



Patrick and Jennifer Grant

📍 Oregon • January 1, 2023

Get ready to pray hard today, so we can pray all the way to the Pacific coast of the United States. We want to pray for two of our missionaries we're supporting through our Cooperative Program giving. They are Patrick and Jennifer Grant, who have planted a new church in Portland, Oregon.

You may remember news stories presenting a Portland torn apart by racial and political strife in recent years. Want to know why? It's because more than 85 percent of Portland's 2.3 million people are lost and do not know Jesus as their Savior. Is Portland a great place to send missionaries or what? Well, Patrick and Jennifer with their six kids moved to Portland to plant Woodstock Community Church in the southeastern part of the city. That move was not a quick decision. The couple made short-term mission trips to Haiti and Asia; that was when God began calling them.

The growing church meets in a community center in the Brentwood-Darlington area. It's a pleasant area of mostly small homes and shops, with many people out walking or biking. Church services are casual dress but formal in paying close attention to Scripture. The church reaches out to families through soccer camps for kids, block parties and distributing backpacks of school supplies. They also offer to do the laundry for people. That has resulted a few raised eyebrows — and lots of talk about Jesus. Let's pray for Patrick and Jennifer and that new church.



Stella McMillan

📍 Asia Pacific • January 8, 2023

Let's focus on the Asian countries that border the Pacific Ocean. It's a vast area with many millions of lost people. Today, we want to pray for one of our missionaries there, who we'll call Stella. She says the big cities of Asia are a major missions challenge. But what about the millions who live in isolated towns and villages, places you can't even find on Google Maps? Stella says one key may be the Lunar New Year, a big holiday all over Asia. It's a time when many people travel back home to visit family. Stella tells of her friend, Yi. Her friend's father is atheist, her mother is Buddhist and her grandparents worship ancestors. Yi is the only Christian in her family.

What if on the next Lunar New Year, Christians all over Asia went back home prepared to witness about Jesus? What if they took Bibles and tracts and were prepared with a testimony about their new faith? Stella dreams of the day when Lunar New Year fireworks will be to celebrate new Christians, baptisms and churches freshly planted.

Folks, our church supports Stella through the Cooperative Program. Let's pray for her now. And let's pray that her vision — a vision of millions of Asians coming to faith in Christ — can happen.



Nirintsoa Mamitiana

📍 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary • January 15, 2023

Today in our prayer time we're going to pray for a seminary leader. His name is Nirintsoa Mamitiana, and he lives in Madagascar. That's the island on the right lower side of Africa when you look at a map. Mamitiana started a new seminary in his home country to train pastors and other leaders to serve the churches there. Our church helped that happen.

How? Well, our church supports Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, through the Cooperative Program. That helps students get the training they need for a much lower cost than most other schools charge. Mamitiana earned a Ph.D. degree from Southwestern. Then he went home and put it to good use. Our investment in Southwestern and the five other seminaries across the United States will pay off in ways we cannot even imagine.

Let's pray for Mamitiana and his teaching ministry on that far-off African Island. And let's pray for the students now studying at Southwestern. In another 10 or 20 years, who knows what kind of Kingdom ministries they will be doing!



Michael & Traci Byrd

📍 Missouri • January 22, 2023

Today, in our prayer time let's head to the middle of America — to St. Louis, Missouri. That's where our missionaries, Michael and Traci Byrd, have planted a new church and we want to pray for them. Remember that our church is a partner in that new church because we give through the Cooperative Program.

Michael and Traci grew up in North St. Louis. Once they got out, they never thought about going back — not until God called them back to plant a church, that is. They planted Faith Community Bible Church in the Jennings area, where poverty and high crime rates grind away at life. Michael established a “meet local needs” approach to evangelism and ministry. That means they share the Gospel as they provide food, clothing or job training.

Traci brings women into their home to teach them how to cook. She doesn't teach the fancy dishes like on the cooking shows. Rather, she shows women how to whip up inexpensive meals from low-cost, basic foods — and stretch household budgets until they squeak.

They go shopping with members — and disciple. They teach budget skills — and evangelize. They weave the Gospel into every corner of community life possible. Michael and Traci say many people around them feel abandoned and uncared for. They mean for their church to replace those feelings with certainty they are loved by God and important in His sight. Let's ask God to bless the church and magnify its impact for miles around North St. Louis.

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Walker & Becca Welch

📍 Spain • January 29, 2023

Today, for our prayer time, we're going to Spain, but we'll be speaking Chinese. We're going to pray for two of our missionaries serving in Spain. We'll call them Walker and Becca. They serve in Spain, but they are working to reach the many Chinese people who have settled in Spain. Did you know there are many Chinese-speaking people in Spain? Our church is happy that our missionaries, Walker and Becca, are there for them.

A while back they visited a university near Madrid, the capital city, because most years hundreds of Chinese students are there. But that month, COVID-19 had kept them from coming.

So, Walker and Becca stopped in at a small Chinese restaurant for lunch. They were able to talk to the Chinese staff and they gave a Chinese language Bible to a waiter. The woman who owned the restaurant talked to them. After other visits and discussions, the woman dedicated her life to Christ.

Today, let's pray for Walker and Becca and for the Chinese people in Spain that they will hear the Gospel and believe.



Mathew & Tracy Mueller

📍 Arizona • February 5, 2023

Watch out for sand in your shoes because today we're going to pray our way over to Arizona. Let's pray for two of our missionaries, Mathew and Tracy Mueller, who have planted a new church in northern Peoria, part of Greater Phoenix. Valley Life North Peoria Church, planted in 2020, is one of seven new churches planted by the original Valley Life Church. Mathew and Tracy are partnering with that church and our North American Mission Board in the new work.

Our church is also partnering with them financially, through our Cooperative Program giving. The aim is not to plant one large church, but many smaller neighborhood churches throughout Phoenix. Mathew and Tracy are praying that their new church plant will be followed by others as they disciple members. North Phoenix is growing. Mathew says they try to contact new families soon as they arrive. The church also hosts community events such as showing movies in the park, Easter events and the like.

They have been able to reach people with little or no church background. One man had only attended church at Christmas and Easter. But he said when he heard Mathew explain the Gospel, he understood it for the first time. The man soon gave his life to Christ and was baptized. Two of his children have also come to faith in Christ. Let's pray for Mathew and Tracy, for their first new church and the ones they're praying will follow.



