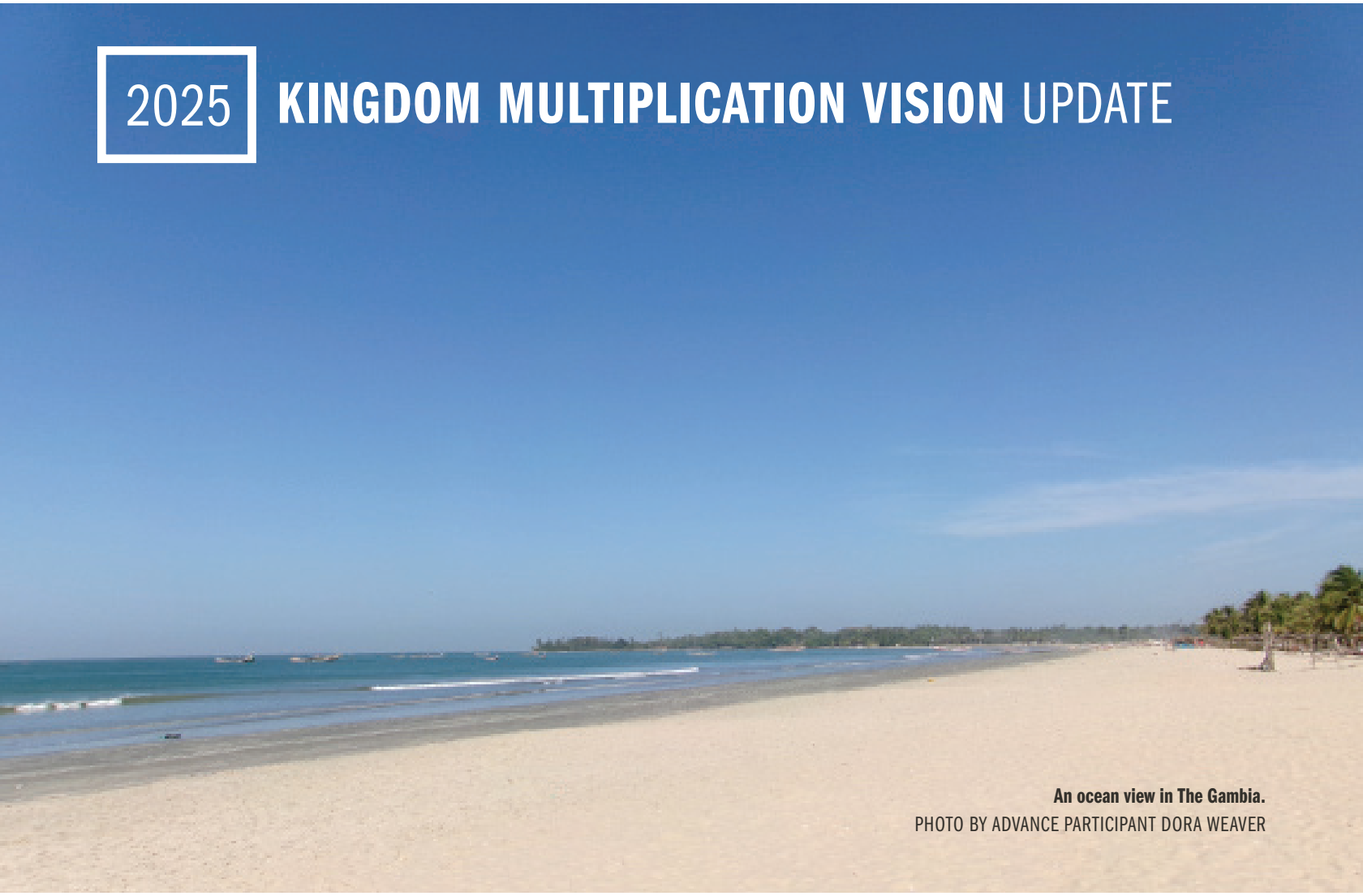
EASTERN MENNONITE MISSIONS

APRIL 2025

MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER & PRAYER GUIDE

2025 KINGDOM MULTIPLICATION VISION UPDATE



An ocean view in The Gambia.
PHOTO BY ADVANCE PARTICIPANT DORA WEAVER

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.

