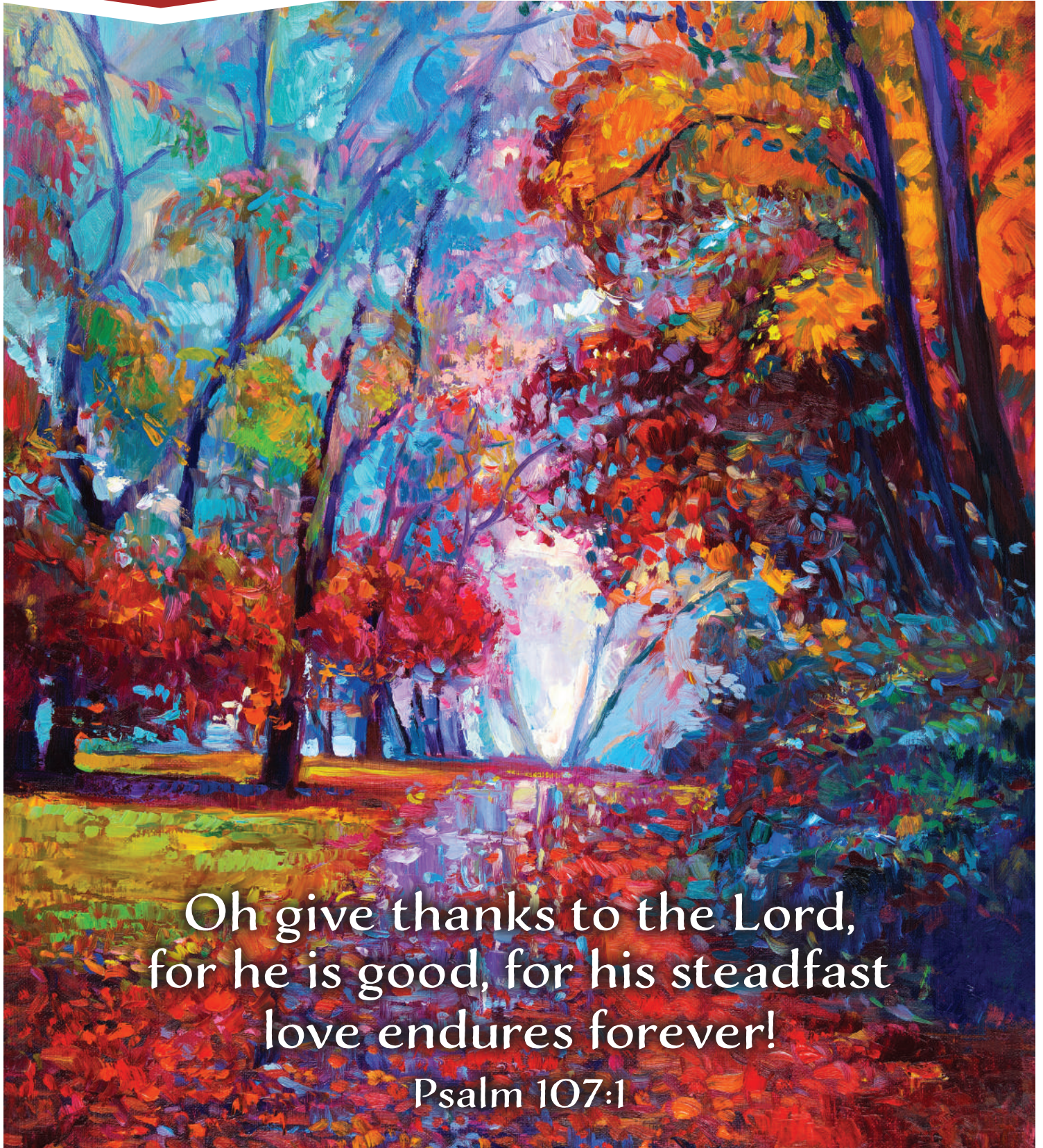


FALL 2018



# International Messengers **GOOD NEWS**

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



Oh give thanks to the Lord,  
for he is good, for his steadfast  
love endures forever!

Psalm 107:1



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## LEAVE YOUR MINISTRY

We wanted to go abroad for a year, let the children learn English in a native environment. This was also a kind of sabbatical year for us.

It was difficult to leave our family members and our church, but we knew: this is not our church, this is not our ministry, it is the Lord's and, believe or not, He managed it pretty well without us.

I arrived in Ireland in April, without the family, my most important task was finding proper accommodation for the family. This is clearly impossible in Ireland. There are 20 applicants for each house or apartment—people are bidding over each other.

Judit visited me in May and we went to church, where the preacher asked the congregation, “Do any of you have an impossible, unsolvable problem?” (Yeah, that was me). “Let me pray for you guys,” he said. This was on Sunday. On Monday, I was offered a brand-new apartment, and then another one. I was able to pick the better one. My colleagues did not want to believe it, they had never heard a similar story.

I would love to write more about how God provided everything we needed and beyond, but I am here to tell you something else. Our church and ministry not just survived, but went fine without us too. You also don't have to worry about leaving your ministry for a time. Based on my personal experience the Lord can manage it without you too. The year in Ireland was some kind of Sabbatical for us—real refreshment. Now, we are back to our ministry with a strengthened vision, with a new dynamism.

You can picture the church as a lilly among thorns (Song of Solomon 2:2) Whoever wants to touch it, the thorns will hurt him, you don't have to be there all the time. You need to trust God and believe that He will take care of your ministry and your flock during your time off. If He would not, that's a clear indication of you misunderstanding Him in the past and He has different plans for you.



**Peter Petrik**

*Peter and Judit lead a local church where they provide counseling, physical and spiritual care for the staff and for foster-kids in homes in their area. They also organize Evangelistic English softball camps.*

**For detailed donation information  
visit: [www.im-usa.org/donate](http://www.im-usa.org/donate)**

**In Canada: [www.im-canada.ca/donate](http://www.im-canada.ca/donate)**

# CARING FOR YOUR MISSIONARIES

As a missionary sending agency we understand well the need for our missionaries' home churches to stay involved with us in their care. We so appreciate what is being done! Here are some of our thoughts on ways to strengthen and sustain them for the sake of the Gospel.

- 1** Always let listening be your goal. Give this as a gift to your missionaries.
  - a. Find ways to listen to lessen the loneliness and isolation they feel.
  - b. Listen to hear if they are getting spiritually fed and also feeding themselves.
  - c. Listen well to hear if they might appreciate some accountability in any area of their lives. Earn this right through relationship not the support you send.
- 2** Let them tell their story to your home group or Sunday School class when they come back to visit. Be sure that those people listening are 'safe' to let them open up their hearts.
- 3** Find ways to help them laugh. Missionaries need to laugh!
- 4** Send teams at their request to work alongside them and prepare some of those team members to listen well.
- 5** If it's safe, Skype them into your worship service regularly and sing them a worship chorus or hymn to encourage them.
- 6** Notice the crosses they bear, what they have given up to go to the mission field. Jesus did. "whoever gives up houses, land, mother or father for My sake.." But always hold up the worthiness of sacrifice for God's Kingdom and your blessing for those sacrifices.
- 7** Remind them regularly of the grace they live in. Mission work is quite performance driven and it is easy for your missionaries to see God's relationship with them in this light.
- 8** Narrow the gap—Your missionaries will feel more isolated if there is a large gap between their Kingdom lifestyle/commitment and that of your church.
  - a. Let them hear of risks you are considering to reach people with the Gospel.
  - b. Please let them hear of your failures!! "We tried this and it really bombed in our eyes!"
  - c. Keep them informed of ministries the church is attempting to be more relevant with the Gospel.
  - d. Let them hear about faith-requiring decisions being made by individuals in the church for the sake of the Gospel.
- 9** Pray intentionally and passionately for them but then care for them as normal people.
  - a. Let them know when and by whom they are being prayed for. Let them hear of sacrificial prayer being offered for them.
  - b. Put together a prayer team that prays over your missionaries weekly.
  - c. Keep their prayer requests current and in front of the congregation.
  - d. Be sure to drop them a line by email or Facebook to acknowledge their prayer letter. Much appreciated.
  - e. Insist on their getting away regularly as a couple and foot the bill for them. Send them good marriage stuff to listen to and read. Their marriages are pretty normal but they just have to be lived out in a tougher spiritual atmosphere. Be proactive.
  - f. Happy women are the mark of good missionary care. Work on learning the love languages of your missionary women. Friendships, especially for women, are at a different level on the field than they were at home.
  - g. Provide an internet accountability subscription for your men and women as a proactive measure to guard their longevity (nearly every missionary marriage problem requiring counseling now involves internet pornography at some level).
  - h. MKs - remember their birthdays. Have their friends from home or similar-age kids write to them, e-mail them, send them books, MP3s, etc. that they enjoy and that are appropriate.
  - i. Keep them in mind at summer camp time. Can you find them a summer camp to attend somewhere in their ministry region and foot the bill?

***Thank you again for increasing your efforts to care for your missionaries. We are grateful!***



**Darwin Anderson**

*Darwin and Darlis Anderson live in Clear Lake, Iowa, and serve as the directors of International Messengers.*

# THE HEART-WORK OF SUFFERING!

I don't know about you, but when I ask the Lord to help me grow deeper in Him, I do so with some trepidation! This past summer, Darwin and I led a team of short-termers into Lebanon where we had the privilege of teaching English and the Scriptures to a busload of men, women, and children from war-torn Syria. We were humbled by their stories and faith. Our team would report, "You're not going to believe the story I heard today!" These people had survived five years of bombings, death, and uncertainty. They prayed and fasted over each other while the bombs fell, some hearing the Lord's voice directing them when to run. The body life in their church became a fortress from Jesus. They prayed expectantly from experience for the lost and each other for healing. They knew and worshipped Jesus with abandonment!

I had the privilege of working with a group of women who, all but one, loved the Lord Jesus and took great risks in the workplace and streets in Damascus to share their faith. We laughed together, cried together, and studied the Bible lessons through Arabic eyes. None of them had anything extra but they gave freely. I've never been told I was loved so often and given so many hugs by a group of women in my 28 years of full-time ministry. They soaked up the goodness of God's Word, they deeply appreciated the craft times and the silly times together, and they worked hard through translation to discuss walking with Jesus as women.

One of my ladies and I bonded over the course of the week. She brought her two teen sons with her to the camp. She was married to a kind Muslim man. She had a great relationship with him, and with her

boys, and during the week they both put their trust in the Lord Jesus as their Savior!

How do I love like that? So sacrificially? How do I find this sweet trust in Jesus when I have a full freezer of food? My kids and grandkids aren't in a war zone. How does my faith grow when my life is pretty easy and safe? I long for these Syrians' trust in Jesus and the bond they shared as they protected each other.

James 1:2-4 came alive to me during those days. *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*



**Darlis Anderson**

*Darlis and Darwin Anderson live in Clear Lake, Iowa, and serve as the directors of International Messengers.*

## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:



"I was blessed everyday as I stepped forward to serve God, in two camps I attended. God worked in the heart of the youth we ministered to."

~ Faye Marie (Egypt Youth Camp)

"The mission trip, to be part of the team, and the experience, were all amazing to be a part of. The benefits from this mission trip are countless and continue to evolve."