Wesley & Emily Smyth

📍 Senegal • February 12, 2023

In our prayer time today, we're going to West Africa. Senegal is on the Atlantic coast, and that's where Wesley and Emily Smyth serve. We want to pray for them today. These days they direct the Send Relief program for West Africa. That's the program our churches use to send food and other helps to needy people, both in the United States and other countries.

Much of West Africa is poor and dependent on uncertain rain for crops. Food relief is sometimes needed urgently. Wesley and Emily have served in several West African countries. In fact, their oldest child was born in the United States, but their other three were born in three different West African countries. Sharing Christ with so many different kinds of people taught their kids to see people for who they are, rather than a particular nationality or tribe. When they hold a church service in their home, usually people from nine countries attend.

Let's pray today for Wesley, Emily and their family, as they serve in Africa. Our church supports them through our regular Cooperative Program giving.



Josias & Débora Laporte

📍 Canada • February 19, 2023

We're going way up north to pray today — to Canada. Two of our missionaries have planted a new church to reach the city of Gatineau, which sits just across the river from Ottawa, Canada's capital city. French is the main language spoken in Gatineau. That's why our two missionaries are well-suited to serve there.

Josias Laporte is a native of Canada who has lived in Ottawa and Montréal. His wife, Débora, is French and has lived in Canada for 10 years. Josias studied nuclear medicine and theology; Débora studied education. They have four children. They launched their French-speaking church, La Chapelle Gatineau, in October, 2021. So far, they meet in a movie theater in a busy shopping area just off Highway 148.

All of Canada is a huge mission field, with relatively few evangelical Christians. Gatineau, population around 300,000, is like that: Many new churches are needed here too. Josias and Débora have led their new church to get into the community and help people. For example, church members painted a nearby shelter for women. That led to many contacts and openings to talk about Jesus.

Our church supports Josias and Débora through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for them and ask God to grow their church so thousands of people in their city will come to know Christ.



Vesta Sauter

📍 Deaf • February 26, 2023

Today, let's pray for one of our missionaries who has a passion for sharing the Gospel with the Deaf community. Her name is Vesta Sauter. She and her husband, Mark, are missionaries to the Deaf. They lead our International Mission Board's efforts to reach Deaf people around the world. It's a big challenge. Vesta says there are nearly 70 million Deaf people around the world. They communicate mostly via sign language. Unfortunately, though, many do not own a Bible in their sign language. Our mission board is partnering with churches and other agencies to translate Bible stories into sign language. They want to translate 300 Bible stories into every sign language. Putting the Bible into story form is a really effective way for Deaf people to understand it. That's why they will focused on stories.

Mark and Vesta have served in Europe and Asia in their efforts to reach Deaf people. Mark's a whiz at sign language. But Vesta's parents were Deaf; she learned to sign before she learned to speak English. When Vesta was 8, she would read the Bible and sign the verses for her father. She saw how the gospel made him a better man when he became a believer.

Aren't you glad our church supports missionaries like Mark and Vesta through the Cooperative Program? Let's pray for them and their ministry to the Deaf.



Steven & Cindy Martins

📍 Canada • March 5, 2023

Today let's pray for two of our missionaries serving in Canada: Steven and Cindy Martins. Drive through New York State through Buffalo, north past Niagara Falls and into Canada. Veer left just a bit and you're at the city of St. Catharines, not far from the U.S./Canada border.

The metro area has more than 400,000 people. St. Catharines is mostly an English-speaking part of Canada. But it's also home to more than 14,000 Spanish speakers. That's the main group Steven and Cindy want to reach for Christ, without turning away anyone else. They have planted Sevilla Chapel as a Spanish/English church, meeting in a storefront building downtown on Merritt Street.

Steven leads members to use the shoe leather approach to evangelism — they go door to door, meet people and talk about Jesus. As they talk, they use the simple "Three Circles" plan to explain how only Jesus Christ can meet spiritual needs. When possible, members continue meeting with interested people and teaching the Bible. Sometimes they lead an entire family to faith and church membership. Each year the church ministers to migrant farm workers in the area, providing food, clothing and other necessities, along with the Gospel. Sometimes the church holds block parties with crafts, music and food to meet people.

Let's ask the Lord to bless Steven, Cindy and their three kids as they serve the Lord in Canada. Our church supports them through the Cooperative Program. Let's pray for them now.

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Samuel Ravelo

📍 Chaplain • March 12, 2023

Let's pay attention today because the man we will pray for moves around a lot. That's because Commander Samuel Ravelo is a Southern Baptist chaplain in the U.S. Navy. Our church does not help pay the salary of Samuel — not beyond our taxes — but our Cooperative Program giving does support our North American Mission Board. Our board is the contact point for more than 3,700 Southern Baptist chaplains of many kinds, including military ones. The board also provides regular training for chaplains.

Samuel moves around a lot because he often deploys with our sailors, sailing around the world for months at a time. That means he has time to get to know the sailors he serves. He provides regular worship services, but also stands ready to provide counseling and other help if a sailor is battling depression or facing family problems. When based in Spain, Samuel made the news when he helped develop a food distribution system to help locals during COVID-19.

Samuel says his mother used to tell him God had a beautiful plan for him to serve in ministry. But he could not see himself as a pastor or missionary. After he joined the U.S. Navy at age 24, he soon started serving as a chaplain's assistant. Later, he became a chaplain and realized his mother's vision had been accurate. Let's pray for our chaplain today, wherever he is. He's our missionary to the military.

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Roy & Vilmarie Vidal

📍 Puerto Rico • March 19, 2023

For our missions prayer time today, let's pray for two of our missionaries serving on the island of Puerto Rico. They are Roy and Vilmarie Vidal — our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving. Roy and Vilmarie have planted a new church, Path of Grace Baptist Church, in the city of Villalba. It's about a 35-minute drive through the mountains down to the larger city of Ponce on the island's south coast. Roy, Vilmarie and their two young children moved from Venezuela to Puerto Rico and settled in Villalba. There are Catholic churches in town, but the nearest Baptist church was far away. When they talked about the distance, their pastor encouraged them to plant a new church.

So they did, in 2021. Other Puerto Rican Baptist pastors pitched in and our North American Mission Board provided training and support. These days the church sends out witnessing teams to introduce locals to Jesus and the new church. Church teams have also been busy helping rebuild homes damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Maria. Note that our North American Mission Board's Send Relief program has helped them.

