



**Mennonite  
Mission  
Network**

MARCH 2017

RAICES

Refugee and Immigrant Center for  
Education and Legal Services

# BEYOND TOWARD FAITH IN ACTION

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free ... serve one another humbly in love. —Galatians 5:13

## Shaped by service

By Kelsey Hochstetler

**D**aniel Morales\* was 5 years old when he was abandoned by his parents, and he survived living on the streets. Even at that young age, gangs tried to intimidate him to join.

As a teen, Daniel escaped the pressure, and traveled on top of trains through Mexico to the United States—a journey many deem as too risky. “But he was relentlessly positive,” said Hannah Eash-Gates, his legal representative and an alumna of Mennonite Voluntary Service.

The two met at the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) in San Antonio. Eash-Gates served at RAICES

during her time with MVS and continued there for seven years after her service term ended.

In the two years it took for Eash-Gates to help Morales achieve legal permanent residency status, he enrolled in high school, made the honor roll, and learned two languages! Both of their lives were changed through knowing one another.

Eash-Gates graduated from Goshen College with a double major in Spanish and Peace Justice Conflict Studies. MVS gave her the opportunity to put her double major into action. “I had

**Hannah Eash-Gates**, volunteered with Service Adventure and Mennonite Voluntary Service. Both experiences helped shape her life and choice of career. *Photo by Jonathan Ryan/Raices.*

absolutely zero interest in the law or legal work, but it sounded interesting to work with Spanish-speaking refugees,” Eash-Gates said. Eventually, her passion outgrew her ability and she decided to go to law school. Eash-Gates is in her second year of law school at Northeastern University in Boston.

“MVS and my subsequent employment at RAICES not only gave me experience that helped me get a full scholarship, but it also made me a better student because I know why I’m there.” ■

*\*A pseudonym was used to protect his privacy.*

**MVS gave Hannah the opportunity to put her double major into action.**

**PRAY** for other children seeking refuge, that they may find a safe home.

**Sent**  
2017

**April 6–8, 2017  
Fort Myers, Florida**

Working with a church start-up?

Thinking of initiating a new ministry?

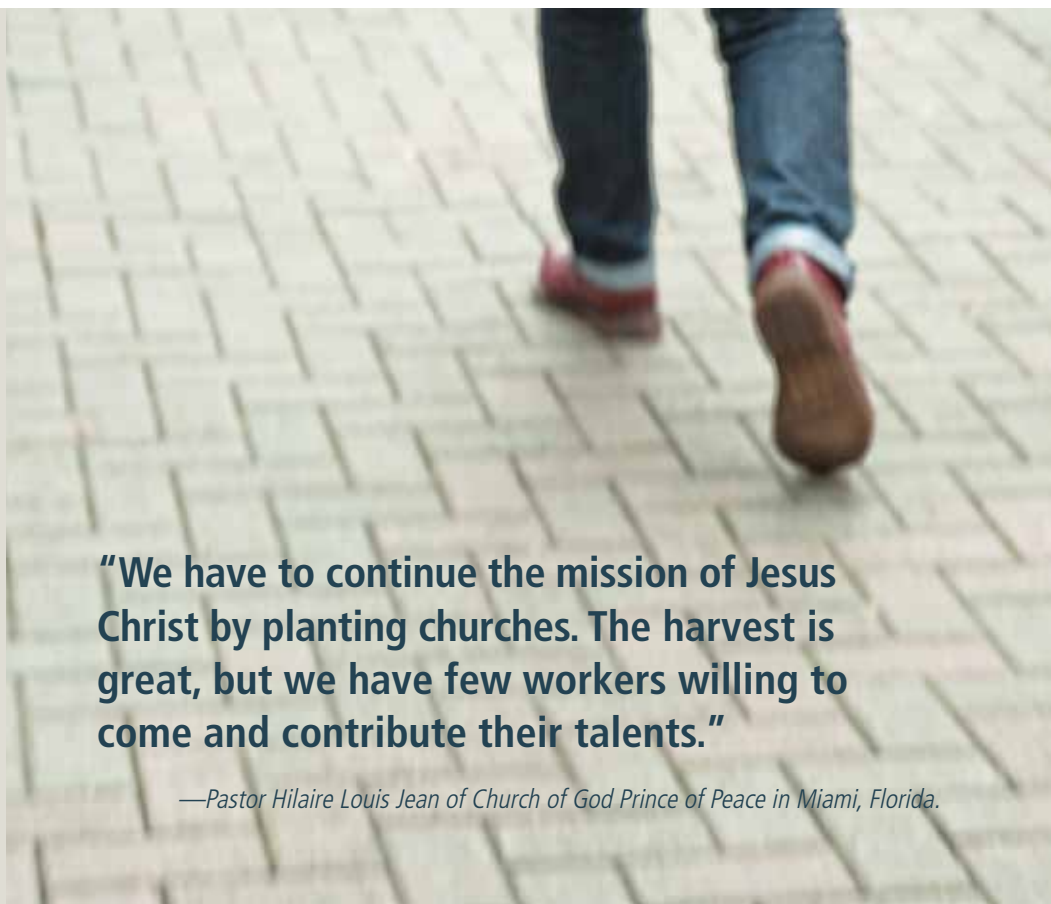
**Attend Sent 2017** and meet others who are doing the same! Find support and encouragement in following God’s call.

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[www.MennoniteMission.net/Sent](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/Sent)

**“We have to continue the mission of Jesus Christ by planting churches. The harvest is great, but we have few workers willing to come and contribute their talents.”**

—Pastor Hilaire Louis Jean of Church of God Prince of Peace in Miami, Florida.



# 6 things

that can be learned during service

An excerpt from Susannah Epp's blogpost, "Living in Jackson, I've learned many things"

1. **Find the sacred in small spaces:** "... a church is still a church if there are only 15 people in it."
2. **Challenge the norm:** "... a lot of the time, stereotypes are ridiculously, entirely wrong."
3. **Shift in perception:** "I've learned what it feels like to be a minority, noticed everywhere you go."
4. **Witness the power of encouragement:** "... if you applaud one kid for something, 20 other kids will fall over themselves trying to earn your approval for the same thing."
5. **Uncover new skills:** "I've learned to overcome my shyness and hold my own in a conversation with a group of people I just met."
6. **Goodness:** "Most importantly, I've learned that goodness can be found everywhere, in anyone, if you look for it the right way."

To read more, visit [MennoniteMission.net/blog](http://MennoniteMission.net/blog).



**Be free.  
Be a servant.  
Be the Gospel.**

Discover your service opportunities at  
[MennoniteMission.net/Serve](http://MennoniteMission.net/Serve).

Cut out or fold over, post, and use this verse for contemplation and prayer over the next month.



**Be the Gospel.**

**So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves ...**

—1 Thessalonians 2:8



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