



COUNTING THE COST OF MISSIONS

Rivermont EPC Missions Festival

March 6-8, 2026

February 2026

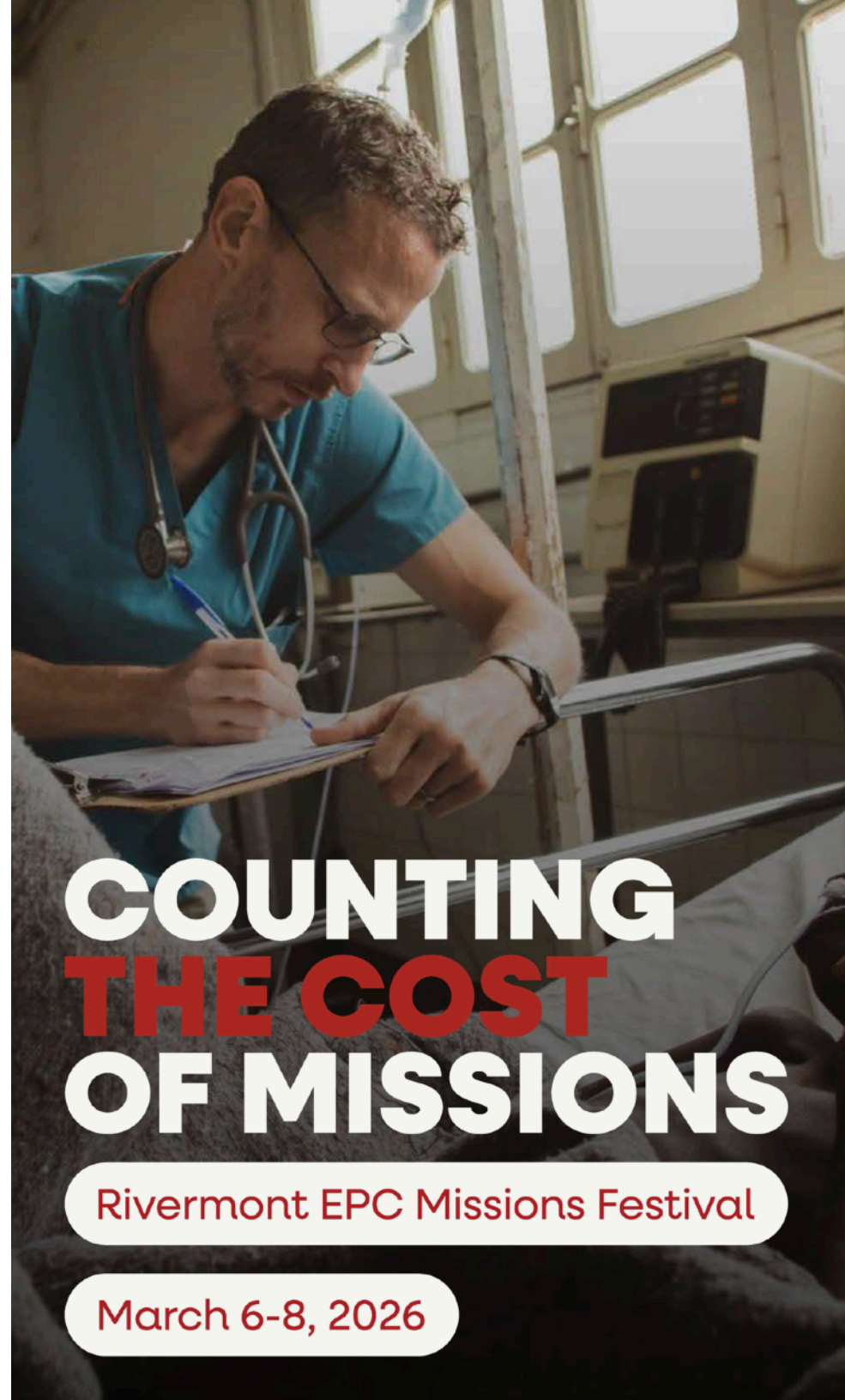
Dear friends,

There is a cost to being a disciple of Jesus. He says as much in Luke 14:27-28. *"Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?"* We see that the cost of discipleship is a cross to bear. What is the cross we must bear? It is a giving up of our will in order to embrace God's will, no matter the cost required. It's like writing God a blank check for him to do what he will in your life and with your life. And we can pay that cost if we know it will be worth it.

