

Transforming

Stories of making disciples in the way of Christ

Winter 2017
VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 4

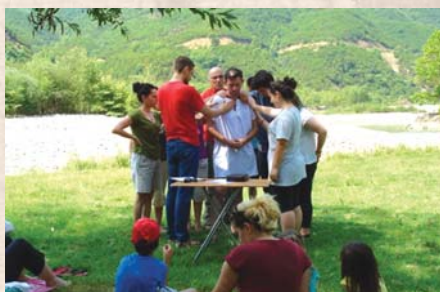


Collaboration is our posture in mission



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planting

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global body



Virginia
Mennonite
Missions

Called. Sent. Transformed.

● Editorial

Coworkers for the kingdom

BY AARON KAUFFMAN
PRESIDENT



Our culture idolizes heroes. Hollywood tells story after story with the message, *we need heroes to solve the world's problems*. Right now my little boys are fixated on Superman, Spider-Man and Batman—a curious thing, since they've never seen them on the big screen. But somehow they've caught our culture's love of heroes. Who doesn't wish they could save the world with superpowers?

The church often longs for heroes, too. We want spiritual giants whose gifts and charisma loom larger than life. Who will be the next Billy Graham? The next Dietrich

Bonhoeffer? The next Mother Theresa? The next Martin Luther King, Jr.?

I also long for those kinds of leaders in our midst, people who can convey Christ's heart for the lost and oppressed and rally the church to Spirit-led action. And there's a good chance God is busy raising up those heroes right now, though maybe not where we as Westerners would expect. Perhaps the next spiritual giant is a newborn baby in Indonesia. Or a little boy playing in the streets in Guatemala. Or a young woman just finishing high school in Ethiopia.

Even so, I'd like to suggest that heroes are not the primary way God brings about transformation in the world. Time and again we see in Scripture that God calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things. And God usually calls them in community rather than one by one. Abraham and Sarah. Moses and his siblings, Aaron and Miriam. The twelve disciples. Paul and Barnabas.

In fact, it was Paul who wrote the following words to a Corinthian church fixated on heroes: "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ... Now you are the body of Christ, and *each one of you* is a part of it" (1 Cor. 12:12, 27, emphasis mine).

That's why we've identified collaboration as one of our guiding principles in mission. We need the help of the global body of Christ to be faithful witnesses in the world.

Collaboration is our posture in mission. God intends the church to be an interdependent community of justice, joy and peace. On the cross, Jesus put to death our hostility toward God and one another, making reconciliation possible. As a result, we gladly partner with churches and ministries from the global body of Christ. Together, we call, equip, send and support believers from diverse backgrounds to offer their gifts in the work of God's kingdom.

Collaboration across cultures may not be glamorous or lightning quick like a superhero. It can be messy and time-consuming. But it is faithful to God's future, as John's vision foretells: "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. ... And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God...'" (Rev. 7:9-10). Let's join hands in working for that future kingdom now.



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Financial Report

Reporting: 9/1/16 to 12/31/16

Special Projects \$403,376	Special Projects \$397,191
Mission Fund \$257,971	Mission Fund \$254,978
Income Total \$661,347	Expenses Total \$652,168

Mission Fund: undesignated giving by households and churches, **Special Projects:** giving to specific workers or ministries

Transforming

Editor and Designer: Jon Trotter

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Transforming (USPS-15280) is published quarterly to tell stories of our participation in God's mission and is distributed free. To subscribe, contact: Transforming circulation: (540) 434-9727 (800) 707-5535 • info@vmmissions.org

Our offices are located at:
601 Parkwood Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Website: vmmissions.org

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4

POSTMASTER Send address changes to:
601 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, VA 22802.
Periodical postage paid at Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

Mission service

New workers appointed and on assignment

Alfonso Alvarado, USA



Alfonso serves as a church planter and is working to plant a new Hispanic church, in partnership with Grace Mennonite Fellowship, Lacey Spring, Va.

Don & Esther Clymer, Switzerland



Don teaches and leads spirituality seminars and retreats as a volunteer with the Theological Seminary in Bienenberg, Switzerland. Esther works as a home health aide.

