

ALIVE!

WINTER 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF KIDS ALIVE® INTERNATIONAL



Meet these faithful servants of Christ!

"We are seed-scatterers and ploughmen. If we were in this for the wonderful feeling of a child's affection and gratitude, we would have burned out long ago. Not that these moments don't happen, but the driving force, the fuel that burns through as an ember in this great darkness, is the powerful, rich, deep and transforming love of Jesus Christ our King. We have the opportunity to shine into the lives of children whose lives have been destroyed by sin (as ours once were), and show them our good Father, who knows them by name and is beckoning them to Himself. We are His ambassadors, agents of His grace proclaiming with joy and authority the reality of His coming kingdom. The harvest is ripe...would you join us?"

Jeremy and Sara Boucher have come all the way from the state of Texas to serve at Dar El Awlad in Lebanon. After graduating from Howard Payne University with a degree in math, Jeremy went on to the Masters of Divinity program at Baylor University's Truett Seminary. Sara majored in International Studies at Baylor.

The family is blessed with four children: Thaddaeus, Chandler, Ella, and Abigail. Growing up alongside the children in the Kids Alive community is a unique experience, and they are thriving! They love zaatar manaeesh, a traditional Lebanese breakfast, anything with a chocolate-ginger combo, and they delight in being neighbors with the boys in the small group homes.

After an initial three-year term with Kids Alive, Jeremy and Sara have committed to serving long term. Jeremy serves as the ministry's Operations Manager and teaches math in the upper elementary grades. He also filled a great need by serving as interim co-director for the ministry in the summer and fall of 2017. In addition to her responsibilities to her own children, Sara serves in the areas of sponsorship, communications, and photography.

In this turbulent land that is not always welcoming to followers of Christ, the Bouchers are living out the Gospel of hope, and their investments are yielding eternal dividends. We are blessed by their sacrifice, their service, and their love for the children that we serve. Please pray for them as they minister to the precious, at-risk children at Dar El Awlad, and that the good news of the Gospel will take root in each young heart!

Kids Alive missionaries at Dar El Awlad, Jeremy and Sara Boucher, along with their children Thaddaeus, Chandler, Ella, and Abigail



kidsalive.org



ALIVE!

“May the favor of the Lord our God rest on

Another holiday season is over, and 2018 is in full swing! As we begin the new year, I am excited to see the plans that God has for our ministry. We remain committed to following the call of Scripture to “seek justice” for orphans and vulnerable children around the world!

As we have entered our second century of ministry, we have been prayerfully identifying these key priorities while we continue to grow and thrive:

First, we are committed to strengthening healthy families.

We believe that every child needs to be part of a loving, safe, healthy family structure. Therefore, our goal is to strengthen vulnerable families in the communities that we serve, and help families stay together whenever possible.

We will also explore new initiatives for placing children in loving family settings. Right now, we are working with the Guatemalan government to double the size of the foster program in that country, and we are examining possibilities for expanding foster care in other Latin American and African countries.

And our residential small-group homes remain critically important as we provide safety to abused and abandoned children who simply have nowhere else to go. Even then, we will work closely with the extended families and communities of these children, as well as local churches, to reunite them with their families when possible.



us; establish the work of our hands..."

Ps. 90:17 (NIV)

Second, we will relentlessly pursue excellence in our work with orphans and vulnerable children. We are committed to seeing our children thrive and reach their full potential, and to accomplish this most effectively, we need to help them recover and heal from past suffering. Almost all our children have experienced some form of trauma, and the growth of new counseling and support initiatives will be instrumental in raising young men and women who can flourish emotionally, educationally, and spiritually.



Underpinning everything we do is our steadfast allegiance to fulfilling God's call to care for orphans and vulnerable children, and keeping Him at the center of every program we operate, all our planning, and every decision made. **We believe that the Gospel is our most precious asset as an organization, and we remain committed to see Christ glorified through all we do.**

Could I ask you to pray? As we continue the urgent work of rescuing orphans and vulnerable children in 2018, we need your prayers!

- Pray for our children, that they flourish and thrive, and become the difference-makers that their communities and nations desperately need.
- Pray for the financial resources, facilities, and staff we need to expand our programs and rescue more children in the future.
- Pray for our field leaders, national staff, and missionaries, that they would know the Lord's strength, comfort, and wisdom as they serve "on the front lines" in some of the most difficult situations imaginable every day.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement! Together we can continue to see the lives of orphans and vulnerable children transformed – forever!

Third, we will grow our influence and impact in the communities and nations where we serve. We will develop vibrant partnerships with governments, community organizations, and local churches who will join us in taking up the cause of the fatherless. And we will pursue innovative, creative opportunities for responding to the orphan crisis in the world today.

We desire to see whole communities – and whole nations – changed for the better! Our commitment is to rescue children from hopelessness, help restore them from past hurts, and reunite them with their families and communities. We believe that the kids we are raising today can be difference-makers in their families, workplaces, churches, communities – even their nations – in the future.



"... future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim His righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!"

Ps. 22:30-31 (NIV)



Is God calling YOU to missions?

Kids Alive missionaries are some of our best and most valuable “agents of change” as we live out our mission to rescue and minister to at-risk children. These dedicated men and women serve every day as the hands and feet of Jesus! They teach, they build, they coordinate child sponsorships, they work in community outreach to build healthy relationships...all in a concerted and prayerful effort to rescue some of the most vulnerable children in the world and introduce them to Jesus.

Missionaries work hand-in-hand with more than 700 national staff around the world in a wide variety of roles that include:

- **Journalism / Communications**
(Media specialists, sponsorship coordinators)
- **Spiritual, Emotional, and Mental Care**
(Counselors, youth workers, trainers)
- **Education**
(Teachers, curriculum developers, educational counselors)
- **Skilled Trades**
(Construction, agriculture, computer repair, etc.)
- **Project Management / Administration**
(Program directors, ministry startup managers)
- **Medical Staff**
(Doctors, nurses, public health workers)

Could God be calling you to serve with us? Then let’s talk about the exciting and challenging work of being a Kids Alive missionary!

KAI has established and maintains the highest standards for those entrusted with the rescue and nurture of our kids. We look for these characteristics in prospective missionaries:

- 18 years old or older, with at least one year of college experience (college graduates preferred)
- Living and growing relationship with Jesus Christ and active participation in a Christ-professing church / community of faith
- Willingness and humility to learn a new language, culture, and way of life
- Willingness to work under local leadership in the country of ministry
- Emotional maturity and a well-formed sense of worth and identity in Jesus Christ

Our missionaries attend a week-long orientation at our headquarters, as well as in-depth pre-field training off-site that lasts six weeks. In addition, we require a certain level of language proficiency before full-time work can begin in order to facilitate a smooth transition into a new culture.

If you are prayerfully considering a commitment to missions and have more questions, please contact our **Missions Mobilization Manager** at serve@kidsalive.org. We’d be glad to help you see how your skills and talents and the needs of our fields might intersect!