

SHARING MY JOURNEY

LEAD Program Update

I want to share what I have been up to in the past year and a half. Over this time, I've been on a transformative journey to lead effectively in ministry, deepen my spiritual growth, and ministry leadership skills. All of that is accomplished through a program called LEAD that provides the needed education and experience. I've immersed myself in the study of God's word, expanded my knowledge of theology, and gained hands-on experience in ministry work. This journey has also allowed me to connect with fellow ministry leaders in monthly cohort meetings, where we share our experiences and discuss the course material. What's especially thrilling is our upcoming international mission trip in Aug 2024, which is sure to be a standout experience in my journey. But before I dive into that, I'd like to share what God has been accomplishing through me over the past few years.



A couple of images of myself with fellow students from my cohort along with my LEAD coach

Where It Began

I started feeling the pull toward ministry when I joined other young adults for Bible studies, prayer sessions, and peer mentoring to grow in our faith. It became clear to me that God wanted me to help others get to know Jesus on a deeper level, and I was confident that He would open doors for me to share His truth and light with those He brought my way. My involvement in ministry has taken on various forms. I dedicated three years to leading young adult Bible studies, and during the COVID pandemic, I served as an online church service host to help my church maintain community connections when physical gatherings were restricted. While working at Freshwater Church, I assumed roles as a discipleship ministry assistant and office manager, and I spent a season contributing to a women's recovery home. Over the past two years, I've had the privilege of being a part of baptizing four individuals who professed their faith in Christ and I've remained committed to supporting peers on their spiritual journeys.

Some other highlights include supporting the church in various volunteer roles, the opportunity to read scripture at a friend's wedding, supporting a Chaplain Training Event in Scottsdale AZ, and hosting a women's ministry conference that was aimed at providing spiritual renewal and equipping women leaders for service and personal growth.



Some great memories serving and leading others for Christ.

Where God Currently Has Me

I currently hold the position of Director of Marketing and Advancement with International Ministerial Fellowship, and my deep-seated passion lies in continuing to spread God's glory through my work in ministry. My role includes communicating the latest and most informative updates, resources, and knowledge to Pastors, Chaplains, Missionaries, and other members who serve others in front-line Christian ministry. IMF's slogan is "Serving Those Who Serve Others" and I enjoy the fruit that comes from this. I am extremely grateful for God calling me into a position in which I can use my creativity and passion in creative writing and reaching others through various media platforms.



Attending and providing support at the Chaplain Training Event in Scottsdale, AZ during the first week of my new position at IMF was truly a blessing.

Looking ahead, I'm particularly excited about the upcoming international mission trip through my LEAD program, which promises to be a significant highlight in the program and my walk with Christ. LEAD partners with Envision Sites, a short-term missions ministry of the Christian & Missionary Alliance, for this trip. Envision Sites has been working in Senegal for many years and has a deep understanding of the local culture and needs. This partnership ensures that our experience will be meaningful and impactful, both for us and the communities we will be serving. From August 9 through 20, 2024, I will have the privilege of going on a life-changing journey to Senegal, Africa. This mission trip is an integral part of the LEAD program that gives me the opportunity to experience an international, cross-cultural missions trip. I am thrilled to have the chance to put into practice the skills and knowledge I have gained throughout my LEAD journey.

Senegal, located in West Africa, is a place we will be able to practically show Jesus' love to those without hope. During our time there, we will have opportunities to provide manual labor, spend lots of time in prayer, and help with basic wound care for those who need it.

To make this mission trip a reality, I am seeking financial support from individuals and organizations who are passionate about empowering my call into ministry and making a difference in the world through sharing the gospel. The funds raised will cover travel expenses, meals, and any project materials. Any contribution made will specifically go towards covering a \$2,000 round-trip plane ticket and the \$1,200 cost of the Envision visit, ensuring that all expenses are met.

Your support would not only enable me to participate in this life-changing experience but also help me develop valuable skills in leadership, cross-cultural communication, and service. I kindly ask for your prayers and financial contribution towards my mission trip to Senegal. Any amount you can give will be greatly appreciated and will go a long way in making this trip possible. You can support me today by scanning the QR code below or visit this website:

<https://lead.managedmissions.com/Donations/Donate/71074>



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Thank you for your support and belief in what God's been calling me to do.

May God bless you abundantly,

Erika Emmings