Asher & Lindsey Fast, Botswana



Asher and Lindsey have been appointed to a two-year ministry assignment in Botswana, relating primarily to the Mother The-

resa Resource Center. They will serve under Mennonite Mission Network, in partnership with VMissions.

Loren & Earlene Horst, Trinidad



Loren and Earlene serve the Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago (MCTT) with Partners in Mission, working with leadership development and congregational

resourcing. Their ministry builds upon longstanding relationships between the MCTT and VMissions.

Jason Wagner, USA



Jason serves as the men's chaplain at the Harrisonburg/Rockingham Regional Jail in Harrisonburg Va.

He leads Christian services, offers pastoral care for inmates and coordinates visiting ministries. His work also includes advocating with churches for jail ministries and developing the needed resources for inmates, ex-offenders and their families.

Staff

Mennonite Hispanic Initiative transitions



Marvin Lorenzana, Mennonite Hispanic Initiative (MHI) Director, has transitioned from a part-time staff role to a

mission worker role supported by a Ministry Support Team. He launched MHI in 2009 with the assistance of VMissions. MHI is a ministry that focuses on church planting, leadership development and theological education among Mennonite Latinos.



Lizzette Hernandez is now the Latino Church Leadership Trainer, a VMissions staff position. She trains Latino church lead-

ers in Christian theology within the Mennonite faith tradition in order to evangelize, plant churches and grow existing Latino churches within Virginia Mennonite Conference, and to mobilize Latino workers in global mission. She is also the chief academic and administrative leader of the local chapter of Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA).

Auction

MST Auction to benefit workers on May 20



Virginia Mennonite Missions will again host a fundraising dinner and

auction to raise funds for workers on Saturday, May 20, at Eastern Mennonite School, 801 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, Va. The auction items will benefit workers through their Ministry Support Teams. A new feature this year is a silent auction in addition to the live one. The meal begins at 5:00; live auction begins at 6:00 p.m.

Resourcing Events

Potluck for parents of mission workers and MST resourcing planned

Potluck & Resource Time for Parents of Mission Workers

Saturday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
VMissions Conference Room

Join with other parents and staff for a time of fellowship and sharing. James and Leanna Rhodes, parents of a worker in North Africa, will share insights and input.

Ministry Support Team Resource Event

Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m.
VMissions Conference Room

Members of MSTs, especially chairpersons, treasurers and fundraising coordinators, are invited to learn more about their roles in supporting workers, best financial and communication practices and regular engagement with supporters and congregations.

● Partners in planting

Mennonite Hispanic Initiative is a joint effort to birth, nurture and sustain new mission impulses among Spanish-speaking people in Virginia and beyond.

BY LIZZETTE HERNANDEZ AND MARVIN LORENZANA

God's model for eternal existence is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit living in loving relationship with each other. God has modeled this perfect relationship of love and interdependence for his people as the way of true living, showing us that his design for authentic wholeness is only experienced in community.

Mennonite Hispanic Initiative (MHI) was born out of this mindset in 2009. The leadership behind this project always knew that the chances of long-term success in birthing, nurturing, and sustaining a missional movement among Hispanics within Virginia Mennonite Conference (VMC) greatly depended upon working together with the rest of the Mennonite community in the local area. The following are just a few examples of how these partnerships are shaping our future together.

In 2009, MHI began a church planting effort with the help of the Harrisonburg District of VMC, a group of thirteen congregations based in or near Harrisonburg, Virginia. This collaboration included the important participation of Harrisonburg Mennonite Church as the host congregation.

The result is what we know today as Iglesia Discipular Anabaptista (IDA), a congregation that continues to grow and mature in spite of having faced difficult times along the way.

From its very inception, IDA was intended to become a learning center focused on the development and mentoring of new Hispanic leaders. For this purpose, IDA also established an important partnership with the Instituto Bíblico Anabaptista (Anabaptist Biblical Institute, or IBA), a program of Mennonite Education Agency. For the past number of years, a group of 20 leaders from a variety of church backgrounds has been receiving not only theological training, but also important practical tools that allow them to live missionally in their particular contexts. Eastern Mennonite Seminary has partnered with this vision by allowing the classes to happen in its facilities.

