

A Mouse and a Miracle

Debbie Coats

Recently, I went to visit a good friend and Christian doctor who works here in Cambodia. I rarely meet “Dr. Sam” at his city clinic, but went to talk with him about some medical business.

While we were there, a patient of his came in, a 16 year old girl named Sok Chia. She had dengue fever several months prior, but her blood platelet count was still extremely low. This is highly unusual. Normally, a week or two after one has dengue, the platelet count rebounds. Even after 11 blood and platelet transfusions, her platelet count was still dangerously low and at 17,000, it should be 150,000 – 400,000! She had massive bruising in her legs, her gums were bleeding, and she was bleeding into her muscles causing a lot of leg pain when she walked. Basically, she was slowly internally bleeding to death.

The week before, I had been praying that God would send me a patient with dengue fever, so that I could figure out why platelet counts drop so much with that fever. Dengue is a tropical illness transmitted by a particular species of mosquito. And now, God sent me a case right to Dr. Sam’s doorstep while I was visiting him! Dr. Sam had recently brought Sok Chia to the city from the border area where there has been conflict.

The day before Dr. Sam met Sok Chia near the border, a Cambodian woman had prayed over her because she was dying. The woman asked God to help Sok Chia meet a doctor who could help her get better. She had already seen many doctors and spent lots of money, with no success. The day after that woman prayed, Dr. Sam was in that same border area and met Sok Chia and her family. It appeared God’s fingerprints were all over this situation.



Sok Chia and her mother

Sok Chia was very sick, Dr. Sam brought her back to the city with him to give her better care, but he still wasn’t really sure how to reverse her continual bleeding. When I arrived, Dr. Sam asked me to take a look at her. After testing Sok Chia for nutrient deficiencies, I discovered she was very low in vitamin K. We gave her a significant dose of vitamin K, plus a continuing daily dose. Within 24 hours her bleeding gums stopped bleeding and her other bleeding symptoms began to fade! It was a turning point. Two and a half months later her platelet count is 310,000 and she has FULLY recovered.



When we had tested Sok Chia for nutrient deficiencies, I specifically set out to look for a Vitamin K deficiency. Doctors generally know that Vitamin K is important to treat bleeding, but don’t always think of it right away. Why did I? Because of an unusual encounter with a mouse in our house many years ago. We often have mice in our village home. They like to get into our clothes closet, the ceiling, and especially into a certain drawer in our kitchen.

A Mouse and a Miracle

Continued from page 1

Normally, we set out poison bait in the drawer. The rat poison contains coumadin (aka warfarin), which is a blood thinner that causes the mouse to die from internal bleeding. Usually, after about two or three days of eating the bait, we find the mouse dead somewhere in the house. One time we had a mouse that kept eating the poison bait but wouldn't die. It was a gnawer and was chewing loudly incessantly at night! I kept putting out more and more bait because the mouse would devour it all. I couldn't figure out why he was still alive. After five days we finally found him dead. I wondered why he had lasted so long after eating so much coumadin poison.

A few weeks later, while going through a box of supplies that I keep for my patients, I found two hard thick plastic bottles of Vitamin K that had been chewed through by a mouse. It had eaten my entire vitamin K supply of 100 pills! I was very annoyed when the mouse kept eating the poison and wouldn't die and angry when I found it had eaten all of my difficult to obtain supply of Vitamin K. However, all that vitamin K is what kept that mouse alive and allowed it to eat lots of extra tasty poison bait.

The mouse hadn't touched any other bottles, somehow instinctly knowing its body needed the anti-coagulant to counter the coumadin blood thinner in its blood. How did that mouse know? I later had to laugh at God's creativity. It was a lesson about the wonderful complexity of God's creation, but also a very memorable incident that showed me the importance of vitamin K helping to control bleeding that I never forgot!

All of this is just part of this story! After Sok Chia's nearly miraculous recovery, her mother accepted the Lord. Then her father and grandfather accepted the Lord. Then 14 other people, some of them relatives, became believers as a result of her recovery... and an answer to the Cambodian woman's prayers! Together these believers started a small house church in their village, where they all now worship together.

I wonder... did God send that mouse to my house so many years ago so we would quickly know what to do to save that girl's life?

