



# 2023 Newsletter

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Build financial relief for missionaries-in-training and missionaries in the field.  
Grow a prayer lifeline to nurture their spiritual, physical and economic needs.

By **Laurelyn**

### 2023 Harvester's Scholarship Award Recipient

I must begin with two of my heroes: my parents. No two people have influenced my spiritual journey more—two people who modeled a godly life, lived on mission, and showed me that following Jesus is not one aspect of life, but a lens in which to see everything else through. From a young age, they taught my sisters and I what it means to repent from sin and follow Christ. At the age of four, I approached my mom expressing a desire to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and I truly believe this is when my spiritual journey as a new creation began. Around seven years old, I began regularly spending time with God sitting in my room reading my small pink leather Bible. These early moments deeply formed me and established patterns that have lasted through the years—patterns of starting my day spending time with God, discovering His Word as a lamp to my feet, finding joy in singing songs of praise, and interceding for the lost. And as someone with deep perfectionistic tendencies, the Holy Spirit continues to use these spiritual disciplines to remind me of God's grace—to remind me that the perfect life was already lived in Christ, and His righteousness is now given to me.

As I grew in my relationship with God, I began to sense a deep call to ministry. My dad was in full-time ministry with a mission organization, and as I heard stories of what God was doing around the world, I quickly gained a heartbeat for missions and a call to serve overseas. God has also given me an innate love for learning about different cultures and interacting with people

from all over the world. I love finding ways to communicate through language barriers with smiles, pictures, and charades. I love the laughter that ensues when I try to pronounce a word in a different language and get it terribly wrong. I love learning traditional African dancing, how to make Afghan tea, and the constant reminder of how God loves and created all peoples. My ultimate hope is to do church planting among an unreached unengaged people group in the 10/40 window as I desire to take the good news of Jesus where it has not yet been. I hope to serve long term by learning the language of an unreached people group to adult fluency, studying and walking through the Scriptures together, and ultimately seeing a sustainable church planted with indigenous leaders and pastors.

After graduating from Wheaton College, these passions led me to Clarkston, GA to gain more cross-cultural ministry experience. Clarkston is a small city where refugees from all over the world are resettled. It's known to be the most diverse square mile in the nation with over 100 different ethnic groups represented. It has been one of the greatest privileges to live among peoples from all over the world—to experience underserved hospitality and to learn from some of the most brave, hard-working, and resilient people that I know. I have spent much time with my Muslim neighbors seeking to build deep friendships. This has included countless grocery store runs helping families navigate Walmart, assisting children with schoolwork, giving driving

lessons, and helping families reapply for food stamps. It has included many sweet moments of sharing meals together, stopping by each other's apartments to say hello, sharing photos of our families, celebrating holidays, and telling stories. When spending time together, I also seek opportunities to share the truth of Jesus Christ. Whether on a walk, giving a ride, or enjoying a meal, I share Scripture passages, stories about Jesus, and the things God is teaching me. I seek to spark curiosity about the person of Jesus and initiate dialogue—not to convince, but to invite them into an exciting journey of discovering truth.

I have also been involved in church ministry through my position on staff as the Missions Coordinator. This has included helping oversee the Grace Village, a ministry of Grace Church located in Clarkston with a variety of services that seek to empower, walk alongside, and point refugees to Jesus Christ. I also coordinate opportunities for congregants to learn more about missions and become engaged in what God is doing both locally and globally. This includes teaching classes on God's heart for the nations, organizing service opportunities, and facilitating worship and prayer nights for the nations.

During the past three years of serving on the mission team and living among refugees, I have felt confirmation in my call to serve overseas and clarity about wanting to go to a Muslim

unreached people group. And as I've drawn very close to an Eritrean family in Clarkston, I have begun to feel a pull to go to north or east Africa. I have also felt a need to continue my education and training. Through my interactions with my neighbors, I have been challenged by their questions around the validity of Scripture, the sovereignty of God, and the divinity of Jesus. I have a desire to be better educated and equipped, and thus have decided to pursue a master's in biblical studies at Reformed Theological Seminary.

Lastly, as I look toward a life devoted to ministry, I am fully aware of my utter dependence and reliance on the Father. If there is anything the last three years of ministry have taught me, it is that I have absolutely nothing to offer but the person of Jesus Christ. I have learned that abiding in the vine, being committed to prayer, and staying rooted in His Word is not optional but essential. It's only by God's grace and His Holy Spirit that He would invite me into His great plan of drawing the most unreached to Himself. And as I take steps forward to pursue this calling, my heart's cry continues to be that my education, ministry, and entire life points to Christ and Christ alone.

**“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.”**

**1st Timothy 1:12**

FINANCIAL REPORT	
<i>Donation:</i>	\$16,800
<i>Other Incomes:</i>	\$ 3,236
<i>Expenses:</i>	
<i>Scholarship Distribution</i>	\$51,500
<i>Office Expenses</i>	\$ 239
<b><i>Total Expenses</i></b>	<b>\$51,739</b>
<i>Deficit:</i>	<u>(\$31,703)</u>
<i>Assets:</i>	
<i>Cash</i>	\$ 39,495
<i>Mutual Fund</i>	<u>\$1,297,812</u>
<b><i>Total Assets</i></b> (as of 6/30/2023)	<b>\$1,337,307</b>

**How to contact us**

**Email**  
edithlo@harvesterSScholarship.com

**Mailing Address**  
17836 E. Benbow St., Covina, CA 91722

**Website**  
www.HarvesterSScholarship.com

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