Today, IDA continues to advance under the leadership of Pastor Luis Martinez, along with the dedicated support of a leadership team. IDA's close and meaningful relationship with all the different missional partners named above, serves as a point of reference that informs MHI's ongoing engagement in leadership development and training, as well as the church-planting process itself.

Our previous learning experience with IDA has prompted us to explore newer approaches for church planting. One such approach is VMissions' recently developed Covenant Partners for New Church Initiatives, which outlines the gifts and responsibilities of everyone involved: church planter, mission agency, and the group of existing congregations who will sponsor the work. We hope that using this approach will help us define clearer expectations, establish specific roles and lines of accountability, and develop a stronger support system for church planters.

We are currently trying out this Covenant Partners approach with Pastor Alfonso Alvarado, who is pursuing a call to plant a new church in Lacey Springs, Virginia, with Grace Mennonite Fellowship as its base. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm with which the fourteen congregations of



Crystal Lehman, Mario Hernandez and Basil Marin participate in a Life Transformation Groups workshop.

Photo courtesy of Lizzette Hernandez





Participants at a Mennonite Hispanic Initiative retreat join their voices in praise during a worship service.

Photo courtesy of Marvin Lorenzana

Northern District, stretching from Harrisonburg to Winchester, Virginia, have embraced this new initiative.

All of these collaborative efforts have positively impacted the effectiveness of our ministry. They help us work towards our particular goals within the Hispanic community, and we are

“When we work together as the body of Christ, we make God’s love known to the world.”

able to join the vision of others. This dynamic has taught us that while different ministries have their own particular ideas and needs, they really are all complementary. Only by working together does the broader vision of God come to life.

We’ve learned to focus not only on accomplishing projects together, but more importantly, on building relationships among us.

Mariachi singer Araceli López performs at the MHI Annual Friends Dinner this past fall. Photo courtesy of Lizzette Hernandez



Partnership has allowed MHI to develop a rich network of friends who walk alongside us in a loving exchange of care, learnings, encouragement, and healthy accountability.

We’ve all benefited by discovering or re-appropriating visions and dreams that we could have overlooked while working alone.

Working together requires hard work. It can be difficult to maintain good communication and flexibility. By listening carefully and being open to innovation, we can better offer our abilities and strengths, and join them purposely with the skills and resources of our partners. Many times, working together means doing things differently.

This work across ministries and among different partners becomes a tangible and visible sign of what the kingdom of God is about: Jesus being sent to show God’s love through restoring broken relationships. As Jesus prayed to the Father, “May [they] become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me” (John 17:23).

When we work together as the body of Christ, we make God’s love known to the world.

Lizzette Hernandez is Latino Church Leadership Trainer with Virginia Mennonite Missions. Marvin Lorenzana is Mennonite Hispanic Initiative Director.

Local church, global body

Rafael and Solange Tartari serve as pastoral leaders of the Guri I Themelit (Cornerstone) congregation in Lezhë, Albania. Through a partnership that spans three continents, they engage in evangelism, discipleship and mentoring.

BY SOLANGE TARTARI

In Ephesians 2:11-22, the Apostle Paul gives us a vision of the church that is not just the local community. It goes beyond that, formed by a set of communities made up of different people from different ethnicities in different places.

The announcement of the good news of peace through Christ has given the Gentiles the possibility of belonging to the family of God without first becoming Jews. The great transformation that Christ brings is a promise of new life. In this sense, it is essential to be clear that access to God is granted solely through the grace of Jesus. There is no other force, no law or tradition, that allows us to do so.

Christ maintains and grows this work dedicated to the Lord, this building in which we are all living stones. The end result is God's kingdom, toward which we go with Christ's strength and direction.

Based on these reflections, I remember two stories that God made possible when we took a collaborative posture in mission.

A young man was born into a Muslim family, but he lost his parents when he was a child. His aunt sent him to an orphanage, where he first heard of Jesus. Last year, when he returned to his hometown, Lezhë, he continued to attend

services in our community and chose to be baptized. At his baptism, he publicly shared a beautiful testimony, saying: "I lost my family, but God gave me a bigger family." We rejoice that the body of Christ can be his family through faith! As that faith family stood to formally welcome him into the church, he was embraced with prayer.

