

## **Latest Mission Partner Updates – December 2024**

### **ACTS, Haiti – Clark Shepherd**

#### **Prayers:**

- Pray for all the children in Haiti that will begin the school year. Haiti is in difficult and dangerous times.
- Pray for our Building Hope project in Colombia and the Pastors we partner with and their churches.
- Pray for provisions for ACTS as we shine the hope of Jesus globally and locally. All for His glory.

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

#### **Prayers:**

- We are planning 2 driving trips in October: 1) to South Texas and 2) to Midland in West Texas. We will probably drive 1,500 miles. Please pray for safety, favor, and open doors to share about the underground church in Iran.
- Pray for new training courses, the students, teachers, and support teams.
- Pray for the dozens of people in prison in Iran for their Christian efforts. Please lift them up.

#### **Praises:**

- Praise God for our safe return from Turkey on September 23! We visited 5 churches, prayed for many, and witnessed 50+ baptized.
- Praise God for the thousands who have downloaded Elam's Safar and Kalameh websites!

### **Encompass World Partners, France – Rob and Nichole Plaster**

#### **Prayers:**

- Pray for our Angel Tree project as we adopted a family in need whose teen is a part of our teen group.
- Pray for a restful vacation in the States with family over Christmas.
- Pray that we will be able to give out twice the Bibles this year compared to last.
- Pray for more people to start reading the Bible with us.
- Pray for our support need to be met. We need 17 people giving \$100 a month.

#### **Praises:**

- Praise God for our Thanksgiving event where we were over 70! Many people were touched, and we had great conversations!
- Praise God for Marco who is reading his Bible daily and growing spiritually at an amazing rate!

### **Ethnos360 Training – Dan & Madison Murphy**

#### **Prayers:**

- Please pray for the planning of our vision trip to Mexico (scheduled for January).

- Please pray for continued discernment as to our future plans: whether or not to take post-graduate courses (Linguistics and Offgrid Tech Specialist courses) and field of service (Mexico or Tanzania).
- Praise God for His faithfulness and provision each and every day of this journey.

**Praises:**

- Praise for our faithful supporters who make it possible and stress-free for us to buy extra groceries so we can encourage and hear from our coworkers through fellowship at the dinner table!

**Kaleb and Ellie Scheidewent**

**Prayers:**

- Pray for guidance on making the decision to attend the Ethnos Training Center in either Canada or Missouri.
- Pray for opportunities to share about what God is leading us into.
- Pray for our time as we build relationships with partners.

**Praises:**

- Praise God for our vision-confirming trip to Asia Pacific!
- Praise God for 14 people joining our Pit Crew!
- Praise God for us starting new jobs!

**Geoffery and Rachel Vaughn**

**Prayers:**

- Pray for monthly financial partners. We are currently at 53% of needed funding for training.
- Pray for discernment on continued involvement at Appleton City Fellowship.
- Pray for the men at Lighthouse.
- Pray for our trip to Warsaw/Winona Lake in December.
- Pray for guidance for marriage/parenting.

**Praises:**

- Praise God for our ability to teach well at Appleton City Fellowship and Lighthouse!
- We got to see a free musical in Branson at the Freedom Encounter Theatre called Pilgrim's Progress. Praising the Lord that it had a clear gospel message!
- Praise God for the couple more financial partners!
- Praise God for incredible classes this month!
- Praise God for sweet time spent in God's Word!

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

**Prayers:**

- Pray for wisdom in and openness to recruiting short-term work teams to help with projects here in Papua New Guinea. There is a balance between it causing extra work and a blessing because of the expertise gained and the opportunity for mobilization and awareness.

- Pray for openness to implementing more field-wide prayer and personal reflection opportunities. Pray that we'll continue discussions about how to make our missionary care more sustainable and strategic, so that everyone is being reached out to a cared for and even those serving in isolated locations would not feel alone.
- Pray for contentment and joy in my life, instead of grumbling and complaining, and protection from loneliness. Pray that the Lord would help me develop new friendships and community and move forward in His provision.
- Pray that the Lord would bring the next Missionary Care Discussion Group together for mid-January.

**Praises:**

- New Tribes Mission Papua New Guinea (PNG) will be holding New Testament Dedications for two different people groups in the next 5 weeks. Praise God!
- Praise God for starting a series of prayer videos, encouraging prayer for different people groups we work among.
- Praise God for some people returning in December and new people coming in January to serve here in PNG.