~ Michelle (Ukraine Orphanage Outreach)





*"Why do you people love us so much?" "I've never felt so special and loved."* Two of the Hungarians at our English camp made those comments. An American team member added a sentiment that summed up my experience too, *"I never expected that I would love them so much!"* We all agreed that God's Spirit had met us in a special way at the camp in Hungary and that we would never be the same.

Unwittingly, I think we obeyed 1 Thessalonians 2:8 where Paul says, *"We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too."* He says, *"We loved you so much..."* That kind of love means sharing our lives, allowing ourselves to be known, being honest about our sin-and-life issues, and passing the baton of encouragement and comfort that God hands to us. Sometimes we think of sharing God's Good News as a matter of merely teaching or telling, but if we want to help people trust God, rather than just obtain knowledge of Him, then love is required. It requires the type of love where I don't hide the real me. It requires tears, and forgiveness, and hand wringing, and urgent prayer, and patience, and it often requires more than I feel like I might be able to give.

The other part of the verse indicates that Paul shared God's Good News with them because of his love. Warm friendship is always a blessing, but loving friendship without the benefit of God's Good News loses its lasting value and higher purpose. If we know the One who provides for our eternity—the One who gives hope and salvation for this life too, then we can't keep it from the ones we love so much. Sharing God's Good News and sharing our lives go together; they can't be divorced.

The joy and sweet fellowship that we all had together—the love that we shared with one another—is still bearing fruit in the lives of the Hungarians who attended the camp as well as in the lives of those of us who went from the States.



**Brent Howland**

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

## MINISTRY IN GERMANY

For the first time we did a youth camp in the eastern part of Germany this year. We had some young male Syrian refugees as campers, a group of German teenagers, and a group of Russian speaking Moldovans. It was a wonderful camp experience.

For next year we plan a **big international youth camp** on the same camp site with campers from Poland, Germany, France and Moldova. We will need a team from North America as well as Germans and Poles. We trust that God will make all this happen.

**Are you interested in being part of the American team for this camp?** Please contact the IM office by phone at **800-243-6763** or email the recruiting department: **mary@im-usa.org**



# HOW MANY ARE YOUR WORKS, LORD!

*“How many are your works, LORD!”*

*Psalm 104:24*

This year, we have invested particularly in our children. We were leaving with them on a special request of a parent with a teenager. It was a very valuable time, especially for our sons Wojtek and Michał.

**The Bible is a book for the whole world.**

It was written by 40 people. Translated by hundreds. Printed by thousands. Read by millions. It is also for me and for you.

With the scouts we learned this truth while wandering the forest learning about the armor of God.



**A true friend is God's gift...**

We participated in a camping experience which was connected with kayaking. We learned what it means: brotherhood. One day, during an extreme kayaking trip, each participant had the opportunity to show brotherhood by helping the younger and weaker. We carried kayaks, pulled ourselves out of the water, helped get the kayaks through the fallen trees. After ten hours we were exhausted. But together we managed to finish and reach the goal.



## Street Church

One day, a man full of anger came to the Street Church and wanted to spoil the sound system. He could not listen to Christian music and preaching the Gospel. I began to talk to him and suggested that he start reading the Bible. He stated that he is an atheist. I told him that the Bible was written especially for atheists. Finally the man took the Bible and went to his house calmly.



## Prayer Requests

1. Pray for a flat or a house. Soon it may turn out that we will have to leave the flat in which we now live. This is the church's official flat, but the housing association's authorities have questioned the fact of ownership. The case may be in court. We received a call to leave the apartment. We are asking for prayers in this matter.
2. Also pray for:
  - open hearts to proclaim the Gospel
  - courage to preach the Gospel
  - preparation of the family camp next year



**Czarek Dabrowski**

*Czarek, Ewa, and their children live and serve in Gorzow, Poland.*



# FILLING OUR MINDS WITH THE GOOD STUFF

One evening, I was lying in bed and my wife was working on a crossword puzzle (this is not at all out of the ordinary).

“What’s the Spanish word for ‘handsome’?”

After a second, “Guapo” I answered.

Wait... How is that possible?

Nearly 30 years ago, THIRTY, I was pretty good in Spanish. I could carry a conversation, was somewhat confident in talking to people, and was independent.

Now, it is almost thirty years later. I am old. I speak another language. I haven’t practiced Spanish in ages.

So how could I come up with “guapo” (never one of my “daily use” words, even then) after just a second or so?

Wait a minute. What is the Russian word for “handsome?”

I don’t know.

Hmm. Unsure. Красивый [krasiviy]? Maybe. So, either I don’t know, or I just don’t like the idea of calling a guy “beautiful.” Either way, that “handsome” space in my brain was left open. An old, old word jumped in like a reflex to fill it.

---

David said, *Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee*. I think there is more to this than the discipline of memorization (memorization is good too).

Life has filled our minds with a lot of “go-to thoughts” that automatically appear when we face stressful, sad, thrilling, or any other situations.

Jesus offers us a whole new “language of thought” for us to learn. This can actually take the place of those go-to thoughts. If we learn these, they are MUCH more likely to appear first on our radars when we face out-of-control situations.



If we don’t have these, we may know they are there, but the old thoughts, just like my old language jumps onto center stage, even if I haven’t thought about it for years or even decades.

That old urge to just get one drink, yell that nasty reply, get defensive, protect my ego, open that web browser to that website, step into the casino, fill in the blank... somehow, seemingly out of nowhere, is right in front of your face.

But I thought that was all behind me. It’s been six years since...

What thinking language are you learning? The Holy Spirit offers us one. Let your mind dwell on these things. Learn it. Use it. Practice it.



**Bernie Jacobsen**

*Bernie & Lynne serve in Moscow, Russia, where they focus on ESL, evangelism, and discipleship.*



# 92% CHRISTIAN?

While at a free Christian concert this summer in a busy market area, our son David was asked to help hand out New Testaments. People's reactions were very telling. Each person would reach to receive it but would jerk back their hand once they realized what it was. Statistics claim that Romania is 81% Orthodox, 6% Protestant, and 5% Catholic—meaning 92% Christian. It is disturbing to see this response to the Word. In Scripture we read, *“There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land.”* Hosea 4:1. I was thinking how closely that statement hits the mark today. People claim to be Christian but the majority of them don't want anything to do with Christ. They have been taught to perform certain religious acts to be considered faithful.

A week later we were in the emergency room with our son Joshua because he fell and cracked his skull. The nurse who registered him was confused by his name. My husband explained that it has a Romanian equivalent and it is from the Bible. Her response was, “Oh, you are one of those real believers!” He replied that indeed we do read and believe what the Word says. Later that week we went to see a pediatric neurologist. She wanted to know what had brought us to Romania. We explained what we believe and what God wants

us to do with our lives. She said she calls on God in her need but that her religion doesn't affect her daily life.

I am filled with compassion for these people who are brought up in the knowledge of a religion but not the One whose name it bears. Growing up in a Christian culture can desensitize you and give you a false sense of security. I feel overwhelmed with the number of souls who are in this situation and I have begun to pray for all those I come in contact with, that the Holy Spirit would move in their hearts and that all believers would be ready to preach the Word and make the most of every opportunity. (Colossians 4:5).



**Heather Nicolae**

*Heather, Pavel, and their four children live in Bircii, Romania. Their main focus is reaching out and building relationships with adolescents and youth in the villages of Bircii and Potcoava.*



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*



# WHAT IF YOU COULDN'T READ?

## *Would you still memorize Scripture?*

### Pawel, Uganda

Thirty-seven women showed up for two days of teaching this past August, and in that time they learned six Scripture verses, five songs, the first five books of the Bible, how to share Jesus and salvation through using the Wordless Book, and the ACTS prayer model. My heart was thrilled to overflowing. But, even more amazing than all of that was that these ladies don't have an education and 98% of them can't read and certainly don't own a Bible. This vision and desire to teach women the Scriptures came from Beatrice Enkanya my dear daughter in love, she just needed some help in getting the ball rolling and having some tools with which to work.

But, the story gets even better! After the first day, the ladies went home and they shared what they had learned with family and friends. One lady shared the Wordless Book with her mother, another lady went home and she started teaching her children to pray. She said, "We did the first two parts last night and tonight we are going to do the rest." The ladies were excited to have the Word of God in their hearts, it gave them something to share and to teach to their children, grandchildren, and friends. For some it was the first time that they had knowledge that others didn't know and now they were in a position to be able to share!

In another session with some different ladies, they said, "We can share this Wordless Book with anyone and they will listen because it is colors. If we showed up to someone's house with a Bible they wouldn't listen."

This is convicting at best. Do you and I memorize the Scriptures so we can take God's Word with us everywhere? Are we interested in using the tools we have to share the Gospel like the ladies in Uganda?

Please pray that the ladies in Pawel have opportunities to continue to memorize God's Word and that it bears a huge harvest for God's Kingdom.



Top left: Beatrice leading singing, top: ladies listening, middle: the whole group, bottom: the church in Pawel



### Kim Soper

Kim and Loren live in Nebraska. Kim serves IM as a Regional Representative and enjoys serving IM missionaries by providing professional workshops for teachers and others.





## REDEEM THE SUMMER

re•deem  /ri' dēm/

verb

**Definition of REDEEM**

1. 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!**

For more details, check  
out Redeem the Summer  
Internships by visiting  
[www.im-usa.org/redeem](http://www.im-usa.org/redeem)

## ITEMS NEEDED AT MMT

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



**Queen Sized Sheets  
& Mattress Pads**

**\$75.00 per set**



**Copier**

**\$429.00**



**Vacuum**

**\$149.00**

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](mailto:jeff@im-usa.org) • Ph: 866-578-4820



### SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"God has grown me in my understanding of obedience. God wants us to be obedient to Him, and He will use us regardless of where we think we are at spiritually if we are obedient."

~ Joshua (Uganda Orphanage Outreach)



## Weddings

*Ben Rust*



*Laura Mishler*

married on 11-25-17

Laura is former IM staff who  
served in Poland and the Home Office

*Manuel Garcia*



*Hannah Baxter*

married on 6-2-18

Hannah is IM staff serving in Peru

*Modupe Agbaje*



*Kimberly Treadway*

married on 10-08-17

Kimberly is former IM staff  
who served in Ukraine

*David Carlson*



*Mikayla Roberts*

married on 6-23-18

David is IM staff – India,  
Mikayla is the daughter of  
Ron & Paula Roberts – MMT

# IMAGINE WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH OUR TIME...

Since we started hosting IM English camps we've used five different facilities around eastern Slovakia. Hotel Dubovica, years back, was on a hilltop at the end of the road leading north out of the village. A few from the small village made the trek daily to up top for a drink at the hotel restaurant. But, for the most part, the steep hill provided our camp with privacy and a great view.

Many villagers had a cow. Each day a local took the herd to graze in the surrounding fields. If we happened into the village at evening, we'd see the villagers standing out at their open gates chatting with each other while waiting for the cows to come home. As the herd moved up the narrow roads (blocking traffic) each cow knew to peel off into her own yard. Her owner would then disappear into the house. Twice each summer the wild flowers and weeds growing in those fields were harvested with sickles, then dried on stands and bundled, just as for hundreds of years.



