

WCC Missions Prayer Update — December 2023

ACTS, Haiti – Clark Shepherd

Prayers:

- Pray for all our food programs in Haiti. All our FMSC food was stolen by gang members. Praising God no one was hurt.
- Pray for our work in USA, Haiti and Colombia as we are to spread the gospel of Jesus.

Praises:

- Praise for our September 16th concert. It was nearly a sellout event. So many shared what an amazing concert and evening of experiencing God in our community.

Elam Ministries, Iran (and beyond) – Dan & Carmen Hale

Prayers:

- Pray for the new Safar (discipleship) App, which launches in early December. Please pray for all the tech details but, even more so, that thousands will use the App and share the App with others.
- Pray that other people groups (English, German, Spanish, Pashtu & more to come) besides Iranians (Farsi speakers) will find, use and be blessed by the Safar App.
- Pray for those serving on the frontlines in the Persian-speaking world, that they will be bold and courageous as they minister in their home communities.
- Pray for favor as we wrap up 2023 and for the harvest to be abundant in 2024 and beyond.

Praises:

- Praise God that the Safar (Safar.org) website has been fruitfully used by thousands and that the Elam tech team has created the new Safar App.
- Praise God for Scriptures that recently got into the country.
- Praise God for those who will soon graduate from training and be deployed to serve.
- Praise God for good health. Carmen walked 19,000 steps on the knee that was supposed to be replaced a few months ago.
- Praise God for all our friends at WCC! We are thankful for Denny investing in us 25 years ago.

Encompass World Partners, France – Rob and Nichole Plaster

Prayers:

Families under stress

- Pray for Ashley who hasn't read the Bible in months. After reading eleven full books last year, this summer and fall have brought a tsunami of stress in her life. She's working two part-time jobs and her husband's job is sending him on international trips every other week. Her boys come home every day for a hot lunch. I haven't met her in ages to connect heart to heart. May the Lord of Angel Armies storm the strongholds of her identity as a staunch atheist. May she cry out to her Creator for help in times of trouble. May she find rest and renewal in Jesus.
- Overwhelming stress has infiltrated the hearts of the whole neighborhood. Pray for fathers that have short fuses. May they come to hear and genuinely believe that "gentle words are a tree of life." May they turn from the ways of this world with life-altering "never-going-back" repentance.
- Nichole's birthday is coming up. We were dreaming of having a birthday party to mix our seekers and our believers. But as it approaches, we're feeling depleted and we're not sure if we'll have enough energy— a few weeks later Thanksgiving gathering is going to be huge. Pray for energy renewal this week as we take time to reconnect as a family.
- Cami's school is stressful, and she has more homework than usual. She is complaining that the memorization is too much, and perhaps the most stressful is all the conflicts with kids. She had a

big blowout with her best friend who gave her a half hour lecture about how immature Cami is, how she's tired of Cami's outbursts and the girl says she "needs a break." Pray as Cami learns to navigate the increasing stress of public school. The neighbors say it will only get worse from here on out. May Cami adopt a holy perspective that we are only pilgrims on this earth, and her identity is strong in the Lord. (Homeschool is not an option with our immigration status.)

- Pray for Cami's emotion coaching. This season sometimes just dealing with our own adult emotions is a full-time job and so you can imagine how taxing it is to co-regulate and de-escalate an emotive ten-year-old 24/7. Pray that she would get a strong grasp of how to harness the emotions to their God-intended purpose and give him the glory.

Praises:

- Praise God we were able to purchase our home this summer!

Ethnos360/New Tribes Mission PNG, Papua New Guinea – Summer Zimmer

Prayers:

- Pray for the two video projects I hope to finish up before the end of the month, that they would be impactful and effective, one in bringing more teachers to work at our missionary kid school here and the other in spurring on viewers to pray for the Simbari people.
- Pray that as I reach out to churches for the next Missionary Care Discussion Group starting in January that they would be enthusiastic and available to participate.
- Pray for the Christmas season, that I'd be able to set some time apart to focus on the Lord and also be able to connect with friends and family on both sides of the world in meaningful ways.

Praises:

- Praise God that He can use even situations we don't like in our lives to grow and mature us.
- I've really appreciated time in God's word lately— 2 Thessalonians in our community church here, Philippians in my Bible Study ladies' group and Matthew in my Ethnos360 Bible Institute online class.
- Praise God for my Pit Crew's love and support.

