

# Benson Banner - July 2018

Psalm 145:7 They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.



## Dear Churches, Family & Friends,

Thank you for praying this past month as we helped prepare missionaries on their way to the field through MissionPREP PLANTS & IMPACT. God provided increased numbers in PLANTS and a wonderful staff for each course. Some of our staff and students confronted sickness, and other challenges along the way, but God saw us through. Thanks for joining us in prayer for the upcoming RE-VIEW program, July 14-20, for God to refresh, renew and reveal himself to each missionary adult and child attending as they debrief and process their stories and for sensitivity to God's spirit for each staff member. Pray too as we visit and encourage friends in Portugal in August, our first time back in 7 years.



### A Life to be Lived



Language Learning using new strategies with language helpers

The June PLANTS language course taught important attitudes and strategies for entering a new culture with humility, by becoming child-like through asking others for help. The children participated right along with their parents during the language nurturing sessions. One participant wrote after the course: "I'm ...personally challenged to move from viewing it as 'language learning' to a life to be lived".

During the last 2 weeks of June, our IMPACT facilitators helped prepared 22 adults & 16 children from Canada/USA in spiritual, interpersonal and cross-cultural skills. One of the sessions was learning to understand other world views. Here we are at the local mosque where we observed the prayers followed by a Q&A with the Imam.



Our female students wearing head coverings to show respect



Muslim men and boys gathered for prayer.

### Recommendation

A student who recently attended IMPACT was asked by his mission agency's director if MissionPREP training was helpful for those in cross-cultural ministry staying in Canada. He replied that, "the material was 90% appropriate even for those involved in mission work in Canada". We're thankful that MissionPREP is encouraging followers of Jesus on mission to the world wherever they are, as our world becomes increasingly multi-cultural.

### The Importance of Preparing Children

A special feature of our programs is that we have a curriculum designed to help children learn to cross cultures. Here is a lesson with the children where the teacher speaks in a foreign language (with translation) during the entire lesson. The children have the opportunity to experience various cultural traditions as well as different kinds of rice as they learn how to keep an open attitude when they may not like something.



Sometimes the children who attend are in the chaos phase of transition with much of their lives unsettled, having just left friends, homes, and living out of suitcases. Some are not accustomed to being in a school like setting or have special needs that require extra care. Please pray for much love, wisdom and patience for our teachers as we help each child prepare for cross-cultural living. Our ministry is an investment in the future of God's Kingdom, as some of these missionary kids go on to become cross-cultural workers.

One Mom's encouragement...*"I can't thank you enough for the care & teaching my kids received! We feel so blessed as a family. My children have never been in class all day, so that's difficult, but the breaks, R&R and outdoor time helped a lot. So much thought & preparation clearly has gone into their MissionPREP classes & it shows! My kids learned a ton! I think they are more excited now to move overseas!"*

## 20 Years

It was exactly 20 years ago July 6<sup>th</sup> that we left for Portugal with our 9 & 8 year-old daughters, Charity & Chara. God has had us on a wonderful journey learning to bless others and invite others to follow Jesus. Seven years has flown by as we have been back here in Canada helping prepare missionaries to serve cross-culturally. Through the joys and challenges we have been learning to serve a loving God who has creative and curious ways to help us grow spiritually for His Glory and our benefit. Thank you for your interest, prayers, and financial support.



## Financial Support

Some of you as churches and individuals have supported us from the beginning - Thank you sooo much. Some have passed on to glory or had to change your commitment financially because of changing seasons of life. Nonetheless we are deeply honoured for your continued interest and prayers.

Together with Joel Zantingh, our Director, we have determined the need to increase our financial support due to a decrease in our supporting team and a cost of living increase. We wanted to give you the opportunity to pray about increasing your monthly or annual support or to consider a one-time gift as the Lord directs. Please only do what you know the Lord wants you to do. We are humbled by how God has provided in the past as we depend on him in this journey.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions or would like to understand more about how to give.

One-time donation: <https://www.emcc.ca/engage/give/support-a-missionary/benson-ken-carolyn/>

Monthly support: Fill in the form in the link below and send to Lotoya Mahorn [lmahorn@emcc.ca](mailto:lmahorn@emcc.ca)  
<http://www.emcc.ca/files/emccadmin/Resource%20Documents/Financial/preauthorizeddonationsform.pdf>

Thanks for your prayers, support and interest.  
Grace & Shalom,

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