

# God is Moving: REACH 22

By Madalyn, Media Coordinator

On the evening of November 18, 2022, eleven REACHers gathered together with their close friends, family, and some Rosedale International (RI) staff at Rosedale Bible College. During a time of celebration and commissioning, they shared about the experience of discipleship training school (DTS) and the approach of outreach.

Marking a full return to post-pandemic rhythms, both 2022-23 REACH teams will complete their outreach overseas. Making up Team Senegal are Ethan (OH), Emily (PA), Lily (OH), Mackenzie (OH), and Isaac (PA). Leading them is Connor (PA), a REACH alum who traveled to Zambia in 2018 before returning to serve as RI Facilities Intern in 2020. Leading Team Albania is Ellen (OH), part of 2021's Team Albuquerque. She's thrilled to lead her own team—Lance (OH), Megan (DE), Julianna (PA), and Seth (WA)—this year.

Since arriving at the Rosedale International Center (RIC) in August, these young believers have dug deep into many different aspects of faith. They've invested in various Columbus outreaches and taken prayer walks in the neighborhoods surrounding the RIC. They've fasted, prayed, and studied the Bible together. They've learned about spiritual warfare; the fruits of fear and pride; expecting the Holy Spirit; rediscovering the Bible; and resolving conflict—among many other topics. And though intense and difficult at times, these three months of DTS have been a transformative season of spiritual healing and growth.

"I am learning how to trust God with my heart," shared Julianna. "I've seen so much growth in my walk with Christ. God is using this season for good, and I can't wait to keep listening to what he wants me to do!" Lily echoed this sentiment: "God is moving in big ways in this group! He continues to love and guide us through the ups and downs and shows his love for us through each other."

As they've grown in their individual relationships with God, the REACHers have also grown in their interpersonal relationships with each other. "I've been learning how to be a better team member—how to communicate my needs,"

Megan reflected. "I've been learning how to care for and love my teammates in the ways that are best for them."

## What do the next six months hold for them?

As this article moves through the final stages of editing, the REACHers will board the first of several planes as they make their way to their outreach locations. By the time of this article's publication, they will have just set foot in Senegal and Albania. As they step into outreach, what do the next six months hold for them?

Ellen, Seth, Lance, Julianna, and Megan will spend their time in Albania working closely with a young church plant. They will worship with this congregation weekly, and will volunteer with their children's and youth activities. In addition to this, they will build relationships through an afterschool program and make effort to engage with the local community. They hope to tend to the seeds planted by previous REACH teams.

While Team Albania builds on the work of past teams, Team Senegal will break new ground as the first REACH team to serve in Senegal. Connor, Lily, Isaac, Ethan, Emily, and Mackenzie will partner with local believers in a rural community. They will work to build relationships with the local children through various volunteer opportunities, and will spend time developing friendships with families in a nearby village.

As these eleven REACHers take their first steps into the great new adventure of outreach, they ask that you would lift them up in prayer. Sudden immersion into a new culture is never easy, especially with language differences. Ask for a smooth and quick transition, for ease of language learning, and for humility and courage. Pray for the teams as they continue to learn to live together; ask for unity, love, and understanding between them. Ask that God would be close to each of them, and continue to work in and through them. Above all, ask that he would be glorified.

# A Year-End Letter

By Joe, RI President

Nadir grew up as a Muslim in the southeast of Asia. An intelligent and thoughtful young man, he had the opportunity to travel as an international student. In his program, he met people from around the world, including a student from central Africa. This young man impressed Nadir because he seemed to have a different attitude towards life and money.

Nadir admired his friend's contentment, and noticed that he often read his Bible in the study room. Pandemic restrictions forced Nadir to return home, but he never forgot his African friend or the Bible he read—and he decided to search for some Christians to see if he could learn more.

Before long, Nadir ended up at a church led by Elias, a member of RI's team of disciple makers in Asia. He gave his life to Jesus, was discipled, and later baptized. Today, he lives at the RI-sponsored boys' hostel, joining in their prayer and Bible study and volunteering his time to tutor and mentor the younger students. Last week, four of these boys were baptized. Praise God!

Very recently, Nadir got a visa to return to the country where he lived as an international student. This time he will go as a witness of Jesus, and will share with others what he has learned. Let's pray that God will use him powerfully!

Stories like this demonstrate Jesus' strategy for transforming the world from a place of darkness and despair to a place of light and hope. A young man from central Africa leaves his home and lives his faith in the presence of a young man from Asia; this student notices something desirable about his friend, and seeks until he finds the answer in Jesus.

Faithful, genuine relationship with Jesus affects how we live life, how we handle money, how we respond to suffering and injustice. We never quite know how others will experience the presence of Jesus in us. But again and again, we hear stories of lives transformed through simple witness!

**I invite you** to be part of this joyous harvest through giving a year-end gift to RI. We desire to see everyone in reach of a vibrant Jesus community—but there are still too many places in the world where this is far from reality. "How can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?" (Romans 10:14, 15). The fields are white, ready for harvest!

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