Ethnos360 Training — Dan and Madison Murphy

Prayers:

- Pray for continued discernment on where and how best to serve as career cross-cultural missionaries.
- Pray for guidance as we choose 1-2 fields to schedule a vision trip to meet with field leadership, get exposed to their field-specific training program, understand field realities, etc.
- Pray for our health. Sickness spreads like wildfire around here!
- Pray for our growing spiritual maturity and humility.
- Pray for more laborers to share the hope of the Gospel with the unreached.

Fellowship Missions, Warsaw – Eric & Tammy Lane

Prayers:

- Pray that our hearts and minds are aligned with God's.
- Pray that individuals will experience the Truth of the Gospel when with us.
- Our winter amnesty program began Nov. 1. Pray for continued resources to be supplied to meet the needs for those with us.

Praises:

- Our Night of Hope and Inspiration was an amazing evening! God was glorified!
- We have acquired a place for individuals in recovery to have a space for respite and renewal. It will be a place where classes/meetings can be held and also a warm and welcoming space for mentor/mentee relationships to be built. It will also be used to collaborate with other help organizations.
- God continues to provide the resources needed to continue His work.

Hands of Hope, International, Guatemala—Sally Dewald

Prayers:

- Please keep Sally's mother in your prayers. Her mother has been going through some serious health issues and could use some prayers for healing and strength.
- There have been a lot of demonstrations in Guatemala concerning their election. Thankfully, they have been peaceful, but roads are blocked and passage is difficult.

Praises:

- Praise God for our very enthusiastic team of folks who are eager to serve the Lord.

Heartline, Kosciusko County – Brenda Whitehead

Prayers:

- Continue praying for our abortion-vulnerable and abortion-minded clients. Pray God continues to surround them with His grace and love. That they can feel encouraged and supported by their friends and family.
- Pray for God's continued provision for our ministry in this last quarter of the year.

Praises:

- Praise God for Brenda Whitehead joining our team as our new Executive Director. We are grateful for her willingness and ideas for our ministry moving forward.
- Praise God for the outcome and success of our 2023 Annual Donut Dash.
- Praise God that one of our clients who was considering abortion has decided to choose life!

Humanity & Hope, Honduras – Riley & Naz Fuller, Pastor Roger and Kareen Reyes

Praises:

- Praise God that Kareen has completed her university degree in psychology and will have a graduation this month.
- Praise God that the Bible studies with the women continuing to go well and that the men are continuing to come out of regular times of prayer and futbol (soccer) with Roger.

iHouse - Jacob and Lauren Hiatt

Prayers:

- Our Afghan children are still facing huge challenges at school. They have not had a chance to process the trauma or grief they are experiencing well and exhibit some behaviors that can be challenging to teachers and staff, but they are not getting the support they need to cope. The other children are also very cruel to them. Many of the kids feel very isolated and lonely at school.
- Pray for faithful, available and teachable volunteers to join us so we can fully staff our programs and meet the needs of the many requests for in-home tutoring and family support.

- Several Afghan ladies are expecting babies. Pray for healthy deliveries and babies!
- Pray for God's provision of two vehicles to our fleet to replace two very old vehicles that are not reliable. Transportation is vital to our programs.

Praises:

- N. found a house to rent for himself and his family.
- We were offered a new warehouse space at no cost to us! This was an amazing answer to prayer.
- The Haitian woman, M., had her baby and the situation with her partner is doing a bit better. He is safer to be around and helping with the children.

Kutoa Project, Kenya – Jason & Shae Brown

Prayers:

- Pray for our upcoming December Programs. We are leading Healing Hearts Club Camp, Group Counseling and Christmas Programs.
- Pray for our first quarter programs to be filled.
- Pray for our upcoming January event.
- Pray for our upcoming travels and health.

Praises:

- We launched our Day Center program for 18-25-year-olds, and we are so excited to share that it is going well. This program is new, and we are just trying different things to see how we can use it to support these young adults.
- We have had a few fundraiser events these past couple of months that have gone well, and we are so thankful for that.

