

“Approved Workers” – II Timothy 2:15

DOKIMO I ERGATAI

FALL 2019

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: THEO BATIEN

By Kally Tan '21

The Collaboratory is pleased to welcome Theophilus (Theo) Batein as a volunteer in the International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) run by Mennonite Central Committee. Originally from Chad, Theo serves as a consultant for the Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Mobility projects. He also works with Messiah College’s Sustainability Office.

Theo has a diverse professional background: a degree in rural development, training in agriculture and information technology, and fluency in six languages, including English, Arabic, and French. His skills and interests are a perfect match for the Collaboratory and the Sustainability Office.

IVEP participants are young, Christian adults who are selected to volunteer for one year in the United States or Canada, where they live with a local person or family in order to foster peacemaking and cross-cultural understanding. Theo shares, “I applied for this program five times. I am thankful to God that I got chosen this year.”

He has good reasons for his persistence. “I graduated two years ago, but there are no jobs back home. If I did not get into this program, I would have to leave my family and go to a neighboring country to find work which is very difficult and dangerous.”

Batein shares an example of the challenges of his life in Chad. He is responsible for traveling four hours into the city to buy groceries for his family. Theo elaborates, “It is really tiring because I have to also carry everything back myself. If you are very rich, you can use a wheelbarrow or pay someone to carry the groceries for you. It is not easy to do anything back home. There are no stores or offices nearby, unlike here where everything you want is nearby or easily accessible by car.”

“I have been waiting and praying for years for this opportunity and I finally

got it. I did some research on Messiah College online and found out about the Collaboratory. Now I am here and I am learning, which makes me really blessed and happy.”

Helen Wiley, Sustainable Mobility student project manager, shares that Theo fits into the team perfectly. She says, “Theo has been a missing piece to the Sustainable Mobility team. His unique perspective and skills have helped our team in ways that we could not.” One of his contributions is helping Messiah students translate technical documents into French. Wiley explains, “While our French students are fantastic, very few of them have experienced the language in a technical context.”

Working with the Sustainability Office is also rewarding for Theo. He states, “Working in the garden is a good way to find God and interact with nature. I really want to, by the grace of God, be part of restoring and keeping God’s creation according to Genesis chapter 1.” Theo says that working with both organizations is a blessing and gives him hope.

Batein lives with a local couple who are Messiah alumni. “I love the family and I like it here. I was very nervous before coming to the USA. I was scared for the [potential] challenges, but when my host dad picked me up and brought me home, everyone was very warm and welcoming, which made me feel at home.”

During his year in the USA, Theo hopes to accomplish all his goals with God’s help. He wants to share his life story with others and to learn about theirs. Theo also wants to learn the nuances of American socialization. “I like talking to people but it is difficult sometimes to know what they are thinking.” His other goals include learning about all 32 projects in the Collaboratory and to bless others in whatever way he can. “I want to be a good helper and help others in any way they need me to.” ●



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THE COLLABORATORY
FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
AND APPLIED RESEARCH

MISSION

The Collaboratory is a center at Messiah College for applied research and project-based learning, in partnership with client nonprofit organizations, businesses, governments and communities in our region and around the world. Areas of engagement include science, engineering, health, information technology, business and education. Our two-fold mission is:

- To foster justice, empower the poor, promote peace and care for the earth through applications of our academic and professional disciplines.
- To increase the academic and professional abilities of participants, their vocational vision for lifelong servant-leadership and their courage to act on convictions.

VISION

Increasing hope and transforming lives through education, collaboration, innovation and service.

IDENTITY

The Collaboratory is an organization of students, educators and professionals affiliated with Messiah College. We are Christians who aspire to obey the instructions of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to love neighbors as ourselves and to share his Gospel. As God enables us to serve others today, we seek to grow as disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to serve as God's stewards over the resources of our academic disciplines and to bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.

