# December 6, 2024





# MISSION

disaster relief • education

health • micro business

# SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT

around the world and around the corner

# **Empowering the Next Generation**

One Tractor. Endless Impact.



During a trip to **Honduras** in May, five Midwest Mission staff members visited the **Agriculture School of Valle de Sula Choloma**. We were absolutely astonished by how the school operated. The students, ranging from junior high to high school age, receive a holistic education. They learn typical school subjects such as math and reading, but also the trades. Every single student learns how to sew, cook, and bake, care for animals like cows and chickens, plant and harvest plantains, and more.

It was beautiful to see the "teach a man to fish" metaphor in action.

The economy in Honduras is hard on many people, and financial stability is not common. The opportunity to receive an education and learn skills that will foster future business opportunities is priceless.

We were quite fond of the Agriculture School, to say the least. The instructors were very personable and professional, sharing all of their knowledge with us as we toured the facility. The students have received a lot of gifts from Midwest Mission — Student Kits, bikes, sewing machines, Personal Dignity Kits, and more. But it was while listening to the instructors passionately share their appreciation that we knew this was a place we wanted to continue deeply investing in.



While there, we met Octavio (the man in the middle of the photo), an instructor who had worked with the school for over 25 years. He proudly walked us around the grounds of the school, showing us the plantain fields, cattle, and trade classrooms. Although we had a translator, the passion and dedication needed no translation – it was apparent how much he cared about the school and the students.

Like most of the places we visited in Honduras, Chantel Corrie, Midwest Mission's Executive Director, was sure to ask them "What do you need? If you could have an item that would make a great impact, what would it be?"

Octavio's eyes lit up.

His dream has been to have a tractor for the school. They have planted all of their plantains using hand tools. They haven't had the machinery needed to expand their crops and increase the yield.

"I want to show the students that they can cultivate crops in a way that isn't as strenuous," Octavio shared with Ramon Ortiz, Midwest Mission's Operations Manager. "And, they will not only learn how to use heavy machinery, but also learn how to fix it when it breaks down, a skill that is very important."

Upon returning to the United States, the decision was made to get them a tractor. We looked into purchasing a tractor in Honduras, but the price was too expensive.

Thankfully, Bill Ridgley, full-time volunteer in lowa, knew someone who had a John Deere

4105 tractor with a loader and brush hog for sale who would sell it to us for a great price - only \$25,000.

Ramon called Octavio to tell him the great news – "We will be sending you a tractor!" Octavio had Ramon on speaker phone, with a classroom full of students.

"They were over the moon," Ramon said. "I could hear them whooping and hollering, and they ended the call with a unison 'Gracias Ramon!' It means the world that we are able to meet that need for them. We asked what they needed, and we will deliver. The impact it will make will go far beyond the classroom. They will learn new skills that will bring them job opportunities. It will change lives."

You have the opportunity to join us in this initiative. We are almost half way to our \$25,000 goal to purchase the tractor.



One tractor will make an endless impact in the lives of the students, their families, and their whole community.

**Learn More** 

Donate

# COLLECTION SITE News

Midwest Mission has been blessed with volunteers across the Midwest who give of their time, energy and resources to assist us in carrying out God's mission to help those in need.

Some of these volunteers use the facilities God has blessed them with to provide a donation collection point for needed supplies. These are our Permanent Collection Sites!

You can find their contact information at <u>www.midwestmission.org/permanent-collection-sites</u>.

### What's Happening @ Permanent Collection Sites?

Glenview UMC, Glenview, IL – Ethyl Doyle reports they had 90 volunteers including some from the community for their October Meal Pack. They packed 1200 meals. We also want to thank Ethyl and her church for being a conduit through which a Fire Engine was donated to MM from Glenview Fire Department.

We will also be receiving an Ambulance later this month. You are saving lives around the world!

Asbury UMC, Sioux Falls, SD – We want to welcome Lloyd Petersen as the contact for one of our newest Permanent Collection Sites. Asbury UMC sent out 50 letters to neighboring churches letting them know that they are receiving donations for Midwest Mission. They have received 240 Personal Dignity Kits and sewing machines due to these letters. Their church has put together a Christmas Shopping Catalog which lists Midwest Mission, among others, as a place to donate. What a great idea!

Emmanual UMC, Noblesville, IN- Pat Baumer shared that their Conference Missions Pastor is putting the word out about Midwest Mission and how to donate in their area. Emmanuel UMC are continuing to receive 100+ kits at their location. Looks like we will see you in Illinois again soon!