In Acts 5 we read about the high cost Peter and the other apostolic missionaries paid. They were arrested, humiliated and beaten for preaching that Jesus was the Christ. In verse 41, Luke says, "they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name." They paid the cost because they knew it would be worth it. As James wrote, they "counted the trials they faced as all joy because they proved their faith. They solidified, purified and completed their faith.

As we gather for the 2026 Missions Festival, may we, along with our missionaries, be strengthened and encouraged as we count the cost of our cross-bearing, so that we might follow the example of the apostles who did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Soli deo Gloria!



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FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS



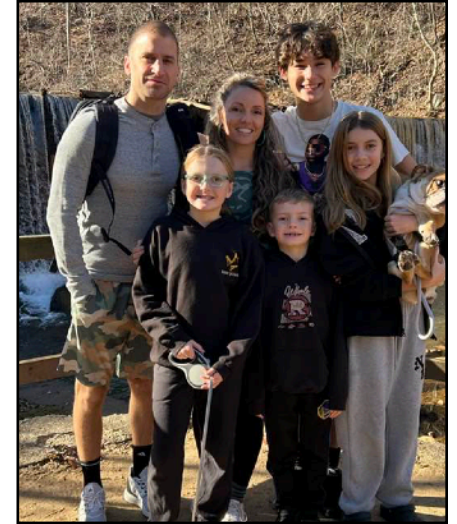
RAY & KAY BAKER
Sweden



DANIEL & PRISCILLA CUMMINGS
Angola



CHRIS & LORI GASSLER
Virginia



JOE & DUNCAN MAYE
North Carolina



TOM & DAMARIS OTREMBA
Poland



KETREENA RUTH
India



MARSHALL & SARAH YORK
Virginia

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY MARCH 6

- 5:30 PM** Festival of Food
Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 PM** Missionary Panel Q&A
The Sanctuary

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Rivermont Missions Festival kicks off at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall with a **Festival of Food**. We'll have three Tapas style stations with food from the Mediterranean world, the Indian world, and the Pacific Rim. In addition there will be a tossed salad table, a kid's table with Chick-fil-A nuggets for our elementary age friends and below, and a dessert table.

Following dinner, we'll gather in the Sanctuary for a **Missionary Panel Q&A** from several of our missionaries as they discuss the unique obstacles and opportunities for gospel ministry in their part of the world.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MARCH 7

- 8:30 AM** Continental Breakfast
Fellowship Hall
- 9:15 AM** Devotional with Eric Vess
Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 AM** Missionary Workshops
Rivermont Room A, The Choir Room
- 10:30 AM** Missionary Workshops
Rivermont Room A, The Choir Room
- Afternoon/
Evening** Missionaries visiting Rivermont Small
Groups

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Rivermont Missions Festival continues with breakfast at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall with bagels and cream cheese as well as coffee from Bacon St. Bagels. We'll also have a fruit salad and yogurt to top it all off. At 9:15am, Eric Vess, our Global Missions Coordinator, will offer some devotional thoughts and at 9:30am and 10:30am, we'll have two separate workshops with our missionaries. The workshops are designed to give you a "behind the scenes look" at their work including some demonstrations..

In the afternoon and evening, missionaries will be meeting with small groups in Rivermont members' homes. If you are not in a small group, but would like to participate, contact Pastoral Assistant Janet Freshour (janet@rivermont.org) to be added to one.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MARCH 8

- 8:30 AM** Worship Service
The Sanctuary
- 9:45 AM** Missionaries in Sunday School Classes
Various Rooms
- 11:00 AM** Worship Service
The Sanctuary
- 12:30 PM** Covered Dish Lunch with Missionaries
Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 PM** Special Missionary Prayer Meeting
The Chapel

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Rivermont Missions Festival concludes with a couple of opportunities to hear from our missionaries. During the Sunday School hour, missionaries will be in our Sunday School classes to share about God's work in their ministry and world. Classes will have the opportunity to ask questions and pray for the missionary in their class.

Following the late worship service, we'll enjoy a covered dish lunch with our missionaries in the Fellowship Hall. We'll provide the fried chicken and we ask the following groups of people to bring:

- **Side Dish** (*Last Name starts with A - H*)
- **Cold Salad** (*Last Name starts with I - O*)
- **Dessert** (*Last Name starts with P - Z*)

Please bring enough to feed 6 to 8 people.

We'll end the day with a time of special prayer for our missionaries as they return home to continue God's work.

FESTIVAL REGISTRATION

**To sign up for the Mission Festival
click the QR Code with your phone camera
or type in the web address [https://repc.breezechms.com/form/
bf41318998678322](https://repc.breezechms.com/form/bf41318998678322)**