In 2022, we set a new strategic focus for our work through 2028. This strategic focus, the Kingdom Multiplication Vision, is something with which we are diligently engaging to see people come to know Jesus. This issue of *Messenger* serves as a way to update you on the progress we are making, and also to highlight the room for opportunity that we have together in our work of sharing Christ's transforming love with the world.

NEW WORKERS SENT SINCE MAY 2022

We walk with people through an extensive journey of exploring their call to missions. This means sending workers for short-term and long-term service.

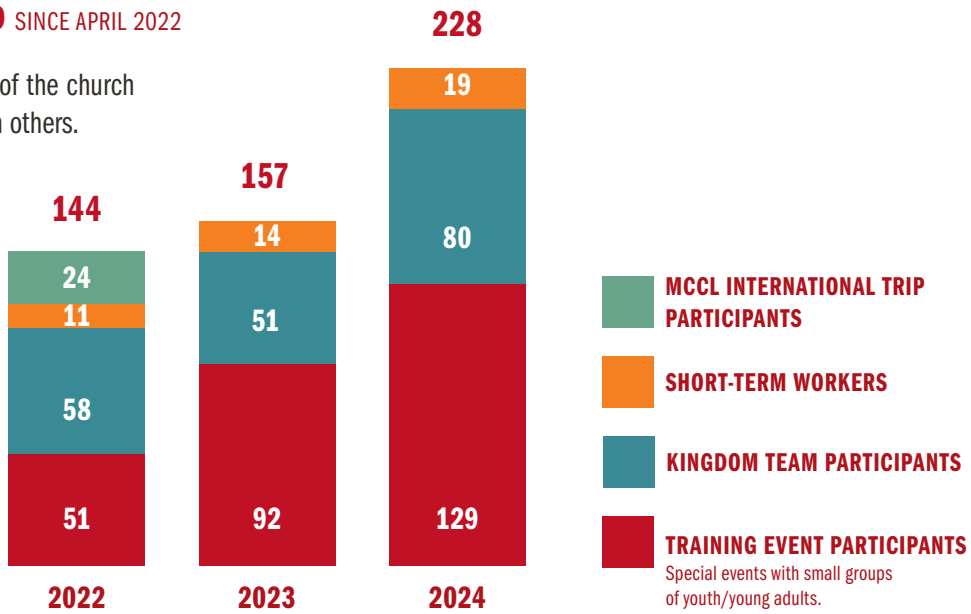
519

RECRUITMENT CONTACTS SINCE JANUARY 2023

Our team has traveled to a number of events and had personal contacts with each of these individuals. While not every interaction results in a decision to serve with EMM, every engagement is important in helping us move toward our goal.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS DISCIPLED SINCE APRIL 2022

We are passionate about the next generation of the church learning to love Jesus and sharing his love with others.



RADIX STUDENTS SINCE APRIL 2023

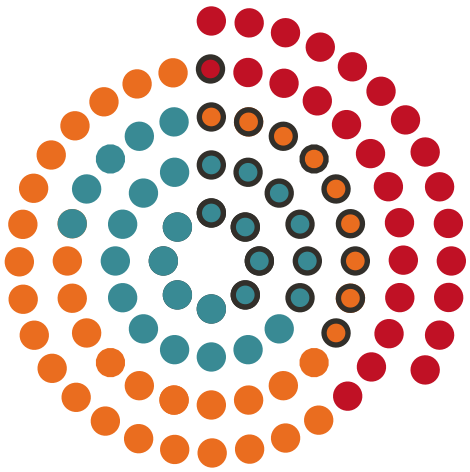
161

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. It's our goal that we'll have 250 active ongoing learners engaged with a learning track in Radix. This year, we are hiring a Radix director and will be implementing seven learning tracks.

