

A photograph of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue sweater, lifting a young child into the air. Both are smiling and looking at each other. The background is a bright, slightly overcast sky.

PRAYERPOINTS

SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERS

“Is it worth the cost and effort to send short-term volunteer teams around the world to partner with missionaries and local believers? We who serve long-term emphatically say, ‘Yes.’ Volunteers open doors so we can share the gospel with more people. And they encourage us and local believers. As Southern Baptists already know, we can do more together than any one of us can do on our own.” – an IMB representative in Latvia.

“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”

John 10:9 ESV

VOLUNTEER COLLEGE STUDENTS WITNESSED TO STUDENTS IN WEST AFRICA

When Alice and the other volunteers returned to the United States from West Africa, they had a message from their local friend, Charles: “I believe the Bible is true, but please pray for me because I am afraid that my family will find out.”

The group of college students and campus ministers volunteered with Everett and Margot, workers in West Africa. They met Charles and other students at an English language club and shared the gospel.

“We would spend hours playing games and talking,” Alice said. At the English club, Charles shared his life story and asked deep questions. The volunteers explained the gospel to him. Now they keep in touch and pray for Charles to know the Lord.

“My time in West Africa has had a lasting impact in my life,” Alice said. “God showed me His sovereignty



A Karamajong man welcomes a student volunteer into his village in northern Uganda. IMB Photo.

in all nations and His heart for us to reach all across the world.”

Everett and Margot continue to minister to Charles and other students at the English center. They also encourage students to connect with local churches where they can find support.

“Becoming a believer here is very difficult, sometimes dangerous,” Margot said. “Most of the time, persecution means being ostracized or disowned from their family.”

Please pray for workers in West Africa as they reach out to Charles. Pray for Charles and others who are drawn to Jesus but fear persecution if they follow Him. Also pray that Alice and the volunteer team will keep following God in fulfilling the Great Commission.

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, missionaries around the world have been asking for prayer to be able to welcome short-term volunteers again. Here’s an update from missionaries in Japan: “Japan closed its borders in the early days of COVID-19. We rejoice that the doors are finally open for visitors! We have already received our first volunteer team. Join us in praising the Lord. Pray Jesus’ words in John 10:9 over Japan.”

1 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Praise God for volunteers from the U.S. who partnered with an IMB team. They provided art therapy for a group of physically disabled people while the caregivers relaxed and heard the gospel. Pray for these caregivers to have faith in Jesus and find rest in Him.

2 VOLUNTEERS. Pray for IMB teams as they prepare to host short-term volunteers. Ask God to bless all the logistics and details involved. Pray that He will prepare the hearts of volunteers, missionaries, local believers, and the lost for what He wants to do.

3 LEEDS, ENGLAND. Last June, college students from Okla. joined an IMB team in Leeds. They built friendships with international students, shared their faith, and answered students' questions about the gospel. Pray for the international students and for another volunteer group going this June.

4 JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA. Volunteers from the U.S. prayerwalked and shared the gospel in several downtown areas with the local IMB team. God used this amazing ministry to start three new Bible study groups. Pray that people in these groups will come to faith in Jesus and grow in the Lord.

5 MOLDOVA. "Three guys from our home church in Birmingham, Alabama joined us to encourage a partner church here," an IMB representative said. "We all went to a nearby village to share the gospel in homes." Pray that those who heard the gospel will trust in Jesus.

6 SOUTH KOREA. Seoul is a vibrant city at the center of Korean culture, where love for the arts flourishes. Last Christmas,



volunteers and IMB teams performed Christmas music on the street. Pray for Koreans who heard the gospel during this time to draw near to Christ and trust in Him.

7 VOLUNTEERS. Not all churches have abundant finances or a thriving missions culture that supports sending short-term volunteers. Pray for all Southern Baptist churches to partner with their IMB missionaries however God is leading them.

8 DEAF PEOPLES. "A Deaf team in Southeast Asia hosted three amazing volunteers," a worker shared. "They climbed mountains, ate fire noodles, and slept on the floor – all to share the good news with the Deaf." Pray for lasting fruit from these efforts.

9 POLAND. Volunteers from Tulsa, Okla. hosted a retreat in Poland for pastors and their wives. It was a refreshing time for the couples – a chance for them to rest and enjoy Bible studies with the group and date nights with their spouse. Pray for weary ministers in Poland.

10 PARIS, FRANCE. Student volunteers joined an IMB team and shared the gospel broadly in Paris. One man said he would not trust in Christ until God personally works in his life. Please pray that God will open this man's heart to see what God has already done for him through Jesus.

11 JAPAN. Praise God that Japan's borders are once again open to short-term volunteers. Pray that the Holy Spirit will draw Japanese hearts and connect them with volunteer teams, missionaries, and local churches so that they can hear and respond to the gospel.

12 CITY OF SAND, NORTHERN AFRICA. Healthcare workers often bring a clinic for the poor in the City of Sand. They offer to pray with patients in addition to offering checkups, nutrition advice, medicine, and counseling. Pray for patients who hear the gospel and for local pastors who follow up with them.

13 VOLUNTEERS. Pray that Southern Baptists and IMB teams will persistently seek out creative ways to serve the lost together as well as to serve each other.