Gay Street UMC, Mt Vernon, OH—Beth Prince and her team have created a PCS brochure specific to their location. It provides kit item lists and specifics about how to donate to their PCS. This can be shared with their community to help bring in the harvest for Midwest Mission. Keep thinking outside the box!

If your congregation is interested in becoming a New Permanent Collection Site, please contact Teresa@midwestmission.org for more information.

Learn about Permanent Collection Sites

## The Midwest Mission Online Store!



Unisex Garment-Dyed T-shirt From \$15.00 USD

delivered straight to your door!



Unisex Heavy Blend™ Crewneck Sweatshirt \$28.00 USD



Unisex Heavy Blend™ Crewneck Sweatshirt From \$27.98 USD



Unisex Heavy Blend™ Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt

You can now buy your favorite Midwest Mission Merch in the size and color you need, and have it

(P.S.: These would make great Christmas gifts for a fellow Midwest Mission lover!

Check Out The Store

From \$30.00 USD

# Prayers to Lift Up

Lord Jesus, help us to slow down in this busy season. Help us to cherish and glorify you as we celebrate your birth and the life you lived here on earth!

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
-Luke 2:14



Our 2024 Summer Update is available for download! Using the button below, you can download the report and share with someone you know!

**Download** 

# **December Church Bulletin Insert**

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Download December Bulletin PDF

# CURRENT Needs

### For the Cleaning Kit:

- Laundry Detergent (32-64 oz.)
- Liquid Dish Soap (16-34 oz.)
- Work Gloves with Leather Palms
- Kitchen Gloves
- Heavy Duty Trash Bags or Contractor Bags (2+ mil thickness)

### Other Requests:

- Shampoo (12-19 oz)
- Deodorant (2-3 oz)

You can purchase items on Amazon here.

You can bring items to Midwest Mission or a <u>Permanent Collection Site</u> near you — or send them through the mail to 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558.

# Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

#### **Work Done**

#### Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Desk Shop
- Poly Shop
- Sewing Machine Shop
- Cleaning
- Campus Improvements
- YEARLY INVENTORY
- Personal Dignity Kits
- UMCOR Cleaning Kits

### **Disbursements:**

- Love Packages, Butler, IL, 3 Treadle Machines and 2,632 reading materials (Bibles, devotionals, etc.): Value: \$2,816.00
- CICIM, Decatur, IL, Cleaning Supplies: Value: \$6,236.00

Midwest Mission is able to do this work because of your generous donations and willingness to volunteer.

Thank you!

# Share some GOD news with those you love!

Do you have family or friends that need some GOOD News - GOD News - to uplift them? If so please click on the button below and share the link provided. The more we can spread the word about the work God is doing here, the more we can make the world a happier place.

Link to Share the Midwest Mission Newsletter

# Ready to Get Involved?

Here are three ways you can get involved at Midwest Mission:

1. Host an Off-Site Event

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### 2. Serve From Home

You can serve people around the world from right at home! From sewing, to assembling kits, there's something for everyone. Learn how at midwestmission.org/at-home.

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We have dates available in 2025 and 2026! <u>Click here</u> to check calendar openings and to reserve your spots.

### 2025 and 2026 Volunteer Calendar is open for dorm reservations!

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### Midwest Mission Iowa

If you would like to do the Midwest Mission Experience at our Jefferson, IA location, visit <u>midwestmission.org/iowa</u> - or reach out to <u>Melissa Brookens.</u>

Click Here for the UMVIM NCJ Newsletter









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## **December 13, 2024**





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# SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT

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# The M&M's Sewing Group

The M&M's Sewing Group of First United Methodist Church in Kewanee, IL has been busy sewing! They are pictured here preparing a colorful shipment for Midwest Mission. While meeting weekly, the group crafted and sent 51 onehandled bags and filled them to make Student Kits, Cover With Them Love Quilts. receiving blankets, and two Sleeping Mats! They were excited to send a sewing machine as well.



Their missional spirit doesn't stop there, though. Recently, the M&M's held a mini bazaar, which netted \$280.25 that they have sent to Midwest Mission for Disaster Response and Recovery. This was shortly after the two hurricanes devastated part of the United States. The group was eager to help fill our shelves again! Thank you, M&M's and everyone who participated in the bazaar!

Not only do they hand make items for Midwest Mission, they also serve organizations local to Kewanee. They provide shirt savers (bibs) as well as wheelchair and walker bags to nursing homes and an organization called Abilities Plus. They make pillowcases and cloth bags for Freedom House, and share items with a local school for an upcoming project.