The small house church



Summer Camps - Salt & Light – Matthew 5:13-16

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or visit www.covevalleycamp.com

Bezaleel Update

Seth and Stephay Rudeen, Mennonite Mission Network

From Seth:

It was a highlight for me when we provided a weekend activity for the students of Bezaleel to relax and have a bit of fun before their first-quarter exams. With our limited supply of games, the girls' side played Go-Fish, Uno, and Dutch Blitz. Over on the guys' side, we had a wonderful time throwing the frisbee around. (On the weekends, the girls have to stay on their side of campus and the boys have to stay on their side across the road, so we were not able to have all of the students in one place) What seemed like ten minutes turned into three hours of activities. Football (commonly known as soccer) is very popular amongst the kids and they play every weekend. It's been good to connect with the kids outside the classroom and give them a change of pace. We are planning more weekend activities, and maybe even a trip to the Community Cloud Forest Conservation, so the students can have an educational and recreational outing during their second quarter.



Seth painting the avocado trees with a calcium compound to prevent ants

The gardens are looking great. The Bezaleel fields have received an abnormally high amount of rain and in just three months the potatoes are already up past my knees. The avocado trees are green and leafy once again, but the never-ending ant battle rages on.

From Stephany:

What a time of growth it has been! I've continued my endeavor of learning a bit of Q'eqchi' with the students, which never fails to bring us all joy. At times, when I ask for the translation of a word from English to Spanish, the students will give me the word in Q'eqchi' instead. This way, I can write the word in Q'eqchi' on the white board and try to pronounce it for the students (which they love). It helps all of us learn!

There was one final activity before heading home for Holy Week. Eleccion de las Reinas, or "Election of the Queens," is a tradition in many Guatemalan schools. In each school one young woman from each class competes to become La Reina. This includes a show of talents, typical Maya dress, a message that they would like the audience to hear, and elegant dresses. At first I assumed it was basically like a fashion show. The six students who participated demonstrated such confidence and strong leadership during the competition, my opinion changed.



Playing Uno to students

Confidence is a trait that is lacking in many of the young ladies I teach, and it made me really happy to see these six women having fun, setting an example, and proudly advocating for themselves. Many family members showed up to watch de las Reinas (as well as the whole student body), and the auditorium was full! I had no clue so many people would show up, and I had been asked to give a message of gratitude at the end of the program, which felt like a pivotal moment for me in my anxiety of speaking Spanish in front of large groups. If the students could be so brave, so could I!

Bezaleel Update

Continued from page 1

To kick off our week-long vacation (most of Guatemala has Holy Week off), we were able to visit Community Cloud Forest Conservation (CCFC) just down the road from where we live. I know that I've said this before, but if any of you find yourselves in Guatemala, you must visit this reserve! We were able to feel fully immersed in the sounds of the native birds of Guatemala,



CFCC Cave

The Community Cloud Forest Conservation (CCFC) was started by Rob and Tara Cahiom, who were also mission workers at Bezaleel when they first came to Guatemala. Now, when school is not in session, Rob and Tara and their wonderful staff welcome groups of school-age women to the CCFC, who will receive seminars in agriculture, human rights, leadership, and more during their stay. Once the young women have completed this program, the CCFC gives a scholarship so that they may be better able to afford going to school. It truly is a win-win for the students! We are hoping to take the Bezaleel students on a visit to the CCFC so that some of them may be inspired to take advantage of this program. So many young people in Guatemala eventually drop out of school to work, but programs like this help encourage students to continue their education so they may obtain greater career prospects!

Upon returning to school after Holy Week, we were joined by the Board of Bezaleel from the Lancaster Mennonite Conference in the U.S. It was lovely to visit with them and learn more about the long-term vision for Bezaleel. Their hope is to see Bezaleel grow in size and success, so that someday there will be no more need for support or advice sent from the States. A couple of the board members have been helping support Bezaleel since its beginning and can speak Q'eqchi' well enough to speak with the students. We've enjoyed getting to show them what the students are currently up to and hear more about what Bezaleel looked like in the past. Bezaleel has been such an important part of the stories for so many students, teachers, and volunteers. I am glad it gets to be part of our story, too.

July 2026



For more information on Bezaleel
www.facebook.com/BezaleelSchool

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A Profound Sense of Gratitude

Kandace Glenn

I leave Cambodia with a profound sense of gratitude and grief. I don't think I've fully processed the fact my time there is finished and I don't have a plan to return. It still feels a bit like I'm on a vacation. However, I thank God for His good gifts to me: the opportunity to call Cambodia home for the past 10 years, the friends I've made along the way, and the new adventures awaiting me - wherever He leads.