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

**Prayers:**

- Pray that everyone who walks through our doors feels welcomed and that Christ is made known.
- Pray for the individuals going through our Genesis program. It is deep and challenging, but it is transforming.
- Please pray that all those we serve will learn/know the meaning of grace, faith, hope, and love and the reason we have these gifts available to us.
- Pray for continued resources (volunteers, items and monetary) to be fulfilled for our current facility and our new downtown resource community building called The Gathering Place.
- Pray that we continue to bring Glory to His name in all that we do!

**Praises:**

- Praise God for the four baptisms at Fellowship Missions on Monday, September 16, and two more residents getting baptized at WCC this month!
- Praise God for the opening of The Gathering Place!
- Praise God for His continued faithfulness!

**Hands of Hope, International, Guatemala—Sally Dewald**

**Prayers:**

- Pray for the two brothers that came to the clinic, one 11 years old and the other about 2 years old. They are so bonded— the older brother obviously takes care of the younger and he acts like a little man. He has carried the weight of the world on his young shoulders. When we asked him what we could pray about for him his response was, “My life is hard, I don’t need God. What has he done for me?” Our hearts broke for him! We spent quite a bit of time with him, and he started crying. Our interpreter continued to tell him he can call upon the Lord and the Lord will be there for him. What he doesn’t understand is the bond he and his younger brother have is God given. What a blessing in a difficult life that they have that.

- Please pray for Cristian and his family for safety. The gangs in Guatemala threaten businesses and extort money from them and can be very violent. They are being targeted and are taking precautions.

**Praises:**

- Our interpreters are awesome! These young ladies really stepped up as this was the first time they participated on a team like ours. They demonstrated maturity in the Lord and sincerity. Praise God for their fantastic job!
- We saw Cristina, Adonis, and the Demetrios family. Cristina is struggling with compression wounds, but praise God we were able to continue some treatment.
- Praise God Adonis is working and healthy. He is a miracle!
- We hired Demetrios family to take us across the lake for our clinic and therefore provided financially for the family. Praise God!

**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:**

- Pray for Roger and his family to have sweet time visiting with his sister, mother, and grandmother who will be visiting from the US until October 12.
- Pray for Kelvin and Leyte, a couple who have been growing spiritually. Leyte needs surgery and Kelvis has been very ill with a flu-like condition.
- Pray for the two H&H trip that is scheduled for October, that many attendees will be moved to support H&H with their talents and donations.
- Pray for God to provide for the financial needs of H&H and the Reyes family.
- Pray for all the students from the H&H communities to finish their school year well over the next two months.
- Pray for resources to construct a fence around the community center in La Coraza where Roger and Karen lead the bible studies and church services.

**Praises:**

- Praise God Kareen’s counseling and therapy work with the students has been going very well! She was recognized recently for the beneficial impact that her work is having as many of the kids are showing substantial improvement in school and in their community.
- H&H received enough funding to complete construction of the bridge in La Cuchilla which makes travel across the river much safer for the people and children of the community. Praise God!

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

#### **Prayers:**

- An Afghan boy is having problems with his hearing. He has had chronic ear infections since birth and now has hearing loss. Pray for wisdom for best treatments.
- Pray for staff to trust and believe that our end-of-year giving will sustain iHouse for another year of Kingdom serving.
- Pray for Jacob as he teaches at the Muslim school. Pray for him, as he has been assigned a class/subject that he is not as familiar with.
- Pray for wisdom for classroom management.
- As Jacob learns more about the foundations of the Muslim faith, pray that he will be rooted in eternal truth and have opportunities to share it.

#### **Praises:**

- A Syrian woman is having spiritual conversations with one of the staff members. Praise God!
- Other conversations about who God is and who Jesus is have been happening on our home visits and car rides. Praise God!

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

#### **Prayers:**

- We have upcoming travel in December, January, and February for our family. Pray for safety and smooth traveling.
- Pray for our upcoming events in December. We do a lot of children and young adult events.
- Pray for our team that they would feel refreshed during this holiday season break and that we would all come back feeling ready for 2025.
- Pray for fundraising efforts this time of year to go well.
- Pray for our upcoming visitors that God will provide for them, that these upcoming trips would share them more about God, and that they become a part of Kutoa Project's story.

#### **Praises:**

- We have had so many great events and testimonies of people coming to know God or coming back to God after loss, and we are so thankful for that!
- We are so thankful for our team and for all the work they do!
- We are thankful that we can work both Stateside and in Kenya. What an honor and joy it is to do this work!
- We are so thankful for all God has done this year and all those we have been able to support. We are excited for 2025!

