



**CHRIST'S TRANSFORMING LOVE**



## MORE THAN 3 BILLION PEOPLE ...

... don't have access to the gospel or proximity to a follower of Jesus who can tell them about this good news. Another 2 billion people may have access to the gospel but have not experienced its life-transforming power. Very simply, our work is to share the good news of *Christ's transforming love* with people who don't know him.

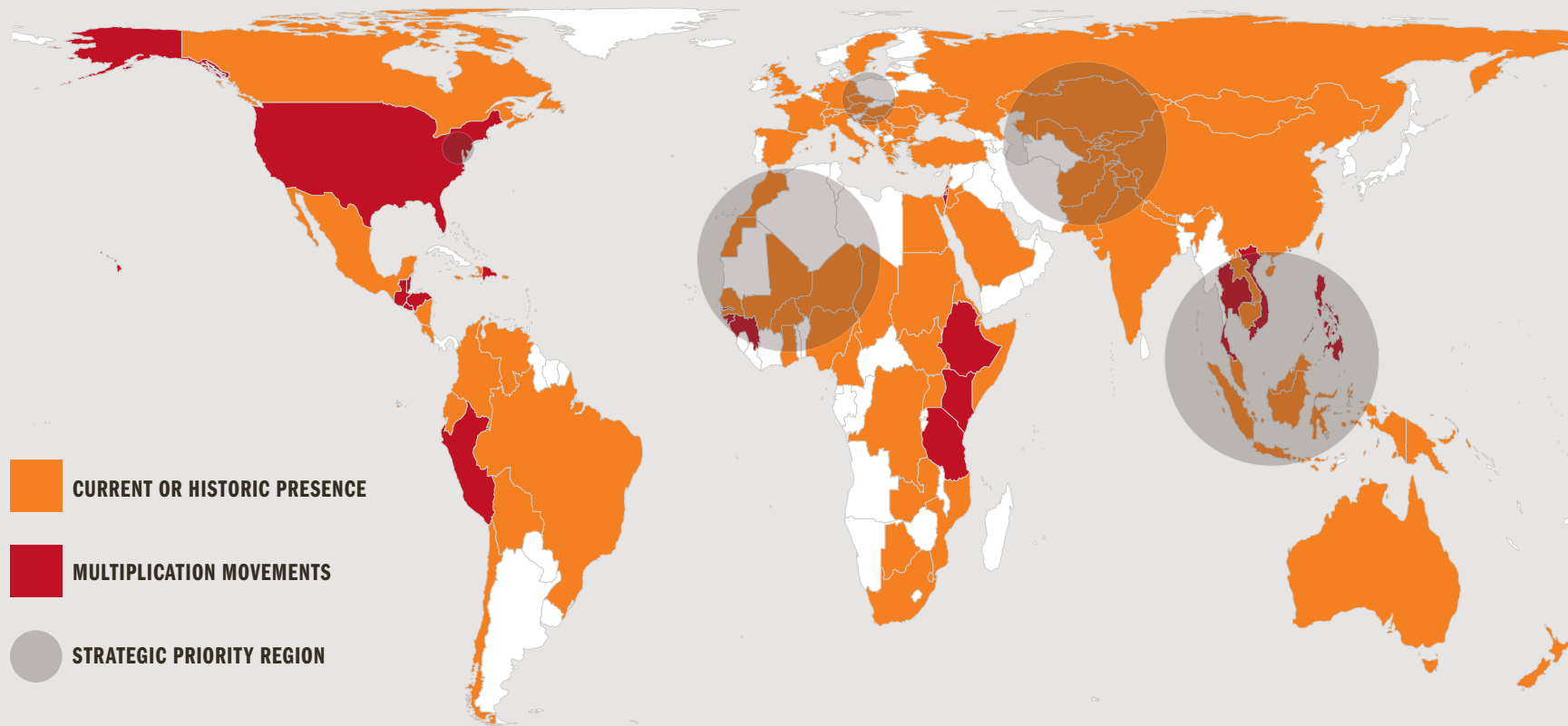
EMM's story begins with a boy who asked, "Why?" In 1869, 11-year-old John H. Mellinger was sitting in a church service when he heard Matthew 28:19-20:

***"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."***

The preacher spent the entire service focused on the "teaching them to obey" part of the passage but didn't say anything about going and making disciples of all nations. John asked his father, "Why?" John's father couldn't answer him. For the next 25 years, John wrestled with the Great Commission until he and 11 friends gathered to pray together and started what would eventually become EMM. When EMM officially became organized in 1914, John would become EMM's first president.

