

# THE EXPEDITION

a quarterly update from GO InterNational | fall 2019



A CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM IN VENEZUELA

Thank *you* for making a difference around the world!

**GIVING FOR VENEZUELA** | Joshua and Elizabeth, our partners in Venezuela, are grateful for the funds raised at the end of our fiscal year. As the crisis in Venezuela gets worse, we are urging our GO family to continue praying for this nation. The economic system in the country has collapsed. The people in Venezuela face empty supermarket shelves, deadly power outages, limited access to medicine, and wages so low they cannot survive. As tensions and violence grow our partners continue to be a beacon of hope in this desperate situation. Even though the streets are not safe, they continue to gather the faithful and preach the Word and encourage them. They also reach out to those living in severe poverty and helping in any way they can. They ask for prayer that the Lord would strengthen them and keep them faithful in the midst of the chaos and persecution.

Thanks to YOUR support, GO InterNational brought medical care and the Gospel message to remote villages in Peru (pg. 2) and served in Moria, a refugee camp in Greece (pg. 2). We are also traveling to Kurdistan to develop partnerships to bring the Gospel message to unreached peoples (pg. 3). GO welcomes Michelle Cravens Gash as our new Missions Team Recruiter (pg. 4).

## TEAM TRUSTS IN GOD'S PROMISES IN PERUVIAN JUNGLE VILLAGE



GO TEAM SERVING THE PEOPLE OF OLIVOS

A 16-mile hike into the Peruvian jungle requires good walking shoes, horses to carry supplies, and reliance upon God's strength. A GO team recently served in Olivos where they learned to fully trust in God's promises.

It took the team 11 hours to complete the trek, and team leader Michelle Gash said "we saw God's presence - the hand of a Peruvian or the rest that we needed - and He gave us what we needed when we needed it. We learned to lean on Him fully, and He proved himself faithful."

The team included a doctor and dentist, and they treated many community members at a clinic. They spent the afternoons hosting a Vacation Bible School, and the team also led worship and film ministry.

An especially meaningful experience for Gash was ministering to the local women. The team had collected toiletries before the trip, and they gave these out. They invited about 15 women and gave them hand massages. "Then we asked each woman how we could pray for her," Gash said. "Each one of them shared, and then we prayed over them individually. The last woman asked to pray to receive Christ into her life."

This team saw God provide in their own lives on the hike to and from Olivos, and they witnessed Him working in the lives of the community members. "The biggest theme of the trip was holding onto the promises of God and fully depending on Him," Gash said. "It strengthened my faith to see that He is faithful to fulfill His promises."

**SERVE IN PERU** | [gointernational.org/trips](http://gointernational.org/trips)

## TEAM SERVES AT REFUGEE CAMP IN LESVOS, GREECE

"We didn't expect it to be like this."

These words were spoken by a man in Moria, a refugee camp in Lesvos, Greece. He and his extended family were crowded into a 10 by 15 foot tent. He was a medical student in his home country, yet his family now joined refugees from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Kurdistan, and the DRC as they waited for a permanent home in a safe country. He is one of many refugees our GO team met in May.

The team partnered with EuroRelief, a Greek organization responsible for housing the camp residents. Each day, EuroRelief finds housing for the new arrivals who have been picked up from the beaches of Lesvos. Turkey can be seen from the small island, making it a landing spot for many refugees. The camp has the square footage of a Wal-Mart, yet it houses up to 10,000 refugees. ISO boxes (converted shipping containers) are stacked two high, and tents from the UN fill the overflow space - a farmer's olive grove outside the camp.

Our team served in the camp and EuroRelief's warehouse. Team members conducted camp census, distributed cleaning supplies and diapers, worked at EuroRelief's information point, put up tents, sorted donations, and more. Fellow EuroRelief volunteers shared their experiences from the past months and years, and the team gained a better understanding of the refugee crisis.

Though the conditions of the camp were not ideal, no one heard a refugee say they wish they hadn't come. Please pray for all of those fleeing war and violence across the world.

**MORIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** | Do you want to serve in Greece? Contact Robin Gericke to learn more at [robin@gointernational.org](mailto:robin@gointernational.org).



# the call

OPEN DOORS FOR GO TO SERVE IN NORTHERN IRAQ

**I have a goal to preach the gospel where they haven't heard of Christ yet, so that I won't be building on someone else's foundation.**

**- Apostle Paul in Romans 15:20**

“Just a few years ago, we could hardly imagine taking the Gospel into Iraq in this way. We're thrilled that the Lord is opening the doors into this new territory!” said Ron Houp, president of GO InterNational, about this new mission initiative.

