

# MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER & PRAYER GUIDE

## CHRIST'S TRANSFORMING LOVE COMPELS US TO ...



The Impact Fund helps to support community development projects in places like The Gambia in order to build inroads for the gospel.

PHOTO BY LORRI BENTCH

# ... CROSS CULTURES, ENGAGE THE WORLD, AND MULTIPLY DISCIPLES OF JESUS.

Lancaster is home to immigrants from many nations and is frequently referenced as one of the leading immigrant cities in the U.S. EMM's newly named Neighbors Community Center provides a variety of programs and services to refugees and immigrants in collaboration with numerous local partners.

## THE IMPACT FUND SUPPORTS:

- Facility upkeep and administration for language classes and other programs that provide assistance to newly arrived immigrants/refugees.
- A volunteer program that recruits and supports dozens of volunteers to carry out the various programs.

Despite having a long history of Christianity, many parts of Central Europe are now considered "post-Christian." In the Czech Republic, less than 1% would be considered followers of Jesus. In addition, large numbers of Muslim refugees have come to this region, providing an opportunity to share Christ with people who have not heard the good news in their country of origin.

LANCASTER, PA

## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR MISSION

In addition to supporting ministry projects of our international partners, the Impact Fund also supports EMM's efforts to mobilize mission-sending from places EMM has worked in the past, and that now have well-established and thriving communities of faith. This includes groups in Chile, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Tanzania, Peru, the Philippines, Vietnam, and others. These growing partnerships will increase the capacity for sending cross-cultural workers and building multiethnic teams. This is a significant element of EMM's long-term strategy to reach the vast array of 3 billion people (more than 7,000 different people groups) who have not yet been told about the good news of Jesus Christ.

WEST AFRICA

West Africa is home to hundreds of least-reached people groups, including animistic peoples and Muslims. EMM works in partnership with Mennonite Church West Africa (MCWA). This small group of believers is establishing an Anabaptist network of churches in The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea-Conakry.

## THE IMPACT FUND SUPPORTS:

- Community development projects that provide strength to the community and an understanding of the gospel.
- Equipping and expanding the EMM team: new team members moving to The Gambia in 2024.
- Church development and church planting/outreach into new villages.
- Materials, seminars, and ministry trips for church leaders.

*Your gift* to the Impact Fund sustains these efforts and so much more.

# Join us as we focus on least-reached people groups in these regions.

## THE IMPACT FUND SUPPORTS:

- Training, equipping, and building capacity for an expanded team to work in this region.
- Ministry and outreach to immigrants and refugees.

### CENTRAL EUROPE

This extensive region is home to many least-reached groups, most of them Muslim. EMM's work in this region has been in various locations rather than focused on a specific location. This includes work among a number of people groups and several projects in countries that we don't typically name for sensitivity reasons.

## THE IMPACT FUND SUPPORTS:

- Training, equipping, and building capacity for an expanded team to work in this region.
- Evangelism and discipleship projects in highly sensitive locations.

### CENTRAL ASIA

### SOUTHEAST ASIA

This area is home to some of the largest least-reached people groups in the world. EMM work in this region focuses on the Isaan people of Northeast Thailand and the Khmer people of Cambodia, and another neighboring region that cannot be named here.

#### ISAAN PEOPLE

A primarily Buddhist, rural people group of nearly 20 million people in Northeast Thailand. EMM has been working in this region since 1990. An Anabaptist church, The Life Enrichment Church (LEC), was established in 1995.

#### THE IMPACT FUND SUPPORTS:

- Trainings/seminars for local leaders. This also include funds for translating educational materials.
- Translation of documents and discipleship training materials into Isaan Thai.
- Equipping and training the EMM team of multiple people working in 3 different locations in the region.

#### KHMER PEOPLE

A primarily Buddhist people who experienced extensive atrocities in the 1970s when the Khmer Rouge murdered up to a quarter of the population. EMM's work in Phnom Penh began in 1995, eventually giving birth to the Phnom Penh Mennonite Church.

Currently, three EMM workers serve in Cambodia. An increased effort and a larger team in this region are needed to multiply mission.

#### THE IMPACT FUND SUPPORTS:

- Training, equipping and building capacity for an expanded team to work in this region.

## DECEMBER DAILY PRAYER

**1 (FRI.) GLOBAL** | Pray for Leon and Naomi Zimmerman as they travel to Central America and hold a weekend marriage retreat with a group of leaders from the Mennonite churches in northern Belize. They then travel to Honduras to teach about marriage to the Por Que No Tu ministry and church.

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

**3 (SUN.) PERU** | Pray for Sarah Martin as she wraps up her two-month internship at the PROMESA school in Peru. Ask God to be with her in the transition to life in North America and to guide her in her next steps.

**4 (MON.) CAMBODIA** | Pray for physical health and energy for Kandace Glenn. Pray that she can continue to be a light in the darkness to those around her. Pray also for her as she prepares to receive a short-term worker to join the work there.

**5 (TUES.) ALBANIA** | Pray for Sonya Harnish as she is currently on sabbatical. Pray for refreshment, retooling, and renewed vision for the work God has called her to in Albania. Pray also for those who are covering her responsibilities while she is away.

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

**7 (THURS.) COSTA RICA** | Praise the Lord that Daryl and Jen Hoover are beginning another term of service. Pray for their financial needs to be met for this next term. Pray for wisdom for leadership and mentor relationships.