In 1934, EMM sent our first international missionaries to least-reached people in what is now Tanzania. For the many decades since then, we have engaged in mission around the world, facilitating the development of more than 20 church multiplication movements and many other ministries.

We praise God for the work he has done through EMM in more than 100 countries over the past century. Now, we are focused on multiplying disciples among least-reached people in several priority regions.



EMM is the mission agency of LMC — A Fellowship of Anabaptist Churches. We also partner with Anabaptist and other like-minded organizations in the U.S. and around the world. As an Anabaptist organization we establish movements of disciples of Jesus in keeping with the historic position of the Anabaptist church and in agreement with the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (1995).

# MISSION

**Christ's transforming love compels us to cross cultures, engage the world, and multiply disciples of Jesus.**

## CORE VALUES



### OBEDIENCE

We pursue joyful, relational obedience to the voice of God regardless of the cost. Our obedience is rooted in thankfulness to God, who pursues humanity with love and forgiveness.

*"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." — John 10:27*



### WELL-BEING

We seek the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of all people: those we serve, our partners, and EMM personnel around the world. Anointed by the Spirit, we proclaim good news, freedom, release from darkness, and the Lord's favor. We bind up, comfort, bestow beauty and joy, rebuild, and restore.

*"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." – Matthew 11:28*



### MULTIPLICATION

We endeavor to be disciples of Jesus who make disciples. We participate in the expansion of the kingdom of God throughout the earth by multiplying disciples, leaders and fellowships of believers, because the nature of the kingdom is to grow exponentially through multiplication.

*"But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied." – (Acts 12:24 NASB)*



## VISION

**We catalyze movements that multiply disciples of Jesus around the world, giving primary focus to people groups that are currently least-reached.**

## A BIBLICAL CALLING

We go on mission understanding that God's overarching story throughout Scripture invites us to reach out with love and compassion across nations, cultures, and other boundaries that separate us. We share God's message of love and salvation so that all may come to know and be reconciled to God.

God called and blessed Abraham and his descendants to be a blessing to everyone (Genesis 12:1–3). This call continued in the covenant God presented to Abraham's descendants. The people of God (the Israelites) were to be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:6). This nation of priests had a responsibility to know God, understand the purposes of God for all of creation, and reach beyond themselves revealing God's identity and character to all peoples of the world (Isaiah 49:6).

Although the people of God routinely lost their way, God continued to speak through prophets, reminding the people of their responsibility to each other, to the

nations of the world, as well as holding out the hope of restoration for all things (Micah 6:8).

Then Jesus, God incarnate, came to earth, and was anointed to restore the people's relationships with God, each other, all nations of the world, and all creation. Jesus trained his followers in his ministry of liberating people held captive to sin, with instructions to extend the Kingdom of God to everyone on earth (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus died to make this possible, rose back to life in victory over sin and death, and sent the Holy Spirit to live in God's people with transforming power.

Today, God invites us to reveal the good news of the Kingdom of God throughout the earth with our lives and testimony. God desires that people from all cultures and languages will gather in worship before the throne of the King (Revelation 7:9).

We use a few “jargony” words when we talk about mission work. Here is what we mean when we use the following words or phrases.

**CATALYZE:** We participate in God's work of starting new movements by sending missionaries, training and equipping believers, and joining with our church partners around the world to send their members as missionaries.

**MOVEMENTS:** A movement occurs when existing believers and congregations share the gospel and multiply: A few believers become more believers, and a congregation becomes several congregations. Ultimately a movement can touch an entire population, bringing hope to everyone who hears.

**LEAST-REACHED:** A people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance. This often means that a people group has fewer than 5% Christian adherents and is less than 2% evangelical. (Definition adapted from the Joshua Project.)

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## POSTURE

### **FOLLOW THE SPIRIT**

We discern the movement of God's Spirit to launch us into mission. Along with our partners, we nurture our relationship with God, listen to the voice of God, discern direction and priorities for mission, and intercede for God's purposes to be realized on earth.

### **BE LEARNERS**

We engage our world as learners. We encourage everyone to relate to all people with humility, respect, and mutuality, especially as we interact with people from varied cultural backgrounds, religions, and spiritual streams.

### **TREASURE UNIQUE GIFTINGS**

We honor the unique gifts of each disciple. We encourage every person to discover his/her God-given gifts and abilities as an expression of the transforming work of God.

