

MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER & PRAYER GUIDE



A hospital car stuck in the mud near Christy's home.

PHOTO BY TOM SPEARS

WHY I'M NOT A RECRUITER by Christy Harrison

There's a reason I do not work in mission recruitment. While I think I have outgrown my middle school awkwardness (for the most part), I am, as my husband would say, very French. By that, he means that I have been shaped to be brutally honest because of my upbringing in France. If I worked as a recruiter, I would tell potential candidates way too much.

If you were one of those poor unsuspecting souls who shows some interest in working internationally, I

would tell you that this work is hard and slow. That learning to speak coherently in a new language takes way longer than you ever thought it would. That you will make a fool of yourself over and over again. That you WILL be misunderstood. That you will lose large pieces of your identity, all the things that you thought made you, you.

I would tell you that if you join me in my location, you will sweat in ways you did not think were humanly possible. That the sweat will

stain your clothes and your sheets until everything you wear or sleep on looks and smells of sweat, until you no longer think this is abnormal or gross.

If you have kids, I would tell you that you will watch your kids cry, grieve, and say goodbye. It will break your heart. But actually, you will worry most when they do not cry and walk away without a word, telling themselves they don't really need friends anyway.

I would tell you that you will feel

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... CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT

inadequate about skills you did not even know you were supposed to have. Not only will you speak like a toddler but you won't even know how to switch the wheels on your car into four-wheel drive. Nor will you know that cars sink quicker in the mud on the side of a canyon-sized pothole than straight through the deep waters of it. You will be mumbling like a toddler, knee-deep in mud trying to figure out what this stranger is doing with your car wheels.

But what you won't know is that the stranger is actually helping you lock your wheels into four-wheel drive. He will call more strangers to help push — with crowds of laughing teenagers, pushing the car through the mud, all while sweat and rain running down their faces.

See, I would also tell you that there will be more strangers — strangers all along the way, who get down in the mud to push your car, walk you down the block to the right office, take the money from your hand in the market — not to steal from you — to show you exactly which coins add up to the right amount, and that you nearly overpaid ... by a lot. Some strangers will be indifferent, and some will be hostile, but most will be kind, friendly, and welcoming.

I would tell you that some of those strangers will become acquaintances

and then friends, neighbors, guests, hosts, and colleagues. You will feel safe making a fool of yourself because they will laugh with you over steaming cups of tea. And slowly, you will pick up the pieces of who you are, the new you, received one cup of tea at a time and you will finally understand God's unconditional love for you, the real you with all the layers peeled off.

I would tell you that you will see Jesus in new ways and new faces. That I have seen the crucified Christ in flesh and bone: people loving, serving, and forgiving despite incredible odds.

I would describe to you how I have been led closer to Jesus by people who love and worship Him, and even by those here who don't — even by those whom I long to see follow Jesus.

I would try to explain how incredibly paralyzed we can become by our Western comfort and security — the perfect recipe for crippling anxiety. How holding my toddler, burning and limp with malaria, has changed how I trust God.

I would tell you how aware I am of my own privilege in every detail of my life. How it is impossible to escape it here or to delude myself into thinking that I could ever do enough to change my place in this equation. I would tell you of how my heart breaks in the face of ex-

treme suffering, so common and yet so up-close-and-personal for my strangers-turned-friends. How my scrubs get stained with blood, and not just sweat, in my meager attempts to alleviate some of that suffering.

But ... I would also tell you of the most outstanding resilience, trust, entrepreneurship, and hope in the faces that surround me. I would tell you that this is the answer to our rampant anxiety in the West. That in the end, we need to be taught and led by our strangers-turned-friends on the other side of the globe. That there are certain lessons you only learn by making a fool of yourself. That speaking like a toddler and not being able to count the coins in your hand changes you in ways that a vacation abroad or receiving a foreign exchange student never will. That it will change your kids too and you will be grateful. That at the end of the day being a guest in a foreign land just might be one of the best ways to know and understand our incarnate and crucified Lord.

As you can see, I am not a recruiter. But that's okay with me. I am not looking for another job.



Christy Harrison serves with EMM and Mennonite Mission Network in Chad, where she lives with her spouse, Peter Sensenig, and their three children Moses, Celeste, and Felix. Christy works in a hospital as a nurse/midwife.

MEDICAL MINISTRY IN CHAD

Chad is a large African country that sits at a crossroads of many different cultures and geopolitical regions of the continent. Its land encompasses what was once the great Kanem-Bornu Empire, which existed for about one thousand years until the late 1800s until the French invaded and colonized the region. Today, Chad is home to 19 million people — of which 57% are Muslim, 26% are Christian, and 17% practice traditional religions.

Like many developing nations in the Majority World, Chad faces significant challenges regarding access to safe and reliable healthcare. The country has one of the lowest overall health rankings in the world, along with the second highest maternal mortality rate in the world, and a significant infant mortality rate. Despite the excellent care provided by healthcare workers like Christy, the needs are still immense. Join us in praying that God will continue to show his love for the people of Chad through medical ministry.

SEPTEMBER DAILY PRAYER

1 U.S. | Pray that Angie Earl will faithfully represent Jesus in her relationships with those who are not believers. May she be a witness to God's way of peace.

