

# Transforming

Stories of making disciples in the way of Christ

Spring 2023  
VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 1

## One Body, One Mission



**IN THIS ISSUE:** PARTNERING WITH THE  
GLOBAL CHURCH



THIS YEAR'S THEME:  
**THE WHOLE CHURCH  
ON MISSION**

■ God Is on Mission  
■ **One Body, One Mission**



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 **VMissions**

# From the President

## Moving Together in Mission

BY AARON M. KAUFFMAN

A few years ago while recovering from surgery I picked up a book gathering dust on my shelf called *In His Image*, written by Dr. Paul Brand (with the help of Philip Yancey). I've always been interested in science, so I found the combination of medical insight, missionary zeal and biblical wisdom to be fascinating and moving at the same time. It seemed especially fitting to read about how our bodily systems reflect the genius of the Creator while my own body healed.



Dr. Brand's life is inspiring. He grew up as a missionary kid in India, but returned to England for schooling. After completing his medical degree, he went back to India, focusing his profound intellect on the understanding and treatment of leprosy (or Hansen's disease). One of his major discoveries was that the disfigurement experienced by many leprosy patients was not due to the disease itself. Rather, the bacteria caused their nerves to grow insensitive to pain. Cuts and bruises would go unnoticed, leading to the damage and loss of fingers, toes and other extremities. Dr. Brand came to see pain as a gift from God. He also pioneered surgical techniques that allowed recovering leprosy patients to regain some use of their damaged limbs. Motivated by his faith in Christ, Dr. Brand's commitment to restoring people's dignity enabled many of them to come to know the God in whose image they had been made.

One of my favorite sections of the book details the workings of the nervous system. Dr. Brand describes the way every cell of the body has the ability to communicate with the brain, seated in its "ivory fortress" atop our shoulders. Our brain in turn is able to issue instructions that result in the coordination of billions of cells to carry out such mundane tasks as taking a single step, speaking a word, or strumming a guitar. "A healthy body," Dr. Brand explains, "relies on proper channels from the brain to the body parts, as well as a commitment from individual cells to do the will of the head." A disease like ALS, on the other hand, can disrupt that communication and leave an otherwise healthy mind trapped in an uncooperative body.

What might all of that tell us about what it means to be the body of Christ? We as the "cells" need to cultivate open channels of communication with Jesus our Head, and with one another. Only then can we synchronize our activity with God's plan to make all things new. Sin clogs up those lines of communication. It desensitizes our hearts toward Christ and the rest of his body, leading to uncoordinated movements or even paralysis. Collaboration in God's mission requires prayer, humility, understanding, and a collective commitment to doing God's will.

How are we listening to the voice of Jesus our Head? To the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ? What blockages might need to be cleared so we can move together in mission?

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## Financial Report

Reporting: 09/01/22 to 02/28/23

Special Projects \$936,460	Special Projects \$775,883
Mission Fund \$546,644	Mission Fund \$498,881
<b>Income</b> Total \$1,483,104	<b>Expenses</b> Total \$1,274,764

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

## Transforming

**Editor:** Jon Trotter

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## Embark on a Short-term Mission Experience

E<sup>3</sup> Collective trips are opportunities to embark on an intensive, holistic, team-based mission experience, to encourage and be encouraged by the global church, and to engage the work of God's kingdom cross-culturally. Learn more at [vmmissions.org/e3collective/](http://vmmissions.org/e3collective/)



### Kenya

Soccer camp and community outreach  
August 7-18



### Greece

Refugee camp ministry on Lesbos  
September 9-23



### Nazareth/Bethlehem

Learning and service tour  
May 10-27, 2024

[freevectormaps.com](http://freevectormaps.com)



## Great Community Give Fundraiser Exceeds Goal

VMMissions joined over 100 other local organizations in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County in the Great Community Give, a special online day of giving on April 19. The event was a success, with a total of \$14,780 raised, exceeding the goal of \$12,000. VMMissions hosted a lunchtime open house cookout and welcomed around 50 people to enjoy food and fellowship as supporters dropped off donations in person.

More than just a fundraiser, events like the open house help VMMissions to focus on partnering together as brothers and sisters in Christ in the work of Jesus in the world. "I enjoyed noticing all the connections being made among such a diverse group of people, connected to each other by God's Spirit and through VMMissions. God gave us such a lovely day with sweet fellowship," said Hannah Shultz, a VMMissions worker serving in Harrisonburg, Va.

