who have the least, are the ones who experience God the most. The Beatitudes speak of states of the heart like poor in spirit, those who mourn, the gentle, the attributes we usually acquire during a low time, a time of suffering, or less financial means. While we may pity these people, the poor, for example, or ourselves, if we're going through a health crisis or a difficult time, we should realize these times in our lives can be the very richest.

"More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ."
Philippians 3:8

For me, the highlight of the summer was when the children from the Kremnice Children's Home came to the ranch. These children are always so thankful, so glad to participate in the activities. These children are sent to this particular children's home because they don't fit anywhere else; they are deaf, have behavior or learning problems, or more severe emotional problems. You should see them at the ranch; quiet, attentive, relating to the horses, listening when we share from the Bible, and not wanting to leave when the day is finished! With these children, I feel more thankful, quieter in my Spirit, and honestly, closer to God.

We live in an "upside-down world" where those who "have the least," really have the most. We're generally afraid of suffering, but if we truly want to experience God it seems to be a package deal. In my heart I want to stay with these children, experiencing life and God with a purer heart.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

Matthew 5: 3 – 11



Laura Stein

Laura and Bevan live on a ranch in Turciansky Michal, Slovakia. Their desire is to encourage and support a missions movement from Slovakia that will reach those who are marginalized.

“ SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"I saw God's power to unify a large leadership team of over 25 people. We were composed of 5 different nationalities, 3 different native languages. God brought us together and used us for His purposes. I also saw God's power to build bridges – between short-termers and the national team, short termers and campers (6 nationalities represented in our campers.)

~ Lois (Germany Evangelism Camp)



GIFTED *or* EMPTIED?

I've been mentoring a group of Hungarian College students for the last 15 months or so, and I've come to love them dearly. So when I was invited to Egypt in September, I worked out a plan to stop in Hungary before coming home. I planned to lead what we cleverly titled, "Awesome Spiritual Retreat" or "A.S.R." The whole trip was planned just weeks in advance—not months—and the time before departure was crazy-busy. I just didn't have any spare moments to prepare in a way that would make the trip live up to its name. I thought I could spend my flight and layover times working, but I was a combination of sick and exhausted the whole way; I was physically unable to do it. Then in Egypt, I lost three whole nights of sleep, so by the time I arrived in Hungary a very thick fog had settled around my brain. I had none of my normal ability to generate ideas, or adapt to situations, or to be spiritually perceptive. Before the fog, those had been areas of gifting for me.

One of our meetings was prepped on the 20 step walk from my bedroom to the meeting place, another one came together while trying to warm my feverish body in the shower. Yet in spite of all the shoddy lesson planning, the Lord seemed to have a plan for making it a special weekend. Helga (our Hungarian leader) told me on the way to the airport, "I think this is the best thing we have done with this group." I couldn't believe

my ears. "It was perfect in every way!" she said. I was still fogged-in, so I was somewhat oblivious to how well it had gone.

On further reflection, it seems that the Lord needed me to be completely emptied of all that I might do or say or think of so that He could deliver His message to those students. He loves them that much, that He is willing to totally empty me of my gifts and ideas in order to give His love to them. If I had been fully myself and thoroughly prepared, then it would've looked very different. God knew that those dear students needed less of me and more of Him.

Although God has given me gifts that He can use to bless others, He often uses my emptiness and brokenness more than He uses my giftedness. The lesson that God has for me (again) through all of this is, "You can trust Me."



Brent Howland

Brent and Tammy Howland live in Mason City, Iowa, with their two boys. Brent is the Vice President of International Messengers.

“**SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:** “The biggest hindrance like with everyone is the money. If the Lord desires us to keep going, He will need to provide and He is able to do that.” ~ Hannah (Egypt VBS Kids Camp)”

Raising Up Young Leaders

FATHER'S HEART MINISTRIES — SLOVAKIA

How do you share the Gospel to children with special needs and with special wounds on their hearts? This is what the Father's Heart Ministry is all about. Over the last 23 years, we have ministered to literally thousands of children and led hundreds to Christ. We have trained and prepared dozens to serve full-time in ministry to harder to reach children with special needs. This summer 81 kids and staff came to three camps. The themes were "Encountering God" and "Trusting God." These along with "Knowing God," "Walking With God," "Loving God," and "Serving God" are having a life-long impact on children.



Dizzi, for example, grew up in one of the children's homes we've been working in for decades. He came to all of our clubs and camps but never made a decision for Christ. Then one year, in my small group, he asked how to be saved. He began going to church,

doing Bible study and witnessing to his friends. Now he helps at every camp and club as a leader and has a very genuine testimony that all the other kids can relate to. His joy and love for Jesus is contagious.

Ivanka is another example. She wanted to help with the horse ministry but was a nominal Christian. We don't usually take people into leadership who are not spiritually mature. However, Laura began mentoring her four years ago and now she is one of Laura's main helpers and camp leaders. She has a heart for special needs kids and we can really see the changes taking place in her as she grows in spiritual maturity.



No doubt people like Dizzi, Ivanka, Laci, Ada, Marek, Peter, and many other similar success stories (too many to describe,) will one day be the future leadership of the Father's Heart Ministry. It's exciting for us to see that God is raising up young leaders to ensure that yet another generation of children will be reached for God's glory.



Bevan Stein

Bevan and Laura live on a ranch in Turciansky Michal, Slovakia. Their desire is to encourage and support a missions movement from Slovakia that will reach those who are marginalized.



SHORT-TERM MINISTRY TEAM COORDINATOR

IM is searching for a person to fill the position of Short-Term Ministry Team Coordinator in the Home Office in Clear Lake, Iowa.

The job is **full-time** and involves organizing 20-30 short-term mission trips per year. **Strong communication skills, a detailed mind, the ability to adapt to new software systems, and a passion for sharing about Jesus through short-term missions are all required.** It is a salaried position but requires some financial support raising. If interested, please contact office@im-usa.org.

A DREAM TO SERVE

On the Mission Field

This year has been a great blessing for me. God opened doors to serve with the body of Christ outside of Egypt. For us young Egyptians this is similar to a miracle. I have had the dream to serve God on the mission field for many years.

I started out to serve with IM at summer camps and discipling youth several years ago. In 2018, I made a short trip to Turkey. I had the impression to go and serve there for longer. In May 2019 I made a second trip. This time I saw God's grace daily. To get the right connections in such a country is difficult and sometimes dangerous. My trip was planned for 25 days. I knew where I was going to live for the first week. But I had no idea about where to stay for the rest of the trip. I had a contact in Turkey. But we had never met before. After five days of prayer, I met that person. He offered me to go and live with the students he was discipling. This was an exciting adventure for me. I shared an apartment with five different nationalities. During my stay there I met with more than fifteen nationalities. That gave me precious and helpful insights into people, the country, and my target group—international students. Students in countries like Turkey are much more atheistic today. They look for a truth that works. They lost trust in their traditional religion.

I met two guys: one introduced himself as an atheist, the other one as agnostic. I had long talks

with both of them and they honestly promised to read more about Jesus. I also met with Christians from a “different background.” I felt compassion for them. They need someone so much to walk with and encourage them to go forward in their journey with God. In many unexpected ways, my Heavenly Father took care of me and guided me in an unknown and sometimes scary country.

Back in Egypt, the desire to go back to Turkey has been growing since then. I will learn their language and pray that God will use me among this nation to bring His children back into His kingdom. I'm planning to return there this fall. It will be a long-term trip.



Ramy Karam

Ramy is an Egyptian who will be serving in Turkey long-term. His greatest hope in ministry is to see many people from different backgrounds come to Jesus.

PART TWO

“...Let my people go, so that they may worship Me...” Exodus 7:16

It’s interesting to note that God wanted Moses to tell the Egyptian Pharaoh specifically to let the Hebrews go, “so that they may worship Me.” Being physically free wasn’t enough; only life worshipping the One True God would hold the joy of real freedom. We are all slaves to sin. And only through our Deliverer, Jesus Christ, can we be set free. Praise God that He sent Someone to rescue us and bring us into the Promised Land if we are willing to turn from our sin and follow Him!

Yesterday the kids and I finished watching *The Prince of Egypt*. I glanced down the row of faces and was touched to see the oldest boy with his chin propped on his hands, gazing intently at the screen as the Israelites rejoiced in God’s deliverance—tears welling up in his eyes and dropping down his cheeks. When the movie was over he said wistfully, “That was a good movie. Is there a part two?”

“Yes,” I smiled at him. “Actually, there is!

Do you guys remember what would happen if the Israelites didn’t put blood on their doors?”

“The firstborn would die,” they responded.

“Right,” I said. “Now fast-forward to us. What do WE deserve: to live or die?”

“Die, and to go to hell,” the kids said.

“Why?”

“Because of our sins.” (I love having these conversations with them ☺)

“Right. So the Israelites put blood over their doors so the angel of death would pass them by. Who gave their blood so we could be saved from our sin?”

“Jesus! Jesus died on the cross for our sins...!”

“Yep!” There was an excited murmur in the group as the parallels suddenly began to click in their minds.

“So...,” I turned to him, “THAT’s Part Two.” ☺



Melissa “Missy” Pranke

For the past four years Missy has been serving on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in western South Dakota. One of her hopes is for the people she works with to know the Lord as true disciples.



We’d like to help you **DECLUTTER!**

Have you been a team member at an **IM camp**?

Did you come home with a suitcase containing **English Camp materials**? Is there a suitcase or box containing those English Camp materials taking up room in your **closet, attic, basement, or church storeroom**?

No matter how long you may have had them, we would be grateful to have those materials back!

*Please ship these materials back to us, by mail:
PO Box 618, Clear Lake, IA 50428
Or UPS/FedEx: 110 Orchard Ct, Clear Lake, IA 50428*

Encouraged to Move On

He is such a great God that we serve and it is such a privilege to be in His service.

