



2013

**SUMMER**

*of*

**SERVICE**

*the invitation*



## Dear friends,

During my college and seminary years, I was offered many opportunities to engage in cross-cultural education and mission work. Those experiences impacted me deeply and set a trajectory for my life that eventually led me to my current position. I thank God for colleges like Northwestern that provide students with similar experiences—and hopefully set them on a trajectory for lives that continue to include service and ministry.

This summer 18 Northwestern students embraced the challenge and privilege of participating in God’s redemptive work around the world through the Summer of Service program. They taught children, befriended victims of sexual slavery, and volunteered in refugee camps, hospitals and orphanages. From these experiences, several of them have been called to commit to full-time cross-cultural mission work after graduation. All of them are more deeply devoted to living a mission-oriented life wherever God leads them.

Our hope is for students to enlarge their vision of the body of Christ and its potential to fulfill the Great Commission. This happens as they immerse themselves in host cultures and take the posture of servant-learners. Our students are embraced and mentored by host missionaries to whom they offer their time, knowledge and skills. Each year we hear from our mission partners how much they value the friendship, hard work, humility, curiosity and faith of our students.

The following pages illustrate how richly our students were blessed this summer and how they blessed others and reflected God’s image around the world. Thank you for your investment in the lives of these students as well as in the lives of those they touched with the love of Christ and the power of the cross.

For the glory of Jesus our king,

**Patrick Hummel**  
Director of Missions

## Ministry Destinations

Since 1981, more than 600 Northwestern College students have spent 6 to 10 weeks serving as short-term missionaries through Summer of Service (SOS). They have served on six continents in 89 countries. They raise the money themselves to cover transportation, room and board, and program expenses, mostly from family, friends and their home churches.

They have traveled to countries like Brazil, Haiti, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Uganda and Ukraine to serve with mission partners including The Luke Society, Pioneers, Wycliffe and the Reformed Church in America. They have worked in hospitals, orphanages and refugee camps; taught Vacation Bible School and English as a second language; and served in sports and hospitality ministries. They have

milked yak, helped deliver babies, and supported victims of sex trafficking. More than 50 SOS alumni have served as missionaries after graduation—some for a year or two, others for a lifetime—doing community development, English teaching, evangelism, medicine and translation.

Christians from around the world welcome Northwestern students into the action of their ongoing ministries. The students return home with questions about God and the world and stories of the surprising ways he has transformed their hearts and minds. They say confidently that God is, indeed, at work in the world—and they’re eager to discover what he wants them to do next.

## Andrea Andersen

*This was Andrea’s second summer mission trip to Haiti. While at Children of the Promise, she fed babies, taught preschool, and did therapy with children who have special needs. With United Christians International, a ministry founded by Northwestern alum Kristie (DeBoer ’95) Mompremier, Andrea evangelized, participated in a youth group, taught Vacation Bible School and Sunday school, played volleyball in the evenings, and hosted a basketball camp for girls in the village.*

### Return to Haiti

The year between my trips to Haiti was a bit rocky. After I returned from Haiti in the summer of 2012, I felt depressed and alone and distant from God. This summer, back in Haiti, I got back on track. I felt so close to God and have a stronger personal relationship with him. But on the plane ride home, I started to struggle again. I wanted so badly to stay in Haiti, and I was beginning to sense the feelings from last year creep back in. I looked out the plane window and saw a rainbow, and I heard God say, through a voice inside me, “I promise you’ll return to Haiti.” I had chills—and an immediate sense of peace. I don’t know when I’ll go back, but I know God is faithful and keeps his promises. I know he’s calling me to live in Haiti someday.

“Pray the long-term missionaries and orphanage staff are sustained and energized in their ministries. Pray the children remain healthy and, if they are adopted, attach meaningfully to their new families. Also pray the ministry’s most pressing material needs will be met: shoes, clothes and classroom supplies for the children.”

