Second World Missions

# SOUND FORTH INPRAYER

DEVOTIONS FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



MATT TERHUNE WM Committee Chairman

As we continue to journey with our many missionary partners around the world, we invite you to join us again in experiencing the blessing of prayer. Through prayer, we have learned about our missionaries and how God continues to use them around the world. We have also grown to know their families, their needs, and their ministries.

This year, we pray that the Good News will "sound forth" to every nation, tribe, people, and language. If you haven't participated before, we hope that you'll join us this year in being a part of the Great Commission. What a gracious God we have that He allows us to serve Him and build His Kingdom!

Through these prayers and relationships, we will deepen our understanding of God's grace and constant, steadfast love for His people. We will encounter God's faithfulness with the missionaries who have served for many years and share in the anticipation of those just beginning.

We hope this opportunity will deepen your joy in being a part of the body of Christ.

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# SOUND FORTH INPRAYER

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." *Philippians 1:3-5* 

Paul took time to regularly pray for his key partners, praying with joy every time he remembered them. We invite you to seek the Lord through contemplation of a verse, reading a story from the lives of our missionaries, and taking a few moments to ask God to bless them in a couple of ways. By contemplating what their lives are like, and considering some of the "Going Deeper" questions and exercises, it is our hope that both your view of God, and your engagement in His work throughout the world will expand. We pray that your joy will grow as you partner with these laborers in God's harvest field by praying for them and their ministries.

If you would like to learn more about the missionaries you see, visit **2pc.org/worldmissions** and click on the "pray for our missionaries" tab. Click on the missionaries' name for their brief bio, their latest prayer requests, and a current newsletter. If you want to receive electronic prayer updates, use the 2PC app or visit **2pc.org/subscribe** to sign up to receive them via email or text.

**DAN BURNS** - Director of World Missions

#### PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Listen to how Paul prayed for the Ephesians in Ephesians 3:14–19:

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Let us follow Paul's example by praying that our missionaries, and those whom they serve, might be strengthened by Christ in their inner being, and that they might experience God to the fullest.

#### IDEAS ABOUT PRAYER FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

**PRAY** that they will have a consistent, meaningful devotional life in the Word.

**PRAY** for strong marriages, good parenting skills, and for the missionaries' families in their home countries.

**PRAY** for their emotional needs—an assurance of God's love and presence.

**PRAY** for their adaptability to the culture, fluency in the language, and good relationships with national workers.

**PRAY** for the people whom they serve — that they might meet Jesus, be transformed by the Gospel, and be equipped to proclaim the Gospel faithfully to their own people.

**PRAY** for unity and maturity in the national churches that are being established.

#### RECEIVE MISSIONARY UPDATES ELECTRONICALLY

For electronic updates or text messages to remind you to pray, visit 2pc.org/subscribe

For mobile users, download the 2PC app to your phone, which automatically updates the daily missionary prayer requests. The latest missionary newsletters and updates can be found on our website at 2pc.org/mission/world-missions

Contact Lisa at (901) 531-1682 or lisa.ritenour@2pc.org with questions.

#### REGIONAL DEVOTION: MIDDLE EAST

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

Consider these two testimonies by Iraqi refugees who were served by our partners in Lebanon. These are middle class Iraqis from a traditional Christian background who did not experience a living faith in Jesus prior to being forced to flee and live as refugees in Lebanon.

The first shared, "I came from Iraq and it was very hard to live in Lebanon. I was always worried. But here, in Lebanon, I learned how to pray and how to ask God to take my burdens. I learned that as soon as I ask, Jesus answers and I feel His peace. I testify that God has freed me from all my worries."

The second shared, "We used to own a lot of

shops and property in Iraq. I was satisfied and happy. I used to go to church on occasions. But when I came to Lebanon, I heard and learned more about Jesus and about His salvation. I saw many non-Christians worship Him. Every time I heard the weekend sermon, I learned more as if the sermon was for me. I started going to a life group where we shared life together, we prayed, and shared burdens. I am a better person because of my life group. I have changed. My words are different and I am joyful now. I am not angry and concentrate less on what to wear and how to look. Church changed me totally! Today, I lead a life group (although I don't deserve to serve a group of lovely ladies) but I do see the purpose of my stay in Lebanon."



Pray for Iraqi and Syrian refugees in Lebanon, that God will grant them peace and confidence that He is with them, and that they will turn in faith to Jesus Christ.

Pray for Atheer and the Iraqi leaders he has trained, that they will faithfully disciple the hundreds of Iraqi refugees who gather weekly for worship and Bible study in Beirut.

**GOING DEEPER:** What concerns do you have that rob you of joy and of God's peace? How can you turn them over to Jesus in a new way this week?



### R & G DENTAL MINISTRY / ANNOOR SANATORIUM - JORDAN

"...pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16

The mobile dental clinic has been at work inside and outside of Annoor for approximately 14 years. This mobile unit enables R and the team at Annoor to go out to the Bedouin villages and provide needed dental care to those who are unable to get to the Sanatorium for care. Generous donations this past year have given them the

opportunity to replace the digital processor, thus allowing them to take x-rays and buy a new autoclave that will ensure instruments are sterilized properly. In addition to taking care of patients, R leads a men's Bible study. Gl has resumed her art therapy and hospital visitation at the Sanatorium.



Pray for a new generator that will allow the dental team to return to the Bedouin villages to serve the people and share with them about Jesus.

Pray for open hearts in the villages where they are ministering.

**GOING DEEPER:** What are the ways you have seen God bring healing to people's lives? What role do you think the prayer of godly people played in those acts of healing?



#### **AILEEN** FOUNDER & NURSE / ANNOOR SANATORIUM - JORDAN

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." 1 Corinthians 13:7

Aileen's love for God, the Gospel, and for those who have never met the Savior has kept her in the Middle East for 62 years. For the last 52 years she has served in Mafraq, Jordan at The Annoor Sanatorium, which she co-founded. When you are in your 80s and you have handed over management of the Sanatorium to the next generation, how do you show your love? Aileen does it by believing all things, hoping all things, and enduring all things. This means she continues to serve on a daily basis using opportunities to share the gospel. Aileen will still step in and nurse if needed, but will also lead in the daily teaching

time with the women patients. God is using these "senior" years to allow her to spread the vision for loving and reaching the lost through continual speaking opportunities as she continues to travel to distant locations. She speaks at various churches and conferences to proclaim, with a great deal of credibility, that God loves the Bedouin and others in the Arab-speaking world and wants them to know Jesus as Savior. Praise God that He has provided a team of folks to continue the ministry of Annoor, as well as three of Second's own, in ways for which Aileen had prayed!



Pray that Aileen would have God's strength as she continues to minister both at Annoor and here in the U.S. and other venues, modeling and proclaiming the call to share the gospel in the Middle East.

Pray for the team at Annoor, who constantly live with the uncertainty of life and ministry in an area that has been resistant to Christianity for a long time.

**GOING DEEPER:** Where might God be calling you to endure beyond your own human strength when you can't see the future? In what areas does God want you to believe and hope, trusting Him that your love will be used to effect eternal outcomes?



#### **DAVE & ROBIN** MERCY / REFUGEE MINISTRY

'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." Isaiah 9:2

The influx of refugees has opened doors for ministry unlike ever before. A growing number of families have come to faith in the midst of horrific destruction. After working in Irag for nearly 25 years, it is only since the days of ISIS that Servant Group International has had the opportunity to serve among the Yezidi people. When ISIS reclaimed an area, SGI asked for prayers and support to rebuild the school. It took a bit longer than expected for the area

to settle down, but the school is now up and running. The Yezidi children attending the Classical School of the Medes are from some of the first refugee families to return to their homes. As refugee camps begin to empty and ruins are rebuilt, much prayer is needed to bring restoration with the light and hope of Christ. Dave has also led several SGI teams to work with refugees coming into Greece.



Pray that those who have experienced disruption in their lives would look to the living God for help.

Pray for Dave and Robin as they expand their work with refugees to other areas and countries.

GOING DEEPER: Read Revelation 11:15. We do not live without hope. However, many in Iraq live with the feeling that there is no hope. How do you think hope can materially affect those living in such conditions?



### ROBBY & JOYCE PASTOR / COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

During the time that Robby served as pastor in a large Middle Eastern city, he and Joyce learned of the plight of poor pre-school children whose parents, for the most part, were refugees and low paid immigrant workers. Some daycare facilities for the poor had deplorable practices, such as tying children to chairs for extended periods or drugging the pre-schoolers to keep them calm. When Robby and Joyce felt the Lord leading them to offer these children another way, the Philemon Project was born. As part

of the Resurrection Church of Beirut, the Philemon Project is a pre-school for underserved children ages 1-4 that demonstrates the love of Jesus through compassionate care and quality teaching. This school ministers to 70 little ones, many from Muslim backgrounds. The Lord is using this school to draw children and their parents to His tender love. Robby and Joyce are hoping that the Philemon Project will be replicated throughout the city in which they serve.



Pray for the Lord to use Philemon Project pre-school to draw each student and parent to saving faith in Him.

Pray for the Lord to expand this ministry to other neighborhoods so that more families will learn of His love.

**GOING DEEPER:** Look up the Philemon Project Pre-school on the internet. What do you learn? http://nechurchbeirut.com/index.php/ministry-fields/philemon-project/ministry-of-the-philemon-project

### **S&B**

#### REFUGEE / OUTREACH MINISTRY

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." James 1:27

S & B moved back to the United States in 2008 to care for her ailing parents. Both of her parents went to be with the Lord within 15 months of each other. In God's perfect timing, the director of World Outreach of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church asked them to consider heading the ministry among the refugees in Europe. S's previous 15 years in Europe prepared them for this next chapter in ministry. They are recruiting Arabic and

Kurdish speakers to help refugees in Holland, Germany, Austria, and Sweden. Many of the refugees are open to the Gospel and are in great need of help. S & B will spend half their time in Europe and the other half in the United States. In their words, "We are honored by this opportunity and look forward to serving the Lord and we consider this to be the final chapter of our ministry together in His kingdom."



Pray that God would use the new biography "From Cairo to Christ" (due out June 2017) to bless many.

Pray for strategic partners, ministries, and churches to work among the refugees and for financial support.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read James 1:27. Who are the "orphans" or "widows" in your community that are in need? What kind of care would they most appreciate?



#### **H&H**

#### ADMINISTRATOR / NURSE

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness." Acts 4:29

A patient, who recently passed away at Annoor, arrived very sick and was only with them a few days. He was very open to the true message of Christmas. In the meetings, he publicly affirmed the message of the true identity of the Child born in Bethlehem. This took other

patients by surprise as most will not share publicly their belief in Jesus. This man was brought to Annoor with an open and seeking heart to hear the truth and had it affirmed in his heart before he left this world.



