

FALL | WINTER 2022

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# network

Come

and see.

**Short Term Missions: Your Life  
Might Be Forever Changed**

**mtw**<sup>®</sup>  
Mission to the World

A summer internship in Uganda  
redirects a life and confirms a  
calling...and not one day too early.

## Little Did I Know...



Elizabeth got to take a group of teens to the zoo and out to lunch, after which she was able to share her testimony with them.

BY: ELIZABETH HUBER

I was in a season of doubt leading up to my internship in Uganda this summer—a very long, difficult season of doubt. Honestly, I was not looking forward to this trip for multiple reasons.

When I first said I would go to Uganda with MTW for the summer, I was excited beyond words, but as I wandered further and further into a season of doubt and distance from God, my excitement shrunk a tiny bit more each day. Why?

First, I wondered why I chose to spend the whole summer away from my family. I could have been saving up money, spending time at home, passing the days visiting coffee shop after coffee shop. But instead, I chose to go to Uganda.

Second, I felt so far from God. Not a brief dry patch, but months and months of doubt accumulating so that each day was a growing struggle to believe what I had always known. I knew, I knew, deep down that this trip would force me to face all my feelings of doubt from the past several months. I knew in Uganda I couldn't continue pretending I had it all together. Someone would know.

I knew.

Last, I knew this trip would give me clarity on what I really need to do in my life. For the last few months leading up to the internship, I constantly reframed what I wanted to do, saying “overseas work” or “living abroad” instead of saying what was true: missions.

I knew.

And here I am, only a few weeks later, changed.

God has used this trip, these people, and this place to radically change my heart. I am so infinitely grateful for each moment that led up to this. Even in the trials, even in the doubt, God used it all to lead me to where I am now.

The last few weeks of my internship were nothing short of absolute joy. There were highs and lows, of course, but there was so much joy in the midst of it all.

That is one of the main things I learned on this trip: how to truly seek joy in the midst of any circumstance; how to praise the Lord even when we wonder why.



A typical roadside fruit stand in Uganda.

Here's a journal entry I wrote a few nights before the end of my internship:

7/19/22

*I'm sitting here in tears. Today it really hit me. I was at a café with Kim [Church, MTW missionary in Uganda], and we were doing our weekly Bible study. She mentioned how she could not believe how soon I'm going to be leaving, how there are only 12 days left in my internship. She asked if I'm sad to leave. She said she felt like I have just been enjoying the past couple weeks so, so much. She said she felt like I was so happy at church on Sunday.*

*It's hard to put into words the feeling that overcame me in that moment, but it was a mix of joy and sorrow. I have really allowed myself to just be present here and stop thinking so much about the future. I have been filled with more joy than I have felt in months. >>*

>> Every second of this trip has been a blessing. Not every second has been easy, no, but every second has been a blessing. The culmination of the built-up anxiety, doubt, ungratefulness, lostness of the past months all exploded on this trip. I have been able to experience true rest because I rested in the Lord. I let go of all these ideas and worries about religion that have consumed me for the past few months and instead I learned to just seek Jesus. For months, I pushed away what I know in my heart I am supposed to do. For months, I found ways to rephrase what I want to do after college. For months, I tried to push away what I was seeking:

Missions.  
The gospel.  
Loving other people.



Elizabeth helped teach the children's Sunday school class at church.

*I always knew it deep down, but in my farthest moments from God I thought of all different career paths I could take to have better options financially, or to be more comfortable, but the things I have been scared of confronting have come forward on this trip. This joy, this joy, only comes from the Lord. From pursuing wholeheartedly what God puts in front of you, regardless of the sacrifice it may cause.*

*Tears welled up in my eyes as I told Kim I don't even want to think about leaving because I'm just so happy here and love it so, so much. All the past months when I was doing everything in my power to run away from Him and His plan for me, He knew all along that I would find my way here again. He was just waiting with open arms for me to come back and be reminded of why I am here.*

*Honestly, this trip was really scary for me, but now that I reflect on it, it wasn't scary for the reasons I originally thought. I think the real reason I was scared is because I knew this trip would reveal the truth in my life: the truth of what God has called me to do. I did not want to face the realities of it, I did not want to love this trip to the point where I was crying at the thought of leaving. I look forward to every moment I get to spend with the Ugandan people because I enjoy being in their presence so much. The thought of going from a lifestyle of simplicity to one full of greed and wealth sounds repulsive. But that is exactly where I am.*