Please continue to pray for my husband, Nico and me as we ask God to show us his plan/will for our lives. Also, please join us in praying for a quick and favorable result for Nico's green card. Thank you!



Pucketts goodbye for Kandace and Nico

A Message from Kandace's Mission Support Team

We want to express our sincere gratitude for the many ways you have supported Kandace during her nearly a decade of serving with EMM in Cambodia! We appreciate your partnership through your investment of prayer and finances. As you may know, Kandace is completing her service with EMM this August. We, her Missionary Support Team (MST), affirm Kandace's decision and look forward to what God will continue to do in and through her life in this next season.

Many EMM mission workers transition back to life in the U.S. after completing service. Kandace's situation is a little different. Although she and her husband, Nico, plan to relocate to the U.S. in the future, they are waiting for Nico to receive his U.S. spousal visa and will live in Indonesia until it is processed. While eager to move to the U.S. as soon as possible, living in Indonesia will give Kandace more understanding of Nico's home culture and language.

Giving options: emm.org/support/kglenn

Checks made payable to EMM

"Ministry of Kandace." on memo line.

Mail to: EMM, PO Box 8617,

Lancaster, PA 17604-8617



Cambodian friends say goodbye at the airport



Join us in Prayer

- Pray for John and Jeannette Puckett as they are home on furlough this summer. Pray for rest and refreshment for them and good connections with their supporters.
- Pray for Kandace Glenn as she completes her work with EMM in Cambodia in August. Pray for next steps for her and her husband.
- Pray for John and Debbie Coats as they are also on furlough. Pray for God's guidance for their continued ministry.
- Pray for all three of these missionary families who plan to be in Franklin District on July 26 for an evening meeting for an update from Cambodia.
- Pray for Cove Valley Camp and the campers and staff as they have a few more weeks of summer camp. Pray for many close encounters with God and lifelong friendships to form.
- Pray for Tim and Julie Groff and their ministry in Belize. Pray for their children as they follow God.
- Pray for Jagganath and Pompa and their ministry in India.
- Pray for many mission opportunities you have this summer to share about Jesus. Pray you will be sensitive to the Spirit to hear His voice and respond with words and actions.

NEWS ALERT

Rhonda Hunsecker has recently taken the position of Office Manager for the Franklin District. Rhonda is, and will also continue, serving as Secretary for Mercersburg Mennonite Church. Let's pray for Rhonda as she navigates her new role for the District and serves "as unto the Lord" in these positions.



Upcoming Events:

- **Cambodia Missionary Reporting**
Pleasant View Mennonite Church
July 26, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Come and hear the Coats, Kandace Glenn and Puckets give their updates.
- **Red Cross Blood Drive**
Tuesday, September 22, 12 – 5 p.m.
Mercersburg Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall.

Monthly Events:

- **Ladies' Prayer Time** ALL are welcome!
3rd Thursday of each month
7:30 - 8:00 AM
Franklin District Office
4856 Molly Pitcher Highway, Chambersburg.
- **Bible Study**
Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. (Shady Pine)

THE BURNING BUSH

of the Cumberland Valley (USPS 554-980)

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A Quick Evaluation:

Bishop Eric Lehman

Recently, I read the following quote in a book about parenting, “It’s easy to fall into the trap of *defining successful parenting by factors that are ultimately out of our control... ..but what you can control is yourself. If you define success around your kids’ reactions or behaviors, you are setting yourself up to fail.*” After reading this, I was able to identify some ways that I have fallen into this parenting trap myself. I was also able to see that when my focus is only on my child’s behavior, I tend to become overbearing or manipulative in my role as the dad. This reflection on parenting stimulated some additional thoughts about how we define and measure success in the Church. Unfortunately, in the Church we too often define our success by the choices of others. Let me briefly illustrate two common measures for success in the Church that need to be redefined.

Attendance is perhaps one of our biggest, and least effective, measures for success in the Church. We say to ourselves, “How many people are joining us in this thing that we are doing?”. Attendance is ultimately beyond our control. People are free to participate or not participate as they so choose. What we can control are our own choices and behaviors. So instead of defining success by how many are coming to us, I want to suggest a better measure for success is, **“How frequently are we going to them?”**. Additionally, drawing a big crowd doesn’t necessarily mean we are being faithful in our commission from Jesus to “Go and make disciples of all nations.” The assignment is to “Go”. Therefore, the measure for success cannot be “How many are coming?”.