At first he had a difficult job that paid very little, and he could barely cover his personal needs. We kept praying that God would bless him with a more dignified job. One day this young man announced the very happy news that he had found a better job! In Albania, this is synonymous with a miracle. It was universally understood as God taking care of him.

In collaboration with another ministry in our city, Lezha Academic Center (LAC), three female students from the school accepted Christ during a program held at the end of the school year, where LAC opens its doors and activities

to the local Menno-nite church we pastor (called Guri i Themelit in Albanian).

These young women began attending church services on their own without their families. At the last preparatory discipleship meeting we had

Mission workers in Albania from EMM and VMissions, together with several staff members from the two agencies, meet periodically for resourcing and refreshment.

Photo by Richard Bowman





Leading worship at the Guri I Themelit church: Solange and Rafael Tartari (left) sing in praise together with lay members of the church and fellow mission workers Juliana and Francis Marques (right). Photo by Richard Bowman

with them before baptism, we asked if they had received their parents' permission to be baptized.

They said that they had been granted permission, but their parents otherwise did not support the decision. While this was a difficult situation for the students, we praised God for the support and prayers of the body of Christ. God especially surprised us when the parents of one of the young women, from a Muslim background, showed up at her baptism—thoroughly unexpected—and hugged her in front of everyone. As we shared in her joy and delight, the teary-eyed fellowship recognized God's faithfulness and transformative power.

Stories like these are possible because of collaboration. With the resources and prayers of many, we work together to take on the task of mission and the hard work that accompanies it, making the outcome much more effective.

Through relationship-building, prayer, acts of justice and compassion, peacebuilding, cross-cultural missions, social action and community development, the church has a tremendous capacity for transforming society through living out the kingdom of God.

Full-time mission work is putting God's plans above one's own. As the challenges and limitations of life are always present, prayer is essential, making us more sensitive and perceptive to the will of God. It leads us to see where God's kingdom is being built and transformation is happening. It also brings us refreshment, strength and perseverance for the many challenges of mission.

"We understand that to take part in the collaboration that makes this work possible, we must first be willing collaborators in our hearts."

We understand that to take part in the collaboration that makes this work possible, we must first be willing collaborators in our hearts. Then in our minds, we come to identify visionary projects served by this collaboration, and how they can plant seeds of faith and expand the kingdom of God. Our vision goes beyond just one project, just as our support comes from more than one agency or just one partner.

The more effective the collaboration, the more we have hope for good results, that is, lives affected and changed. After people come to the full knowledge of revealed truth, which is salvation in Jesus, we want to disciple them to be able to share the same grace they have received with others. We want them to develop their God-given gifts and empower them to contribute to the global body of Christ.

These results will happen when each of us takes collaboration as our posture on mission, with zeal and obedience to the word of God, as together we sow seeds for the kingdom.



Rafael and Solange with children Paulo and Sofia.

Photo courtesy of Solange Tartari

Rafael and Solange serve the Guri I Themelit church in Lezhë, Albania, with their children Paulo and Sofia. They serve in partnership with Junta Menonita de Missões Internacionais, Brazil.

Nazareth Village: a living witness to Christ made possible by partnership

BY ELSA MILLER

Located in the city of Nazareth, Israel, Nazareth Village is a working historical village that gives visitors to the Holy Land a chance to experience what life would have been like for Jesus growing up in his hometown.

One aspect that brings the village to life is the team of historical actors who populate the land. From working the fields, to serving meals, to watching the sheep, these actors play a vital role in making the village feel alive.

But being a nonprofit organization means that Nazareth Village needs to rely on volunteers to help with the daily running of the village. This is where SERVE Nazareth comes into play.

Located just up the hill, this organization works in recruiting volunteers to work in the village anywhere from one day to one year. People from all over the world have

come to serve in this ministry.

The benefits of having volunteers from all over come to Nazareth are numerous. Not only do the volunteers experience a life changing experience of living as Jesus would have lived, they also get to connect and hear stories from the groups that have traveled from all over to visit Israel.



