

Latest Mission Partner Updates – April 2024

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 a great reception to our Easter services, some hearing the Gospel message for the first time.
- Pray for God to be at work in the hearts of those who hear the Gospel Truth.
- Pray for us— Dan and Carmen Hale! We are in the middle of a season of heavy travels.

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:

- Pray for wisdom and discernment in helping Lea, the communications assistant, finish several projects before she leaves in May.
- Pray for a weekend trip I'll take into a tribal location in mid-April to help paint the newly built missionary houses there. It will be "roughing it" for me, so pray for health, adaptability and a sweet time with the missionary ladies who will live there.
- Pray for my preparations to return to the US for the summer, that I would finish here well and have the time to get my house ready.

Praises:

- I was able to attend the Eastern Area Conference and host four small ladies' group dinners, teach the kids jump rope and give a short communications presentation. But, most importantly, I was able to deepen relationships and connections with the families of the Eastern Area, who I don't often see, but do get the opportunity to reach out to and encourage.
- A new Missionary Care Discussion Group started this month with 11 people representing eight missionary families, and it has been a great conversation! Pray for the rest of the discussion group calls to be impactful and profitable.
- Jet fuel is once again available to our missions aviation team for flights to resume. However, this is a situation that requires ongoing prayer.

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 for clients who have recently experienced pregnancy loss.
- Pray for healthy deliveries for soon-to-be moms and dads.
- Pray that God would call the right people to fill our open positions.
- Pray that our upcoming fundraising banquet (April 25th) will be successful!

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

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 Karen 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:

- Pray for patience and perseverance as we navigate complicated situations with our refugee friends.
- Pray for volunteers as they spend an hour a week with a refugee helping them to learn English.
- Pray for healthy minds and bodies for our staff and volunteers as we enter the busy summer season.
- Pray for healing and comfort for two refugee families whose mom/grandma recently passed away in Afghanistan. Pray that God will use it to draw them to Himself.
- Pray for spiritual protection for volunteers.

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:

- April is our busy season for kids' events as the children in Kenya are out for the month of April! We have many exciting things planned for this month including Bible Studies, Group Counseling, Individual Counseling, Fun days, and outings for children and young adults 5-25 years old. Kindly pray for all those events.
- Our Young Adult Day Center Program is growing so fast! We have had over 100 young adults come through our space since we started in February. God has put this on our hearts and we are thankful for all those who have helped make it a reality. Continue to pray for our team and for those who come that they would find hope, healing and the resources they need to thrive.

Praises:

- We thank God for a great two months that our family was able to be in Kenya!
- We thank God for opening doors for the Young Adult Day Center to happen!
- We thank God for providing the right staff for all the programs!

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.
- Pray for our small home church. Our pastor recently turned in his resignation at his secular job to be full-time pastor. While our church currently cannot pay him, he feels strongly that the Lord is leading him in this direction. Please also pray for us as leaders and for the church members, for encouragement, direction and hearts willing to listen to the Holy Spirit.

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.
- We had a "family day" with our church a few weeks back and everyone was there! It was a great time of encouragement and bonding.

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.

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

Prayers:

- **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.

- **Early registration for the next school year opens in April.** We are praying and believing that even more children will register to attend Hope Academy next year! Please be praying over the administration staff as they go through this busy season preparing for the end of this school year and the start of the next school year.
- **Pray for Orlina Burnett.** Please be in prayer for our Social Worker, Orlina Burnett. During the registration season, Orlina will meet with several families to determine if their student qualifies for a scholarship. This could be a partial scholarship or a complete sponsorship of their student's tuition. The needs she'll come across are great and the desire to help them all is even greater. Please pray for the Holy Spirit's leading in what each family qualifies for regarding assistance. Orlina carries a heavy burden with these decisions, so please lift her up in prayer!

Praises:

- Please continue to lift up Haiti and the Dominican Republic concerning the ongoing dispute over the Dajabon River. There hasn't been much said about it in several months, but the border being open for trade has been a blessing that we want to praise the Lord for! Continue to pray over this issue and for the country of Haiti, as they continue to struggle with lack of true leadership in their nation.
- 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!