One summer, two school teachers joined us for their first time at camp. During free-time they hiked through the fields to the village to buy snacks. Back at the hotel, one of them realized she'd lost her watch. With certainty that God had a plan for them to get to know Him, our friend who'd already become a believer, said, "Come on, God can help us find your watch!" Without any real hope, the sceptic

stayed behind while the reluctant owner joined her. They set out to hike down through the fields of waist-high weeds towards the village again. Miraculously, God led them to the lost watch that day, and that sceptic even became a follower of Jesus.

Two of the children of that sceptic came to our camp this summer. Listening to this daughter share her heart to now see her struggling friend come to know God's love for her, I was reminded how God creatively worked in her mom through that initial watch story...more than I could have ever asked or imagined!

## **Karla Thiessen**

*Brad and Karla Thiessen moved to Kosice, Slovakia, in 1991. They enjoy seeing how God is working in the lives of their family, friends, and neighbors.*





# SERIOUSLY... DO WE REALLY HAVE TO GO?

Those were the words I whined to my husband, Byron, and to Darwin, before we committed to attending Mountainside Ministry Training Center (MMT). It seemed like such a long time...and, seriously, was there that much to learn before going overseas to serve with IM? We soon realized—YES—there was much to learn. The staff of MMT has put together an amazing learning environment and structure by which to send out followers of Jesus into all the world. It's like leaving the nest, knowing it is time to go but being apprehensive, reviewing all that we learned about focusing on Jesus, keeping our eyes on Him through every situation, and knowing there is an army of brothers and sisters praying and encouraging us to press on.

We currently are on-loan serving with SHARE Education Services in Budapest, Hungary. Many missionaries we encounter usually have had 2-4 weeks of training instead of almost 4-months. As we share our MMT experience, the response is usually one of wishing for that type of training. Our first few months were a whirlwind and I would say, "We prepared for this at MMT – God knew we would face this." Whether it was living in community, or not knowing what to expect as you enter a foreign country, or looking for a place to live when you don't know where to look, or having lots of information come at you quickly and not knowing how to process, what we learned under our weekly teachers and through time spent with the staff was invaluable and so worth it.



This fall marks our one-year graduation from MMT. Looking at the pictures of the new class...I'm a bit envious. We loved our time on the mountain. We had a wonderful class, quickly became close, learned to live together rapidly, we loved, cried, laughed, sang, shared hardships, disagreed, learned, served, cleaned, cooked, and relaxed as family. God put our class together. I am grateful I get to spend eternity with these wonderful classmates who I now call my brothers and sisters.

## **Pamela Anderson**

*Byron & Pamela live in Budapest, Hungary, where Pamela serves as the president of SHARE. They hope to assist families in educating their children while remaining engaged in their ministries.*



## **SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:**



"The Syrians said they have learned humility from our team, I say that I have learned from them about finding deep joy in worshipping God, trusting God in the midst of trials and war, and about obedience to share the Gospel even when there is great risk." ~ Karen (Lebanon Youth Camp)

"With this trip I have been blown away by the way God works. The way this English camp came together and how our team was put together, no human brain could have done any of it. I got to see how big our God is." ~ Emily (Ukraine Youth Camp)





## BIRTHS

### AUDREY GWENDOLYN ROSE

born on 11-17-17  
to Jeremy & Lydia Larsh

### JOHN NATHANIEL

born on 11-24-17  
to Tomek & Iwona Krazek

### JAYDEN

born on 12-22-17  
to Nelton & Bethany Noriega

### GRACE

born on 02-18-18  
to Pasha & Ivy Chorney

### DAVID

born on 04-29-18  
to Jonas and Zofia E

### EVANGELINE JOY

born on 07-28-18  
to Jackson & Reinell Helstad

## BLOGOSPHERE, HERE I COME!

Have you ever felt restless? By that I mean a gnawing feeling that something should change, but you're not sure what it should be? This described my state of mind around the first of January first this year, as I looked ahead to a clean slate of days and months. Not that I was discontent, mind you. It's just that I wanted something fresh and new to add to my ministry. So I turned to the only way to find a solution: prayer.

It didn't take long to get an answer. As is often the case with God it wasn't something I was expecting. The thought came to mind, why not start a blog? I knew better than to dismiss ideas that pop up as the result of prayer, no matter how ridiculous. Otherwise I would have squashed the notion immediately. The more I pondered this, the more this nebulous concept took on concrete form, including its name, motto, and exact design. And the more excited I became.

But where to begin? The Internet, of course! I started reading all I could about blogging. While helpful, I quickly found out that all those sites were lying: setting up a blog isn't as easy as they claimed! When I reached the limit of my frustration, YouTube came to the rescue. A great video showed me what to do, and little by little the blog that I had envisioned in my mind became reality. I was able to launch my site at the end of May.

My goal is to add a new post each week. The blog is in both English and Polish. At times I feel excitement, but more often than not I am attacked by such thoughts as, why do you think you can do this? Who do you think you are? You have nothing worthwhile to say! The only way to fight such a barrage is by remembering that God gave me the idea in the first place. And He doesn't make mistakes.

If you're curious, you can check out the blog yourself! The address is: [www.bibleandsoul.com](http://www.bibleandsoul.com)



#### Carol Schlorff

*Carol has been living in Cracow, Poland, since 1990. She helps in the Second Baptist Church by doing such things as teaching English, organizing summer language camps, leading Bible studies, and anything else that might be needed. Her latest endeavor is her blog, which she hopes and prays will be a blessing to you.*





# AT THE HEART

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If you're looking for a chance to grow in your skills as a member care provider, network with people who do what you do, or find fellowship and spiritual renewal, make plans now to join the Pastoral Training in MemberCare conference in beautiful Black Mountain, NC. Whether you're from a local sending church, a mission agency, or a member care organization, this conference has something for you!

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## THE GOD WHO LEADS IN THE UNKNOWN

Even at 3:00 AM the heat and humidity pressed up against the long skirt and t-shirt I had been wearing for the last 35 hours. I stepped out of the door at the airport and into my first view of India. It was loud: cows mooing, horns honking, and taxi drivers vying for my attention. I was there visiting my soon-to-be-fiance, David. The ease of picking his handsome, white face out of the crowd only emphasized the different life this would be. Nearly everything—from the food I ate with my hands, to the clothes I was supposed to wear to the traditional Indian engagement ceremony that took place later in my visit, felt foreign to this Midwestern girl—yet I also knew this was going to be home one day. It wasn't any special

feeling I had, it was just the next step that I never saw coming.

David has been working in India for the past four and one-half years doing discipleship and teaching ministry alongside a local Indian pastor and his family. When I visited, David and I were already planning on continuing that ministry after getting married and spending a few months raising support. That return trip is now about three months away. The idea of it stills feels almost as foreign as when I visited a year ago. I'm so thankful we serve a God that leads and stretches us into these surprising unknowns.



### **Mikayla Carlson**

*Mikayla and David will serve in Chennai, India, alongside a local pastor who is in the process of planting churches in unreached villages. They want to fill some of the need of training these young believers because many of them become leaders of their local church soon after their conversion.*



# PREPARING A WAY

Many times we've prayed for the Lord to go before us and level the mountains and smooth the paths for His work to be accomplished. This year we saw Him do this literally!

Early last spring we received approval from the government to lease a small strip of land that runs alongside our property. We tried for at least ten years to get this property and it was finally approved about a week before an international high school team arrived!

Under Doug's direction and with the help of our maintenance worker Liviu, a couple of our teenaged boys along with the team, worked hard clearing debris, cutting scrub trees and stumps and leveling the property. They dug and poured cement footings and fenced the rear of the property with a tall metal security fence.

Then we found out that someone in one of the houses being built behind our property made a complaint about our grey water (from the showers and sinks) being drained out in the field behind us. We have clay soil so the drain fields have always been a problem here. Our solution was to drain off the grey water to help maintain and alleviate our septic drainage. It's helped over the years but now we found out it's no longer legal. We had to do something quickly. We didn't want to risk being closed down, fined, or lose our witness as a Christian organization in the community.

Without our being aware of these impending problems, the Lord went before us, providing the land and the help to clear and fence it at just the right time. We were able to dig three 150 foot long drainage runs that were five feet deep and three feet wide. We hired a machine and operator to dig the runs, plus bought drainage pipe and 20 truck loads of drain rock. We were just thankful we had the land to put the drain field on. What would we have done if we hadn't had that strip of land at just the right time?



## **Roberta Moore**

*Roberta and Doug Moore have been serving in Romania as IM missionaries for 20 years. They are the founders and daily overseers of River of Life ministries, a Christian provider of social services helping needy 'at risk' women to be able to keep their babies and children and not abort or abandon them, and caring for elderly in an assisted living home utilizing the moms as care givers.*



# TRANSITIONS – LOOK INTO YOUR BASKET!

God gave me the picture of a basket in which He puts all of life's experiences. Life experiences such as a job, a workshop attended, a book read, a family dynamic, a neighborhood experience, a ministry, a committee served on, a special childhood, or a unique friendship.

I realized there are many women making the transition of "what now?" because we have spent our lives focused on raising children, building a relationship with our husbands, and often working. But now have some "extra" time and are asking God, "What next?"



In the *StrengthsFinders* assessment (*Clifton-Strengths*), five top traits are identified in each person's life and there is only one person in three million who would have the same five traits in that specific order. That means we are pretty unique. What has God gifted us to be, given experiences in which to learn, and opportunities to minister?

Please take a sheet of paper, sit down with God and ask Him to show you His unique plan of using the roles, talents, giftings, and experiences He has given you. (Mind mapping is a good technique, for questions email me: [kent.jan.mckinnon@gmail.com](mailto:kent.jan.mckinnon@gmail.com).)

Examples:

*Jerra wants to learn to sew.* I was able to bless her by just reviewing beginner tasks like threading the needle, sewing forward and backwards with her machine, all the while talking about her faith.

*Monika has two small children, is working and very busy, but wants to grow in her faith and needs encouragement.* I connected her with two other moms

and we are doing Life Transformation Groups (LTG) together. She has become so excited about the simplicity of LTG that she wants to pass it on to other women!

*Pretti is a mom of two teenagers and one going off to college. I am able to pray with her and send texts of hope.* Technology is so available to be used to encourage, connect, and show support.

*A hospice patient, God strongly prompted me, "She is passing soon! You have a life giving message, open your mouth."* I spoke the Gospel and prayed over her.

I have often thought those are just ordinary things. But God has encouraged me to say HE doesn't waste anything. He does have a special plan and ministry for you, also! Seek Him to open your eyes to the basket He has been filling all your life and pull out one item to share with another!



**Jan McKinnon**

*Jan (far left) and Kent serve six months in Arizona working with Christian Resort Ministries, and the other six months working with the Poznan International Church in Poznan, Poland.*



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"I realize more and more that Father God will make a way. Whether it's financing, teaching English (my weakest topic), or how God works out conflict between home team or a national team - God cares and He is very present. Going on mission is just that - do my best and go. Rest in knowing God will take care of me and my wife. Not to say persecution will not come, but in all things He will care." ~ Rob (Jordan Youth Camp)

"Not every mission experience is happiness. There are challenges up to and during the mission. However, if you have God, He will help you through them."