When I moved to Gulu as a missionary two years ago, I thought it wasn't going to be easy. However, it didn't take too long before I got to love it. Meanwhile, I was in love with Rachael and she said "yes" when I asked, "Will you marry me?" It was such a joy but later I realized, she either has to leave her job or I have to leave Gulu!

After a long time of prayer and listening, I was reminded that though I love Gulu so much, Pawel in particular, "I have to move on." God has done great things. When I first arrived, there was only one small church building which was only half-full of people. Right now, it is perhaps the biggest church building in Gulu, also halfway full. Infrastructure has increased with about twenty structures now. We have done outreaches and now we have two other fellowship centers with one being considered for a church. We have a children's home, school, and great staff. We have developed a great team of ministers and other developments. So God is saying He wants me to move to the east, please pray for me as I begin the process of transferring to Mbale District in Eastern Uganda. I don't know where to start when I get there but I know Jehovah God is in Control. Rachael and I will be getting married on February 8, 2020. Please pray for provision. I will be moving to Mbale before the end of this year 2019. Please pray for God's direction.



Church in Pawel



Pawel today



Amon Nabasa


Amon's greatest hope for ministry is to be more involved in The Timothy Initiative (TTI), church planting and development, and, God willing, home cell Bible studies with his neighbors.

“SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS: “I was built up in many ways. God renewed my strength constantly, showed even more of His character to me and, most importantly, I saw God's love for others and their response to Him. It was also a good reminder that some things are so worth it even if it doesn't come easily.”

~ Zach (Ukraine Evangelism Youth Camp)

“This trip just reaffirmed that people are the same all over when it comes down to feelings and thoughts of the world. We ALL NEED JESUS!”

~ Dayton (Ukraine Evangelism Youth Camp)



REDEEM THE SUMMER

re•deem ◀▶ /ri'dēm/
verb

Definition of REDEEM

- To exchange

EXCHANGE your boring, lifeless summer for an **ADVENTURE** full of life. Let God **REDEEM** your summer by serving Him at the very edge of His **KINGDOM!**

Contact: jeff@im-usa.org

HE CALLS A FAMILY

Do you ever feel God leading you to the mission field, but concern for your children is holding you back? We have found it to be true that God calls not just one person but the entire family.

Two recent graduate families from Mountainside Ministry Training (MMT) center shared their experiences below.

Landon and Nicole Marcott, came to training with their four pre-teen/teen sons, Landy, Logan, Leighton, and Lawson.



Our **prayer**, from the beginning, was that God would move in our sons' hearts as well as ours...that they could see His hand in it. We

prayed together as a family that it wouldn't be an issue for anybody. God worked in each boy so that, other than missing their dog, they haven't wished to go back. He answered our **prayers**, which gave us peace to take this step of faith. God went ahead of us in that way.

Landy says, "I went from 'I don't know how we can ever move away, we've lived here our whole lives' to feeling adventurous and looking forward to it." Logan shared, "It was a little scary at first, but after I thought on it for a while, I thought, this is the Lord's will, so it will turn out to be good."

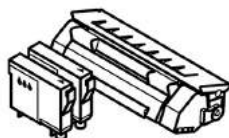
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ITEMS NEEDED AT MMT

Mountainside Ministry Training Center could use donations to purchase some much needed items:

Printer Cartridges (OEM)
for two all-in-one printers
(one prints color)

\$355.00



Bathroom Towel and Mat Sets
6-piece Towels = **\$27** (4 sets needed)
2-piece Mats = **\$15** (6 sets needed)



**Socket Wrench
Tool Set**
\$110.00

If you are interested in donating to MMT to help with these needs contact Jeff O'Connell at the Training Center: E-mail: jeff@im-usa.org • Ph: 866-578-4820

Joshua and Whitney Smith have three young children, Jordyn, Jayda, and Jonah. They are preparing to move to Uganda to serve at New Hope Children's Home.



*Throughout this process, our **prayer** has been that our children would believe they are being called to do this as well. Honestly, at the beginning of this journey, we had tears, fears, and total breakdowns. In the way only God can work, our kids began to warm up to the idea. Now we can honestly say, they are excited and can't wait to go! Jesus has completely changed their hearts! The most critical part is having a boatload of people faithfully **praying** for our family, and especially for our children!*

Three things that have helped our family:

1. Pictures/Study the Country

Josh and I went on a short-term mission trip to Uganda. We believe God has used the photos from that trip, and many conversations, to paint a picture of Uganda in our kids' minds. We are studying the country and finding fun facts. We are also noticing similarities and differences between Africa and the United States.

2. Personalities

Knowing our kids' personalities is a huge way to help them be a part of decision making. Let's face it, God created not only us, but our kids, with beautiful minds. Thankfully, He doesn't make them all alike. Even though some days we would like them to think and accept things as we do, that just isn't the case. For example, our girls are miniature planners and designers. They love being a part of picking out things for their living space in Uganda. Our youngest is a free-spirited little boy! We talk about all the fun he will have playing with the boys at the Home and school where we will be serving. God also allowed us to do a book drive for the Children's Home, and our kids were so excited to help pick out books!

3. Keep Them in the Loop!

*They want to know everything! When we have one of the missionaries in Uganda on the phone or FaceTime; we make sure the kids are around as we talk. We also **pray** with them about moving there and address their worries and concerns. Again people **praying** before and during training, and as we proceed forward, is of supreme importance!*

The children at New Hope are the same age as ours. This gives them common ground on playing and interacting. Our kids look forward to making new friends, sharing about Jesus, teaching them English, and learning their language. We can foresee the Lord using our kids to help the refugee children open up about their past and answer questions about God. He will open doors through our children that we could never do on our own!

As you can see, **prayer** is the common thread woven throughout. If He is truly calling you, He will call your family, too. Just ask Him.

~by Andrea O'Connell

Andrea O'Connell

Andrea and Jeff live in Libby, Montana, where they serve as the directors of MMT. Their desire is that more and more missionaries will be sent out from MMT and that MMT will be a light and witness in the community of Libby.





BIRTHS

MATTHIAS GERALD

born on 11-22-18
to Jon & Katie Larsh

SIMON

born on 12-21-18
to Sasha & Lena Litvak

ELDAR

born on 01-03-19
to Sergey & Julia Dotsen

VALERIA

born on 01-29-19
to Julius & Phillis Epilu

THADDEUS IOSIA

born on 05-10-19
to Chris & Faith Anderson

GABRIEL

born on 05-14-19
to Artur & Ewa Lyczba

BENJAMIN LEVI

born on 06-19-19
to Vitali & Marta Filonov

LENA LIZABETH

born on 07-29-19
to Aulo & Sarah Wing

ANEKA ELENA

born on 08-02-19
to Florin & Avery Soare

ELI KRISZTIAN

born on 09-25-19
to Bence & Abby Jóföldi

MANUEL DANIEL

born on 10-10-19
to Manuel & Hannah Baxter-Garcia

KAMILA ARWYN

born on 10-24-19
to Drew & Alzbetka Thiessen

THREE DAY DEADLINE

Have you ever wondered how you would react if you knew that you only had three days left to live?

As I write this article, I have three days before I'll be hospitalized for a heart procedure. It's true that there is a very high success rate with cardiac ablation; however, it was mandatory for me to read a document listing all of the possible side effects—one of which is death. DEATH. Honestly, this word does not invoke fear in me. Ask anyone who knows me well and hopefully they will tell you that heaven is one of my absolute favorite topics! Yet my (currently defective) heart is tied to this earth because it's bonded to a precious 13-year-old daughter whom I desire to see grow up; friends and family who, at this point in their decision making, would not be joining me in heaven; a whole earth full of people who have not yet heard the Gospel!

As I am preparing for this possible departure, I'm unpacking my baggage, so to speak. I'm forgiving without request, speaking without inhibition, showing love without reciprocation and prepping my daughter to live a powerful life should we be temporarily separated. And I can say that living as if I were dying has been good for me. It's a jumpstart! A kick in the pants! A holy spank! Perhaps after 21 years on the mission field, I have gotten too comfortable.

Four days from today, if I am successfully recovering with a healthy heart, I will not waste any time. I will continue to LIVE and proclaim LIFE to the lost! I will forget about my comfort zones, do things that I've been afraid to do and get trained in how to help hurting and traumatized people—something I've wanted to do for a long time. Although I do NOT wish heart problems on anyone, I do wish that we would all take a chance on life, and live like we were dying.

Julie Hybel

Julie, Przemek, and Roksy live and work in Kraków, where they use English teaching, photography and baking lessons as outreach tools. They also work alongside their local church in various ministries.

Note: Julie is alive and well in Krakow with her family.





Our life these days doesn't allow much time for sitting still. Full-time work and ministry aside, we have five kids now, ranging in age from 12 down to our 10-month-old who is already trying to walk. People often ask us if we take enough time to rest, which, admittedly, is a challenge for us. There is always more than enough work to do, and there never seems to be enough time to do it all. This past summer, during our time away from the reservation, we did a LOT of traveling and visiting people throughout the United States and Canada. It was good to be away, to break from our "normal," and to spend time with people who are dear to us. Even so, it was busy, and life just IS busy with five kids, no matter where we are or what we're doing.



During that travel time, we stopped at a Christian bookstore one day and I saw a baseball cap with the verse: "BE STILL and know that I am God" from Psalm 46:10. I bought the hat, and several times after that,

in the middle of a busy moment, I would look at it, take a deep breath, and remind myself, "Be still."

I've thought about it a lot since then. I don't take it to mean "sit still and do nothing"—that's not always an option—but rather it speaks to me in an area where I often struggle: with worrying about things that I can't control. It's a reminder for me to still my spirit and trust my GOD who can touch areas and influence things that I can't possibly understand or reach.

