

# MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER &amp; PRAYER GUIDE



Nate Thorne (front right) plays soccer in Guinea-Bissau during his 2012-2013 YES team assignment.

PHOTO BY PETER STAHL

## THE START OF A JOURNEY by Krystle & Nate Thorne

**KRYSTLE:** As a young adult, I didn't *know* that I would go on to serve in long-term missions, but I was always open to it. I had gone through the EMM YES program when I was 18, and that instilled in me God's heart for the whole world to know him. When I was 22, I felt challenged to go deeper in my walk with God and sensed him inviting me to serve overseas again.

I reached out to EMM for help discerning this calling that I sensed to (perhaps) somewhere in Africa. I'm thankful for the heart of EMM staff who talked and prayed with me and provided information on opportunities that I could discern a calling by doing a mission internship. I de-

ecided to go to a tiny country in West Africa called The Gambia for a one-year internship, serving alongside a team of long-term workers and other interns from EMM.

That experience changed my life in so many ways. As I lived with a Muslim host family and worked with local Muslim women, my entire worldview was expanded. These people looked out for me, fed me, and taught me how to survive in a foreign context. Before living in West Africa, the only things I had heard about Muslims were negative, fear-filled, or even hateful; but my experience living with them was joyful and loving.

I came to see them as my family

and I still long for the day that they come to know Jesus as their Lord. That internship taught me that my service to God is not about me. I may be changed in the process, but any way he chooses to use me is all for his glory, for him to be made known in all the earth!

**NATE:** Following high school, I had several influential mentors in my life who strongly encouraged me to join the YES program with EMM. I had little exposure to missions at the time but my faith in Jesus gave me a strong desire to go and share the gospel with people who may have never heard the gospel before. My YES team served in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa, and during my time

there, I had a distinct sense that God would be calling me back long-term.

When I returned to the U.S. and settled back into pursuing education and employment, I continued to live missionally and see God extending his kingdom in my local context. I gained a much larger sense of God's heart for the word. As a follower of Jesus, I knew that I was called to go; we are all called to go, but where we go looks different for everyone. My experience in short-term missions was a catalyst for me to live a life on mission with God regardless of context. The highlight of this was not choosing to go into YES, but rather how I lived a life on mission with God after that experience.

**KRYSTLE:** Fast forward ten-plus years and we're married to each other and I work at EMM. Through my role with EMM, I had the opportunity of hearing the former regional representative for West Africa share some

of the current needs and the vision to see those needs being met. I was stirred by his words because he talked about a place that is still near and dear to my heart and people who I knew and loved. I also recognized that Nate and I both have giftings and strengths that directly align with the needs there, plus we have both served there and know some of the difficulties of life in West Africa. That was the start of this journey to begin a long-term assignment serving in The Gambia, West Africa.

**KRYSTLE & NATE:** We are excited about the opportunity to reconnect and partner with the Mennonite Church of West Africa to encourage, empower, and help strengthen their witness of Christ in this region. We look forward to building new relationships and modeling Christ with our Muslim neighbors.

We both have a passion for young adult discipleship and would love to host EMM Advance teams and pour

into the next generation. Proverbs 20:29 speaks of how the glory of the young is their strength while gray hair is the splendor of the old. In Greek, the word "strength" is not speaking of physical capacity but a type of spiritual force that pioneers new places for God's kingdom.

Young adults carry a special anointing to pioneer new spiritual territory for God's Kingdom to be advanced throughout the world. Serving in West Africa will give you the opportunity to be stretched, expand your worldview, and join God in his mission of taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. We'd love to have you serve in West Africa!



*Krystle and Nate Thorne, and their two children, are preparing to serve with EMM in the Gambia. If you would like to support their ministry or other workers', you can give online.*  
[EMM.ORG/WORKERS](http://EMM.ORG/WORKERS)