### **AVOID UNHEALTHY DEPENDENCY**

We disciple others who can multiply efforts beyond ourselves. We seek to develop local resources and leaders with a multiplication mindset so as to avoid unhealthy dependency.

### **SHARE EXPERIENCE FREELY**

We share what we learn with our partners. We do this by providing stories, training, preparation, and coaching for missions among our partners as time and resources allow.

## PROCESS

### **PRIORITIZE LEAST-REACHED PEOPLES**

We prioritize least-reached people groups. Our communication, recruitment and funding reflects what we have discerned to be God's priorities for EMM in this season.

### **EXERCISE CREATIVITY**

We commit to creative ways of engaging in God's mission. Given rapidly changing contexts throughout the world, we stay abreast of new strategies and missional activities and experiment with those that are consistent with the gospel message, our core values, and these guiding principles.

### **EMBODY GOD'S LOVE**

We witness through incarnational love and a life of peace. As Jesus dwells in us, we invite others to experience the fullness of Christ and be transformed by His love. In this way, people of every cultural background can be transformed and participate in the transforming work of God.

### **SERVE HOLISTICALLY**

We work to address physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs. These needs are often intertwined, and we embrace the work of God that touches all aspects of human existence.

### **FORM COMMUNITY**

We connect people into life-giving community. Healing, encouragement, accountability, and wisdom all flow from a community that is formed and shaped by Jesus.

# PARTNERSHIP

## ENERGIZE EACH CONGREGATION

We encourage congregations to be active in making disciples locally as well as globally. Ministry is most effective when it aligns with the calling God has given and the gifts and resources God has provided.

## MOBILIZE SENDING COMMUNITIES

We hope all churches will become sending communities. Obedience to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) is a defining characteristic of a faithful Christian community in every time and place.

## EMPOWER VISIONARY SENDERS

We collaborate with clusters of partners to whom God has given the vision for a specific region. These groups provide space to develop and encourage prayer, funding, recruiting and strategic projects for a particular region or people group.

## FOSTER MUTUAL RELATIONSHIPS

We invite and provide channels for church leaders to walk in interdependent relationships with local, regional, and global associations of the Body of Christ. These relationships provide encouragement through prayer, fellowship, and sharing of information and learnings.

## FORM HEALTHY PARTNERSHIPS

We learn from and partner with Anabaptist and other like-minded organizations. We embrace clearly defined working relationships in our sending and serving, where beneficial.