In our ministry, we feel that the most important thing God asks of us is to live out our faith; to be living, walking, talking examples of who He is, how He loves, and what He says and does. HOW God uses that in people's lives is up to Him. Don't ask me why, but the simple act of TRUSTING God—of releasing our work, our heartaches, and the people we love into His hands—is no easy task. I guess that's why I continue to need that reminder: **"Be still and know that I am God."**



Katie Larsh

Katie, her husband Jon, and their children currently serve in Cat Lake, a fly-in only First Nation reserve in Northern Ontario (a community of about 500 people). One of their greatest hopes in ministry is To see Christians from Cat Lake going out from the community to serve and share the Gospel in other places.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST

IM is searching for a full-time Executive Administrative Assistant who will also handle incoming phone calls in the IM Home Office in Clear Lake, Iowa. The job also involves preparing and organizing materials for overseas ministries. If interested, please contact office@im-usa.org.



WANT A BLESSING?

Want a Blessing? Doesn't everyone? Over the years since 2007, we have made numerous trips to the River of Life Care Home in Cornesti, Romania, where we met and learned to love the mothers and children who are cared for there. We've seen them come from abusive situations and learn that there are those who will love and provide for them. Some of the children we first met in the early years have grown up and graduated from high school. There is an opportunity for young people to minister to the children at the Care Home. You can encourage them with your loving attitude, play with the young ones, read stories to the little ones, and spend time loving them. You will be blessed as we have been and perhaps be led to return again and again. Don't miss out on a blessing through this ministry! God has blessed us with lasting friendships and has abundantly supplied our needs.

Virginia & Stan Edwards

Virginia and Stan are from Sequim, Washington, and have served at the River of Life Care Home for many years. In 2016, at 82 and 75, they served ten weeks there. "The people" are what brings them back and have become their "other family."



*And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him?
And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? Romans 10:14*



PTMConference
Pastoral Training in MemberCare

Mercy in the Midst

October 6–9, 2020

Gather with other member care practitioners in Black Mountain, NC, for fellowship, networking, skill-building, and spiritual refreshment. Author and speaker Fil Anderson will challenge us with the theme **Mercy in the Midst**, centered around Jude 20–23. For more information go to:

www.barnabas.org/ptm

I EXPECTED THAT YOU WOULD START CHANGING THINGS...

This is the phrase I heard from one of the young men, three months after our arrival back to Shymkent, Kazakhstan. What answer would you give him? Excuses? Defense? Attack? How do you explain to people who expect you to serve, that you are almost burnt out... that they see not the person they met two years ago but a shadow of him... the ash of the missionary... an empty shell.

The last year was the hardest in my entire 36 years of life. Cultural adaptation, church expectations, burdens of the past, leaving parents behind, raising kids in a new culture, building new connections, unpredictable situations, permanent residency craziness, church infighting, and so on. All these things hit us like a hammer. We have heard about 18 months of adjustment but I didn't think that it would happen with us. What should we do? What is the secret way out? Read the Bible more? Pray more? Just press on? Never give up? Learn Bible passages? Preach to yourself? Remind yourself of the Gospel? Take rest? Eat more healthy? Sleep healthy? Be healthy? Have I mentioned everything? Please don't expect me to answer the question of burn-out, depression in ministry, disappointments in other Christians or something like that.

I know for sure, there are no simple answers anymore or easy solutions, no instant recipes of happiness and peace. Things are more complicated in life and ministry... and if you realize it, this is where the changes start. Where is God in all of these things? Still in the same place... better than I think, closer than I feel, more real than I believe. I expected that He would start changing things... and He did.



Zhenya Bozhatarnyk

Zhenya, Lidiya, & their children live in Kazakhstan. They hope to help establish stable local leaders to serve the community.



Donate a SUITCASE



We are in need of **good quality, medium to large suitcases with functioning wheels and pull-up handles.**

If you would like to donate one or more suitcases, or if you have any questions, please call us today!

800-243-6763

PRESENTING THE GOSPEL CLEARLY

Poland is a religious country, but is reluctant to accept the true Gospel. That is why we try different ways to saturate the country with the Gospel. That is why we organize concerts, family camps, scout camps, and various cultural initiatives. We want to reach adults, youth, and children with the Gospel.

During the Street Church, we preach the Word of God and feed tasty soup. For some time, three young homeless people came to the Street Church—two boys and one girl. At first, it looked like they only came for soup. But we managed to contact them. When we gave them clothes and shoes, the girl asked us to send her boyfriend for therapy. But her boyfriend was not addicted to any substances. Then she added, for soul therapy. We started meeting with them. They asked for prayer for wisdom because they have many problems, and made many bad financial decisions. They are open to God's Word. Please pray for their salvation. Pray for our family and for us to present the Gospel clearly.



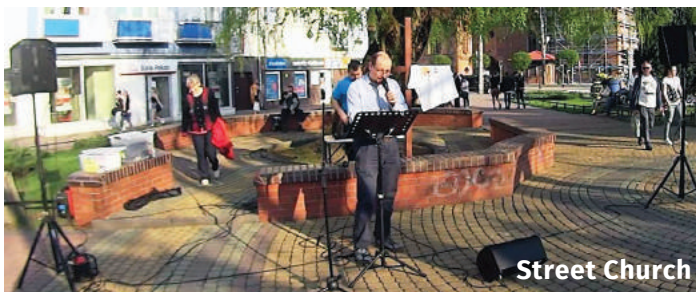
Scouting



Scouting



Street Church



Street Church



Christian concert

I planned many things for summer break. I wanted to earn some college money, but I broke my foot. Thanks to this, I devoted myself to reading the Bible and praying. I would never expect that my service would be to comfort and motivate others. I believe that God will help me grow in this. When my foot recovered, I went to a mission camp. I didn't know how to prepare for street talks. I thought maybe I would prepare some apologetic evidence for the existence of God, but God told me through the book that "you can try to convince people with some arguments, but it is with the testimony and blood of the Lamb that we have conquered the world," so I printed my testimony and gave it to people who were open. I taught an elderly lady to read the Bible and use links, another lady even began to come with her children to church meetings. I think it was a time of sowing and many unbelieving people could experience God's love through prayer, the Gospel and conversation. Most of them were positively surprised and moved to tears.

~ Michal (our oldest son, 20 years old).



Czarek Dabrowski

Czarek, Ewa, and their children (Michal-20, Estera-16, Wojtek-13) live and serve in Gorzow, Poland.

I AM NEVER FREE

As he sits on a bench looking down at his scarred hands and ripped shirt, he fights back the tears that would weaken his defense in the face of the other kids. Trying to stay strong he insists that the ones who keep him enslaved are his friends and that his dedication to them is true loyalty. So where are they now when he really needs them? They've left, they've abandoned him like all the others, and as I ask, "So are you free?" his muttered response tells me everything, "I am never free."

Our kids are held in prisons of fear and shame; they are proud of the price they can earn, but simultaneously want to drown out their pain. They run away but only end up in the same desperate situations. These kids are often called the "throw-away kids," and some people scorn that I "throw away" my time as I invest in their lives. But then I remember how God didn't just throw me away; He didn't turn his back on me when I was a sinner just like them. So we intercede, we spend time listening, talking, laughing, studying and sometimes crying. We pray and plead with God to work in their fragile hearts, to give us the words (and language) to speak the truth, to reassure,

challenge, and comfort these kids who've been entrusted to our care. There's not always evidence of anything taking root, but then...she sits in my car and asks God to forgive the many times she's been embarrassed to be associated with Him, and for mocking Him with her friends. She asks for courage, for God to bring salvation to her and the others in the orphanage.

We may not always see the fruit, but even then we can be confident of this; *"He who began a good work in you (and in them) will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 1:6)



Alissa Foreman serves orphans in Oradea, Romania. She works with kids and teens currently in placement and with adult women who have aged-out of the orphanage. One of her greatest desires is to bring the hope of Christ to dark places.

VEHICLE DONATIONS NEEDED

We are in need of **family-size vehicles** (vans, SUVs, full-size cars, 4WD or AWD if possible) for our missionaries to use while they are **home on furlough**. Often **their schedules require 7-10,000 miles** as they travel to see family, friends, and churches. Our missionaries are **extremely grateful** when we can help by providing them with a **low-mileage, dependable** vehicle. If you know of someone or an organization that is interested in donating a vehicle, would you let them know of our need?

Any questions about vehicle donations should be directed by e-mail to office@im-usa.org or call 800-243-6763



GROWING TOGETHER AS WE SERVE TOGETHER

My name is Mekha Saeed. I live in Alexandria, Egypt. God put youth on my heart and I am serving them by discipling them in several small groups. Most of them went through one or more of our evangelistic summer camps. God has opened many doors to reach out to them including teaching them how to worship and how to use music as an effective tool in the Kingdom of God. Giving piano lessons is also part of this teaching.

Some of these guys have grown so much that they see themselves responsible now for the younger ones in faith. It's a joy to see them grow.

The Lord has blessed me abundantly by choosing a wonderful future wife for me! Her name is Monika. She will carry on sharing about the ministry in Alexandria among young women.

My name is Monika Gebala. About a year ago God sent me to serve in Alexandria, Egypt. Within this one year, I have seen and experienced God in many powerful ways in my everyday life as well as in the lives of my dear friends, neighbors, and several other people I minister to.

My major ministry is focused on young girls. Together with my Egyptian sister Samah, I disciple them by doing Bible Studies and English classes. God has given me many opportunities to reach out to different age groups by using English as a tool and to love people as God has loved me.



Recently God led Mekha and me together. We see God's confirmation and his blessing in our relationship on a daily basis, and we also received the blessing of the people that are closest to us. We will get married next year.

Both of us desire to minister to young people and to open our future home for needy souls who need spiritual help, as well as for discipleship groups and piano lessons.

We believe that God calls us to serve in other countries as well, like Syria or South Sudan. We want to be open and obey God, wherever He may send us.

Please pray for our relationship. We appreciate every single prayer! What a blessing to have such a big family all over the world!