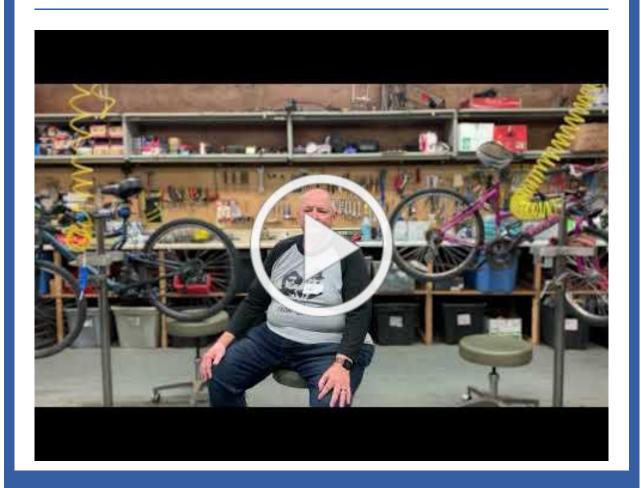
We love to hear what YOU do to be missional right where you are! If you have stories of your own, *please share them with us.* We want to showcase your stories so that more people can be inspired!

The M&M's, and many sewing and service groups, are great examples of what it means to build mission into your everyday life. If we all work to show God's love in a practical way, every day, this world will be a better place.

Learn more about serving right where you are atmidwestmission.org/at-home.

# **Volunteer Spotlight**

This week, we want to spotlight one of our lovely volunteers, **John MacDonald with Union Reunion** from St. Louis, MO. Take a look at his interview!



# The Gift That Keeps On Giving



As we reflect on the past year, all of us at Midwest Mission are filled with gratitude for the personal connections we've made with so many of you, as well as the growth we've experienced in serving God's people both near and far. Your support has helped meet critical needs, such as providing life-saving fire gear to a fire chief in Honduras after losing four firefighters, and delivering Disaster Cleaning Kits within two days to those affected by tornadoes and flooding in lowa. These acts of service bring peace, safety, and hope to those in desperate situations, making a profound impact on communities around the world.

Midwest Mission continues to empower individuals, like women in Honduras, by providing sewing machines that help them learn valuable skills to support their families and communities. Birthing Kits are given to midwives who travel long distances to help safely deliver babies, changing the lives of women and their families by providing needed care. Personal Dignity Kits give those in dire situations the empowerment to take their next step, altering the trajectory of their circumstance.

The resources you help send out will continue to give for years to come, changing lives across generations. As we enter the holiday season, we invite you to consider giving a gift that will have a lasting impact in 2025, supporting the ongoing mission of spreading Christ's love and making a difference in the lives of many.

Your passion for this ministry is contagious. Thank you for your partnership this year!

Give a Gift That Keeps On Giving

### The Midwest Mission Online Store!



You can now buy your favorite Midwest Mission Merch in the size and color you need, and have it delivered straight to your door!

(P.S.: These would make great Christmas gifts for a fellow Midwest Mission lover!

Check Out The Store

# Prayers to Lift Up

Lord Jesus, help us to spread the good news this Christmas season. We pray that the people that don't know you would come to know you through our great joy and warm tidings.



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Download

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# Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

#### **Work Done**

### Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Desk Shop
- Poly Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Sewing Machine Shop
- Cleaning
- Campus Improvements
- Christmas Mailer
- Personal Dignity Kits
- 180 UMCOR Cleaning Kits
- 312 Disaster Relief Menstrual Hygiene Kits

Midwest Mission is able to do this work because of your generous donations and willingness to volunteer.

Thank you!

# Share some GOD news with those you love!

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### **Midwest Mission Iowa**

If you would like to do the Midwest Mission Experience at our Jefferson, IA location, visit <u>midwestmission.org/iowa</u> - or reach out to <u>Melissa Brookens.</u>

# Volunteers at Work

December 9-13, 2024

### **Volunteer Leaders**



Tim & Judy Samp Algona, IA

## **Illinois Volunteers**



Channahon UMC Channahon, IL



Simpson Group Springfield, IL



Athens UMC Athens, IL



Taylorville UMC Taylorville, IL



Union Reunion St. Lous, MO



**Trinity**New Albany, IN









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# December 20, 2024



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## SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT

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# We Need Local Sewing Machine Shop Volunteers!



At Midwest Mission, we believe in the benefit of sending sustainable items that will bring continued blessings for years to come. Sewing Machines are great examples of this — they can completely change the life of the recipient, giving them consistent income and purpose in their life.

We witnessed this first-hand in Jamaica while visiting recipients of Midwest Mission gifts. At a prison, they teach inmates to sew in their tailor shop, and present them with a sewing machine at the end of their sentence, so they have a way to jump-start their career. This puts them on a path different from the one that got them to prison.

