

MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER & PRAYER GUIDE



Temporary shelters that were built in Tizi Oussem, Morocco in January.

PHOTOS BY ANDRES PRINS

BUILDING HOMES & SHARING HOPE by Micah Brickner

This past summer, Andres Prins had no idea that a recreational hike through the High Atlas mountains would lead to an opportunity to respond to the earthquake that would devastate the region just months later. In June, a Moroccan friend, who is a mountain trekking guide, agreed to lead Andres and a group of local believers on a trip that had them leave their car at the end of the road in a village of about 800 people, Tizi Oussem, before hiking to a 3000 meter-high refuge for the

night. Passing acquaintances were made with some of the village people.

The night of September 8, a 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck with an epicenter just 25 miles west of Tizi Oussem. In the villages of this mountainous region most of the traditional buildings are made of adobe and stones. Many of them collapsed, and others suffered structural damage that made them uninhabitable, leading to people camp-

ing in makeshift tents. Nearly 3,000 people died nationwide, thousands more were injured, and tens of thousands were displaced from their homes.

Andres lives about two hours away from this mountain village, but also experienced the shock of the seismic event. Very soon after the earthquake, Andres and other believers in the city began talking about ways they could join in the national outpouring of help for the people in the

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mountains by delivering emergency aid. The third day they drove to the village of Tizi Ousseem.

For several weeks Andres helped in a number of different ways, especially providing transportation so local Christ-followers could bring food and other supplies to distribute in a number of remote locations. In November, an opportunity came to return to Tizi Ousseem when Andres's teammate Jonathan Bornman came to visit him. The relief coordinator for the village said they would be especially grateful if better-insulated, semi-permanent housing could be provided for the 55 families still living in tents.

Andres and a Moroccan church leader began working to find a way to make this happen. They got connected with a shelter-building team and were able to get them to extend their calendar to fit this village in. The church in the city was also

willing to commit members to help with the team.

After a quick financial appeal with a very short timeline, money came in surprisingly quickly. This was critical because the finances needed to be processed before the end of 2023. As planned, the team arrived in the village on January 15, just a day after the Amazigh (Berber) Yennayer (New Year) celebrations.

As the crew worked to build new structures in the village, they had opportunities to hear the testimonies of a half dozen fellow-Moroccan Christ-followers from the city who helped the crew, leading to a foreign laborer from the crew, in tears, asking the Messiah to come into his life. And for the Amazigh people of these mountain regions, this is likely the first time that they have been having substantial exposure to the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus.

The last day provided an opportunity to be interviewed by reporters from a national television channel. In Arabic and also English Andres had a chance to express gratitude for being able to help needy fellow humans in this way thanks in part to the funding that came mainly from individuals inspired by the love and compassion of the Messiah Jesus for everyone.

Andres is hoping that these relationships will continue to develop. The Christ-followers who were part of this work want to return to check on the rehabilitation process and see if there are other ways they could be of help. They've been invited to come back and intend to visit again in the near future.



Micah Brickner serves as EMM's communications director.

AMAZIGH (BERBER) PEOPLE IN MOROCCO

There are a number of different ethnolinguistic people groups who speak Amazigh languages in Morocco. In the region where Andres and Angelica serve with EMM, the Southern Shilha Amazigh are the primary group. Throughout the country, there are about 3.4 million Shilha Amazigh, of which far fewer than 1% claim to be followers of Jesus.

In the villages, the Amazigh way of life has remained unchanged over the centuries. Most Shilha villages contain between 50 and 500 people. They typically live in two-story, mud brick homes with flat roofs. In the more rugged mountain areas they live in sturdy goatskin tents. Most of the Shilha are farmers and shepherds. On the plots of ground that are not regularly irrigated, they grow barley and sometimes rye. On the lower slopes, they herd sheep and goats. Surplus farm and animal products are sold at weekly markets.

Although the Shilha are nearly all Muslim, their religious practices are mingled with spiritism and mysticism. Interestingly, this has created in many of them a spiritual curiosity and yearning to know more. Pray that many of them will experience the blessing of getting to know the Messiah!

ADAPTED FROM JOSHUAPROJECT.NET



MARCH DAILY PRAYER

1 GLOBAL | Pray for Jonathan Bornman and the organizers of the Peacemakers Confessing Christ International (PCCI) partnership meeting and conference being planned in Kenya later this summer. Pray that finances and other resources will come together.

2 CZECH REPUBLIC | Pray for individuals to be called to join an international church planting team in a village on the outskirts of Prague.

3 GERMANY | Pray for Matthew Baugher as he serves with the Advance program. Ask God for opportunities to share about Him with the people Matthew is meeting and building relationships with.

4 CAMBODIA | Pray for John and Debbie Coats as they walk alongside and mentor the teachers for the after-school children's programs. Pray for wisdom for Debbie in her work with public health education.

5 U.S. | Angie Earl serves with the EMM Christian-Muslim Relations Team. Join her in praising God for continued opportunities to share about Jesus with her Muslim friends.

6 U.S. | Pray for God to raise up Kingdom Team staff to serve with youth in the summer of 2024.

7 BELIZE | Pray for Tim and Julie Groff as they pick up responsibilities again after their sabbatical. Pray for their son Simeon as he completes his senior year in Iowa and makes decisions about college.