~ Josh (Poland Family Camp)

# EXPERIENCING THE MIDDLE EAST AS AN EASTERN EUROPEAN ON AN AMERICAN TEAM

*Why do Evangelistic and Discipleship English Camps change lives both in Eastern Europe and in the Middle East? It is all because of Jesus!*

After doing ministry in Romania for many years, I had been praying to minister in a part of the world that has it rougher than my country. The Lord has called me to Egypt for the last three years and also to Lebanon this year. I thought I would be ministering, and I have been, I thought I might be able to teach those people a few things, and I have, but to my surprise, they have also ministered to my soul as I never thought possible. In Egypt, I met young girls who have been abused but still had smiles on their faces and trusted God. But I also met girls who were deeply depressed, not knowing whether they could make it, full of fear and uncertainty, covered in shame, and desperate for a word of encouragement.

In Lebanon, the way the Lebanese and Syrians worship inspired, humbled, and encouraged me. There are war-affected Syrians who are not looking to just escape hardship, but who want to contribute to the rebuilding of their country. This is something we all need to take to heart for our own countries! There are Syrian girls grateful to have a job who were praying while walking through bombings and street fights in order to get to work and keep their jobs. There are entire families ministering to Muslims and showing them God's provision and how to trust Jesus.

The faith and hope Middle Eastern Christians have for their future motivate us to help send them to evangelize their own people of other religions. Camps are where the Lord puts together teams of hand-picked North Americans and Eastern Europeans with life stories that touch the hearts of many, such as a 45-year-old Syrian woman, a 21-year-old Lebanese university graduate, the pastor of a Syrian church from Damascus, and a 16-year-old depressed Egyptian teenager. This is an environment where we can all come together and serve. They need us and we need them! We can create an international network through which we cannot only be a multi-national family but also be on the offensive with the Gospel!



**Laura Vitelar**

*Laura lives in Timisoara, Romania, where her ministry focus is working with women. She helps organize camps and evangelical events. She also leads a Bible study and does follow-up with people who have attended IM camps and other evangelical events.*

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# STAYING ON THE TRAIN...

*"...endurance produces character and character produces hope..."*

*Romans 5:4*

I have come to enjoy riding trains across the beautiful Romanian countryside. I find it more challenging to *stay on the train* when it comes to persevering in ministry. Let me explain.

Bible teacher Kay Arthur was told by her mentor, "Stay on the train, God will get you where He wants you when He wants you there."

This is helpful when I reflect on the 18-year train ride with Community Bible Study (CBS) in Romania. There have been many twists, turns, stops, and starts but God has kept me on the train and I am glad.

The group of women who meet weekly in our living room for the in-depth study of the Bible is a treasure. We are diverse yet committed to meeting to study and discuss the Bible. God is transforming each of us through His Word and the care and community we share.

My desire is to see Romanian women one day continuing what God has begun and sustained through Community Bible Study in Romania. I seek to cast this vision often. I am glad for the Romanian women who have been trained to lead the group discussion and teaching time.

Last spring at the CBS Europe Leadership Conference, God reminded me of this train analogy which I shared. I had peace that growing deeper individually and as a group was valuable regardless of the size of our group.

Then, it happened, I realized our group was growing in a healthy way. We were

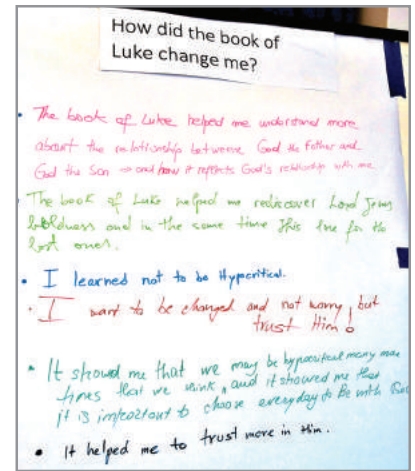
growing as the women invited their friends to join the Bible study! God was causing the growth, not me.

God is the only explanation for the existence of our Community Bible Study group and the transformation happening in each of us!

I give God the glory for what He has and is doing in Community Bible Study in Bucharest, Romania.

I encourage you to "Stay on the train. God will get you where He wants you when He wants you there!"

Seeking to enjoy the ride.



**Jill Clark**

Jill (far left) and Tom live in Bucharest, Romania, where they are involved in both men's and women's discipleship.



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"I am learning to allow room for God to minister to people's hearts instead of always thinking I need to say all the right words at the right time. There is always a person waiting to be found and loved underneath the quietest or hardest exterior."

~ Chipper (Germany Youth Camp)

"As a believer I am given a life purpose of sharing the Good News with people who don't know Christ."

~ Linda (Poland Family Camp)

# READY FOR IMPACT?

In 2006, I took my first mission trip to Romania and my life was greatly impacted. On that trip, my eyes were open to the vastness of God. For the first time, I began to understand how big the world was and how big God was. I could fathom how God knew and loved me, my family, Iowans, and Americans, but I could not wrap my mind around a God that knew and loved the entire world. He was so much greater than I could ever imagine.

This trip pushed me toward taking a second trip to Ukraine to visit my dad. The trip to the orphanage with his friends is where I am certain God called me to leave my career and pursue full-time work in orphan ministry.

In the last 12 years, I've taken part in short-term missions, served on the mission field, received short-term missionaries in my country of service, sent short-term teams, and led short-term teams.

I've seen people take short-term trips for all reasons. Some for fun and adventure, some because someone in their life pushed them, some to support or lead others, some to share the Gospel, some to teach English, some to teach classes, some to hand out humanitarian aid, and some to encourage long-term missionaries. Whatever their reason, I've

seen all return with a deeper faith and a stronger desire

to share Christ and to serve. Their lives have been impacted like mine was in ways that they

never thought possible. Many now serve in their local community with more fervor, take additional trips, serve in ministry full time either here or overseas, and most recently I've seen a family pursue international adoption.

I'm praying that God will raise people up out of the Church to serve on short-term missions teams. Are you ready for impact? If so, consider serving on a short-term team.



## Laura Rechkemmer

Laura currently works in partnership with Stoneworks International handling finances, communication, and other administrative tasks. She is based in the US, but assists partners in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Romania, Montenegro, and Estonia. The majority of the work is ministering to orphans living in orphanages or those who have aged out.



# 2019 SHORT-TERM MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

<b>EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS (EELC)</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>HOST</b>	<b>TRIP DATES</b>
	Jordan (ages 15 - 20)	National Staff	Summer*
	Lebanon	National Staff	Summer*
	Alexandria, Egypt (ages 16 - 25)	National Staff	July 5 - 14
	Alexandria, Egypt (ages 16 - 25)	National Staff	July 12 - 21
	Antonovka, Ukraine (H.S./College)	Litvak/Winkler	July 16 - 24
	Siófok, Hungary (Adults/H.S.)	Dan	July*
	Erfurt, Germany (ages 18 - 25)	Oehler	August - 17

<b>FAMILY EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>HOST</b>	<b>TRIP DATES</b>
	Antonivka, Ukraine	Naydenov	August 8 - 21
	Alexandria, Egypt	National Staff	July 19 - 28
	Maroz, Poland	Jachym	June 26 - July 8
	Szklarska Poręba, Poland	Dabrowski	July 17 - 30
	Garbova, Romania	Droll	July 31 - August 11

<b>SPECIALTY CAMP</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>HOST</b>	<b>TRIP DATES</b>
Stoking woodstoves @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Anytime during winter & spring
Painting/maintenance/upkeep@ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Ongoing, anytime
Minister to moms, kids, elderly @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Ongoing, anytime
Discipleship Camp (H.S./College)	Antonovka, Ukraine	Litvak/Winkler	December 3 - January 12
Evangelistic Youth Camp (H.S./College)	Kampala, Uganda	Tustanovskyi	December 31 - January 11
Discipleship Camp (H.S./College)	Alexandria, Egypt	National Staff	February 2 - 10
Business English Camp (adults/teens)	Malenovice, Czech Republic	Lipus	May*
Refugee Ministry/Encouraging rural local churches,	Northern/Central Uganda,	Nabasa/Ekanya/Pipes	May and September (dates flexible)
Redeem The Summer 6-week Internship (singles who are college-age; 18-29)	Various country options	Various Staff	Arrive in-country July 1
Kid's VBS Camp (ages 6 - 13)	Alexandria, Egypt	National Staff	July 26 - August 5
Evangelistic Sports Day Camp (ages 6-12)	Mangalia, Romania	Anderson	June 20 - July 1
Youth English Softball Day Camps	Hungary	Petrik/Jofoldi	July 12 - 29
Media Camp	Alexandria, Egypt	National Staff	August 9 - 18
Discipleship Camp (ages 18 - 28)	Maroz, Poland	Jachym	September 11 - 23, 2019

\*Specific dates yet to be determined

For the most up-to-date camp schedule visit our websites: [www.im-usa.org/camps-schedule](http://www.im-usa.org/camps-schedule)  
[www.im-canada.ca/camps-schedule](http://www.im-canada.ca/camps-schedule)

**If you participated in a short-term trip in 2018 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](http://www.im-usa.org/resources/eval)**

# OPENING THE GATE

“They’ve come to Northern Uganda from Sudan,” Megan says. “I hope to work with these children at the compound IM missionaries are establishing there.”

Megan, one of our current students at IM’s Mountainside Ministry Training Center in Montana, is flashing photos on the wall. My spirit catches, as if I’m pushing on a garden gate that can’t quite open, as the image of two little girls, dresses a bit too big and eyes even bigger, appear on the screen.

Three days later I’m talking with one of our current interns, Nancy, in Cyprus. “The women from the refugee camps are hard to get to know, but I see them. It seems like a few of these ladies are carefully drawing closer,” she tells me.

That gate in my spirit seems to stick again and I find myself asking “Lord, do you really want us here, in Montana? I want to make a difference on the ground. I want to grab those little orphans, comb their hair, and give them a home. I want to walk with those refugee women and hear their stories. I want to offer them the more and the hope that only comes through You.”

My mind gets enveloped in other things, and then in a snap, my blindness breaks and the gate opens wide: I can be there. Each time I bring one of our missionaries before our Father, I enter His work—and theirs. Megan’s hands are strengthened, and Nancy’s heart can settle more deeply into His calling. God’s work is not limited by my location, any more than His Spirit is restrained by flight schedules or visas. Through prayer to our Father for my friends, I can join Megan—as she embraces each orphan, or enter the heavenlies with Nancy—as she matches her steps with a weary refugee.

His garden is vast and glorious and I can dig deeply into His fields—even as I sit on my little couch in Montana.

*Finally, brothers, pray for us,  
that the word of the Lord may  
run swiftly and be glorified,  
just as it is with you...*

*2 Thessalonians 3:1*



**Paula Roberts**

Paula and Ron are working at the Mountainside Ministry Training Center (MMT) in Libby, Montana, where they help prepare students to go forward in ministry. They also hope to encourage their co-workers and students to follow hard after God.

## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:



“I felt all we can do is plant seeds and be ourselves. Training opened my eyes to this concept and I wholeheartedly believe we just have to let go and let God control the situation. I can show love and compassion.”

~ Jessica (Czech Republic Business Camp)



# YOU NEVER MEET ANYONE BY CHANCE

I have been reading the book, *You Never Meet Anyone By Chance*, by Ernie Klassen. In it, he tells stories of how he uses his circumstances to share the Gospel.