Baptisms and commitment to follow Jesus are some other common ways of measuring success in the Church. While these may be byproducts of being a successful church, these too are decisions that we have no control over. We can’t force people to die to their old ways and be raised to a new life in Jesus. We can only model that death and resurrection ourselves. So instead of defining success by baptisms or conversions, a better measure for success is, **“Are we ourselves dying to our flesh and being raised in the Spirit?”**. Another way of saying that could be, “Are we resisting the urge to solve problems in our own strength and turning to the Lord instead?” or “How frequently are we listening to and obeying the Holy Spirit?”. To evaluate ourselves using this measure of success, we can read about the fruit of the flesh and fruit of the Spirit described in Galatians chapter five and then compare those lists to the fruit that we are experiencing in our own lives and our congregations. As we go and immerse ourselves in the world, which type of fruit are they seeing in us?

Churches fall into the same trap that parents fall into when we define our own success by the choices of others. When the decisions and behaviors of others become our main focus we will resort to overbearing and manipulative tactics. A mentor of mine once said, “Healthy things grow.” With this in mind, I am convinced that we will see numerical growth (as a byproduct) if we are faithful in being who we are called to be and doing what we are called to do. Let’s go be the salt and light in the world that Jesus has taught us to be. **Amen!**



Saying Goodbye For Now

John Puckett - Cambodia

After the youth camp, the youth have been showing up at our house every now and then to play soccer and to have youth meetings. Our daughter Evie has encouraged different youth to lead the sharing time at each youth meeting to instill the idea that we can all hear from God and we're all learning together. She wanted to remove the dependency of relying on just one leader to teach all the time and the youth have been doing a great job taking turns to share a short devotional each meeting. They've already had three different youth lead and we just pray that it will continue while we're away.



Pictures
From
Camp



Charitable Gifts made payable to:
Mercersburg Mennonite Church
10060 Buchanan Trail West
Mercersburg, PA 17236
Donate online: emm.org/jjpuckett
Memo line: Mission work of John & Jeanette Puckett
Email: johnbpuck@gmail.com

Our home in Cambodia



Giant lotus flower T found near
our house

We'd love to see you. Please contact us if you'd like to set up a time sharing, a meal together, or just to hang out! We will be sending out requests for pledge renewals soon. We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting our family and the school programs in our village.

Readers Corner



Chambersburg Mennonite

"But to each one of us there was given the grace... Wherefore he says... [He] gave gifts to men." And He himself gave some, on the one hand, as apostles, and on the other hand, as prophets, and still again some as bringers of good news. Finally some as pastors who are also teachers for the equipping of the saints for ministering work with a view to the building up of the body of Christ...

We are grateful that Joe Byler was listening when God reminded him, "Joe, I called you to be a shepherd," When the phone call came from our elder team, and Joe turned to his wife Naomi, her response was, "Why - of course!"

Prefacing the installation of Joe as our interim pastor, Delton Lehman emphasized that in large part Joe's "job description" is not so much ministering to Chambersburg Mennonite as equipping our body of believers to be the bringers of good news - to be the kingdom builders.

God has graciously provided. We desire to grow in our ability to be sensitive and out-reaching to the needs of our community.

Janelle Miller



Marion Mennonite

Our church was buzzing with excitement and music during our Vacation Bible School week, "Rainforest Falls, Exploring the Nature of God."



The children that participated (PreK-6th grade) engaged in singing, crafts, a Bible story, games, and snack time. They deepened their roots of faith by learning God is their Creator, knows their hearts, is a place of refuge and is forever! The children were challenged to raise funds the week of VBS for our own Tasha Lentz, currently serving with Mercy Ships.

If the children raised over \$300 (and succeed they did!), they received the opportunity to help give Pastor Dustin's new look. It was a week of memories for sure!