The area around Villalba suffered heavy damage from the high winds and mud slides. Roy has found that many locals are senior citizens; many of them lived in the United States but returned here to retire. Let's pray for Roy and Vilmarie. Let's pray their church will grow and impact their entire city.

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Robert & Danielle Kane

📍 Ohio • March 26, 2023

Today, let's pray for two missionaries our church supports in Ohio. Robert and Danielle Kane have planted a new church in Westerville, a city of some 40,000 people on the northern edge of Columbus. This is just outside the I-270 beltline that circles that city.

Let's understand why Robert and Danielle were called there. Ohio has a population of some 12 million. But there are few evangelical churches. That's why our North American Mission Board has sent some 60 church planters to Ohio in recent years, including 17 to the Columbus area. Robert and Danielle planted Citizens Church to share Christ with a mostly middle-to upper-income area. Basically, most local people are comfortable and do not understand that they are spiritually lost.

Robert leads members to keep their eyes open to see witnessing opportunities that pop up in daily living. The church serves food after every Sunday service so there's more time for fellowship and getting to know visitors. The church also sponsors events like community picnics so members can meet people. All these have helped the church grow. So far, the Citizen Church meets Sundays in a school building, but small groups of members meet other times around the community.

Our church is helping support Robert and Danielle through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for them now. And let's ask God their new church will grow, raise up new leaders and plant more new churches all over Columbus.

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Find out more at [sb.net/cp](https://www.sbc.net/cp).



Jared & Jennifer Huntley

📍 Texas • April 2, 2023

Pull on your boots — we're going to Texas today to pray. We're going to pray for Jared and Jennifer Huntley, two of our missionaries our church supports through the Cooperative Program. They are planting a new church in San Antonio, Texas. Jared and Jennifer are planting a new church to reach the military community around Lackland Air Force Base, which sits on the city's west side.

Our missionaries have a lot of experience. Jared served in the U.S. Army. Towards the end of his service, he accepted Christ as his Savior. He knows first-hand how much better military life can be for Christians. That led them to plant a successful church in the Washington, DC, area that reached mostly Marines.

Jennifer knows first-hand that military wives often battle with loneliness; many of them are away from home for the first time. To be able to share the Gospel, Jared and Jennifer invite airmen to their house to enjoy a home-cooked meal. Often, they just talk to people in busy areas around town. Sometimes the people are open to prayer and hearing the Gospel. Those visits sometimes end with meals also. Let's pray for our missionaries there in Texas. Let's ask the Lord to bless the new church Jared and Jennifer are planting.



Trevor Yoakum

📍 Togo • April 9, 2023

In our missions prayer time today, let's go to Africa — to Togo, West Africa. Let's pray for Trevor Yoakum. He teaches pastors at the West African Baptist Theological Seminary in Lomé, the capital city. Trevor teaches what he calls practical theology. That's because many of the pastors he teaches are new Christians with little understanding of the Bible or church leadership.

In one lesson, he taught that a preacher must preach what the Bible teaches, not what the preacher may think. That would seem normal to us in American churches. But in Togo, it was a new idea. After a few months of teaching basic ideas such as these, one pastor said the churches were stronger, more Bible-based — and the pastors were preaching more powerful sermons.

Friends, our church supports Trevor through our Cooperative Program giving. His ministry is so important. The pastors he is teaching will lead the churches of Togo for many years to come. Let's pray for Trevor, our missionary, now.



Kadin Christian

📍 Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission • April 16, 2023

In our missions prayer time today, we will pray for Kadin Christian. Let's call him a missionary for truth. All our missionaries use Bible truths, of course. But Kadin is a research coordinator for our Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. That's our agency that looks into issues and questions of our nation's culture, morality, politics — then highlights what the Bible teaches about them. Kadin serves with that important ministry. This helps churches and leaders understand the issues and deal with them. These days, we are surrounded by media — TV, social media, and the like — that 24/7 present a non-Christian or even an anti-Christian point of view. Keeping a biblical view of the world is harder than ever — but also just as important as ever.

Don't picture Kadin sitting in a library somewhere. He also serves as missionary to students at Auburn University, a state school in eastern Alabama. In this ministry, he is supported both by our North American Mission Board and First Baptist Church in nearby Opelika. Every day, Kadin talks to students — both believers and unbelievers. He discipless Christian students to help them hang onto their faith amid the challenging university setting. He points them to local churches. This also lets him know what students are hearing from professors and other sources.

Our church's Cooperative Program giving helps fund our Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and also Kadin's ministry. Let's pray for Kadin and ask the Lord to bless his ministries of truth.

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Itamar Elizalde

📍 Puerto Rico • April 23, 2023

Today, let's focus our prayer on a missionary in Puerto Rico. That's an island in the Caribbean, but it's a territory of the United States. That's why our North American Mission Board sends our missionaries to Puerto Rico, home for more than 3 million people. Hundreds of new evangelical churches are needed. In recent years Puerto Rico has been hit by two destructive hurricanes, earthquakes, an economic crisis and COVID-19. Our North American Mission Board has been helping meet needs there, especially by sending teams of volunteers to rebuild houses and churches through our Send Relief ministry program.

Now to the missionary we want to pray for today: Her name is Itamar Elizalde. She was born on the island but had moved away. She returned as missionary to help reach Puerto Rico for Christ. Itamar coordinates volunteers, visiting Southern Baptists and local ones. Her ministry is to help get needs met and also to share Jesus Christ. One of her great joys is the prayer of thanksgiving prayed as volunteers finish building or rebuilding a home.

A woman named Rosa called to ask for food. Itamar called a church near Rosa and asked them to help. The pastor and his wife took food to Rosa, but also invited her to church. Rosa later prayed to receive Christ and is now a church member. Our church supports both the North American Mission Board and Itamar, our missionary there in Puerto Rico, through the Cooperative Program. Let's pray for her now.



Rusty Ford

📍 Spain • April 30, 2023

Today in our prayer time, we're focus on Spain to hear how one of our missionaries ministered during the COVID-19 crisis. Let's pray today for Rusty Ford, who normally serves as a church planter in Seville. But when the virus left Spain locked down, church planting was not possible. What could he do? He heard of a nearby nursing home where nearly 80 residents suffered from COVID-19, and 24 of them died. Despite not being Catholic, Rusty talked his way into the home. Wearing a hazmat suit and other gear, he worked long days helping feed the residents, clean them up in some cases, and generally lending a hand where needed. When Rusty went home at night, he washed carefully to protect his wife and four children.