MISSIONAL LEADERS TRAINED THROUGH THE KAIROS COURSE SINCE APRIL 2022

This course guides participants to a biblical worldview and to live as a world Christian. 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, Inc., located in the Philippines. Kairos is for all Christians at any point in their journey with God. It is not a "missions" course. It is an opportunity for all God's people to have their worldview transformed and aligned with God's heart for the nations. He has called us all to play a part in His mission, and there are many different roles to fill.

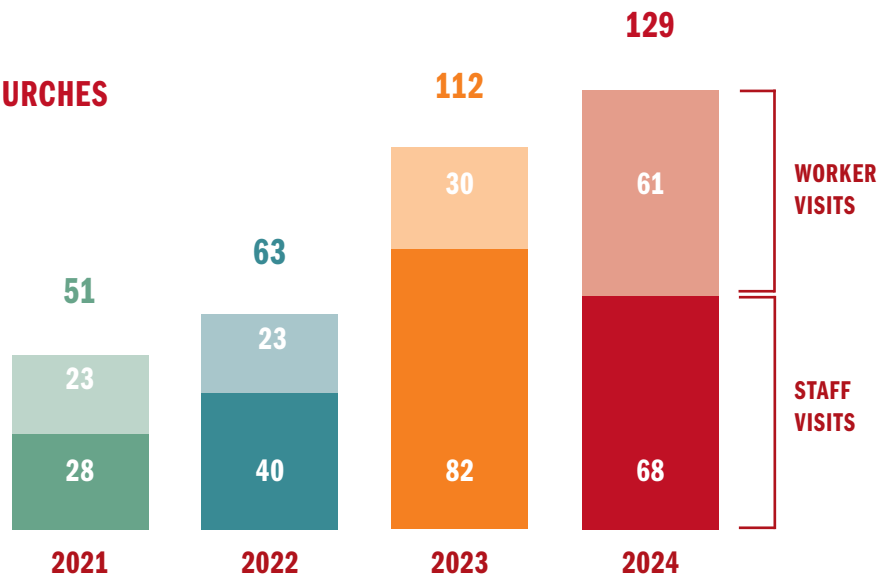


94

- **29** PARTICIPANTS IN 2022
- **38** PARTICIPANTS IN 2023
- **27** PARTICIPANTS IN 2024
- **20** FACILITATORS TRAINED

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL CHURCHES

We encourage congregations to be active in making disciples locally as well as globally. We also hope all churches will become sending communities. Towards that goal, EMM staff and workers engage with churches regularly. This is a look at the churches our staff interacts with and also the data that we have for churches that workers visit during home leaves.



PARTNERING WITH GLOBAL CHURCHES

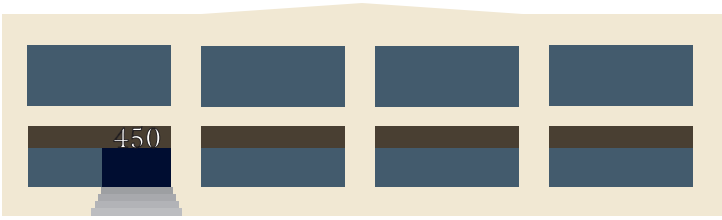
In the past two years, we've been working with global churches to help multiply disciples of Jesus. While our efforts to partner aren't new, our focus on finding ways to send workers together has a new focus. Here is a map of the countries in which we've worked with our church partners regarding mission projects this past year.

Hub450

Hub450 is the name of the building at 450 N. Prince St., Lancaster, Pa., which is home to these four permanent entities: Neighbors Community Center, Neighbors Cafe, LMC, and EMM. Hub450 also provides rental space for groups that need short- or long-term rental space for events, education, or ministry.