Martina Horst



Mercersburg Mennonite

In James 1:27, We read "Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." (NLT)

A number of years ago, a couple from our church felt a call to put this verse into action and approached our Leadership Team about starting an Oil Changing Ministry as an outreach to widows and single moms. That couple eventually moved out of state, but before leaving, they found someone else in our congregation to continue this ministry. Though, that couple eventually moved, before leaving they found someone else at Mercersburg to continue this ministry. Several fellows in our congregation are now involved with offering free oil changes, on a monthly basis, to widows and single mothers. What started out as oil changes, has evolved into sometimes making additional vehicle repairs or even a replacement to ensure they have a safe mode of transportation. Of course, this costs money and finances can be tight, especially for a widow or single mom. If you know of someone who would benefit from this ministry, please tell them about this

opportunity. If you feel led to bless someone in this way, by making a donation, or even giving a vehicle, please email merrcersburgoilchange@gmail.com

Rhonda Hunsecker



North Side Mennonite

Five nights, five incredible opportunities to sow seeds of God's love and teach God's word. North Side was once again blessed to have Adrian Black, pastor of Hagerstown Christian Church, and his wife Stephanie Black bring an immersive, interactive, and Biblically sound Vacation Bible School program to our church.



This year's theme was "Operation: Egypt Rescue", focusing on Moses, and how his whole life was a "giant arrow pointing to Jesus", as Adrian Black put it. Children learned through Bible trivia games, scripture songs, object lessons, crafts, and more.



By the end of the week, the kids had memorized Psalm 46:1-2, took a journey through Exodus, and learned about the parallels between Moses and Jesus.

It was also an opportunity for the kids to be showered with love by our amazing "Northumberland Siders". The hugs, laughter, and attention they received was yet another "giant arrow pointing to Jesus", especially for some of the children who are not church regulars.

Dakota Vaughn



Pleasant View Mennonite

"It is officially Summer time which means it's time to prepare for Vacation Bible School (VBS). VBS is one of our main local community outreach events and this year's theme is Rome: Paul and The Underground Church. It is a fun way for kids to learn about Jesus and grow in their faith. We provide a kids group and a youth group. It is such a blessing to get to see God working in so many different ways through this one week."

We also use VBS time to help raise funds for a mission project each year. Last year we raised funds for MDS. This year we plan to raise funds for The Sunnyway Early Learning Center which is through Cedar Street Mennonite Church.

Tawnee Poper



Salem Ridge

Our second Grief Share we started in February has ended. What a wonderful privilege it was to help participants deal with their grief. We are planning to host a "surviving the holiday's" event in November and December. This is a one night event for two hours with more details to come.

Our church started partnering with Life Center Church, in Greencastle, to help with Micah's Backpack. This is a program that helps feed our local school children over the weekends during the school year. Many from our church congregation have helped pack the bags, deliver bags and donate money for the food that goes into those bags. We are praying that the Lord will guide us in our decision of whether to start packing bags for the middle school here at Salem Ridge in the fall or just to continue helping Life Center in Greencastle.

Shante Good

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Build a Legacy of Faith, Wonder, and Friendship as **Director** for the Sunnyway Early Learning Center

What if you could build an early childhood program from the ground up? Imagine walking into a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility—with the keys, the autonomy, and the resources to shape its heartbeat.

Sunnyway Early Learning Center is a faith-based, Pennsylvania-licensed early childhood program serving infants through preschool. Rooted in Anabaptist values of peace, community, and service, Sunnyway will provide a safe, nurturing, and high-quality learning environment where all families are welcome. Hoping to open our doors in just three months, we are seeking a visionary, entrepreneurial director to breathe life into this space, and turn a new building into a thriving community that serves approximately 70 children. This is not just an administrative job. You will have the unique privilege and profound responsibility to make our mission statement a living reality every single day. You will be helping children grow in faith, wonder, and friendship—learning that they are made in God's image, and discovering Jesus through stories, song, and joyful play.

As *Founding Director* of Sunnyway, you will have the opportunity to:

Orchestrate the launch - design the program, build the foundational culture, and schedule the daily flow of the center. **Curate** the Environment - Choose curriculum, supplies, resources and equipment. **Assemble** your “Dream Team” - Interview, and hire passionate teachers and assistants who share the same commitment to our mission.

Qualifications

We are looking for a rare blend of structural competence and creative spark. The ideal candidate possesses:
Educational and Legal Readiness: Bachelor's degree in a related field and fully meets PA Director requirements.

Proven Leadership: A minimum of three years of early childhood experience, with a track record of leadership.

Vetting: Ability to meet all PA clearance and training requirements.

Heart for the Mission: A deep, active commitment to a faith-based, inclusive early learning environment that celebrates Anabaptist values.

