

MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER & PRAYER GUIDE



➊ Youth from Petra Church (New Holland, Pa.) participate in outdoor activities with the migrant education program.

➋ Left to right: German Bernardez, Esther Milonde Makoma, Sapjah Zapotitla, and Yokebed Zapotitla, on North Prince Street.

PHOTOS BY KRISTA MARTIN



WATCHING GOD AT WORK by Julia Tsai

Kingdom Teams (K-Teams) were dynamic experiences this summer for the students being served through a migrant education program, the K-Teams staff, and the youth who joined the teams. Kingdom Teams Director German Bernardez led a K-Teams staff of Esther Milonde Makoma, Sapjah Zapotitla, and Yokebed Zapotitla.

K-Teams are groups of middle and high school youth groups that serve for a week of discipleship training and local outreach in Lancaster City, Pa. K-Teams partner with The Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program at Millersville University,

to connect with immigrant and refugee youth.

“One of the most meaningful moments I experienced in K-Teams was when I took the time to just sit in the cafeteria, and there was a group of six Spanish-speaking students,” said Sapjah. These students were usually very quiet and kept to themselves, but Sapjah felt like it was a good time to bring them together and do something with them.

Sapjah had a deck of conversation-starting cards called Soularium. The cards have images and questions. She pulled out one that asked,

“When you think about God, what does that look like?” Then Sapjah invited the students to share with her about what they believed. It was so meaningful for her that the students felt like they could share honestly with her. She felt that God used this moment to prepare her, not only to teach the students, but also to be a trusted role model with whom they could share openly about faith.

The students at the migrant education program were eager to connect with the K-Teams. Many told Esther that they were so excited to wake up each morning and see the teams. Among several other

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languages that Esther speaks, she knows some Swahili, having spent some of her early life in Uganda. She talked about some playful moments she had with some of the students who spoke Swahili as their native language. She got to surprise them by saying, “Mambo!” which means “Hi!” in Swahili. “It was really amazing seeing their faces,” she recalled.

Positive cross-cultural interactions were also a takeaway for German. He said, “Being able to share with different people, from different backgrounds and different cultures, was really meaningful.” Similarly to the way that Esther was able to connect with students who spoke Swahili, Yokebed, German, and Sapjah were able to connect with students whose native language was Span-

ish. The added skill set of familiarity with students’ native languages made interactions this year impactful in new ways.

In addition to bringing together multiple people with different cultural backgrounds, God was also working spiritually in powerful ways. Two weeks before K-Teams, Yokebed and Sapjah were in a severe car accident. When she initially thought she wouldn’t be able to sit up or walk due to injury, God brought about miraculous healing in Sapjah’s body. She was able to be discharged after just one night in the hospital and to join K-Teams, instead of having to stay home to recover.

Yokebed also shared about the way that God worked throughout the summer. She reflected that she

sometimes struggled to feel close to God when praying. During one of the youth group worship times, there was a time of prayer, during which people could pray for others if they felt led. She was able to pray for one of the youth, and it was an emotional moment. They were crying, and Yokebed could feel God’s presence. In contrast to the busyness of the week, they were able to take a moment to focus in an intentional and powerful way.

God moved in powerful ways to allow the K-Teams to serve and make an impact this summer. Interested in getting involved next year? Learn more about K-Teams and register your youth at EMM.ORG/KTEAMS.



Julia Tsai serves as digital communications coordinator for EMM.

CALLED

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

AN INSPIRING RETREAT FOR
DISCERNING A CALL TO
MISSIONS & MINISTRY
OCTOBER 24-25
AKRON, PA



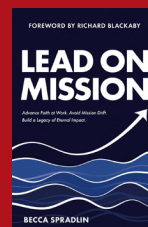
LEARN MORE & REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 23
EMM.ORG/CALLED

BUSINESS LEADERS' BREAKFAST

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 16
7-8:45 AM

HUB450
450 N PRINCE ST
LANCASTER, PA

BUILDING ETHERNAL IMPACT THROUGH YOUR BUSINESS



Christian business leaders face numerous challenges, including how to effectively reflect their faith in their work while meeting the demands of their company. It's easy to get caught up in day-to-day pressures and lose sight of the deeper mission we're called to fulfill. Even for leaders who actively cultivate faith at work, it's easy to get distracted and drift over time.



Becca Spradlin will lead a session on this important topic. North Group Consultants has generously purchased copies of Spradlin's *Lead on Mission* for every attendee.

RSVP TO THIS FREE EVENT BY SEPTEMBER 12
EMM.ORG/BREAKFAST



SEPTEMBER DAILY PRAYER

WEST AFRICA

- 1 | Join Nate and Krystle Thorne in praying that Jesus would reveal himself in supernatural ways to their Muslim neighbors in The Gambia.
- 2 | Ask the Lord to bless the preparations for a mid-October EMM workers retreat that Andrés* is involved in organizing.
- 3 | Pray for individuals and families to be called to join the work of leadership development and church planting in West Africa.
- 4 | Pray for God to continue to prompt young men and women to explore a call to missions through a mission internship with EMM, considering West Africa as an area to serve.