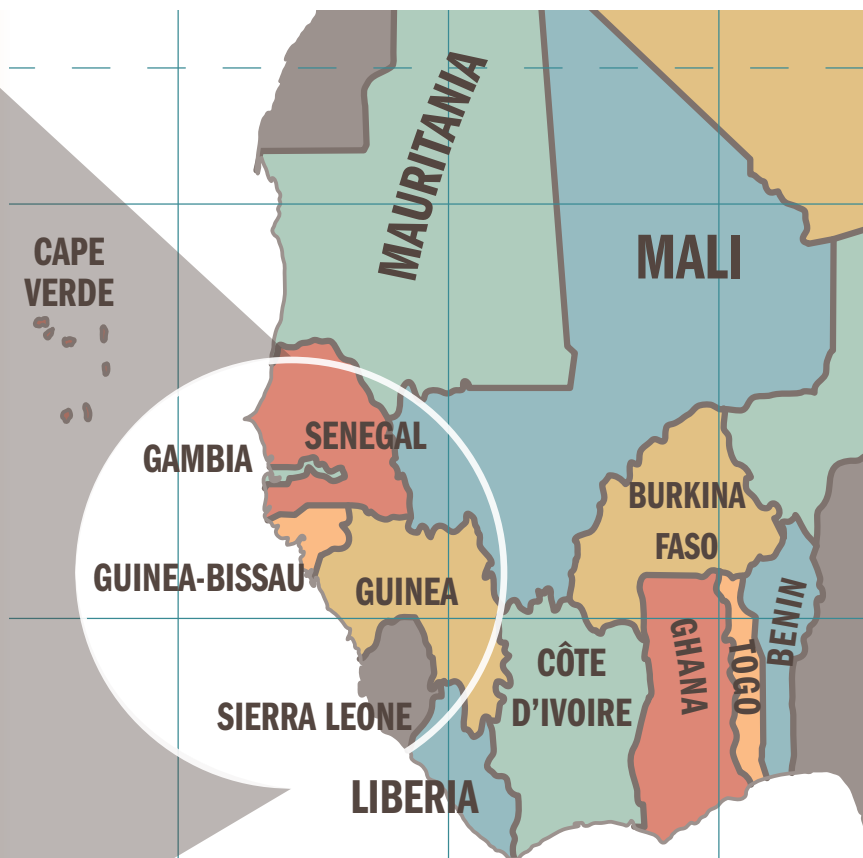
## MANDINKA PEOPLE

Most Mandinka people can trace their roots back to the great Mali Empire — comprised of several Mandinka clans in the second millennium. It grew in power in the thirteenth century under the rule of Sundiata, the "lion king," who unified the kingdom and began to conquer surrounding peoples. In the fifteenth century, Portuguese explorers reached the coast and began trading in slaves and ivory.

Before European colonization, Arab merchants brought Islam with them to West Africa. This religion blended with traditional practices in ways that are still evident today. For example, it is not uncommon for someone to first pray in the village mosque and then sacrifice an animal to the spirits.

Many members of the Mennonite Church of West Africa are not Mandinka, but the Mandinka make up the single largest people group in the country. Pray that other followers of Jesus might be able to share this good news with their Muslim neighbors.

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EQUATORIAL  
SAO TOMÉ & PRÍNC



## NOVEMBER DAILY PRAYER

**1 (WED.) GLOBAL** | After more than three years of work, the documentary film, *Unexpected Peace*, is in the finishing stages. May this film be useful in the Master's hands! Pray for Jonathan Bornman as he travels to a Christian and Muslim dialogue in Paris from November 22 to 26. Pray that he will be a good representative of Jesus.

**2 (THURS.) FRANCE** | Pray for workers to join a developing team in Marseilles, France, to establish a witness and to reach out to the many immigrants in this city.

**3 (FRI.) PERU** | Pray for Sarah Martin, who is in the middle of her two-month mission internship in Peru. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead her as she shares his love with the students at the Promesa school.

**4 (SAT.) CAMBODIA** | Lift John and Debbie Coates in prayer as they serve in Cambodia. Pray for John as he teaches and disciples local Christian leaders and also oversees an after-school children's program in several villages. Pray for wisdom for Debbie in her involvement in public health education.

**5 (SUN.) ROMANIA** | Pray for Phil Gottschalk's health. Pray for him as he recovers from a surgery, prepares for a second surgery, and continues recovery and physical therapy.

**6 (MON.) LANCASTER, PA.** | Pray for volunteers to join us in the work of hospitality, administration, maintenance, groundskeeping, and more at EMM's central administrative office in Lancaster, Pa.

**7 (TUES.) U.S.** | Pray for Angie Earl as she continues to serve with EMM's Christian-Muslim Relations Team. Pray for her as she builds life-giving relationships with Muslims and shares her life with them.

**8 (WED.) INDIA** | Ask God to deliver families and communities of Punjab peoples from fears that hinder them from embracing His blessings.

**9 (THURS.) BELIZE** | Pray for Tim and Julie Groff as they rest, reflect, and refocus during the last couple of months of their sabbatical. Pray also for the local church leaders in Belize and the continued health of the church while the Groffs are away.

**10 (FRI.) GLOBAL** | Thank God for EMM's many alumni. Ask Him to guide them in purposeful living in all stages of their lives.

**11 (SAT.) CZECH REPUBLIC** | Pray for Jan Heindel as she serves in the Czech Republic. Pray that the students who attended the English camp in the summer would experience God's healing from brokenness, and that they would come to know Him. Pray also for Jan's good friend in her seeking and journey towards God.