## Hannah Guisewite Hired as Events and Publicity Coordinator



Hannah Guisewite joined VMMissions staff as Events and Publicity Coordinator on March 27. This role of planning and promoting events is part of VMMissions' strategic goal of nurturing diverse partnerships.

Hannah is a graduate of Bridgewater College and brings a background in property management, customer service and youth ministry. She is a member at Eastside Church, Harrisonburg, where she is involved in Kids Club, worship team, youth group, and more. "I always love learning about new ways I can get plugged into the community," she writes.

## Todd Van Patter Resigns as Director of Operations



Todd Van Patter resigned from his role as Director of Operations, effective April 7. Hired in 2021, he helped VMMissions navigate covid safety protocols and remote work, and brought creative insights and a commitment to "people first" over policies. He made valuable and lasting contributions to the strategic SEND Plan, staff gatherings and culture, human resources benefits and processes, the renovation project on the barn, and communications, especially the last two issues of *Transforming* magazine. He also shared his deep faith and worshiper's heart with staff and workers.

"I've enjoyed so much about my time here at VMMissions: the chance to see so many brothers and sisters coordinated in using the gifts our Father has given them...I'm honored to have spent a season among you," Todd writes.

## New Workers Appointed

Adam and Elise Sauder (names changed) have been appointed for service as Associated Workers of VMMissions, serving with YWAM Myrtle Beach. Their assignment is joining the YWAM (Youth With A Mission) staff, where they will help coordinate discipleship training and outreach in Myrtle Beach, and lead ministry teams to a country in South Asia, a sensitive location.

# Mission Is a Partnership

To truly live God's mission, the global church must work together in partnership to demonstrate the beauty of new life in Jesus, to live here and now as a new creation.

BY SHAWN GREEN



From the beginning of creation, we see a relational God who interacts with his creation. Any whole relationship involves an element of growing or imparting one's knowledge. Par-

ents impart their values to their children. Teachers convey their knowledge and expertise. Friends find joy in each other's life experiences and stories.

In the case of Adam and Eve in the garden, receiving God's perfect knowledge was a blessing. I can imagine Adam and Eve soaking it up like sponges during those walks in the garden. As they were learning all about this new world, who better to impart that knowledge than the author of all creation?

Let's go back to that word *blessing*. Time and again, we see throughout scripture this concept of blessing. God blessed Abraham and his descendants, so that they would be a blessing to all people. The imagery and insistence for the people of God to be a blessing is found throughout the law and the prophets. Jews and Gentiles alike received the blessing of Christ, who revealed the heart of God, established his kingdom, and restored sinful humanity through his selfless act of sacrifice. Along with making his glory known, God's pouring out blessings on all nations like living water is at the heart of God's desire.

We may not have the ability to walk physically in the garden with God as Adam and Eve did, but we do have God's word to walk in daily. There

we see another strong example of God's relational aspect—the last time that God physically walked among us and imparted his perfect knowledge to us. What a blessing! Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection is often the focal point of his purpose on earth, and for good reason. But we shouldn't overlook or miss the countless bits of perfect knowledge that Jesus taught and shared as he walked among his followers, and with which we are invited to align our hearts and immerse our souls in God's goodness and mercy.

At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus gathered a group to take his message into the world. This method founded a movement like many others in history, but with one very important difference: the

group Jesus gathered would never, in earthly terms, have been able to collaborate and work together. They had opposing viewpoints, social status differences, and a range of moral standards, to name a few. This aspect of their reality is often lost on us today, in our distance from that time and local culture. That this group was able to collaborate is one of the fundamental evidences

of the transformative power of Jesus and, ultimately, the Holy Spirit on their lives.

Jesus told them, "They will know you are my disciples if you love one another" in one of his last statements before his arrest. Anyone who knew the disciples and their backgrounds would have been aware that the group of people in front of them should not have been lovingly working together with one heart, one spirit, and one purpose. It was only because of God's supernatural power bringing them together as one body.

**The message of salvation is merely the beginning of what God's mission truly encompasses. Salvation should not be the end but the beginning, not the destination but the departure point.**





The church in Termoli, Italy that Shawn and Laura Green and their children serve with have held various outreach events as the church family worked together on mission. Left: An Easter Monday meal included an Afghan family to whom the Greens have been ministering. Right: church members worked together to host a New Year's event to invite their neighbors into a relationship with Jesus. Courtesy of Shawn Green

This is still a reality for us today. While it is true that the body is made up of different gifts and abilities, unity must be at the heart of everything the church body does. I think this is especially important for missions. There is no separating the hand from the arm, there is no head that operates without or apart from the feet. It is imperative that unity and walking, working, living together be a part of the church. That is the way that God's kingdom operates, and as citizens of that kingdom, we are called to be representatives of it to those who are not yet part of it. Our collaborative spirit and work together is both an example of the fullness of life and the evidence of Christ in us.