Elementary education • Alton, IA  
Haiti • Children of the Promise &  
United Christians International

### Home work

While I wait to return to Haiti in God’s timing, I notice I’m more aware of needs in my own community. The needs here are different from those in a developing country, but there’s still work to be done here. Last year, I was focused on doing missions internationally, but my parents have been challenging me to serve the Lord fully where I’m at right now. There’s a reason I’m in the U.S. and not in Haiti, and I need to honor God’s purpose for me here.



[www.nwciowa.edu/give2sos](http://www.nwciowa.edu/give2sos)





# Malea Beeson

Psychology • Orange City, IA  
Fiji • Pioneers



Malea worked alongside Ray and Laura Pittman, missionaries in Fiji. She provided childcare and hosted Kids' Clubs, which are after-school events for neighborhood children. They played games, sang songs and shared Bible lessons. Malea also spent time at Loloma House, a home for women who have been abused, and she helped fix up a rundown farm recently purchased by the Pittmans.

## Privilege—and responsibility

One of the most challenging things was dealing with the privilege I've been born into. I'm a white, upper-middle-class college student from a country where freedom—including religious freedom—is a right, while millions of people around the globe experience poverty and oppression daily with little chance to hear the gospel. I know I'm blessed for a reason, and since my summer experience, I've spent a lot of time thinking about how to use my resources in a way that will actually have an impact.

## Divine dreams

I've had to become more open to understanding the Lord's work in ways that are unfamiliar and strange to me. For example, in Fiji, it's common for Christians to claim to hear a message from God through a dream. As a psychology major, I was initially skeptical; I've studied the brain and what happens while someone is asleep. But after hearing Fijian friends describe God talking to them through dreams, I accept that God can use dreams to speak to us.

“ Pray for Susan\*, a young woman who cooked for us. Raised Muslim, Susan was sold into sexual slavery by her mother when she was 15. After she escaped, she became pregnant by a man who left her when he found out. She returned home just before her son was born, where she met the Pittmans. She has accepted Jesus and has been teaching her son and step-siblings about him. An innovative woman, Susan started a backyard chicken business to support herself. Shortly before I returned to the U.S., I learned Susan has been threatened by Muslim leaders in her community. If she does not revert to Islam, she will be forced to leave her business, home and family. Susan is facing a situation most Americans will never experience. Keep her in your prayers.  
\*name changed

”

# Kelsey Doornenbal

Nursing • Sioux Center, IA  
India • Rahab's Rope  
kdoornenbal.blogspot.com



Kelsey and SOS teammate Darci Jansen worked with Rahab's Rope, an organization working to prevent sex-trafficking and provide aftercare to women who have been sexual slavery victims. Kelsey spent time in three ministry sites: an HIV hospital and orphanage, an aftercare center for women, and a stitching center in a slum where the goal is to offer women vocational skills that will enable them to avoid prostituting themselves or their daughters.

## Only hope

Most challenging this summer was being in the midst of so much pain, abuse and hurt and feeling helpless to change it. In the slum, especially, abuse and alcoholism are the norm, and that's what many of the women believe they deserve. Every day we loved on them, and every night they went back to their abusive homes. The only hope I had was trusting the Lord's timing and remembering he is fighting for his beloved children every moment of every day.

## Finding joy

This summer the Lord continually reminded me to find joy in the little things: Women asking for prayer and telling us about Bible stories they'd read on their own. Or worshipping with 14 orphans, sitting on the floor singing "10,000 Reasons" together: "The sun comes up; it's a new day dawning / It's time to sing your song again. / Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, / Let me be singing when the evening comes."

## Freedom from bondage

This summer, each person I encountered was in bondage of some kind, but Isaiah 61 reminded me just how hard the Lord is working to "bind up the brokenhearted" and "proclaim freedom for the captives." In the midst of this broken world, God is the light, and he loves justice. The Lord set us all free when he ransomed us with his blood.

“ Pray the financial, material, personnel and spiritual needs of Rahab's Rope's ministry will be met. The staff at Rahab's Rope includes two young women from the U.S. who've committed at least a year to volunteering there; pray they are sustained and strengthened in what can be very a very difficult, heartbreaking ministry. Finally, pray the many women worldwide who are victims of sex-trafficking will be set free physically and spiritually.