In Honduras we heard story after story of women whose lives were changed by the gift of a sewing machine. You can read Maria's inspiring story here.



The stories are endless, and the impact is life-long.

At Midwest Mission, we refurbish sewing machines and send them out to people around the world, as a hand-up in life. You have heard our request for sewing machines and answered!

Unfortunately, now we have more machines than the people needed to work on them.

We are looking for more Sewing Machine Shop volunteers local to either Pawnee, IL or Jefferson, IA. You don't even need to know how to fix machines! We really need people who know how to sew, and can test the machines so we know which ones need fixed, and which ones just need cleaned up. Or, people who are willing to learn.

If you're interested in volunteering in Illinois, email Barb Hedinger at <a href="mailto:barb@midwestmission.org">barb@midwestmission.org</a>.

If you're interested in volunteering in Iowa, email Alaire Willits at alaire@midwestmission.org.





For those interested in being regular volunteers in the Sewing Machine Shop in Illinois, we are hosting two Sewing Machine Shop Training Days. You'll learn the basics of testing and cleaning sewing machines, and troubleshooting what to do if it doesn't work. No prior experience is necessary!

Trainings will be 8:30 am -2:30 pm on:

- Monday, January 13
- Monday, January 20

If you're interested in joining us, RSVP here. Space is limited!

# Volunteer Spotlight

This week, we want to spotlight Teena and Sharon. These two ladies are long-time volunteers who have dedicated so much time to Midwest Mission. They make the world a better place, and their passion and energy is contagious!





# Prayers to Lift Up

Father, thank you for sending your son to walk as a human on this earth with us. We pray that our hearts, minds, and actions would glorify Him during this holiday season.

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

-1 John 4:9

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### Work of the Mission Volunteers

### **Work Done**

#### Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Desk Shop
- Sewing Machine Shop
- Items counted into inventory
- Offsite pack prep

#### Disbursements:

- CICIM, Decatur, IL. 1,401 Miscellaneous cleaning Supplies, Furniture, and 3,297 Bottled Water: Value: \$11,369.00
- Toys for Tots, Menard County. 312 Disaster Hygiene Kits and 14 Jeeps: Value: \$12,826.00

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# Volunteers at Work

December 16-20, 2024

### Illinois Volunteers



Douglas Avenue UMC Springfield, IL

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# December 27, 2024



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# SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT

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# The Birthing Kit is Back and Better!



# Here's the story:

We pulled into a gravel lot in front of an unassuming building; feet tired, foreheads sticky with sweat in the 100+ degree heat, but our hearts were ready-to-go.

This facility - the Maternity Clinic - was the second or third place we had visited in Honduras back in May. The drive was about an hour outside of the city, winding towards the rural mountains.

The team climbed out of the air-conditioned van, and was hit by the wall of heat and humidity, falling into line behind the **CEPUDO** representative leading us into the clinic.

CEPUDO is the organization on-the-ground in Honduras that distributes the items

we send. They were great guides through the city, and connected us with many recipients of Midwest Mission gifts.

As we entered the clinic, we met the doctor in charge, a sweet and gentle woman in her mid-thirties. She warmly greeted us with excitement, and enthusiastically began showing us around the clinic – the rooms, the exam areas, the waiting area.

The most exciting thing? We saw evidence of Midwest Mission's touch everywhere. There were Cover Them With Love Quilts on the beds awaiting expecting mothers. Layette Kits were handed out in the waiting room to women waiting for their checkups. They talked about sanitizer and cleaning products that they were thankful to receive and use.

The doctor led us into an exam room, ready to show us what they were most grateful for. She reached and grabbed a bag off of the exam table, and turned to us, her eyes showing her obvious smile, even though she was wearing a mask.

### The Birthing Kit.

Our team deflated.

The Birthing Kit ... the Kit we had discontinued in 2024 is the Kit she was most excited about.

For some background, we discontinued the Birthing Kit after our visit to Jamaica in 2023 when we realized many of the Birthing Kits were distributed in hospitals, and the entire Kit was not useful. The Birthing Kit was created for rural medicinal use, where many modern-day medical options were not available.

Stewardship of resources is very important to us. So, we reached out to our partner, Food For The Poor, to confirm that the entire Kit was not being used. Upon confirmation, we knew we couldn't keep sending the Birthing Kits, and which would be wasting funds and resources that could meet actual current needs. It was a hard decision, but we knew it was the best choice.

Fast forward to our team in the crowded Honduran exam room, all eyes locked on the hopeful doctor holding the (*discontinued*) Birthing Kit.