Pray for H& H's meetings on Sundays as they open their doors to all their friends and neighbors.

Pray for a breakthrough in hearts as violence and hatred continue around them.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read Proverbs 28:1. Who does the Lord say are "as bold as a lion"? What is intimidating you from being bold enough to share the Good News with those who are in desperate need of Jesus?



#### M & S PASTOR / CHURCH PLANTERS

"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

For nearly 25 years, M & S have served in the Muslim world and are now amazed at the complete reversal in the state of spiritual openness in countries such as Egypt and Syria. Well over 2 million Syrian refugees have flooded over the borders of Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey and are radiating into the European Union. These refugees, who are Sunni and Shiite Muslims, show an unexpected openness to attend churches, embrace the gospel, and even open their homes to gospel

ministry. It seems that God is sovereignly shaking the Muslim world and asking His global Church to stand ready for the harvest. As many Muslims come to Christ, M & S are thankful there is religious freedom in Lebanon. It is the only Arab country where Muslims can legally convert to Christianity, and many do. This religious freedom allows institutions such as ABTS to train believers from Islamic backgrounds.



Pray for Syrian ABTS graduates who have no home to which they can return. Pray as they mourn the loss of their homeland that they will find fruitful places of ministry.

Pray that M & S will have opportunities to counsel some of their students at a deep level. Please pray for the leading of the Spirit and insight from Him as they interact.

**GOING DEEPER:** Many Bible stories came from this area. Using a map, notice that our missionaries are ministering in some of the same places Jesus actually lived. How does their experience affect your view of Syrian refugees?



#### **NORM & RUTH ANN LEDUC**

**EXECUTIVE TEAM & MEMBER OF DEVELOPMENT FOR PIONEERS** 

"My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver." Proverbs 8:19

Norm and Ruth Ann Leduc serve at Pioneers headquarters in Orlando, Florida, where they help with overall direction for U.S. operations. This included managing the building of the Fletcher Center, which opened in the fall of 2016. They also work with returning missionaries, their children, and periodically travel to support staff in the field. Four years ago, they attended a memorial service for Donovan, a worker who had been serving with his wife in Bosnia for 13 years. His death from cancer left a hole for many workers and

believers in Bosnia. Donovan and Jocelyn had poured themselves into the life of a nominally Muslim Roma (gypsy), 18-year old Aldin. Aldin watched this couple, read his Bible, and several years ago committed his life to the Lord. In the summer of 2016, Donovan's brother returned to Bosnia and, with Aldin, they baptized eight members of Aldin's family. As the current workers follow up with Aldin's family, they attest to the true faith of these believers. Donovan's work has come full circle! God is at work.



Pray for ongoing growth in the Lord for Aldin and his family.

Pray for the many children in Europe who heard the Gospel through English and youth camps.

**GOING DEEPER:** Consider plants that take a long time to grow and mature to the point that they can produce fruit. What are some spiritual "fruits" that you have seen come to maturity, but that took awhile?



#### ΙΔΙΙΡΔ TEACHER / COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

As Laura adjusts to her new country and culture she is still trying to process it all. She says it has been a whirlwind of events with lots of new people and faces thrown in. She admits to feeling overwhelmed at times with so much to process but reminds herself that it is all still new to her and prays that God would allow her to give herself grace to not have it all figured out yet. Before a weekend trip with a couple of nurses, she was feeling very exhausted. The trip really helped to give her not only physical rest but mental rest as well. It also helps

being in a place where Moses, the Israelites, and the first Christians walked! She knew teaching seven children (kindergarten-10th grade) would not be easy, but she is thankful they are all really good kids and the parents are very thankful she is there. Laura shares, "It is definitely a challenge for me to build a curriculum for the younger kids but I am trying to just take one week at a time. I am very grateful that a retired teacher returned shortly before I arrived and she pulls the younger kids to work on reading one-on-one with her."



Pray that Laura would grow in her confidence and preparation of what she is teaching the younger kids.

Pray that she would know the right time to begin outreach and know the right project to become involved with.

GOING DEEPER: Read Psalm 78:4 and Psalm 86:11. Who is a teacher or mentor in your life that had a significant impact on your walk with the Lord?



## BRIAN & JOANNE CHURCH PLANTERS – ARABIAN PENINSULA

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Luke 10:2

After 15 years of ministry and the founding of an Evangelical university student ministry through partnership with a local church, Brian and Joanne have returned this year to the Arabian Peninsula to plant a new church. Their goal is that this new English-speaking fellowship, called Covenant Hope, will be gospel-centered, Evangelical, and multicultural and will launch in D in the spring of 2017. This area has a high population density

and great diversity, with residents from over 200 different language groups. The new church will likely meet in a hotel ballroom or school as under current laws, churches are not allowed to purchase or lease property. Since there are only two healthy reformed churches in the city of 2.7 million people, this new church hopes to locate right in the middle of the city and meet a desperate need for gospel-centered churches.



Pray for a place to meet in Dubai.

Pray for God to provide a healthy group of leaders to serve as the launch team for Covenant Hope.

**GOING DEEPER:** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) are a federation of seven individual states. Using a map, identify these seven Emirates, read about their lifestyle, and pray, thanking God for opening hearts to the truth of the Gospel.

#### M & C

#### ENGLISH TEACHERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

When M was talking to a Middle Eastern friend, who happens to be an atheist, his friend said, "My belief tells me that I am the center of my universe but I know this can't be true. Sometimes, I am envious of people like you who believe in God." C's friend said, "All the people are fasting but their hearts are not clean." M & C were able to share with

both unbelieving friends that God created the universe and He is the only one who can cleanse a person's heart. M & C are rejoicing over the recent adoption of their children from Hungary, J & G. They returned to Memphis on Christmas Day to visit with family and friends, while finalizing their immigration papers and applying for new visas.



Pray for American passports for their children and new work visas to return to their country.

Pray for their physical protection and that they will have wisdom, discernment, and boldness in spiritual conversations following Ramadan while many people are feeling "religious."

GOING DEEPER: Read Psalm 51:2. Can you explain how a person can become spiritually clean?



**HALEY** NURSE / ANNOOR SANATORIUM - JORDAN

"I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:36

Haley sensed a call to serve an unreached Muslim people group in late high school. While she desired to leave immediately after college, God led her to postpone that departure for a few years so she could solidify her nursing skills. She enrolled in the Fellows program at Second, during which she learned much about herself and grew deeper in her faith and dependence upon the Lord. It was during her Fellows year that she first heard Aileen

Coleman speak and began dreaming of serving at Annoor. She loves the nature of the multi-cultural team assembled to serve at Annoor and the holistic practice of medicine. Her two months at Annoor at the end of 2016 confirmed her call and she is planning to return to Jordan in the fall of 2017 to start studying language in order to join the staff at Annoor a year or two later.



Pray that Haley would experience God's nearness and provision as she works through the many phases of preparation necessary to move overseas.

Pray for the current staff at Annoor, that God would continue to provide a solid platform for them to serve the physical and spiritual needs of the community in Mafraq.

**GOING DEEPER:** Who visited you when you were sick in a way that helped you experience God's care and mercy? Ask God if He might help you be that kind of person in some way this week.



#### N & A

#### CHURCH PLANTING TEAM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

#### "The LORD watches over the sojourners" Psalm 146:9a

Since 2014, N & A and their three young children have lived in three different countries. They have finally settled in Lebanon, where one in five people are refugees. Because of their many moves, the Lord made N & A sensitive to those who have been forced to leave their homes. Recently A met a refugee woman with whom she developed an instant rapport. She and N wanted to connect with the entire family but the husband's work schedule prevented them from getting together. N & A prayed that the

Lord would make a way for the families to meet. Shortly thereafter, A's new friend called to say that her husband's work schedule had changed. The two families have now had times of fellowship, and their relationship is growing. N & A have also ministered to their extended family. They are expectant that the Lord will use this friendship for His purposes and are eager to develop relationships with other sojourners in their city.



Pray for the Lord to grow and develop the relationships that N & A have with refugees in their city, giving them opportunities to share the love of Jesus in word and deed.

Pray for the Lord to daily refresh N & A with His Spirit so that His love will overflow to many.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read Matthew 25:35-37. How has Jesus done these things for you? What is your response? Find out about Second's Memphis partners that minister to refugees. Pray about a way that you might get involved.

#### REGIONAL DEVOTION: CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

"'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him." Luke 8:39

Young Life Central Asia is not a building and not walls. Young Life is not a party and not a show. It is people — people who from the first encounter talk and think very differently than others. To them it is not important if you are rich or poor, beautiful or not very, talented or without gifts. It is people who want to open up and are not afraid if you will laugh at them.

I came to Young Life through the invitation of one person, and from that moment my life totally changed for the better! I believed in God all my life, but I really began to understand Him through the people who didn't only talk about Him but were personal examples of the love and care of Christ. Now I cannot even

imagine my life without these meetings, and thanks to them I received my calling in life. For me that is the most important purpose on the planet — to not only tell a person about God and His sacrifice, but to have real conversations with him, where I to listen to him, be his friend, and try to be an example for him of Christ. And even if he has not yet accepted Christ, no matter what leads him to God, I want to continue, even if it takes a lifetime. I consider the ministry of Young Life one of the best ways to reach the hearts of youth in my country. And I am quite happy to be part of the Young Leaders Program as an intern.



Pray for the Young Leaders in Young Life Central Asia, students who receive small scholarships to help with their studies while they volunteer with local YL ministry. Pray that they might be effective in outreach and relational ministry with kids as they themselves mature and prepare for their futures.

Pray for the regional staff, that they might persevere in developing new leaders, even in the challenging environment of post-Soviet Central Asia.

**GOING DEEPER:** Who is a key person whose personal invitation helped you to come to know Christ, or take a major step forward in your walk with Christ? Who is one person in whom you might invest or "invite" in a special way this week?



#### R & A

#### PHYSICIAN / KACHHWA TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIFS

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has chosen me to bring good news to the poor." Luke 4:18

It is no wonder that R & A have embraced the call for the advancement of God's kingdom across the globe. R is Indian by birth, and C is a Scot. Their children live in New Zealand, Australia, Scotland, and one married son actually lives in India. They know that prayer is the key to any movement in which they are involved. R became a leader

in a prayer movement to mobilize the major denominations across all of India, Kachhwa Transformational Ministry is having great results in the lives of the poor in India. Each year C coordinates a women's ministry which ladies of our church have been a part of for many years.



Pray for C as she continues in her ministry with women.