”

# Jonathan Eveland

Christian education/youth ministry • Oskaloosa, IA  
Denver • Mile High Ministries

Living in community with 15 other volunteers from around the U.S., Jonathan served at two downtown Denver ministry organizations. At Christ's Body, a drop-in center for people who are homeless, he built relationships while also serving food and laundering and distributing clothes. At Restoration Outreach Programs (ROP), he helped with the ministry's Bible day-camp for inner-city kids ages 5 to 13.



## Change in thinking

Heading into this summer, I knew I'd be serving people who are homeless, and I admit I had a naïve view of their lifestyle and thought the simple solution was "Get a job." I learned the circumstances and lives of people who are homeless are varied and much more complex than I realized. My tendencies to be critical of people who live differently than me have lessened, and my understanding and compassion for people who are homeless have grown.

## Soul care

Before my summer in Denver, I was caught in the legalistic trap a lot of Christians fall into: My focus was on not sinning when I should have been focused on glorifying God. In Denver I met Greg Fuchs, who oversees NWC's Denver Urban Semester. Greg reminded me that as a Christian, I'm offered a seat at Jesus' banquet table—that he offers good things and wants me to have a full life as his follower.

## Major decision

The most exciting thing that happened for me this summer was discovering I want to be in ministry full-time after college. I'm unsure of whether that will be in a church or para-church organization, but I know I want to devote my life to serving God and his kingdom full-time.

“ Both Christ's Body and ROP need not just volunteers, but financial support. Pray their volunteers are filled with the Holy Spirit, and pray generous souls are motivated to give money to these ministries. Most importantly, pray for the families living in the Denver metro area. Ninety percent of the kids there do not live in two-parent families. A father, especially, is missing from their lives—both an earthly father and a heavenly one.

”



# Valor Gorans

Elementary education • Willmar, MN  
Bolivia • International Teams  
valorgorans.blogspot.com

Valor and SOS teammate Betsy Wallin worked at The Center, which hosts after-school programs for Cochabamba children. In addition to spending her mornings learning Spanish, Valor also did maintenance and housekeeping tasks at The Center. When the children arrived, she helped the fourth graders with their homework and distributed snacks. She and Betsy also hosted a Vacation Bible School for the children.

Pray the material needs of the Bolivian families in Cochabamba will be met. The children need food, clothing, and love and attention. Pray the staff at The Center will be able to reach the kids with Jesus' love. Also, the Bolivian and American staff at The Center have started a church plant to give the children and their families somewhere to worship. Pray the Holy Spirit will move in that community and grow that body of Christ.

# Audrey Hagge

Nursing • Scotland, SD  
Ghana • Luke Society

Audrey and SOS teammate Emily Wynja served at St. Luke Hospital in Kasei, learning from staff in the laboratory, pharmacy, outpatient clinic, and surgical and maternity centers. She also spent time building relationships with the staff and villagers.

## Strength in weakness

The most challenging thing I faced this summer was seeing patients in pain and suffering and feeling I couldn't offer adequate comfort because of the language barrier. Through that and other challenges, I learned I am nothing and can do nothing apart from God. I'm weak apart from Christ and need his strength within me in order to accomplish his will.



## Language of listening

I struggled with the language barrier and lack of communication while in Bolivia. I didn't have Internet or a cell phone, which was both a nice break and a big challenge. Being limited communication-wise, I became more conscious of my words and discerning when to speak and when to listen. I've tried to continue cultivating my skills as a listener, even now that I'm back in the U.S.

## Everyday mission

This summer I learned that missions is a lifestyle, not an event—and I can be involved in missions wherever I am. While I was in Bolivia, I realized my ministry was to acclimate to the Bolivian lifestyle in a way that glorified God and showed his love in my everyday activities.

\*Valor is pictured on the back cover.

## Newborn

The most exciting thing I experienced was delivering a baby. It was truly amazing to witness and take part in welcoming a new life into the world.