For instance, he went to an optometrist to get a lost screw replaced for his glasses. When he offered to pay, the lady said there was no charge. So then he told her that there is something all of us can get for no charge—“peace with God and forgiveness of sins...”

Another time he made a u-turn and a police officer caught him and told him he would have to pay a fine. He paid the fine and then told the police officer, “You checked my papers. One of these days, God will check yours. Are they in order?”

One Saturday I was walking down a street with my friend, looking for evangelism opportunities. We met a Punjabi couple and starting chatting with them. Eventually, we found out that he was a debt collector. We discussed how he did that for a few minutes, and then I said, “You know, there is a debt that we all have...it is called sin. I had to explain “sin,” and when they understood, I asked him how he would pay that debt. He talked about the cycle of dying and being born again (reincarnation). I asked him when his debt would be paid. He didn’t know. I then told them our debt was already paid and asked whether they wanted to understand how. He said, “Yes.” So, then I explained the Gospel to them, starting with creation. They listened with interest to the whole story, which took about ten minutes.

Later, I mentioned that Jesus was not a white man, and they were astonished. I explained that Jesus lived his whole life in the Middle East and had brown skin, like they did. I find that many ethnic people think that Jesus was a white man, and I believe it is important to clear up this misconception, as it may remove barriers to people coming to Jesus.



**Wes Isaak**

*Wes lives in Abbotsford, British Columbia, and serves in the IM Canada office.*



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

“I have grown as a Christian and as a person. My knowledge of missions has grown along with my respect.”

~ Daniel (Romania Sports Camp)

# A VISION FOR A GOSPEL-CENTERED MOVEMENT IN POLAND

## RESULTING IN THE FORMATION OF A GOSPEL-CENTERED family of church-planting churches

Poland is 90% Roman-Catholic (half of the population still attends church regularly; even the atheists and agnostics are part of its identity).

Evangelicals consist of just 0.2%.

The ecumenical movement is convincing many that the Roman-Catholic gospel and the biblical Gospel are basically the same.

The prosperity gospel (Word of Faith movement) is becoming very prevalent.

In the light of this information, we desperately need substantial prayer! Please pray for the following:

- That God helps us to create a **website** that is packed full of Gospel-centred resources in Polish: videos, articles, blog posts, sermons, lectures, interviews, panel discussions, etc. (think: The Gospel Coalition website in Polish!)
- That God helps us to form a Gospel-centred **publishing house**: promoting and distributing the right kind of literature, which would inspire, teach and equip the Polish church; which would be characterized by biblical and theological clarity and missional focus. (think: Crossway Publishing in Polish!)
- That God helps us to form a Gospel-centred church **leadership development** curriculum and training (think: Crosslands Training in Polish) - 12 modules have already been translated. ☺
- That God helps us to connect and **network** with other church leaders in Poland who love the clear Gospel of Jesus, have soft hearts, are missionally minded and are interested in church planting. Pray that they would be the initial soil for the network of Acts 29 in Poland.

- That **God** does all that by his Spirit! We are few and small, but we have a huge God.
- For **Tom and Damaris** as they themselves learn to live out the implications of the Gospel.
- For the young church plant, **Holy Trinity Church** in Cieszyn - that it grows in a healthy way toward maturity and multiplication.



**Tom Otremba**

*Tom, Damaris and family live in Cieszyn. Their goal is to plant a healthy, multiplying, Gospel-centered church in the Cieszyn area, that will serve as a springboard for a church planting movement in Poland.*



## AFRICAN COALITION FOR PURITY



So far this year, the *African Coalition for Purity* (ACFP) ministry has reached well over 500 men with the purity message. All students in *Mobilizing Uganda for Missions* (MUM), *The Timothy Initiative* (TTI), Pastor's Discipleship, and Church Planting Course must first complete the Purity Discipleship course. Each Purity Discipleship course takes 2½ days to complete. Then follow-up is done by staying in contact with the leaders of the churches that participated. We would love to witness 100% change, but the reality is the whole issue of sexual sin is so powerful in many men's lives, that breaking through is like trying to break up a granite bolder with a Swiss Army pocket knife. However, the lives that are being changed, no matter how many or how few, are always encouraging with eternal effects.

If you have a heart for such a ministry, we'd love to have you join us for a purity conference. Contact me: [pipes.john@gmail.com](mailto:pipes.john@gmail.com)



**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 LIGHTHOUSE CENTER

As a family, our intention is to be fully present in the Lighthouse Center. By this we mean that we would like to organize meetings and events in a natural way so that it is simply a continuation of our family life.

With that understanding we started the *High Five* group for children from 4-7 years old. Of course this is the group our daughters are in. The program includes English, art projects, a snack, and free play.

Our little ladies, Sarah and Naomi, are learning about hosting the participants and are very helpful with different responsibilities like teaching English, cleaning, and helping with art projects. We are proud of them that they are so mature in their comprehension of hospitality.



Recently during the meetings we have been focusing on the autumn theme, which for me is very inspirational.



Besides that group, since the beginning of September we have hosted "Autumn Tea," which is a relaxed evening meeting open to everyone. We sometimes have guests with us who share from

their life experiences. It is a privilege that we have this possibility of hosting people in a neutral place whether it is new acquaintances or old friends.



**The Lighthouse Center Goal:** Creating community which characterizes interdependence, welcoming attitude, trust, openness, hospitality, purposefulness, leadership, and discovery of what faith in Jesus Christ and spiritual growth mean. Family, children, education, language and art are all essential elements of the Lighthouse journey.

**Method:** Organizing various art and language groups with a family values emphasis, as well as various individual meetings.

We are praying and seeking God in His Word for the way, time, participants, assistants, volunteers, funds, and balance for us in marriage, family, and community.

Thank you that you are with us in thoughts, and if you could remember us in prayer we would be grateful.

If you would like to personally take part in the Lighthouse ministry, please get in touch with us by email at: [ifergit@gmail.com](mailto:ifergit@gmail.com).



## LeRoy Schwartz

*LeRoy, Ania, and their two girls live in Minsk Mazowiecki, Poland. They hope to see relationships grow through consistent interaction during the year ahead.*

# FACE TO FACE

*“In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and  
the Word was God.” John 1:1*

The Word was with God or “face-to-face with God.” When people describe what we do here in Slovakia, I want them to say that we are the real presence of Christ in their midst. I want them to say that we show them who Jesus is with our lives. I want them to say that the light of the Gospel is so evident and attractive in us that it is irresistible. I want them to say that we inspire them to believe, to hope, and to trust in Christ. I want them to say that they see in us a reflection of the face of God. I want some to be convicted and others to be comforted just by talking with us or being around us. I want everyone to feel as I do when I have spent time in the presence of Jesus through prayer, Bible study, or worship.

I would say that ours is a presence ministry. We don’t always talk about God, but when we do, we want it to be so real and so powerful that it leaves a lasting impression. For that to happen we must first be filled with the presence of God ourselves and have spent long hours meditating and being immersed in God’s Word. The people of Slovakia certainly don’t need more religion. They need more of Jesus, more of the presence of God, more knowledge of the holy, more being face-to-face with God. We pray for wisdom for how we can use every means, every moment, every conversation possible, to draw people to Jesus.

We use preaching, hippotherapy, children’s programs and camps, motorcycles and horses, a beautiful ranch and an organization called, “The Father’s Heart” to create opportunities. It is humbling to hear so many describing how they have been changed by our ministry. Glory to God and thanks to you for your prayers and gifts for 22 years without which it would only be a dream.

**By: Bevan Stein**



**Bevan & Laura 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.*

# SOMETIMES I WONDER

Sometimes I wonder,  
If it’s all worth it?  
Through the lonely, grey days,  
Through pain and uncertainty,  
Is it all worth it?  
There was the call,  
To serve, to give, to commit,  
But what now, when the going gets hard?

Then I remember, then I recall, the words,  
Do not fear, for I am with you,  
Then I remember,  
Yet, those who wait for the Lord,  
Will gain new strength,  
They will mount up with wings like eagles,  
They run, but are not tired,  
They walk, but do not become weary.

Then I remember,  
God’s sacrifice, His great gift,  
Demonstrating His own love toward us,  
While we were yet sinners.

And I know it’s worth it;  
For the autistic child,  
Who knows Love through experience,  
Through nature and horses.  
For the weary friend,  
Desperate, yet clinging to, and finding Hope.  
For the abandoned child,  
Lonely and confused,  
Who finds a Father.

I will continue,  
By faith in this grace in which we stand.  
Hoping, and trusting,  
For myself, and for all of those,  
Still searching, and waiting.

**By: Laura Stein**

*Bible references: Isaiah 41:10, Isaiah 40:31  
Romans 5: 2 & 8*





Discouragement and disappointment crowded in a little tighter around my soul. Same story, different people. As I drove to church with a new crack in my heart, unwelcome questions took me deeper down, “Is it even worth it? How do I know that new Christians who are so excited and on fire today won’t decide to pack their spiritual bags tomorrow and bail too? How do I know whom to pour into? I’m just so sick of rocky soil!” Feeling my own thoughts were doing more harm than good, I begged God to give me a word.

“Keep going,” came the first gentle whisper.

At church, Taigan, a missionary teenager was leading worship. She had a flannel shirt tied around her waist and during one of the praise songs it slowly made its way to the ground. I was expecting her to mess up, get embarrassed, or turn red, but she didn’t miss a beat. She kicked it to the side and kept smiling and singing as though everything was normal. “That’s what I want you to be like,” came the next whisper, “when everything is falling apart around you, keep your eyes on me and confidently sing out your calling with joy!”

While I was translating the message, Pastor Dustin referred to a passage in Nehemiah, and my eyes went to a note I had written in the margin years ago, “When you feel like bailing, keep on building. When you feel like walking, keep on working.” It so precisely pierced my heart, I actually missed what

I was translating and had to ask him to repeat himself, but the message to my own heart was crystal clear.

Serving Jesus and living out love for Him is the single greatest, yet hardest, thing I’ve ever done. It’s been a life full of adventure, heartbreak, blessing, and betrayals, but it’s been 100% worth it! God is so faithful and in the darkest, loneliest, most difficult moments, he shows up and gently reminds me to “keep going.”



### **Bethany Baxter de Noriega**

*Bethany and Nelton, along with their children, live in Iquitos, Peru. Through their church plant, Genesis Church, their ministry includes: Reaching, Discipling, Training, Multiplying, Sending, and the Hidden Creeks Bible Camp.*



### **SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:**

“This trip gave me a bird’s eye view of God as Sovereign orchestrator. I could not have manipulated in any way to bring together the leadership team He did or the group of campers He brought. We expected only refugee teens; instead He brought Germans and Moldavians campers as well as a group of Syrian refugees. Five languages were spoken at the camp and God broke down walls to make it all work.” ~ Lois (Germany Youth Camp)

# YOUR FAMILY AND MISSIONS

“Blessing” is often described as God filling our cup. Then as our cups overflow, that overflow becomes God blessing others through us. Likewise, it’s hard to be a blessing when our cups are empty. Earlier this year I taught about “Passing the Torch” and the overlap between family, local church, and world missions. Discipleship is simply our full hearts overflowing and sloshing onto family, friends, local churches, and world missions. This is true spiritually and with life skills.