LeaderSource Teams in the Nations – Jim Brenneman

Prayers for Jim:

- Jim helps to write Bible-training materials for frontline leaders in the nations. Our Theology Project is now in use in China by hundreds of leaders and it is also in use throughout Africa and in connection with the 99 Names of Allah project for Muslims. Pray for Jim's work of writing.
- Jim still builds leaders around the world via the Web, including frequent interactions to answer questions about the Bible, Christian doctrines and ethics. He is even teaching Hebrew.
- Jim is also mentoring young emerging leaders, encouraging them to pursue vital connection to God in fellowship and prayer. He also helps them with learning how to read the Bible in a way that is enriching and with solid understanding of an overview of the great themes found throughout the whole Bible. He also does simple things like teaching them Hebrew and how to make proper use of study helps like the Strong's Concordance.
- Jim is also helping to lead a daily Bible Reading Plan with believers in China. The second half of the year will progress through the Old Testament from Eden to the Exile – with relevant portions of the New Testament cross-referenced. Pray for the people involved in this daily Bible reading.
- Mentoring ministry connects him with young men in America, as Jim shares a spare bedroom in his home with college students. Connection with the previous house-guest continues (David – Costa Rica), and now with Cesar (Venezuela). Pray for both of these young men.

For LeaderSource:

- Pray for our increasing reach into the Muslim world – including Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, launching from Egypt.
- Pray for the team in Egypt as they work with orthodox and evangelicals, as well as Muslim Background Believers. Our Egypt team is leads the Names of Allah project.
- Our staff in China are training tens of thousands of leaders.
 - Praise God for the thriving work, as it flourishes with large wide-reaching Church networks and movements, in spite of increasing repression.
 - Pray for Sports & Outdoor Ministry: “covert ops,” which use American Football, Frisbee, and hiking to build emerging leaders and to encourage veteran leaders.
 - Pray about risks of the internet chat apps and Zoom interference.
 - The Transformational Theology Project is now in progress – moving 1000s of leaders and their people in the direction of knowing the fundamental truths of the faith. Pray that they will walk in God’s purpose and avoid distracting false doctrines.
- **India – Pray that God’s people will have wisdom toward unbelievers.**
 - Many trainings of Theological Seminaries about how to make theology transforming to the seminary students and those they will be leading after graduation.
 - New trainings by India Team with youth and families – and with Pastors’ groups for mutual encouragement and connections. ➤ Jim’s colleagues, Bal and Snigdha Rani have been developing a long-term training for emerging young leaders in association with a local church.
 - Many cities where our staff are located have been experiencing violence against churches. Pray for our protection and for continued influence in the midst of suffering.
- **Africa**
 - Nigeria – still one of the most dangerous places to be a Christian. Pray for the protection of our team, as they continue to build and train leaders for the Church.
 - In all of our nations of ministry, we desire that God will help us to build servant leaders in the face of many churches who follow “superstar celebrity leaders.”
 - Hundreds of leaders are embracing our “Transformational Theology” materials and right now they are learning from What God is Like.

Least-reached/Maleu Church, Papua New Guinea – Todd & Karen Gerst

Prayers:

- Pray for the Maleu church to stand strong and be a light to those who have never heard and for the Elders and Deacons as they lead the Church.
- Pray for the other Maleu Villages that someone would go and tell them about God’s saving Grace.
- Pray for Kewaka (Maleu Elder) and family as they travel and help equip other nationals in PNG.

Praise:

- Praise the Lord for how He continues to work mightily in and through the Gie/Aimola church.

- Praise the Lord that it has grown very large as new people have heard and understood the gospel! Please pray for the leaders and their families as they minister there in the midst of all the growing pains.
- Praise the Lord for all the families willing to leave their homes to continue spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Least-reached/Pei Tribe, Papua New Guinea – Chris & Evie Jones

The Joneses (along with their teammates) serve amongst the Pei people group of Papua New Guinea. Their goal is to plant a thriving church eventually led by the Pei people.

Prayers:

- Pray for the baby church here in Pei Village. It consists of up to 15 faithful men, women, and children. The church was born in the summer of 2020.
- For the three believing men (Le, Philip and Beni) to set the things of this world aside (fear of people, love of money, lack of love and leadership towards women and children, freedom to not work and living off others) and come to the teaching faithfully and humble themselves!
- Pray for the young teens (Leggi, Emeleda, and Melisen) that are starting to help us lead the kids Bible class on Wednesday afternoons. We want them to take on the teaching and lead fully!
- Pray for the kids attending (most of their parents have rejected the Gospel).

Praise:

- Praise God for how He provides for our true daily needs, from our solar-run homes to the cargo supplies for food and medicine!
- Praise God for our coworkers returning after a yearlong furlough (Joneses, Candace Swift, Rees Family). Now we have three units working!

