



# IM NewsBeat

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2023

## THANKFULNESS

As we enter into the end of the year, with both thanksgiving in our hearts and celebrating the arrival of Jesus our Savior, we want to take time to reflect on 2023 and all that we have to be thankful for this year.

Here are a few expressions of thanks from IM missionaries and field workers to YOU:

“Because of your heart for the hurting, we have seen friends go from new refugees to business owners, from hungry to fed, from aimless to having purpose, from friendless to a part of our family.”  
—Josh & Bethany, Spain

“Because of your heart for missions, people will have the chance to hear the Gospel for the very first time as we launch New Life Church in Hokkaido, Japan!” —Doug and Miriam Bishop, Japan

“Because of your heart for missions, we get to build relationships with unbelievers through outreaches like our English Conversation Time!”  
—Sam and Lauren Riggs, Spain

“Because of your heart for missions, young men and women in France are being exposed to the Gospel through basketball.” —Tyler Justice, France

“Because of your heart for missions, hundreds of children and parents in Muslim villages have heard about the Son of God.” —Josh Provow, Bulgaria

Thankful **hearts**  
for your partnership in  
taking the **Gospel**  
to the Ends of the Earth

In addition to the many amazing stories of changed lives, the Gospel going to the Ends of the Earth, and so much more, we want to share creative ways you can have a thankful heart this holiday season. Here are five “thankful hearts” ideas for the month of November that can be done individually, as a family, in your small groups, or at work. We hope these activities inspire thankfulness in your heart this month.

### 1) November 2 – Thankful Hearts with a Thankfulness Pumpkin

Begin the month of November with a thankful heart by creating a thankfulness pumpkin. Write all of the things you’re thankful for on the pumpkin. Set the pumpkin somewhere you will see it each day to be reminded of how much you have to be thankful for.

### 2) November 9 – Thankful Hearts Personal Message

On November 9, take a moment to send a personal message to a special person in your life expressing how thankful you are for them. This may be a catalyst for reaching out more often to close friends and family to express your gratitude for who they are and for all they do.

### 3) November 16 – Thankful Hearts Social Media Giveaway for IM Heart Mug

On November 16, IM will post on social media (Facebook and Instagram) pictures of the IM heart mugs from missionaries. You will be invited to tag a friend in the comment section of this post to let them know you’re thankful for them. When you do so, you will be entered into a giveaway. We hope this post will have a domino effect of “thankful hearts” spreading thankfulness to many through the tagging.

### 4) November 23 – Thankful Hearts Social Media Challenge

On November 23, we invite YOU to post a photo on social media of one thing you are thankful for. We want to flood social media with thankful hearts. Tag us (@imincorg) to join the challenge!

### 5) November 30 – Thankful Hearts Pray

On November 30, take a moment of your day to pause and pray. This may be in the car going to work or school drop-offs, in the morning drinking your coffee, or before bed. With thankful hearts, we can partner in prayer with those who have sacrificed everything to move overseas and dedicate their lives to sharing the Gospel.

For more details and instructions on the activities, please visit <http://iminc.org/news/november-thankful-hearts>

Most of all, we want to express our thanks to YOU for partnering with us in taking the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth!

*Lauren Biggs has served as media and content coordinator for IM, Inc. since February 2020.*



## FAMILY HAPPENINGS:

**Hannah Goucher** (IM missionary to Japan) was recently commissioned by her home church in Olive Branch, MS. She arrived to the field in Japan on October 31.



**Scarlet Bishop** was elected student body vice-president for her Japanese elementary school.



**Emily Petty** will marry Osam Sakamoto on December 15, 2023. Please pray for God to bless their marriage and continued ministry in Tokyo, Japan. Pray also for Osam who will go before the IM board in December.

Our **IM missionaries in Bulgaria** had a wonderful national conference in Tryavna with more than 130 people attending, 7 baptisms, and great preaching. They shared, “Thank you for praying and supporting the work in Bulgaria! God is working!”



**Emily Edgmon** will marry Nic Cruz on December 11, 2023. Please pray for God’s many blessings over their marriage. Emily will graduate from Welch College in May 2024.

**The Hubbards** in Japan want to express their heartfelt gratitude to you for your unwavering support of Hope Alive Church. “We saw an average of four new visitors for the first nine months of 2023. Many of the people who came stepped into a church for the first time ever! We are seeing that growth come about in part because of your support of IM and specifically Hope Alive missionaries. You are impacting Japan with the Gospel in great ways. Thank you for your partnership.”

Twenty pastors from across the West African country of **Togo** gathered on October 23 for a training seminar led by IM missionaries (**Dennis Teague, Kenneth Eagleton, and Matt Price**) and **Ivorian leaders** from our Free Will Baptist work in the Ivory Coast. Continue to pray for these pastors!



## PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the IM board meeting taking place on **December 5-6**. Pray for the candidates who will go before the board seeking to be appointed. Pray for wisdom and for God’s will in each of the decisions and topics that will be discussed.

## GIVE FROM THE HEART

Give from the heart to take the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth! Receive an “I heart IM” mug by **giving a special end-of-year individual gift** of at least **\$200** directly to the **World Missions Offering**



from **December 1-12, 2023**. Complete the FULL IM mug series set (including mugs featuring seven other countries) by giving a monthly individual donation of at least \$150 to the World Missions Offering. Each month we will mail you a different IM Mug. You can mail a check, give online at **iminc.org/give**, or set up a recurring payment with an ACH draft form accessible from our website. We are currently at \$513,896 for our \$1 million goal for this year’s WMO. Thank you for partnering with us this year in giving!

## THE EAGLETONS HAVE LANDED

Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton were commissioned in 1985 and have returned to American soil for their new “home base”. Kenneth will continue serving with IM as the Director of Field Partnerships.



Curt Holland reflects on their ministry through the years, “Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton, after serving faithfully in a medical ministry in Ivory Coast, have brought their family legacy in Brazil full circle. Their ministry with FWB churches, training seminaries, and pastors for the past 15+ years in Brazil continued the rich heritage and labors of IM missionaries. Over the past 65+ years, when you say ‘Brazil’, the name Eagleton has many times followed. Kenneth and Rejane recently said their goodbyes to Brazil as missionaries, but our FWB ministries in Brazil can continue onward.”

## FOULKS TAKES LEAVE OF ABSENCE



IM Missionary intern Bryson Foulks recently married his long-time girlfriend, Marla. He will be taking a leave of absence from his ministry in France with IM. This break will provide valuable time for their marriage to flourish and

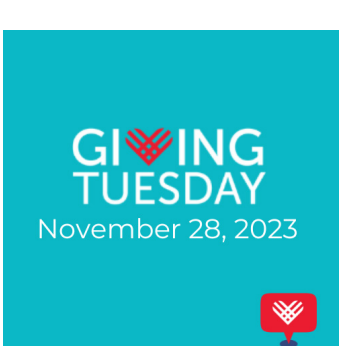
enable them to carefully evaluate their next steps. We want to congratulate Bryson and Marla on their marriage, and we hope they will return to work with our IM family in the future.

## CASHES SUBMIT RESIGNATION

Ken and Jayne Cash, IM missionaries to Bulgaria, have submitted their resignation. After being appointed career missionaries in May 2020, they left their ministry in the States in obedience to God’s call and moved to Bulgaria. They served faithfully alongside the Bulgarian team, completing each task given to them. They now feel God is leading them back to the States for their next chapter. Ken and Jayne, once again, are being obedient to God’s direction for their lives.



## GIVING TUESDAY AND THE WMO



Join us on Giving Tuesday (November 28) for a special Livestream event on our Facebook page (**<https://www.facebook.com/iminc.org>**). Giving Tuesday is a nationally recognized day (always the

Tuesday after Thanksgiving) focused on generosity. On this special day, you are invited to give generously to the World Missions Offering. We will release more details on our social media about the Livestream event and how to give. Make sure you follow us so you’re one of the first to know!



# MEET YOUR MISSIONARIES

**Sam and Lauren Riggs (Spain)** have been married since 2017, after meeting at Welch College. Their introduction to missions played an important role in their decision to pursue a career in missions.



Sam grew up as a missionary kid in northern Spain, and Lauren participated in both ETEAM and CMP. They recently completed their two-year internship in Spain where they taught English, led prayer groups, preached, and filled in wherever they were needed. Their favorite part of this internship was building relationships with non-believers during English conversation time and also seeing God work in the lives of new believers. This past year the church in Alpedrete has seen four baptisms of new believers! Praise God that He is moving and working in Spain.

Please pray for Sam and Lauren and their two children, Emilia and Theo, as they raise funds in the States. They would love to visit your church or sit down and have coffee with you and share how God has worked in their lives these past two years and where they feel God is leading them in the future ministry at Villanueva Church in Spain.

**Click here** to support the Riggs financially or subscribe to their newsletters.

## STATESIDE MISSIONARIES

Many Stateside missionaries are scheduling services at churches across the country to raise awareness and financial support for their ministries. If you'd like to host a missionary at your church so they can share how God is using Free Will Baptists across the globe to fulfill His Great Commission, visit [iminc.org/our-impact/im-missionaries/stateside-missionaries](https://www.iminc.org/our-impact/im-missionaries/stateside-missionaries) to view the full list of Stateside missionaries and their contact information.

Visit [www.iminc.org](https://www.iminc.org)  
for the most up-to-date news.





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Your partnership in the Gospel yields dividends around the world in lives changed and churches planted. If you would like to discuss ways to see that impact continue long-term, call 1-877-767-7736 for information on Planned Gifts or Estate Planning.