Pray for health for R & C and for the holistic model of ministry for the poor to continue in the future.

GOING DEEPER: Did you know that India has the second largest population in the world, with over 1.2 billion people as of a 2012 census? Commit to praying for this country this week and for our missionaries serving there as part of your quiet time.



TIM & TANYA B.
CENTRAL ASIA YOUNG LIFE

### "Commit your way to the lord, trust also in him, and he will do this." Psalm 37:5

Tim's dedication to trusting God, especially as he studies Russian, has filled this Young Life leader with joy beyond measure! His first year in language class was tough, but after much practice, he says, "Now I can finally share with the guys in Russian!" He thanks the Lord for strengthening him to "hold his own" among all the relationships so dear to him, like the 200 youth from his three summer camps, his

English and Bible study students, and other YL leaders Oma, Tyson, and Vlad. He hopes these leaders will grow and be true fishers of men. God gave Tim enough confidence in speaking Russian to approach fellow Young Life Leader, Tanya, get on his knee and propose. The couple was married on February 5!



Pray for God to open more ears and hearts through Young Life Ministry.

Pray for God to lead Tim and Tanya together through years of joyful service for Him.

**GOING DEEPER:** God can work through differences in culture and language to accomplish His purposes. Have you ever tried to learn another language? Imagine trying to minister to those who don't speak your native language.



#### "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer" Romans 12:12

J & M learned on October 10 of M's brother G's tragic motorcycle accident, causing paralysis. He was transported to six different hospitals (where doctors are greatly distrusted, always looking for more revenue.) In spite of mounting debts from buying medicines in the marketplace for the hospital, G died in 15 days. The hospital wouldn't relinquish his body until all charges were paid. They finally agreed to a discount, and after customary ritual preparation, G's body was carried to the

Ganges River for burning. M and F stayed at home with grieving, widowed mother Reena, holding her and praying for Jesus' comfort and peace. J sat at the river with Mukesh as they watched his brother slowly smolder to ashes. J & M faithfully declare, "It's absolutely clear that these are the reasons we are here. People are destitute spiritually and economically — wandering sheep with no shepherd."



Pray that faith in Jesus will find root in the hearts of M's family.

Pray that many of those in need will find opportunity and ability to provide for their families and discern God's provision for them in Christ.

GOING DEEPER: Research the difference between Hindu and Christian funeral traditions and their origins. What strikes you as most amazing or alarming?



**OUTREACH THROUGH MERCY MINISTRY IN SOUTH ASIA** 

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Lizzie felt God's call to work with the underresourced in India. However, she experienced a
heartbreaking blow to her plan when the team
leaders she hoped to join decided to return to the
U.S. permanently. She was in shock but confident
that the Lord knew and had a plan for it all. She
spent extra time praying, seeking council, and
investigating other possibilities. Still confident
the Lord had molded her heart for the unreached
and underserved of India, she joined the
women's short-term team from Second. Lizzie
prayed before the trip that the Lord would use
it to show her His beauty and how He is moving

in India. She met women who are believers experiencing suffering and persecution on a daily basis. She heard story after story of how their faith has caused pain in their families, villages, and marriages but how the love of Christ makes every challenge worth it!

After the conference Lizzie traveled to Bihar to visit the team working there. They asked her to join them to work on much-needed public health and health education initiatives. Not only has the Lord restored what was "broken" but he has made it even more beautiful than before!



Pray that Kimberly, a single female like Lizzie, will be able to join Lizzie in language school in Delhi.

Pray for Lizzie to make her target departure date in May. Once there, pray for her transition to this new country and culture.

**GOING DEEPER:** Has God suddenly changed your plans? How did you deal with that? Can you trust His plan more than your own?



### RUSLAN & ZHANNA (Danislov, Rostik, Gloria, Odelia) YOUNG LIFE - CENTRAL ASIA

"Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, 'Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.'" 1 Chronicles 4:10

Ruslan and Zhanna have poured themselves into the lives of youth through Young Life for over 18 years. Their newsletters are full of testimony about God's love and hearts changed. One such story is from Diana, who is 28 years old and has cerebral palsy. She shares that Zhanna came to visit her for the first time in 1998 and then invited her to a Young Life club meeting. What was most attractive was that people treated her differently, not like the world. They didn't look at her like she was weird. It was through YL that she heard about God and came to the conclusion that it was

very important for her to have God in her life. Through the Bible she realized that God did not create people as they are in vain, but that each person has a divine purpose for existence on this earth. YL Intern Llia shares, "I count the ministry of YL as one of the best ways to reach the hearts of youth. I came to YL through the invitation of one person and from that moment my life totally changed for the better!" Ruslan and Zhanna thank God that the ministry they started in Almaty has now expanded into Kyrgyzstan with three teams in three cities and hope to extend to five more cities in 2017.



Pray for Christ-centered leaders and for Ruslan and Zhanna as they expand Young Life into new cities.

Pray for the teams to become more faithful to God, ministry, and the kids.

**GOING DEEPER:** In what ways do you view those with special needs differently than others? Differently than God views them?



#### THE YOUNGS

TEAM LEADERS / MICROENTERPRISE

"So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but our own selves, because you had become very dear to us." 1 Thessalonians 2:8

The Lord has called the Youngs to church planting work in a part of the world that has been hostile to the gospel. Not only do they have that task but, as area directors of UWM, they go throughout Asia encouraging other church planting teams. In this monumental work the Lord has shown them the necessity of building deep relationships with the people they serve. A young man named "Mark" became friends with Mr. Young several years ago. Mark moved to the capital city but, upon his return to his hometown, he contacted

Mr. Young and said that he might be ready to become a Christian. The two men spent much time together talking and praying before Mark returned to his present home. Two evenings later, Mark called to say that he wanted to move ahead to convert to Christianity. Mr. Young has connected Mark to a pastor nearby and prays that Mark will, indeed, find a true relationship with Jesus. The Youngs pray that many of their dear friends will come to saving faith.



Pray for the love of Jesus to shine through the Youngs as they build relationships in the place where the Lord has called them.

Pray for many of their new friends to come to saving faith so that an indigenous church will be established.

**GOING DEEPER:** Think of a relationship that you would like to establish or take to a new level in order to plant seeds of the gospel. Pray for ways to show Christ's love to that person.

#### **REGIONAL DEVOTION: SOUTHEAST ASIA**

"He answered, 'Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'" John 9:25

Yanto, 53 years old, once a driver in Indonesia, was blinded in an accident two years ago. Bima, a church planter with PARI, met Yanto at his friend Udung's house. Udung is a new believer being discipled by the church planter. After some discussion, Yanto asked, "So are you a Christian?" Bima replied, "You can call me a Christian, but I prefer to be known as a follower of Jesus." Yanto asked, "What's the difference? Before I had the accident, I watched a television program talking about Jesus, the God of the Christians." Bimo replied, "There is no difference. Jesus Christ is the Savior who can help everyone; and everyone who believes in Him is called a Christian." Hearing that, Yanto boldly asked, "I am a Muslim, may I follow Jesus?" Bimo was happy and replied,

"Jesus is for everyone. He loves you - you can believe in Him and receive Him even though you can't see." Yanto then asked, "So how can I receive Jesus?" Bimo quided him to confess his sins, and Yanto received Jesus as his personal Savior. After praying, Yanto had another question. "What else do I need to do?" Bimo answered, "You need to be baptized as a sign that you have been cleansed from your sin. And before that you need someone to mentor you so that you will understand what you are doing." By the grace of God and through the commitment of the team, Yanto was baptized on August 14, 2016. Praise God that He gives mercy and grace for all people, even for those who cannot see!



Pray for Yanto, Udung, and the other new believers in Indonesia reached by our partners with PARI, that they would grow strong and deep in their new faith and witness faithfully to their neighbors and families.

Pray for our three Indonesian church planting teams, that God would bless their outreach and service among the Sundanese of West Java.

Going Deeper: What do you think it would be like for a Muslim in an exclusively Muslim community to start following Jesus? Would you follow Jesus if the consequences were similar for you?



DAVE & JOYCE
BIBLE TRANSLATORS

"We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us." I John 4:16

Dave and Joyce Briley's 35-plus year career as Wycliffe Bible translators in Papua, Indonesia, has truly been a privilege. Dave spent 30 years developing a Bauzi alphabet and translating the Bible into the Bauzi language. From one literacy workshop to another, they have ministered the love of Jesus by teaching adults how to read. Many of these students have become literacy tutors, like "Kale" who learned reading from missionaries in 1960. One day he said that he felt too old for workshops, but he was still learning and having such good times

that he continued to come every day! Students remember what it was like before they learned to read and now see afresh that the gift of reading has opened many great opportunities. The government has asked the Brileys to develop curriculum for training university and theological students as literacy leaders to mobilize the many illiterate. September 8 was International Literacy Day, which they used to help teachers discover new games and materials to enhance their skills.



Pray for the Lani literacy tutors to effectively share God's truth.

Pray that all presentations would be easy to understand and to apply.

**GOING DEEPER:** Have you ever had a project that took years to complete? Can you imagine spending 30 years on a single project? Look up the Bauzi tribe of Indonesia. What did you learn about them?



**IACKIE EVANGELISM / OUTREACH** 

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

Since moving to Indonesia last September, Jackie has experienced the all sufficiency of God's grace. Jackie left our mid-size city of Memphis to go to Jakarta, a city of over 20 million people. She left a home on a quiet, tree-lined, suburban street to go to a 39th floor apartment which overlooks the city center. She left driving her own car to depending on taxis and Uber for transportation. She left the familiarity of family and friends at Second to the unknown of new relationships at Covenant

City Church. God's grace has been poured out on Jackie in giving her all that she needs for all of these significant changes. He has helped her quickly advance in language acquisition. He has been faithful to give her new friends and creative ways to connect with them. He has given her partners in ministry through Second's missionaries. Tezar and Tatiana Putra. More than that, He has given her His heart for the people of Jakarta, her new home.



Pray for Jackie to continue to adapt to a new culture and language and for patience in the process.

Pray for continued opportunities to share and live out the gospel to the people that Jackie meets.

GOING DEEPER: What are some transitions and/or concerns that you face today? How can 2 Corinthians 9:8 encourage you? Learn a fact about Jakarta to share with a family member or friend.