Monika Gebala & Mekha Saeed
Mekha & Monika live and serve in Alexandria, Egypt.

“ SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

How have you benefited from your missions experience? “My family was the real beneficiaries! As a parent, you can't hardly teach what is 'caught' while serving alongside such people. We are thankful for its impact on us and our guys!”

~ Jeff (Egypt VBS Kids Camp)



WHAT HAS A **DECADE OF CAMPS** FOR **HIV-INFECTED YOUTH ACCOMPLISHED?**

The Joshua Project (JP) is a Romanian based outreach to HIV-infected youth who are treated like modern-day lepers. Many were infected as infants when their pregnant mothers were given contaminated blood transfusions or when they received childhood vaccinations with contaminated needles.

The JP operates a Day Center where these youth receive counseling, dental care, and basic necessities. They also receive unconditional love, encouragement, and the Gospel. The JP staff strive to help these youth understand their identity as God's beloved children who are living with—not dying from—AIDS. The JP also hosts summer camps to bless these youth and demonstrate that God loves and values them. It's at these camps where the youth experience their biggest "God moments."

My wife, Grace, and I have led teams to host these camps since 2009. Here's why:

One young man in his late twenties said to us, "I never dreamed I'd live long enough to have a career or family. I'm still here and maybe for a long time. I'm just now beginning to think about what I want to do with my life (career) and that perhaps I could marry and be a father someday."

One gal—"M"—has lived all her life in an infectious disease orphanage and has three strikes against her: she is an orphan, has AIDS, and is Roma (Gypsy). When we met at camp many years ago, she was withdrawn and acted half her age. The next year at camp she was a believer, less timid and much more open relationally. This last summer we saw in her a young woman with strength and confidence in life and in Jesus, with hopes and dreams for her future.

Over the last decade, we've seen much growth in the lives of these campers who are now young adults. They no longer ask, "Why aren't you afraid of us like everyone else is?" Now they have hope for a future filled with purpose.

We need a team for next summer. Would you consider joining us?



Gene Fox

Gene and Grace serve together as the directors of International Messengers Canada.

2020 SHORT-TERM MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS (EELC)	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Alexandria, Egypt (ages 17 - 23)	National Staff	July 4 - 12
	Istanbul, Turkey (youth)	National Staff	July 12 - 19
	Beirut, Lebanon (youth)	National Staff	July 13 - 24
	Antonovka, Ukraine (H.S./College)	Litvak/Winkler	July 20 - August 2
	Syria	National Staff	August 5 - 15
	Erfurt, Germany (ages 18 - 25)	Oehler	August 6 - 17

FAMILY EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Odessa, Ukraine	Naydenov/Stave	June 30 - July 13
	Siofok, Hungary	Dan	July 14 - 27
	Alexandria, Egypt	National Staff	July 19 - 28
	Kielce, Poland	Daszuta/Forseth	July 22- August 3
	Szklarska Poręba (?)	Dabrowski/Fox	July 22 - August 4
	Southern Poland	Schlorff	July or August*
	Sibiu, Romania	Droll/Foreman/ Schneider	July 29 - August 9

SPECIALTY CAMP	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
Discipleship Camp	Antonovka, Ukraine	Litvak/Winkler	December 31 - January 12
Discipleship Camp	Kampala Uganda	Tustanovskyi	January 2 - 15
Discipleship Conference	Alexandria, Egypt	National Staff	February 2 - 10
Stoking woodstoves @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Mid November - Mid March
General Maintenance@ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	May 1 - September 30
Minister to moms, kids, elderly @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Ongoing, flexible, anytime
Business English Camp (adults/teens)	Malenovice, Czech Republic	Lipus	May*
Refugee Ministry/Encouraging rural local churches,	Northern/Central Uganda,	Nabasa/Ekanya/Pipes	May* (dates flexible)
Joshua Project Camp (youth & young adults)	Romania	Fox/Udrea/McKnight	July 10 - 23
Sports Camp	Alexandria, Egypt	National Staff	July 11 - 19
Kids' Camp/VBS	Alexandria, Egypt	National Staff	July 28 - August 5

***Specific dates yet to be determined**

For the most up-to-date camp schedule visit our websites:

www.im-usa.org/camps-schedule

www.im-canada.ca/camps-schedule

If you participated in a short-term trip in 2019 with IM and haven't had an opportunity to complete your camp evaluation form, please take a moment and fill out the online form available at:
www.im-usa.org/resources/eval

THE GOSPEL IS SPREADING RAPIDLY



My name is Mina Fawzy. I am the leader of our Egyptian IM sports team.

God uses this sports ministry as a bridge between the youth and Himself. Young people are most alienated from the churches in our country. Pastors often make it difficult for the younger generation to find Jesus, and a teenager would hardly be able to understand church language. Those coming from the outside think that Christianity's expectations and standards are far too high for a normal person to live up to.



But everybody likes doing sports, playing games, and spending fun time together. This turned out to be a simple and at the same time a very attractive tool to reach out to people. I have seen big numbers of youth turning to Christ through this ministry. Lives have been changed completely.

May I introduce Zoza to you? He joined our team last year. I prayed for him for a long time, and finally, he came to me to share that he had accepted Jesus as his Savior. Zoza is a good man who loves serving God and others. He might not be the typical "sports guy," but he has a very special personality and will have a strong impact on many.



God has expanded our ministry to other countries, like Lebanon and Syria. I had the chance to play soccer and games with youth from these countries this summer. I could see how people traumatized by war could relax and enjoy life just by playing with us.

We are planning a sports camps for Lebanon and Syria in the near future.

Many people in the Middle East are searching for the meaning of life and for eternal values. **So now is the time to step in and spread the Gospel among them to give them a foundation for life.**



“ SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

“Learning to see people the way God sees them. Everyone has a story to tell. Everyone has a need to be filled. Everyone is created with a hole that only Jesus can fill.”

~ Peter (Lebanon Family Camp)



Mina Fawzy

Mina was part of our 2015-16 class at the Desertside Training Center. He and his team plan to have a Sports Camp in 2020 to reach people with the Gospel.

Great Expectations

“Don’t be surprised if they put you in a box to try and *sweat* you to see how you react.” That is what my friend said I might encounter entering what was going to be my new country for the next several years.

Well, it didn’t happen at the airport, but something similar happened about a week later. I was fresh in the country and was about to help out my friend while making some money for myself at the same time. All that I needed to do was step into a small, hot, dark room and repeat what was already written for me. If I made a mistake, all I had to do was say “do” or “poslee.” I would do this until I got it right. My friend had already done his time in the booth and now it was my turn. So, he gave me two Russian words and then left me in that small, hot, dark room.

Here’s the thing, it was small, it was hot, and it was a dark room, and I only had my two new Russian words, before and after, to help me communicate with the men in the control room on the other side of the window between us. However, in spite of it being less than optimal conditions, I learned two new Russian words within the first week I arrived in Moscow, and the narration job we did of some maritime engineering manual was very profitable.

Adapting to a different country, culture, and language always has its challenges, and they are usually not what you expect. In fact, if there is one skill I want to learn once and for all, it is expectation management. Things are hardly ever what you expect. If they are, you are probably playing it too safe, are stuck in a rut, and aren’t learning anything. Additionally, while things usually don’t turn out the way you expect, oftentimes they turn out better.

Larry Tranberg

Larry lives in Moscow and is currently, leading a Bible study for the international church he attends, as well as discipling some young men.



MOVING IN

For the first time, I have a baby niece. Her toes are longer than I expected, her hair is tinged with red, and last I heard she is almost able to roll over. I see her only in pictures. We moved to Chennai, India, three weeks after she was born.

“Why would you ask this of me, Father?” The question pounded my soul. “Don’t You understand that the cost of missing her first smiles, or being around to hold her while my sister grabs some sleep, is leaving me in pieces?”

God’s love answered me, but not with a love that makes me comfortable. His love is willing to be born into a foreign culture. It is happy to eat rice and spicy gravy with my hands. His love smiles as sweat runs down my face and back during Tamil church services. His love says yes to teaching last minute sermons even though being in front of people makes me want to throw up. God answers my broken heart with a love so strong that He asks for everything I hold dear so that others could know Him. Two months into our time in India, I still wake up many mornings overwhelmed by the audacity of His love that holds us here. Jesus answers by squeezing me tightly in His scarred hands.

May we all move into the spaces that leave us gasping in newness, pain, or uncomfortableness, because we carry His surprisingly excessive love that is making all things right.



Mikayla Carlson

Mikayla and David serve in Chennai, India, alongside a local pastor who plants churches in unreached villages.

SHARING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE



My name is Suzi Mamdouh. I'm 25 years old and I graduated from the Faculty of Science. I have known Jesus since I was a kid and I know Him more and more as I grow up. My ministry includes working with teens and women. I go to a poor village where I teach some women how to read and write. They have no education, and they want to be able to read the Bible. I am also involved in summer camps, and I work as a translator.

One day there was a woman who came to me and asked me to help her daughter, Oginety, study. She joined the youth meeting a few times. Then, I invited her to one of the summer camps. Her heart is ready to know Jesus, and she wants to understand the Word of God. I started to work with her a little bit and I pray to be able to keep working with her.

In the village, I teach a young girl named Dina. She is 13 years old. She is unable to learn the alphabet easily. I think that she struggles with a learning disability. She needs love and hugs. I have learned how to persevere



in my work, even if I don't see quick results. I need patience from God.

I work with an AWANA club where the kids can have fun playing games and memorizing scripture. It's good for me that I joined it when I was a kid now that I'm a worker. On my team, there is a girl named Natalie who always feels less than others if she doesn't win a game or if she can't memorize more than one verse like others. I encourage her, and I invited her to our kids camp. I pray that she might know God's unconditional love.

One of the things I think about is the people who struggle with learning disabilities. I wonder if I might be able to work with them. I pray that God may guide my steps if He wants me to go this way.