For weeks he was able to talk to residents about Jesus and their need of Him. Remember that less than 1% of Spain's people are evangelical believers. Many of the nursing home residents heard the Gospel for the first time. Later, Rusty was even able to lead a Bible study for residents, again an interesting thing for a missionary from the United States. As COVID-19 declined, Rusty returned to planting churches.

But his experience shows how important it is to witness wherever it's possible. Our church supports Rusty through the Cooperative Program.

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Gregory & Chanelle Barnes

📍 Maryland • May 7, 2023

Today let's pray for two of our missionaries serving in Baltimore, Maryland. They are Gregory and Chanelle Barnes, and they have planted Love Light City Church. Baltimore is a city of nearly 3 million people, and it is a very challenging mission field because there are so many lost people. Our North American Mission Board has sent more than a dozen church planters to Baltimore, including Gregory and Chanelle. Remember that our church supports both them and the board through the Cooperative Program.

The new church Gregory and Chanelle have planted is in West Baltimore. That has been a working class, racially diverse part of the city. Gregory and Chanelle say only the love of Christ can defeat evils like racism and other ills that divide people. Their church has focused on local schools for outreach — they have sponsored events at five local schools. They also back a program for boys at an elementary school. Gregory and Chanelle have also held block parties and other events to meet people. They feel Jesus forgave their sins, and it was such a powerful experience for them they want others to share it as well.

Our missionaries also have been working hard to develop leaders within the congregation to extend the church's outreach and ministry. Let's join Gregory and Chanelle in praying for that. Let's ask God to grow their new church with strong leaders to completely transform West Baltimore and its people.



Richard & Karen Lee

📍 Tanzania • May 14, 2023

Today in our prayer time, let's pray for our missionaries Richard and Karen Lee. Our church is happy that we are helping support their ministry in Tanzania, Africa, through our Cooperative Program giving. The Lees are based in Dar Es Salam, Tanzania's largest city, with several million residents. Most of their time is spent reaching people for Christ and teaching the Bible.

Our Southern Baptist missionaries are trying to reach out to 55 unreached people groups across Africa in the next several years, so the missions challenge is huge. But Richard and Karen have also enjoyed reaching out to Southern Baptist churches in America — especially African American ones. When African American missionaries walk up to the front of the church, there is great excitement. All sorts of people are needed to serve as missionaries.

Richard recalls a similar response when they first arrived in Tanzania. Local Africans were amazed, then quite happy, that missionaries who look like them had come. Richard likes to quote Revelation 7, which describes the great multitude of all kind of folks gathered around to praise Jesus. Let's pray for Richard and Karen and ask the Lord to bless them as they represent both Jesus and missions to people in America and Africa.



Fred & Damaris Castro

📍 New Jersey • May 21, 2023

As we pray today, let's focus on New Jersey and two of our missionaries there who have planted a new church. Fred and Damaris Castro have planted Redemption Church in Long Branch, New Jersey. It's an urban area south of New York City and located between the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic Ocean. Fred and his wife are from Brazil, originally. He served with a Brazilian Baptist church in the Boston area for two years. Then God called him to plant a new church among the Hispanics in Long Branch.

It's a diverse community in that people from around the world live here. But there are high numbers of Portuguese speakers from Portugal and Brazil, plus Spanish speakers from many countries. The church has been able to meet many of these through its English as a Second Language classes. Some of those students have accepted Christ as Savior and are in the church now.

Other people show up with needs and Fred tries to meet those needs. When Fred met Geraldo, the man struggled with alcoholism. But after attending church a month, Geraldo accepted Christ as his Savior. Geraldo threw away the booze, quit drinking and cleaned up his life. The church is still discipling him in the faith. Our church supports Fred and Damaris through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for them now.

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Naya Wilder

📍 Deaf in SE Asia • May 28, 2023

Today, we're going to Southeast Asia in our prayer time, so we can pray for one of our missionaries serving there. Naya Wilder works with Deaf people in one of the Southeast Asian nations. She serves in a city, where three out of every four Deaf people in the country live. Note that there are few believers among the hearing people of this country. Among the Deaf, there are just a handful.

Naya and other workers have been trying to establish a community center for Deaf people. Deaf people often cannot communicate with their hearing family and have few opportunities to be around other Deaf people like them. Of course, a Christian community center would be staffed by Christians who can communicate in sign language and tell Bible stories, which most Deaf people will follow.

So far just a few events for Deaf people have been held — a Christmas party and the like. Response has been good. Our church helps support Naya through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray now for her. Let's ask the Lord to help that community center be established, so that thousands of Deaf people will meet Christ and come to know Him.



Eric & Anna Trout

📍 Iowa • June 4, 2023

In our prayer time today, let's focus our prayers on two of our missionaries in Iowa. Eric and Anna Trout, have planted a new church in Adel, Iowa. That's about 30 miles west of downtown Des Moines, the state capital. Some 6,000 people live in Adel, and more new churches are needed to reach them for Christ. The new church, called Restoration Church, has been growing even while meeting in a school.

Many Restoration members work in a local community center. That helps them meet people from all over town — and makes the community more aware of the church. Also, Eric constantly meets many new people as he works in one of the town's few coffee shops. New people get invited to member homes and eventually to church. Restoration Church also throws block parties to meet people and make connections that can lead to witnessing.

Restoration members have partnered with a local crisis intervention agency and even organized a fundraiser for it. Before today, most of you probably had not ever heard of a place called Adel, Iowa. But because many folks there do not know Jesus, our church wants somebody to go tell them. That's what our missionaries, Eric and Anna, are doing. And that's why we support them through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for them now.



Molly Petry

📍 Central Asia • June 11, 2023

For our prayer time today, let's think about Central Asia. Much of this area is rough and mountainous. That's the kind of place our missionary, Molly Petry, serves. She has worked for years to share the Gospel to an isolated people group of about 28,000 people. They live in a valley that's deep in the mountains, beyond where the road ends. Molly drives six hours from the city, then faces a rugged hike on foot to reach that valley. That's only in warm weather. In winter, nobody can get there.

Just one family of Christians live in the valley. The family has been the local contact for Molly and other ministry partners who have been helping get a supply of clean water set up for the valley. As a reminder, our church helps support Molly through our Cooperative Program giving. We also help support the Send Relief program working on the water — we Southern Baptists support it through both our mission boards.