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

3 U.S. | Pray for the youth groups and their leaders who served on Kingdom Teams this past summer. Pray that they would continue to glean from their experiences and apply what they learned.

4 U.S. | Pray that Kandace Glenn would find refreshment and renewal during her home leave. Pray that she would experience meaningful connections with family, friends, and supporters.

5 CZECH REPUBLIC | Pray for Jan Heindel and her church to find ways to follow up with students who attended English camp. Ask God to open doors for fall ministry opportunities, including a way to connect more with people in Dobříš, the town in which the church plant is located.

6 U.S. | Pray that God would speak to students' hearts and spark interest in mission opportunities as EMM visits college campuses this fall.

7 COSTA RICA | Pray for wisdom for Daryl and Jen Hoover as they mentor VidaNet staff. Pray for Jedidiah and Adam as they begin a new school year.

8 VIETNAM | Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the people of Vietnam to receive God's mercy and grace.

9 THAILAND | Pray that Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin will be refreshed and renewed during their sabbatical. Pray for Steve as he enjoys music and takes seminary classes, and for Bethany as she explores art ministry.

10 LANCASTER, PA. | Thank God for the volunteers who faithfully serve at Neighbors Community Center. Ask God to bless them in their ministry.

11 SOUTH ASIA | Pray for Clara* as she teaches English and supports her students through difficulties they face. Pray for strength and spiritual protection for her and her husband, Vince*, as they continue to support and disciple those in their church.

12 GLOBAL | Pray for Gerry and Donna Keener as they train and equip church leaders in Vietnam and other international locations. May God give them wisdom as they develop curriculum for post-high school learners.

13 GERMANY | Pray for Eric and Janelle* and their church as they enter into a season of change and look for a different building to meet. Pray they learn to trust God in deeper ways and lovingly navigate ethnic and cultural barriers.

14 U.S. | Ask God to call volunteers to serve as volunteer receptionists at Hub450.

15 NETHERLANDS | Pray that Bob and Miriam Phillips will be filled with God's strength and will joyfully serve him.

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

17 CZECH REPUBLIC | Pray for Stacy and Vojta Prknovi and their daughters as they have recently returned to the Czech Republic after home leave in the U.S. Pray for a smooth transition back to responsibilities and relationships.

18 GLOBAL | Pray that EMM short-term workers would grow in their knowledge of God and be a light to those around them.

19 CAMBODIA | Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the people of Cambodia to receive God's mercy and grace.

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

21 U.S. | Join Binsa* in praising the Lord that a family with whom she has shared over the years has begun to appreciate the message of God's love. Continue to pray for them. Pray for the plans to hold an Alpha course this fall for youth.

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

23 FRANCE | Pray for Jennifer Weaver as she prepares to attend the Europe regional retreat in October. Pray for safe travels and good connections with potential ministry partners during this trip.

24 THE GAMBIA | Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts and minds of the people of The Gambia to receive God's mercy and grace.

25 HONDURAS | Pray for Austin and Griselda Zuercher as they serve in Honduras. Pray that Griselda can be a healing presence to hurting mothers connected with El Nido. Pray for Austin as he completes his social work practicum and Griselda in her second year studying psychology.

26 GLOBAL | Ask the Lord to provide for the EMM Impact Fund.

27 CHAD | Lift Peter Sensenig and Christy Harrison in prayer as they serve in Chad. Pray for wisdom and strength for Christy as she provides nursing and midwifery care in the hospital. May God continue to use Peter in his work at the seminary and as he gives talks and seminars on peacebuilding.

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

29 U.S. | Give thanks for LMC's leaders who are participating in the Fall Leadership Assembly this weekend. May they return to their congregations inspired and prepared to guide people into greater local and cross-cultural missions.

30 GLOBAL | Pray for the Advance program. Pray that those receiving training will listen attentively, and those leading the training would lead well.

*Names changed for sensitivity reasons.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP



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RADIX



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VISION & FUNDRAISING BANQUET

NOV. 14

WYNDHAM LANCASTER RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER
2300 Lincoln Highway East
Lancaster, PA 17602
6 P.M.

DEC. 3

WESTVIEW COMMUNITY ROOM AT LANDIS HOMES
1001 East Oregon Road
Lititz, PA 17543
10 A.M.

FEB. 12 2025

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

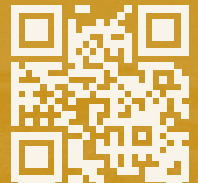


Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. — 1 Corinthians 9:25

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth nearly 2,000 years ago. He encouraged the people to train as if they were athletes. Even today, as followers of Jesus, we run this race, not with the goal of a crown, but so that we might glorify God and lead others to the eternal hope of Jesus.

EMM is passionate about equipping Christians around the world with discipleship, leadership, and cross-cultural training from an Anabaptist perspective. Join us for this special EMM vision and fundraising banquet to learn more about how God is at work through the ministries of training.

RSVP NOW AT
EMM.ORG/BANQUET



THE IMPACT FUND FOR 2024 NEED IS \$1,019,183

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

\$773,272 RECEIVED AS OF AUGUST 5

\$1,792,455 GOAL



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