

MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER & PRAYER GUIDE



Jen Hoover's "banqueting table."

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE AUTHOR



Jen Hoover (right) with women she mentors on VidaNet staff, along with EMM worker Melanie Nofziger (left).



OUR CUP OVERFLOWS by Jen Hoover

I invite you to our dining room table. Our table is two 6-foot-long black folding tables stuck together. It is an ample size for a family of six, rather large for the four of us who live under our roof, but perfect for hosting friends. Our table is where people and things have gathered for many different reasons. It's where family life is shared, meetings happen, prayers are prayed, homework is done, laundry is folded, games are

played and puzzles are completed, arguments happen and celebrations commence, life is contemplated and Dad jokes are laughed at. It's a place for tears to fall and for people to linger over coffee, and of course ... food — a rich supply of nutrients is shared around our bountiful table.

I have reflected on Psalm 23, specifically verse 5, and how Father God prepares a table before us in

the presence of our enemies. He anoints our head with oil, and our cup overflows.

Imagine as you will, your table that the Father has prepared for you. My banqueting table catches the morning sun, has plants on one third of it, a candle in the middle, two chairs, and one stool for my son, Adam, if he joins me in the morning. This table is where I feast on His Word,

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... CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT

savor His promises, and devour the instruction He serves up. It's where I can hear Him the clearest, it's sacred and holy ground.

But the beautiful thing about this table is that it is prepared in the presence of our enemies. I imagine it like a snow globe effect or the powering up of the "deflector shield generators" from Star Wars — everyone can see through it but no one can touch what's inside! Whether chaos and tragedy ensue all around us or we are peacefully mesmerized by hummingbirds and the sunset, His peace awaits us at the table that He has prepared for us.

At my table, there is always a cup of creamy warm coffee. And, my cup of coffee is overflowing and saturating the tablecloth! Now, to the seasoned coffee connoisseur, this is an absurd image, but let me explain. This image of the overflowing cup comes from the days of David and was a symbol of invitation, welcome, or dismissal. If a host kept the cup full, the guests knew they were welcome. If the cup was empty, not refilled, the host was indicating it was time for the guests to leave. However, if the host really enjoyed the company, he would fill the cup until

overflowing and let it spill over the rim, saturating the table. **Let this sink in before reading on.** Dear friends, He prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies, *and our cup is overflowing!*

Over the past four years, our journey has been marked with deep pain, sadness, and loss. Had it not been for our time at this table, I'm quite certain we would not still be serving in Costa Rica. In July 2020, right in the middle of Covid, the founder and director of our ministry died suddenly from a heart attack. While we were scrambling and trying to pick up the pieces, six months later, our dear friend and our boys' youth leader died from Covid complications.

We spent the next year trying to keep the ministry ship afloat and trying to look to Jesus as the captain of that ship. But by August of 2021, we were nearing burnout and needing a rest. We returned stateside to spend time resting in the arms of Jesus and regaining the ground the enemy was trying to steal. Praise God, as we spent time at our saturated table, and sought counsel, He restored our souls and we returned to Costa Rica in November 2021

ready to serve where He has placed us.

At VidaNet, I have the amazing privilege of mentoring and discipling our staff girls. My personal time at my table is a vital necessity as I shepherd their hearts toward Jesus while working through hurts from their past and present. One of my favorite things to do is spend time on the rocking chairs (my office) with them sharing coffee, conversation, and Jesus. Demonstrating the simplicity of taking time to listen and care, my hope is that they see, learn, and experience the value of communing at their table.

I can hardly express the deep sense of peace and joy when they understand their value and that their personal cup is always overflowing! The realization that they have a welcome invitation to remain at their table with Jesus through their daily lives is life-changing! Oh, the beauty of Jesus' transforming work, and I get to enjoy delicious coffee while He does it!



Jen Hoover, her husband, Daryl, and their sons serve with EMM and VidaNet in Costa Rica.

LATIN AMERICA

EMM began its work in Central America in 1950, starting in Honduras. For decades since then, churches have multiplied throughout Latin America leading to lives changed by Jesus.

As one of EMM's partners in Central America, VidaNet provides discipleship training for young people from Latin America, as well as from North America. VidaNet is committed to raising up young adults to live out God's calling for their lives.

We also partner with organizations like VidaNet to catalyze mission workers around the world to be sent to least-reached people. As young adults are discipled and developed through VidaNet, they are prepared to return to their home churches to take on new leadership, or explore a calling to mission service somewhere else in the world.



JULY DAILY PRAYER

1 CAMBODIA | Lift John and Debbie Coates in prayer as they serve in Cambodia. Pray for John as he teaches and disciples local Christian leaders. Pray for wisdom for Debbie who is involved in public health education and frequently sees patients who have not been able to get help elsewhere.

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

3 US | Pray for Kingdom Teams this summer. Ask God to give the K-Teams staff hearts that are open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they seek to serve His kingdom.

4 ROMANIA | Pray for Phil and Linda Gottschalk as they wrap up vacation and travel and then settle back into their routines of work and teaching in August. Pray for their physical health and stamina.

5 BELIZE | Pray for Tim and Julie Groff as they continue to discern their primary ministry focus areas for the next couple of years. Pray for the outreach taking place in the village of Georgetown.

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

7 GLOBAL | Pray for the women who attended the Tanzania Mennonite Women's conference in June as they take home materials to share Bible studies with others. Pray for the ongoing classes by Zoom for Vietnamese leaders from the Gospel of Mark on Monday nights.

8 KYRGYZSTAN | Pray for the Kyrgyz people, of whom only about 0.09% are evangelical. Ask for the Holy Spirit to equip the workers in Kyrgyzstan to share the gospel with truth and grace.