## Service learning

My view of missions has changed significantly through partnering with an indigenous medical doctor who's working to solve his country's problems. I saw the incredible work being done by him and many other dedicated Ghanaians who are already familiar with the culture, language and lifestyle of their people. My eyes were opened to the difference I can make in America working as a nurse in a hospital, clinic, school or community. I learned that mission is less about the location where one serves and more about the intention and vision motivating one to serve.

Now that I am back in America, I am mainly left with the power of prayer to continue showing my love and support for the mission work at St. Luke Hospital. Pray with me that the Christian hospital staff will be encouraged and refreshed daily as they serve patients, show Christ's love, and share the redemptive healing of God with each person they encounter.

# Darci Jansen

Elementary education • Sully, IA  
India • Rahab's Rope  
darcijansen.blogspot.com

Darci and SOS teammate Kelsey Doornenbal worked with Rahab's Rope, an organization working to prevent sex-trafficking and provide aftercare to women who have been sexual slavery victims. Darci spent time in three ministry sites: an HIV hospital and orphanage, an aftercare center for women, and a stitching center in a slum where the goal is to offer women vocational skills that will enable them to avoid prostituting themselves or their daughters.

## Telling stories

Early in the summer, we offered a Bible lesson at an after-school program. I was in charge of telling a Bible story to 100 children packed into a room the size of my dorm. The sight and sound of 100 children listening to me and the translator and later singing Sunday school songs is something I'll never forget.

## Love in action

The language barrier was one of the biggest challenges of the summer. We heard five different languages, so it was difficult to even try to learn simple words and phrases. Our ministry was relationship based, so not being able to communicate meant we had to trust the Lord was at work through our gestures and actions.

## Home missions

As I learned more about God, the world and myself this summer, I was most struck by God's unconditional love for his people and world. I experienced mission as relationship and understood better my call to be involved in mission every day right where I am.



I definitely witnessed the power of prayer while in India. Join me in praying the women I met will find freedom from the many things that enslave them literally and figuratively. Pray more women in India will be rescued from sexual slavery and experience holistic healing.

# Kelsey Kleinwolterink

Psychology • Sibley, IA  
Greece • Greek Bible College

Kelsey and SOS teammate Kiersten Van Wyhe served in the Greek Bible College library, which is overseen by Northwestern alum Meggan (De Jong '08) Vasileiadou. Kelsey sorted donations, barcoding books and adding them to the library's database. She also helped elsewhere at the college and volunteered at refugee centers in Athens.

## Greek transitions

Greece has become a very transitional place. There are many vacationers, but there are also many refugees and victims of sex trafficking.

## SOS impact

The faculty and staff at Greek Bible College are a wonderful, inspiring and loving group of people, and it was hard to say goodbye. They made me feel like Greece was my home, and they are my family. Meggan especially encouraged me. She went on a Summer of Service trip to Greece when she was a student, and now she's a full-time missionary there. She understood what I was experiencing and could offer insight on the summer's joys and struggles.

\*Kelsey is pictured on p. 11

Pray Greek Bible College's enrollment grows and administrators are able to buy land and expand their campus. Pray also for the Christian agencies and organizations in Athens that serve the many refugees and sex workers living in that city.



# Rebekah Mabrey

Nursing • Omaha, NE  
Bolivia • Luke Society

 rebekahmabrey.blogspot.com

*Rebekah volunteered at a clinic on the outskirts of Cochabamba alongside Teodocia Cabrera Paredes, a nurse who functioned more like a doctor. The clinic hours were 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., but staff never turned anyone away, even if they came at 2:00 in the morning. Rebekah assisted Teodocia with everything from immunizing and stitching to vaccinating village dogs for rabies and piercing babies' ears.*

## Good medicine

I'm a nursing student, so everything medical that I saw and participated in thrilled me—even when practices at the clinic weren't the same as how things would be done in the U.S.