*And I am grateful for this. Even though it has been a long journey getting to this point, it was all in God's timing. And not a day earlier.*

That journal entry sums up my feelings about this whole experience. This truly was the most beautiful, vulnerable, and inspiring summer of my life. God completely transformed my heart from the beginning of the trip until now, and I have been reminded of so many things I once held true: vulnerability, sharing with others when you need encouragement, the joy of the Lord, praising Him in the

**I am so grateful for each moment I spent in Uganda learning from the Church family, building relationships with the Ugandan people, and growing closer to the Lord.**

hardest times, and being obedient even when it may not be easy or comfortable. Our relationship with God is not defined by emotions, or how close or distant we may feel each day, because He is always here.

And last, I surrendered to the Lord in His call for my life.

I am so grateful for each moment I spent in Uganda learning from the Church family, building relationships with the Ugandan people, and growing closer to the Lord.

So, so grateful. Thank you, Jesus. 🙏

Interested in exploring missions? We're now accepting applications for 2023 summer internships. Learn more at [mtw.org/interns](https://mtw.org/interns).

## How a Vision Trip to El Salvador Helped Confirm Our Calling

A Q&A with  
new missionary  
Clay Jones

We recently interviewed new missionary Clay Jones about the vision trip to El Salvador that solidified his family's calling, propelling them toward a new MTW missions field.

### Q. Why did you decide to go on a vision trip to El Salvador?

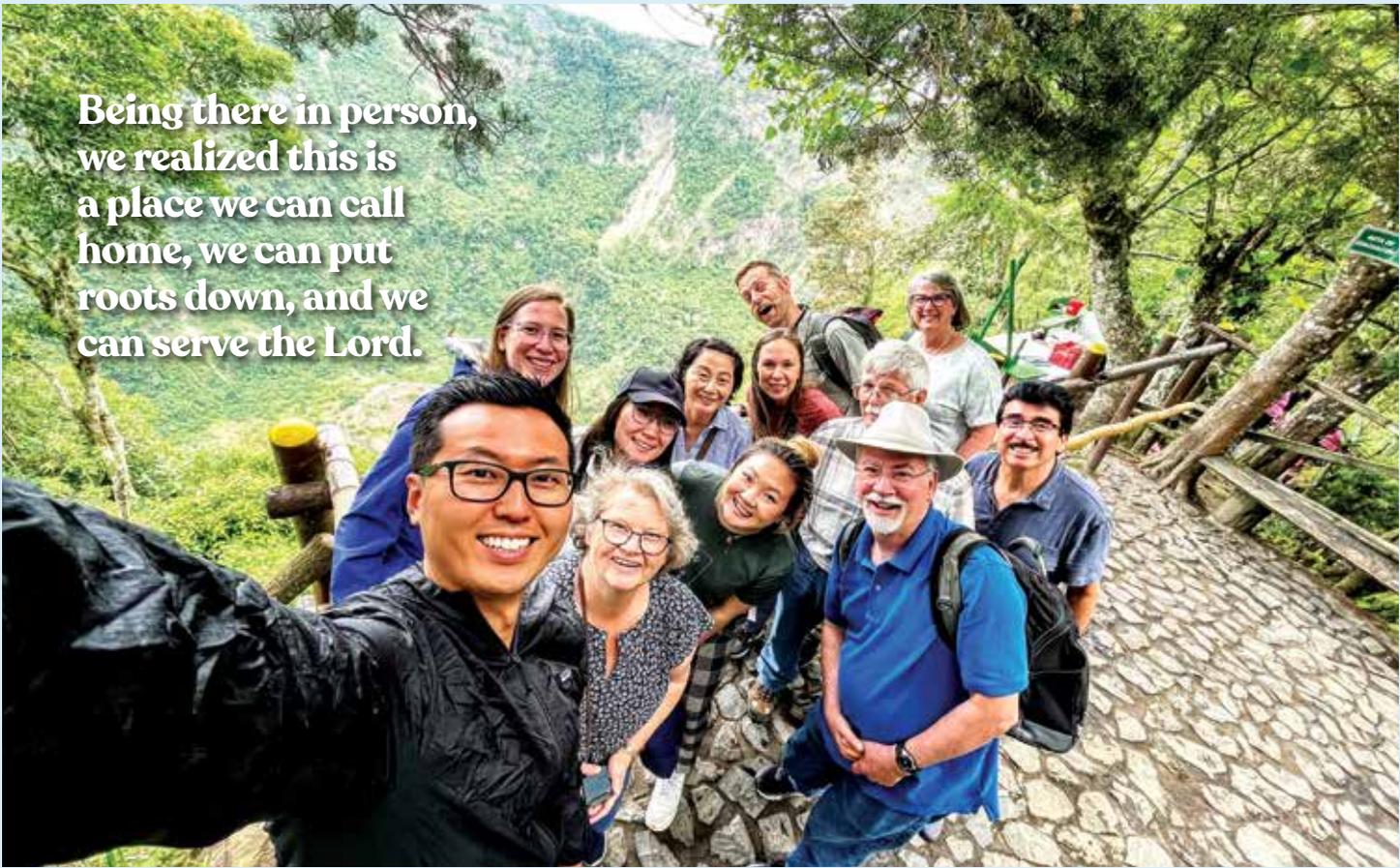
A. My wife, Hannah, and I felt the call to long-term missions at the beginning of 2021 after the mission conference hosted by our church, First Presbyterian Church Macon. We didn't know what we could do on the field or where we would serve. As we began to pursue this call to missions, El Salvador was not on our radar. In fact, we didn't know MTW was in the process of establishing a brand new work there. Our MTW candidate specialist, Tina Simpson, offered to send our bio to several teams in Latin America since we had not developed a passion for any country in particular; we just felt a call to Spanish-speaking people. Almost immediately we were contacted by MTW missionaries Rodney and Jana Davila about an opportunity to help establish a church in El Salvador. As we got to know the Davilas over the next few months (providentially they were on home ministry assignment and were only two hours from us!) we began to develop a great relationship with them and a heart for El Salvador. At one point, we were exploring three different fields and decided to solely pursue El Salvador. Our prayer was that the vision trip would serve as an opportunity for final affirmation from the Lord that this was indeed the place He was calling us to serve.