Why begin with the family, and work outward into missions? One reason is that family is central to all social structures. Healthy families are the building blocks of healthy churches, workplaces, governments, and cultures. Unhealthy families lead to unhealthy social structures. There’s a direct correlation between today’s disintegration of families and other social issues plaguing us. Another reason is that the family is “school” for learning life and leadership skills. It’s the place we learn human interaction, how to disagree with others well or poorly, and the basics of self control. We learn to be people of character or not. In a healthy family, we see leadership modeled by parents and older siblings. We’re given age appropriate responsibilities. Then we grow up, get married, have kids and apply these skills. Those of us who come from broken families learn these spiritual and life skills later. Ideally, these learned skills help us in all other spheres of life. And this “cup” sloshes into the local church and into world missions.



But there’s also reciprocal benefits. What better opportunities for learning is there than serving in the local church and missions? Spiritual truths and life skills are passed from person to person in the activities of life, where we practice them. “Filling cups,” or blessing, or passing on knowledge applies to everything from the gospel, to relationships, to living life. Every Christian should make church life and missions part of their growth. Make short-term missions part of your home school curriculum. Make missions part of your pastoral or eldership training model.

Maybe your family wants to join us in planting churches, training leaders, or bringing Bible college, seminary and in-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 training in the materials we use. Contact us at [thebegers@searchingtheword.com](mailto:thebegers@searchingtheword.com).



## David Beger

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

## SHORT-TERM COMMENT:

“I learned that mission trips aren’t all the same and God can use down time to bless the people you have come to serve alongside. Relationships are key in doing ministry and I got to watch God open door after door for relationships through time spent between camps and I can’t wait to see what God does with that as time goes on.” ~ Alex (Romania Sports Camp)





# WE ARE NOT ALONE

Evangelistic English Camps are always steps of faith. Planning begins at least a year in advance. The American team comes together over the winter and spring months. After committing to camp, each team member prays and pulls together a team for prayer and financial support. As a team we meet many hours for training before we ever get on the plane. On the Romanian side, pastors, missionaries, and key workers pray and invite believers and not-yet-believers to commit a week of their summer to come to camp to learn English from American speakers (very important in Romania) and hear about Jesus. There is huge investment by everyone before the first campers arrive.

So, when camp finally begins, no one wants to blow it. All the praying, all the giving, all the planning, all the goodbyes back home and now it all comes



**Kent & Sue Wagner**

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

down to these moments in the first day and a half when the campers are welcomed and Jesus is front and center. Yes, we're keyed up. The tension is palpable.

Last August in Romania the campers arrived on Monday afternoon and evening. Great beginning.

Then, our team met in the early morning hours on Tuesday, the first full day of camp. We met to pray and worship before the day began. What joy we shared as I read the following message from one of our prayer partners back home.

*The First Baptist Church of Willcox has been praying for God to have great success in His efforts to teach the Romanian people through the team that the two of you are leading there even now. We have set our cell phones for 9:30am and are praying for you this week. I announced your mission trip yesterday during worship service.... They agreed to pray for you.*

*God bless you both.*

*Henry*

I choked back tears of joy as I read this message of assurance. And then, I said to our team, "We are not alone." They were silent as tears streamed down their cheeks. Truly, we were not alone.

Thank you, Henry, and thanks to your church. Thanks also to everyone who prayed. Fully half of those in attendance were not-yet-believers. And oh how we could see the Lord working in their hearts. And the good news is that He's not done. He continues to work in those tender hearts and your prayers are still being answered. Thanks again!

Next year's camp will be August 3-10, with the entire trip being July 31 - August 11.

Now to Him *who is able* to do far more *abundantly* than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, *to Him be glory* in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20-21

# PEANUT BUTTER PROMISE

I used to love peanut butter. It was a normal part of life. But when our first child, Joshua, was a year old, that changed suddenly. I gave him his first taste of peanut butter and watched his face and hands swell up before my eyes. It turned out that he was highly allergic to peanuts—as severe as it comes. We started carrying an Epi-pen and had to keep our house “peanut-free” for Josh’s safety. Whenever I saw peanut butter on someone’s shelf, alarms would go off in my brain, screaming “POISON!!”

Shortly after that, I took it to the Lord in prayer. I asked Him, “God, why would you allow this? Did I do something wrong?” He answered me from John 9:1-3; “This happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.” I took that answer as a promise, and we began praying for healing.

Over the last ten years we have taken Josh for allergy tests, and gradually we saw the severity of his allergy reduce. It took longer than I hoped, but I saw my son growing in faith as HE prayed and eagerly awaited the day when his allergy would be totally gone. And THIS summer—at last—we got the news: No more peanut allergy!

I know God’s timing is never an accident. He didn’t take too long. He did exactly what He said He would

do. And in the process, He built our faith, “of greater worth than gold.” (1 Peter 1:7)



This has caused me to look again at other areas where I have been waiting. For the last eight years, my husband and I have been serving in a small, isolated First Nations community in Canada. Ministry here can be very hard and often discouraging. Change comes slowly. Often, we have prayed and asked, “How long, Lord?” But once again, God has reminded me that His ways and His timing are not like ours. I have often taken comfort in this scripture from 2 Peter 3:9; “God is not slow in keeping his promises, but rather He is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish.”

So now, the peanut butter sitting on MY shelf once again is a reminder: God is faithful to keep His promises; in HIS time, and in HIS way.



## 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).*

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# Homegoings

## Ronald Jacob Christensen

May 25, 1942 – May 22, 2018

Ron Christensen was the longest serving IM Board member, having served from the inception of International Messengers in the mid 1980's until 2015. His 30 years of faithful service was a great inspiration to many of us, both on the Board and on the field. Ron participated in a number of IM trips to Poland, Romania, and Czech Republic, ministering to missionaries and the lost as he exercised his compassion for people.

Ron and Marg also served for 12 years in Bolivia and Mexico with World Mission Prayer League. Prior to serving on the mission field, he was a Commissioned Officer with the US Army. One of his many joys was flying, and in 1979 he received his Commercial Pilot License. Ron is survived by his wife Marg, daughter Spring (Tim) Becker, son Sky (Jennifer) Christensen, and six grandchildren.

~ Mike Gesler



## Janusz Dazuta

May 6, 1961 – July 21, 2018

Janusz Dazuta was one of those rare people who leave a lasting impression on others. He left a legacy as well as a rather large void.

He lived his faith in every aspect of his life. He loved his wife Bozena. I loved the way he talked about her and how he lit up at the mention of her name. To me, their marriage was an example of a Christ-centered marriage with a deep commitment to each other. He loved his children, Kamila and David, and was very proud of them and thrilled at how they have grown in faith.

Bob Rasmussen, founder of International Messengers, met Janusz in the 80's and took him under his wing. Janusz and Bozena attended Oak Hills Bible College from 1988 –1993 where he received his degree in theology. They teamed with International Messengers and moved back to Poland.

Janusz pastored a church in Kielce, Poland, since 1996 and was a true shepherd, he loved his flock and he was always concerned when someone was hurting or struggling. He was bold in reaching out trying to help. Janusz sought ways of involving everyone in the church. He encouraged people to use their talents for each other and for God's Glory. He felt that everyone had something to offer. Janusz's shepherd heart was so caring that even while in his hospital bed, weakened to the point where it was hard to speak he still reached out to others to encourage them. He cared deeply for his flock and the people loved him!

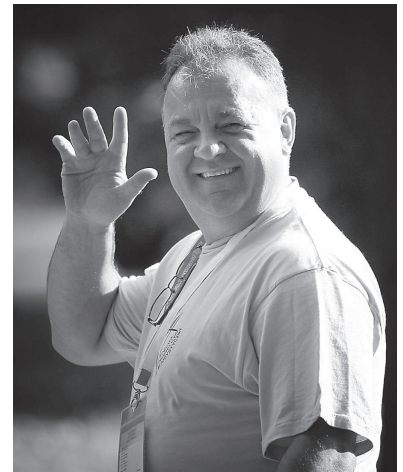
I heard people say that when they saw Janusz they could see he had a deep and sincere relationship with God. Janusz conveyed that relationship in everything he did. He overflowed with love, the love of Christ. He felt that no one was beyond God's reach.

He was a visionary and a man of action! He encouraged others to join him and help those ideas become realities. The Indian Village was one of those realities. Janusz was full of life and his joy was contagious!

Janusz's life impacted many people and that legacy lives on. I'm just one example. We met at a Family English camp in 1996. Janusz invited me to join them and I have been here since 1998.

His ten-year battle with leukemia ended in July, but his legacy continues through the lives of the people he touched.

~ Janna Forseth



# RESCUE THE WEAK AND THE NEEDY

*Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.  
Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 82:3-4*

After 2½ years of waiting on the Lord, our homes for the parentless children from the refugee camps arrived. In partnership with GoServe Global we now have ten homes and ten more on the way from Iowa. The children are now living in them and are truly happy in their new homes. Each home houses six children, with personal space and room to grow. We still have another five homes to build from the first shipment.

This rural area of Pawel, Uganda, has now become a place of living hope. What once was a terrorist stronghold by the LRA is now held by Christ. An area that children were being taken and used for war is now a place where love, peace, joy, and happiness is being held out, fear is being replaced with God's perfect love.

The 22 children we are caring for have all come from the South Sudan Refugee Camps, located just north of Pawel. The children are known to be parentless, but the local church and the government agencies are not always able to confirm if they have parents or not. Some kids know their parents are dead because they witnessed them being murdered. Still, others could be separated by the conflict or

even abandoned. I have been told that there are at least 100,000 children that fall into this category. If we do not reach into the refugee camps and help these children, then who will?

As the Lord provides funds we will bring in more children. Please join us in praying for these children. We invite you to make the trip and come serve alongside our team. Aside from the homes for the children, we have planted a church and opened a primary school. There are plenty of ministry opportunities for nearly anyone desiring to serve.  
~by John Pipes



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

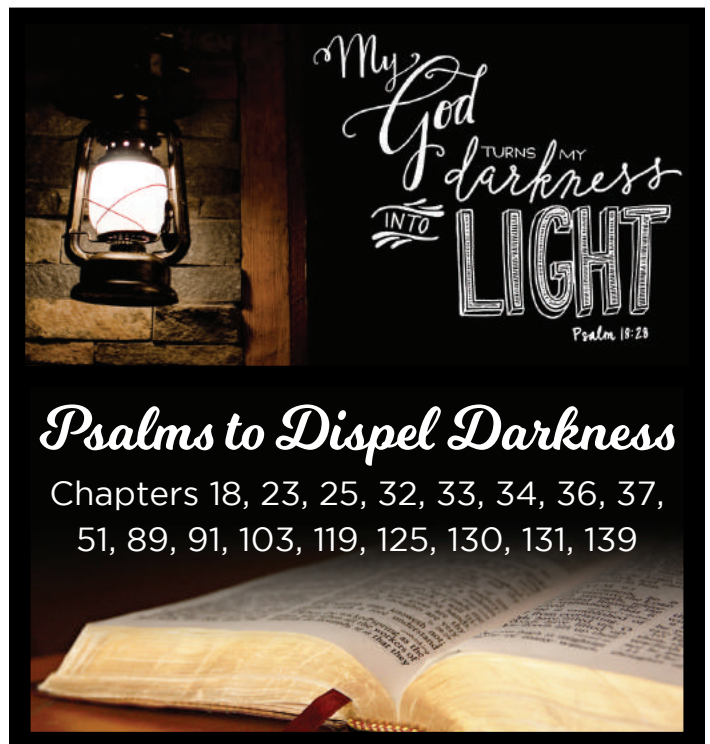


"My heart was stirred to be more joyful and more thankful every day and to focus on people and relationships more. People are forever."