This is easier said than done. One only needs to look at the landscape of the church body to see how we are failing in being a loving, unified body of one heart, spirit, and purpose. Unity and purpose get lost in competing agendas over doctrinal differences. We debate how this should be done or how that should take place. Who is right or wrong? Who is in or out?

This disunity loses sight of what God's mission truly is: to pour out his blessings on all who believe. We have the ability to walk daily with our God who holds the answers to our problems. As the church collaborates and serves together in love, purpose, and unity, God reveals himself and his perfect solution for humanity's deepest needs to the world. The church is God's instrument and vessel, his body on earth. All the body parts working together

in harmony for God's purpose is a beautiful, compelling, and necessary partnership for the kingdom to thrive and grow.

Why must we collaborate in God's mission? What does that look like from a kingdom perspective? First, we need to be on the same page as to what God's mission truly is. As I have served as a mission worker in southern Italy, and as I have studied the Bible and grown in my knowledge of Christ, I have become more and more convinced that the message of salvation is merely the beginning of what God's mission truly encompasses. To stop at a personal redemption and reconciliation with the Father is, in Paul's words, "spiritual milk." Salvation should not be the end but the beginning, not the destination but the departure point.

To truly live God's mission, the church must work together in partnership to demonstrate the beauty of new life in Jesus, to live here and now as a new creation. God has called us to serve him in this way. We are commanded to go forth and make disciples. Because of what he has done for us, we are compelled to share the gospel. And we do this most fully and effectively as a family, a body of the reconciled serving together to invite all people into the blessing.

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*Shawn Green is a VMissions worker serving in Termoli, Italy with his wife Laura and children Lucas, Emmanuel, Matteo, and Isabella.*

# The Beauty of the Body of Christ

Churches across denominational lines have come together to support reaching the local Arabic-speaking community.

BY BLAKE WOOD



I knew his call to Harrisonburg was clearly from God when he left my office.

I had known Pastor Yacoub (name changed), a newly appointed VMissions worker,

for well over a decade. I had the privilege of engaging with him in the Middle East, where he had fruitfully served as a church planter and ministry coach for many years. But now the Lord had brought him to Harrisonburg, or so it seemed.

I had been working with VMissions for a few months to help Yacoub and his family get settled. He began ministering to the large Arabic-speaking community in Harrisonburg, a multinational community of mainly Muslims, but also other faiths. There were many challenges, including a very sparse donor base for ministry support.

After three months of this preparatory work, a ministry leader from another state whom I know and trust reached out to Yacoub. He told Yacoub that he had a ministry assignment that would be a perfect fit for his talents and mission call. In addition, there was a good salary and benefits. Even housing was provided! I invited Yacoub to call and hear about the opportunity and then to prayerfully discern if this was an open door from the Lord.

I also prayed. I wondered what I would do if I was Yacoub. What if I was an immigrant to America? What if I had a wife and two small children? What if I never raised my ministry support before? What if I had to step out of my Middle Eastern cultural comfort zone and ask people I am just beginning to know to support me with prayer, time, and money? What would I do? What would Yacoub do?

A week passed. I was preparing to bless my friend, whatever he decided, with no judgment.

We met in my office and I asked Yacoub what he had decided. Without a moment's hesitation, he looked at me with joy and said, "I told you the Lord called me here. He will provide."

I had hoped Yacoub and his wife had been called here. Now I *knew* they were here at the invitation of Jesus.

In the months since that watershed moment, the Lord has given Yacoub special favor with a specific people group in our community. In their home countries, they are considered unreached by the gospel by missiologists. Yet they are open to Yacoub and "friends of Yacoub who love Jesus," who come to visit them alongside him.

It has been a source of great joy to see Yacoub flourish and find authentic favor in our community. What has blessed and stretched my faith has been the "unity amidst diversity" that I have seen expressed in the team which has come alongside him. This is the body of Christ at its best.

We at Faith Community Church are some of those "friends of Yacoub who love Jesus." There are many such friends from other churches in our community and there is room for more.