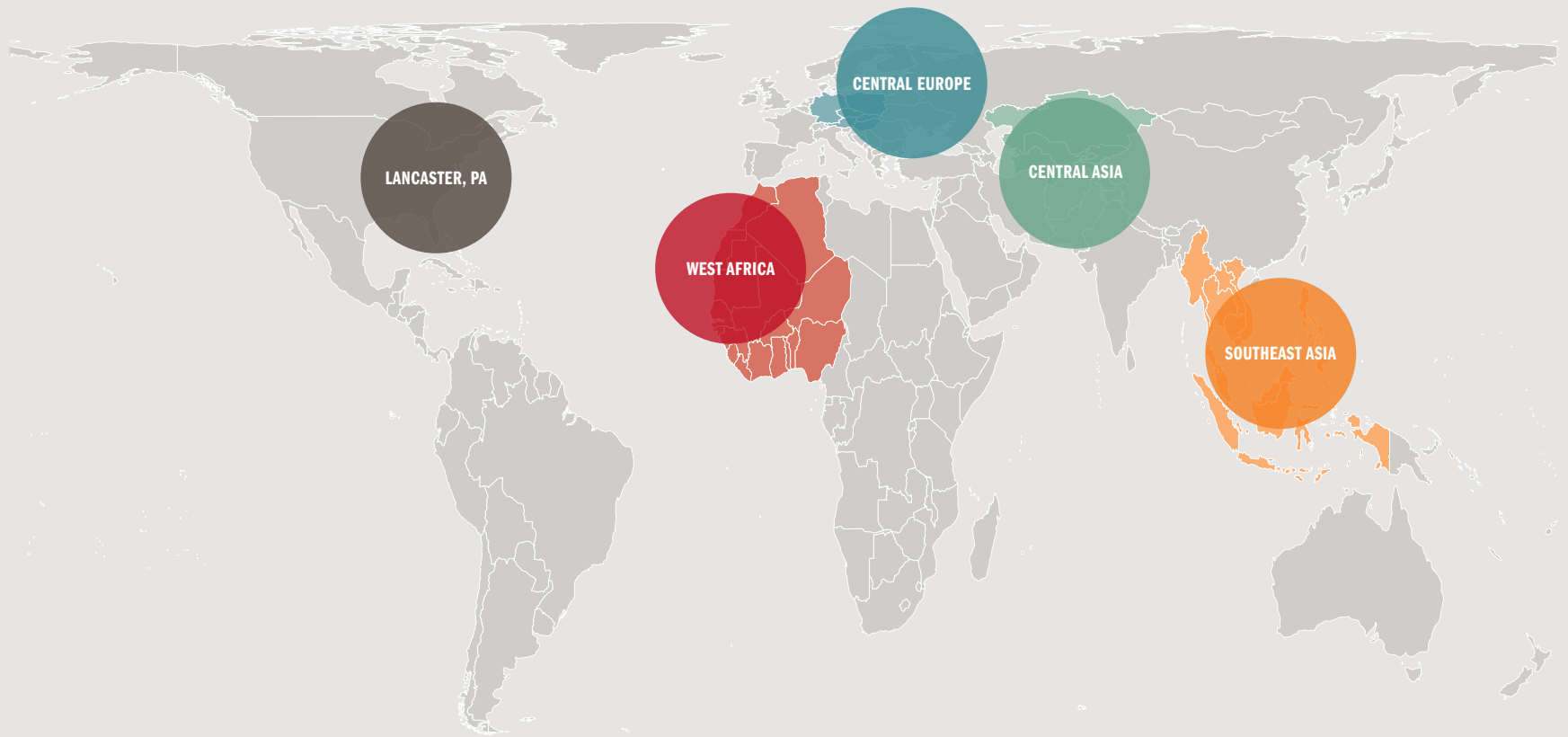


**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**KINGDOM MULTIPLICATION VISION**







EMM's strategic focus is to identify, equip, and send missional leaders to serve on multi-generational and multi-ethnic teams who invite people to follow Jesus as maturing, multiplying disciples and nurture transforming communities of worship.

We primarily focus on least-reached people groups of Central Asia, Central Europe, Southeast Asia, and West Africa, and refugees in Lancaster, Pa.

# CENTRAL EUROPE

Despite having a long history of Christianity, many parts of central Europe are now considered “post-Christian,” and the church is a tiny minority. 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.

People skilled in evangelism and church planting are needed to join the team in the Czech Republic and work with Czech believers in catalyzing a house church movement. The work among refugees in Germany could be multiplied in other cities in Germany. The church also welcomes help in discipling and mobilizing new believers in mission both within Europe and beyond.





# CENTRAL ASIA

This region is home to many least-reached people groups, many of them Muslim. One of the largest least-reached groups is the Uzbek people, totaling more than 31 million across multiple countries. Only 0.03% (3 in 10,000!) know Jesus. Harsh climates, restrictive governments, and religious opposition make these people groups particularly difficult for missionaries.

EMM has had historic engagement in a number of countries and currently has workers in the region. Dedicated prayer is a critical part of any efforts in the region and is the most immediate need. Adventurous disciple-makers with skills in business and various professions are needed in order to enter these restricted countries and serve as a part of diverse teams.





# SOUTHEAST ASIA

This area is home to some of the largest least-reached people groups in the world. An example is the Isaan, a Buddhist people group living primarily in Thailand. Of the 18.6 million Isaan people world-wide, less than 0.3% are Christian.

Together with the Life Enrichment Church, EMM desires to see a multiplying Jesus movement that reaches throughout Isaan. We also long to see house church movements in Cambodia and Indonesia. We need people committed to serving long-term, or people willing to join long-term teams in support roles. Prayer support is vital in these areas of intense spiritual opposition.





# WEST AFRICA

West Africa is home to hundreds of least-reached people groups, including animistic peoples and Muslims. One of these is the Mandinka people, numbering over 2 million in West Africa, with less than 1% identifying as Christians. Mission agencies have traditionally focused on coastal areas — many inland villages remain least-reached. These countries have some of the lowest GDP in the world, with most of the population living below the poverty line.

The Mennonite Church West Africa has a vision to be a church-planting movement throughout the region. They invite EMM's help in the areas of training, education, and holistic development. We are praying for more people willing to serve with them short- or long-term.