9 THAILAND | Pray for Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin and their family during this time in the U.S. Pray for times of refreshment and meaningful connections with family and friends. Pray for financial provisions to meet their budget.

10 GLOBAL | Pray for people to be moved by the mid-year appeal to support the Impact Fund to sustain the ways EMM ministers around the world.

11 CAMBODIA | Praise the Lord for the support that has come in for John and Jeanette Puckett. Continue to pray for the finances still needed. Pray for the whole family as they continue to plan and prepare for the move to Cambodia.

12 CENTRAL ASIA | Lift Alexander and Maria* in prayer as they serve with their family in Central Asia. Pray for Alexander as he continues to mentor businessmen. Pray for their oldest son as he serves as an assistant camp counselor at Spruce Lake this summer.

13 SOUTHEAST ASIA | Pray for Timothy and Madison* and their family as they wrap up their home leave. Pray for good transitions back to Southeast Asia.

14 U.S. | Pray for God to call volunteers for the programs at Neighbors Community Center, at Hub450, our building in Lancaster, PA.

15 CENTRAL ASIA | Pray for Elizabeth* as she has begun her home leave in the U.S. Pray for rest, times of refreshment, and good connections with family and friends.

16 CAMBODIA | Pray for workers to be called to the work of young adult outreach and discipleship in Cambodia.

17 U.S. | Join Binsa* in praising the Lord for the youth group that has formed. Continue to pray for this important ministry. Pray for her in the many opportunities she has to relate to those in her community of Buddhist and Hindu faiths.

18 U.S. | Pray for K-Teams this summer. Ask the Holy Spirit to water planted seeds in the hearts of many.

19 MOROCCO | Pray for the Moroccan Arabs, of whom only about 0.08% are evangelical. Ask for the Holy Spirit to equip the workers in Morocco to share the gospel with truth and grace.

20 GLOBAL | Pray for young men to respond to God's call to the work of short-term missions.

21 U.S. | Pray for those attending the Oasis Retreat this week. Pray for spiritual enrichment and opportunities for refreshment and connection.

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

23 WEST AFRICA | Praise the Lord for the relationships that Nate and Krystle Thorne are forming. Pray that these will continue. Pray for the children as they continue to adjust to their new home and relationships. Join Nate and Krystle in asking the Lord for discernment in ministry involvements.

24 KAZAKHSTAN | Pray for the Kazakh people, of whom only about 0.07% are evangelical. Ask for the Holy Spirit to equip the workers in Kazakhstan to share the gospel with truth and grace.

25 U.S. | Pray for Lea* as she wraps up her assignment and transitions to the next thing God has for her. Pray that she will continue to have the opportunity to connect and disciple those she has gotten to know in her years of ministry in Central Asia.

26 GLOBAL | As athletes from the nations of the world gather, may they find their Savior and the true peace and unity that comes only in Him.

27 HONDURAS | Lift Austin and Griselda Zuercher in prayer as they serve in Honduras. Pray for Austin as he gives leadership to the team at the Honduras VidaNet base as well as mobilizes the church through mission and leadership courses. Pray for Griselda as she educates and discipled mothers at the El Nido prenatal center.

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

29 U.S. | Ask God to refresh the Mission Team after a busy summer of introducing young people to missions and supporting workers on home leave.

30 GLOBAL | Pray for the new Advance applicants: that the Holy Spirit would prepare their hearts for missions before training and during training.

31 GLOBAL | Pray for Leon and Naomi Zimmerman as they assist in writing a 10-module marriage curriculum. The curriculum will be used by couples in the 1,400 Meserete Kristos churches. They hope to complete the curriculum by the end of the year.

*Names changed for sensitivity reasons.



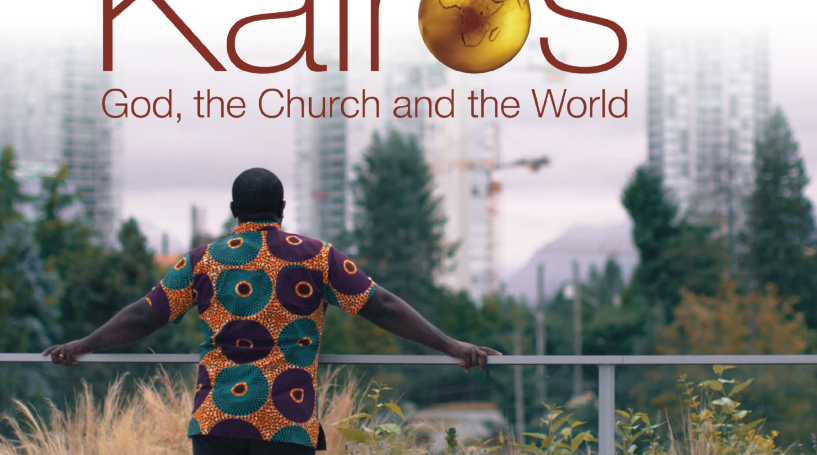
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Kairos

God, the Church and the World



This course is for Christians at any point in their journey with God, guiding each participant into a biblical worldview. It is not strictly a “missions” course but is an opportunity for all God’s people to be transformed and aligned with God’s heart for the nations. It uses a unique combination of facilitated introductions, reading, videos, group discussions, special activities, and prayer for unreached peoples. Kairos is one of several mobilization tools produced by Simply Mobilizing International, based in the Philippines but active in over 100 countries around the world.

October 19 – November 19
450 North Prince Street
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\$125 per person
(\$95 for LMC church attendees)



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THE IMPACT FUND FOR 2024 NEED IS \$1,222,778

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



\$569,677 RECEIVED AS OF JUNE 10

\$1,792,455 GOAL



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