### **LeaderSource Teams in the Nations – Jim Brenneman Prayers for Jim:**

**Prayers:**

- Pray for Jim’s Bible-training materials for frontline leaders in the nations. Our Exposition of Ephesians about the Beautiful Bride of Christ is now completed. It has already been a great blessing to the nations, encouraging all of us to grow up in Christ to build one another as the “One New Man”, joining together Jew and Gentile to display God’s glory in the Church. We are nearing completion of a new discipleship training– a six-month journey in the core truths of Christianity for new believers all over the world. The training will have a three-fold use:
  - for new disciples in a one-on-one relationship with a mentor
  - for small groups in persecuted countries – in which these little gathering are turning into mature local churches
  - for new churches that are being planted in Muslim regions, composed primarily of new Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) who have never heard Christian Truth accurately
- Jim is still building emerging leaders around the world online, including frequent interactions to answer questions about the Bible, Christian doctrines, and ethics. He is teaching Hebrew and training MBB to properly understand the Scriptures.

**For LeaderSource:****Muslim World**

- Pray for our increasing reach into the Muslim world – including Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, launching from Egypt.
- The most recent areas of outreach include North Africa in Liberia, Morocco, and Algeria. Pray in particular for Ousamma in Morocco and for the couple in Algeria – Nasser and Dihia.
- Pray about the continuing work in the 99 Names Project– which has now be taken up by the Muslim Background Believers.
- Pray for the team in Egypt as they work with orthodox and evangelicals, as well as Muslim Background Believers. Our Egypt team is serving as a very effective Family of God Church in Cairo – especially as they demonstrate the love of God to empty and hurting Muslims.

**China – Major Gathering**

- Pray for our staff in China, training tens of thousands of leaders.
- In September, we presented a big Leader Development Consultation in China. It was planned for an entire week, but it was raided by the police on the first day! However, this abbreviated experience was a divinely orchestrated training in itself. All of the attendees are gratefully affirming that it was one of the best events they ever attended.
- We continue to pray for ongoing impact that is very strategic for the church in China. We are seeing that the “bust” has actually become a major turning point toward the fulfilling of God’s purposes for His church! Not because we are so big, but because of God’s love for China! Thank you for joining us in this big hope and prayer. It’s all about Him and for Him!

**Sub-Saharan Africa**

- Pray for the recent launch of four separate INTENSIVE full-time training programs for building emerging leaders in West Africa. These programs are being led by young men and women of God who are themselves being mentored and nurtured by mature believers.
- Pray for all our international teams who are learning how to trust God to meet their financial needs, as they learn to wean themselves away from reliance on help from the West.
- At the same time, pray that much more financial support will come from the West, from those who do have means to help these very needy servants of God in regions of the world in which daily income is only a few dollars per day for the people they are serving.

### **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 continue to pray for Shayne's health. He is continuing with dialysis. On the first week of October the doctor will have more examinations and blood work done.
- We need a teacher for Andy. Please pray that the Lord will provide a teacher.
- Please pray for financial provision for our radio ministry in Albania, Kosovo, and Macedonia. We had some funding cuts this summer.
- Please pray for the pastors' conference we are organizing October 9 and 10. The conference is in partnership with In Touch Ministries, the teaching ministries of Dr. Charles Stanley.
- We have a medical outreach in one Muslim village. Please pray for open hearts for all people who will come to have their eyes checked and get eyeglasses.
- Leda will be traveling with media teams in Kosovo, Macedonia, and a few cities in Albania in the second and third week of October. Please pray for a fruitful trip. We are recording stories of listener's impacted by our ministry.

**Praises:**

- Thank you for praying for Andy. He has been 1 year free from seizures. We thank God for His healing power.

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

**Prayers:**

- Please pray for our ongoing issues with our plumbin. Praise God for being able to hire someone to come work on this big project and being able to complete one of the areas. Another project is almost complete with still come plumbing issues to work out. Please pray that these issues are an easy fix. After that, we still have two more areas (currently) that need repairs when there are more finances to complete them. Please pray for the timing on all of this, that it will be completed quickly but also correctly! While this is going on, we have been unable to host our retreats for Christian leaders.
- 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, for direction and encouragement for our pastor and the church leadership.

**Praises:**

- We have been encouraged through all the support (financial, emotional, spiritual) throughout these last few weeks of plumbing issues.
- The kids have finished up their school year and are looking forward to "winter break" and sleeping in!

**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 continued prayer and financial support. The Ministry needs a van.

**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.
- Praise God for the "His Story" seminar for pastors and church leaders that was held October 4-5! The response was enthusiastic and other churches in the area are asking for a similar seminar to be held!

