

Latest Mission Partner Updates – June 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 that as emotions run high among the people, Christians would have wisdom and courage to share about the comfort, hope, and healing of Christ.
- Pray for a justice and mercy-loving president to be elected at the general election on June 28th
- Pray for new believers in the Iran region. Pray also for those discipling them and helping them gather for fellowship, that their faith may grow and flourish.

Praises:

- Praise God for 10,000+ Scriptures distributed during the last few weeks of May.
- Praise God for thousands of new believers experiencing Easter for the first time as Christians.
- Praise God for our visit to WCC May 19.

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:

- As you're praying, I'll be wrapping up a debriefing with a friend in Ethnos360 Member Care. Pray for me as I continue to process through my term.
- Pray for good use of time while home— with family, the church, and friends; that I would seek the Lord on whom He would have me spend time with and what I should do in my limited time home.
- Pray for my opportunities to share this summer, that I would glorify the Lord and represent Him and His work well.

Praises:

- Praise God for the fairly smooth travel home and the opportunity to be with family and friends for a few months.
- Praise God for WCC and your support!

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!

Hands of Hope, International, Guatemala—Sally Dewald

Prayers:

- Pray for Sally as she continues to grieve her mother who went to be with our Heavenly Father six months ago and is still going through the process of going through her belongings and figuring things out.
- Pray for the family of the biomedical engineer we lost earlier this year. He was working in Africa, and the day he arrived home he went directly to the hospital and died. Joe was a huge asset and will be missed.
- Pray that we will be able to find a replacement to be able to continue surgeries.
- Please pray for the new team as we have a trip planned for November.
- Pray for all our translators in Guatemala as they are there doing the everyday work of being the church. To name two of them, we have Cristian Del Cid and Ale Mosi.
- Amy Bockstahler is a nurse practitioner who came with us 20 years ago and is in full time service as a resident missionary in Guatemala. Please keep her in your prayers as well.

Praises:

- Sally's husband, Mike, has retired. Mike has worked hard for their family and Sally is so grateful that he has looked out for her in the past and has put in place care for the future.

Heartline, Kosciusko County – Brenda Whitehead

Prayers:

- Pray for the teen moms and dads who have come to Heartline recently.
- Pray for our wonderful new staff members— starting a new position brings challenges!
- Pray for God's direction as we seek additional board members.

Praises:

- Praise God for our successful recent fundraiser!
- Praise God for our wonderful new staff members— we are so thankful God brought them to us.
- Praise God that more and more people in our community are becoming aware of our services.

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

Reyes

Prayers:

- Don Blas family in the community of La Cuchilla. Don generously donated a lot of his personal land to build a school in the community. Prior to this, the children either did not go to school or had to make a dangerous 45-minute walk to and from the school in another community. Pray that God will give comfort, encouragement and unity to the family after their loss.
- For the Health Trip in May, that we will be ready to serve and give medical assistance to our communities.
- For the H&H staff in general, that we will always serve our people with a big heart just like God is calling us to do it.

- Pray for the women's Growth Group that started last year in Remolino under the guidance of Roger and Kareen. This group meets each Wednesday in the home of Adalia, who leads each meeting. The faith of these women is a light to the entire community!

Praises:

- The cattle businesses in La Coroza, Remolino and Caballo de Piedra have had a lot of success which has meant better and more consistent income for the women who work and share ownership of these businesses.
- Roger, Kareen and their boys were able to spend time with family in New Jersey and North Carolina following the April Missions-in-Focus events. It was a real blessing for the whole family to be together.

iHouse – Jason and Lauren Hiatt

Prayers:

- Teams are arriving for mission trips June 2-7 and 16-21. Pray for unity, teachable spirits, joyful moments, and listening to the Spirit.
- Pray for the homes of families newly arriving to Fort Wayne. Pray for safe neighborhoods away from gangs and drugs, clean homes without cockroaches and bed bugs, and welcoming neighbors.
- Pray for wisdom for staff as we grow and develop new programs and strategies.

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:

- Pray for continued safety for our team and partners amidst the flooding crisis.
- Pray for our young adults continuing to seek Kutoa Project as a safe place to take the next steps in moving forward with their journey in life.
- Pray for expanded reach of our counseling programs and allowing those in need to be moved to begin their healing journey.
- Pray for Shaé and Abigail to have continued safety and rest. Pray for safe travel back to the US from Kenya.
- Pray for more individuals to want to experience Kenya firsthand through a mission/cultural experience trip.

Praises:

- Praise God for our network of organizations and their resilience in times of crisis.
- Praise God for those who pray and support the work of our mission. We are beyond grateful and humbled for those who walk with the Kutoa Project in all seasons.
- Praise God for the ability of technology to keep our family connected when apart during trips.
- Praise God for our 9th anniversary of making an impact on the ground in Kenya is coming up in June.

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:**

- Please pray for healing and restoration of health for Andy (has been struggling with whooping cough for over six weeks, restoration and healing of his thyroid and liver) and Shayne (renal failure complicated by flu or maybe whooping cough he got from Andy. Shayne has been most of the day in bed for the last 2 weeks.
- Please pray for our ministry in Kosovo and the small body of believers in Kosovo, a Muslim-dominant country (98% of the population). In the last year, opposition from the government has increased significantly. There is a rise in power of Islamic groups as well. Please pray that we will continue to broadcast freely in the country through our two radio stations and TV channel. On May 4, we are participating in a large event of prayer and intercession for the country.
- Please pray for protection for our staff and facilities and equipment in Macedonia. There is a significant increase of threats from Muslim extremists in the city where our radio station is (100% of Albanians- 40% of the population) in Macedonia.