~ Diane (Uganda Orphanage Outreach)

"God showed me how prayer is something so crucial, yet overlooked. This trip has put a desire to know more about prayer so I can teach/show others who might struggle in this area."

~ Whitney (Uganda Orphanage Outreach)





# MISSIONARIES IN A MARINA

At the end of August, 2017, Gene and I sensed God telling us to move aboard a sailboat. The idea wasn't new—we'd talked about the possibility 20 years prior. But, one afternoon as we strolled through a marina just for fun, it was as though God said, "Now."

We prayed for guidance, and God led us to a 1980 48-foot C&C Landfall. Interestingly, we found it in the same marina where we began this conversation two decades ago. We prayed for a boat within our current housing budget, and He dropped the asking price in answer to our request. We prayed for a place to moor it in the Vancouver, BC area, and He provided a slip on the Fraser River despite every broker within a 200-mile radius warning us to expect a seven-year wait.

We spent eight weeks purging nearly all our earthly belongings, and we moved into the boat at the end of February. Now we understand why this idea seemed urgent.

Living in the marina has placed us amid an unreached people group, mostly single men. Some work, others are retired or unemployed. Alcohol and marijuana play a huge role in their lives. Several are members of the homosexual

community. The others are separated from their wives or divorced, some more than once. Many have been "burned" by traditional religion and want nothing to do with God.



Jesus spent time with men of similar character, and so we follow His example. We invite them for meals, share homemade baked goodies, and host board games nights. When one of their dogs had broken its leg in July, we helped raise funds to pay for its surgery. That action pulled our neighborhood together, made us trusted "insiders," and opened the door for several significant spiritual conversations.

Without a doubt, God has placed us in this marina to share the Gospel in both word and deed with these boat people. Would you please pray for more significant conversations and specific opportunities to be involved with their lives?

## Grace Fox

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



## DAILY WORSHIP

Do you ever feel yourself falling into the daily grind of life? You wake up and go to work or school. Your routine schedule is played out, and soon the day is over. As you crawl into bed, your mind slows down and you begin to wonder where your day went. "Did I really just live another 24 hours? What did I do all day?" I catch myself lying there with a heart weary and worn. As my heart and mind start to quiet, I remember the Lord. I realize that somewhere throughout my day, I left Jesus out. He never left me, but my heart forgot Him among the chaos. How did that happen? I started the day in His word and talking with Him, but I seemed to have slipped away from

the peaceful sanctuary of His presence, and into the busy streets of life. I get frustrated with myself and thoughts of condemnation begin to creep in. All too often, the anxious thoughts of life rule in the place of where there should be peaceful trust in Jesus.

I was thinking back to a sermon I recently heard about anxiety. What was the difference between Mary and Martha? Martha was doing all the "good things"—cleaning house, cooking food, and making sure the guests were taken care of—but in Luke 10:40 it says that "Martha was distracted with much serving..." Was it wrong that she was serving? No. But where was her heart? It was distracted. She was consumed with doing a good job serving and forgot Who it was she was serving. "She had a sister called Mary who

also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word." Martha had started at Jesus' feet along with Mary, but her heart became distracted and started to focus on the "doing" of service. She then tried to drag Mary into doing good works as well, but Jesus gently reminded Martha of what she was missing. You can hear the gracious invitation in Jesus' voice as He says, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But, one thing is needed..." There is only one thing you can do that will please Me and bless My heart, Martha. Lay aside your worries, your labors, and "Come to Me, you who are weak and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." See, your sister Mary "has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Staying in that place of rest at Jesus' feet is a matter of choice. I have to make the choice to stay in that rest just like I make the choice to leave it. How do I stay in that place of rest? Worship. When my heart is in a state of true worship, I am in a place of acknowledging my neediness for God. Thankfulness begins to flow from seeing my need. Even in the mist of chaos and business, my heart can be in a place of worship and thankfulness. This is living in daily worship.



### Hannah Zupke

*Hannah serves in the home office of International Messengers as administrative assistant. Her desire is to be willing to be used by the Lord in whatever way He chooses.*

## THE MISSION CONTINUES

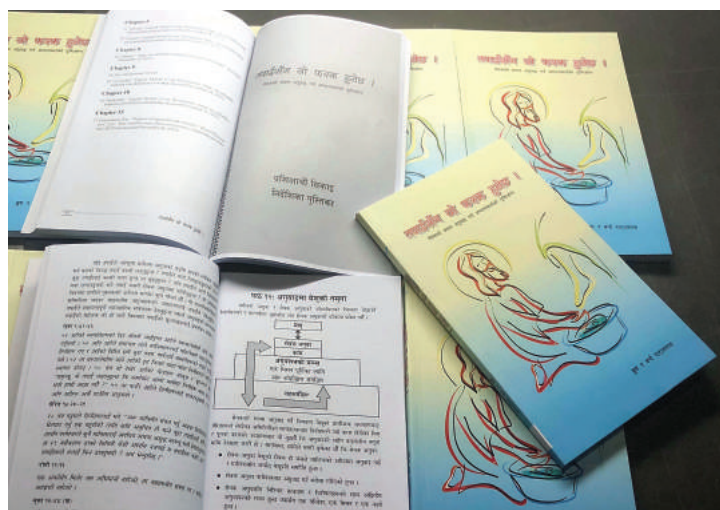
### *Listening to God's Heart Beat for Nepal*

God brought us back to Nepal on February 25, 2018. Four seminars on servant leadership were scheduled and a book ready to publish and launch. The day before the first seminar a road accident delayed some attendees travelling by bus. We delayed our start time. Their normal 17-hour bus ride took 29 hours!

This team also hosted the final seminar for 26 church leaders. The leader's words of introduction included: "The content you will learn is unlike anything you have experienced in the past. I read a draft copy of the book: With you it will be different. A Practitioner's View of Leading as a Servant and it was life-changing for me." Hearing that was as thrilling as seeing Mt. Everest for the first time!

We were disappointed to learn that the local publisher and book translator we had worked with for several months was not reliable. As we boarded our plane for Seminar Two, we connected with a Nepali Christian author. By the time we next landed, we had a new publisher, a new layout designer, and a reliable quote for the work that was to have been done before we arrived in Nepal. With this miraculous and providential meet-up, we remain in awe of God.

Please join us in a chuckle when we discovered our StepCounter attained 10,000 steps while we bounced along in a Jeep on a six-hour drive. We then hiked two and a half hours to a mountainside village and experienced the contrast between rural and urban life in Nepal.



The best story is the continuing one...

- Church leaders have ongoing training from qualified Nepali leaders.
- One thousand copies of the book in Nepali were printed and are being distributed through training seminars.
- IMCS is piloting an education sponsor program with Beautiful Gate Friends Serve (NGO). Today, 19 children from economically challenged families are attending "good" schools.
- Several other programs for increased capacity are in development with Beautiful Gate Church.



### Verna & Bruce Ratzlaff

*Verna serves as a director on the board of International Messengers Canada Society (IMCS). Bruce is the volunteer leader of partner activities with Beautiful Gate Church in Nepal. They live in Calgary, Alberta. God has given them the joy of doing five short-term trips with a mission focus in the last four years.*



# ETERNAL FRUIT

*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, He may give it to you.” John 15:16*

We sometimes go for long dry seasons but, “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9) This year, in the midst of many challenges the Lord gave us a joyful eternal harvest!

Doug had been discipling Andrei and Antonio for several months, and both wanted to be baptized. It was a wonderful blessing to us that the Lord worked it out so that Doug could baptize Andrei and Antonio in the Jordan River in Israel last summer!

Andrei was the first baby saved from abortion through this ministry 19 years ago and Antonio was the first abandoned baby helped through this ministry 13 years ago. The two weeks that they were in Israel with us we saw that Antonio was the happiest we had ever seen him! And Ileana works so wholeheartedly in our ministry that it was a blessing to share this special time with her and her son Andrei. This was a very joyful occasion for all of us! Doug said that the day he baptized these young men ranked right up there with the day he received the Lord and the day we were married!

At the end of the summer Doug was also privileged to baptize one of the care home moms, Ema who lives at River of Life with her two-year-old son David. She said she wants to raise him to know the Lord.

We just want to thank all of you who have faithfully stood beside us and the work of this ministry to be blessed by and to share in the eternal joy that you are also a part of!



## **Roberta Moore**

Roberta and Doug Moore have been serving in Romania as IM missionaries for 20 years. They are the founders and daily overseers of River of Life ministries, a Christian provider of social services helping needy ‘at risk’ women to be able to keep their babies and children and not abort or abandon them, and caring for elderly in an assisted living home utilizing the moms as care givers.





We would like to share with you what God is doing in our lives, and in the lives of our team members in Egypt and in Lebanon. We are very happy to see everyone grow in ministry, and in their personal relationship with God.

This summer our Egyptian team was already able to handle all youth camps on their own. That was very special to us. We both stayed in the background. They could call us at any moment, but they made their own decisions, and we prayed a lot for them.

In the spring, we contacted a church in Damascus, Syria. We invited thirty-eight people from their fellowship to a family camp in the mountains of Lebanon. They came with a big bus across the border, and everybody was nervous if they would be let through without problems. Some of them were already strong believers, deeply rooted in Christ. The campers shared about their war experiences and how God protected them in very dangerous situations. There was great unity among the guests and the hosts. What a precious gift from God.

This fall we will do the Desertside Training for five of those Syrian brothers and sisters in Beirut, Lebanon. Each one of them will be engaged in planting new churches in the war-torn cities of Syria.



We are also very grateful for our interns in Beirut who went through the training last year. One of them has founded a home church for Muslim background believers. The work is growing steadily.

Two of our interns are doing a coffee shop ministry in Beirut. Their goal is to offer a place of refuge to stressed young people in a society where there is no rest. We will do part of this fall's training in that coffee shop.

We are happy that our first IM kindergarten could be opened in Alexandria, Egypt. In February, we will start the same kind of project in Al Menya, Upper Egypt.

The work is growing in the Middle East, and our staff is becoming independent of us both. We support this very much. More and more we see our job in mentoring our staff, and in doing more and more trainings to make a widespread ministry possible in many areas of the Middle East.

Our goal is to train people during our fall trainings, and to enable them to step out to do their own ministry. During school time, and during their internship with IM we mentor them one-on-one and in groups to give them the basic tools they can use when moving into the direction God shows them.

God gave us the chance to go through lots of experiences right on the field during the last three decades, and we are glad that we can share what we have learned with all those who are going through the trainings.

### **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 following will give you a taste of how God is working in and through our staff and interns in the Middle East/North Africa area.*



My name is **Charbel** and I come from Beirut, Lebanon. I have a beautiful wife and two children a daughter and a son God blessed us with.

My wife and I attended the first IM training course in Beirut last year.

A few months ago I planted a little home church. This thriving little fellowship is meant to be the home for Muslim background believers. The Lord put on my heart to plant more small home churches in Islamic neighborhoods of Beirut, but also in other areas of Lebanon. My special focus are Hezbollah people. There is someone in our group who focuses on trafficked women, and on women who experience domestic abuse and violence. Others are more focused on the poor.