Media 7, Albania and Kosovo – Leda Shelburne

Prayers:

- Every 5 years we need to apply again for re-licensing. Please pray for God's favor with authorities to continue sharing the Gospel in Albania and for wisdom for our lawyer dealing with the licensing authority.
- Please pray for our TV production team and volunteers and for the funding needed for our new TV studio.
- Pray for our many youth seminars planned by our counselors in public schools throughout the country.
- Pray for healing for the few people in our staff and their families.

Praises:

- Praise God for new partnerships and new open doors to develop media ministries in other countries.
- Praise God for open doors to our counsellors to minister to high school students in different cities throughout Albania.
- Praise God we have been able to continue our ministry to widows in the cities of Shkoder and Tirana.
- Praise God for the extraordinary growth of our youth ministry. In the month of October we joined efforts with two major youth conferences being a voice for the thousands of young people in Albania and Kosovo.

Oasis Nuevas Fuerzas, Costa Rica (formerly Life Impact Ministries, Costa Rica)– Ben & Krista Balke

Prayers:

- Pray for our ministry guests— our calendar is full through Feb 2024! Pray that they will receive rest and "new strength" (Is. 40:31), that they will hear from the Lord during their time at the Oasis.
- Pray for our family as we adjust to our new family dynamic after launching Josiah, who is living in the States and looking for a job.
- Pray for all our children, that "He who began a good work in [them] will carry it on to completion" (Phil 1:6).

Praise:

- Praise God we have a full calendar of ministry guests! (Again, also a prayer request!)
- Despite many distractions, our last ministry guest was able to experience great transformation through their debriefing retreat.
- We've personally been on somewhat of a rollercoaster recently, but we've felt God's presence and strength through this season.

Pastor W S, Asia

Prayers:

- Please pray for the many new Muslim background believers during this time of unrest and persecution in our country. Pray that they hold fast to their faith!
- Please pray for the many new refugee families who are Christian and/or have worked for the US, as they are now being deported from our country. May they be protected from those who oppose them, and may they have the courage and opportunities to share their faith.
- Please pray for the health and growth of our church as we reach into new language groups in the area for the Gospel.

Praises:

Thank God for the love, kindness and support of WCC.

Praise God for the Muslim scholar who recently placed his faith in Christ.

Praise God that our family is healthy, and my wife's foot is healing.

Scripture Union, Uganda – Beth Baleke & Dickens Ssenyonjo

From Beth Baleke:

Prayers:

- Praise the LORD for the end of year school examinations— we pray that all these students will be safe through the break period.
- Please let us continue to pray for all the preparation, mobilization and resources for the upcoming Sunday School Teachers training in Jinja – Uganda taking place Jan. 24.
- Please continue to pray for the effectiveness of the upcoming Refugee Annual Conferences (in Bidibidi Refugee Camp targeting 2000 refugees, Kajojeji Province Annual Conference targeting 500 children and youth and Wau Province Annual Conference targeting 500 students in South Sudan).
- Please continue to pray that the Printing and Publishing of the Swahili-Self Control Module for Tanzania, as well as The Respect Module for Uganda, will happen.
- Please continue to pray for Matthew Kirabo, for the LORD to exonerate him in this very trying accusation.

Praises:

- Praise the LORD so much for the successful and impactful Bible distribution and reading promotion in schools around East Africa in the past weeks.

- Please thank God for Hilda, the SU staff in Busoga region that her fundraising drive for office premises will continue to bear fruit. Thanking God for the Refugee Resource Center and Conference Hall nearing completion.
- Praise God that my daughter Lisa survived an operation, please pray for healing and to continue and finish her studies well.
- Praise God for the growth and impact of the Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) for the ladies I am privileged to lead in Jinja.

From Dickens Ssenyonjo:

Prayers:

- Please pray for the successful promotion and sale of the 2024 Scripture Union Bible Reading Devotionals. Our target is to promote and distribute 50,000 copies of Devotionals in 5 Languages for both youth and adults before we get into 2024.
- Pray for the success of all the 21 forthcoming SU organized Students' Camps and Conferences organized to run between the 1st and 16th of December. These will be marking the end of our Annual Students' Camps, and we are targeting more than 7,000 Students to be impacted through the 5-day residential Camps organized to be hosted in 17 Venues all around the Country.
- As Students close for the 3rd term of the year, please pray for safety and protection upon all the young people against the wicked plots and peer influence in what is the longest and most challenging holiday each year.
- Please pray for safety on the roads for all Ugandans especially in this very wet and rainy season. Most roads are impassable, and this complicates matters as people move from one place to another during the festive season.
- Pray for financial provision and resources to meet our 2024 Budget and work plans as laid out in our planning for next year.