### Q. What did you do on the trip?

A. Although the vision trip was only four days, it felt like so much was accomplished. The most encouraging activities were the times we spent in prayer for El Salvador and for the team going to serve in El Salvador. It was great to hear Rodney share his vision and mission and to sense the excitement he had. We also got to visit an organization we plan to collaborate with, Mission to El Salvador, and hear about the work they do and the people they serve. It was so encouraging to hear that they have been praying for 12 years for a Reformed church plant in El Salvador! We had time for some practical activities like driving through some of the neighborhoods where we might live and past the school we might have our boys attend, and perusing the local grocery stores to have an idea of what is available for meals and cooking. In addition, we were able to enjoy some touristy activities like eating local food at local restaurants, taking a walking tour of the capital city of San Salvador, and visiting a dormant volcano and an outdoor market. >>



Clay and Hannah Jones, with their boys.



Being there in person, we realized this is a place we can call home, we can put roots down, and we can serve the Lord.

Clay and Hannah (back, center) pause for a selfie taken by MTW's Sam Kang. Sam co-led the trip along with Rodney and Jana Davila.

>>

**Q. What about the trip was instrumental in discerning your calling?**

**A.** Hannah and I were confident at this point that God was calling us to long-term missions. He had continued to open doors and now we had arrived at our final step in this season of our calling; affirmation that the Lord was in fact calling us to El Salvador. Everything about the trip not only affirmed our call to missions but also where to go. Being there in person, we realized this is a place we can call home, we can put roots down, and we can serve the Lord.

Although civil war, poverty, and addiction has characterized El Salvador's history, the people are strikingly kind, resilient, and welcoming. Mission to El Salvador has prayed over this country for more than 12 years to prepare for the work to come! Being there and having that peace from the Holy Spirit gave us that moment where we thought: "This is the place the Lord has called us to be."

**Q. Tell me more about your calling.**

**A.** I have known and felt a calling to missions for a long

time. The first time it cemented in my heart was during an opportunity to spend two months in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2009, doing college ministry. Unfortunately, when I came back from this trip with a passion and desire to return full time, I learned I had significant student loan debt, over \$200,000.