LMC
a fellowship of anabaptist churches

LMC is a fellowship of Anabaptist churches. This network of churches has more than 300 member churches in the U.S., Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Nicaragua.



EMM
Eastern Mennonite Missions

Neighbors cafe

Neighbors Cafe is a privately owned business operated by Nolan Deck. The cafe provides a unique menu with globally inspired coffee, tea, and food.

NEIGHBORS
COMMUNITY CENTER

In Luke 10, Jesus used the story of the Good Samaritan to illuatrate who a neighbor is. At the end of the parable, Jesus asked, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert of the law said, "The one who had mercy on him."

This is why Neighbors Community Center exists — loving our neighbors the way Jesus did. This includes holistic ministry such as an English program, providing support for other programs that serve refugees/immigrants, hosting cultural events for the community, and more. Neighbors Community Center is a multicultural gathering place for connecting, learning, and celebrating. The community center is a program of Eastern Mennonite Missions.

IN 2024, NEIGHBORS COMMUNITY CENTER'S IMPACT WAS MEASURED IN PART BY ...

3,320
HOURS OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LEARNING

131
ENGLISH STUDENTS

1,035
HOURS OF ARTISAN SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR IMMIGRANT WOMEN

33
ARTISANS

2,182
VOLUNTEER HOURS

48
VOLUNTEERS

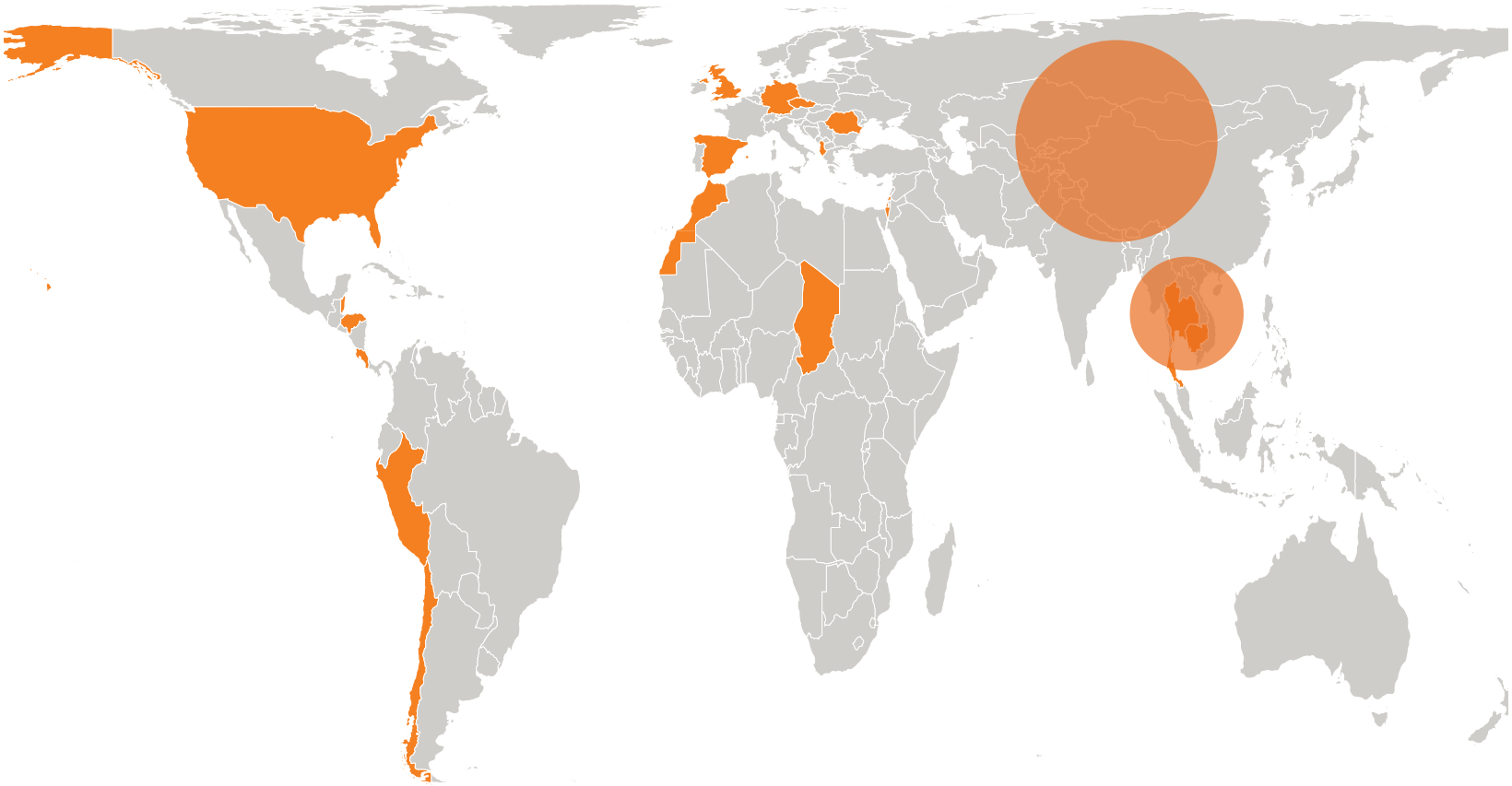
34
COMMUNITY EVENTS

EMM had 184 team members in 22 countries in 2024

5 countries/regions within shaded areas not named for security concerns

70 long-term team members