It has been beautiful to witness these church partnerships in action with Yacoub and his ministry. I have also seen the Lord bring partners together as Faith Community Church discerned and launched a major ministry initiative about five years ago.

Some key church leaders believed that God was calling us to become "a house of prayer for all nations." I had crossed paths with Pastor Ebenezer, a young pastor who grew up as a Congolese refugee in Rwanda, and later Kenya. He had only been in the United States for a few years. I began to sense that the Lord might be bringing us together for ministry, as part of that emerging house of prayer identity.



**What has blessed and stretched my faith has been the “unity amidst diversity” that I have seen expressed in the team which has come alongside Yacoub. This is the body of Christ at its best.**

What penetrated my heart to the core was my new friend’s unshakable confidence that he could, and did, experience God’s supernatural provision and protection in answer to humble and hungry prayers. He had, I was soon to learn, the sort of God-confidence that is only forged in the fires of adversity. Ebenezer took a step of faith and joined our ministry team. I began to see prayers, his as well as mine, answered at a frequency and depth I had only imagined possible.

Faith Community Church has moved from dreaming of being “a house of prayer for all nations” to walking in that identity. One of our fundamental values, in addition to praying *for* the nations of the world in a 24/7 prayer setting, is to be a prayer ministry that is shaped *by* the nations.

Too often I have thought of the “one body, many parts” imagery in 1 Corinthians 12 as being limited to individuals with unique and diverse spiritual gifts. We need those gifts. But I have a growing appreciation for how God is bringing together all the parts of the body for his glory. That includes those parts of the body that have been gifted not only by the Spirit’s em-

powerment, like a gift of administration, but also by the Spirit’s redemption of life experience, like a gift of faith birthed in a refugee crisis.



Yacoub Rasul (name changed) with Blake Wood at a Valentine’s Day event hosted at Faith Community Church to bless a specific people group in the Harrisonburg, Va., area. Pastor Blake notes that the Lord has given Yacoub special favor with this group, who are originally from the Middle East. Courtesy of Blake Wood



Pastor Ebenezer (left) with Pastor Blake Wood at Faith Community Church, Harrisonburg, Va.

Courtesy of Blake Wood

God is calling us to do more than simply welcome immigrant brothers and sisters to participate. Instead, we need to humbly recognize that God has prepared them uniquely to be influencers and leaders. My experience has been that too often a ministry feels we have fulfilled our Christian duty if we “welcome” everyone. But it requires a whole new level of faith to invite into leadership, and submit to that leadership, sisters and brothers from a different cultural frame of reference.

We don’t have the same understanding of time. We don’t have the same appreciation for order. We don’t have the same definition of success. But we also don’t have all the same fears; nor all the same stumbling blocks; nor the same complacencies. God has uniquely and divinely shaped them through their home cultures. He has shaped them through the testing of their faith. He has made them to be an indispensable part of his body and we neglect their full contribution to the detriment of God’s mission.

Because of these beautiful connections and partnerships that only the Lord could orchestrate, God is doing much more than I could have hoped or imagined.

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*Blake Wood is Lead Pastor of Faith Community Church, Harrisonburg, Va., a congregational partner of VMissions.*

# The Impact of Ministry Collaboration

Partnering with the global church has enriched the outreach and mission outlook of church plant Iglesia Shalom, Waynesboro, Va.

BY VERONICA SANCHEZ



**O**ur ministry of church planting, pastoring, and gospel outreach has been deeply impacted by partnerships that God has brought together. We know that God is on mission in

the Waynesboro, Va., community where we have planted a new community of faith.

We have been in fellowship with Waynesboro Mennonite Church in various ways: spending time together at Christmas, bilingual church services, and sitting down together at tables to share American and Latino foods and fellowship. Each community is learning from the other's culture. We view this as a way of praising God together in the unity of the Spirit. We share a time of fellowship for an afternoon, including Mexican-style roasted corn called 'elote,' playing games and music, all as co-laborers in Christ without distinctions of race, economic status, or educational background. These times of fellowship have made the congregations experience a wonderful sense of unity from the Holy Spirit.

We have also participated in the SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) program in partnership with VMissions, supporting a family that needed a renovation on the roof of their house. The owners of the house were surprised when a group of Latinos appeared in their community to do this work with love, and to bless their family. Seeing the passion of the leaders of the SWAP program, and their testimony, motivated us to continue collaborating with the global church, and to continue impacting others by working together to bring joy to families in need. Together, we do more.