A Launch Mindset: Adaptability, organizational brilliance, and genuine excitement for the creative start up challenges.

Key Responsibilities (once the center opens)

On-site Administration: Leading daily operations, ensuring a smooth, compliant, and vibrant environment.

Mission Realization: Ensure the mission statement is woven into the curriculum, staff interactions, and daily activities.

Regulatory Compliance: Serve as Director in strict compliance with PA DHS child care regulations.

Leadership & Team Management: Mentor, and inspire newly hired staff of approximately 13, maintaining required ratios and high qualifications.

Operations and Safety: Oversee daily operations, safety protocols, and ongoing licensing compliance.

Community and Finance: Manage enrollment, cultivate strong family communication, and oversee financials.

Position Details

Type: Full-time, year-round position.

Timeline: **Hiring immediately** to allow preparation time before the center's opening.

Salary and Benefits: Information available upon request.

Contact Mike Shank at cedarstreet430@gmail.com for more information.



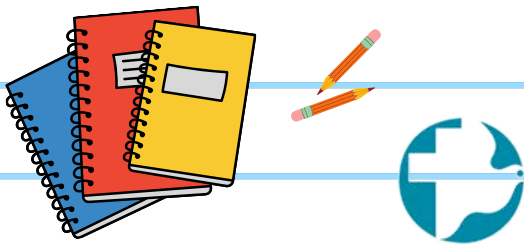
School Kit Challenge 2026

With the first stroke of a new pencil on a crisp notebook page, a child has the potential to write an amazing story of resilience.

This summer, help 30,000 kids attend school by donating 30,000 school kits by August 31.

Together, we can share God's love with some of our youngest **global** neighbors. Will you sketch out pathways to success with pencils, create noteworthy memories through notebooks and remove barriers to education with erasers?

Visit <https://mcc.org/school-kit-challenge> to get more information or click the buttons below.



The kingdom of God is advancing!

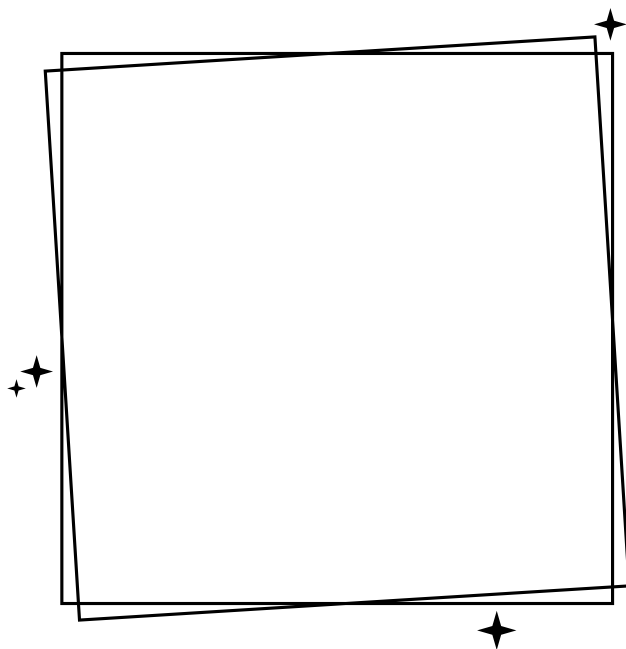
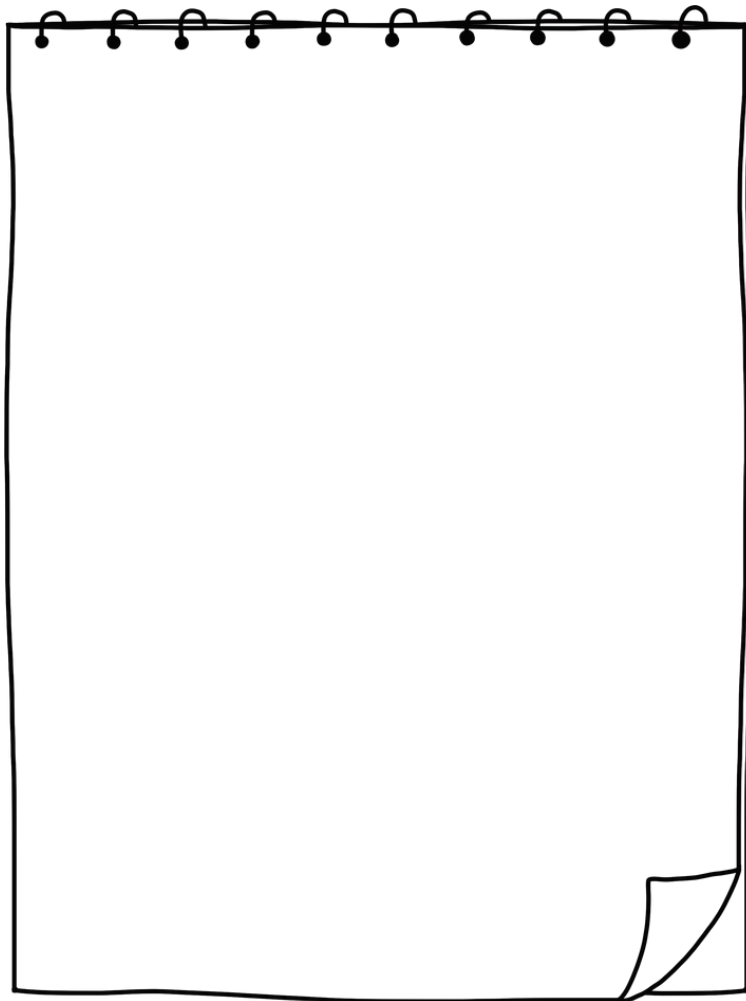
Join us for a gap year – **engage** in three months of hands-on, cross-cultural discipleship training in Lancaster, Pa. Then **serve** five months in one of EMM's priority regions. The program runs from September 6, 2026, to May 14, 2027.