A real victory came last year when Molly traveled with a woman living in the city to and from the valley. After many hours of teaching, the woman made a profession of faith in Christ! Friends, let's pray that Molly's faithfulness will be rewarded by seeing all of the people in that valley turn to Christ.

Let's pray that they will have both clean water to drink and the endless Living Water of Jesus for their souls.



Dustin & Danielle Lee

📍 Georgia • June 18, 2023

Throw a peach into your iced tea — we're going to Georgia! In a very prayerful way, of course. We're going to pray for two of our missionaries, Dustin and Danielle Lee. They have planted a new church in northwest Atlanta. We are happy about that because our church helps support them through the Cooperative Program. They serve near where I-75 crosses the I-285 beltline that circles the city. The Atlanta Braves play baseball nearby. The new City View Church meets for now in rented space within an upscale shopping and business area.

Dustin and Danielle have begun reaching many of the young, well-educated and upper income professionals clustered in this area. They look to have the best life has to offer, but many don't. Many are lonely. They don't realize it, but they are lonely for the unique fellowship a Bible-based church can offer. They are lonely for God, only reachable through faith in Jesus Christ.

Often when Dustin and Danielle strike up a conversation, they invite the people home to visit with them and their two kids. Many of these guests will attend City View Church later. The church also provides a sports camp for kids in the neighborhood; this has helped reach many young families.

One need City View Church has is a more permanent place to meet. Let's ask God to help them find one. And let's ask Him to bless and increase the ministry of Dustin and Danielle.



Shaun & Joy Price

📍 Wales • June 25, 2023

Today, let's pray for two of our missionaries serving in Wales — the small country beside England. Shaun and Joy Price have served in Cardiff, the capital, for about two years. Wales once was a Christian country and a hundred years ago had a huge revival. These days Christians are few and most Welsh people say they are not interested in church.

Shaun and Joy moved with their four children into a part of Cardiff, where many newcomers from other lands live. Their neighbors include people from India, Yemen and many other countries. Shaun and Joy have enlisted all four of their children to share the Gospel as they meet neighbors. They are active in their local church, of course, but they have been slowly getting to know their neighbors. They help widows with home repairs, invite other neighbors to have coffee. They have distributed Gospel messages along with chocolates. They have asked how to pray for their neighbors.

So far, Shaun and Joy have not seen another big revival, which Wales surely needs. But they are slowly building friendships that will lead to people hearing about Jesus. Our church supports Shaun and Joy through our Cooperative Program giving. They are our missionaries.

Let's pray for them now.



Dave & Brie Jacobson

📍 Wisconsin • July 2, 2023

Let's focus prayer today on our missionaries in Wisconsin. Dave and Brie Jacobson, launched City on a Hill Church in 2017. It has become a healthy, growing congregation in Fitchburg. That's a cause for joy because Fitchburg is part of Greater Madison, a city with few evangelical churches or evangelical Christians. The area around the church is diverse, with low-income housing and many single-parent families. Fitchburg is south of downtown Madison, out where the city fades into farmland. During COVID-19, Dave and Brie helped provide boxes of fresh farm food to homes in their neighborhood. That gave them a way to meet and pray with hundreds of families.

These days City on a Hill Church hosts block parties and other events to meet people and share the Gospel. Dave and Brie have started planting a new church in a nearby community, again in a place new evangelical churches are needed badly. They also hope to plant a Spanish-speaking church to reach the growing number of Hispanics settling in Fitchburg.

Our church is partnering with Dave and Brie as they minister there in Wisconsin, because part of our church's Cooperative Program giving goes to them. Let's thank the Lord for the healthy church our missionaries have planted. And, let's ask Him to bless their efforts to plant the next ones.



Benjamin Breeg

📍 Central Asia • July 9, 2023

Today in our prayer time, let's pray for one of our missionaries we'll call Benjamin. That's because he is serving with his family in Central Asia, a place where the Christian faith is outlawed. Our church supports him through the Cooperative Program. Benjamin has an interesting assignment. He is sharing the Gospel with the academics and religious leaders who greatly influence the national government and culture.

Benjamin has found it best to involve his wife and child in the ministry. Sometimes that has gotten interesting results like the time they attended a major lecture at one of the top universities. When their three-year-old son saw a family friend, he loudly greeted her with a local word meaning "auntie," and waved a "come on over" motion to her. The stunned lecturer stopped and all eyes turned to the American family.

It was awkward, but OK — the society values children and family. Benjamin says his son's openness has increased the family's Christian witness. Let's pray for Benjamin and his family, as they share the Gospel with the people who can potentially could turn an entire nation towards Jesus.



Sam & Lydia

📍 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary • July 16, 2023

Today in our prayer time, we will pray for two of our missionaries whom we'll call Sam and Lydia. They serve in a Muslim area of Central Asia, so we will not give their real names or their current location. Sam and Lydia have served in this region for the past 11 years. They have focused on reaching the Deaf for Christ and planting new churches among them. They have also been translating the Bible into the local sign language. They have distributed countless videos of Bible stories presented in sign language.

Sam and Lydia prepared for their awesome ministry by attending Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. That's the seminary in North Carolina that our church helps support through the Cooperative Program. Like Sam and Lydia, more than 20,000 students attend our seminaries.

See how that works? Years ago, our Cooperative Program helped Sam and Lydia attend seminary for a reduced cost. Now they're putting their training to good use in Asia. Our investment has paid off — in saved lives, baptisms and new churches. Let's pray for Sam and Lydia. And let's pray for the students attending Southeastern this year. Five or 10 years from now, imagine what they will be doing for God's Kingdom.



Cody Vest

📍 Chaplain, U.S. Army • July 23, 2023

Today we're going to pray for Cody Vest. He's a different kind of missionary — he's a Southern Baptist chaplain in the U.S. Army. He has been evaluated and endorsed by our North American Mission Board. That endorsement process is how we work with more than 3,700 chaplains of many kinds, including military ones. Our mission board is the link between the chaplains and Southern Baptists across the country. Also, our board provides regular training events for chaplains in many locations to make chaplains better ministers.

Now, back to Cody Vest. He is a lieutenant colonel in the Army. That's a high rank. Cody serves on the staff of the Army Chief of Chaplains, so he can have an impact on the entire Army. Cody has helped military families deal with the stress that can weaken military families who often face frequent moves, separation and dangerous situations. Long-time worry can lead to loss of sleep, drug abuse and the like, he says. Cody wrote in a Kentucky base newspaper that faith in God can help eliminate worry. "God is still in control," he reminded the soldiers.