8 CAMBODIA | Pray for Lena Kauffman as she serves with the Advance program. Ask that God would continue to refresh her with peace and ease any anxiety as she is immersed in a new culture.

9 CZECH REPUBLIC | Pray for Karen Hess as she plans an exploratory trip to the Czech Republic in April. Pray for her as she discerns the area in which God is calling her to live and builds connections to the Czech people and culture.

10 U.S. | Lift the EMM Leadership Team in prayer as they commune with God during their discernment planning retreat next week. Ask God for unity and clarity of direction.

11 THAILAND | Join Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin in praying that "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it." Pray that they can be an encouragement to those walking through difficult times. Pray for them as they plan for their sabbatical later this year.

12 WEST AFRICA | Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare fertile ground in the hearts of the Mandinka people. Pray that they receive the message of salvation and that a powerful disciple-making movement is ignited in West Africa. Pray that believers and mission workers would help to declare the Mandinka people's true identities as children of God. May the good news transform every aspect of their lives.

13 CENTRAL ASIA | Pray for Evan and Faith* to find a leader for their Missionary Support Team. Pray for clarity on the timing of their move to Central Asia.

14 U.S. | Pray for God to call a summer youth ministry program leader to direct the summer Kingdom Teams program.

15 GERMANY | Pray for Eric and Janelle* as they minister in their community and church through prayer, leading worship and small group, hosting people in their homes, and working at a school. Praise the Lord that the children are doing well in school.

16 CENTRAL ASIA | Pray for God to send workers to the field to work in business for transformation and teaching English.

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

18 PERU | Pray for Holly Hollenbach as she serves with the Advance program. Ask the Holy Spirit to give her the emotional energy she needs as she operates in her second language almost exclusively.

19 CZECH REPUBLIC | Pray for Stacy and Vojta Prknovi as they relate to their team in their role as regional representatives for Eastern and Central Europe. Pray also for Vojta as he serves with prison ministry.

20 GLOBAL | Pray for God to call Advance Global participants for the fall of 2024, to the regions of West Africa, Central Europe, and Southeast Asia.

21 SOUTHEAST ASIA | Pray for Timothy and Madison* as they continue to work in the water filter business and mentor the employees. Ask God to bring living water to people's lives. Pray for health and good relationships for their children.

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

23 GERMANY | Pray for Darrel and Miriam* as they continue to serve in their community and in the church. May God continue to draw people to Himself. Pray for their children in school and in their friendships.

24 BELIZE | Pray for Bill and Judy Houser as they relate to the Belize Evangelical Mennonite Church as LMC international partner delegates. Pray for them as they support and encourage church leaders.

25 GLOBAL | Pray for Leon and Naomi Zimmerman as they continue to travel and teach on marriage. Pray for wisdom and discernment to model and teach marriage well.

26 GLOBAL | Thank God for the many churches and individuals who support EMM and our workers. Ask God to move many to give to the Impact Fund to sustain EMM's participation in God's mission.

27 U.S. | Praise the Lord for the early but safe arrival of John and Jeanette Puckett's daughter Maria. Pray that she will continue to develop and be released to go home. Pray for John and Jeanette to meet their fundraising goals for their new assignment in Cambodia.

28 WEST AFRICA | Pray for individuals and families to be called to join the work of leadership development and church planting in West Africa.

29 GLOBAL | As we remember Jesus' faithfulness through suffering unto death, we thank him for the gift of salvation and ask for the strength to follow him, so others have the opportunity to learn about and follow him too.

30 EL SALVADOR | Pray for Ethan Horst as his team works together in the outreach portion of the Vida 220 discipleship program. Ask God to give them favor with the people they serve and that God would be glorified among them.

31 LEBANON, PA | Pray for wisdom for Michael Clancy as he interacts with Jubilee Ministries and students of Lebanon Rescue Mission. Pray for three men that he is currently walking with.

**Names changed for sensitivity reasons.*



Eastern Mennonite Missions

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CALLED: REIGNITE THE CALL

You felt called, but now what? Join us for a time set aside to revisit and reignite a previous sense of call to missions & ministry.

Is it time to move forward? Do you have a feeling of holy discontent? Come to a time set aside for reflection and discernment as we revisit a sense of call and invite God's Spirit to fan the embers into flame. During this retreat, sponsored by Eastern Mennonite Missions and LMC we will come together for worship, teaching, reflection, and tools for next steps. Registration fee includes meals and one night of lodging.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT EMM.ORG/CALLED

MARCH 22-23

The Welcoming Place
21 S 12th St, Akron, PA 17501

\$90 per individual
\$150 per couple

Register by March 8



CELEBRATING A LEGACY



K. Elizabeth Good, 94, of Florange, France, went to be with the Lord on December 30. Elizabeth and her husband, Glen, served with EMM in France for nearly 40 years.

THE IMPACT FUND FOR 2024 NEED IS \$1,644,554

When you support EMM's Impact Fund, you enable us to recruit, equip, and send EMM workers around world.

\$147,901 RECEIVED AS OF FEBRUARY 13

\$1,792,455 GOAL



EMM.ORG/GIVE

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