Suzi Mamdouh

Suzi was part of our 2015-16 class at the Desertside Training Center. She attends seminary and is seeking God's direction in possible ministry to those who have learning disabilities.



SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"There are many lost souls in the world. A lot of people still don't believe in God and do not believe that salvation is through Jesus Christ. These IM Camps give us an opportunity as Christians to go out to the world and share the Gospel."

~ Mapule (Ukraine Family Camp)



BELIEVING IS SEEING



Many people say that seeing is believing, and I would have to say that they are right. Why wouldn't you believe in something you can see? During my devotions in John 6, I was convicted that while we say this, we definitely don't live it.

After the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus crossed to the other side of the sea. Morning dawned, and the people woke up ready to search for the man who gave out free meals. When they found Jesus, they asked a question, but instead of making small chat, He addresses their real need for eternal life. They wonder what works they must do to please God, and his simple answer was "believe." They don't seem opposed to this answer, but they want evidence, a sign that they could see so they could believe (John 6:30).

Really? Really? Don't you remember that just yesterday you saw an incredible miracle, and you still don't believe (6:36)? Would it really make a difference if he did more miracles? They weren't really interested in believing at all, they just wanted more bread, more of the things that he could give them.

As I look back over my life, I can count hundreds of miracles that I have seen God do, and many ways He has provided and moved mountains. And yet, when a new challenge comes up I default to "Um, yeah. Lord?" (clear throat), "Do you think you could give me a sign?" I tend to wonder if He will really pull through this time.

But if seeing really is believing, why don't I automatically believe after clearly seeing?

We want Him to give us proof, to show us visible evidence so that we can believe in Him, but what if the tables were turned? What if He asked us for evidence that we really do believe in Him? I was

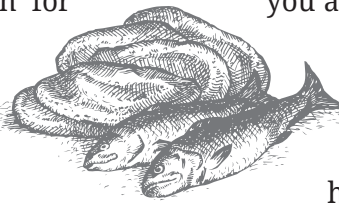
jolted when I realized He does give us "prove it" moments when He wants to see what's in us.

In John 6, back on the mountain when Jesus saw the large multitude approaching, he asked Philip where they would buy bread to feed so many people. I'm sure Philip had a slight panic attack as he looked around and could have thought, "Me? What are you asking me for? Ask Judas! He's the one who controls the money."

However, Jesus had an incredibly revealing reason for asking, which is exposed in John 6:6, "He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do." This was the moment Jesus wanted to see the faith that Philip had. He wasn't concerned that Philip would actually come up with a solution to feed this many people, He just wanted to see what would come out of his heart and mouth.

Why? Because it was never about Philip finding the solution—Jesus Himself already knew what he would do! There was never a reason for panic or worry, Jesus had everything under control all along, but did Philip know that? The only thing he had to do was believe.

God has been so faithful and evident in my life; He doesn't have to prove Himself again for me to know that He is trustworthy. I have seen, and I believe. But, when the trials and tests come, will He see that I believe? My reactions and responses to difficulties are proof of what I believe.



Bethany Baxter de Noriega

Bethany and Nelton, along with their children, live in Iquitos, Peru. Their hope is to continue growing together as a church and ministry, striving to know God and make Him known through the various aspects of ministry.

lighthouse

CENTER

“Can I have your telephone number, please?” I stared at her, surprised. Why would she want my telephone number? I don’t know her and she doesn’t know me. “Yes, yes, of course,” I replied pleasantly startled. “It was the mom of the twins’ friend from school. It’s been only a little over a month since we moved to Poznan, Poland, so everything was new to us.

In the second week of school the new friend/mom found my art group advertisement on FaceBook and asked to sign her daughter up. In the third week, all of our family was invited to the daughter’s birthday party. It was a rich time of getting to know the parents, grandparents, and more. Our big prayer for friends for our twins was answered bountifully; God gave us much more—an open door to relationships with the entire family and a possibility to share the Gospel. We moved to Poznan searching for (and already experiencing) some support, fellowship, and equipping for the vision of continuing the Lighthouse Center ministry. We continue to be family-oriented and look for ways to promote healthy family values that come from a correct view of God, and point to Him as the source of all good family customs and traditions. We are here to integrate into the community as it is, and to continue asking God how we can join Him in showing His love and truth in the place we are with the gifts we have. Our hearts are in ministry, but we also understand that physical needs are a real part of our life that does not exclude ministry, so we are looking for balance in all areas of our life, spiritual, physical, financial, social, and emotional.

Prayer requests:

- 1) Discernment as relationships develop in the school/workplace/neighborhood/church
- 2) Teammates
- 3) God’s timing in fostering/adopting a child/children

By: LeRoy Schwartz



The kids at the art studio in Poznan



lighthouse
CENTER

GREETINGS FROM THE
SCHWARTZ FAMILY
SERVING IN POLAND

Pray for us, that God would keep us close to Him. Cause us to love Him with all our hearts, souls and minds also draw us into His Word each day, and fill us with thankfulness.

Contact us: email: ifergit@gmail.com
facebook: Anna Schwartz



GRANTED TO BELIEVE, GRANTED TO SUFFER

PHILIPPIANS 1:29

“Is this really worth it?” I’d just gotten off the phone with our daughter, newly a missionary to India. Her stories of endless days left me shaken. I didn’t want her to be trapped in a house because it was unsafe for her to go out alone. I didn’t want her stomach to toss and turn from illness, transition, and food. I didn’t want her to struggle through loneliness. The simple fact was, I didn’t want her to suffer.

I guess the mom in me had overridden the missionary in me. For I, as much as anyone, understood the missionary life. My husband and I had been “newly a missionary” just eleven years ago. What had happened in the depths of my heart that had led me to wonder if the suffering was worth it?

I looked to Him and got it. My vision had become too narrow! I’d gone from seeing God in His power and wonder to just seeing, probably in an exaggerated protective mode, my daughter in her pain. I’d forgotten His eternal plan, His promise of blessing AND suffering, His stories of harvest, and the truth of His presence. I’d forgotten the way He carried me as a new missionary and the reality that He was carrying my daughter as He continued to carry me. My vision expanded and I remembered, while in no way equating my daughter with Christ, that He sent His child, too. Suffering? It’s real. Its value? Eternal.



Paula Roberts

Paula & Ron provide much needed care for missions interns and many others in the IM family.

FULL CIRCLE

She was sixteen years old when we first met Victoria (nicknamed Vica): a tall, lithe, blue-eyed blond, a model, and daughter of the former Ukrainian Olympic volleyball coach. She was intelligent, engaging, vivacious, curious, and motivated by her desire to perfect her knowledge of the French language. She thought she was just coming to our Français sans Frontières (French Without Borders-FSF) student camp in the mountains of her native Ukraine to have a good time and improve her French. Her life was good and she didn't think she needed anything else to make it better. But the Lord had other plans for Vica! He provided her with "divine encounters" with Him through conversations about faith with Lena, one of the other Ukrainian believers on the team.



After camp was over Lena made a follow-up visit to see Vica, to answer her many questions. Though raised Greek Catholic, neither Vica nor her family really understood the Gospel. At the encouragement of Lena, Vica and her family began attending a dynamic Wednesday evening Bible study group and through that came to true faith in Christ. Four years have passed since then and every year Victoria has come to our FSF camps. We have seen her grow in her faith through the help and encouragement of Nataalka, a woman from her region who has been a precious help on our FSF teams. This past summer we had the joy of welcoming Vica as part of our Ukrainian camp leadership team! Not only has she finished her French university degree, but she and her family have also flourished in their faith and are following Christ in their native



Jeanne Beckner

Jeanne and Ben Beckner live in Perpignan, France. They lead Français Sans Frontières (FSF), a cross-cultural training and mobilization platform, using the teaching of the French language and culture as a tool for launching French-speaking believers and churches into international and cross-cultural exposure, discovery, and evangelism.

city. She has come full circle, from spiritual blindness to engaged discipleship, and all this because God used her desire to learn another language to bring her to Himself! She is hoping to pursue journalism studies in France but has recently had some physical challenges. Please pray that she would continue to experience healing and the Lord's direction for her future.

“ SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

“This was truly a Holy Spirit event. This was evident in the way the campers participated in discussions and asked questions. Each day the Gospel was clearly presented and many seeds were planted. We need to continue to pray for repentant and responsive hearts. The cares of this world have captured a lot of interest and energy from many. May the name of Jesus go forth.” ~ Mike (Ukraine Family Camp)

”

HE HAS BUILT IT. *Will YOU come?*

My late husband, Janusz, was a beloved visionary. When God placed a desire in his heart there was nothing that could stop him. After watching *"Into the West"* he got an idea to start Indian Village VBS!! In Poland??? He remembered his childhood playing Indians and cowboys.

"Everybody wanted to be an Indian!" he said. Polish people had strived to regain their freedom for centuries. So had American Indians. Perhaps that common ground, in addition to respect Janusz grew for his fellow Native American students at Oak Hills Bible College, prompted the desire.

It wasn't long before Janusz found a company in southern Poland (!) that sewed full-size tipis mainly as attractive accommodations for tourist campsites. In the summer of 2007 we had six tents set up and 60 children signed up to attend a VBS. The village was built and they came! This past July there were 356 participants and a campground with 18 tipis!



We feel privileged to share Christ with children. Most of them come back every year until they are unable because of their age. Then they sign up to be volunteers as we need around 150 helpers! Their lives are touched forever.

The church in Kielce, which Janusz pastored for 20 years, would like to continue the VBS but also to further the ministry and revive the English Language Family Camps we used to do together after our return from the States in 1993.

Will YOU come and help us do the Family Camp? We are planning to extend the invitation to families of children and volunteers who attend the Indian Village VBS in hopes to have even deeper influence in their lives. The camp will be organized in the facility only three kilometers from the Indian Village campsite. We plan some afternoon activities right there so you can experience it yourself.