STUDENT STAFF

STUDENT DIRECTOR: Erin Brenneman
ASSISTANT STUDENT DIRECTOR: Mikayla Eyster
STUDENT PROGRAM MANAGER: Kally Tan
STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Mik Fenn

PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

DIRECTOR: Doug Flemmens
ENGINEERING PROJECT MANAGER: Dereck Plante
PROGRAM MANAGER: Lori Zimmerman
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Shannon Walker
MARKETING TEAM ADVISOR: Alyssa Heberlig

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ERIN BRENNEMAN '20, STUDENT DIRECTOR



Fulfilling the Student Director position this year has enriched my college experience and taught me many valuable skills to further develop my leadership. I love interacting with students, planning for the future of the organization, coordinating the leaders' workshop during the summer, and guiding students spiritually throughout the year in Discipleship Community.

Throughout the year, several verses from I Corinthians have guided me when thinking about the Collaboratory. In I Corinthians 1:4-5, Apostle Paul says, "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that

in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge." This reminds me to stay thankful for everyone involved in the Collaboratory. Every person fulfills a unique and important role. Student Project Managers, Discipleship Community Leaders, Student Board members, team volunteers, our partners and our professional mentors and advisors are all necessary to the mission of the organization. Our vision of "increasing hope and transforming lives" can only be met when everyone uses the gifts God blessed them with.

Although the work we do can be challenging at times, we remember that we are actively changing people's lives, our own included, around the world and in the USA. As we work together in the Collaboratory this year, we lean upon one another for support and ultimately rely on God's power every day. ●

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: LIVING LOVE MINISTRIES

By Courtney Hampton '20

There are about 140 million orphans globally, and an estimated 52 million of them live in Africa according to UNICEF. With this need in mind, Living Love Ministries is "pouring out God's love on vulnerable children" through their children's home in Kenya.

Living Love is "a Christ-centered family home established to address the multi-faceted needs of orphaned children in Kenya," and they currently support and provide security for around 30 children. Dereck Plante, engineering project manager for the Collaboratory, describes the leadership and mission of Living Love. "The director and staff of Living Love are all Christians and believe in sharing the love of Jesus and providing a safe, fun, and welcoming home for these children." Without Living Love, the children that they have been able to reach would be homeless and vulnerable with little hope for the future. The children not only receive a home, security, and an education, but they are also introduced to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Living Love Ministries' roots trace back to 1996 when founder Solomon Mwangi, a young college graduate, first envisioned

Living Love Ministries after he felt God's calling to start a children's home. According to the Living Love website, Solomon began to befriend some of the children that lived on the street and he says, "Somehow I knew the Lord was placing it in my heart to do something for them someday" (livingloveministries.org). In 2010, the Living Love Children's Home in Kalou, Kenya officially opened and Solomon continues to serve on the Kenyan Board of Directors.

The Collaboratory has partnered with Living Love Ministries through the Land Development and Solar PV projects working to meet the needs of Living Love and promote their mission. Projects have included solar power for buildings and an irrigation pump as well as development of a recreation field. Summer site team trips not only allow the Collaboratory projects to implement their designs and solutions, but allow the team members to see and experience Living Love firsthand.

To learn more about Living Love Ministries, visit their website: livingloveministries.org. ●

SUMMER 2019 SITE TEAM UPDATES

Compiled by Lindsay Coward '22

Cunningham Clubfoot Brace, Prosthetic Knee, and Rapid Orthotics for CURE Kenya (ROCK) teams traveled to Kenya in partnership with CURE Kenya. The Cunningham Clubfoot Brace team tested pressure sensor force collection devices and learned first-hand about clubfoot treatments by meeting with patients, parents and staff at local clinics. The Prosthetic Knee team introduced new prosthetic designs to technicians. Hospital staff and ROCK team members worked together to make dynamic ankle-foot orthotics and prosthetic hands.