Elsa Miller (center) with colleagues.



A guide in first century clothing shares stories from the life and times of Jesus at Nazareth Village. Photos courtesy of Elsa Miller

From the Americans on a church group tour to the lively South Africans who sing whenever they get a chance, every group offers something new. And the groups in return get to hear the stories of volunteers, and many find themselves interested in volunteering as well.

The experience and privilege of being a volunteer in Nazareth Village has given me hope for the future of the church in Nazareth by allowing me to glimpse the ways this organization is working in the community.

During the slow tourist months, many Jewish groups come to get a historical look at things but also end up hearing the story of Jesus' upbringing. School groups also come through, especially at Christmas time when a special Christmas program is put on just for them. Nazareth is also a predominately Muslim community and the many tourists and volunteers that come through sometimes end up attending local churches where they help and support the witness of the small Christian community.

Nazareth Village has an important foothold in the community, and through the help of volunteers continues to tell the story of Jesus to visitors from all over the world.

Elsa Miller serves with VM Missions and SERVE Nazareth at Nazareth Village, Israel, leading tours and helping others learn about the life of Jesus.



Fred, Cyprien, Moses, Nahiyo, and Consolata, a resettled refugee family from Democratic Republic of Congo, in their Harrisonburg apartment. Photo: Ben Emswiler

Loving our refugee neighbors



BY BEN EMSWILER

It was yet another very cold night in Harrisonburg, Virginia, as we searched for a parking space outside of James Madison University's Convocation Center where JMU was hosting Eastern Mennonite University in a cross-town men's basketball game.

I apologized to my Congolese friends in the car with me for having to park so far away and walk in the cold weather. The response from the young man in the back seat: "It's okay, I walked from Congo to Rwanda. I think I'll be all right."

The couple of hundred refugees that Harrisonburg receives each year, coming from places such as Syria, Eritrea, Iraq, Cuba, and Congo, are not helpless people that we should feel bad for. In fact, it's quite the opposite—they are fighters that we should respect.

They are the exact type of people that we should all desire to befriend, for doing so leads to nothing short of a mutually-beneficial relationship.

Although these resettled families are resilient survivors—adapting to and overcoming excessive adversity on their journey here to the United States—basic needs for refugees still linger. If we step up and address these needs in an appropriate manner, it can dramatically and meaningfully improve their process of positively integrating into our communities and society.

It is essential to understand that assisting refugees in an appropriate and effective manner, however, means promoting self-sufficiency and eradicating dependency. In fact, this happens to be the principle objective of the Linking Communities program of Church World Service, the primary

refugee resettlement office in Harrisonburg. This program is designed to initiate lasting relationships between community members and recently resettled refugees.

Another organization that supports refugees in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County area is Faith in Action—a coalition of faith communities that seek justice on a variety of issues. This past year, thanks to Faith in Action and their supporters, Harrisonburg became an official Welcoming America City, making it easier for immigrants and refugees to thrive.

Perhaps most telling of the community's desire to love the foreign neighbors it houses are the many trilingual signs throughout the area that read, "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor." First started by Immanuel Mennonite Church, these signs are now spreading across the country. More important, however, is developing genuine relationships with our refugee neighbors, being open-minded and seeking to befriend them.

As the refugee community continues to grow in the area, so will opportunities to serve them. Let us not simply help our neighbors. Let us love our neighbors.

God has brought the nations to us and has given us the blessing and responsibility to share our resources with them, to make disciples by inviting them to faithful living in Jesus Christ, and to put into practice the greatest commandment of them all—love the Lord with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself.

Ben Emswiler is a local refugee relations volunteer in Harrisonburg, Va. He attends Zion Mennonite Church.

Call to Prayer: Collaborative Prayer

BY SARAH SHOWALTER

In a culture and age when individualism is rated much higher than a collective ideal, prayer can often be viewed as a solely personal activity. Prayer is seen as a key part of one's personal relationship with God and for good reason. Jesus himself encouraged his followers to pray in private, rather than praying publicly for attention, and Jesus also modeled individual prayer in his own life in the numerous times he sought out time alone to pray. But if we confine prayer to an exclusively individual practice, we miss out on the power of praying together.

