

Meet Your Missionary

Emily Rezek

Serving with Greater Europe 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 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 to 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: Lille, France is the fourth largest metropolitan area in France and the location of several large universities, totaling over 100,000 students in all. In fact, more than a third of the residents in Lille are under the age of 30! 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. I currently spend about half my time in student and university ministry, working with French colleagues at the FEU (Foyer Évangélique Universitaire), a non-denominational Christian association for university students. Here we host outreach events to share the gospel as well as disciple and train current believers. I also serve in a local French church and work with the high school youth. Lille is also home to thousands of immigrants and a large number of migrants and refugees. Along with some colleagues, we are working on developing a ministry to these groups of people, many of whom come from countries in the 10/40 window who have not previously had access to the gospel.



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.