Bekah Forshey of the Cunningham Clubfoot Brace Team says, "The highlight of my trip was being able to meet clubfoot patients and their families during home visits with clients. It was a joy to hear their stories of treatment and know that our work plays a part in that process."

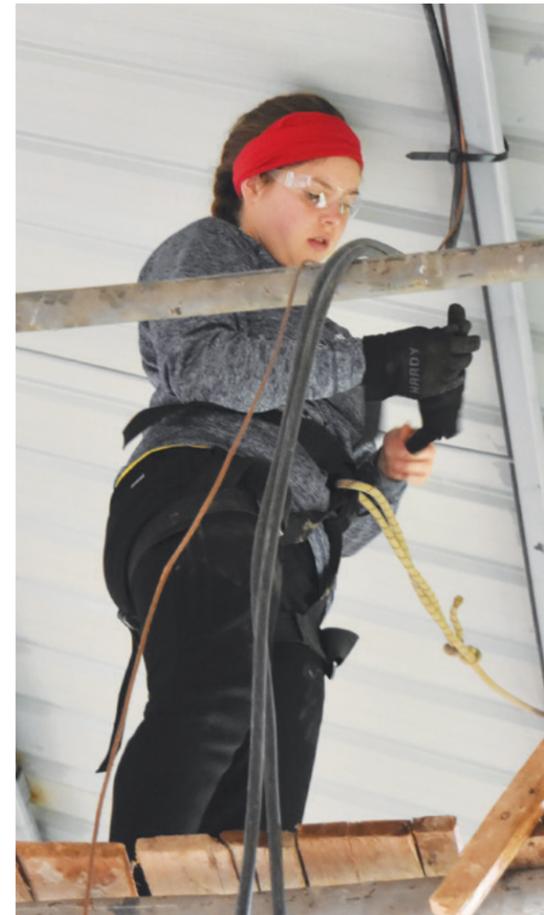
Land Development in Kenya and Solar PV teams both visited Living Love Ministries in Kenya. Land Development installed an irrigation drip system for the orphanage at Living Love Ministries in hopes of extending their growing season. Solar PV installed a solar-powered water pump.

Panama Bridge team worked with Rio Missions to determine a location for a new bridge. Team member Nathan Myers says, "The highlight of my trip to Panama was seeing how interested the kids of the community were in helping the team. They loved helping with clearing the brush, carrying surveying equipment, and doing what they could to get involved."

Energy Monitoring and Management System (EMMS)

traveled to the Theological College of Zimbabwe (TCZ). The team installed energy monitoring systems, which are designed for organizations with limited power, and shared with the TCZ community about power consumption choices.

Village Water Ozonation System (VWOS) went to Nicaragua to see their partners, Friends in Action and the Rama people. They discussed sustainable drinking water solutions for those living on Rama Cay Island. The VWOS team also conducted water quality tests on local wells. ●



Clockwise from top; members of the Solar PV, Prosthetic Knee, and Panama Bridge projects work during their site team trips.



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STUDENT VOICES

Interviews by Jane Mylin '22

“What has the Collaboratory taught you about teamwork?”



Christina Muchmore '21

Economic Empowerment

Being on this team has taught me how to rely on others and ask for help. Our project could not be run by one person. It's only with many voices, working hands and willing hearts that we can do what needs to be done.



John McGarry '20

Block Press

Communication is paramount — especially for multi-phase project work. Compromise is also important: thinking that your idea is always the best option robs your team of the potential for innovation and progress.



Justin Blest '20

Covenant Christian Academy Civil Design

I learned the importance of understanding the individual and group tasks on a team. I have learned that each team member needs to be aware of their own work, what others are doing, and how everything fits into the overall goal. Good communication is a must as teams discuss progress on tasks and plan future work.



Katie Bunch '22

Sustainable Mobility

Delegation has taught me humility, as team members must trust other people to accomplish their work rather than constantly supervising and managing the team's output. Humility is the most important thing I have learned about teamwork from the Collaboratory.

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