

## March 2024 Mission Partner Updates

### 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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:

- There are many in chains for Jesus in Iran. Please pray that the Gospel Light will shine brightly, even in prison.
- Pray for God to be at work in the hearts of those who hear the Gospel Truth.
- Pray for those being trained by Elam Ministries, that they will grow as Christian leaders, evangelists, disciple-makers, mentors and (ultimately) as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Praises:

- Praise God for reports of dozens being baptized.
- Praise God for a successful women's conference.
- Praise God for great chat last week with our friend Mike Boze of WCC.

### 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:**

- Jet fuel is used by our helicopters and Kodiak planes to deliver supplies, provide medical evacuations and get missionaries in and out of isolated villages. Diesel fuel is used by generators to supply power. Unfortunately, the only jet fuel provider for the country and one of the main suppliers of diesel has stated that they are unable to supply any fuel until further notice. With a limited amount of reserve, contingency plans must be implemented and decisions must be made to wisely provide for our centers and teams in remote locations. Please pray that this can be resolved before we have to use the remaining fuel for the many families we have to fly out of the locations they are working.
- Pray for wisdom for me in purchasing commercial flights to attend the Eastern Area Conference that I'm meant to be able to attend at the end of March. Because of the fuel shortages, our mission planes are no longer able to take me and many others.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment in helping Lea, the communications assistant, finish several projects before she leaves in May.
- There are many support staffing shortages. Pray for the Lord's provision of people willing to serve Him here, short term or long term.

**Praises:**

- The ladies' retreat I ran in February was impactful and encouraging for the four ladies attending.
- As a mission we had the opportunity to have around 30 department leaders and directors attend a 5-day organizational effectiveness workshop called Growability. Pray for us as we put these tools into action.

### **Ethnos360 Training — Dan and Madison Murphy**

**Prayers:**

- Pray for our planning of vision trips in the summer. Dates/logistics are being discussed right now.
- Pray for our team as we plan for our "Simple Living" course. This is where we will live out in the woods for 3 weeks, which requires a lot of planning for meals, shelter, chores, etc. Please pray specifically for unity and productivity amongst our team.

## **Fellowship Missions, Warsaw – Eric & Tammy Lane**

### **Prayers:**

- Pray for the mental wellness of the many that are coming to Fellowship Missions for shelter and help.
- Pray for continued wisdom and discernment for the staff on how to guide and help those that come to us.
- Pray for the continued desire to know Christ and to make Christ known.
- Please pray for one of our young men who just today went to a 12-month rehabilitation with a partnering organization in FL. Pray that in God he finds His strength, the perseverance when it gets hard, healing, freedom and that he is worthy of His healing.

### **Praises:**

- God's overwhelming love and provisions continue.
- Praise God for new staff!

## **Heartline, Kosciusko County – Brenda Whitehead**

### **Prayers:**

- Pray that God would bring us the right people to fill our open positions.
- Pray that the outreach we are doing with our local Hispanic community will be received well.
- Pray for health (for both staff and clients) as illnesses continue to spread in our community.

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

### **Reyes**

### **Prayers:**

- The H&H/Reyes Pit Crew is preparing to assist Roger with a second "Men's Retreat" in February. These 2-day retreats are designed to get the men away from their everyday distractions and teach them about who Jesus is and how much He loves them. The goal is to help them become Christ-followers and spiritual leaders in their communities. Pray for God to prepare the hearts of the men who will come and prompt them to participate. Pray also for the trip leaders, team members, planning efforts and safe travel.
- Pray for Roger and Kareen as they work each week to spread the gospel in the H&H communities through, house-to-house visits, bible studies and worship services. Pray for their sons Roger Jr. and Daniel and for the family to be unified and encouraged each day this month.
- H&H has hired two new staff members: Yovanni and Nora. Yovanni will be the Agriculture Engineer, leading the agriculture projects. Nora will be Assistant Manager for Infrastructure & Economy. Please pray for them to be a strong addition to the H&H team and a spiritual light to those in the communities that H&H serves.

### **Praises:**

- Last month, Idalia (a woman in the community of Remolino) led a bible study! This is something that Roger and our Pit Crew have been praying for. The spiritual teaching is taking root! Idalia will also be leading the very first Growth Group at her home. The group will be meeting every Wednesday and inviting those who don't know Jesus to attend. The

goal is to start two Growth Groups in Remolino this year. Please pray for God to bless Idalia and this group.