Our goal is to live together as the first church did. We want to be flexible and small enough to really care for each other.

We would appreciate your prayers for us, our small church and our ministries.

My name is **Bernadette** and I'm from Beirut, Lebanon. I went through the first IM training in Beirut last year. My ministry is with the Shia Muslims in my neighborhood. The Lord put this on my heart a long time ago.



Six times per week I bring the Good News to four different Shia families, as well as to two middle-aged sisters. They are both widows. One of these sisters gave her life to Christ after Jesus appeared to her twice.

Dealing with the others I visit, is not an easy thing at all, especially when it comes to the Lordship of Jesus, and that he is God. A while ago I started introducing Jesus to them as the Koran presents Him. The Koran speaks of the "Prophet Issa." So many Muslims do have an understanding of the person of Jesus, but they cannot accept Him as God.

Lately, I had a great meeting with a young Shia woman I got to know through a taxi driver, to whom I gave the word of God. There are lots of possibilities to get in contact with many Shia people of our city. I also use Skype and Whatsapp to speak to Muslims all over the globe.

Many of the people I am visiting in my neighborhood I got to know at the supermarket where we all go shopping. I often help elderly people read what's written on the back of a package, or give some advice when I see they are looking for something specific. We start talking and

they finally invite me into their home for tea. I visit them more often, and finally start speaking about deeper things of life.

I am trying hard to reach out to Muslims as often as I can to open the path of Truth for them.

My name is **Mekha**, and I am from Alexandria, Egypt. I live with my parents and my seven siblings, five sisters and two brothers. Before I started working with IM, I had a job at a computer company. I specialized in programming and software.



Several years ago I gave my life to Jesus, and He transformed my heart and continues to help me to become a leader for young guys. I lead several discipleship groups. I am thrilled to see that two of my young disciples have already started to disciple others.

I am always thinking of new ways to reach out to young men. Some time ago, I opened a gym to get into contact with new people I can talk to. The goal is always to lead them to Jesus. The gym project seems to work fine as such a tool. Please pray that God will use this ministry to change the lives of a new generation.

I am mentoring a friend named Mina H. I got to know him five years ago. He comes from a very difficult background, and his life isn't easy at all. We began a friendship, and I encouraged him to give his life to Jesus. After his decision to follow Christ we started a long journey together, doing Bible studies and many other things. He is growing a lot. Now, Mina helps me to reach out to new guys. Mina has his own discipleship group, and he is also a worship leader. He even helps me in the gym, because he is also gifted in the sports area.





My name is **Mina**, and I'm 22 years old. I am from Alexandria, Egypt. I have two sisters; one of them is married. She has a baby boy, Jason, and I am the proud uncle. I live with my mother and sister.



I have a heart to reach young men with the Gospel, but I've found that many guys hate the mere idea of going to church. They don't understand a word of what the pastor is saying, and they feel totally ignored regarding their personal inner needs or interests by the church. Sports ministry, especially soccer, is a wonderful tool to reach out to young men. These young men love doing fun stuff, playing games, hanging around with each other, and talking for hours.

One day God gave me the idea to simply grab a soccer ball, and start playing with the guys around me. We also played other games. After such fun things, there is always time for a glass of tea and conversation about deeper things in life.

Through this ministry, many young men have already committed their lives to Christ. I do follow-up with them, disciple them, and help them to grow deeper in their faith. Several of those kids have now become members of our sports team. They serve God and people. What a joy to see the multiplication of our dreams and visions!

Many churches have been inviting our sports team to help them do youth events. We are all partners in the Kingdom of God, including all of you who have helped us so much to get all this done. Thank you so much!

Please pray for those young ones in the faith who were recently born into the Kingdom of God, that they will become more like Christ. One day soon they will also go out and do the same thing.



My name is **Ramy** and I'm 25 years old.

Ever since our Egyptian team started working with IM we have been taught New Testament principles of how to live

our own lives, and how to spread the Gospel effectively.

As a group we traveled all over Egypt last year. We visited cities and villages, and also numerous homes, where we spoke with the people and prayed with them. There is such a desperate need for the Savior in their lives.



From my heart, I want to thank all those who made it possible for us to travel by their financial support, and prayers.

I went to Asswan with one of our brothers, and we brought the message of victory over fear. After one of our meetings, a young man came to me and said that he had never even thought about this.

Imagine how this will affect the Kingdom in the future! Another man shared that he was afraid he would lose friends if he started following Jesus. I told him that Jesus would give him new friends.

God opened my eyes that the time has come to help raise up a new generation without fear. Love produces trust and fear produces death.

It is so awesome to serve the Lord and see how people change. The fruit of such lives will last forever!



I am **Yasser** from Al Menya City in Upper Egypt. My wife is Martha from Alexandria. We have a beautiful little daughter named Marvel. Both of us are on staff with IM.



The whole Menya area is very poor. There is much Islamic extremism, and the spiritual soil is very hard. There have been many religious attacks on Christians during the last few years; however, the spiritual hunger is enormous. God opens doors for me to preach at many churches: Orthodox, Evangelical, Charismatic.

Right now, I am leading three discipleship groups at different levels. There are 55 people to shepherd. We teach



them how to bring people to Christ, how to care and teach new believers, how to do Bible studies, how to prepare a devotional, and how to present a testimony.

My wife Martha supports me in all I do. She has her own ministry with the girls and young women. She is also studying to become a kindergarten teacher, because we plan on having an IM kindergarten in Menya, similar to the one in Alexandria. We would appreciate your prayer support for this.

There are two marvelous things Jesus did during the past months. Martha and I went to a village to preach. Many people had already given their lives to Christ during one meeting. There was also a young tailor, a drug addict, and drug dealer. His name is Waleed. He came up to ask me to pray over his life. He accepted Jesus Christ in his life, and at that very moment he was set free from his drug addiction. Later we saw his life change dramatically. He decided not to sell drugs anymore, and also his parents could see a dramatic change in his life. He came with us to visit several homes as we spoke with and prayed with people.



The second story sounds like the book of Acts. One day a man and his wife came to a meeting, together with their four-year old boy who had lost his ability to speak and hear. Many doctors had already seen this child, but nobody could help. In desperation, they had already made a doctor's appointment for the child right after the meeting. We prayed over the child, as we prayed with lots of other sick people. After the prayer, the father said, let's go to see the doctor. The little son replied, "No, Daddy, we don't have to go to the doctor anymore, Jesus has healed me already! You see, I can talk!" Later the doctor confirmed a total healing. The next day the father brought the medical report, and we all praised the name of Jesus who had done this huge miracle.



My name is **Samah** and I'm 28 years old.

I am from Egypt, a country that is on the other side of the world from the United States. Most people don't know much of what is going on in my country.

I have a passion to serve my Lord, and to minister to young ladies. We live in an Islamic country, and this is a big problem for women. You might wonder why. Islam has had a very strong influence and effect on the Christian community of Egypt for hundreds of years. In Islam women are considered as having much less value than men, and they are also very limited regarding inheriting money or land from their families. Women are totally controlled by men, and there is no freedom for a woman.

Unfortunately, Egyptian fathers deal with their daughters

exactly the same way. Girls grow up with a distorted picture of God the Father, because they transfer that picture to God. For many years I was blind to this, and I lived my life under the bondage of Islamic Egyptian culture. After Jesus opened my eyes and set me free, God put on my heart the strong desire to lead young women and girls to the understanding of the New Testament of who God really is, and what that means for us as women. I want them to live according to God's purpose for them. They need to live their lives under God's control, not under the control of men. The image of the Loving Father needs to captivate and transform their minds and souls.

To reach out to young women I use the tool of teaching them English. I started a small English school, which enables me to build solid relationships with the girls who come to my lessons. I started small, but I want to have a big influence in their lives so that their whole perspective will change, as mine did. Would you, please, help me pray that this will happen?

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My name is **Monika**, and I'm from Poland.

Last year God gave me the opportunity to serve at one of the Egyptian youth camps. The week I spent there was a life changing experience. Ever since then, my life has been focused on prayer.

For a long time I had the impression that "I was made for a different world," but I had no clue where that place would be. After this summer experience, I started thinking that it might be Egypt.

After a year of fervent prayer God opened the door. So, here I am in Alexandria, Egypt. Slowly God is unfolding his plan for me in this country. I joined my new Christian family, the IM team in Alexandria, and I work together with them. I have the opportunity to teach English to some young ladies, and it is a great joy for me to get to know them this way.

I am also teaching classes for the kids in the IM kindergarten. Oh, how I love spending time with kids. More and more I feel at home here, and I am waiting for more opportunities.



I also have the privilege to visit some remote villages with one of my sisters. The people in these villages live in utter poverty. It is wonderful for me to be with the girls and women there who follow their Lord in simple faith and trust. This reminds me of my own childhood on the Polish countryside.

My heart is burning for this country and its people whose culture is so very different from my own and I praise God for such a blessing to live my faith in Christ here in Egypt.

Please pray for my faith to be strengthened, and for an open heart to see what God has prepared for me at this place. I'd love to see God's grace that leads people to Christ and lives that are transformed and start burning with fire for Jesus.



PO Box 618  
Clear Lake, IA 50428-0618

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

- ☐ I/we would like more information about IM's ministries planned in 2019.
- ☐ 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 2019:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 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 help a refugee attend an Evangelistic English Camp to 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 Refugee scholarship \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount for school fees and supplies \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount for tuition for orphans in Uganda \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount for Joshua Project scholarships \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount of Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form along with your tax-deductible check made payable to INTERNATIONAL MESSENGERS and send to:  
International Messengers, PO Box 618, Clear Lake, IA 50428-0618.

**To give online, visit: [www.im-usa.org/christmas](http://www.im-usa.org/christmas)**





Ph: 641-357-6700  
Fax: 641-357-6791

PO Box 618 • Clear Lake, IA 50428-0618



Enhancing Trust

## 2018 Short-Term Ministries Report

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Construction Ministry                   | 1 Radiant Women's Ministry           |
| 2 Discipleship Camps                      | 3 Redeem the Summer Internships      |
| 1 Evangelistic Community Outreach         | 2 ROL Care Home Ministries           |
| 1 Evangelistic Sports Day Camp            | 1 ROL Care Home 3-month Ministry     |
| 1 Evangelistic Youth Camp                 | 1 Safe T Home Prep/Men's Ministry    |
| 7 Evangelistic English Camps              | 13 Staff Care or Teaching Ministries |
| 2 Evangelistic Softball/English Day Camps | 1 Teacher Workshop/Women's Ministry  |
| 9 Family Evangelistic English Camps       | 1 VBS Day Camp                       |
| 2 IM Staff Conferences                    |                                      |
| 2 Orphan Ministries                       |                                      |
| 1 Professional English Camp (Business)    |                                      |



*God accomplishes much through the willingness and hearts of our staff and short-termers. From fall 2017–summer 2018, we sent a total of 315 short-term workers to serve at a variety of outreaches (see list at left). We also conducted 27 trainings in 9 states/provinces.*

The average age of our short-termers was 46 years old, and 63% of our short-termers were alumni. Our oldest short-termer was 80 and our youngest was 3 years old.

***We give God all the glory for another blessed year!***