Janusz built the Indian Village without any Indians in Poland, but we cannot run the Family Camp without YOU! Please, come and join us and your life will also be changed forever.

Bożena Daszuta

Bozen lives in Zaborze, Poland. She is involved with ministry in her home church in Sunday School, women's ministry leader and co-leads a home group Bible Study.



“ SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"I have learned that when our Father asks us to do something for Him, He enables us to not only perform the task but also gives us the faith to persevere and the ability to carry out whatever it is He is asking us to do." ~ Sydne (Romania)



FOR A PEOPLE YET UNBORN

They shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn, that He has done it. Psalm 22:31

Psalm 22 pictures Christ's humility in suffering for us and His vision of reaching all the nations. His suffering wins our deliverance. His grace saves us so that we might offer **"praise in the great congregation"** (v.25). Others join in praising the Lord for God's blessings are great, touching this life, **"eat and be satisfied,"** and extending to the next, **"live forever"** (v. 26).

The fruits of salvation are so profound and glorious that they cannot be hidden (v. 27-29). Thanksgiving to God spreads and overflows until the Lord receives the worship of the Gentiles, **"all the families of the nations shall worship before You"** (v.27-28).

Psalm 22 is clear: we share God's praise, we don't keep it to ourselves until God's praise extends to **"a people yet unborn"** (v.30-31). God yearns for the salvation of coming generations, those not yet born **and** those living who are still not born spiritually, born again.

We saw God's praise extend to the next generation at our Romania Evangelistic English Camp last August. Jennifer Droll, a missionary with IM, had invited her doctor to attend camp. This doctor could not attend but encouraged one of her nurses to send her children to camp. So, a new handful of unchurched teens attended English camp, most of whom had never held or read the Bible. And what happened to them at camp was amazing. We learned about it on the last evening as we allowed everyone the opportunity to share about their week at camp.

Many shared that evening. We were all praising God for His blessings. But the most amazing testimony came when this new group of seven teens stood up together. Their message was simple: *"You know, we've never been to anything like this ever before. And we really didn't want to come here. We were*

dreading it. But we want you to know how much we enjoyed it. We are so surprised that we enjoyed it so much. We did not yet make any commitment to Christ, but we want to read the Bible more and study this for ourselves. And we want you to know that we hope we can come back to camp next year." What happened next? The place exploded in applause.

Tears filled my eyes. I couldn't speak. I was moved by their honesty, their sincerity. I couldn't help but think, *nobody made these kids stand up and share. What just happened?*

The answer is that Psalm 22 is right. The praise of God for His great salvation just cannot in any way be stopped nor can it be contained. It spills over and splashes everyone around (including these kids) with the testimony of Jesus. And when that happens, **a generation yet unborn** hears the Good News that God loves them and Jesus died for them so that the Holy Spirit can give them new life in Christ.

One of the greatest privileges we have as believers is introducing the Gospel to those who have never heard. We do this with youth and adults at English Language Evangelism Camp. What joy!

Our next camp in Romania is August 1-8, 2020, travel dates include July 29-August 9. Contact the IM office for more information if you have an interest in serving with us.



Kent & Sue Wagner

Kent and Sue are part of IM's staff care team, providing care and support to IM staff in Romania.

“ SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"I return home with renewed dedication to the ministries He has given me in Vancouver. I hope I'm more accepting of cultural and personal differences while not forgetting the fundamental Christian faith."

~ LauraMae (Romania Family Camp) ”



We have been in Poland for 12-1/2 years and have just ended our seventh year at Friendship House! We survived our first couple of years and eventually started to see God leading us in the direction of working with the homeless and addicted in Radom, Poland. In 2012 we were able to purchase “Friendship House”! A huge thank you to all who donated to the cause.

We soon realized we needed a Polish couple to help us with the “legal stuff” and the local government agencies. In 2013, God brought Artur and Ewa Lyczba and their son Jonatan to Friendship House. They have

become a precious asset to the Ministry. They now have two more boys—Gabriel and Alexander.

We work with street people every day. We serve coffee and tea, and offer conversation, showers, haircuts, laundry, clothing, medicine, and first aid. We also offer a 12 step program, rehab entry assistance, housing before and after rehab, recovery meetings, and lots of meals! After all of that we try to fit in grocery shopping and personal time. Every day is the same, but different.

Our personal prayer request is this: we are not “spring chickens” (72 years) and we have been praying for a couple (or family) to replace us. They would need to be able to work with Artur and Ewa and their boys and have compassion for the addicted and homeless. It’s not pleasant sometimes, with the smells of the street. The couple or family would live at Friendship House and would be “attached” and available to the ministry full-time. Artur and Ewa understand and speak very good English and both can translate, so if this couple is from the States, they can understand them with very little problems.

God Bless you all, and thank you for supporting Friendship House!



Bob & Vera Hageman

Bob & Vera’s greatest hope is that the “Friendship House” will continue to be a viable ministry in Radom and that it will continue to develop as a ministry led by God’s heart.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support **International Messengers** every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to IM.



#1 holiday idea:

When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

amazonsmile

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to **smile.amazon.com** from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Use your same account and login, and on your first visit to AmazonSmile just **search for and select International Messengers as the charity you wish to donate to.**

SHORT-TERM WITH A LONG-TERM GOAL

While in Egypt last month, I received an email from Poland. It said, “I found your teaching notes from ten years ago! Thank you! It influenced the last decade of my life and the last four years of my ministry.”

Ten years ago? You never know how God will use your work. That was a short-term event that had long-term repercussions. What does “short-term with a long-term goal” mean? The first short-term camp I remember was over twenty years ago. Nicole’s first trip was two years into our marriage. Then we moved full-time overseas and hosted others doing short-term trips. Based on these years of seeing short-term ministry in action, we can say that your short-term trip can have lasting results. For that to happen, be a part of a ministry that has a long-term goal. It’s easy for North Americans to see short-term trips as short-term events, but that’s a short-term goal! Your one-week camp is not the end of the journey!

I recently attended a youth camp in Egypt. Rather than seeing this as an opportunity only for the campers, we tend to focus on the young national leaders who are hosting the camp. We often work with them far beyond that one-week time slot. A short-term trip is perfect for training our North American leaders, as well as national leaders. But this is just the beginning of our work with them. We have long-term goals!

Right now we have a list of training needs from those young leaders. Getting their initial training is important, but many desire life-long learning. Does your family want to join us in planting churches, training leaders, or bringing Bible college, seminary, and ministry training to leaders right where they live? Our needs include translation of materials, travel, and student scholarships. Adopt a pastor or church plant today. We also need teachers to be trained in the materials we use. Contact us at thebegers@searchingtheword.com.



David Beger

David, Nicole, and family live in Idaho. Their ministry focus is “the planting and establishing healthy national churches.” They currently work in Poland, Czech Republic, and MENA (Middle East and North African countries).



Weddings

Ken Golding



Kasia Kulm

married on 3-9-19

Ken is IM staff serving in the Home Office

Justin Schneider



Dana Popa

married on 6-24-19

Justin is IM staff serving in Romania

Steven Naseem



Randa Karam

married on 9-18-19

Both Steven and Randa are IM staff serving in Egypt

MOBILIZING UGANDA FOR MISSIONS

Mobilizing Uganda for Missions: Vision: *To renew, train, and to mobilize the local church in Uganda in reaching the world for Christ.*

MUM started as a small group Bible Study in Jinja, Uganda, in 2010. Since then, MUM has grown to a multi-functional ministry throughout Uganda.

MUM/Timothy Initiative mission is to see healthy, reproductive churches in Uganda. We train and equip believers to become Biblical leaders in their homes and churches. Since the start of MUM/TTI, we have trained over 300 men and women. The training takes one year covering Old and New Testament surveys, doctrine and other Biblical disciplines.

MUM/Gulu Center of Christian Missions started as a church plant under Mango trees in the small village of Pawel. One year later, Hope Primary School opened, and the following year Village of Hope opened. Today the school has over 150 children. Fifty are from the South Sudanese refugee camps, and the others are Ugandan children from the village of Pawel.

MUM/ African Coalition Of Purity To see the church, the Bride of Christ, become pure, holy, and prepared for her Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. Mobilizing and equipping men for a life of sexual purity by challenging them to commit to becoming pure. Exposing them to the dangers of pornography and revealing the cost of not living pure in God's sight.

MUM/Gulu Center of Christian Missions Village of Hope is the home to over 50 parentless children from the South Sudan Refugee camps located in Northern Uganda. We provide all of the needs as any parent would for their children. The children live six to a home with a "House Mom." When the children arrive, it is often in groups of six. Not only do we need to evaluate their personal trauma situation, but the language is often an issue as there are up to five different languages the children can speak. In spite of the many challenges we face, the children have responded remarkably. We proceed with every child and situation, remembering what is written; ***Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*** **1 Peter 4:8**

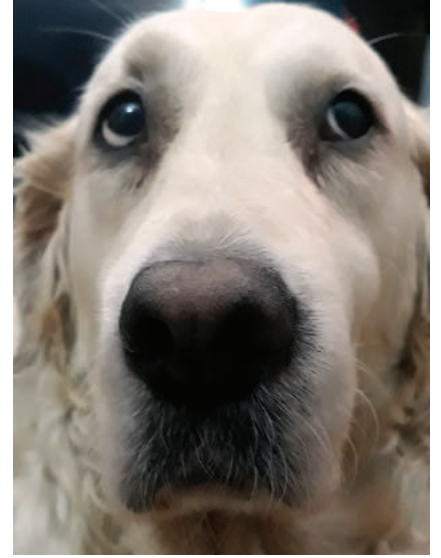


John Pipes

John, his wife Christine, and their children live in Jinja, Uganda, where they serve with the local church to renew, train, and mobilize believers for active involvement in reaching the world for Christ.

THE DOG DID IT!