“Kurdistan in northern Iraq is a land of ancient peoples. The Kurds trace their origins to the Medes and Persians of the Old Testament. Their capital city, Erbil, was founded nearly 3,000 years ago. They've been Muslim for 1,300 years, but in the last few years a door has opened to reach them with the Gospel,” Houp said. “Just as we have been seeing the church growing dramatically in many places, there is a hunger among the Kurds to know the truth.”

GO will partner with Frontier Alliance International, a mission group focused on the Middle East, to help serve this previously war-torn area. Relative peace in Kurdistan has opened the way for missionaries and short-term mission teams to serve the people, develop relationships, and bring the Gospel message.

“We believe we stand in a unique hour of history, wherein even conservative missiologists believe the Gospel can reach the corners of the last frontier in our time,” said Dalton Thomas, director of FAI.

“GO's first team will arrive in Kurdistan in October. We will make contact with partners on the ground and serve alongside them in a variety of ministries,” said Larry Montgomery, director of Team Ministries at GO. “We hope to return to Kurdistan with a medical team in April 2020 and to take service teams of all sorts in 2020 and beyond.”

Like many of the places GO takes mission teams, acts of service such as providing medical care, assistance with clean water, and community development projects open the door to relationship. That relationship can then be the foundation for sharing the saving knowledge of Jesus and the introduction of the Gospel with hopes of establishing churches. It is a method that has been effective to improve the standard of living and share the love of Christ.

Your support of GO makes possible this new work in Kurdistan. When you support this ministry, you are sending workers into places to help lay a Gospel foundation that will be built upon for years to come.

## BETTER FRIENDS THAN MOUNTAINS

Around 31 million Kurdish people live across 13 countries, making them the world's largest stateless people. They are one of the most unreached and unengaged people groups on earth. Watch a FAI documentary about the Kurdish people and the hope of Christ at [gointernational.org/middle-east](http://gointernational.org/middle-east).

# JOIN US

serve on an upcoming team

## TRUJILLO, HONDURAS | FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 1, 2020

Provide outpatient medical and dental care to people who have little access to care while focusing on community health development.

TRIP COST: \$1460 + AIRFARE | Led by Dr. Larry Frick



GO TEAM TO TARAPOTO, PERU

## LESVOS, GREECE | MAY 11-20, 2020

Serve in Moria, the largest refugee camp on the island of Lesbos. We will partner with EuroRelief, a Christian Greek organization that oversees housing in the camp.

TRIP COST: \$1695 + AIRFARE | Led by Robin Gericke

## RINCON DEL BUEY, HONDURAS | MAY 23-30, 2020

Host VBS, food ministry, clothing ministry, and construction projects all with the purpose of pointing people to Jesus Christ.

TRIP COST: \$1290 + AIRFARE | Led by Victoria Clark

## RWANDA | JUNE 18-28, 2020

Serve at Cindi's Hope at a primary school in Rwanda. In a country devastated by genocide, Cindi's Hope has the opportunity to share the love of Jesus by cultivating a culture of peace and helping to educate Rwandan children.

TRIP COST: \$1895 + AIRFARE | Led by Michelle Gash

Join these teams or see a full list of trips at [GOINTERNATIONAL.ORG/TRIPS](https://www.gointernational.org/trips)

## meet michelle

Michelle Cravens Gash has served with GO since she was 12 years old when she went to Venezuela with Larry Cochran. She worked as a social worker for 6 years, and now we welcome her to the GO team as our Mission Team Recruiter. Gash works to support and encourage our international partners.

“Because of my history with GO, I’ve already established a lot of relationships with partners, so I’m excited to continue those relationships,” Gash said. For example, she’s known the Peruvians on the Olivos team for 10-15 years! She is most looking forward to “going to new areas where God is opening doors with trips and ministry opportunities.”

**SERVE WITH MICHELLE** | Join her upcoming teams to Rwanda and Peru!



**WHEN YOU SUPPORT GO, YOU ARE** feeding orphans in Central India; providing medical care to rural villages in Guatemala; educating children in a slum in Lima, Peru; training young pastors in Nepal and India; sending an exploratory team to Kurdistan in Northern Iraq to minister to Kurdish people; and much more!

**THANK YOU** | Your support is making a difference. Thank you for caring about this ministry and partnering with us to reach the world for Christ.