#### **DARYL & MARLENE BUSSERT**

MISSION AVIATORS

"For the Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 1:9

Daryl and Marlene serve with JAARS and are involved in international safety for missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators. JAARS has developed many venues for presenting the gospel as they visit airports, churches, and schools. Daryl realized recently that his interest in the Mission at the Airport (MATA) program started when he asked Marlene to marry him. Her first response was to tell him she was called by the Lord to be a missionary. As they sought counsel from their pastor, they

learned about the need for missionary aviators. Daryl's time (over 40 years) with the MATA program is reaching a milestone of "timing out" as an active JAARS pilot. As he anticipates "hanging up his goggles," Daryl praises the Lord for blessing him with health, abilities, and opportunities. Daryl's job as International Director of Aviation Safety will allow him to continue to serve in ways that keep our missionaries safe. They give praise that 2016 was an accident-free year!



Pray for Daryl to accurately process the many new regulations, changes, demands, and challenges in aviation safety.

Pray for wisdom balancing family, partner relationships, and aviation responsibilities as unexpected demands often sidetrack time for vacation and partnership development.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. One can serve God in many different ways. Look up JAARS and see all the many activities in which they are involved in kingdom work (JAARS.org).



### J & D MOBILIZING & STRENGTHENING TEAMS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

#### "And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness." Genesis 1:4.

J & D serve in Southeast Asia. In a recent newsletter, he described a small but courageous team nestled high in the Himalayas. They have endured much heartache and pain in their quest to bring light into that particularly dark spiritual stronghold. The last evening J & D shared with them, they enjoyed a beautiful time of worship that will not be soon forgotten. However, within 15 minutes of bidding them farewell the following morning,

they received a call saying that their landlord had called a local shaman to come remove a curse they believed had been placed on the residence that previous evening. Dominions of darkness will not be overcome without great struggle. How thankful we are that our Lord still tears down strongholds in our day. In unseen corners of His vineyard our victorious King continues to strengthen the hearts of those who trust in Him.



Pray that the Lord's work would continue in dark places.

Pray that J & D would continue to trust Him alone for all their needs.

**GOING DEEPER:** Are there strongholds in your life that the Lord needs to tear down? Think of your favorite hymns or Christian songs. How do they "lift the darkness" from your life?



## BRIAN & TERRI (AMY & CALEB) CAMPUS OUTREACH THAILAND

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

Brian and Terri attended Chiang Mai Sprout Church's annual retreat where seven new believers were baptized, most of whom are students they spent time with on the campus of Mae Jo University. A few team members are focusing on the Political Science faculty, building relationships while sharing the love of Christ. Brian, Terri, and their children are on

a furlough in the U.S. until May 2017. They are residing in Pinson, AL, while they are on home assignment. When they return to Thailand in June, they will work with a two-year team from the U.S. that is developing Campus Outreach ministry on their university campus. Brian is enjoying serving a young church, rather than having to establish it.



Pray for the Lord to be working in the hearts of the incoming freshmen whom Brian and Terri will meet and seek to win to Christ.

Pray that Campus Outreach will substantially expand the global ministries they have over the next 10 years.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read Luke 19:10 to understand the purpose of our Lord's coming to earth. What would it mean for you to seek out and introduce salvation to someone who is lost?



"It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught of God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.'" John 6:45

R & M have served in Southeast Asia for the last 15 years witnessing of Jesus in the workplace by starting kingdom-minded businesses. Through their work, they live out loud and introduce the gospel to the unreached Southeast Asians in very practical ways, which they are praying will lead to a house church movement.

R has helped start three IT-related businesses

which have been a blessing in the community by providing work/skills as well as growing a means of providing support for future believers. He and M have also been providing vision and outreach training to national church pastors. They have experienced an increase in interest on a level they have not seen in past years with groups of pastors in two areas taking initiative to see the gospel go further among the unreached.



Pray for R & M's work with national church pastors to result in more church plants in their city.

Pray for their team to start key intercession groups among national church believers to focus on a breakthrough of the gospel among Muslims.

GOING DEEPER: Read John 6. Who was a mentor, Bible study leader, or trainer who significantly influenced your life? Why were they such an influence? Is there someone you could begin to mentor, lead, or influence in a similar way?



### GEORGE & ANNE HARPER PROFESSORS / ASIA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY - PHILIPPINES

"In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching, show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us." Titus 2:7-8

In a novel George recently read, one sentence lingered in his mind, "His preaching was a sort of pattern of his mind, like the lines in his face." George hopes that all ministers and teachers aspire to "teach the way we think, and our teaching and living should be woven together so tightly that each cannot help leaving indelible marks on the other, marks that are plainly visible to those around us. Anything less would

be hypocrisy, for teaching is a vocation, a calling, a way of life." That's what Anne and George have committed to do over the past quarter-century. They are now seeing the fruit of their labor as they see former students modeling the same approach with students of their own as they train pastors, Christian educators, and missionaries to serve Asia's rapidly growing churches.



Pray for students Mark, Beatrice, and Lazaras, who are facing deadlines submitting their thesis in time to graduate in June.

Pray for George and Anne with their many duties as professors at Asia Graduate School of Theology.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read 2 Thessalonians 2:15. How has the teaching you have received impacted your life? How can you use what you have been taught to minister to others?



"Looking to Jesus... who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" Hebrews 12:2

J & L and their children have loved sharing Jesus with Lela, their housekeeper. Through nine years with them Lela came to know the Lord. Then she moved back to her home village where she delivered her baby boy, Putera. The family missed her and were delighted to accept her invitation to come for her son's "hair cutting" ceremony, a superstitious tradition of shaving off the baby's "birth hair." This trip gave L special joy in showing Christian love

to Lela's family. Clearly Lela felt this love. The Js faithfully believe God has called them to the people of Southeast Asai. Since the Gospel had already entered Lela's heart, they hoped that this would lead her to encourage her village people. But since she moved back home with her Muslim family, her faith in Jesus appears to have faded. The Js pray for God to draw many Southeast Asians to His Truth.



Pray for J as he serves in the 525 Prayer Initiative to awaken the unreached Mly to Jesus in five years.

Pray for God to restore Lela's faith and bring His salvation to her village.

GOING DEEPER: Have you had a friend or neighbor who came to know the Lord, but succumbed to the pressure and influence of a non-believing family? Lift them up in prayer today.



#### **GREG & SALLY LIVINGSTONE**

MISSIONARY TRAINING / MENTORING

"So now give me this hill country of which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard that the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said." Joshua 14:12

In today's scripture we read the words of 85-year-old Caleb, whose trust in and zeal for the Lord had not wavered despite his advancing years. Like Caleb, Greg and Sally Livingstone are just as passionate about serving the Lord as they were when He called them to take the gospel to the Muslim world nearly 60 years ago. Because of Greg's recent diagnosis of advanced cancer, the Livingstones

felt that it was prudent to leave the field and move to California to be close to family as he receives medical care. Nevertheless, they are still active in mobilizing and training mission teams to go to the Muslim world. Greg is asking for his own "hill country" as he prays that the Lord gives him 12 active teams before the Lord calls him home.



Pray for the Lord to continue to encourage Greg and Sally, giving them daily strength to do His will.

Pray for the Lord to give Greg his heart's desire of having 12 new teams actively serving in the Muslim world.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read Caleb's story in Numbers 13 and 14:24 and Joshua 14:4-15. What can you learn from Caleb? Read Greg Livingstone's compelling autobiography, "You Take Libya," available in The Growing Place Library.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT / CHURCH PLANTER

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

In 2014, J's team wanted to start a grow-out facility for sea cucumbers in SE Asia as the first step in bringing a development platform and the gospel to a closed country. The team intended to begin small by retrofitting an existing hatchery, but God had bigger plans. A group of national church planters expressed an interest in helping them, so Jo and his team began looking for land to build their own hatchery. In the process they met other indigenous church planters who shared their vision for reaching the unengaged peoples using mari-culture. A leader of that group

told J that he should meet Sonny, a man in his congregation who owned two islands that would be perfect for their project. J already had a couple of nearby islands in mind but agreed to meet with Sonny. To J's amazement, Sonny owned both of these islands, and as a successful businessman, was looking for a way to help develop these poor coastal areas where his family came from generations ago. Sonny told them they could use as much land as they wanted. John feels it is difficult to imagine a more ideal situation.



Pray for J and his team to keep listening and allowing God's plan and timing to quide them.

Pray that they would find two key nationals to join their team.

**GOING DEEPER:** Is God challenging you to think bigger? How has Isaiah helped you be more confident in this thinking? Look up sea cucumbers on the internet. Do you have an interest in learning about the foods from other cultures?



### MITCHELL & LISA (Lauren, Cora, Tucker, Ben) PASTOR / VP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AT UPH

"And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the founder and perfecter of our faith..." Heb.12:1

What do marathons and ministry have in common? Our own Mitchell and Lisa will be running the "Conquer The Wall" marathon on the Great Wall of China this May. Actually, Mitchell is running the 10K and Lisa will be running the full marathon. The goal in running is to raise money to build a clinic in an interior part of Papua for people currently without

access to healthcare. The entire Moore family has immersed themselves in the life, work, language, and culture where they serve, teach, and build relationships. Mitchell works hard serving in Karawaci Presbyterian Church and, as one of the vice presidents of the university, continues to mobilize students in evangelism and church planting.



Pray for Mitchell as he mobilizes graduates to engage in church planting and evangelism.

Pray for a healthy balance between ministry and family.

**GOING DEEPER:** Did you know that Indonesia is made up of more than 17,500 islands with 400 active volcanoes? It also has the largest Muslim population in the world. Google Indonesia to find out other interesting facts about this country and pray regularly for our missionaries who serve there.



## TEZAR & TATIANA (Elena) CHURCH PLANTING - INDONESIA

"My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19

Tezar and his team launched Covenant City Church in center city Jakarta in July of 2016. He and Tatiana were amazed to realize that by the end of the year, the Lord had brought them through 23 services and they had received 37 members! These are a "great group of people" who often bring family and friends with them to worship. They delight to fellowship with Tezar and Tatiana as they steadily grow together in the truth. Of the

church's three community groups, Tezar and Tatiana especially enjoy the married couples' group. Tezar has developed teams to coordinate set-up and break down, audio/visual, music, and overall leadership to assure that the services go well. Tezar is thankful for all who co-labor with him for Jesus Christ. Tatiana completed several Indonesian classes and is launching a counseling ministry in the church.



Pray that God will continue to make His Word and His Gospel central as Tezar leads people to true faith.

Pray for God to lead the church to engage in a strategic mercy ministry in their community and that He would give them wisdom in knowing how to best serve their many needs.

**GOING DEEPER:** Many hands and feet make up the body of Christ, each with their special gifts for ministry and service. What teams do you think help your church services go well? What gifts or abilities has God given you that could help your church's services go well?



