

YAGM in Senegal

Pastor Mytch Pierre-Noel Dorvilier
YAGM Country Coordinator

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Pastor Mytch Pierre Noel Dorvilier

I serve as the Coordinator for the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program in Senegal.

I am originally from the beautiful Island of HAITI, the first Black Republic in the World. I am the mother of 3 beautiful humans. I served as a Parish Pastor in Central California before moving to Senegal.

I enjoy cooking, dancing, yoga, journaling, and running.

I am so glad to be back again.

Happy New Year from the land of Teranga

Dear friends,
I thank God for you and another year!

Last year God has been actively at work in my life. In May, I moved to Senegal from Fresno, California to serve the ELCA as the Coordinator for the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program. It's been life-giving to reconnect with some of the siblings in Christ I met 13 years ago when I was on my first assignment as the Associate Regional Representative for West Africa. A lot has changed since but, in the Senegalese Teranga, hospitality remains the same. The humans in Senegal make me feel as if I never left. Because of that hospitality, I felt very comfortable in my new ministry.



In August, I enjoyed welcoming the first cohort of four volunteers—Sam, Quentin, Sol, and Charlie—to Dakar. These new human volunteers are the first to return to Senegal after a two-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon arrival, they went through a very intensive 3 weeks of cultural orientation. The cultural orientation not only gives them an opportunity to create community together, but to learn intensive Wolof and French languages before departing to the respective community where they will be challenged and grow in their faith while working with the people.

On Thanksgiving, we gathered for our first week-long retreat. The theme was “Embracing Curiosity.” It is an invitation to notice what it feels like to be bodies in the company of other humans in a new culture and language. We also created space and times for worship, discussions, journaling, breathing, cooking, and some sightseeing.

Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) is an ELCA program that invites young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, providing critical support to ministries and projects in communities of need. But most importantly, the volunteers are invited into a journey of self-reflection, providing space to consider their sense of identity, God's work in the world, and their place within it all.

Where is Senegal?



The Republic of Senegal is in West Africa. Its capital is Dakar. The name “Senegal” comes from the Wolof “Sunu Gaal” which means “Our Boat.”

In 1840 Senegal was declared a French possession until 1960 when it gained its independence. The two major languages are French and Wolof.

Off its coast lies Goree Island, the largest slave-

trading center on the African coast from the 15th to the 19th century.

Islam is the predominant religion, practiced approximately by 96 percent of the country's population. The four percent is divided between Christians and animists.

May you have a wonderful 2023.
Ba ci kanam!

You can support Pastor Mytch's call through [ELCA Global Church Sponsorship](#).

Prayer & Generosity

I thank God for the generosity and prayers of many congregations and individuals in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). My call to the Church is meaningful because of you. If the Holy Spirit is calling you to contribute to the YAGM program, click directly on this link:

<http://support.elca.org>