In planting and pastoring Iglesia Shalom Nuevo Comienzo, we have developed a ministry network

with the Mennonite churches of Virginia Mennonite Conference's Southern District. Through that partnership we have received spiritual support, economic and pastoral care, and prayer. We have collaborated in social events where we share a good dinner and then share the good news of Jesus with others.

We also continue to relate to churches in Mexico. We have walked alongside them, carrying the good news at Christmastime to people who, at that time

of year, are the most open to receiving the message about Jesus. We gather in the church of Pastor Godinez in Aguascalientes, to participate in their community lunch program, which feeds fifty women and children. We lead a Bible study

for them and bring them gifts and Bibles. For us, the most rewarding part of this experience is the smiles we get from the children!

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*Veronica Sanchez is a church planter and co-pastor with her husband Armando at Iglesia Shalom Nuevo Comienzo, Waynesboro, Va.*



Serving with SWAP: (left to right) Giovanni Castaneda, Bonifacio Hidalgo, Eliseo Santiago, David Gingerich, Armando Sanchez, Jordan Hernandez, and José Luis Hernandez. (Not pictured: Veronica Sanchez, Tomasa Castaneda). Photo by Veronica Sanchez





Elena and Freddy Satalaya serve in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, with the Iglesia Evangélica Menonita Boliviana. Children at the Esmirna church's Samuelito daycare center worship at the church. Mennonite Mission Network

## Being On Mission Through Our Prayers

BY ELENA BUCKWALTER DE SATALAYA



and our everyday life to sharing Christ's love with the families in our community.

This year, we were transferred to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, to participate in God's mission through the Esmirna Mennonite Church. The first few months in an assignment are always full of learning and adjusting, a humbling time as any past ministry experience might not quite apply to the specific culture, ministries, and vision of the church in the new location. In the sacred space of laying down what we think we know, we watch to see what God is doing—and how we can participate.

*On mission* might also be the perfect way to describe the church with whom we're working in Bolivia. Because we live in the church building, we get to see firsthand the way the congregation relates to the church.

Weekly prayer services are a vital part of the community's life—conversation, prayer, sharing one another's burdens, lifting up the ministries of the church—I think those prayers are what give the church so much energy and drive to serve the community.

To be 'on mission' is not only a state of being. It is also an active, ongoing assignment. Our family has spent the last four years on mission in the Peruvian Amazon, dedicating both our work

The youth spend every weekend plus a lot of evenings together at the church, playing and planning outreach activities. Members with full-time jobs willingly give their days or hours off to volunteer at the church's daycare center or to prepare materials for the extensive Vacation Bible School program that takes church members to many different parts of the city to share God's love with children. The members of the church, and the church as a whole, are consistently in a state of being on mission, while actively participating in God's work in the church.

How can we be on mission together as a global church? I have been inspired and challenged by the importance that prayer plays in the life of our Bolivian church family, not only praying for one another, but lifting to God the ministries of the church, and other churches they are connected to around the world.

Sending and receiving mission workers undoubtedly brings us closer to the global community. However, it is just as important, if not even more so, to pray for the global church and the people and communities it reaches. We should never view placing our plans and goals for ministry in God's hands, and asking for his guidance as we work, as a secondary part of mission work. Praying for our churches, our global community of faith, and the ministries through which God works, is essential to be on mission as we partner in God's work.

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*Elena Buckwalter de Satalaya serves with her husband Freddy and son Matías in Santa Cruz, Bolivia with Mennonite Mission Network and VMissions.*

# Call to Prayer: Living the Lord's Prayer

Passion for God's kingdom motivates us to live Jesus' prayer in community—full of care, forgiveness, deliverance, and celebration.

BY CAROL TOBIN

Who among us doesn't know the Lord's Prayer? Its familiar cadence seems somehow sufficient to transport us directly into the presence of God. We know what it sounds like on our lips, but what does it look like in our lives as living words, lived out?

For one thing, this so-called "Our Father" would have to be lived out by a community of God's sons and daughters, participating together in behalf of the kingdom purposes of the Father. A few years ago, my husband Skip and I caught a beautiful picture of just such a thing. We were visiting the precious brothers and sisters from the Life Enrichment Church in northeast Thailand. A dinner was held in our honor: a feast of fish and sticky rice which several dozen of us ate sitting politely on rice mats on the floor of a leader's home.

But the buzz of joy in the room had nothing to do with us. Our friends were reveling in the kingdom, power and glory of God revealed in the context of their activities earlier that week. The story became clear, and it was a beautiful expression of what our Lord prayed would be the shape of the life of his family: vision for the kingdom, generosity in knowing that provision comes from God, power in the ever-extending flow of forgiveness, deliverance from evil and resounding celebration.