# KAREN TAYLOR ESL TEACHER / ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

God directs and redirects our lives as we listen and discern His will. Several years ago, as a member of Second, Karen saw the opportunity to serve God by joining ELI in Cambodia. During the middle of the fall semester, Karen was diagnosed with a brain cyst, which led to a return to the States for a second opinion and treatment. This provided a beautiful platform for Karen to explain to her 19-year-old students that there is nothing bigger than

God, and there is nothing He does not use for His purpose. Even now as she has left Phnom Penh, students continue to message and video call with many questions about her calmness and peace. Students that may have never spoken of "life" with her before are now asking about her faith. Karen tells them she does not know the future, but knows the future is securely with Him.



Pray for wisdom as Karen waits for the Lord's direction in what He has for her next.

Pray for resolution to her present health issues.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read about Pol Pot and Cambodia's very turbulent history and pray for the amazing work that is taking place now.

#### **REGIONAL DEVOTION: EUROPE**

"And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God." Romans 9:26

Our partner Theo Visser in Rotterdam writes, "The dream is that Christ will be honored by people from all nations who worship together in one church and that across Europe, in the spiritual barren desert, hundreds of new inter-cultural churches will be planted."

His hope is that this Iranian woman's story would happen to others. She recently wrote: "Hello dear Theo, I am very thankful from you and church. LEEF! (the name of the church, Live! in Dutch) is a kind family for me and my son (as they had to flee an abusive situation in Iran). Since I came to Church, I see many

signs from dear Christ. Now I am not alone. I have Christ. I have church. I have many good friends. I am very thankful for Father...I want to be a true Christian at last. THANKS for LEEF!"

Theo continues, "This Iranian lady lived as a Muslim one year ago. Now she has found a living Savior in the Netherlands. Over Christmas my wife and I went to the refugee camp where she is living. We asked her to find John 3:16 in her Farsi Bible. When she found it, we saw it was already underlined. 'I read the Bible every day.'"



Pray for the Muslim people throughout Rotterdam, that they will encounter grace and love from true Christians and will be introduced to Jesus as their personal Savior.

Pray for Theo's efforts to mobilize inter-cultural church planting throughout the Netherlands and other European nations.

**GOING DEEPER:** What is it that makes us assume that it is impossible for people who are currently "not my people" to become "sons of the living God"? How can we learn more of God's character in this area and allow Him to change us?



# BILL & BOBBIE BOGGESS CHURCH PLANTERS - GUYANCOURT, FRANCE

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'" Matthew 25:21

A recent letter from the Boggesses begins with this quote from John Keith Falconer, "I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light." For 33 years, Bill and Bobbie have been candles that burn brightly in the dark region of France. They remain faithful to the calling to share Christ's grace and truth with people in the region of Paris, despite unfavorable

government regulations, having no regular place to worship, and several parishioners who are not fully committed. Nevertheless, they remain hopeful, trusting that Jesus will grow the seeds of the Gospel that they have sown. They plan to retire at the end of 2018 and hope that by that time Guyancourt Church will have leadership in place and will have reached the number of members necessary to make the church healthy.



Pray that the light of the Gospel will break through the darkened hearts in France and bring many souls to life in His name.

Pray for the Lord to provide a permanent home for Guyancourt Chruch and give strong leadership to the church this year.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read Hebrews 11:8-11. How does this passage encourage you when you see meager results from your labor? Whenever you hear or see something that reminds you of France, pray for that country.



#### BILL & LAUREN FINNELL (Abby and Will)

MISSIONARY CARE - SPAIN

"Cast all you anxiety on him because he cares for you." I Peter 5:7

Bill, Lauren, Abby, and Will continue to experience stress in transitioning to life in a new country. Their first home was in a rural area outside Madrid, where they sorely needed language skills to make friends and learn local customs. Trusting God to hear their prayers for help, He led them to a smaller apartment complex in urban Boadilla with great ministry opportunities and the ability to be close to three couples from TEAM who serve with them in many English initiatives. The difficulties in

moving were well worth it! Happily, Lauren's language requirements are complete, and Abby completed her first semester in the Spanish school nearby. Lauren finds everything takes twice as long, like making graham crackers from scratch (because she can't find them in the store) and soaking dried beans for her baked bean casserole. The Finnells returned to Spain after Christmas, trusting 2017 to be filled with peaceful, fruitful ministry.



Pray for Bill to pass his language requirements this spring.

Pray for family stress to lessen day by day as they enjoy pleasing the Lord in their ministry.

**GOING DEEPER:** Imagine yourself in a country where you don't speak or read the language fluently. Trying to grocery shop? Could you make do without some of your favorite foods, or appreciate being surprised by discovering a grocery item was not what you thought it was?



### ROB & TUNDE FUTO (Hajnal & Csenge) CHURCH PLANTING

"Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day." Psalm 96:2

October of 2015 marked the opening of the Sarokko (Cornerstone) church plant in Budapest. Planting the church was a tremendous amount of work, but a constant reminder of God's blessings. This past October, God sent 20 fresh pairs of hands who were ready to serve. One Sunday, the Futos were running late and showed up just 20 minutes before the service but were surprised to see people everywhere scurrying and getting everything prepared for the

worship service. It gave them great joy to see so many people catch the vision and want to be a part of building God's church. The church is growing quickly and now by God's grace, is dealing with the "good problem" of needing more space. Various "work teams" are in place now, as people serve as children's ministry leaders, greeters, tech people, worship leaders, and prayer teams. People are finding their place to serve.



Pray for Rob as he teaches throughout the Psalms this year and for Tunde's leading of a small, gifted choir and its outreach.

Pray for youth work which includes their two daughters, and the response to the discussions about topics like dating and relationships, as most of the teenagers in the group are unchurched.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read Daniel 12:3. Our missionaries are our "hands and feet." Ask God to lead you to one or two of our missionaries and communicate with them, encouraging them in their ministry.



#### **CHRIS & DEBBIE GIBSON** MISSIONARY CARE - EPC WORLD OUTREACH

"Bear one another's burdens. and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Debbie and Chris have been going into very dark places this year. These are the places where missionaries literally don't know what tomorrow may bring. Some have been thrown out of their homes and countries, some have seen loved ones murdered by ISIS, and others are on the verge of giving up with a feeling of near hopelessness. The life that our workers

have been called to is not easy. The Gibsons provide loving care for missionaries and their families, a place to come for refuge and safety, an Ark with a rainbow, just as God provided for Noah. The Garden House in Budapest is a place where pastoral care, counseling, spiritual direction, and crisis interventions are available



Pray for partners to be faithful in prayer for the especially difficult places around the globe.

Pray for wisdom for the Gibsons as they bring comfort, healing, and encouragement to missionaries that work in dark places.

GOING DEEPER: Mark 6:31 tells all who are weary and heavy laden to come to Him and He will give them rest. Our missionaries face the same weariness we face every day, but do so far away from loved ones and home. Make a commitment to pray this week for missionaries who are facing challenging times. Let them know via email that you are praying for them.



LESLIE KUHN GEM TEAM COACH - GERMANY

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Corinthians 12:9

Leslie shares that her daughter revealed to her that she was 100% German and 50% her mama's country. Leslie thinks this was brought about because they were talking about the different nationalities represented at her school. It is certainly an important question to revisit every now and again. Our identity, how we define it, and even how our environment (people and places) shape it is central to who we are. The new missionary staff Leslie coaches has to face the issue of identity as they acculturate in their new home. What, where, and who is "home"?

They ask themselves, "Do I have to fully adopt my country of ministry as my own, as my home?" These are not easy issues to wrestle through and when adjusting to a new culture, much of what has been considered "normal" all one's life is called into question. This leads to uncertainty in many areas of life. Being in that place where all you have is the Lord is not an easy place to be. Yet it is one that ultimately brings one closer to Him with blessings beyond our imagination. In that spot, we can rest knowing that "God's got this."



Pray for continued discernment for Leslie's ministry focus.

Pray for a "new reformation" to sweep through Germany in 2017, the "Reformation Year" celebrating the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

**GOING DEEPER:** Think about how your environment shapes your views, beliefs and your character. Do you rest in God alone, knowing He "has this"?



#### **VALERY & JANNA MOROZOV**

BIBLE TRANSLATORS / MISSIONARY TRAINERS - WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?" Romans 10:14

The "Alphabet Song" is one of the first songs that little children learn to sing. This simple song is the first step to literacy. Long ago, the reformers recognized that literacy was important so that the common man could read the Bible and come to know the "Word made Flesh." Today, we in the West take reading for granted. But what about cultures that have no written language? What about people groups that don't have the Bible in their heart language? How can they know Jesus and grow in their faith?

As head of Wycliffe Bible Translators-Russia, Valery and Janna Morozov train and encourage Russian missionaries who go to people who do not have the Word of God or, in some cases, a written language. These faithful missionaries develop written languages so that others can have a Bible that they can understand. At this time, Russian missionary teams are involved in 33 language projects that are blessing people groups in Africa, Asia, and the former Soviet Union. They trust that Jesus will open many hearts as these people receive His Word.



Pray for the Lord to continue to keep the doors of ministry open for the Morozovs as the Russian government makes more restrictions on religious activity.

Pray for Bible translators to be filled with the love of Jesus as they persevere in language projects.

**GOING DEEPER:** Choose a favorite verse in the Bible. Enter it into Google translate or find it in a foreign language. What would it be like to have to read the Bible in that language? Look up Wycliffe Bible Translators on the Internet. What impresses you about this ministry?



#### **JONATHAN & AMY PRUDHOMME**

CHURCH PLANTERS

"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes [directs] his steps." Proverbs 16:9

Although Jonathan and Amy lived in nearby dorms, were involved in campus ministries and had mutual friends while students at Mississippi State, they had never met. After completing their degrees, Jonathan continued working with college students and was eventually led to college ministry in Bologna, Italy. This city has much church history but little knowledge of the gospel of Christ. Amy (formerly, Zimmerman) returned to Memphis after graduating and became a physical therapist. At one of our World Mission

Conferences, Amy felt that the Lord was calling her to use her PT training to serve in the Muslim world. She went to Pakistan and felt certain that this was where she was to serve, but the Lord had other plans. As Amy attended one of her last mission training sessions at the TEAM headquarters in Wheaton, Illinois, she met Jonathan. They fell in love, married early this year, and the Lord called them to a life together in ministry. They plan to return to Italy this spring to be part of a church planting team in that land.



Pray for the Lord to bless Jonathan and Amy's first year of marriage, giving them unity and His means to complement each other.

Pray for an outpouring of the Spirit of God in Northern Italy, bringing many "religious" people to saving faith in Christ.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Reflect on the Lord's specific direction in your life. How has He redirected your path? In what specific area(s) do you need to trust Him fully?