The desire to "go" never went away, but the ability was not there. Hannah and I were married in 2013 and God provided in many ways over the first seven years of our marriage. We were faithful to tithe and give thanks for the many blessings we received. Then in 2020, through a series of providential, amazing, and miraculous events, Hannah and I were able to reduce my student loan debt down to just \$8,000. God is good and faithful!

After we paid everything off, Hannah said to me, "I am not sure what God has planned for us, but I know it's not to just go live the American dream. He did this for a purpose, and I am excited to see what He has in store!" Indeed, it was something big.

At our church's mission conference in 2021, the Holy Spirit

revived in me the desire to go and serve. At least four different missionaries in their recorded videos (no one was able to be there in person) said the same thing: "No matter what skills, talents, or gifts you have, if you are willing to go, God can use you." This spoke directly into my heart. Afterward Hannah brought up going on a short-term mission trip as a family now that we were more financially able.

**At least four different missionaries said the same thing: "No matter what skills, talents, or gifts you have, if you are willing to go, God can use you."**

It was clear the Holy Spirit was working and God was calling. Over the next year we walked through the process of becoming missionaries with MTW, intentionally moving slowly each step of the way to make sure we were able to hear and discern the will of the Lord.

**Q. Is there value in going on a vision trip even if you aren't planning to serve in missions?**

**A.** I am 100% certain there is value in taking a vision trip without the intention of serving in missions. There are multiple reasons why, many of which I saw on our vision trip. A member of our church joined us on the vision trip so that he could understand the needs and help lead short-term teams to El Salvador. This was incredibly encouraging to Hannah and me!

Another vision trip participant came just to see the new field. She had a job at the time with no serious intention of moving to El Salvador, but she is now planning to join our team for an initial term. We also had people on the vision trip who came with the sole purpose of hearing and seeing the vision, that they might go back and be champions for the work that we will do in El Salvador. They desire to get the word out and see others join our team as well.

I would venture to guess that everyone that came on the vision trip came back rejoicing, celebrating, and praising God for the work He is doing and the way He has prepared the way for the work to come. [\[i\]](#)

Interested in taking a vision trip? Contact your regional hub to find out about upcoming opportunities at [mtw.org/findyourhub](https://mtw.org/findyourhub).

**Come and see.**

MTW vision trips are designed with you in mind. Some trips target one ministry or geographic area; others are wide-ranging. Although a few trips provide some opportunity for hands-on ministry, the focus is on vision rather than participation. All of them offer personal challenge and spiritual growth.

Connect with your regional hub to learn about upcoming vision trips at [mtw.org/findyourhub](https://mtw.org/findyourhub) or email [go@mtw.org](mailto:go@mtw.org).

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# Fostering the Ministry of Work

Helping Senegalese Start Businesses That Serve Communities and Advance the Gospel

In her small local village in Senegal, Antoinette dreamed of starting a sandwich shop to support her aging parents and younger siblings. But as a Christian woman living in a predominately Muslim country, her resources were limited.

Christians were often overlooked by employers, businesses, and landlords, who preferred doing business with Muslim men. Where could she get the money to cover the cost of supplies? How could she secure a building?

## A CONTINUING CRISIS

Antoinette is not alone. Young adults throughout Senegal are experiencing similar challenges. Thousands graduate from the universities only to enter a job market that does not support their education. With few employment options in the city, many roam the streets of their native villages, searching for any way to provide for themselves. Some get involved in crime just to feed their families. Others journey to Europe on fishing boats, hoping to find work there.

As a response to this job crisis, the Presbyterian Church of Senegal created the Samakag Institute. Samakag is anchored in the ministry of the local church and helps young adults think biblically about their vocation. They offer professional training

that encourages Senegalese Christians to come up with creative ways they can use their work to support their communities.

In February, Samakag invited MTW Workplace Ministries Coordinator John M.\* and a team of 10 business experts to lead a week-long Business Essentials training program at the Senegal Presbyterian Church plant located just outside the capital city of Dakar. The purpose of the course was to teach Senegalese men and women practical principles in starting their own businesses. Antoinette was one of the participants.

Each day, Antoinette and the others gathered as John taught the main session. He covered a variety of topics including formulating a business idea, break-even analysis, marketing to the target audience, and pitching a business. In the afternoon, the students divided into four groups to apply these concepts to their business plan and receive one-on-one coaching from the MTW team. This structure allowed students to make significant headway in the development of their businesses in a short amount of time.