Dogs get blamed for a lot of things – lost homework, clouds of putrid air, punctuality problems... But in our case, our dog catches the blame for something GREAT (as well as those other things)! You see, from the day we first moved into our small attic apartment once considered the servant's quarters of the former Soviet consulate building in the center of Kraków, Poland, our neighbors hated us. Not only did they ignore us completely, but they accused us of many strange things. For example, they said that our guests were making #2's on the rooftop terrace (instead of using our bathroom), which resulted in changed locks to the terrace door. Additionally, large busloads of people from the mountains were coming to our apartment to take long showers, therefore water meters were installed in our apartment to monitor our water usage.



Amber Hybel



Our whole family

After years of failing to be liked by our neighbors, we got a dog. Suddenly, we were legitimate people! Surprisingly, we were greeted with smiles and small talk! Instantaneously, doors of opportunity opened up to us! Our whole neighborhood became a mission field, like wheat ready for harvest! Once downcast eyes made contact with ours, and conversations about our pup led to a myriad of deeper topics. Our dog became an evangelistic tool! As missionaries we are always looking for ways to reach the people to whom God sent us, and every culture has unique quirks. So, as we vacuum the endless puffs of white fur and sweep the sandbox which is our kitchen floor, we thank God for giving us the wisdom to adopt this sweet Goldie and credit her for a breakthrough in this wonderfully quirky culture. ~by Julie Hybel, Krakow, Poland.

Important information about **FACEBOOK FUNDRAISERS**

Facebook is quickly becoming a popular way for people to raise money for their favorite charity.

These fundraisers are also a great way to raise money for the IM ministry you would like to support, or to raise money for an upcoming short-term trip you are participating in. If you decide to run a fundraiser on your Facebook account, be sure to contact us with the following information so the money received is credited to the correct account here at IM.

- The dates the fundraiser was "active."
- The amount Facebook said you raised.
- The preferred designation for the money raised.

Please email this information to: nicki@im-usa.org



QUESTIONS? CALL OUR ACCOUNTING DEPT. 641-357-6700



WHAT WAS I THINKING?

“Mom, I’d really like to go on a missions trip,” said our teenage son Colin after hearing of a youth mission trip from our home church. Amidst the busyness of returning to Romania, I forgot his comment. The Lord reminded me of it when Doug and Colin were at the IM Staff Conference. Doug found two opportunities, both youth English camps in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) countries. After prayer, they signed up to serve at one of the camps.

“Wow! What was I thinking?” I thought as the camp drew near. They were going to a dangerous country, with regular terror attacks. They had to take medicine preventatively to ward off sickness. Admittedly, this wife/mom needed to have her faith stretched, and God provided the perfect opportunity.

What stories they told of the Lord’s work during the camp! Colin related well to the young men, and he shared Biblical truth and encouragement with them. As Colin and Doug served together, they exemplified discipleship that happens in a family. They were invited back next summer, and Colin was asked to serve Christ in another MENA country, too.

Later in the summer, we received a number of young people to serve at our English camp. Like Colin, they traveled into the unknown to serve the Lord. Like me, their parents stayed behind, with much prayer and anticipation of how the Lord would use their children. The Lord used each young person on the team, in formal and informal ways. They brought energy to the team, and they related well to the Romanian youth. What a joy to see the Lord use them in His service!



Colin and Doug – Egypt 2019

Consider how a young person in your life might be used by the Lord on a summer missions trip. They will share the Gospel, work alongside other missionaries, and deepen their own walk with the Lord. I join with you, as next summer Colin will likely return to at least one camp, and one of our daughters wants to join him. These are exciting days for us as parents and missionaries, as we see the Lord raising up the younger generation with a heart to serve Him cross-culturally, in Romania and around the world!

Jen Droll

Jen, Doug, and their five children live in Romania, where their focus is on discipleship and church planting. They hope that God would use them to lead Romanians and international students to saving faith in Jesus Christ, and to become His faithful disciples.



A Trip of a Lifetime!

We were very blessed to be able to visit some of our supporting churches in America with Ileana, her son Andrei and Antonio last summer.

Ileana was our first Care Home mom in 1999. Her son, Andrei, was the first baby saved from abortion through this work. He's now twenty years old and in university. Ileana became our social worker and helps manage the ministry. Antonio was the first abandoned baby saved through this ministry in 2005. We've raised him since he was just a couple of weeks old. We thought it would be good for our supporters to see some of the people whose lives they've invested in over the years. Although the hurdles were many for us to be able to take this trip, the Lord went before us and leveled our path!

On our 7-1/2 week trip across America, we drove 9,800 miles, through 17 States, slept in 22 different beds, visited 7 churches, and presented the ministry 44 different times! We were amazed that people drove and even flew from far distances to visit us at the churches!

Doug preached eight sermons, at 14 worship services. Antonio joined the worship teams six times, playing guitar, keyboard, or piano. We presented the ministry 16 times in churches, in addition to the worship services, during Sunday school time, between, or after the services. At 28 home meetings, we had more informal fellowship times.

We dipped our toes in the Pacific Ocean at sea level, and drove through a 12,000-foot pass in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. We visited four national parks, including Badlands National Park in South Dakota, Yellowstone, Olympic National Park in Washington, and the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

We saw so much beauty across the country and had so many amazing experiences, including fishing, shooting, kayaking, etc.

But the thing that touched us all and made this trip truly a trip of a lifetime was the loving-kindness that everyone showed us!! At the end of the trip, Ileana summed it up by saying that people are America's greatest resource!



Roberta Moore

Roberta and Doug Moore are the founders of River of Life (ROL) ministries. One of their greatest hopes in ministry is for the Lord to raise up more Romanian Christians to be a part of their staff team to serve the Lord Jesus wholeheartedly and invest their lives in the people the Lord brings to ROL.

PRIMETIME FOR MISSIONS IN MENA COUNTRIES

A year full of challenges, but also full of the kindness and faithfulness of the Lord! Last year started with sickness in both our lives. As it is, times of trial and trouble often turn into something beautiful. Jesus stood by our side and helped us walk through that valley, leading us onto new heights in our relationship with Him. Looking back we can only praise Him.

A big family camp in the mountains of Lebanon was held with the help of a great international team. Lots of prayers for unity were lifted up to the throne of God before camp. And the results showed. The same prayer was answered regarding our international youth camp in Germany. We had short-termers and campers from twelve different nations with very diverse backgrounds. The team was focused on love and understanding for each other and the campers. In the end we had the privilege to welcome



a number of spiritual babies to the family. All these experiences encourage us to step out in faith and to believe for more.



During the last year, we also learned a lot about better understanding and consequently more effectively discipling war-traumatized young people. Our engagement in Lebanon and Syria showed us how far we still are from being of true help within the often dysfunctional body of believers. Yes, Egypt is tough ground. But the darkness and complexity of post-war Syria and the refugee situation in Lebanon deeply humbled us. These countries made us once again aware that all we do is depending on our Lord's impact. But we're not discouraged. For a couple of months, North Americans have been allowed to travel to Syria again. Next summer we are planning an English Youth Camp near Damascus in cooperation with Beirut's "Tent of Praise."

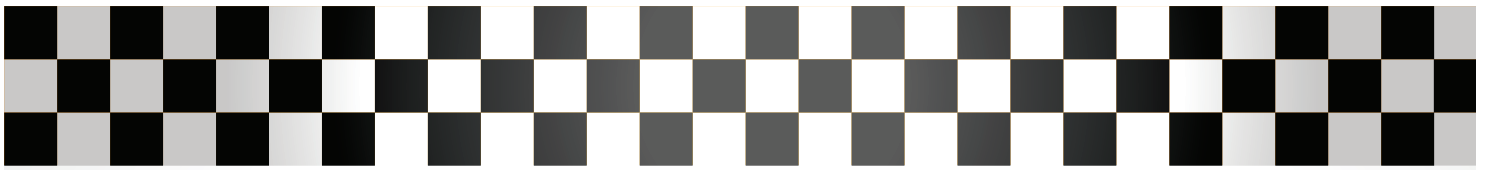
Our first contacts in spring 2019 and the launching of "IM Turkey" with one of our Egyptian staff members now in Istanbul, is more than encouraging. You don't hear much about the extraordinary fertile ground for the Gospel among international students there. Despite, or maybe because of, all the known challenges in the country young people seriously search for true meaning in life. They're as hungry for truth as we remember from the days after the collapse of the Soviet Union in Russia and Ukraine. A first English College Camp is planned for summer 2020.

The field is vast and our target group can be easily reached in these days.

Ben & Burgi Oehler

Ben and Burgi focus mainly on the countries in the Middle East/ North Africa. They also coordinate IM's "Desertside Training Center" (DTC).





THE OPEN DOOR OF A TAXI

When not using public transportation I sometimes travel by taxi. What makes taxis an open door? The driver is a captive audience ☺, usually ignored by passengers (typically on their phone), is open to a conversation amidst their day of driving in a crazy city, and knows I am paying for the time in the taxi.

I try to begin the ride with a silent prayer asking God for a spiritual conversation. Here are some of what God has prompted after I start a conversation. “*How do you pray for your children?*” “Why should I pray for my children?” “*Do you read the Bible?*” “I have a Bible at home but don’t read it.” “*I do read the Bible. Here is a Bible for you to take home.*” “*How can I pray for you?*” “I don’t need prayer.” “Please pray for my wife with cancer.”

After watching the taxi driver make the traditional sign of the cross when we drove past an Orthodox church I asked is “*God important to you?*” “There are many gods, the Bible was just written by men, the church is filled with hypocrites.” This driver was a very angry person. I listened. It was obvious that he was closed to any conversation about God. The conversation reminded me that there are many people lost without Jesus on the road to hell.

