

# Speaker Bios



Amy and her husband, Steve, have served as International Workers with The Christian and Missionary Alliance in West Africa since 1990. They came to work at Nyack College in 2012 as teachers and mentors. During this time they enjoyed trips back to Burkina Faso in the summer where they are still active Board Members of Dorcas House, Burkina Faso. They are also involved in Biblical training in French and the African language of Jula.

A background in Childhood Education has provided the venue to teach in both public and Christian US Elementary Schools as well as American International Schools in Africa. Teaching illiterate adults to read and empowering young teachers are two areas of passion that have been developing in Amy in more recent years. Her Master's Degree in Education: Globalization and Educational Change from Lehigh University has developed in her a desire to empower emerging leaders to be globally-minded professionals.

Amy is the site coordinator of the Empower Program for Women at Fulton Alliance Church where she and her husband serve. She is consecrated with The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

She also has enjoyed traveling and leading weekend retreats for women to encourage them to dig into the Word of God and to see the transforming power it has, by God's grace, on their lives.



**Laura Geer** lives in Schodack, NY with her husband Joel, and two sons, Josiah and Ben. Joel is a pastor at Clearview C&MA where she serves alongside him in a variety of ways.

She is the Alliance Women's director for her church, a stay-at-home mom, and part time online teacher for elementary students.

She loves spending time at her piano, singing, crafting, and finding as many ways to be creative as possible.

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Edward and Sandy Zogg are serving with Marketplace Ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Ed pastors a church plant out of the Santo Domingo, "The English Church," called The English Church East. It is located in the Alma Rosa area of Santo Domingo East.

There is currently a Bible study on Thursday nights and church in a school building a few blocks from them. Both Ed and Sandy teach classes for English as a Second Language using conversational English.

They also work with children there and have begun construction on a children's center.



**Renée Valach** grew up in Victor, in the Finger Lakes region of upstate NY. Her grandmother took her to Sunday School as a preschooler. As a child in summer camp Renée made a decision to follow Jesus, and later as teenager in camp she felt called to missions.

She attended Cornell University and Penn State College of Medicine before going to Bongolo Hospital. For most of the past 14 years, she has worked primarily with the adult patients in Inpatient Medicine, Outpatient Consultation and the Emergency Department, and as the Director of the HIV and the Tuberculosis Treatment programs.

For the past few months, there has been a second internal medicine doctor, and she has been able to devote time to pediatrics. Before Covid, she taught Sunday School at the Bongolo Church.

Renee has seen how God has been faithful. When Gabon closed its borders due to Covid all the IWs stayed despite the fact that there is no possibility of intensive care. She reviewed with the nurses how to use Personal Protective Equipment. (They learned several years ago during the Ebola epidemic.) They hospitalized multiple patients in their Covid Treatment Unit. Several nurses at the hospital became sick with Covid, but none of the nurses working in the Unit.

Renee speaks both English and French.