20 short-term team members
94 Kingdom Team participants

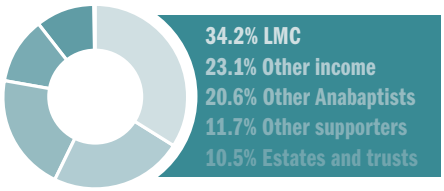
352 Missionary Support Team members
31 Staff members
13 Board members (who served at any point in 2024)



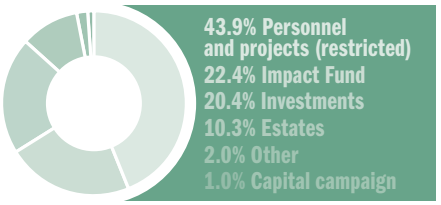
FINANCES 2024

We are grateful for the generous giving from congregations and individuals during 2024. If you would like a copy of our final audited report, please contact us. As we continue into 2025, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you and your congregation can continue to support the Impact Fund. You can support the Impact Fund at **EMM.ORG/GIVE**.

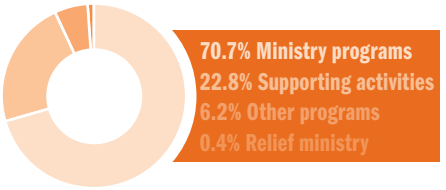
INCOME BY SOURCE: $6,431,978



INCOME BY TYPE: $6,431,978



EXPENSES BY FUNCTION: $6,214,173



Due to rounding, figures may not equal the totals shown.

APRIL DAILY PRAYER

1 MIDDLE EAST | Pray for Michael and Laura* as they serve in the Middle East. Pray for wisdom in their interactions with others.

2 WEST AFRICA | Pray for long term workers to be called to join the work of leadership development and church planting in West Africa.

3 THAILAND | Pray for Fernando Valencia as he begins his two-year internship in Thailand and learns a new culture and language.

4 U.S. | Pray for opportunities for Angie Earl to share her faith with those she interacts with.

5 ROMANIA | Ask God to empower Phil and Linda Gottschalk as they continue to teach at Bucharest Baptist Theological Institute and reach out to Ukrainian refugees. Pray for peace. Praise the Lord for bringing them through some serious health challenges in the last year and pray for renewed strength.