## **iHouse – Jason and Lauren Hiatt**

### **Prayers:**

- Please pray for Brenda, the founder of iHouse, as she is dealing with health issues and surgeries. Please pray for recovery and healing
- Please pray for Steve, one of iHouse's board members, who is traveling to serve in Africa this month. Please pray for God's protection and blessings on his time there. We also ask that he would be an encouragement to those he is serving and that God will use him to help meet their needs.
- Please pray for the summer mission trip teams as they prepare to serve alongside us at our camp for refugee kids.
- Please pray for a young Afghan woman, "B". Specifically, we also prayer for freedom from of any demonic strongholds in her life.
- Please pray for an Afghan girl, "W", who is struggling with integrating into the American school system. We ask for wisdom to know how to support her.
- Please pray for a newly arrived Afghan woman, "L", who has been reunited with her husband after three years apart. Please pray for her transition to life in America and for their child who has medical issues that need to be addressed.

### **Praises:**

- We have two new volunteers for childcare during our international Women's Club. We still need three more, but we are so grateful for the women who have stepped in to help! These volunteers allow busy moms to attend our weekly English and sewing classes.
- We are thankful for the right demographic of women who are participating in our Women's Club. Several ladies who do not have children have recently joined, which leaves room for those needing childcare to attend.

## **Kutoa Project, Kenya – Jason & Shae Brown**

### **Prayers:**

- We have a busy March and April, but we are excited for all the events happening. We are learning when to say "no" and how to plan when the need is great. We would love prayers for this so we can make sure our team isn't burning out and having the support they need.
- Pray for Kenya as it is very dry and that rain would come this dry season.
- Pray for the leadership in Kenya. Leaders are changing a lot of things that are impacting Kenyans in a negative way, resulting in higher taxes, inflation and lack of jobs. We are hopeful that they will provide some relief to their people.
- Pray for our clients as we have recently had an increase in children who have been sexually abused, and it is difficult to know this is happening more in the community. We are thankful they are getting support and that we can be there to support them and their family.

### **Praises:**

- We are so excited to be in Kenya and be with our team! It is very hot, but we are loving the summer weather and mango season!
- Over the past few months, we have been wanting to find an apartment for our family close to the office since staying on its property. Praise the Lord our office is busy, and it is time for us to move out. Thankfully, God helped us secure a place that is only a 13-minute walk from the office. This will be so great to have when we are in Kenya!
- God has been so good to us! We have had a great start of the year both in the States and in Kenya! In January, Jason and I were back in the States for fundraising and now in Kenya. We have been able to expand our team, grow our programs and provide multiple events already! We have already hosted three Healing Groups, Support Groups and currently have a three-day Trauma Competent Caregiver Training.
- We launched our Young Adult Day Center this month and have had a great response. One day we had 35 young adults and have been able to get them connected to counseling, support with finding a job, sharing the Gospel and mentoring them. We are so excited to see how God will use this program to support our Young Adults.

### **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 our ministry to Muslim-Background-Believers. Pray for these writings on practical theology.
- One of our current projects is a very elementary presentation of basic Bible truth for new believers in a program for building disciples, especially for China. Pray for Jim's work of writing.
- He 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 also provides notes for a year-long plan to read through the whole Bible chronologically. Pray for the hundreds of 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 (Francisco from Costa Rica and Cesar from 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 – especially also in connection with the conflict in Gaza and other neighbors of Israel.
- Pray for the team in Egypt as they work with orthodox and evangelicals, as well as Muslim Background Believers. Our Egypt team leads our outreach to the Muslim world.
- 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” using 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.
- UPCOMING: April 8-18 an international gathering of as many of our LS staff as possible in Egypt. This gathering last took place in 2020, in Cambodia. This event will bring our people together to review our previous training models and to introduce our newer designs – like the Theology Project and the new Discipleship program.
  - Pray for coordination of the event amidst the tensions in that part of the world.
  - Pray for visas and passports and travel for our people from as many as 60 nations.
  - Pray for accommodations locally and cooperation with local authorities in Egypt.
  - Pray for the Spirit of God to prepare the hearts now of all who will participate.

### **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:**

- The "tree house" (aka new guest space) project is almost through Phase 1. We still have about \$900 in labor costs that need to be covered to complete Phase 1 before the rainy season begins in May.
- The next few weeks are full with debriefing retreats and spiritual renewal retreats. Please pray for the Christian leaders going through these retreats, as well as stamina for us. Please pray that we are all sensitive to hearing from the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for all our children that "He who began a good work in [them] will carry it on to completion"(Phil 1:6), and specifically, for good friendships and boldness for Jael and Isaac in their public high school. Pray for encouragement and spiritual direction for Josiah living in the States.