*I worked with a particularly poor group of people who need food and clean water. They also need relief from social problems like alcoholism, which frequently leads to domestic violence and sexual abuse. Rape is a common occurrence; in the clinic we saw 11-year-olds who'd been raped and were pregnant. Pray for the members of this community and for Teodocia, who ministers to their health and social needs with a huge amount of love and patience.*

## Nursed along

My relationship with God became more real this summer. I have recommitted to my Christianity over the past couple of years, but this trip really impressed me with how much God loves the world and everyone in it. So many times I asked God to give me part of his heart to love the people of Bolivia, even when I was frustrated with the culture or how things were done at the clinic.

## Deeper view

I have traveled beyond the U.S. and seen extreme poverty. But this was the first time I was immersed in an impoverished community long enough to be exposed to the broader social problems of the whole country. I became acutely aware of the hopelessness, lack of education and corruption that exists in Bolivia. My experience gave me a more realistic idea of how difficult it is to be a missionary in a developing country—and how important.



# Kelsey Martinez

Social work • Sibley, IA  
Haiti • Children of the Promise & United Christians International

*While at Children of the Promise, Kelsey worked alongside two Haitian women in the clinic, weighing babies and handing out baby formula. She spent time with the organization's social worker learning her role at the orphanage and studying the adoption process.*

## Holly

I was privileged to work with quite a number of Americans and many Haitians and was especially inspired by Holly, one of the long-term volunteers. Holly and her pastor husband are the parents of five children and also have five Haitian children living with them. Despite her busy life, Holly was always willing to talk and encourage me.

## Nurturing hope

During my second week, my SOS teammate Andrea Andersen and I took in a two-year-old boy full time in order to nurse him back to health. It was gratifying to watch him become healthier and then resume growing and developing. The day he was able to sit all by himself was very exciting.


## God for always

This summer I was reminded that God is available not just when it's convenient for him or me—or even just when I need something. God is there always because I need him always. I should share everything with him. I also understood more deeply how beautiful and unique God's people are and that he's alive and working in their lives just as he is in mine.

*Pray for the children, their birth families and their adoptive families as they go through the adoption process. Pray all will experience a smooth transition. Also, pray that Haitians' basic needs will be met—needs like food and clean water.*



# Rachel Nysetvold

Nursing • Slayton, MN  
Albania • WEC/Rainbows of Hope  
 adventuringinalbania.blogspot.com

*Rachel and her team worked alongside missionaries Jaijin and Keumhee Kim in Shkoder, an impoverished Muslim community. They taught English classes for the children for six weeks, aiming to build relationships the Kims can continue to nurture through their church.*

## Mission impressions

A lasting impression from this summer is God's incredible grace and love for his people, including me. I understood my complete nothingness without Christ. I have a more accurate picture of missionaries as fellow broken and imperfect believers who fully recognize their identity as such and simply seek to listen to and live according to Christ's direction. Because of their faith, they're not anxious. They know God is doing the work and will be present and active in every circumstance.

## Becoming Christ-like

Before my experience in Albania, I tried hard to be a loving Christian and good follower of Christ, but because I didn't allow myself to accept his unconditional love, it was just a lot of work. This summer Jesus revealed his love for me in multiple ways and showed me the only thing he cares about is that I continually draw closer to him and become more like him. It's enabled me to give my entire future to Christ and focus my attitudes and perspectives on hearing his voice and being transformed to be like him.

*Pray for missionaries Jaijin and Keumhee Kim and the church they are attempting to plant. Pray the children they minister to will hear the message of the gospel, even though it is in conflict with what they are taught in their Muslim homes. Pray the Albanian people will be relieved from the oppression caused by a corrupt government.*





# Katie Plucker

Psychology • Lennox, SD  
Thailand • Pioneers

*Katie taught English to Chiang Mai University college students from 5:30 to 9 each night at Wisdom Tree. After class, she and her teammates hung out with the students, visiting them on campus, going to dinner, shopping the night markets, and enjoying karaoke.*

## Home sick

I contracted dengue fever, which can be really serious, but, thankfully, my case was not. Still, I was in an incredible amount of pain and unable to do much of anything for two of the six weeks I was in Thailand. It was unexpected and incredibly frustrating. I didn't expect to feel homesick, but the whole time I was physically sick, all I could think about was how much I wanted to go home.