6 U.S. | Pray for God to raise up Kingdom Team staff to serve with youth in the summer of 2025.

7 CZECH REPUBLIC | Pray for grace and provision for Jan Heindel as she serves in the Czech Republic. Pray that she would have discernment and confidence as she provides leadership in ministry settings.

8 WEST AFRICA | Ask God to empower Mandinka believers with boldness and love to share the gospel with other Mandinka people.

9 GLOBAL | Pray for William Higgins as he prepares to teach in the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia in June. Pray also for him as he prepares and sends off material for translation for his two classes in Kenya in August.

10 U.S. | Pray for EMM's Human Resources team as they support workers, recruit new ones, and process applications.

11 CHILE | Pray for Michael and Nancy Hostetter as they serve in Chile. Pray for them to be renewed as they reach out to others in the various settings they engage in.

12 THAILAND | Pray for safety and renewal during the annual team retreat. Pray for the teams traveling to Cambodia and Vietnam.

13 SOUTHEAST ASIA | Pray for Will and Nina* as they serve in Southeast Asia. Pray for God to bless their ministry.

14 GLOBAL | Pray for God to continue to call Advance program participants for the fall of 2025.

15 COSTA RICA | Pray for Wendell and Melanie Nofziger as they lead the Vida Net base in Costa Rica. Pray for them and their family as they serve those around them.

16 THAILAND | Thanks for your prayers for God to call people to join the team in Thailand. Please continue to pray for workers and we praise God for the applicants who are in process.

17 NORTH AFRICA | Please pray for the High Atlas villagers of Tizi Oussem whom A* and A* have recently had the privilege of revisiting and assisting with a project to restore running water. Praise God that running water was restored to 155 homes, thanks in large part to contributions from brothers and sisters in Chile who had come to visit and pray!

18 U.S. | Pray for the upcoming fall Advance program! Ask God to supply wisdom in the creation and execution of the program. Pray for Advance housing! Ask God to bring an option that generously supplies all their needs.

19 KAZAKHSTAN | Ask the Holy Spirit to knock on the door of the hearts of Kazakhs, creating openness toward Christians so that they will be receptive to the gospel.

20 GLOBAL | Ask God to continue to prompt young men and women to explore a call to missions through a mission internship with EMM.

21 THAILAND | Pray for Mark and Sarah Schoenhals as they serve in Thailand. Pray for discernment and fruitfulness in their ministry.

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

23 CENTRAL AFRICA | Praise God for a good arrival in the U.S. for Peter and Christy*, and their every-Sunday speaking schedule that has begun. Pray for upcoming travels to Georgia and Ohio, to connect with churches and family. Pray for Peter as he helps a seminary in Cameroon develop peace studies courses. Pray also for their children as they are homeschooling and adjusting to life in the U.S. for the coming months.

24 CAMBODIA | Ask God to grant wisdom and favor to the mission workers who are working among the Khmer.

25 U.S. | Pray for Marty and Glenna Sollenberger as they serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Pray for them to persevere in the tasks set before them.

26 GLOBAL | Ask God to provide for the Impact Fund, supporting movements of Jesus' disciples multiplying around the world.

27 WALES, U.K. | Pray for Alan and Carol Wert as they serve in Wales, U.K. Pray for the small groups settings they engage with to experience renewal.

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

29 GLOBAL | Pray for the upcoming fall Advance program! Ask God to supply wisdom in the creation and execution of the program.

30 U.S. | Pray a blessing over Marvin Lorenzana as he celebrates his birthday today! Pray for health and wisdom for him as he provides leadership to EMM as president.

**Names changed for sensitivity reasons.*

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Your life will never be the same.

EMM.ORG/ADVANCE

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

$231,420 RECEIVED
AS OF MARCH 10

$1,862,923
2025 IMPACT FUND GOAL

EMM.ORG/GIVE

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