“Mainly we want to inspire them to get busy, to try and do something, to try new things,” said Dick Senzig, who was among the team of experts and was closely involved with the development of the Samakag Institute.

## BUSINESS ESSENTIALS

“It was really a crash course,” said Emma Buresh, a financial advisor from Charlotte, North Carolina, who helped lead one of the small groups. She noted how quickly the students

grasped the concepts. “Even communicating these things to English speakers can be tricky so I just really saw God’s faithfulness and presence at work in the growth throughout the week.”

The obstacles Antoinette faced in starting her own business seemed insurmountable before taking the Business Essentials

their business plans to a panel of judges. Antoinette’s group selected her to compete for a grant awarded to the top three finalists. Although she did not receive a grant, Samakag awarded her a micro-loan, which she will pay back into Samakag to fund future training and provide loans to more entrepreneurs.



The large group divided into smaller teams for training and personal business development.

course. Now, her confidence grew as her vision began to take shape. She had developed the skills to begin her sandwich shop and support her family, yet there was still much to do to turn her dream into a reality. She prayed that God would continue to direct her steps and provide a way forward after the course.

God answered her prayer for clarity. At the end of the week, each of the four groups nominated two people to present

Her confidence grew as her vision began to take shape. She had developed the skills to begin her sandwich shop and support her family, yet there was still much to do to turn her dream into a reality.

## SUSTAINING THE LOCAL CHURCH AND LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

Four recent graduates of the Dakar church’s Timothy House also participated in the training program. The Timothy House is a two-year residential church planting training ministry in which four men and their families live together in a community, work alongside a local church, and receive a theological and pastoral education.

One of the main challenges they face as church planters is financially supporting themselves, their families, and the church. Samakag and the Timothy House equipped >>13

The entire training group—students, leaders, and local MTW missionaries.



BY: ANDREW HESS

# We're in this together.

Over 250 Churches Came Together to Pack and Send More Than 1200 Relief Crates to Ukrainians in Need.

Four generations of one family gathered to pack over 20 crates. Several family members then couriered the crates to Krakow.

As the people of Ukraine initially faced the prospect of war in their country, offers of help poured in to missionary Doug Shepherd in L'viv, Ukraine. Trouble was, the supplies offered, while well-intentioned, weren't always matching the specific needs they were seeing.

Even if they requested exactly what they needed, shipping was another challenge: customs, high freight costs, and long transit times made shipping impractical. People were suffering from lack of medical supplies such as suture material, bandages, and tracheotomy kits, and couldn't wait three to six months for red tape and slow freight.

After much prayer and discussion, an idea grew for which there was no model. Most people check just one bag when flying, but experienced travelers like missionaries, who have to move homes and families much more frequently than your average U.S. traveler, understood you could bring more. Much more. Why not fly in supplies as checked baggage on commercial flights? Six months of waiting would be reduced to 14 hours.

One of Doug's first calls as the idea was forming was to long-time friend Cindy Rhea who had recently retired

from her role as coordinator for missionary care at Park Cities Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. PCPC and the Shepherds have been partners in ministry for a long time, and Doug had worked with Cindy on previous projects and knew the coordination piece was critical.

In the early days, Dr. Wiley Smith, a former MTW missionary and seasoned volunteer, helped decipher the medical supply lists, and continued throughout the summer collecting supplies for churches across the U.S. As the project took shape, the team created three specific packing lists of materials that were most needed across the country and began talking to interested people and churches around the U.S. about recruiting people at their churches: people who would purchase materials, people who would pack the materials in crates, and people who would courier the crates to Krakow, Poland, for distribution in Ukraine.

## WILL IT WORK?

In May, the team began testing the concept with Park Cities Presbyterian Church and the North Texas Presbytery. Cindy worked with Emily Leonard, who currently serves as the coordinator for missionary care at PCPC, to help recruit people. One of Emily's first calls was to seasoned traveler Tommy Obenchain.

Within days Tommy was on a plane to Europe, bringing six crates with him. As the team had hoped, the detailed packing lists and clear labels on the crates allowed him to move through customs very quickly. When Tommy arrived in Krakow, a team picked him up at the airport and delivered the crates to a Krakow warehouse. From there a team was ready to transport the crates to a warehouse in Lviv, Ukraine, where they were processed and quickly sent to the places with the greatest need across the country.

