



# IM NewsBeat

MAY / JUNE 2024

## STUDENTS, MISSIONS, & DISCIPLESHIP

Each summer at IM, we meet students in high school, college, and beyond with an end goal in mind. Some have a clear idea how to get there. Some are figuring it out as they go. One thing is certain: all need guidance. Wherever you (or your students) are, IM wants to help you get where the Lord is leading you. Along the way, we hope to open your eyes to what this looks like as a missions-minded believer. The primary way we do this is through our student missions programs: **ETEAM**, **CMP**, and **OA**.



Sometimes, though not always, the Lord uses these programs to speak to a student’s heart and lead him or her to a life of overseas service. We trust the experience these students gain through their training and time overseas will encourage them to look at life through a different lens than before. As my friend and colleague Danny Gasperson says, we are not called to be believers who simply mind missions, but rather, we are called to be missions-minded believers.

Wherever life takes you, it is our prayer that you do not have to try to figure it out on your own. You have a friend in IM! We want to help you “labor with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.”

Read the full article in the April-May 2024 issue of ONE Magazine here: <https://bit.ly/43XYXq8>

By Leslie Nichols, Director of Mobilization at IM

I recently got the chance to visit with a missionary family I met while I was on ETEAM France back when I was in high school. While with them, I had the opportunity to thank them for their impact in my life. Today, as a career missionary, I look back on my journey to get here, and the path was filled with encouragement from so many others involved in missions: Hanna Mott, Heath and Joni Hubbard, Donnie and Ruth McDonald, Matt and Cristina Price, Jerry and Barb Gibbs, and so many more. Without ETEAM and the impact it had on my life and the ability to have meaningful conversations with so many encouragers, I wouldn’t be where I am today.

— *Lauren Riggs, IM Missionary to Spain*

**Many ETEAM, CMP, and OA students are spending their summers overseas, serving alongside IM missionaries and partners. Join us in praying for these students. You can give towards a student’s fundraising goal for their trip opportunity here: <https://bit.ly/472nV7R>**





# FAMILY HAPPENINGS

**Anthony and Lea Edgmon** are proud to announce their daughter, **Emily Cruz**, will graduate from Welch College on May 3 with her bachelor's degree in psychology.



**The Samburu believers** gathered together on Resurrection Sunday to celebrate the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing, remembering all that Jesus has done for them.

**Josh and Bethany** (THP Spain) are excited to share they are expecting their third child in September! Join us in praying for a healthy pregnancy.

**Jacob** (THP France) will marry **Faith** on May 4 in Tennessee.



**Brenton Driscoll** will graduate on May 18 with a Master of Arts in Ministry, with an emphasis in Missions, from Moody Theological Seminary. The whole family has put in a lot of hard work in this endeavor over the last year and a half and is excited about the doors that God will open in the future through this degree.

**Abby Walker** (Japan) recently returned to the States. Pray for her as she transitions, travels to raise funds, and spends time with loved ones.



**Alejandro Johnson** will graduate with his M.Div. from Welch College on May 3 and will be ordained at Cofer's Chapel FWB Church on June 9.

**Lily Culwell** turned 4 on April 13 and started Japanese Kindergarten!



# IM GENERAL FUND HELPS TRAIN NEW MISSIONARIES

Your gifts help train new missionaries! At the end of April, the IM board met and approved new missionary candidates Billy & Sunni Champion (Japan), Tim & Loren (IM Partner), and approved Abby Walker (Japan) as career missionary. Faith, a native of Gallatin, Tennessee, was appointed as a field worker to join the team in southern France. We will have fundraising training for these newly-appointed missionaries in May and June. Read the full news release on our website.

**Your gift to the General Fund makes their training possible. Give a special gift to the General Fund this month to equip these new missionaries as they prepare to go to their fields.** You can give now by mailing a check or giving online at [iminc.org/give](https://iminc.org/give) and selecting “General” under the giving areas.



## STUDENTS READY TO SERVE

Pray for the 90 ETEAM students (high schoolers) and 47 College Missions Program students who are heading to their various fields this summer to share the Gospel, serve alongside missionaries and partners, and find their roles in the Great Commission. We are excited to see these programs grow every summer, and we look forward to seeing how God will continue to use these students beyond these trip opportunities.



## PRAYER FOCUS

- **May's prayer focus** is to pray for our partnerships around the world who work in places where we do not have missionaries. Thank God for their far-reaching ministries, and ask Him to keep them safe in areas that can be dangerous for Christians.
- **June's prayer focus** is to pray for students who will be involved in ETEAM and CMP (College Missions Program) this summer. Pray their vision for the world will expand as they experience missionary life first-hand.
- If you would like to receive IM missionary and partner weekly prayer requests directly to your inbox, you can **sign up for Hotline here:** <https://bit.ly/3GqESxy>

# MEET YOUR MISSIONARIES

## Dennis & Mary Heath (Bulgaria)

We have been serving the Lord for 45 years and are committed to continue until our final breath. We are honored that the Lord is choosing us to join the team in Bulgaria. We will be serving in Svishtov for the next two years, helping to grow the church there. We will



also work with our team in Bulgaria to plant more churches in the northeastern area of the country. Over the next few months, we are traveling across the country to raise support for our anticipated departure to Bulgaria in September.

*To learn how you can pray for the Heaths, partner with them financially, or sign up for their email newsletter, please visit <https://iminc.org/im-missionaries/dennis-and-mary-heath/>*

## STATESIDE MISSIONARIES

Why not reach out to one of our missionaries who is in the States raising support and invite them to your church? They'd love to share about their ministry and how God is working around the world to fulfill the Great Commission. Visit [iminc.org/our-impact/im-missionaries/stateside-missionaries](https://iminc.org/our-impact/im-missionaries/stateside-missionaries) to view the full list of Stateside missionaries and their contact information. They'd love to hear from you!

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



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.