#### **RONNIE & JANE STEVENS**

PREACHER / TEACHER

"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching." 2 Timothy 4:2

Ronnie Stevens has faithfully heeded this admonition from the Apostle Paul to his young protégé, Timothy, and to all believers. Having served "in season" as a pastor in Memphis and Budapest, Ronnie now takes the Gospel to places where it is accessed only with difficulty. While serving on a pastoral staff in Moscow, Ronnie has an itinerant "out of season" ministry, including teaching students in Serbia, training new Christians

in a closed country, and preaching at an international church in a Muslim country where the congregation has been evicted from their Sunday meeting place. The Lord has given Jane the privilege of proclaiming the Word as she lectures on Biblical themes in art in Budapest, where they lived for 12 years. The Stevens are grateful that they can take the Gospel wherever God calls them.



Pray for unity among Russian Christian leaders and perseverance in the face of anti-missionary legislation.

Pray for believers in the region to be allowed to rent property for worship.

**GOING DEEPER:** The word translated "preach" may also be rendered "proclaim." How can you proclaim the good news today? If it became illegal to share your faith, how would you respond?



# BOB & JANIE TILL MOBILIZING MINISTRY AMONG REFUGEES IN EUROPE WITH GEM

"You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 19:34

Bob and Janie Till, who work for Greater Europe Mission, have had a year of meeting amazing people. Many were escaping war in the Middle East, and others were sharing the love of Jesus with them. The Tills met them in Germany, Greece, and Lebanon. Most of those fleeing their countries were Muslims, but many were new believers who had left Islam. All had amazing stories of survival, with the

new believers seeing God work in miraculous ways. God is working among the millions of refugees who have come to Europe, where it is often easier to reach them than it would be in their home countries. Bob says it was humbling to hear many of their stories of leaving Islam to follow Jesus. But even in European countries, they face persecution and violence for their faith.



Pray for new believers, especially those with Muslim backgrounds, as they become established in their new countries.

Pray for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Greece, and Germany as GEM workers minister to them and share the Gospel.

**GOING DEEPER:** Has God put the plight of refugees on your heart? Have you researched your own family tree to see where your ancestors came from? Ask God to allow you to "see" the refugees in your community.

#### **REGIONAL DEVOTION: EAST ASIA**

"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." 2 Timothy 3:12

Reflections from a 70-year-old elder in the East Asian church: In the past my prayer for East Asia was that there would be freedom so that the Gospel can be freely preached. Now we are still praying that way, but we also pray for the growth of the church, especially in aspects of theological education. We pray that we would have freedom in doing theological education. Of course we pray for many other things, such as the transition of Christianity and the cities. But we pray the most for the church to become free.

These days we are facing a new wave of persecution, but we are not very well prepared for the new persecution. Persecution feels like this: If I preach, the government will take me away. And then when the person next to

me stands up to preach, the government will take him away, too. And if another stands up again, the government will take them all away. That is what it is like to be persecuted by the government. The younger generation probably will not stand up. Youthful guys should have wisdom. These days, people rely more on human ways and methods. Rarely do they rely on genuine faith.

My advice for those just becoming Christians in East Asia today is that the first thing to do is establish the relationship between yourself and God through prayer, reading the Bible, and communal life – fellowship and the church. And I would also advise them to know the value of life.



Pray that new East Asian believers would have faith and courage to live out their faith regardless of the persecution or oppression that comes as a result.

Pray that many in East Asia will hear the Gospel and that the growing national church would be faithful in proclaiming the Gospel and in equipping leaders to continue the work.

**GOING DEEPER:** Why do we admire those who have undergone persecution without wavering, yet work so hard to avoid persecution ourselves?



#### **PAUL & VIOLET BRIDGMAN**

CHURCH PLANTERS - JAPAN

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

Last February three people were baptized at Sakuragaoka Church in Japan. They are all faithfully attending and growing as Christians. Mr. Inoue is a traveling businessman. Sometimes his job keeps him away even on Sunday mornings, but he attends weekly meetings when he is able. Mr. Omura is 94 years old, but is attending every church

meeting he can come to. His daughter, Kaori, the third person baptized, makes sure that her father can follow what is being taught. She always asks prayer for her only daughter who is in an institution for the mentally ill. Now there are three other seekers who want to get baptized soon.



Pray that believers will continue to function as the Body of Christ, grow into maturity, and reach out to family and neighbors who don't know the Lord.

Pray that Paul and Violet's work will continue to prosper.

**GOING DEEPER:** Do you make church attendance a priority in your life? Does your job or family often keep you away from or interrupt your worship?



#### **RACHEL**

**CAMPUS MINISTRY** 

"...pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ."
Colossians 4:3

One day Rachel and a co-worker were walking across campus, praying for the Lord to lead them to students who would be open to hear the Gospel. They struck up a conversation with three girls who were eager to get to know Americans and practice their English. The next day the students texted Rachel and her co-worker asking to meet with them. Providentially, both of the Americans' schedules were free at the suggested time. While they talked, the conversation turned to favorite books and Rachel was able to say, "My favorite book is the Bible because I am

a Christian." Immediately one girl said she wanted to know more about the Bible and Christians. As the conversation proceeded, the same girl asked, "How do I become a Christian?" The door was opened for Rachel to share the Gospel and before they left the table all three girls had become sisters in the Lord. It wasn't until later that Rachel learned the significance of the timing of this Divine appointment. On that day she was Second's featured missionary, so many at our church were joining her in prayer!



Pray for the Lord to give Rachel and her team many opportunities to share the Gospel on the campus where they serve.

Pray for wisdom for Rachel to know whether to stay in East Asia or return to the States to minister here.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read Paul's instructions in Colossians 4:2-6. How can you apply these to your life? Establish or renew a plan to pray for Christian workers.



"One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts." Psalm145:4

Throughout the Word, we are told to declare the glory of God to the next generation. As A met with former school and provincial leaders, he saw much fruit from all the ministry/ teaching opportunities working with ELIC. Andy saw that each generation is called to build on the foundation left by the previous generation. A particular highlight this summer was a meal with almost a dozen former students,

all of whom work at local universities in the city. Since all of his former students couldn't come, each class chose a few to attend and "live tweet" what was talked about and stories that were shared during the meal. It was a humbling and encouraging time to see these former 19-year-old college students, now married, raising children, and trying to "teach students like they had been taught."



Pray for the first team of full-time Chinese language teachers starting the seven-month training process to enable them to teach outside China.

Pray for the children as B continues homeschooling their growing girls.

**GOING DEEPER:** Young children in the home can learn early to pray for missionaries. Have your child look at the tag inside their clothing and see where it was made. A tag from China, Malaysia, or India could be a reminder to pray for that country and missionaries that serve there.



"I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever." Psalm 145:1

A commissioning service was held for D & A in Lancaster, PA on January 22, 2017. They will be ministering in East Asia and plan to leave in March. Even though the family hasn't left for the field yet, D is still preaching and teaching God's Word through his busy travel schedule. On a recent trip to Jakarta, D had an opportunity to preach on a Sunday morning, offer a three-hour

theological seminar on Pauline Theology that Sunday night, and then teach a weeklong intensive course on the Doctrine of God at the Reformed Evangelical Church of Indonesia. D's next stop took him to East Asia where he preached on Sunday and taught a week-long intensive course on Acts and the Pauline Epistles.



Pray for the transition as D & A prepare to move from the U.S. to Fast Asia.

Pray for D who would like to teach theological classes on the field. Pray these opportunities will be available and for wisdom and strength to select the best ones.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read Ephesians 6:7. How can you give your life to serve the Lord at Second, in your home, in your place of work, or at school?



### ROGER & ABI LOWTHER (Aiden, Eastin, Coen, Kaizen) CHURCH PLANTERS / MUSICIANS IN TOKYO

#### "Sing to Him a new song, play skillfully on the strings with loud shouts." Psalm 33:3

Roger and Abi, both classically trained musicians, have used their gifts to touch the hearts of many in Japan. From relief work to public concerts, they have seen much fruit from their labors. Recently, Roger reports that after a concert one woman told him, "I was having a hard time getting through the day. Your music brought me peace and healing!" One man, who just happened to be walking by when the concert started, told

him, "I have walked by many times, but this is my first time to come inside. I want to come back!" The pastor was encouraged that 20 non-Christians from the neighborhood came to their small church for the first time. Roger and Abi heard similar stories at the other three churches where they gave concerts in the past month. Their church, Grace City, has had 11 baptisms this year!



Pray for Roger and Abi's concerts to continue to touch hearts and bring many to Christ.

Pray for other musicians and artists to join their work in Tokyo.

GOING DEEPER: How are you using the gifts that God has given you to help point others to Him?



#### JEFF & KATIE SAUNDERS (Emerie)

CHURCH PLANTING

#### "Christ became sin so that I might be righteous before God." 2 Corinthians 5:21

Jeff and Katie got connected to a blind
Japanese woman through the University of
Memphis. They had her over for dinner and
showed her what meals and life are like in an
American home. She apparently had a great
time and told them to email her when they got
to Tokyo (where she lives and goes to school;
she was studying for a semester in Memphis).
When they got there they reached out and
she told them she had been really depressed
and then she got their email which made her
very happy. She was excited to reconnect and
have dinner at their house. When she came

over, she mentioned she had a concert coming up at the church she'd been attending. Jeff asked her, "Manami are you a Christian now? She said she wasn't and that she didn't think that she could be a Christian because of how bad she was." Jeff pressed into that a little bit and the next thing he knew he was explaining the Gospel to her. Since Jeff is a musician himself, it was interesting that she shared the music that she would be singing at the concert was from the *Messiah*. In fact the piece was "Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world."



Pray that they would study hard and focus and be gracious with themselves and each other as they learn Japanese.

Pray that they would daily be reminded of their identity in Christ and who He says they are.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read John 3. Have you prayed for God to give you opportunities to share His love with a friend or neighbor?



### THOMAS & JENNIFER MCINTYRE (Ashlee & Tyler)

CHURCH PLANTING / COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage; and the ends of the earth your possession." Psalm 2:8

The McIntyres report that 2016 was full of special blessings! Thomas preached his first sermon in Mandarin, resulting in one of the attendees accepting Christ. Another very exciting event was to witness an entire family's baptism. During the summer, they had the largest VBS ever. Jennifer completed her book based on true stories of children

from their ministry. This book called *Ping Ping and the Very Hairy, Slightly Scary Man*, gives a glimpse of how lives can be transformed by God through the work of missionaries. Thomas, Jennifer, and the children have been on home leave enjoying family time and seeing friends. They plan on returning to Taiwan in early summer.



Pray for the Zhongpu Gospel Center's continuing ministry while they are on home assignment.