## Work that's worth it

This summer I learned that life on a mission field can be really hard. Monday morning meetings can be monotonous, ministry can become mundane and routine, and even missionaries have to work with challenging people who have very different ideas and approaches to mission. Life abroad is not a constant exciting adventure. However, despite the difficulties, the relationships I built and the experience I had was so worth it.

## Love unlimited

I'm left with the realization of how much God loves his people. Sitting in my classroom or walking down Thai streets, I was overcome with a feeling of "God really loves these people with so much more compassion than I am capable of even mustering or understanding." When I started seeing people as dearly beloved children of God, I couldn't help but love and serve them.

“Thailand is a very spiritually dark place. Many of my students had no conception of God, and despite being "The Land of Smiles," people hurt in a very deep and real way. They fear evil spirits and believe they can never be good enough Buddhists. Pray with me that my students continue to feel unconditionally loved and that they have the opportunity to talk to Christians and be exposed to the gospel. Pray Wisdom Tree will continue to bear fruit and positively influence the students, and that their need for teachers would be consistently met. Pray the missionaries will have wisdom and discernment about how to most effectively interact with Thai culture and introduce the gospel message to people who literally have no idea about God.”

# Bradley Smith

Sociology • Hartley, IA  
France • Pioneers

*Bradley spent the summer in Nice, volunteering with an after-school ministry to mostly North African immigrants in France. One goal of the program is to help the immigrant kids with their homework, enabling them to succeed in school and have the opportunity to leave the neighborhood, where drugs and corruption are prevalent. Bradley also served at a café run by the church he attended. The café offers young people backpacking through Europe an evening away from the party scene.*



## Healing power

One of the people I met this summer was a young man from Italy. We bonded because I was struggling with not being able to speak French very well, and he was unable to speak above a whisper due to a past trauma that affected him psychologically. He hung out with us and tagged along to a Bible study and an evening at the church's café. The pastor who spoke at the café that night told stories about how Jesus and the gospel have the power to heal, spiritually, psychologically and physically. My Italian friend was moved to pray for healing, and the very next day, he was speaking aloud again. It was the most exciting thing I witnessed all summer.

## Evangelism works

Heading into the summer, I admit I had a poor attitude about evangelism. But I learned that God can work in spite of my cynicism. Even though I thought tracts are worthless, and people just litter the ground with them, God can still use them to draw people to him. Even though I think street-preaching is sometimes manipulative, God still uses it to draw people to him. Ultimately, the gospel is about authentically building relationships with people—sharing experiences and growing through that sharing. It was cool to come back to the U.S. feeling like I had something worth believing in again.

“A new full-time ESL teacher arrived at the after-school ministry this fall; pray the transition goes well, and the kids connect to their new mentor. Pray the kids will be afforded better opportunities in life if they can speak English and escape their crime- and drug-ridden neighborhood. Pray the Calvary Chapel Nice church continues to grow and serve their community.”

# Sarah Simmons

Psychology • Valentine, NE  
Northern Ireland • Cornerstone City Church  
roamingheart.tumblr.com

*Sarah's summer internship at Cornerstone City Church in Londonderry included helping host two mission teams of 100-plus Americans for a week each. Sarah oversaw other short-term mission volunteers as they cleaned up alleys, pulled weeds, scrubbed graffiti and hosted kids' programs. The programs, at three locations around the city, included lessons, interactive worship songs, games and balloon animals.*



## Old Sinky

During my summer in Ireland, I spent one week in a mini-bus, riding shotgun to the church's finance administrator who we affectionately called "Old Sinky." I had to think on my feet and sharpen my wit, but I was continually out-sassed by Old Sinky. When he wasn't teasing me, though, he shared his life and wisdom with me. I was inspired by this man who knew just how to speak straight into people's hearts with kindness and spirit-filled wit.

