

MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER & PRAYER GUIDE



Students prepare presentations during their course break.

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME by Peter*

Several months ago, the campus of the seminary where I teach was under water, accessible only by boat, and visited occasionally by hippos from the nearby river.

The rainy season in central Africa was extraordinary this year, resulting in the highest water levels in sixty years in N'Djamena, Chad. Many thousands of people have temporarily or permanently lost their homes to the flooding, including students and faculty at the Shalom Seminary.

To my amazement, this crisis did not deter the school from beginning the academic year as planned. We shifted the various programs to church buildings that were not flooded and started classes (albeit

without a library, offices, or electricity).

My colleague Sali Salomon and I co-taught a course on ecclesiology, the study of the church. The topics included the mission of the church; images of the church in the New Testament; practices of baptism, the Lord's Supper, foot-washing, and mutual care; and challenges facing the contemporary church.

Some good-spirited sparring took place every day. The students were from a variety of denominations, and when the conversation turned to church structures, discipline, and leadership issues, the disagreements were enthusiastic. There was debate about whether we should call the

practices of the church sacraments (which the Lutherans in the room preferred) or ordinances (which the Ana/Baptist-oriented preferred).

We discussed the idea that these practices are both for the church as a community and also as a witness to the broader society of what God intends for all of us. Baptism reminds us that God has created a new community that is deeper than our ethnic divisions. The Lord's Supper has not only the spiritual meaning of participating in Christ's body, but also that we share our food with one another so that no one goes hungry.

A heaviness fell on the room when students described the ethnic divisions within the country, divisions

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that play out also in the church. We read together a French translation of Emmanuel Katongole's *Mirror to the Church*, about the Rwanda genocide that split churches and congregations. Just weeks before we met, Chad had also experienced political violence, with no just solution in sight. Where was the hope?

At that moment, a delivery of rice sacks arrived. The students helped stack them up in the back corner of the simple church sanctuary. I asked them, "What are these sacks for?"

They replied that the church had arranged, out of its limited resources, to provide food for the members of the community who had been displaced by the flooding. Muslims, Christians, and others would receive

urgent help because the Chadian church remembers the broken body of Jesus.

The challenges are immense. But the Chadian church is practicing Jubilee, doing exactly what Jesus meant when he said, "Do this in remembrance of me." The sacks of rice were a powerful image for all of us that bearing witness to Jesus happens in the context of following him together, keeping the practices that he gave us as a gift of grace.



Peter serves with EMM and Mennonite Mission Network in Chad, where he lives with his spouse Christy and their three children Moses, Celeste, and Felix. Peter is a member of EMM's Christian-Muslim Relations Team.*

THE REMAINING IMPACT FUND NEED FOR 2023 IS

\$1,006,355

\$1,692,777 GOAL

\$686,277 RECEIVED AS OF AUGUST 14, 2023

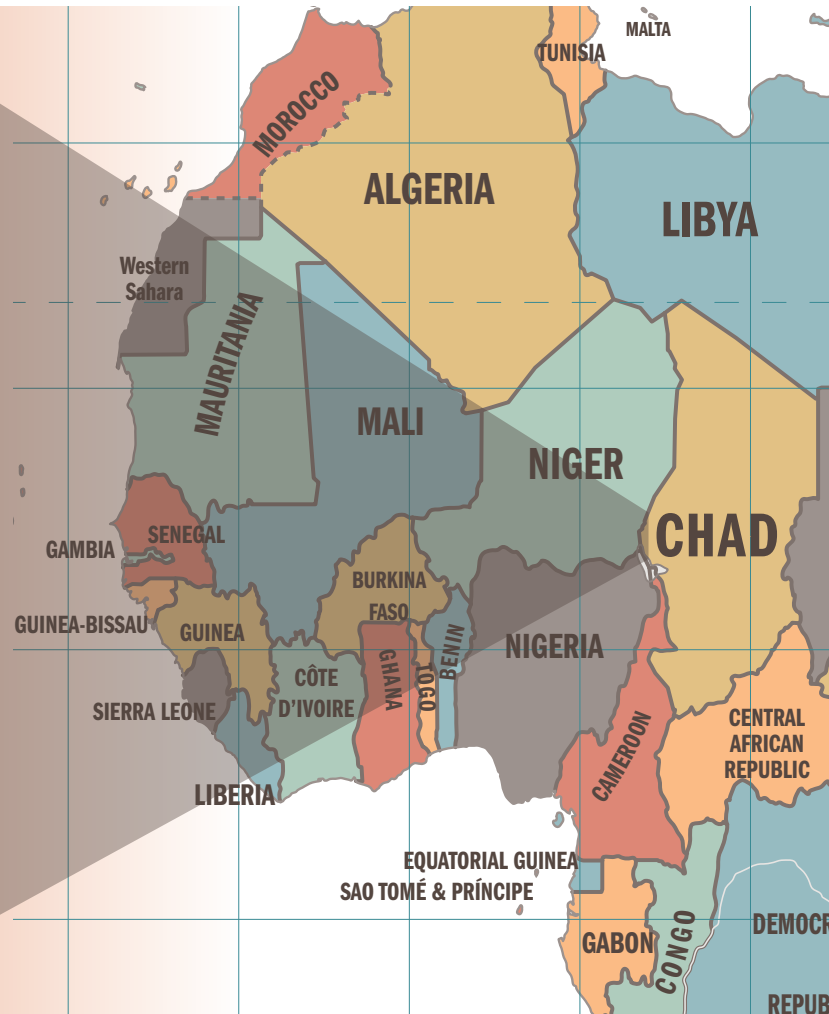
When you support EMM's Impact Fund, you enable us to recruit, equip, and send EMM workers around world. We invite you to make a gift to the Impact Fund at EMM.ORG/GIVE

