

Meet Your Missionary

Emily Rezek

Serving with Greater Eurpoe Mission in Lille, France

BIRTHPLACE: St. Louis, Missouri

BIRTHDAY: November 5

HOBBIES/INTERESTES: Reading, Writing, learning about new things, music and films. Exploring museums, historical sites and unfamiliar places. Spending time outside and stargazing. Sharing coffee and meals with friends. Attending the Indianapolis 500 every year with my dad.

FAVORITE VERSES: Isaiah 43:1-7, Isaiah 55, John 15 and 2 Corinthians 5.

My Background:

I grew up in Lake St. Louis, MO and at Chapel of the Lake church. Throughout my youth, I attended every Vacation Bible School, summer camp, and youth group activity that I could. After graduating from Hannibal-LaGrange University in 2004 with a Bachelor's Degree in Education, I worked in the public school system and at a state school for the severely handicapped before moving on to teach middle school math and science in a Christian school for 7 years. I have continued to attend Chapel of the Lake and have served in the junior high youth group, at Vacation Bible School, and at summer camps. I have also led Bible studies for junior high girls and have participated in the St. Louis Young Adults Bible Study Fellowship class for 9 years, including 4 years in leadership. God has given me passion and experience in the areas of youth ministry, education, discipleship, Bible study, and urban ministry, and I am excited to see how He will blend all of these skills and experiences for His glory in this next phase of ministry.

My Testimony:

My mother first introduced me to Christ and began taking me to church at a young age. At age six after Vacation Bible School, I made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17 and 21, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation, because He, who was without sin, took on our sin. I know that without Christ in my life, I would be a misguided, self-serving, and unloving sinner. I have seen His faithfulness to me throughout my life and am grateful that He has kept me close to Him since that early age. Every day He continues to teach me new truths about His love and purpose for me.

My Call to Missions:

I believe God's call has been a process of gradual growth and change for me over several years. In the summer of 2005, God used a mission trip to Chicago with the senior high youth group and a summer camp to impress upon me Paul's words in Philippians 1:21: "To live is Christ, and to die is gain." I wanted to be able to say these words for myself. It took a few more years and a lot more pruning in my heart, but God did bring me to that point, and I told Him that I was ready to go *wherever* and do *whatever* He wanted me to do. In 2010, God gave me the opportunity to take my first short-term mission trip to Lille, France to teach English. I fell in love with France and the French people on that trip and immediately made plans to return the next summer. After that second trip, I felt God's prompting to do something more permanent. I spent the next year thinking, praying, and talking with Greater Europe Mission, and I was commissioned for a two year term with them in November of 2012. As I've grown to love Christ more each day and as I've seen more of the brokenness in the world, I long more and more for His return. I want others to know the hope, peace, and love that are only found in Him.



My Ministry:

Christ's Great Commission is to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Greater Europe Mission's vision is to see God expanding His Kingdom through all peoples of Europe to the world. The mission is to disciple all peoples of Europe through rapidly reproducing churches. I will serve alongside fellow GEM missionaries Leroy and Debbie Zumack in Lille, France. My ministry will include building relationships with the people of France through the avenues of teaching English, student and university ministry, and church planting. Lille is the fourth largest metropolitan area in France, and it is also home to thousands of immigrants and over 100,000 university students. In fact, more than 35% of the residents in Lille are between the ages of 15-29. Recently, God has given a group of believers the vision for an international church plant to reach Lille's immigrant and international student populations. It is a "God-sized dream," but He has already been opening the doors through various conversations and English outreach events. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue relationships that God has formed during my three short-term trips to Lille and to make new ones. I have seen with my own eyes that "the harvest is plentiful" (Matthew 9:37) in Lille. The city's size, student population, and blend of cultures from around the world make it an influential and strategic location for church planting and discipleship. God is truly moving in France right now; there is an increased interest and openness to spiritual matters. New French believers need to learn how to share their faith and how to become the next generation of church leaders in their own communities.

Your Ministry:

In order to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to reach all nations, including France, God calls different members of His body to participate in different ways. By partnering together, we can accomplish something for God's Kingdom that none of us could achieve individually. This ministry, led by the Lord, is a team effort—an equal partnership between Greater Europe Mission, myself, and—if God is calling—*you!* I am so grateful for and humbled by Grace Community Chapel's support, and I look forward to seeing how God will use this partnership for His glory in France. Thank you!

"God is looking for people with whom He can do the impossible - what a pity we plan only the things we can do ourselves." - A. W. Tozer

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Please contact me if you would like to receive my monthly email newsletter.