## New view

As Christians, we are connected to a larger global church that doesn't agree on everything. It's human nature to make divisions and put people who believe something different into categories of "other." But I learned there are a great many things to learn from "others" who see the world through different eyes than mine.

“Cornerstone City Church is going through a time of transition as several pastors and missionaries are following God's call to other parts of Ireland and the world. In addition, the church is finalizing the purchase of their own building after worshipping in a rented theater. Help me in praying for the leadership and congregation at Cornerstone City Church during these changes.”



# Kiersten Van Wyhe

Elementary education • Springfield, MO  
Greece • Greek Bible College  
thoughtsbykiersten.wordpress.com

*Kiersten and SOS teammate Kelsey Kleinwolterink served in the Greek Bible College library, which is overseen by Northwestern alum Meggan (De Jong '08) Vasileiadou. Kiersten sorted donations, barcoding books and adding them to the library's database. She also volunteered at refugee centers in Athens, teaching English and providing childcare.*

## Refugee perspective

I learned a lot about human trafficking, especially of women and girls for sexual exploitation. Greece is a stop-over for many African and Middle Eastern refugees heading to Europe in search of security and better lives, which causes a lot of social upheaval and welfare issues for Greece. Before this summer, I'd heard of these issues from just the U.S. perspective. I have a bigger picture now, after learning the Greeks' and refugees' perspectives.

## Elpida: hope

The Greek people need elpida: hope. Their Christian religion is a cultural staple but does not involve faith in Jesus Christ or the abundant life he offers. The country is in desperate financial circumstances with no end in sight, and the people need hope.

## Doing missions

"Ministry" and "missions" are fancy words we use for doing life with the intention of advancing God's kingdom. They can be done by anyone, anywhere, any time, so long as the person "doing missions" is doing it for God.



*The Greek Bible College is a private institution, and as such, it's constantly subject to threat of closure by the government. Pray the college is able to remain open. Pray they receive financial support to both comply with the governmental requests and also to be able to offer scholarships to students who couldn't otherwise receive biblical training. Also pray the refugee organizations have ample volunteers, money and governmental aid so they can help the many refugees they serve reunite with their families and find safe places to live. Finally, pray the women from countries like Nigeria, Moldova and Romania who are being sexually exploited in brothels and on the streets will find advocates who can help them escape prostitution and build new lives.*



Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" As soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus. Luke 5:10b-11 (NLT)

# Betsy Wallin

Elementary education • Rosemount, MN  
Bolivia • International Teams

*Betsy volunteered with second graders at El Centro de Apoyo y Amistad (The Center of Support and Friendship). The center serves the Quechuan people of Cochabamba, providing after-school tutoring to supplement the poor education offered to these people who are considered lower class by their fellow Bolivians. Many of the children could not spell their own names or could barely read at best. Betsy taught them to spell and read. She also taught them they are valuable and worth loving and told them God loves them most of all.*

## Mother monkey

The Quechuan religion is frightening, and many students tried to curse me when I wouldn't let them copy their neighbor's homework assignment. However, as I began to know the students, one thing that stood out to me was their desperation to be loved. The little girls' favorite recess activity was for me to carry them up and down the stairs. They called me their "mother monkey," and they were my "baby monkeys." These children need homework help and a better education; but just as important, they need to feel valued and loved.

## Hopeless

Many moments this summer I felt ready to throw my hands in the air: When I finished explaining an assignment only to realize no one understood or cared. When I saw the mad chaos around me—children chasing each other, pulling hair, getting into fistfights—as a prelude to the lives of chaos and violence they were likely headed toward. When the kids yelled at me, rebelled against me and threw their homework to the floor. When I saw they were falling through the cracks—that they went home each night to situations where they might not be fed or bathed, where they might be alone, unloved and unwanted.

