

Dear Encounter Church Family,

After Jesus' resurrection from the dead, he met with the eleven disciples and gave them this command, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-19). God is giving our church family the opportunity to GO and make disciples in Senegal, a country in western Africa. One of our values at Encounter is BOLD FAITH, so we are taking a bold step of faith to obey God and go to Senegal.

For the last couple of years, since coming to Encounter, I have been praying for God to open a door for us into global missions. When this opportunity was presented to me, I felt an immediate sense of peace and excitement, and those feelings increased as I learned more about Senegal. Senegal is globally celebrated as the "Land of Teraanga," the land of hospitality. And not just simple hospitality. It is a profound way of life embodying generosity, sharing, and community. In Senegal, locals enthusiastically welcome strangers, ensuring every visitor feels immediately at home and part of the family. Doesn't this sound like our church? Doesn't this sound like the heart of Jesus? Doesn't this sound like the Kingdom of God? I believe God has connected us to Senegal for this reason. Their values match our values of bold belonging and bold generosity. God has blessed our church, and now we want to be a blessing to a people who embody the revolutionary love and hospitality of Jesus.

On October 6-14, Team Senegal will be heading to Africa to begin our partnership with a Connected Community. That simply means we will connect with a village and their Free Methodist Pastor. We will help support them, pray for them, and build a relationship with them. We will become a part of their church family, and they will become a part of ours. We are asking our church family to begin praying about how God would lead you to give toward this trip. Sowing financial seeds into this work is just as vital and rewarding as going to Africa yourself to serve. Your giving will enable us to begin this partnership with the village of Dagaboki and their pastor Bassirou Niang. It will create opportunities for us to send other teams to Senegal, to sponsor children in the village, and more importantly, to help spread the gospel in a country that is 95% to 97% Muslim. Will you

join us in this endeavor? Will you help us to be “the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” (Isaiah 52:7)?

Here are some of the ways we will be serving during our week in Senegal:

- Hosting a medical clinic in one of the villages. Hundreds of people will come to this clinic. We will have the opportunity to pray with them and share the good news of Jesus.
- Offering sewing classes where the women will be taught how to make purses that they can sell for income
- Soap distribution, which will include sharing the gospel message
- Building rabbit hutches so the villages can start raising rabbits

It will cost each member of Team Senegal around \$3600 to go (\$14,400 total). We also need to raise money to buy the supplies for the rabbit hutches, as well as the tools we will need to build them. Those costs are to be determined.

Again, I ask, please be in prayer about how you can help give toward launching Encounter Church into global ministry. God is going to bless our church for taking this bold step of faith. But more importantly, we are going to be greatly blessed by the new relationships we are going to build with our Connected Community in the village of Dagaboki.

Thank you for partnering with us to accomplish God’s work in Senegal. Thank you also for your support and your prayers. Prayer is the fuel that makes our mission possible. Please pray for our team's safety, health, and open hearts as we minister.

You can give online at <https://www.encounterchurchpa.com/give/> (click on ‘Global Missions’ after clicking “GIVE”) or by writing a check. Please make your check payable to Encounter Church and write "Senegal Mission Trip" on the memo line. All contributions are tax-deductible.

We are trusting God to do a mighty work as we are obedient to His call. If you have any questions about the trip, please feel free to contact me –

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In Christ's love,

Pastor Colleen