PEOPLE OF CHAD

Three primary religious groups co-exist in Chad: traditional African religion, Islam, and Christianity. However, there is a great divide in Chad between the northern peoples, who are predominately Muslim, and the southern peoples, who tend to be Christian or practice traditional religions. Although they share the same political boundaries, these people groups are worlds apart in their cultures. Due to a history of tensions between them it can be difficult for religious dialogue to occur.

Muslims make up the majority of Chad's population, many of whom are Chadian Arabs. They are predominantly Sunni Muslims, but they are not particularly interested in Muslim fundamentalist ideals. Arab ancestors emigrated from Sudan to Chad during the fourteenth century. They were primarily nomadic people, and by the 18th century, Arabs counted their wealth in large herds of livestock.

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DAILY PRAYER

1 (FRI.) CAMBODIA | Pray for Kandace Glenn as she builds relationships in Cambodia. Pray for good opportunities to disciple university and postgraduate students. Pray that she will be able to help them discover God's purpose for their lives as they grow in relationship with Jesus.

2 (SAT.) LANCASTER, PA. | Pray for volunteers to work with the refugee and immigrant populations in Lancaster, Pa., through the ministries of Hub 450.

3 (SUN.) U.S. | Pray for EMM staff as we look for ways to engage young adults and build a vision for mission in their hearts.

4 (MON.) BELIZE | Pray for Tim and Julie Groff as they spend time on sabbatical and home leave. Pray for times of refreshment and renewal. Pray for their son Simeon as he transitions to school in Iowa.

5 (TUES.) PERU | Pray for Sarah Martin who is preparing to begin a two-month mission internship in Peru. Ask God to prepare her heart for all that he wants to do in and through her.

6 (WED.) CHILE | Pray for mission interns to join the work of camp ministry in Tenglo Island, Chile.

7 (THURS.) CZECH REPUBLIC | Pray for the church plant that Jan Heindel is helping with that is scheduled to begin this month. Pray for good connections with the neighborhood through various community activities. Pray for Jan as she makes decisions about taking a seminary class for training in spiritual counseling.

8 (FRI.) TANZANIA | Ask the Holy Spirit to water the seeds that have been planted during the recent LMC international partner delegate trip Joe and Yvonne Garber took with a small group of young adults from Byerland Mennonite Church.

9 (SAT.) COSTA RICA | Pray for Daryl and Jen Hoover as they prepare for their upcoming home leave. Pray for their son Micah as he takes on an additional leadership role at VidaNet. Pray for the whole family as they walk in various transitions.

10 (SUN.) U.S. | Pray for the young adults who are beginning a week-long training as part of Advance Global. Ask the Holy Spirit to be encouraging and deepening each one in their spiritual walk.

11 (MON.) THAILAND | Pray for Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin and their children as they continue to adjust to living in Bangkok. Pray for the children as they settle into their new school. Praise the Lord that another family in Nam Yeun heard the gospel and responded.

12 (TUES.) SOUTHEAST ASIA | Please ask God to provide an executive director for a transformational business in Southeast Asia.