Scriptures also give us many examples of corporate or collaborative prayer—praying together as a group of people. Jesus tell his disciples, in Matthew 18:19, “for where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” And numerous times throughout the Old Testament and in the New Testament book of Acts we see examples of collaborative prayer. Many of VMissions’ workers, who are serving around the world, also incorporate collaborative prayer into their rhythm of life and ministry.

In reading through some of the examples of collaborative prayer in the book of Acts, and in hearing stories from a mission worker family’s experiences with collaborative prayer in South Asia, I noticed three themes emerging.

Unity of purpose. M. and R. serve with a team in a large city in South Asia. They describe their use of collaborative prayer with the other individuals and families who are part of their ministry team: “As a team, this is an important part of how we function. The first step for us in [praying] is always to listen. We take time together as a team to listen and hear what the Lord is saying about the matter at hand. Then we share with each other and submit to the group what it is that we each sense the Lord speaking. We then discern together how we sense the Lord directing us to ask and respond. The majority of

our prayer times as a team involve this type of process. This process of collaborative listening and asking helps each person to be invested in what we are doing, and helps us to move forward with much greater focus and power.”

In Acts 13:1-3, we see a group of leaders praying together and hearing through the Holy Spirit that Barnabas and Saul were being called to a special work. Because they had discerned together, they were unified both in their understanding of God’s will and in their response (sending out Barnabas and Saul).

Encouragement. M. and R. also connect for prayer with other teams who are ministering in their city. They explain, “There are several teams in our city that are focused on ministering among Muslims (our city is a total population of roughly 20 million with about 4 million Muslims). We meet together once a month in the different locations around the city. The purpose is to worship together, share with each other what God is doing in the different areas and then listen and pray regarding those things. There is much encouragement as we hear all that God is doing and stand together in the place of prayer for the Kingdom of God to continue to grow and expand.”

In Acts 4:24-31, Peter and John are commanded not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. They return to the other believers. Upon hearing this report, the believers “lift their voices together in prayer to God.” As a result, they are all filled with the Holy Spirit and with boldness to continue preaching the word of God. Rather than giving way to fear and persecution, this group of believers is encouraged to share even more.

Peace. M. and R. also join together for collaborative prayer with teams who are ministering in other parts of their country and in neighboring countries. “We’ve had different seasons where we’ve had weekly or monthly online times of prayer together. Again, worshiping and pushing forward together in prayer for breakthrough in

the Muslim communities across this region. We learn to rejoice together in the areas where God is visibly working and weep together where the results are not yet visible. As we look across the region our attention is often towards the country to the north of us. The relationship between the country where we live and the one to the north of us is strained. There is a collective sense that our collaborative praying across the borders with other workers in the country to the north and the blessing of one another is part of restoring the connection between the two nations.”

In Acts 12, Peter is miraculously rescued from prison by an angel of the Lord. While he had been imprisoned the church had “prayed very earnestly for him.” In fact, when Peter leaves the prison and heads to Mary’s house, he finds the believers gathered together in prayer. While Peter’s escape from prison didn’t exactly bring peace between the believers and Herod, it is an example of the power of prayer in overcoming the powers of violence and hate in order to further advance the kingdom of God.

A verse that M. and R. shared that helps guide their vision for collaborative prayer, was Philippians 2:1-2:

“Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.”

May we, as believers, gather together to pray to the Lord. May we find unity in discerning together God’s guiding. May we be encouraged by each other and by God’s Spirit. And may we build bridges of peace through prayers for peace and reconciliation.



Sarah Showalter is a freelance writer and former VMissions staff member.



Traffic jams and the teeming bustle of life fill the senses in the major capital city where Alan and Ann* and their children serve. Recent challenges have come to their South Asian country, but there are also stories of transformation. Courtesy photo

Worker profile: Alan and Ann*

Home: Harrisonburg
Mennonite Church, Va.

Service program: Long-term

Serve in Lezhë, Albania

Join the teaching staff of Lezha Academic Center (LAC), which offers rigorous academics with a biblical worldview to over 80 students in grades 7-12.