# LANCASTER, PA

Lancaster is home to immigrants from many nations and is frequently referenced as one of the leading immigrant cities in the US. Neighbors Community Center is EMM's community and ministry center in Lancaster City, where people from various cultures connect, learn, grow, and celebrate.

Neighbors Community Center embraces hospitality, partnerships, crossing cultures, and practicing the love of Christ for all people while providing space for education, art, business, and faith development.

The multi-use center provides a variety of programs and services to refugees and immigrants in collaboration with numerous local partners. It also hosts a variety of cultural events for the general public and is available for rent as a conference facility.



# RADIX

## MISSIONAL ANABAPTIST TRAINING

Engage with our training modules for developing expertise in discipleship, missions, and leadership. Ministry and missions grow and multiply when leaders and mission workers are trained and equipped for service and ministry.

In the 16th century, the Radical Reformers — also known as the Anabaptists — looked to the “roots” of the church as their inspiration. The term “radical” comes from the Latin word “radix” which means “root.” The early Anabaptists wanted to see the kingdom of God restored to a kingdom that was not of this world — but a kingdom that transcended national, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds.

Following in this stream, we are passionate about equipping and training the church around the world with missional Anabaptist resources. EMM and LMC designed Radix as an online learning platform to fulfill this vision.

All of our courses are being offered by donation or “pay what you can.” We want everyone to be able to access these valuable courses!

[RADIXTRAINING.ORG](https://radixtraining.org)



## DISCIPLESHIP

Come and experience short-term missions that provide opportunities to engage in kingdom work while growing in Christ-centered discipleship and cross-cultural competence. EMM has age-appropriate ways for youth and young adults to engage in kingdom work.

## KINGDOM TEAMS

### Summer | Middle school and high school youth

Exposing youth to cross-cultural missions through discipleship & service! Experience cross-cultural missions locally or globally. Engage in discipleship training and serve alongside seasoned mission workers and partners.



## ADVANCE

### 9 months | Young adults

Advance offers an opportunity to connect and grow with other young adults either locally in a learning cohort with cross-cultural missional outreach or globally with intensive discipleship and international outreach opportunities.



# SERVE

Join EMM in the harvest field to live faithfully and give testimony to the gospel of transformation. The good news of Jesus has been spreading for thousands of years. Yet, billions of people have not had an opportunity to hear it. And how will they hear it if no one goes to tell them?

## SHORT-TERM

**Several weeks to several months | Adults 18+/families**

Explore cross-cultural ministry opportunities, locally or overseas. Get two weeks of discipleship training in Lancaster, Pa., before heading to an outreach location.



## LONG-TERM

**2 years or more | Adults 20+/families**

Long-term international workers engage with and witness to new groups of people, equip those people to disciple others, and mobilize partners for the mission of spreading God's kingdom.







## ENGAGE

The task of going into the world with the good news of Jesus is lived out in a community of faith that nurtures the gifts, abilities, and commitments of many people, congregations and partners. We invite everyone to partner with us in God's work of transformation through one or more of the opportunities listed below.

### **Pray** [EMM.ORG/PRAY](https://emm.org/pray)

Pray with us passionately and persistently for God's kingdom to come and God's will to be done in every way and move forward as the Holy Spirit leads us. As people on mission with God, we understand that everything flows out of our relationship with Him.

### **Join a Vision Support Team** [EMM.ORG/VST](https://emm.org/vst)

Each of the five strategic priority regions will have a Vision Support Team (VST) to develop and encourage funding, recruiting, and related strategic projects. A VST is an advocacy and support group of people organized to provide support and encouragement to EMM initiatives in a country, a region, or a specific ministry.

### **Financial support** [EMM.ORG/GIVE](https://emm.org/give)

Thank you for supporting EMM through your congregation and personally. Workers and projects flourish when they receive the needed financial support. In addition, EMM's Impact Fund sustains mission efforts by providing grants to church partners around the world, administrative support, training, well-being care, communication, and partnership development. Contact us to consider making a long-term impact through planned giving opportunities.

# CONNECT



Sign up for our publication *Messenger*  
**EMM.ORG/MESSENGER**



**EasternMennoniteMissions**



**emmissions**



**EasternMennoniteMissions**



Connect with our international workers  
**EMM.ORG/WORKERS**



Come to an event  
**EMM.ORG/EVENTS**



Invite an EMM staff member or worker to speak  
**EMM.ORG/INVITE**

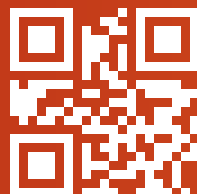


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