13 (WED.) INDIA | Pray for protection and perseverance in light of ever-increasing violence against Christians.

14 (THURS.) U.S. | Pray for local business leaders to be inspired at the upcoming breakfast EMM will host and that the event will develop good relationships with them.

15 (FRI.) GERMANY | Pray for Eric and Janelle* as they serve with their family in Germany. Pray that Eric will be God's hands and feet to the children he interacts with through his work in an afterschool program. Pray for Janelle who is very active in prayer ministry for their school, neighborhood, and city.

16 (SAT.) GERMANY | Pray for church development interns to serve in Halle, Germany, and work among the refugee and immigrant populations there.

17 (SUN.) NETHERLANDS | Pray for encouragement and perseverance for Bob and Miriam Phillips as they minister in their church, neighborhood, and city.

18 (MON.) THAILAND | Pray for God to call pioneer church planters into the harvest field of Thailand and join the team there.

19 (TUES.) CZECH REPUBLIC | Pray for Vojta, Stacy, and their family as they serve in the Czech Republic. Please pray for the women's evangelization event that their church will host on September 23. Pray that God's Spirit will draw women into relationship with him. Pray for the safe arrival of their second child and for a good move into their new home.

20 (WED.) U.S. | Praise God for the good relationships between leaders of EMM and LMC. Ask God to guide them as EMM's Leadership Team and LMC's Bishop Elder Team meet today to discuss agreements to support the partnership.

21 (THURS.) SOUTHEAST ASIA | Pray for Timothy and Madison* and their boys as they continue to be involved in the water filter business and their local community. Praise the Lord for the many people who now receive clean drinking water and also have the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus.

22 (FRI.) CENTRAL ASIA | Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Kyrgyz people toward Christians so that they will be receptive to the gospel.

23 (SAT.) CENTRAL ASIA | Pray for Elizabeth* as she continues to process all that she saw and did on her trip to India last month. Pray for wisdom as she follows the Holy Spirit's leading in her interactions with those she relates to where she lives.

24 (SUN.) CZECH REPUBLIC | Join us in praying that God might send workers to be part of a church planting team in the Czech Republic.

25 (MON.) SOUTHEAST ASIA | Pray that the Christian believers among the Lao people would fellowship together faithfully and nurture true teachings about the faith.

26 (TUES.) GERMANY | Pray for Darrel and Miriam* as they serve with their daughters Emma and Clara in Germany. Praise the Lord for powerful testimonies from persons who were baptized this summer. Pray that they will continue to grow in their faith and that many more will come to Christ through their testimonies including among Emma's peers at school. Pray for Darrel and Miriam's involvement in the church and school.

27 (WED.) U.S. | Pray for EMM's Impact Fund, for generous hearts who will help sustain the funding needed, and for God's mission in the world to be carried out through the work of EMM.

28 (THURS.) COSTA RICA | Pray for Ethan Horst as he prepares to begin the Vida220 program in Costa Rica. Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare his heart for all that he wants to do.

29 (FRI.) GLOBAL | Pray for Leon and Naomi Zimmerman as they serve globally, providing theological teaching, leadership development, and encouragement to EMM partners. Pray for wisdom as they plan trips and discern which invitations to accept.

30 (SAT.) THAILAND | Pray for mission interns to serve among the Isaan people of Thailand and join the team there.



Eastern Mennonite Missions

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Lancaster, PA 17604-8617 US

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WORKER TRANSITIONS

Completed service

- Tanner Eshleman | Costa Rica
- Torance Moore | Lancaster, Pa.
- Cynthia Muaka | Lancaster, Pa.
- Deb Muenstermann | Lancaster, Pa.
- Emily Watkins | Lancaster, Pa.
- Bekka Zehr | Thailand

Newly appointed

- Matthew Baugher | Germany
- Kezia Gunawan | Cambodia
- Holly Hollenbach | Peru
- Lena Kauffman | Cambodia

Reappointed

- Alexander & Maria* | Central Asia
- Tim & Julie Groff | Belize
- Sonya Harnish | Albania
- Eric & Janelle* | Germany
- Oleg & Lisa* | Germany
- Mark & Sarah Schoenhals | Thailand

**Names changed or omitted for sensitivity reasons.*

CELEBRATING A LEGACY



Blanche Horst, 94, of Lititz, Pa., went to be with the Lord on July 11. Blanche and her husband, Nevin, served with EMM in Ethiopia and Kenya for a combined total of more than 20 years.

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Communications assistant: Julia Tsai

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