Now, our church does not help pay Cody's salary, not beyond the taxes we pay. But our Cooperative Program giving does help our mission board see that Southern Baptist chaplains are effective ministers who believe the Bible as we do. Let's pray now for Chaplain Cody Vest and his ministry.



James Smith

📍 England • July 30, 2023

Let's focus our prayers on England. James Smith is one of our missionaries in London and we will pray for him today. When James arrived in London, it was closed. Really — it was during the COVID-19 shutdown. People were on the streets, but much of the city was locked down.

So, James put on a mask and started walking the city. He saw people who were lonely and bored. So, he started going up to people and asked if he could pray for them. Sure, some turned away. But others were happy to talk. James talked to a Muslim man, whom we'll call Adam. As they talked, Adam said he had been having strange dreams. God often speaks to Muslims in dreams, and James quickly saw that was the case with the Muslim man.

The talk led to prayer and more talk and Bible study. Adam became a follower of Jesus Christ. He is one of only about 50 Christ followers in his mostly-Muslim people group. Now, Adam wants all his people to know the one true Savior. Our church helps support James there in London because we give through the Cooperative Program. As James tells person after person about Jesus, we are sort of right there as well, cheering him on. Let's pray for James now.



Craig & Maggie Coppenbarger

📍 Missouri • August 5, 2023

Today in our prayer time, let's focus our prayers on the middle of the country to Missouri. Let's pray for our missionaries, Craig and Maggie Coppenbarger, who have planted a new church in the town of Knob Noster. The new church is called Valor Church and they meet in a rented building downtown. Knob Noster is located southwest of Kansas City, a half-hour drive south of I-70.

About 11,000 people work at Whiteman Air Force Base, just south of town. That means many people around town are young and probably will be here only a few years. Craig and Maggie say their new church continually draws people who never attended church before — nor heard the Gospel before. That's why the church maintains a coffee shop, (called Coffee Ksnobs!) as a bridge to reach people not comfortable with a church service.

Both Craig and Maggie have military backgrounds, so are able to relate well to the many military families. Though many people will be here just a short time, our missionaries hope to engage lost people, reach them for Christ and send out disciplined believers to other parts of the world. The church is also helping train future church planters for ministry, multiplying the congregation's impact. Our church is helping support Craig and Melissa and their new church there in Missouri through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's ask God to bless their ministry.

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Sidney Dixon

📍 South Asia • August 13, 2023

Today in our prayer time, let's pray for South Asia. That's where one of our missionaries, whom we'll call Sidney, serves and we want to pray for her today. Sidney specializes in sharing the Gospel with Asian women in villages, but COVID-19 stopped her travel for a time. When she could get back to her village, she invited women and children to meet for two things: a lesson in healthy living and a story from the Bible.

It was the hot season. They met on hard-packed dirt one time. Another time they met on a rooftop. That time more than 350 people gathered and Sidney prayed hard the roof would hold. Later, more lockdown rules were put in place, and, again, her travel to the village was stopped. She soon learned that two women, who had become Christians, were continuing the meetings. They read the Bible aloud, prayed and sang in multiple small groups.

To know such new believers overcame their fears and were leading such sessions left Sidney in happy tears. That's just what every missionary wants to see happen in the lives of believers. Our church helps support Sidney in her life-changing ministry — through the Cooperative Program. Let's pray that many more followers of Christ will be created in that village, and that God will raise up more leaders to carry His Word to other villages as well.



Chase & Laura Feindel

📍 California • August 20, 2023

For our prayer time today, let's focus on the West Coast. Chase and Laura Feindel are our North American missionaries serving in Vista, California. That's about a 40-minute drive north of San Diego. Nearly 100,000 people live in the Vista area. Vista is a beautiful area near the Pacific, but few people follow Christ. Out of more than three million people who live in and around San Diego, only about 10% say they are evangelical Christians. Literally, hundreds of new churches are needed.

Chase and Laura have set up home groups and they try many things to make their new church known in the community. During the pandemic of 2020, they kept meeting when they could do so safely, but moved to outside gatherings at a ranch-type conference center. Our North American Mission Board has sent a number of missionaries like Chase and Laura to the San Diego area because of the great spiritual needs. More are needed. About 40 million people live in California. It's one of our greatest missions challenges. Our church supports Chase and Laura through our Cooperative Program giving as they try to meet that challenge. Let's pray for them now.



Caroline Anderson

📍 Romania • August 27, 2023

For our missions prayer time today, we will direct our attention to Romania, focusing on the war in Ukraine. Millions of the Ukrainian people have fled to other countries to escape Russia's war against their country. It's hard for us in America to even think about helping so many. But our missionaries all over Eastern Europe have been working night and day to minister to the refugees. Many Baptist volunteers have also gone to help.

Caroline Anderson is one of our missionaries serving in Romania. Our church supports her through our Cooperative Program giving. When Caroline thinks of the refugees, she does not think of the millions. She thinks of Den, age two, and Dimi, age four. They remind her of her nephews, right down to their blonde hair and blue eyes. Den and Dimi and their parents managed to escape their home in Ukraine into Romania. There a Baptist church provided shelter, food, counseling and the love of Jesus. The family hopes eventually to emigrate to Australia.

Romanian Baptists will try to get them connected with a church there. Let's pray for these young boys and their parents — that they will remain safe, but also that they will come to follow Jesus, the Prince of Peace. And let's pray for our missionary, Caroline, as she stretches her missionary job assignment to include war refugee ministry.



Cody & Kristen Chester

📍 Florida • September 3, 2023

Today let's go to Florida — not for vacation, but to pray for two of our missionaries. Cody and Kristen Chester have planted a new church called Christ Community Church South Brevard. It's located in Palm Bay, Florida, near Melbourne, not far from the Atlantic coast. The "South Brevard" part of the name means they are in the southern part of Brevard County. The church currently meets in a building on Agora Circle, a few blocks from I-95.

Cody was in church ministry for eight years before he and Kristen and their two kids moved to Palm Bay in 2019. The church was launched on Easter Sunday last year (2022). Within a few weeks, six people came to faith in Christ and others were exploring baptism. Cody says he and his planting team are passionate about reaching people across the county for Christ. The church is being backed by First Baptist Church of Melbourne; this is one of 10 churches that congregation intends to help plant in 10 years.