Crates for Ukraine was born. Tommy made a video of his experience as a courier and returned eager to share about CFU and encourage others to get involved. In July, Tommy and another courier spoke in a PCPC worship service, asking for additional help.

Key to the success of the project was rapid communication and the ease of sharing information: MTW missionary to Ukraine Bradley Cordell built a website ([www.cratesforukraine.com](http://www.cratesforukraine.com)) and automated the process for those wanting information on how to get involved. The website was a game changer. It featured video clips from Tommy's first trip and a verse that has become a theme of CFU, Acts 11:29-30: "So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul."

Doug began talking about Crates for Ukraine on his weekly update calls, which were attended by about 350 people per week. The word spread, sparking more interest at PCPC and in PCA and non-PCA churches across the country.

## "WHAT CAN I DO?"

One of the unique aspects of the CFU effort is the many ways people found to be involved. Some people helped by providing materials, either from local stores or from online retailers, and others volunteered to pay for or donate

airline miles for airline tickets, which ranged from \$1,500 to \$3,500 per ticket plus checked baggage fees (which was still a bargain compared to other methods of getting the supplies). Others volunteered to help pack or transport the crates. Emily estimated that within PCPC alone, over 200 people were involved.



(Above) Cindy Rhea and Emily Leonard (right) with a room full of packed crates at PCPC.



(Left) The Morrison kids of PCPC got involved shopping for supplies to go in the crates.

One young mom at PCPC was looking for someone who would be a courier along with her. She struggled to find anyone who was able to go and shared her disappointment with her 70-year-old mother. Her mother said, "I'll go," and her two brothers also agreed to be couriers. In this one family, 11 people spanning four generations (ages 3 to 93) were involved in providing for, packing, and acting as courier for over 20 crates to Ukraine. A family member said, "Our family believes there isn't a better return on our money than giving it to God's purposes in the places where people are suffering the most. Nothing gets people's attention better than helping them in their time of greatest need." >>



(Above) The courier team from PCPC arrives in Poland. (right) The warehouse in Krakow where crates are stored before being driven into Ukraine.

### >> GOING NATIONAL

Crates for Ukraine quickly became a national effort as churches and individuals across the country heard about the need and answered the simple question, “What can I do?” Cliff and Carolyn Tuttle, from Trinity Presbyterian in Boerne, Texas, were able to gather crate supplies, but no one could pack and courier the crates. So Bowman Williams, a member of Redeemer in San Antonio who owns a shipping

**“One of the surprising blessings of Crates for Ukraine was how many churches got involved. Many churches who hadn’t previously been involved in missions have rallied to help pack and send crates.”**

company, had his truck pick up the supplies and take them to Dallas to the PCA’s Mission to North America Disaster Response warehouse. Seven churches in the Dallas-Fort Worth area with couriers went to pick up supplies that they were able to pack and take over to Poland. Many other churches across the country have worked together in the same way.

Through the entire CFU effort, the team has seen God provide in very tangible ways. Cindy said, “God has provided for so many of the details. It has been a beautiful picture of the body of Christ. Everyone pitching in and doing what they can to make this work.” Emily remembered wondering how everything was going to get done. She said, “We just focused on one crate at a time and have seen God provide each step of the way.”

### A MASSIVE SUCCESS

Doug recently shared on a Zoom update, “Crates for Ukraine has been a massive success as we’ve delivered aid in Jesus’ name to the neediest churches and places in Ukraine.” Later this fall, Doug and the MTW team plan to reassess the needs in Ukraine and determine the best ways to meet those needs moving forward.

Cindy reflected, “One of the surprising blessings of Crates for Ukraine was how many churches got involved. Many churches who hadn’t previously been involved in missions have rallied to help pack and send crates.” Another blessing has been the work that this effort has provided to people in Lviv. “It’s been a blessing to be able to do something amid such horrible news,” Cindy said.

The one who proved the concept, Tommy Obenchain, said, “I got involved in Crates for Ukraine because I believe this is work Christ has called us to do. Through this work, we are supporting our brothers and sisters serving as missionaries in Ukraine—supporting them in their work of sharing the gospel.”

The MTW team plans to continue finding ways to meet the ongoing needs. Many who have been involved in this effort are determined to help Ukrainian Christians long-term. Cindy said, “We are building relationships that will continue as we pray that our Ukrainian brothers and sisters will one day be able to start rebuilding. The Lord seems to be encouraging His people in the United States to be a great blessing to the people in Ukraine.”

