



NEWS FROM YAGM SENEGAL

Pastor Kristin Engstrom, YAGM Country Coordinator

September, 2017

They're Here!

The 2017-2018 Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)

On Thursday afternoon, August 24th, I stood anxiously waiting at the arrivals walkway with one of my Finnish Lutheran Mission colleagues at the Dakar Airport.

We examined the baggage tags of every person who passed to see if they were on the same flight as the new YAGMs. Every couple of minutes I stood on my tiptoes to get a better glimpse of the exit door.

Finally I saw a familiar face. Then two familiar faces. And finally seven familiar faces of the new 2017-2018 Senegal YAGM! All safely arrived in Dakar to begin their sojourn in Senegal.



The 2017-2018 Senegal YAGM arrive in Dakar, with Pastor Kristin on the right.

This past Saturday, September 16th, we culminated three weeks of language and culture orientation with a host family orientation. Almost all the YAGM host families came to Dakar to meet the young adult who will be living with them, to share a bit about themselves, and exchange more culture tips.

The next day, Sunday September 17th, all of the YAGM packed up their suitcases, hugged one another tight, and then travelled to their new host communities. As I write this, all seven YAGM have safely arrived in Yeumbeul, Fatick, Foundjioune, and Linguere. Thanks be to God.

Accompanying YAGM Senegal

My work as an ELCA Global Missionary is possible thanks to the generosity of many congregations and individuals in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you! Jerejef! Merci! Jokonjo! Jahram! You can contact me via e-mail at kristin.engstrom@elca.org. [You are also invited to support me as an ELCA Global Missionary here.](#)

If you would like to more closely follow YAGM Senegal, please check out our blog at <http://yagmsenegal.wixsite.com/blog>. You will find pictures and stories of daily life from me and the YAGMs.

On est ensemble! (We are in this together.)



Pastor Kristin Engstrom

As an ELCA missionary, I serve as the Country Coordinator for the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program in Senegal.

I'm originally from the mid-western United States, and served as a parish pastor in northern New Jersey for six years prior to moving to Senegal.

Inside Senegal

Senegal calls itself the land of "Teranga" or hospitality. Even the national sports teams are the "Lions of Teranga."

Real life Teranga: when I arrive at someone's home, a chair and a cool glass of water are immediately brought out in order to welcome a new guest.



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Meet the 2017-2018 Senegal YAGM

The 2017-2018 Senegal Young Adults in Global Mission come from all over the US and are serving in four different communities in Senegal. The YAGM in Yeumbeul and Linguère are serving with Senegalese Lutheran Development Services and the YAGM in Fatick and Foundjioune are serving with the Lutheran Church of Senegal.

Please keep the YAGM, their supervisors, their host families, their communities, and myself in your prayers as they adjust to life in Senegal.

Berkley, from Arizona, is serving with Woolonté Microfinance Program and CSN Preschool in Yeumbeul.

Casey, from Minnesota, is serving at the Community Center in Yeumbeul in the Education Department and Program for Family Life Planning.

Kristian, from North Dakota, is serving with the Primary Health Care Program and teaching English in Linguère.

Grace, from Washington, is serving with Fedannde Jolof Dairy and Milk Processing Program and teaching English in Linguère.

Mercedes, from Pennsylvania, is serving in the Office of Christian Education and the Lutheran Church Youth Movement in Fatick.

Hannah, from Oregon, is serving in the Office of Diaconia and the Women's Job Training Center in Fatick.

Lily, from Iowa, is serving with the Environmental Health Program and Nutrition Program in Foundjioune.



YAGM Senegal visit to the Grand Mosque Omarienne in Dakar during Orientation. Our visit was facilitated by Pastor Joseph Diouf, who specializes in Christian-Muslim Relations.

Pictured clockwise from top left: Mercedes Lee, Lily Brondyke, Pastor Joseph Diouf, Imam Thierno Seydou Nourou Tall, Macky Tall, Kristian Aardahl, Pastor Kristin Engstrom, Berkley Harris, Casey Haffield, Hannah Carr, and Grace Blackmon.