**12 (SUN.) GLOBAL** | Pray for William Higgins and the Vietnamese leaders as they study the Gospel of Mark together on Monday evenings via Zoom. Pray for wisdom for William as he schedules teaching trips for 2024. Pray that fundraising would come together well for his new term.

**13 (MON.) THAILAND** | Join Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin in praying for key leaders in Life Enrichment Church to gain a vision for the importance of specific youth and young adult ministry. Pray for the Holy Spirit to release gifts for youth ministry and for leaders to empower and support those in youth ministry.

**14 (TUES.) GLOBAL** | Pray now for God to call Advance Global participants for 2024 to the regions of West Africa, Germany, and Southeast Asia.

**15 (WED.) CENTRAL ASIA** | As Evan and Faith\* continue to plan for their upcoming assignment, join them in praying for a team leader for their support team.

**16 (THURS.) CAMBODIA** | Pray for individuals to be called to minister to Cambodian young adults through a ministry of hospitality.

**17 (FRI.) GERMANY** | Lift Eric and Janelle\* in prayer as they serve in Halle, Germany. Pray for them as they focus on neighborhood relationships and outreach, including prayer intercession and an afterschool program.

**18 (SAT.) COSTA RICA** | Pray for Ethan Horst during the discipleship training portion of the Vida220 program. Pray that he would grow in knowledge and depth of insight from the speakers and through the experiences he has during this time.

**19 (SUN.) GERMANY** | Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect formerly Muslim Persians who have come to faith in Christ. Pray that they will be bold in reaching out to others.

**20 (MON.) U.S.** | Pray for God to raise up Kingdom Team staff to serve with youth in the summer of 2024.

**21 (TUES.) NETHERLANDS** | Pray for Bob and Miriam Phillips as they work in leadership development, evangelism training, and arts outreach with Serge's international teams.

**22 (WED.) CHILE** | Pray for church developers to serve in Chile, whether in the city among business people or in a rural mountain setting.

**23 (THURS.) SOUTHEAST ASIA** | Pray for a new grain silo project that will be used to store the dry rice husk used to make water filters. Praise the Lord for the improvement in sanitation and health for the many people who have been reached through the water filter business.

**24 (FRI.) VIETNAM** | Vietnam has increased repression of indigenous-minority Christians in the country's Central Highlands, closing small informal churches, compelling public renunciations of faith, and arresting worshipers. Pray for these believers to remain strong in their faith and for the persecutors to know Christ.

**25 (SAT.) GERMANY** | Pray for strength and hope for immigrant members of the persecuted church whom Darrel and Miriam\* minister to in Germany. Pray also that seeds of faith would continue to grow in many. Pray for God's provision in all areas for Darrel and Miriam and their daughters.

**26 (SUN.) GLOBAL** | Thank God for the fruit from our labor in the fields, both physical and spiritual. Pray for EMM staff and workers to remain connected to The Vine and continue to bear fruit in season.

**27 (MON.) WALES, U.K.** | Alan and Carol Wert co-lead a small group with another couple from church and they are preparing to multiply to make another group. Pray for God's leading as they discuss and prepare group arrangements for after the New Year.

**28 (TUES.) U.S.** | Pray for volunteers to work with the refugee and immigrant populations in Lancaster, Pa., through the ministries of Hub 450.

**29 (WED.) U.S.** | Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to provide the finances needed for the Impact Fund, so EMM can continue multiplying disciples of Jesus.

**30 (THURS.) U.S.** | Pray for Lena Kauffman as she receives her discipleship training as part of Advance Global in partnership with YWAM Lancaster. Pray that it would be a formative experience in her discipleship journey.



Eastern Mennonite Missions

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# YOUTH LEADERS, YOUR YOUTH GROUP CAN SERVE LOCALLY OR GLOBALLY THIS SUMMER.

EMM's Kingdom Teams expose youth to cross-cultural missions through discipleship and service. This summer we're offering multiple weeks in Lancaster, Pa. and one trip in the Czech Republic!

**We're also looking for some awesome young adults to serve with us as paid summer staff. Do you know someone we should talk with? Let us know!**



**EMM.ORG/KTEAMS**

**THE REMAINING IMPACT  
FUND FOR 2023 NEED IS**

**\$869,174**

**\$1,692,777 GOAL**

**\$823,603 RECEIVED  
AS OF OCTOBER 10, 2023**

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

## WORKER TRANSITIONS

**Newly appointed:** Sarah Martin | Peru

**Communications director:** Micah Brickner  
**Digital communications coordinator:** Julia Tsai

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