For more information on how you can give and pray and to read recent updates visit [mtw.org/Ukraine-crisis](http://mtw.org/Ukraine-crisis).

>>> them with agricultural and entrepreneurial skills so that they are fully prepared for establishing a church in poverty-stricken areas.

Their businesses will also be an important tool for reaching out and serving their neighbors, most of whom are Muslim. By engaging in work that benefits the entire community, they provide a powerful witness to the love and compassion of Christ and His Church. The potential kingdom impact through business is immense.

“Business brings a variety of people together a lot like church does,” said John. “Hopefully, through the businesses they are starting, they will get to meet people and build relationships with them. Ultimately, they get to share why they love Jesus and invite them to church.”

### LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Antoinette, thanks to the Business Essentials training and the micro-loan, returned to her village with a honed business plan, a way to cover the cost of supplies, and a commitment to see her business idea through. She is just one of dozens taking the next step toward living out the vision set by MTW and the Samakag Institute.

Dick explained this vision further: “Samakag teaches that you don’t have to go to Europe [to get a job]; you need to get right with the Lord. You need to get motivated by the things that are important to the Lord and follow His paths. When you do, you’ll see new opportunities and we are here to help you accomplish those things you see as a possible dream.”

The team that traveled to Dakar is already making follow-up plans to spur on long-term growth. According to Dick, the introductory Business Essentials course is not just a one-off. It fits within Samakag’s long-term vision to host more in-depth trainings and get these young people established. MTW hopes to send a Workplace Ministries team to Senegal once or twice a year to lead a business training. There are also plans to replicate these courses throughout West Africa. John and MTW Regional Director Jim W.\* are currently organizing training for new Timothy House ministries started by churches in the Gambia and Burkino Faso.

These business trainings address a plethora of needs in the region. They motivate young Christians to be active and present

in their village. They are a crucial part of preparing church-planting pastors for ministry in urban and rural areas. They help church members become gainfully employed so that they can give to the local church. And they equip people and communities with skills to combat poverty.



Rebecca Diouf (left) with her business coach, Angel Rutledge



Coaches James Edinger (left) and Luke Trader (right) with Binta Sall

“We are kind of using this as a template of what is possible in other parts of West Africa,” John explained. “I’m hopeful that this will then become an example all over the world.”

Interested in using your business skills for missions? Visit [mtw.org/workplace](http://mtw.org/workplace). To watch a video about the Senegal trip, scan the QR code.



\*Last name omitted for security reasons.

## MTW Summer Internships

Across the globe, MTW missionaries are following the call to missions and bringing the message of hope and salvation in Christ alone in so many different ways. They're planting churches, fighting for justice, making art, teaching English—and so much more.

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**Our mission:** Making disciples among all nations