Listening: Some drivers just need someone to listen. Listening is a gift. I try to ask questions that cause the driver to consider Jesus long after I step out of the taxi door. I thank God for my taxi rides. I have learned a lot about having spiritual conversations naturally with people in our city. I have gained more of an understanding of how others think in regard to important life issues. Maybe sometime I could share about an open mouth and spiritual conversations with my dentist. ☺

Where could you ask a question to open the door for a spiritual conversation?

*A helpful resource *God Space: Where Spiritual Conversations Happen Naturally* by Doug Pollock



Jill Clark

Jill and Tom live in Bucharest, Romania. Their ministry focus includes discipleship (small group and one-on-one); distribution/training for Focus on the Family’s The Truth Project; translation, publishing, distribution of Bibles/Christian books; life coaching; and serving/partnering with Bucharest International Church and Community Bible Study.



VIOLIN

An IM staff member who works in Egyptian villages is seeking a donation of a gently used violin in order to help build relational bridges with young people and adults through music.

If you are able to help, please contact
office@im-usa.org.



Image by HeungSoon
from Pixabay

PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



IM Canada is searching for a person to fill the position of Administrative Assistant in our office in Abbotsford, BC, Canada.

This position is a minimum of 4 hours per day, 5 days per week. The assistant would answer phones, process mail, process short-term ministry applications and communications, organize files, make airline reservations and more. It would be beneficial if they were also experienced in social media and marketing.

The successful applicant would either be a volunteer or need to fundraise support for their ministry. If interested, please contact our office at info@im-canada.ca



Well, all I can
do is **pray**

Ever heard that or even said it? We live in a culture of “doing” rather than “being” so it’s hard for us when we’ve done everything we can and have exhausted our resources. We want to do more! It’s that way with our summer camps. We recruit, advertise, and share the need whenever we can. But over the last few years we’ve seen camps canceled and the ones we did have, had mixed reviews. But this year, WOW! We had our teams filled, sometimes at the last minute and an amazing response to the Gospel. You ask, “why is that?” I’m glad you asked. This year in April, we began a staff-wide *Prayer and Fast Day* every Wednesday. I sent our reminders and updates to encourage them to keep praying and specific needs to bring before the Lord. Darwin feels that this is the reason we had such a great response.

So back to the title of the article. When a need is made known to you, before you even think about what you can do, stop and pray and commit to continue to pray. Prayer is our first and most valuable response. When someone shares something with you, before you say, “I’ll pray about it,” say, “let’s pray right now.” Remember, He is able to do far more abundantly than we can ask or think (Ephesians 1: 20). Let’s trust His abundance to meet the need! Why? I’m glad you asked. So He is glorified throughout all generations forever and ever! (Ephesians 3:21)

Deborah Sharp

Deborah and Steve serve with the IM Home Office where they help with recruiting, training, staff care, insurance admin, and hospitality. They pray that their lives and speech might clearly present the Gospel to those they meet.



“ **SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:** “Ministry to others can be as simple as showing God’s love through talking to people. The kids felt so loved throughout conversations we had with them.” ~ Megan (Ukraine Evangelistic Youth Camp)

SO CLOSE TO DEATH



As we were walking out of the gate on the way to church last Christmas morning, an incident occurred that brought so vividly to my mind the famous sermon by Jonathan Edwards.

In his sermon Jonathan says, *“The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked: his wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire; he is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in his sight;... and yet it is nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment.”*

As we were getting ready to leave for the Christmas morning service, I heard what I thought was the garbage truck outside on our road, but as we headed out the gate we saw the truck, and no, it was not the garbage truck—it was the fire truck!!

An elderly married couple lives next to us. The wife had just bought an electric Christmas candle to put in the kitchen, and leaving for only a few moments the candle somehow started an electrical fire. Rushing back into the kitchen she grabbed a towel to try to put out the fire and her husband grabbed the rug off the floor and threw it on the fire, but this just added to the fire.

Just then both the husband and the wife came out of the gate carrying things destroyed by the fire. This image will stick in my mind for a long time to come—here are two elderly people in front of me, side by side, covered in soot, smelling of burned plastic, with even their teeth streaked with soot. This is when the visual picture hit me from Jonathan Edwards’ sermon.

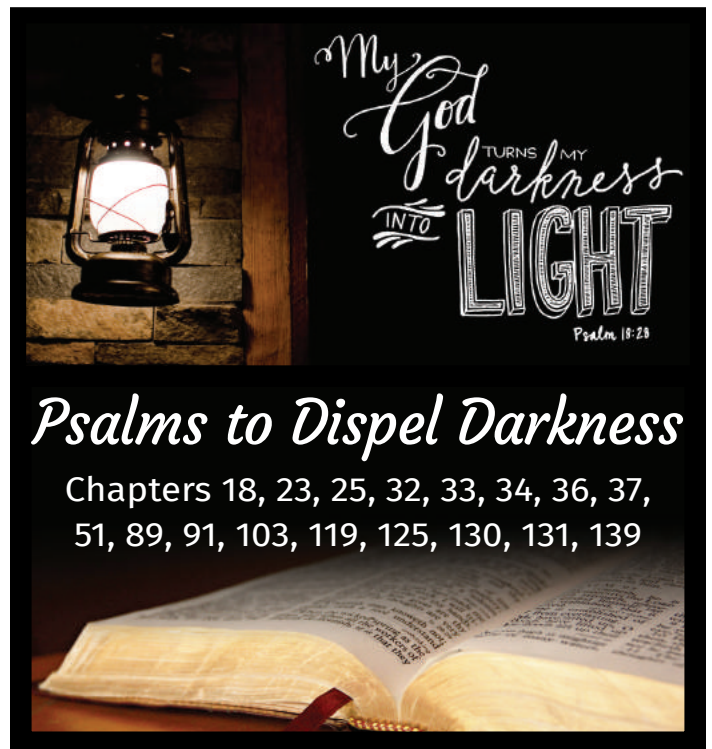
Our neighbors were so close to death by fire that they looked and stunk of it. What if they had died in that fire and went to hell because their

neighbor, (that’s me) had not taken more time to share Jesus more clearly with them. In my mind, it was almost as if they had been standing over the gates of hell and God was holding them back saying, “your time is not yet.” They were that close. Life is so fragile and at any moment our earthly life could be over. God gave me this opportunity to share the Gospel message with them and to speak into their lives. Don’t let these moments pass you by.



Chris Anderson

Chris and Faith live and serve in Mangalia, Romania, along with their seven children. Their focus is on church planting.



“ SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

“I knew very little of the culture in Lebanon, just what I saw on the news. I was concerned about my safety and whether I would be able to love the people I met. I found great love and appreciation for all the people at the camp and on the team. God truly BLESSED this camp. I pray that we added gold and jewels to the foundation!”

~ Robb (Lebanon Family Camp)

- ☐ I/we would like more information about IM's ministries planned in 2020.
- ☐ Please send an application for short-term / long-term (circle one) involvement.
- ☐ I am an alumnus and would like to return to the following camp in 2020:



PO Box 618
Clear Lake, IA 50428-0618

In Canada
PO Box 11022, 1945 McCallum Rd
Abbotsford, BC V2S 0E4
CANADA

- ☐ Please send more information about IM's automatic donation program.
- ☐ I would like to financially support _____ \$_____ per month / quarter / year
- ☐ I am interested in receiving my receipts by e-mail.
- ☐ Please do not send this annual International Messengers newsletter (continue to send individual missionary prayer letters).
- ☐ Please remove me from all newsletter and prayer letter lists.

Comments: _____

Name: _____ Member # _____ Phone: (____) _____
(appears to the right of your name in address block)

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Please cut along the dotted lines and mail to IM at the address above.



Christmas Gift Alternatives from the IM Family

It's often hard to buy Christmas gifts for people within our family and friends. Normally we purchase gifts assuming they may be returned or short-lived, and sometimes we're even afraid that we are just adding "stuff" in their lives that will only clutter. We'd like to offer some Christmas gift alternatives with more of an eternal twist to them. If you choose to donate to one or more of these areas, we will send you a link to download and print a card to give to the recipient indicating that you have given a Christmas gift on their behalf to help with one or more of these ministry needs.

Yes, I would like to give:

- ☐ A hot meal for the homeless in Radom, Poland (\$10)
- ☐ Scholarship to enable a young person in the Middle East to attend an Evangelistic English Camp where they will hear the Gospel (\$100)
- ☐ School fees and supplies for needy children at River of Life Care Home in Romania (\$25)
- ☐ Tuition for one school-term for orphans in Gulu, Uganda (\$50)
- ☐ Scholarships (\$50 each) to help HIV-infected children and families attend a Joshua Project camp next summer in Romania

Amount for hot meals \$ _____

Amount for camp scholarship \$ _____

Amount for school fees and supplies \$ _____

Amount for tuition for orphans in Uganda \$ _____

Amount for Joshua Project scholarships \$ _____

Total Amount of Donation: \$ _____

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Enhancing Trust

2019 Short-Term Ministries Report

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Children's Ministry in Schools | 1 Professional English Camp(Business) |
| 2 Discipleship Camps | 2 Refugee Ministries |
| 7 Evangelistic Youth Camp | 3 ROL Care Home Ministries |
| 1 Evangelistic Softball/English Day Camp | 1 ROL Care Home 3-month Ministry |
| 7 Family Evangelistic English Camps | 14 Staff Care or Teaching Ministries |
| 1 IM Staff Conference | 1 Teacher Workshop |
| 1 IT support | Women's ministry |
| 1 Joshua Project Camp | 1 VBS Day Camp |
| 1 Marriage Camp | |
| 3 Orphan Ministries | |



God accomplishes much through the willingness and hearts of our staff and short-termers. From fall 2018 - summer 2019, we sent a total of 234 workers to serve at a variety of outreaches (see list at left). We also conducted 13 trainings in 8 states/provinces.

The average age of our short-termers was 49 years old and 53% of our short-termers were alumni. Our oldest short-termers was 81 and our youngest was 7 years old.

We give God all the glory for another blessed year!