Pray for God to open new hearts in a spiritually dark community.

**GOING DEEPER:** The Bookmark and library have many interesting books on missions and missionaries, including Jennifer's *Unbound* and *Ping Ping and the Very Hair, Slightly Scary Man*. Consider reading one this week.



#### "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news." Isaiah 52:7

T & H are joyfully serving the Lord in East Asia where they're involved with seminary students and church planters. Their six local churches now total about 600 members, and T is studying for his Ph.D. While on home assignment last summer, the family covered 13 U.S. states, visiting many churches and friends along the way. When they returned to East Asia, they rejoiced to discover their

seminary's renovation was totally complete! Their three children began a new school year, as daughter C entered her first year at International School, Now T & H are able to travel together, serving in church ministries and seminary leadership, while staying deeply involved in their kids' activities and teaching engagements. T led worship at Grace City Church in August, where 600 attended.



Pray for God to provide additional English teachers where Tim is a consultant.

Pray for the seminary students and church leaders in Tim's area to grow in their love for Christ and their love for the people in their communities.

GOING DEEPER: We often don't realize that even though our missionaries live in a particular city, many times they have extensive travel requirements for their ministry. This can be a challenge to manage and stay involved with family and kids' events. How would/does extensive travel affect your family/personal life? Your life of faith?



"Behold the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save, nor is his ear so dull that it cannot hear." Isaiah 59:1

In 2016, D & L faced many challenges. Lisa's stepmom, Joyann, passed away. She loved the Lord and was a wonderful example to their family. In September, D had a sudden loss of vision in his left eye. The diagnosis was "wet" macular degeneration. He received injections in the eye for treatment to improve his sight. B, their 6-year-old godchild, did not have a positive diagnosis for her vision difficulties. The news that

there are no medical treatments to help B's condition was heartbreaking for the family. D & L found out that B's biological mom had lost her job and did not have a place to live. After two years of not hearing from her, she is now living with them and has learned how to sew bags and other crafts. D & L are encouraging her with her relationship with Jesus.



Pray for L as she is a nurse and doula (midwife) who ministers to young mothers.

Pray for healing for D & B's eyes and emotional healing for their family as they have experienced losses of parents, mentors, and close friends.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read 1 Timothy 1:14. How can you extend the grace of God to someone in your life like D & L have to B's biological mom?



## ENOCH CHURCH PLANTER TRAINER

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2

Enoch and his wife Karen had a very challenging year dealing with her breast cancer diagnosis. Karen underwent surgery to remove active cancer cells that were contained and classified as stage 0. After six weeks of radiation therapy following her surgery, a follow-up MRI still indicated active cancer cells. Karen was faced with the possibility of yet another surgery. Enoch knew that their true test was to believe that God loved them more than they love themselves and that His sovereign plan is the

best for them. Enoch shares, "We understand that God intentionally put us and kept us in this weakness so that we can meet Him and know Him through this. We like being strong and hate weakness, but weakness is the determined way to grace and Christ, and this is the secret of the Gospel." After careful reviews of Karen's condition, the surgeon, radiologist, and pathologist concluded that the suspicious area was too insignificant to warrant a secondary surgery so quickly. They will continue monitor the situation.



Pray for Enoch and Karen to continue to seek and rest in God's presence during this time.

Pray for Enoch's travel schedule to calm down so that he can be at home more with his family during this time.

**GOING DEEPER:** Is God taking you through a struggle? Is He asking you to trust Him more? How have you found Him to be your strength and song?

#### **REGIONAL DEVOTION: LATIN & SOUTH AMERICA**

"and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2

In 2015 La Mision Las Flores moved to a multi-site model by planting two new sites (Merlo and Palermo), allowing them to reach a broader spectrum of non-believers in the city. The pastoral team is composed of senior pastor Marcelo Robles, an assistant pastor, and two elders.

The Las Flores campus has finally seen their dream of the Early Childhood Center come to fruition. Every day their team of teachers, cooks, social workers, and volunteers serve 150 children ages 1 to 3. God is using the Center to care for children who often face abuse, malnutrition, homelessness, and other serious issues.

The downtown congregation in Palermo, along with its associated university ministry, continues to grow, as 15 people joined the church last year. The Palermo neighborhood (with over 300,000 residents) is extremely passionate about culture and the arts, so they have chosen to focus their ministry on cultural activities (art shows, music concerts, and professional seminars).

La Misión Merlo is thriving and seeing rapid growth in their community. Alejandro and his wife, Marcela, are doing an amazing job leading this congregation in serving their neighborhood. This year they planned a Children's Day event in which over 100 children and their families participated.



Pray for the six congregational leaders who are studying in seminary through Third Millennium — that they might grow and develop as Christian leaders in the La Mision church network.

Pray that each congregation would develop small groups in their community that would effectively reach out to new people who do not yet know Christ savingly.

**GOING DEEPER:** Who are the faithful leaders God has placed in your life to help you grow? How can you help one or two others grow in their faith this week?



## GUILLE & DEBBIE MACKENZIE (Benjamin, Catalina, Camilia) CHURCH PLANTER MOBILIZATION & TRAINING - ARGENTINA

#### "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" Psalm 133:1

Guille is pastor of Nuevo Avivamiento (New Revival), a multicultural community with a strong desire to share their faith in God. The church is very diverse with people coming from Taiwan (mostly), Colombia, Ecuador, the United States, Chile, Brazil, Peru, and Argentina. The core group consists of devoted Christians with a strong call to evangelism and church multiplication. The vision of the church is to develop a multicultural community of disciples who worship God, love one another, and serve the world. Key values of this church are spiritual vitality, strong discipleship, and

community transformation. Carlos, a deacon at the church, recently attended a special event at one of the other Taiwanese Presbyterian churches in Buenos Aires. After that, he talked to Guille and said, "Visiting that church helped me confirm that we are doing something great for God's kingdom. It was unbelievable. They were all Taiwanese - same color, same culture - so boring!" Guille added his thoughts on how we may need to get used to seeing different colors and listening to different languages in our church. It's just part of daily life at our church ... and that's how heaven will also be.



Pray for Guille's continual struggle with cystic fibrosis.

Pray that the Lord would continue to empower pastors and leaders to plant and revitalize churches in Buenos Aires.

**GOING DEEPER:** What does church look like to you? Does everyone look and sound the same? Do you think it's possible for many different nationalities to worship together as one?



## JUAN & MARIA PATT (Stephanie & Joanna) PASTOR / PRINCE OF PEACE CHURCH - BELIZE

"For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel." Ezra 7:10

Calcutta is a village in the Corozal district of Belize, about three miles from Corozal town. The Presbytery of Belize has assigned Pastor Juan Patt and Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church to plant a church in that village. There is already a sanctuary under construction which was erected under

the ministry of the previous pastor. The first converts who have given their lives to Christ have begun weekly Bible studies, even though the building is not complete. Please partner in prayer with Pastor Juan and the growing Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church as they minister in this village.



Pray for the village of Calcutta where people are hungry for God's word.

Pray that the Lord will open new opportunities for Juan and the Prince of Peace Church to share the gospel in Calcutta and other villages.

**GOING DEEPER:** God uses His remnant to accomplish great things. Most foreign churches start with a committed group of believers who meet and start Bible studies. Is God asking you to take the first step with other believers to start a new Bible study or small group in your community?



#### STACY & CRAIG POHL (Karis & Aimee Grace) DISCIPLESHIP / OUTREACH

"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching." 1 Timothy 4:13

In March, Craig will complete a three-year term as director of the Reformed Theological Academy. The Pohls are prayerfully seeking to serve at the local church level as a family in 2017. Their desire is to focus on discipleship, leadership training and other strategic ministries at Longuén Valley Presbyterian Church. The church purchased their first

property after years of praying and saving. It is located near the "crossroads" of their community. The Church has been developing a relationship with church leaders in Nepal. God provided an opportunity for this Chilean congregation to provide full financial support for a new church planter and his ministry half a world away in Nepal!



Pray that the Lord will provide resources and encouragement for the Pohl family as they seek to serve in a new ministry at their church.

Pray that they will fulfill their desire to proclaim that Jesus is the light of the world for all who come to Him in faith — from every tribe, language, tongue and nation.

GOING DEEPER: John 13:35 says, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." The meaning of the word "disciple" in the dictionary is "someone who accepts and helps to spread the teachings of a famous person." In what ways can you live your life as a disciple of Christ?



# MARCELO ROBLES (Vicky) CHURCH PLANTER - ARGENTINA

"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'" Matthew 10:19.

Marcelo Robles is the senior pastor of La Misión, which has three sites, each with a distinct purpose. After years of prayer and planning, La Misión has finally seen their dream of the early childhood center, Centro de Primera Infancia, come to fruition in Flores. Every day they have 150 children, ages one to three, for almost nine hours. The team of teachers, cooks, social workers, and others serve them and their parents in multiple ways.

Marcelo and his staff praise the Lord for the testimonies of how He is using CPI to care for these children and how He has used the La Misión team to save some of them from abuse, malnutrition, homelessness, and more. Because of the existence of CPI, the Lord has given Marcelo and others the wisdom to develop programs that help to educate and minister to the families of these precious children.



Pray for Marcelo as he mentors and trains pastors in planting new churches.

Pray for the ministry of La Mision and the for the early childhood center to produce hearts for Christ in the children, parents, and team that serves there.

**GOING DEEPER:** Marcelo started with one small church over 10 years ago. Now the ministry has grown to three churches and congregations. Are your prayers big enough? Or are you afraid to dream bigger and pray for greater ministry impact? What would a big dream or big prayer look like to you?



## AUSTIN SMITH CAMPUS OUTREACH CAMPUS DIRECTOR - BRAZIL

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions." Joel 2:28

Austin initially committed to serve with Campus Outreach in Belo Horizonte for two years. However, last year with new people arriving and some leaving, there became a need for a campus director. Austin extended his commitment for four more years and accepted the Campus Director role (along with another worker, Wellinton) in order to develop and expand the ministry.

In the last few months Austin has seen two young women, Larissa and Camilla, accept Christ and begin attending church regularly. Both come from a background of spiritism, and the CO staff has seen God use their conversions to impact not only their lives but also their families. Both have brought their mothers to worship services. There are also two young men from the university, Luca and Pedro, responding more and more to the truth of the Gospel. Luca has been coming regularly to church and has been avidly studying Scripture.



Pray that these students would grow in their new walk with Christ.

Pray that Austin and Wellinton will work well together and be of one mind in their endeavors

**GOING DEEPER:** Have you wanted to serve overseas but aren't sure you can commit long term? Do you know that Second's First Responder program gives members the opportunity to serve for one to two years?