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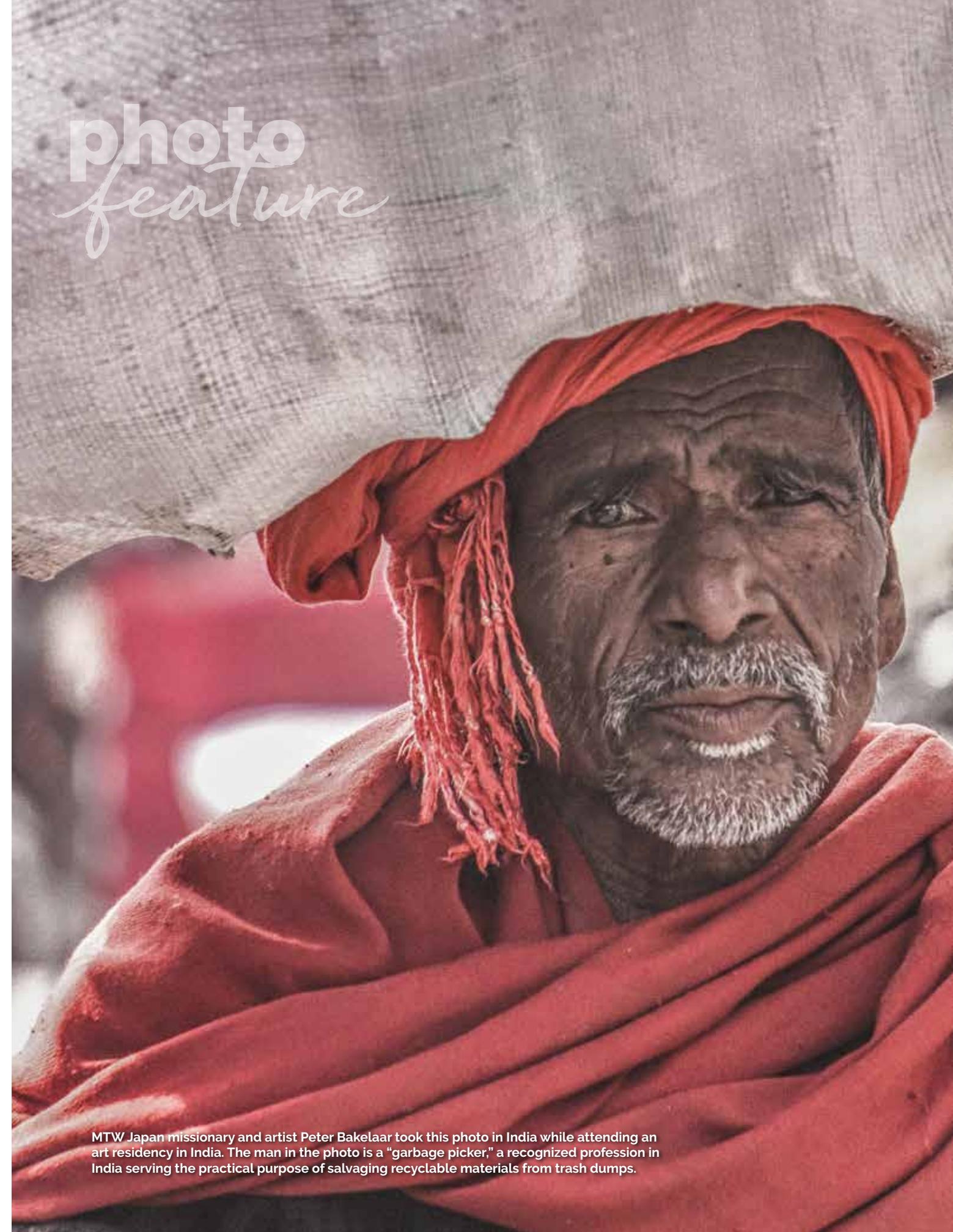
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photo  
feature



MTW Japan missionary and artist Peter Bakelaar took this photo in India while attending an art residency in India. The man in the photo is a "garbage picker," a recognized profession in India serving the practical purpose of salvaging recyclable materials from trash dumps.

*How will you steward God's gifts?*



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## FROM THE COORDINATOR

# Missions Leaders, Come and See

When some of John the Baptist’s disciples met Jesus, He asked them what they were seeking (John 1:38). They had heard John declare Jesus to be the “Lamb of God,” and wanted to know where He was staying. *Do you remember how Jesus responded? He said, “Come and you will see” (John 1:39). They did and their lives were forever changed.*

After Philip told Nathanael they had found the one whom Moses and the prophets spoke of, Jesus of Nazareth. Nathanael said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Do you remember how Philip responded? “Come and see” (John 1:46). Nathanael did come and his life was forever changed.

Jesus continues to invite those whom the Father is calling to Himself in places all over the world. How? Through His Spirit working in and through His disciples. We are hearing stories of more and more people coming to faith during the pandemic, but we are also hearing of a greater need for workers to continue the work of Christ all over the world. Don’t believe me? Come and see. Your life might be forever changed.

About 20 years ago I was at my presbytery meeting listening to a seasoned pastor in our

presbytery describe his call to missionary service. He was a leader in our presbytery and a faithful pastor of a local church. He described how a friend convinced him to take a short-term mission trip to Uganda—he had never gone on one before. It changed his life. After coming back, he and his wife immediately began preparing to go and serve long term. He thanked his friend, who he said was called by God to take stodgy old Presbyterians like him on short-term trips to expand their understanding of what God is doing all across the world. The pastor and his wife are still serving in Uganda today.

We want to invite pastors, mission directors, and church members to come and see. Come and see Jesus at work through His saints. Come and see the need for more workers. Come and see if God is calling you to serve in global missions. The first step is joining us on a short-term vision or mission trip.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38). [📄](#)



Dr. Lloyd Kim



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