**8 (FRI.) U.S.** | Pray for Matthew Baugher and Lena Kauffman as they finish the discipleship portion of the Advance program. Pray that God will use the last couple of weeks to focus their hearts and attention on where God is calling them on outreach.

**9 (SAT.) THAILAND** | Pray for safety, energy, fun, and learning for Jeremy and Jennifer\* as they prepare for a number of visitors and traveling in December. Pray also for their work in the red light district of Chiang Mai where they are involved at both a grassroots and a leadership level. Pray for the leaders as they continue developing their leadership as the work increases.

**10 (SUN.) GLOBAL** | Praise God for the ways people can be open to learning about the source of the Christmas holiday and pray for our workers to make the most of the opportunities that brings.

**11 (MON.) SOUTHEAST ASIA** | Pray for Will and Nina\* as they encourage and work alongside the team at a business for transformation. Pray for the children in their schooling and relationships with those in their community.

**12 (TUES.) SOUTHEAST ASIA** | Many Cham people in Southeast Asia are devout Muslims. Pray Christ would place a hunger in their hearts to find grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.

**13 (WED.) COSTA RICA** | Pray that in the busyness of life Wendell and Melanie Nofziger will learn how to work well and how to rest well. Pray that they will be refreshed as they pour into the lives of their children and the students at VidaNet.

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

**15 (FRI.) CZECH REPUBLIC** | Pray for Stacy and Vojta Prknovi as they continue to settle into their new home and meet their neighbors and also for good connections with moms and families at their daughter's preschool. Pray for inspiration for Vojta as he develops an online course for language acquisition for missionaries.

**16 (SAT.) THAILAND** | Pray for God to call pioneer church planters into the harvest field of Thailand to join the team there.

**17 (SUN.) THAILAND** | Please pray that the people Andre and Karen\* feel led to engage with will be open to the gospel. Pray that new churches will be birthed which in turn will plant the next generation of churches.

**18 (MON.) CZECH REPUBLIC** | Pray for the Holy Spirit to revive the Czech church, leading them to make disciples who make more disciples.

**19 (TUES.) CENTRAL ASIA** | Pray for Alexander\* as he walks alongside local businessmen and for Maria\* as she teaches in the boys' school. Pray for their sons in school and in their friendships.

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

**21 (THURS.) THAILAND** | Pray for Mark and Sarah Schoenhals and the Life Enrichment Church for God's continued direction for where God would have them plant new churches. Pray also for vision and leadership in working with the youth in the church.

**22 (FRI.) LANCASTER, PA.** | Pray for God to call volunteers to get involved with Neighbors Community Center at Hub 450 and staff for Neighbors Cafe.

**23 (SAT.) U.S.** | Pray for wisdom and perseverance for those working on Bible translations. Pray they can be completed accurately and in a timely fashion. Pray for Marty as he serves on the global technology and information services team with Wycliff.

**24 (SUN.) PERU** | Pray for Holly Hollenbach as she begins her outreach portion of the Advance program. Ask God to give her grace as she adjusts to the culture and climate in Peru as well as spends Christmas away from family and friends.

**25 (MON.) WEST AFRICA** | Pray for Nate and Krystle Thorne and their Missionary Support Team as they work at fundraising for their upcoming appointment in West Africa.

**26 (TUES.) U.S.** | Pray for God to give through his people to provide the needed support for the Impact Fund and the work it sustains.

**27 (WED.) MARSEILLES, FRANCE** | Praise the Lord for a good exploratory trip Jennifer Weaver was able to make to France this fall. Pray for her as she continues to prepare for serving in Marseilles.

**28 (THURS.) CAMBODIA** | Pray for God to call a business entrepreneur to join the work in Cambodia.

**29 (FRI.) U.S.** | Give thanks for the EMM Finance Team's faithful dedication to their roles, and ask God to uphold them through their busy season.

**30 (SAT.) U.S.** | Pray for the Holy Spirit to move in Afghan communities in the U.S. in such a way that they seek peace, which they will only find in the person of Jesus Christ.

**31 (SUN.) GLOBAL** | Ask God for a continuation and increase of his anointing upon J.C. Ebersole and those who lead All-Nations Association of Bible Schools (AABS). Pray for them as they make biblical education available and affordable in local churches and communities around the world.



Eastern Mennonite Missions

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Will you partner with us**  
in helping to reach the 3  
billion people who have  
not heard the good news  
of Jesus?

## THE REMAINING IMPACT FUND FOR 2023 NEED IS **\$669,048**

The Impact Fund provides all the necessary services that keep EMM functioning as a healthy, legal, and sustainable organization. Administration, financial management, facility management, technology, communications, well-being care, fund-raising, etc., all happen through the Impact Fund. We always welcome your prayers, comments, suggestions.

**\$1,023,729 RECEIVED**  
AS OF NOVEMBER 14, 2023

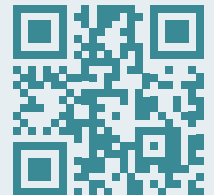
**\$1,692,777 GOAL**



**I am so grateful for the strong community of believers that has sustained the work of EMM for over 100 years. I am encouraged by your faith and faithfulness to the gospel of Jesus Christ which compels us to continue to reach across cultures in our home communities and throughout the world. Your generous support blesses the EMM community and more importantly, blesses all those who are encountering the gospel for the first time.**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Dr. Marvin Lorenzana | President**



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