Cody and Kristen are also partnering with the Florida Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board. That's where our church comes in because we support the Cooperative Program through our giving. Let's pray now and ask God to bless Cody and Kristen as they minister for Him there in Florida. Let's ask God to honor their vision of reaching thousands for Christ across Brevard County.



Brent Dorsett

📍 Central Asia • September 10, 2023

In our prayer time today, let's pray for one of our missionaries in Central Asia. We'll call him Brent Dorsett, but that's not his real name. He serves in a country where it's dangerous to be a Christian. Our church helps support Brent and his ministry in Central Asia through our Cooperative Program giving.

Brent and his local Christian ministry partner visit homes so they can share Jesus and teach the Bible. It usually takes several years before people here believe Jesus is the Son of God. But sometimes, things move, well, miraculously quicker. When they visited a local man named Daler, he asked many questions about Revelation. Brent assumed it was because the man was doubtful of what he read. But after many questions, Daler closed his Bible and announced, "I believe Jesus is God!"

Brent and his co-worker were shocked. But they learned local believers had given Daler a Bible six months earlier. He had read all of it — and was convinced it was true. Months later, Daler still believed. Let's ask God to bless our missionary, Brent, and his co-worker. And let's ask Him to help thousands more in that land to accept the truth about Jesus so they can know Him.

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Cesár Guzmán

📍 Puerto Rico • September 17, 2023

Today in our missions prayer time, let's head to the Caribbean. The island of Puerto Rico has about 3 million people, but not many evangelical churches. That's why our church is happy to be supporting missionary Cesár Guzmán. Two years ago, he and his wife, Diana, planted On The Rock Baptist Church in the capital city of San Juan, very near the national university. Then they established a center for university students.

The church has been growing. And the student center has been reaching many students. Cesár wanted the student center to be a safe place for students to hang out with other students. He wanted to provide a place without drugs and other temptations that mark the area. Sometimes the center serves meals. But it's also a place where students can study the Bible and learn about the Christian faith. Already some students have come to faith in Christ and been called to full-time Christian service.

Our church supports Cesár, the church and the student center through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray that God will keep Cesár strong, grow the church and enable the center to reach many students for Christ.



Jason & Allison Cook

📍 North Africa • September 24, 2023

For our missions prayer time today, let's pray for two of our missionaries, whom we'll call Jason and Allison. They left their home in Alabama and moved to North Africa. This is a heavily Muslim region, of course, so we won't give any more specific location. Jason works for a company there, but their real "work" is sharing Jesus with everyone possible. They invite people into their home for meals, walk in parks or just meet for coffee. All the time, they point people to Jesus. Jason and Allison also give them an internet site where local people can study the Bible in their own language.

Jason told Amir, a young man, about Jesus and then through the Bible's teaching. One day at a coffee shop by the sea, Amir said, "See, there is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" Like the Ethiopian in Acts 8, Amir became a follower of Christ. Amir began sharing his new faith with many people, despite the problems that caused. Once he needed expensive dental care he could not pay for. The home church of Jason and Allison in Alabama did not know this need, but provided a love gift that covered the work. Amir could continue to talk for God.

Our church gives through the Cooperative Program so missionaries like Jason and Allison can serve. Let's pray for our missionaries now.



Brianna Daniels

📍 Colorado • October 1, 2023

Today, let's direct our prayers toward Denver, Colorado. That's where our missionary, Brianna Daniels, serves. Denver looks great as its tall buildings cozy up to tall mountains. But within Denver's metro population of some 3 million people, many of the residents are needy. That's why our church supports the Send Relief Ministry Center in the middle of the urban area. It's a ministry of our North American Mission Board and that's where Brianna serves.

People living near the center come from more than 50 countries and speak more than 60 languages. There are homeless people, poor people, people with all sorts of needs. The Ministry Center works with churches far and wide, other helping agencies and teams of volunteers to help meet physical needs. They distribute clothes and food and help people find jobs. Center workers also talk about Jesus.

Brianna helps with that kind of ministry. For example, she led a team that rebuilt the playground of a local school for refugee children. She helped distribute backpacks filled with school supplies to poor kids. She even hands out free burritos to the local homeless. Our church supports both the ministry center and Brianna's ministry through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's ask God to bless both of them now.



Owen Stoddard

📍 South Asia • October 8, 2023

Today, we want to focus our prayer time on South Asia and one of our missionaries serving there. We'll call him Owen. This is a missions prayer time, but the story you're about to hear has a good lesson for us on what being a follower of Jesus really means. Owen witnessed to an Asian man we'll call Mark. He was a painter. But when Mark decided to commit his life to Jesus, local people would not hire him anymore. One local man in particular led the attack against Mark.

After COVID-19 brought lockdowns, food shortages followed. People were hungry. Owen and other missionaries arranged for food for some of the believers. Mark took the food but gave it to the man who had led the attack of hatred against him in the community. Owen said this: "Since Mark received the Gospel, he has learned to love and forgive, because God in Christ has loved and forgiven Mark." Isn't that a great example of what Jesus said — to love your enemies?

Friends, our church's Cooperative Program missions dollars are a wonderful investment in changing lives for the better! Look how our investment in Owen has resulted in an Asian man like Mark having a great relationship with Jesus. Let's pray for Owen's strong ministry. And let's ask God for more followers like Mark.

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DeAron Washington

📍 New Orleans Seminary • October 15, 2023

In our prayer time today, let's think about our church's ministry to people in New Orleans over the years to come. The key to how this will happen is DeAron Washington. We want to pray for him today.

When he was in college, DeAron studied psychology. But after he came to faith in Christ, he realized that the Gospel of Christ was the only real solution to help people cope with their problems. So, he began training to become a Christian counselor. That took him to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he began working on a Ph.D. in counseling. Our church supports that seminary through our Cooperative Program. In fact, we support all six of our Southern Baptist seminaries that way. More than 20,000 total students are getting training that is solidly Bible-based, but at less cost than what most seminaries charge.

As DeAron completes his degree, he already does some instruction at the seminary. And he is helping people who come to the seminary's counseling center for help. See how the Cooperative Program works? Our church is investing in DeAron's education and training. Our "payoff" will be DeAron ministering to people's needs for many years to come. That's the kind of payoff we like to hear about! Let's pray for DeAron and his ministry now.

