

# groups

## In this Article:

**Celebration**

**Coaches Corner**

**News in Groups**

**Serving Opportunities**

## Celebration

At Journey, global missions are one of the vital parts of our church experience. As you may know, we usually have up to 5 opportunities to go on missions trips per year. This Summer we had a couple of groups complete mission trips. We sent a team to Brazil in August and a team to Mexico in July. We love global missions! Below is a story of encouragement from 16 year old Breelyn Greer. While in Mexico, she made a new local non-English speaking friend, and through a brief conversation, here is what she learned...

"Laughter lights up her eyes when she hears my broken Spanish. Yet she is patient, and speaks slowly for me to understand. Our communication isn't perfect, but it was real and it was better than any English conversation I've had. This is the moment I realize that sometimes, God speaks in ways that require patience and faith, two areas in which we all lack. Thank you X, for showing me how not all conversations make sense instantly, but those which require thought and process, are the ones worth understanding."

One of the bigger fears people have in going on a mission trip is the language barrier. Isn't it so amazing how God bridges that gap and also grows us in the process? God always finds a way to speak, and we don't have to know another language for that to happen, rather patience and faith.

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## Coaches Corner

At Journey we have the fantastic opportunity to provide coaches for you, our Small Group Leaders. A coach is there to support and guide you in your journey through the entire process of your group. Not only do they pray with and for you as a leader, they also help encourage your growth by helping you understand your group dynamics and follow through a process we have found successful within groups.



Each month we will take the time to highlight one of our coaches. This month, we introduce you to Elise Stanfield.

"Hi, I'm Elise, and I love community groups!!! One of my favorite things about groups is that we have the opportunity to move people from rows to circles. As some of you may know, there are 8 Leader Essentials that provide tips for leading well.. Today I want to share on *Essential 7, Replace Yourself*. Did you know that you don't have to lead your group alone? In fact, we encourage you to begin praying about who in your group shows leadership potential that may be a future group leader. It actually is a vital part of Journey's strategy, especially as we are currently in the midst of an exciting time as we transition into our new facility! Right now is a prime opportunity to begin identifying who you believe is a potential leader within your group to bring along and introduce to your coach or Kambui. Of course, there is a process in which to follow before they are given their own group, and the Journey Groups Team and Coaches are excited to help walk you through what that looks like. You may be thinking, "I've tried, no one is interested," or No one has the 'bandwidth'"...Remember, we aren't asking for a commitment, rather, that you simply identify some leadership potential! Then, all you have to do is let us know, and we will gladly help you walk through the process of replacing yourself. I encourage you to reach out to your coach and discuss your next steps.

It is an exciting time of growth at Journey and one way we continue to impact lives in RVA is by creating additional small group environments where real life change happens. Thanks so much for letting me share! You guys are rockstar leaders and I'm so grateful to be a part of such an incredible Groups Team here at Journey! I pray God speaks clearly to you over the next few weeks as He raises up leaders in your group and you clearly are able to identify them and begin to 'replace yourself.'"

## News in Groups

**SMALL GROUP LEADER GATHERING** in August was a huge success! Over 50 leaders came out to catch some vision and be encouraged from our fearless and awesome Groups Director, Kambui Tendaji. We also enjoyed awesome fellowship time with so many Small Group Leaders!

*\*\*\*If you did not receive information on this event, we may not have your current information, please contact Melanie Hudson at [mhudson@journeychristian.us](mailto:mhudson@journeychristian.us) to provide updated information.*

**GROUPLINK this Fall** was a huge success. We met at Cafe Caturra for the second time and were once again blown away by their hospitality and service. More importantly, we connected 143 people to groups and 15 groups were formed!! Our next Grouplink will be in the Spring. Be on the lookout for more info!

### **SHORT TERM GROUP**

World's Best Seller begins again Thursday, November 12th at 6:30 held at Commonwealth Chapel in the "Attic." [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

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## Serving Opportunities

### **Seasonal Local Missions**

CCHASM - Once again this Thanksgiving we will be partnering with the local organization, CCHASM, to put together Thanksgiving meals for folks in our community. Last year we provided Thanksgiving meals for over 800 families. Can we double it this year? Grab your small group to participate as we once again Impact RVA!! [Please sign up here.](#)

Gifs of Joy will be coming this December! Be on the look-out for more information soon!!

### **Featured Ongoing Local Missions**

Many of you know there are several local organizations that we support for our local community engagement. We know that many small groups are looking for opportunities to serve together; therefore, each month we will highlight one of the local missions that we partner with currently. For a list of ALL our ongoing local missions opportunities, [Click here.](#)

**The Chesterfield Food Bank** is committed to being a hand up to individuals and families that need help but have fallen through the cracks of our governmental social services programs and our community. CFB provides free food to meet the individual's immediate need while assessing the root issues that are causing the need to exist. The Chesterfield Food Bank is committed to showing God's love and watching this unselfish love promote changed lives. They are accomplishing this task through the community's generous financial support, countless partnering volunteers that provides hands, and teamwork with our local government. CFB believes that a healed community is a strong community. When you volunteer with the Chesterfield Food Bank, you may be sorting or bagging food items, visiting with clients and assisting them with food selection, and assisting them to their car with their groceries. To sign up to serve as an individual, a family, or as a small group, please [click here.](#)

**\*\*\*They are currently looking for volunteers the 2nd Friday of Each Month\*\*\***

*\*Remember, in order to sign up, you must use your login information to your Fellowship One Account. As leaders each of you should already have an account using your email address. If you have forgotten your password, simply follow prompts to retrieve.*