- Please pray for our ministry in the orphanage with abandoned children. Our counselors are having sessions on dealing with childhood trauma.
- Please pray for the new series of TV shows for young people focused on how to use technology for God's Kingdom.
- We have been waiting for almost four years to get our building permeation for our new TV studio. Due to corruption, it has been delayed. Please pray for favor in this last phase and that we will get the permeation soon. Please pray for financial provision for the studio building.
- Please pray for the new radio station and tv channel in the country of Serbia we are working to establish. These will be the first Christian radio station and tv channel in the country. Russian Orthodoxy is dominant religion and very influential in the government and society. Please pray for favor with government, financial provision, wisdom and discernment as we choose staff and partner with different organizations.

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. We were hoping to have this completed before the rainy season began, but we are planning to receive another mission trip this month. Please pray that this additional step won't delay Phase 2 too much.
- In addition to receiving the mission team, we have a few debriefing retreats to lead for some ministry leaders. Please pray for our preparation time for these retreats, and for the Lord to be preparing the hearts of these ministry leaders as well.
- 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:

- Despite some spiritual attacks before and during, 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 Beth Baleke:****Prayers:**

- Please pray for the Scripture Union Uganda VALUES Africa team as they work toward completing and publishing the newest (8th) module, Respect, on all three age levels. The Teacher's Manuals are virtually done; the drawing of visual aids is the current focus.
- Prayer is needed for major leadership transitions taking place in Scripture Union Uganda (SUU): Sammy is taking on the National Director's responsibilities from Dickens; Dickens is assuming my (Beth's) responsibilities as SUU missionary to South Sudan (including their refugees in northern Uganda), Ethiopia, and Tanzania— among other things, he will continue to train and encourage these nations in the VALUES Africa program; Chris, who handles many details, will be transitioning to assist Dickens. Please pray as I (Beth) begin a new "SUU Bridge-Building" ministry within Uganda.
- Connected with the above-mentioned transition, please pray for the provision of a pickup truck to aid Dickens in transportation, including serving the South Sudanese Refugees. In the past, I (Beth) used MAF Mission Aviation Flights, but this greatly limits carrying supplies to the Refugees. A pickup truck allows more than one person to travel along.
- Lastly, as part of the above transition, I (Beth) am seeking God's direction regarding a visit with Ugandan Royalty to promote their support of the Christian VALUES program/curriculum. I (Beth) am also praying with an expatriate, Stephanie, about taking BSF (Bible Study Fellowship) into the Women's prisons in Jinja, Ethiopia.
- Please pray for Ethiopia as they are reaching out to new regions, and even into Somalia, a very difficult and complicated place to go.
- Please continue to pray for God's provision for printing the Swahili translation of the Self-Control Module. Please pray for the Scripture Union Tanzania (SUTz) worker, Rodrick, who has spearheaded VOICE Training throughout Tanzania. Again, let's ask the Lord of the Harvest to accomplish His will in this area.

Praises:

- Praise God that 100+ Church volunteers were trained to teach VOICE in the first 3 months of this year! Please pray that many/all will indeed put that training and curriculum into use in schools/churches/communities and be used of God to bring about life-long transformation through the Holy Spirit/God's Word.
- Praise the LORD that my (Beth's) daughter, Lisa, is currently doing exams, despite the struggle with colitis, as she strives to complete her last year of university in Cyprus.

From Dickens Ssenyonjo:**Prayers:**

- Please pray for the successful end of 1st term Scripture Union Students' Camps scheduled to be hosted from the May 3 to 9.
- Pray for the success of the planned SU Uganda Values' Orientation training scheduled for May 10 and 11.

- Pray for the safety of the children and young people who are now on school holiday through the month of May. Many of them are at risk of falling prey to illicit behavior for lack of parental monitoring and positive parenting while outside of school.
- Pray against the fast-spreading outbreak of red eyes (conjunctivitis) across the country of Uganda. No medical solution has yet been discovered for the affected.
- Pray for the struggling economy of Uganda amidst the heavy rains within the East African region that have left many people homeless and unable to access basic needs.

Praises:

- Thank God for the successful end of the School 1st Term Calendar.
- Thank God for the successful preparations of the end of 1st term school SU Camps.
- Thank God for the opportunity to begin preparations for the June Schools' Mission program where we are targeting to reach 250 schools between June 15 to 30.
- Thank God for all our wonderful supporters and partners who have walked with us through the years until now.
- Thank God for the ongoing leadership transition within SU Uganda.
- 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 (May 14 to 18).** Mason, along with Lisa and Joel Harstine, will be traveling to the DR to host an Awareness Trip for staff from Wildman's. Please pray for those going that they experience God in a powerful life changing way. Pray that the group is able to be a blessing to those who work for 2nd Mile Missions in the DR and the people who live there. Also, please pray for safe travels for all!
- **Early registration for the next school year opened 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:

- Praise the Lord for yet another amazing Awareness Trip! It was a blessing to serve alongside some of the Sonlight Staff, 2nd Mile Missions Pit Crew and volunteers on this trip. We had a great opportunity to share the story of Creation, the fall of man and the Gospel to children in Monte Verde at the church. Everyone was able to connect with their students they sponsor and some of them even got to meet the parents or other family members of their student. We were encouraged by impact stories and seeing the children in Hope Academy worship the Lord together during an assembly. It was a blessed trip! Thank you for your prayers!
- 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!