Your life will never be the same!

For information visit: [EMM.org](https://emm.org)

The deadline for the **October** issue of "The Burning Bush" is **September 11, 2026**. If possible, please email your information to: office@franklindistrict.org

Burning Bush of the Cumberland Valley (USPS 554-980 Periodicals: Please deliver before Sunday



Intergenerational Volunteering

Excerpts from the Story by Jessica B



It's a summer morning at Sargent MCC Thrift shop in Winnipeg, and the back room is bustling with activity. Boxes are opened. Volunteers talk as they work, calling out quick questions, reminders and small jokes. In the middle of it all is Linda, who has volunteered at the shop since about 2016, with a short break in between. She knows her areas well: shoes, blankets, socks and suitcases. She also knows how quickly things can pile up and how good it feels when the shelves look ready for shoppers. Today, Linda is not working alone. Her husband Marc and grandson Max Little are volunteering with her again. Max is 13, and this is his third summer helping out at the shop. He travels from Michigan, to spend part of his summer in Winnipeg with his grandparents.

When Max talks about volunteering, he does not make it sound like a chore. "It just seems good to do, and it makes you feel good," he says. He adds that at the shop, you're never alone. There is always something to do and someone nearby. Max has tried many tasks. But he lights up when he talks about tools. His favorite job is helping Abe, a volunteer in hardware. He is proud when someone trusts him with a task and lets him learn as he goes. Linda smiles when she talks about Max in the shop and says he has done it all. When the shop gets busy, she can hand him a job and trust him to finish it – confident his work doesn't need to be double-checked. Volunteers nearby pipe in, saying "we love having him" and "he's a good kid".

"Intergenerational volunteering makes us all better. It reminds us that we are all the same and a little different." Kristine Heinrichs, MCC Manitoba's thrift coordinator, says intergenerational volunteering is becoming more common, especially in the summer, when families travel and visit each other. She also notes that many people think volunteering must be long-term or for long hours. But short-term volunteers "add flavour", she says and every gift of time and skill helps the thrift community and MCC's work. Volunteering across ages helps everyone. Young volunteers often know trends and products that puzzle older volunteers. Older volunteers, in turn, teach the value of hard work, consistency and generosity. "Intergenerational volunteering makes us all better," she says. "It reminds us that we are all the same and a little different."

Max already has a sense of the bigger picture. When asked how MCC Thrift impacts others, he connects the store to people around the world who need support. "There are donations to other countries and to people who don't have much stuff, and they need help and food," he says. "MCC helps with that."

That link is real. When people shop, donate or volunteer with MCC Thrift shops, they support MCC's relief, development and peace work around the world. In Manitoba alone, there are 16 MCC Thrift shop locations, powered by over 1,600 volunteers.

Excerpts from the Story by Jessica B To read the full story, go to: mcc.org/our-stories