## Hopeful

There were also moments when I saw their faces light up because they finally understood how to add or subtract. Paola finally finished her counting exercise. Ronald finally learned to spell his name. Cristian read an entire storybook on his own. Israel, who is disabled, learned to help me sweep the room and returned every day, asking to do it again. These are the moments that made my summer so worth it. They're the ones I hope I never forget.

*The Quechuan people just need a lot of prayers! Pray for the center's teachers and children, and pray the church started by the center will grow and serve its community. The center also needs money. Pray they will receive funding to finish the classrooms that are still without floors and walls, doors and windows. Pray people will donate books and supplies.*





# Meg White

Elementary education • Lincoln, NE  
Romania • New Horizons Foundation

Meg volunteered at New Horizons Foundation (NHF), Northwestern's Romania Semester partner. New Horizons seeks to rebuild post-communist Romania through investing in the country's youth and their character development. VIATA, one of NHF's efforts, uses outdoor adventure activities to teach teamwork, trust, commitment, compassion, perseverance, respect, responsibilities and other qualities necessary for a vibrant civil society.



## Living in community

Some of the most exciting and challenging experiences this summer resulted from simply living with six other volunteers in a tiny block apartment. Through situations like a small electrical fire, sharing a washing machine, and eating pasta and pancakes together, we learned the dos and don'ts of living with people whose values, expectations and ideals are different from yours. The culture clashes we experienced occurred on a daily (if not hourly) basis, but somehow, we were able to sharpen one another, learning to communicate and co-exist in a way that promoted a healthy living space for all.

## Nothing more or less

God revealed to me that there's nothing I can do to make him love me more and nothing I've done that will make him love me any less. Instead, he brought me to my knees at the foot of the cross, basking in what Jesus purposed for my life through his perfect life and death. My job is to believe that Jesus died so I might live—and actually live that on a daily basis. I don't have to prove myself or please people by living a perfect life. Rather, I am free to tap into the grace of Christ—sharing it with others as well.

“ Pray for the children and teens New Horizons serves. Some of them are Roma (or Gypsy) children, and it's apparent there is a strong prejudice against them in Romania. Pray they will be cared for and loved and that barriers will be broken down between these people groups. Also pray that as New Horizons enables character development in the youth of Romania, their families and communities will see God at work. ”



# Emily Wynja

Biology health professions • Sioux Falls, SD  
Ghana • Luke Society

Emily and SOS teammate Audrey Hagge served at St. Luke Hospital in Kasei, learning from staff in the laboratory, pharmacy, outpatient clinic, and surgical and maternity centers. She also spent time building relationships with the staff and villagers and visited the village school to teach songs in English.

## Health and caring

Most challenging was trying to reconcile the differences in the standards of healthcare available for the people of Ghana with what we are privileged to have here in America. It was overwhelming to realize daily that you're not going to be able to bridge the gap between what the patient needs and what the hospital has. You cannot begin to address the poverty, malnutrition and disease all around you.



“ I knew I would be spending my summer surrounded by poverty, but it's hard to imagine what it will actually be like until you're in the midst of it. The greatest needs I witnessed were in the hospital. Pray their healthcare and spiritual ministry keeps growing. Pray they have enough trained doctors, nurses and other medical workers to meet the needs of the many patients they serve. Pray they receive adequate and reliable medical supplies and equipment. Pray they are sustained in their tiring, sometimes heartbreaking work. ”







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# Standards of Excellence

*[www.stmstandards.org](http://www.stmstandards.org)*

Northwestern College is committed to Standards of Excellence (SOE) in Short-Term Mission. The SOE criteria were developed by representatives from many U.S. mission agencies, schools and churches who send short-term missionaries. The common set of standards helps ensure that individuals or teams sent by U.S. organizations are excellent.

Appropriate training, empowering partnerships, God-centeredness and debriefing are all components of SOE membership. As a member, Northwestern is serious about doing short-term mission well—from preparation through follow-up. Northwestern is a covenant member of the SOE. Look for the SOE seal on any mission literature you receive.



“ For more information about short-term missions at Northwestern College, visit [www.nwciowa.edu/faith](http://www.nwciowa.edu/faith) ”