CENTRAL EUROPE

- 5 | Pray for God to continue to prompt young men and women to explore a call to missions through a mission internship with EMM, considering Central Europe as an area to serve.
- 6 | Pray for Eric and Janelle* as they work with a church community that is made up of refugees/asylum seekers, international university students, and German nationals. A significant part of their ministry focuses on neighborhood relationships and outreach, prayer and intercession, small group/Bible teaching, and hospitality.
- 7 | Pray for Jan Heindel as she spends time in the U.S. Ask the Lord to bring about meaningful times of connection during church visits, individual meetings, and time with family and friends before she returns to the Czech Republic.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- 8 | Pray for God to call pioneer church planters into the harvest field of Thailand to join the team there.
- 9 | Pray for workers to be called to the work of young adult outreach and discipleship in Cambodia.
- 10 | Pray for God to continue to prompt young men and women to explore a call to missions through a mission internship with EMM, considering Southeast Asia as an area to serve.

- 11 | Pray for Timothy and Madison* as they give leadership at a business for mission. Pray for continued opportunities to share Jesus with those around them.

- 12 | Lift Jeremy and Jennifer* in prayer as they serve in Thailand. Ask the Lord to speak clearly to them and pray that they will be attentive to his voice.

CENTRAL ASIA

- 13 | Please pray for EMM workers serving in Central Asia. Ask God to use them as a light to many people, and that His truth would shine through their lives.

- 14 | Pray for more workers to join EMM and serve both short-term and long-term in Central Asia.

- 15 | Pray for the 12 million Tajik people around the world. They are found in 20 countries (nearly 9 million of them live in Tajikistan). It is estimated that only 0.05% follow Jesus, with few or no believers in many places. Pray for peace and salvation to come to the land and the people.

- 16 | Ask God to draw people throughout Tajikistan to Himself and fill them with the knowledge of his glory.

- 17 | Pray that the believers in Central Asia would be strong in their faith and to have many opportunities to share about the grace of God in their lives.

- 18 | Pray for God to send workers to the field to work in business for transformation and teaching English.

- 19 | Pray for God to continue to prompt young men and women to explore a call to missions through a mission internship with EMM, considering Central Asia as an area to serve.

- 20 | Ask the Lord to encourage Evan and Faith* as they prepare their family to serve in Central Asia. Pray for their children to thrive in their friendships, education, and in their relationship with Jesus.

LANCASTER, PA

- 21 | Thank God for the people who volunteer their time as receptionists in the Hub450 offices. Ask Him to grant them joy in their service.

- 22 | Pray for God to call volunteers for the programs of Neighbors Community Center, at Hub450, our building in Lancaster, PA.

- 23 | Pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire and empower Christian-Muslim Relations Team Member Angie Earl and her husband, Brendan, in their interactions with their neighbors, young adults, and their children. Pray that they would draw near to Jesus and follow him as disciples who worship him and make disciples.

- 24 | Pray for Leon and Naomi Zimmerman as they minister to others through training around the world. Ask the Lord to equip them as they lead marriage courses and meet with those they mentor. Ask God's truth to be clearly evident to their students and mentees.

- 25 | Pray for EMM to receive ample funds for the Impact Fund to continue guiding and supporting disciplinarians, allowing people to grow and go on mission with Jesus.

OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

- 26 | Please pray for Alan and Carol Wert, serving in Wales, U.K., as they carve out some sabbatical and retreat time to reflect on questions of life purpose and calling in the second half of life.

- 27 | We thank the Lord of the harvest for providing for our needs via the produce of the physical fields. May He use his people to call forth laborers for spiritual harvests around the world and to equip them with the financial, prayer, and relational support they need.

- 28 | Pray for Bob and Miriam Phillips as they serve faithfully in the Netherlands. Ask the Lord to sustain them as they serve in a variety of capacities.

- 29 | Ask the Lord to sustain Wendell and Melanie Nofziger as they lead VidaNet in Costa Rica. Ask God to provide clear direction to them in any area they are seeking guidance in.

- 30 | Lift Michael and Laura* in prayer as they serve in an area in the Middle East experiencing conflict. Ask Jesus to reveal himself to them in new ways, even as they minister to others who do not know him yet.

Some prayer requests adapted from joshuaproject.net.

**Names changed for sensitivity reasons.*



Eastern Mennonite Missions

PO Box 8617

Lancaster, PA 17604-8617 US

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOV.
13

**DOUBLETREE RESORT BY HILTON
LANCASTER**

2400 Willow Street Pike
Lancaster, PA 17602
6 P.M.

DEC.
4

**WESTVIEW COMMUNITY ROOM
AT LANDIS HOMES**

1001 East Oregon Road
Lititz, PA 17543
10 A.M.

FEB.
18
2026

**SARASOTA COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

4041 Bahia Vista Street
Sarasota, FL 34232
12 P.M.

VISION & FUNDRAISING BANQUET

PRAYING FOR KINGDOM COME

REGISTRATION OPENS
SEPTEMBER 1
[EMM.ORG/BANQUET](https://emm.org/banquet)



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

\$785,069 RECEIVED
AS OF AUGUST 13

\$1,862,923
2025 IMPACT FUND GOAL



[EMM.ORG/GIVE](https://emm.org/give)

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Digital communications coordinator: Julia Tsai

Messenger, Vol. 102, No. 6, September 2025 is published monthly by Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, PO Box 8617, Lancaster, PA 17604-8617, serving LMC: A Fellowship of Anabaptist Churches and other Anabaptist partners. Postage paid at Lancaster, PA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Messenger*, PO Box 8617, Lancaster, PA 17604-8617.

This issue was printed on FSC-certified partially recycled paper by Executive Printing in Elm, Pa.

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