

## **Outreach International Tennessee**

The goal of OIT is to reach the international community of East Tennessee with the love, grace and gospel of Jesus. We want to partner with people, churches and other missions to more effectively reach those who have never heard the gospel. Our mission is to reach the “unreached” community.

Our team consists of two families. The Pitners, Greg, Lydia, Garner (9) and Mae (6) have been living in Maryville for over 10 years. The Hardings, Bo, Bekah, Lila Belle (4) and River(1.5) who have just moved to Maryville from the Tri-Cities to help complete the OIT team. Lydia and Bekah are sisters which makes for a great team dynamic. We have been hanging together as a family and talking about ministry for years. It wasn't until we converged at the 2011 National Missionary Convention that we felt we needed to be in full time missions.

Each member of our team has had many cross-cultural experiences. The Hardings were able to live in China and Mongolia as English teachers and the Pitners have been overseas to Haiti, Japan, China and Mongolia. Through these many opportunities our families have continued to feel the call to reach the international community. Each team member has many formal skills that help us complete this mission. Lydia has a Elementary Education Degree. Bekah has a Bible and counseling degree. Greg has a Bible and Preaching degree and Bo is a Bible and Media major. As God has put all these pieces together we began to see the culmination of all our past experiences and our spiritual gifts come together.

As Christians we need to have a growing realization that the gospel matters most. Students and families continue to gain a lot from their experience here in America and we feel that it would be a tragedy for them not to hear about Jesus. Sadly most say that they have never heard the gospel and some of them have lived in the States for years. As we find ourselves having more opportunities to work with the international community that surrounds us, the burden continues to grow to show them the daily christian walk.

We continue to do this in a variety of ways. We've have found that the international community is so varied that its difficult to use a single method to encompass our evangelism work. The ladies have been very involved with bible study and a preschool music class. This seems to work well with the Japanese ladies and their kiddos and acts as a way for them to teach the gospel in a non-formal environment with varying language skills. Many of the men in the Asian cultures are harder to bond with but the guys have been tutoring English and working with students at Maryville College. This is also a mixed bag and offers a huge variety of cultures with varying levels of students to work with. With such a diverse level of english skills and social orders it's difficult for us to incorporate this community in the larger American style church gatherings. This is why home groups, small bible studies and social gatherings outside the traditional church are so important for OIT to succeed. We know that the church plays a huge

part for OIT. Its prayers and support are the foundation for God's work no matter what the mission. Our hope is to partner with local churches all over East Tennessee in order to share our vision and peak the interest of others who want to work with people from around the world.

Our goal is to teach the "unreached" about Jesus. It is our mission to do this to the best of our ability. With God leading the way we feel the combination of our combined skills and love for one another will help lead others to Jesus in ways we could never have imagined. Having local churches backing us helps develop a network of prayer and communication that would otherwise be impossible. We believe that by embracing this partnership we can both win new believers to Jesus and recruit disciple makers from within the body.

Outreach International Tennessee is a mission to the international community based in Maryville, Tennessee consisting of the Pitner and Harding families. (OIT) was founded in 2012 after much thought and prayer. We are advised and fall under the guidance of Outreach International based out of Shelbyville, Missouri. Outreach International is an organization who has been guiding and recruiting missionaries for over 30 years. You can visit their website [www.oionline.org](http://www.oionline.org) for more information.

OIT is seeking partners in this ministry to the "unreached" international community. If you feel led to partner with OIT in fulfilling the Great Commission, we would love to hear from you.

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