## KYLE & CLAUDIA ZIMMERMAN (Isaiah, Sarah, Abegail) MINISTRY TO THE UNDER-RESOURCED - ARGENTINA

"I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will make music." Psalm 101:1

The Zimmermans have served at La Misión in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for nine years where Kyle also uses his woodworking skills to teach at a community center in the neighborhood. This past November the church hosted a jazz festival, which was part of a city-wide event. After praying that God would use the event to plant seeds, the church was privileged to see the fruit of His Spirit working. During

the Christmas party a few weeks later, Kyle spoke with two un-churched neighbors who came because of the jazz event. They spent the whole evening talking about the hope of the Gospel and how it drives us to serve. La Misión is also seeing fruit in its shanty town ministry, where a young executive who used to be afraid is now meeting regularly with a group in the community involved in a sports ministry.



Pray for safety in their neighborhood and city and for the economic inflation in Argentina and its negative impact in their church.

Pray for creativity in discipling new believers and for the new sports ministry in the shantytown.

**GOING DEEPER:** Do you have a talent or gift that you could be using for the Lord, but don't because you're affraid you're not good enough? What is one step you could take to begin to deploy the gift God entrusted to you?

#### **REGIONAL DEVOTION: AFRICA**

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little;" I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'" Matthew 25:23

Our World Relief partners in Africa equip local churches to organize savings groups, which center around Bible study about stewardship and savings. Rather than applying for outside funding, these savings groups help people care for each other and practice stewardship with resources from within the community.

Shyreen Patrick stands tall after moving from the depths of poverty to a notable figure in the community. She now owns a grocery store in her village in the Ntchisi district as well as two goats and a good number of chickens. She joined a savings group in 2014 where she started saving 500 Malawi kwacha (71 cents) per week. From the skills and lessons learned

from the group, she started a business of selling doughnuts and bananas. She took a small loan of MK10,000 (\$14) which allowed her to begin these businesses. Her businesses grew and in September 2015 she took a loan amounting to MK40,000 (\$57). She used this loan to buy groceries in order to open a shop. She repaid this loan using returns from her doughnut business. In December she got another loan amounting to MK75,000 (\$107) and bought additional groceries. In January 2016, she opened her grocery shop in the village. Her plans for the future are to grow her livestock business with returns from the grocery shop.



Pray that God would teach church communities in Ntchisi, Malawi, and Guija, Mozambique, to help local believers care for each other through stewardship and corporate compassion.

Pray that the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel through the Word and demonstrating the Gospel through deeds would go hand in hand through our partners in Africa.

**GOING DEEPER:** What does it mean to you to be faithful with the "much" or "little" that God has entrusted to you? How might that take shape today?



# LARRY BROWN (Carey) PROFESSOR / AFRICAN BIBLE COLLEGE

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Larry has been with African Bible College for 24 years. During that time, he has earned degrees, gotten married, become a father, then a widower and single dad. Larry is grateful for the students, church leaders, and supporters who have encouraged and supported him through the years. He is currently in the U.S. on home assignment,

visiting family, friends, supporting churches, and catching up on reading. In Larry's words, "the future is as bright as the promises of God!" Larry will return to ABC at the end of the summer to take up his teaching in the 2017-2018 academic year. Larry teaches history, some theology, and various Biblical books, depending upon the year.



Pray that his furlough will be a restful and refreshing time as he shares with others about the African Bible College.

Pray that Carey will have a good spring semester in the U.S. and a healthy transition back to Lilongwe at the end of the summer.

**GOING DEEPER:** Hebrews 12:1 says that we are to "run with perseverance the race marked out before us." Write down some verses where God's promises will give you the strength to persevere while facing life's storms.



### TINA & SCOTT LAWRENCE (James, Jon Nathan & Joshua) OPHTHALMOLOGIST - AFRICA

"...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

Scott recently reported that after weeks of emails and calls, he looked out his office door and saw the young lady who had been asking for help. She could not remember a time where she could see out of her right eye. She thinks it could have been caused by an infection she had as a young child. After Scott examined her, he realized there was

no way to rehabilitate the eye. However, the non-seeing eye was small and disfigured. Scott offered her an option to receive an eye replacement where no one could tell the good eye from the replacement. This young lady, who had been stigmatized as disabled and cursed, could have a new lease on life.



Pray for good coordination between staff and partner organizations to expand the outreach programs to underserved communities around Addis Ababa.

Pray for stability in the region that would allow Gospel outreach to continue to grow.

**GOING DEEPER:** We are all needy people – whether it's a physical or spiritual need. Read Hebrews 4:16. How has God provided mercy and grace to you in your time of need? How do you need to ask Him for that today?



## HEATH & ANGELA MANY (Rees & Mary Taylor) SURGEON / OBSTETRICIAN - TENWEK HOSPITAL, KENYA

"And David said, 'The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion...will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.' And Saul said to David, 'Go and the Lord be with you.'" 1 Samuel 17:37

When Heath and Angela Many were medical students at UTCHS in Memphis, they never imagined that the Lord would use Heath to save a man "from the lion's paw." But one day, while Heath was working as a teaching surgeon at Tenwek Hospital, a man was brought to the hospital with many deep wounds. The man had been mauled by a lion. Heath and the team at Tenwek prayed for Jesus to bring healing to the lion's victim as they set about using their medical skills to

treat him. The man eventually recovered from this terrible attack.

Heath and Angela have seen other traumatic injuries in Kenya that are rare in the States. Because of this they are using their time of home assignment for Heath to receive further training in surgical critical care. The Manys trust that the Lord will be with them as He prepares them for future service to African medical students and patients.



Pray for the Lord to bless Heath, Angela, and their daughters, Mary Taylor and Rees, as they are on home assignment. Pray he would equip them physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually for further ministry.

Pray for the Lord to continue to use Tenwek Hospital as a place for quality medical and spiritual care for people in Western Kenya and as a place for training African doctors in Christian medical care.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read 1 Samuel 17. What do you learn about God and his power to equip you for future service? Visit tenwekhospital.org — whatis one fact you learned?



# JUDY MBUGUA PASTOR / MINISTRY TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." Proverbs 31:6.

Judy Mbugua is the founder of Homecare Spiritual Fellowship in Nairobi, Kenya, where she guides several ministries. One is the Fadhili Women's Program, which serves women with HIV/AIDS. Millicent is one of the women who come each week for nutritious food, fellowship, friendship, and spiritual guidance. Married as a second wife, Millicent and her children had no recourse when her husband died. Unable to support her children, she called on Homecare Spiritual Fellowship

for help with rent. Millicent kept praying that God would provide for her children, especially that they would be able to have a good education. God answered her prayers by providing sponsorships for her children through Homecare's Orphans and Vulnerable Children Program. Their school fees are now paid on time every term. She thanks the Lord for their sponsors and prays that God would cause them to prosper.



Pray for the continued prospering of Homecare Spiritual Fellowship.

Pray for Millicent and other women in the Fadhili Women's Program, as well as their children — that God would continue to provide for them.

**GOING DEEPER:** Is God calling you to pray for and connect with the under-resourced in our city and/or world? What step could you take this week to start that journey?



# BRANDON MCCORD CAMPUS OUTREACH - SOUTH AFRICA

"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:18

Brandon shares how this verse from 2 Corinthians shook his heart as it clearly illustrates our privilege to be an integral part of our Father's mission of reconciling this broken world back to Himself. Following his college graduation, Brandon became seriously interested in serving with Campus Outreach. He is fascinated with the Gospel of Jesus and the workings of God's Spirit within, has a passion for loving others well, and a resolve for a lifetime of disciple making in obedience to the Great Commission. His experience with Campus Outreach was the first time anyone had intentionally poured into him and made it a point to live life with him. God used Tezar Putra to expand Brandon's view of God and the world. Following a time with World Relief Memphis and then a short-term trip to South Africa with Campus Outreach, Brandon felt God's call on his life to serve the university students in Johannesburg. Recently, Brandon decided to become a student at Witswatersrand University, giving him greater access to college students.



Pray for connections with university students and for the formation of Bible study groups.

Pray for unity among their leadership team – many are new this semester.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Is there someone in your life who is spiritually broken and in need of reconciliation back to God? Can you think of someone who you can pour into and live life with?



### STEVE & MARION SPENCER (Charlotte, Stephen, Esther) AFRICAN BIBLE COLLEGE

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed."

Proverbs 19:17

Last year's drought, erratic rainfall, and devastating floods in Malawi brought one of the greatest food shortages that country has ever known. At one point 6.5 million people, more than the entire population of Scotland, experienced deep hunger. Steve and Marion Spencer and others from the ABC family were alarmed by the plight of their countrymen and worked to alleviate the suffering of some in their area. They took a large truck loaded with 100 pound bags of maize to a hard-pressed

village and distributed food. The villagers were grateful for the generous gift that saved many lives. While the mission was serious, the Spencers' daughter, Charlotte, thought the children needed some fun. While those with strong backs distributed the maize, Charlotte brought joy to the little girls by painting their fingernails with bright colored polish! The Spencers were glad to meet the villagers' physical needs as they share "the Bread of Life" through the widespread ministry of ABC.



Pray for the Lord to use His people to care for the many needy people in Malawi and continue to raise up indigenous Christian leaders from African Bible College who will serve their country through holistic ministry.

Pray for clear direction for Steve and Marion as they consider beginning a Christian college in South Africa.

**GOING DEEPER:** Meditate on Psalm 146. What does this teach you about God and His care? Ask the Lord to show you ways to lift the spirits of those around you.



#### JOHNSON TWINOMUJUNI

PRINCIPAL / UGANDA BIBLE INSTITUTE

"For all scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16

The Lord tells pastors that they are responsible to equip the saints. One of the main tools for equipping the saints is the Word of God. No wonder Moses was told in Exodus to focus his energy on "instructing the Israelites about the statues and laws." Johnson, serving as the principal of Uganda Bible Institute, follows this pattern. The Institute began in 2003 as a ministry of the Church of Uganda. The Bible College offers five certificate and diploma

programs and has graduated over 500 students, who have gone on to faithfully lead, preach, and teach as pastors, chaplains, and church leaders throughout Uganda and other areas of Africa. The college is now pursuing licensing as a graduate institution to offer a Bachelor of Theology degree program. They also hope to build student housing and more classroom space as the number of students is growing.



Pray for wisdom and strength for the graduates to serve effectively and be faithful to the Word.

Pray for Johnson to have wisdom from above as he leads UBI.

**GOING DEEPER:** Do you have a spiritual mentor who has taught and encouraged your walk with the Lord? Recall and reflect on the 2 or 3 main truths you learned from this mentor.

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