14 TORINO, ITALY. "Counseling interns from the U.S. spent last summer offering free counseling in our city to increase their gospel reach," IMB representatives said. "Praise God for volunteers who use their unique skills received from the Lord. They are truly a blessing." Pray for gospel seeds to bear fruit.

15 VOLUNTEERS. As short-term volunteers partner with IMB teams and local churches, please pray that they will be an encouragement to missionaries and local believers to not grow weary in daily ministry and life.

16 TSWANA OF BOTSWANA. Word had spread that a volunteer group and an IMB team were sharing the gospel in a neighborhood. Four young men found them and asked, "Are you the ones sharing the truth?" They were seeking the gospel. Pray that more people in Botswana will seek out the truth of the gospel.

17 KAMPALA, UGANDA. "Volunteers from the U.S. helped our team launch discipleship groups for Sudanese refugee believers. We worshiped, studied the Word, and ate together. More than 100 people attended! Would you pray for Sudanese leaders to arise from these discipleship groups?"

18 VOLUNTEERS. Pray that the Holy Spirit will produce fruit from the gospel seeds that were planted during short-term volunteer trips. May He soften the hearts of those who heard the gospel and connect them with a local church or missionary.

19 MALTESE OF MALTA. "Volunteer teams from the U.S. helped host fun activities for a local community. They were instrumental in getting the word out about a new church," an IMB representative said. Pray for this new church as they reach out to the Maltese.

20 VOLUNTEERS. Ask God to connect IMB teams with Southern Baptists whom He is calling to international missions.

21 CARDIFF, WALES. "Each June, short-term volunteers from a church in Tampa, Fla. help our church in Cardiff run a children's sports camp," said an IMB representative. "Thank God with us for church partnerships. Ask that we will build on the new relationships made during sports camp week."

22 PARIS, FRANCE. "A group of churches came from the U.S. to start spiritual conversations with people," an IMB representative said. "We now have several contacts to follow up on. Please pray that our team will be able to connect with people and that many will come to faith in Jesus."



23 POLAND. A firefighter who had never been outside the U.S. before obeyed God's call and joined an IMB team and a Polish believer who's also a firefighter. They visited fire stations and had coffee and conversations with men about life and faith in Jesus. Pray for lost firefighters to trust in Him.

24 CITY OF SAND, NORTHERN AFRICA. Omar, Wafaa, and their granddaughter, Bushra, heard the gospel at a medical clinic hosted by a local church and visiting believers. Omar and Bushra accepted Jesus as their Savior that day. Pray that they will grow in their faith and that Wafaa will accept the gospel.

25 RIGA, LATVIA. "They were a fine example for me and for our church in evangelism," A local pastor recently wrote of a short-term volunteer team. "I was especially impressed by the simplicity of the way they related to people." Pray for God's continued blessing on His church in Riga.

26 PANAMA. A volunteer team from the U.S. offered English classes for high school students in Panama. While students practiced their English, they also heard the gospel. Pray for these students and the local church that is following up with them and their families.

27 KAMPALA, UGANDA. Volunteers from the U.S. helped an IMB team lead discipleship groups. One Muslim man asked many questions and came to the next meeting. Pray that Muslims who attend these groups will come to faith in Jesus.

28 VOLUNTEERS. Pray for short-term volunteers as they return to the U.S. and process all that God did during their trip. Ask God to provide believers who will listen to their stories and help them discern God's leading in their lives.

29 DEAF PEOPLES. A team of workers and volunteers hosted painting and cross-stitching workshops for Deaf people in Central Asia. They had great spiritual conversations. Pray that those who showed interest in Jesus will follow Him in faith.

30 SOUTH KOREA. Praise God that volunteer teams from the U.S. traveled to South Korea to help spread the gospel during Christmas. Pray that Koreans who heard the gospel will believe and connect with a local church.

31 POLAND. "We tell each volunteer team they are here to minister to three groups of people: the lost people, of course, but also the local church and the local IMB representative. Volunteers help in each stage of our work."

SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERS PLUG INTO LONG-TERM VISION OF CENTRAL ASIANS COMING TO FAITH IN CHRIST

By Lucy Watson, a worker in Central Asia



Young Central Asian women. IMB Photo.

Over 70,000 students from across Central Asia attend a university in our city. Most are Muslim and have never heard the gospel. Our team operates an English language center near the university, which provides opportunities for students to meet believers and hear the gospel. Each week students learn new vocabulary from topic discussions ranging from poverty to robots. Attendees gather with cups of tea to discuss the current book in book club. We also roar with laughter during karaoke and game nights.

Our team partners with university students from the United States who come for a summer or semester. They help to organize activities, and the connections they make are invaluable to ministry in our city. Student volunteers share about their lives and faith with new Central Asian friends while playing pick-up basketball, tasting local foods, or waiting for the bus.

In their short time here, the students connect their new Central Asian friends to local believers and churches who partner with us. Through such relationships, four Central Asians came to faith in Christ last summer. These new believers from three different countries are now connected with churches that worship in their heart languages. We're grateful for short-term volunteers who plug into the long-term vision of seeing Central Asian people come to faith in Christ.

Ask God to provide more short-term students to join the work in our city. Pray for them to have abundant opportunities and boldness to share the gospel. Pray that many Central Asian young people will follow Christ and walk with Him in obedience.

Ready to go? We can send you.

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