This assignment supports the long-term vision and ministry of the Albanian Mennonite Mission, including church planting, leadership training, community development, and education. Qualified applicants will be licensed secondary education teachers in the areas of history, math, and science; TESOL training preferred.

Go to vmmissions.org/tranSend to learn more and to discover other service opportunities.

Assignment:

Alan* works as a graphic designer in a local company part time. We engage in church planting, resource development and neighborhood witness.

Biggest challenges:

In such a poor country with a history of colonialism and dependency, the unwise use of money has damaged church planting efforts and has made planting a healthy church a difficult task. Another challenge is the increase of terrorism. For the first time, foreigners are being targeted. Due to terrorism, we had to leave our small town (after being there for 12 years) to move to the capital.

Biggest joys:

After about a year apart, I got to catch up with a lady whom I had helped disciple during our last term. She has begun to let Jesus into every area of her life and the result has been transformative. That is our joy—seeing how Jesus is calling our Muslim brothers and sisters into abundant life.

A typical day:

A typical day starts with coffee, a kitten starving for cuddles, and kids eager to get some play in before breakfast. After breakfast, homeschool starts for the kids and Ann, and Alan starts graphic design jobs. Alan will also spend a few hours a day preparing evangelistic tracts, corresponding with seekers that have contacted his evangelistic website, and working on converting a Bible correspondence course for use on smartphones.

In the late afternoon, Ann will go outside and chat with different people as the kids play. She might have a chance to story the gospel as the kids play tag. Twice a week teammates will come over for worship, prayer, and sharing. In the evening, Ann and Alan will exchange food and greetings with neighbors in their building. They might take a walk or play some table tennis. Then bed comes after reading one of Sonlight's *Core E* books and family devotions.

** Names have been changed for security in this sensitive location.*



**Virginia
Mennonite
Missions**

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Transforming (USPS-15280)
Virginia Mennonite Missions
601 Parkwood Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2498

making
disciples
in the way
of *Christ*

2017 Service Opportunities

Where is God calling you?

The opportunities listed below are currently open.

We also welcome conversations about *your* dream
for participating in God's mission around the world!

Partners IN MISSION (1 week to 1 year)

Albania	Teach English at Lezha Academic Center, a Christian high school
Egypt	Learning tour to Cairo, Alexandria and Port Said
Jamaica	Assist with Vacation Bible School
Thailand	Serve on a discipleship and learning tour Serve on a prayer team Teach English at a camp
Trinidad	Assist with Vacation Bible School
USA	Volunteer at Good Works, a ministry to the homeless Volunteer with SWAP (Serving with Appalachian People) in Kentucky

Long-term (2+ years)

Albania	Serve on a church planting team Teach at Lezha Academic Center
Belize	Serve as a church planter for a deaf community
China	Teach English with Mennonite Partners in China
Indonesia	Join a team living and working in a Jakarta slum (nursing, teaching, social work skills an asset)
Italy	Serve as a church planter
Jamaica	Teach at Maranatha School for the Deaf
Kosova	Serve on a church planting team Agriculture Extension work
Montenegro	Serve in church planting and teach English
Thailand	Join in the life and ministry of our team in Bangkok; priority on language study for first term Young adult discipling Church planting team

transSend (1 to 2 years)

Albania	Teach at Lezha Academic Center Teach at Joshua Center, a preschool
China	Teach English with Mennonite Partners in China
Costa Rica	Volunteer at Pura Vida (discipleship immersion)
Indonesia	Join a team living and working in a Jakarta slum Serve as an urban ministry volunteer Teach English at a Christian School Teach English for community outreach
Israel/Palestine	Volunteer at Nazareth Village Volunteer at Nazareth hospital
Peru	Teach at PROMESA (Christian school)
Philippines	Serve as an intern with Peacebuilders Community in the conflict-ridden area of Mindanao
South Asia	Dive into an immersion experience in a Muslim context with home stays, language study and mission mentoring
Thailand	Explore a variety of service options (teachers, social workers, nurses) as part of the life and ministry of our team in Bangkok
USA	Serve in Charlottesville, Va., Waynesboro, Va., or Wardensville, W.Va., in mentored church leadership and community outreach

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person about the assignment of interest and guide
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