### **Praises:**

- The last few debriefing retreats have gone extremely well— all Glory to God!
- Praise God for moments of refreshment for all of us between guest retreats.

## **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 Dickens Ssenyonjo:**

**Prayers:**

- The Sunday School Teachers training was a great success as we had over 130 people. Pray that they implement what they learned in their local churches and communities.
- The Scripture Union International Conference is here from March 4-9 in Malaysia. Please pray for me on two fronts: leading in prayer and sharing on how we should respond to the growing number of refugees.
- Please pray for my daughter Lisa. She lost her passport and must replace it, but being out of the country has its hiccups. Please pray for stable health.
- Please pray about my and Dickens' transition in positions/roles this quarter.

**Praises:**

- Thank God for the success of all the 21 Students' December Camps that were hosted at the end of last year.
- Thank God for the continued safety, provision and good health of all our ministry staff over the past year.
- Thank God for the continued safety and protection of all Students on holiday despite a few cases of some of have passed due to various circumstances. School Holidays will go on until 5th February.
- Thank God for all our wonderful supporters and Partners who have walked with us through the years until now.
- Thank God for the opportunity to start on new projects for this 2024.

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

**Prayers:**

- Pray that God will use us mightily in 2024.
- Pray that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit, but especially concerning out disaster relief responses and mission trips.
- Pray that God will provide funds for a newer pick up.

**Praises:**

- Praise God for all that he did throughout the year. We were able to respond to many disasters, give the local church in those disaster areas tools to be used in Outreach for ministry.
- Praise for the support that God is doing in Honduras, between building homes, kitchens, putting wells in and seeing so many being blessed by the church.



**2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Back in September, construction work on a canal diverting water from the Dajabón River was launched by Haitians without government support. In response, the DR government closed the border between the two countries. As of early November, borders have been re-opened for trade, but only for trade, so please continue to pray for Haiti. Pray for the Dominican Republic and their government officials as they work to resolve this situation in a peaceful way. Pray especially for those who live in Monte Verde (Haitian refugee village) where a lot of our students and the women who work in Vida Plena live. No changes have been made since November— please continue to pray.
- Pray for the interviews for a new School Director for Hope Academy. Odelice Ramirez has been the Director of Hope Academy since the doors opened three years ago. She has done an amazing job of leading her staff, developing programs that benefit families and loving children unconditionally! Odelice is going to retire at the end of this school year, and she will be greatly missed. Although we all feel no one can replace her, we do need to find a new director to continue with the wonderful program she has developed. Please be in prayer for Mason (2MM Executive Director), Eduardo (Country Director) and Odelice (Hope Academy Director) as interviews of potential candidates will be taking place in early April. Pray that they are a united front, trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide them to the person the Lord has planned to lead Hope Academy this next school year.
- Pray for our Awareness/VBS Trip to the DR in April. We have a group of women who either in the past or currently work/serve in Sonlight Children's Ministry at WCC going to the DR in April. The goal is to learn more about 2nd Mile Missions and the work the Lord is doing there, to meet the children Sonlight sponsors and/or they personally sponsor and to host a VBS for the children in Monte Verde (Haitian Refugee Village) in the church's small school. Please pray for this team being led by Sue and Nancy as they prepare to go, learn and serve the community 2nd Mile Missions supports.
- Please be in prayer for our teachers and school staff as they are the missionaries on the ground, not only providing a good education to children, but also sharing the love of Jesus to their students and their families! They need our constant prayer support as they face the challenges each day that come with children who live in broken homes, uncertainty and fear. Let us pray for wisdom and discernment for them to know how to meet those challenges while representing Christ's love for them.

**Praises:**

- Praise the Lord for the outpouring of people's generosity and kindness to sponsor children to go to school! We are one student away from meeting our original goal of sponsoring 30 new students this year! In Faith, we have decided to add even more students to the sponsorship program knowing that God will provide the sponsors for them as well, so please celebrate with us and continue to pray!

- God is good! Thank you for your prayers for Widlen! He has been doing a fantastic job as our new Sponsorship Coordinator in the DR.
- Praise God for all He does and continues to do for the least of these!

## **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!