## **Scripture Union, Uganda – Beth Baleke & Samuel Turyahikayo**

**From Beth Baleke:**

**Prayers:**

- Please pray for successful SU organized children and youth camps taking place across the country from December 6<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Continue to pray for Dickens Zziwa in his new role as Beth Baleke's replacement in the Missionary docket to South Sudan, Tanzania, and Ethiopia and also for Beth Baleke as she launches into uncharted waters of Bridge Builders.
- Pray for effective discipleship and follow-up of 67, 463 children, youth, and adults who committed their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior during the SU Uganda Schools mission outreach in June 2024.
- Pray for a successful production of the SU Uganda 2025 devotional guides due to come out in November and December.

**Praises:**

- Thank God for a successful SU Uganda staff planning retreat for 2025.
- Thank God for all our wonderful supporters and Partners who have walked with us through the years until now.
- Thanks God for all the SU Uganda staff and volunteers for their labor of love in the Lord's Kingdom as they evangelize and disciple children and youth in our nation.

**From Samuel Turyahikayo:**

**Prayers:**

- Please pray for successful SU organized children and youth camps taking place from 6<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 bringing together about 7,000 children and youth.
- Pray for Dickens Zziwa who is stepping in his new role as Beth Baleke's replacement in the Missionary docket to South Sudan, Tanzania, and Ethiopia and also for Beth Baleke as she continues to seek God's guidance on how to engage with Bridge Builders venture for SU ministry.
- Pray for a successful promotion, distribution, and impact of the SU Uganda 2025 devotional guides.

**Praises:**

- Thank God for our wonderful donors and partners who have walked with us through the years until now.

- Thank God for all the SU Uganda staff and volunteers for their labor of love in the Lord's Kingdom as they evangelize and disciple children and youth in our nations.

### **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 our 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:**

- **New Soccer Program in Monte Verde!** Please continue to pray for Roger Steevenson, one of 2nd Mile Missions' past students at 2nd Mile Education Center who has remained a dear friend to many of us who know him. He has started a soccer program for kids in the village of Monte Verde where a lot of our afternoon students live. Roger said that he started this program because Monte Verde is where it all began for him, and he wanted to return and give back to the community. Please pray over him as he leads this program for kids. Pray for him to remain strong in his faith as he tries to be a role model to these impressionable young boys.
- **Connecting Sponsors with new Students.** Please continue to be in prayer for Brooke Price, our Sponsorship Director. The process of connecting sponsors who need new students to the children who are not sponsored yet is quite the lengthy task. Her goal is to have each sponsor's updated student information card mailed to them by the first full week in November. Continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide her in making new connections with sponsors to the students God has for them.
- **Awareness Trip to the DR:** November 12 - 17, Sue will be leading a small group of people down to the Dominican Republic to experience all that God is doing through the ministry of 2nd Mile Missions in Friusa. Please be in prayer for her as she, along with Kirk, Eduardo, Odellice, Gisselle and other DR staff members, will be sharing about the ministry of 2nd Mile Missions and providing opportunities for the team to serve and experience how God is at work in the DR. Please be in prayer over those who are coming. Pray for safety in travel, for spiritual growth in the team members and an open heart to what God may be calling them to in their own lives when they return home. Please also pray that the team can be an encouragement to those we minister to and walk alongside with.

- **Miles for 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile:** We have two supporters, who are well known amongst 2nd Mile Missions, lacing up their running shoes to run in the Indianapolis Monumental Marathon on November 9th to raise support and awareness for 2nd Mile Missions. Cale Villarson, a former student of 2nd Mile Missions, who personally experienced the transformative power of education firsthand and later worked for the organization; and Matthew Harstine (Lisa's son), who met Cale on one of our Awareness Trips to the DR and then roomed with Cale when he first came to Indiana last year. Please pray over their fundraising efforts and the training they are undergoing to accomplish their goals! We love seeing these two young men give back and work hard for something they believe can make a difference in the lives of others!

**Praises:**

- Thank you for praying over October's trip with Wildman Inc. The trip went very well! Continue to pray for those who went on this trip that they would follow God's leading for any next steps He may have for them.
- Praise the Lord for a few more morning student enrollments! We had 95 and were hoping for 110. By the deadline of October 15th, we ended up with 99 students! Your prayers were and continue to be a blessing! 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.
- Please pray that God will prompt more members of our church body to financially partner with specific WCC missionaries and missionaries in training.
- Pray that each member of our church, from Sonlight to our senior citizens, understands their role in God's Story.

**Praise:**

- Praise God for a great 2024 Wayumi Retreat experience! Please pray that those who attended remain excited and motivated about the truths they learned about the role of the church in The Great Commission. 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 for more reports of the effectiveness of the various translations of His Story: the Rescue we have sent out. God is using all of us through this tool! We are in talks about starting an Albanian translation!