She began to share how much they value the Birthing Kits. They use them at the clinic, and midwives use them in the most rural parts of the mountains, where pregnant women cannot travel down to the clinic.

It could have been a terribly sad moment of breaking the news to her that they would no longer be receiving those Kits.

### Instead, it was an opportunity.

Chantel Corrie, Midwest Mission's executive director, asked the doctor to lay out all of the pieces of the Birthing Kit, and to tell us what was and wasn't useful.

At first, the doctor just expressed her gratitude, a little nervous to start criticizing the people who are sending her needed items. But, Chantel convinced her that she could help us make the Kit better.

Slowly, the doctor began sharing about each piece – what was useful, what wasn't. And we asked questions like "what would you use instead?"

By the end of the conversation, it was clear that:

- A disposable scalpel is better than a razor blade
- Umbilical cord clamps are better than string
- Sterile, packaged gloves are safer than unpackaged gloves
- Large contractor-size trash bags are more useful than plastic sheeting

It was beautiful to watch it all unfold. The doctor shared about her passion for the clinic in tears. "We don't have government funding that allows us to purchase what we need," she shared. "Those Birthing Kits are life-savers for us and the women who need them, because otherwise, we would have to turn people away."

While there, we also met three midwives who travel hours on foot to reach women in labor, and use the Birthing Kits to deliver the babies in the most unexpected places. Each of these brave women have delivered over 800 babies.

It was that day, in the tight, very hot and humid exam room, that the new-and-improved Birthing Kit was, well, "born."

### In 2025, the Birthing Kit will launch once again. It will include:

- 1 Bar soap 3-4 oz
- 1 Hand towel no kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth no dishcloths
- 2 Contractor bags or heavy duty trash bags (2 mil+ thickness)
- 2 Receiving blankets 28"x 28" to 32"x 32" no fleece or thermal blankets
- 1 One-gallon resealable plastic bag
- \* 2 Umbilical cord clamps
- \* 1 Pair of sterile surgical gloves
- \* 1 Disposable scalpel

\*If you are making these at home, please include a \$3 donation to cover the cost of these items, as they will be bought in bulk and added to the Kit at Midwest Mission.

We are very excited to offer this Kit again, and we hope you are too! The instructional video for making the Birthing Kit at home will be available early in the year.

# Your Tax-Deductible Gift will Keep on Giving

If you haven't satisfied your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for this year, time is running out. This transaction is undoubtedly important— you definitely don't want it to get lost with other year-end activities. When you do your RMD, you may want to do a QDC at the same time. The Qualified Distribution to Charity (QDC) allows you to meet your RMD.

Plus, it's a tax break that may allow a larger return to benefit the giver!

For questions, please contact our Development Manager, Lisa Rigoni, by emailing lisa@midwestmission.org or calling 217-483-7911.

# Prayers to Lift Up

Praise you Father because you have sent us your one and only son! We are eternally grateful for this miraculous gift and your grace.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

-Isaiah 9:6



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Link to Share the Midwest Mission Newsletter

# Ready to Get Involved?

Here are three ways you can get involved at Midwest Mission:

1. Host an Off-Site Event

We have several hands-on mission opportunities you can host at your location! Visit midwestmission.org/off-site to learn more. Contact Melissa Brookens at 217-483-7911 or melissa@midwestmission.org to book your event or for questions.

### 2. Serve From Home

You can serve people around the world from



right at home! From sewing, to assembling kits, there's something for everyone. Learn how at midwestmission.org/at-home.

### 3. Volunteer at Midwest Mission

We have dates available in 2025 and 2026! <u>Click here</u> to check calendar openings and to reserve your spots.

### 2025 and 2026 Volunteer Calendar is open for dorm reservations!

Go to our <u>Reservation Calendar</u>, log in, reserve your rooms, and submit payment for your Non-refundable Reservation Fee via credit card or electronic check. We will email you the Access Code to reserve Volunteer Shifts for your team. You must complete this step for your team to volunteer at Midwest Mission.

For local teams and individuals: Volunteer Shifts will only be available 3 months ahead of time. For example, December 1, 2024you will be able to reserve Volunteer Shifts for March of 2025.

Learn more at midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission.

### Midwest Mission Iowa

If you would like to do the Midwest Mission Experience at our Jefferson, IA location, visit <u>midwestmission.org/iowa</u> - or reach out to <u>Melissa Brookens.</u>

Click Here for the UMVIM NCJ Newsletter









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Midwest Mission | 1001 Mission Drive | Pawnee, IL 62558 US



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