Praises:

- Thank God for the successful Staff review, Planning retreat and also for the development of Bible Reading Devotionals.
- Thank God for the continued safety, provision and good health of all our ministry staff over the past few months.
- Thank God for the successful end of year Schools' academic term (three), which has been rather challenging for many who struggled with school fees and tuition. By the grace of God, the students are now getting back home for a two-month holiday until Feb. 5.
- Thank God for all our wonderful supporters and Partners who have walked with us through this year 2023 until now.

2nd Mile Missions, Dominican Republic – Mason McIntyre, Lisa Harstine, Sue Vercauteren, Eduardo Castillo (County Director) and Founders: Rod and Nancy Wildman

Prayers:

- Pray for a resolution to the dispute at the border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti over the Dajabón River. Recently, construction work on a canal diverting water from the Dajabón River was launched by Haitians without government support. In response, the DR is closing the border between the two countries. Please pray for Haiti. Pray that some sense of order will be restored after becoming overrun by powerful gangs. Pray for the Dominican Republic and their government officials as they work to resolve this situation in a peaceful way. The effects of closing the border can be detrimental to the economy for both countries and for

the people we serve in the Dominican Republic. Especially those who live in Monte Verde (Haitian refugee village) where a lot of our students and the women who work in Vida Plena live.

- Pray for God's provision of sponsors. Please be praying for more people to come forward to sponsor a student. We currently have 23 students still needing a sponsor for this school year! By sponsoring a student, you are giving the gift of hope through education and ultimately the opportunity for a child to hear and learn about Jesus, where our true hope comes from.
- Pray for our end of year giving campaign "From Faith to Fulfillment: Counting Blessing and Changing Lives". This end of year giving campaign is not just about raising funds. It's about celebrating the blessings we've received and the lives that have been transformed. We count our blessings not just in dollars, but in the lives that have been changed. We want to celebrate these blessings and changed lives with those who have joined us in this mission. It is our prayer that we honor God through our giving and the giving of others. Please pray that as people give faithfully, they see the blessings of lives changed and God glorified!
- Pray for the teachers and staff at 2nd Mile Education Center and Hope Academy as they finish the first semester of school. Pray for perseverance and for continued compassion for the children they teach and the families they serve. Pray they don't grow weary but remain strong in their faith and dedication to serving the Lord. Please also pray for the children as they go on Christmas break at the end of the month. School is a place of refuge for them, so being away from school for a couple of weeks can be difficult. Pray for their safety and for their families to experience the peace and joy we have in Jesus.

Praises:

- We are grateful to everyone who participated in our "Fiesta Give Back" event at Hacienda Nov. 16. It was a great day of honoring the Lord as we raised some funds for the ministry and enjoyed fellowship with one another!
- Thank you for praying for Lisa during her busy season with sponsorship! Student information and sponsorship changes have successfully been updated, and new students have been connected with sponsors. Praise the Lord! Please continue to pray for more sponsors as there are still 23 students in need of sponsorship this school year.
- Praise God for all He does and continues to do for the least of these!

World Compassion Network, Honduras/ Worldwide – Josh Grill (Sandy Hatcher)

Prayers:

- Pray for more volunteers for disaster relief trips and for helping with periodic activities to support operations (i.e., collect, sort & pack clothing, warehouse cleaning, etc.).
- Pray for guidance on the constructions of the kitchen and restaurant for the tortilla ladies in Honduras.
- Pray for our fundraising efforts over the next few months, planning for the upcoming year and for the Holy Spirit to guide us in all ways.

Praises:

- Praise for the success of our recent Pickleball Tournament that raised funds to help us support victims of disasters and increase local community awareness of WCN (It was a fun & healthy activity, too.).

Here at WCC

Prayers:

- Pray for our current missionary candidates who are in our “equipping pipeline” as they study and gain experience — the Vaughns, the Schneidewents and the Murphys.
- Pray that each member of our church, from Sonlight to our senior citizens, understands their role in God’s Story.

Praise:

- Praise God for the great response to our Wayumi trip in October.
- Praise God for WCC’s faithful Missions Pit Crews! They are a vital bridge between our partners and the love and care our church can afford.
- Praise God that He gives us the opportunity to join Him in His mission to bring people from all nations into a loving and purposeful relationship with Him. Participating in the Great Commission is a beautiful responsibility for each of us disciples. Ask God for strength and wisdom to go and make more!