A young woman named Ying had died. She was HIV-positive and blind. She had heaped shame on her family; fellow villagers wanted nothing to do with her. But Yute and his wife Tukata, leaders of a village church and HIV-positive themselves, were ready to proclaim to Ying the same generous forgiveness that had changed their lives. They poured their loving attention upon this dying woman. Before Ying died, she told her new friends that she had had a dream in which she was dressed in pure white, standing cleansed and whole before Jesus.

Despite the fact that there is usually great resistance by village leaders to Christian funerals, Yute forthrightly asked the headman for permission to hold a Jesus-centered ceremony at the temple. He was told that because the spirits there were too fierce,

the monks had fled. The headman learned that day that "God's children" are not afraid of fierce spirits! "He delivers us from evil."

The greatest shame in Isaan culture is to die without friends gathering, without the monks chanting their blessings. This is what Ying's family expected. But instead, Life Enrichment Church members from different house churches showed up in force



Yute and Tukata.  
VMMissions photo

and, as is the custom, stayed with the family until the ceremonies were completed. Then the family could rest assured that the spirit of the deceased would have no further reason to linger about the premises.

Contrary to custom, they did not come eager to stay awake through those long nights gambling and eating and drinking at the expense of the host. They came with food and musical instruments, ready to sing in the local style and share stories of how their lives have been changed by Jesus. Here was the power of a family on mission together! Needless to say, Ying's relatives were powerfully impacted. "I want to join this Jesus family too," declared her uncle.

So, there was euphoria at the party we attended. Our friends experienced the joy of working together to see a little slice of God's kingdom come and his will be done, on earth as it is in heaven! They had not simply prayed the prayer; they had lived it as well. Isn't this what we long for? May passion for the kingdom motivate us as we pray our Lord's Prayer! May we also leap at opportunities to live it as a community of God's sons and daughters on mission together with the Lord!

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*Carol Tobin is a retired VMMissions staff member and mission worker and volunteers as a mission advocate.*





Rissa with children at Agape Home, Chiang Mai, Thailand. Courtesy photo

## Worker Profile: **Rissa Martin**

**Service program:** tranSend

**Serving since:** 2022

### **Assignment:**

I serve at Agape Home, an orphanage located in Chiang Mai, Thailand. We care for over 100 kids from age 0-21 and raise them up to know and love Jesus until they join Thai society or become adopted. I had volunteered at Agape Home several times before returning as a VMissions worker.

My roles are to coordinate with incoming volunteers, teach English in our Montessori Preschool, and manage the website and social media. I am committed to be here for one or two years under VMissions' tranSend program.

### **Biggest challenge:**

When I was here last time serving at Agape Home, I was a nanny and only with the kids. Now that I am working more in an administrative role, I have found challenges in managing my office work while also trying to love on our kids well.

My greatest hope is that our kids would leave Agape someday feeling loved by us and by their heavenly Father; so I have found it necessary to be more diligent in asking the Lord for his wisdom as to where to spend my time.

Oftentimes, I put a lot of pressure on myself to do as much as I can as fast as I can, but since I have been back, I have sensed the Lord pushing me to pursue the little moments: like feeding our newborn a bottle or braiding hair with our teenagers.

### **Biggest joy:**

My greatest joy is getting to see the kids we raise at Agape, and the nannies we hire to care for them, meet Jesus and choose to spend their life in relationship with him. Getting to see these women and kids being lights in their communities, which are full of darkness, is a huge gift for me to be a part of.

Recently, we had a baptism service. Eight of our kids and six of our nannies dedicated their lives to the Lord. It was one of the most beautiful things I've ever had the privilege to see. My heart aches for the Thai people and the lack of hope in their religion most of them choose to follow. So getting to see the Lord open the eyes of his children is a really precious thing for me to witness.

### **A typical day:**

At Agape, no day looks the same, but an average day might look like this: It always starts with morning worship, including everyone on our campus, where we pray, sing and teach. After this I often spend time teaching English in our Montessori school, working on newsletters or blogs for our website, or meeting with potential future volunteers. Throughout the day needs often come up and I can be our errand runner, or fill in for a room short of staff, always looking for moments to snuggle with our little ones. Now that our kids are on summer break we have many activities going on and lots of teams coming to help out. Everyday is busy, but always filled with lots of joy and sunshine!



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