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Airen & Obaidiku Aimievbo

📍 Canada • October 22, 2023

Today, let's turn our attention to Canada and, specifically, to the city of Calgary that sits just east of the Rocky Mountains. Calgary has a dramatic skyline of tall buildings, yet the city also puts on one of the world's largest rodeos each year. Calgary is also a mission field: About 1.4 million people live here and only about 70,000 of them say they know Jesus.

That's why our church is happy to be helping support Airen and Obaidiku Aimievbo, who have planted The Impact Church. From Nigeria, Africa, Airen grew up in a Christian home there and felt called to serve as a missionary in Canada. He attended the Canadian Baptist Theological Seminary in Alberta after he arrived.

In 2020, he began making first contacts and launched the new church in 2021. Impact Church is located east of the Calgary airport where people from many other lands have settled. Few are Christian. Members visit door-to-door around the area and hand out tracts and invitations to visit the new church. They enlisted volunteers to help them hold a soccer camp for kids. Our church is helping support Airen, his wife and this new church through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for them now and ask God to grow the church.



Patrick & Erin Schwartz

📍 Scotland • October 29, 2023

We are praying today for two of our missionaries in Scotland. They are Patrick and Erin Schwartz, who have served there about three years. They live in Glasgow, Scotland's capital, with their two young daughters. Our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving. Patrick and Erin partner with a local church, Refuge Church Glasgow, to reach local communities. Many of us probably think of Scotland as a Christian nation. In truth, the church has little presence.

Believers make up a tiny fraction of the population. Many church buildings have been torn down or converted to other uses. The Scots literally follow sports more than Christ. People from many other lands live in Glasgow these days.

Erin became friends with Meiying, a woman from China. At first, Meiying was not interested in the Gospel. But Erin's peaceful outlook on life caused her to ask questions. After a year, Meiying put her faith in Jesus and was baptized. Patrick and Erin really need our prayers because they serve in a place where few have any interest in God and decisions for Christ are scarce. Let's also pray for a revival across Scotland.



Amer & Vicky Safadi

📍 Ohio • November 5, 2023

Let's go to Cincinnati, Ohio, to pray today. The city has 2 million people, but fewer than 14% are evangelical Christians. Cincinnati is considered a major missions challenge. Our North American Mission Board calls it a Send City for that reason. The board has helped plant almost 3 dozen new churches in the city, but many more are needed.

Today, let's pray specifically for Amer and Vicky Safadi. They are from Jordan, so Arabic is their first language. Amer felt led to plant a new church, then decided on Cincinnati was the place God wanted him. He called the Southern Baptist missions leader in Cincinnati and soon Amer, Vicky and their two daughters moved there.

First, they visited stores where Arabs work and shop. They met Arabs studying English at a Southern Baptist church. They then launched a new Arabic language church with 22 members that soon more than doubled. They have reached Arabs from nine countries. Amer and Vicky often invite Arabs to their home for tea, a familiar custom in the Middle East. All of it provides a way to tell people about Jesus.

They are able to reach people who would never have heard the Gospel back in their home lands. Our church is helping support those church plants all over Cincinnati and also the new church planted by Amer and Vicky. That is all possible through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for Amer and Vicky.

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Allie White

📍 Uganda • November 12, 2023

Today in our prayer time, we're going to focus on Uganda, a country in central Africa located on the left side of Kenya. Allie White is the missionary we're praying for today. Our church supports her through our Cooperative Program giving.

Allie serves in Kampala, Uganda's capital city area that's one of Africa's largest and fastest-growing, with nearly 7 million residents. One day Allie and her local ministry partner, Victoria, were riding on a boda-boda — a motorcycle taxi — in a slum area. Allie asked Victoria about an alley she saw. At first, Victoria refused to stop — it was not a “respectable” place, she said. That's because the alley had many places where women work as prostitutes.

Over time, Allie and her Ugandan Christian partners visited and shared the Gospel along that alley. Six women came to the first Bible study. Sixty came the next week and many became Christians. A woman we'll call Sarah was one of the first who accepted Christ as her Savior. Once a Christian, she knew she had to find another way to live. The local church helped Sarah with rent and taught her how to make soap. Now she has a better life for herself and her children as she grows in her new faith.

Aren't you happy that our church is helping support our missionary, Allie White, as she takes the light of Jesus into truly dark places? Let's pray for her now.

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James & Jen Cho

📍 Canada • November 19, 2023

Let's go to western Canada today so we can pray for two of our Southern Baptist missionaries. They are James and Jen Cho. Our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving.

James and Jen are serving in Calgary, which is a striking city of skyscrapers standing above the plains. The Rocky Mountains march across the horizon. It's a modern city of more than a million people — Canada's third largest. Yet, culturally, many people here hang on to the idea of cowboys and western culture. The Calgary Stampede, the world's biggest rodeo, is held here. But, like most of Canada, few here follow Christ. Calgary is a mission field. James and Jen are in northwestern Calgary, where they have planted The Vine Church.

Both James and Jen are of Korean background, so they understand what it's like to move to a new nation as so many have done in Canada. Our missionaries have been able to share the Gospel with many immigrants and bring them into the church. Growth prospects for The Vine Church look good.

Let's ask God's blessings on James and Jen, so they can help many come to Christ.

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Rick & Kelly Martinez

📍 American Peoples • November 26, 2023

Traumatic experiences are part of the context for many missionaries, pastors and leaders who currently work with people who have been affected by some type of tragedy. Rick and Kelly Martínez, International Mission Board missionaries, who lead the Gateway team in Mexico City, are witnesses to this reality.

They prayed fervently, asking God for an effective way to minister to the churches and families in their convention who were experiencing suffering and trauma due to the loss of relatives or close associates during the pandemic.

It was at this time that the idea of implementing New Hope arose. New Hope, translated into Spanish as “Nueva Esperanza,” is an initiative created by a group of church planters, counselors, and oral communicators with the goal of bringing healing to those who have gone through some type of traumatic experience.

New Hope's ministry aims to address this trauma by studying God's Word in groups of four to six who meet weekly for a total of seven sessions.

Our church supports Rick and Kelly through our support of the Cooperative Program. Let's pray for them and their ministry today.



Ben & Christy Prater

📍 Israel • December 3, 2023

Today, let's pray for two of our missionaries serving in Israel. We'll call them Ben and Christy. One day, they went into a small coffee shop in Jerusalem, mostly to talk about the news Christy had just gotten — her mother back in the States was dying. Despite her grief, she and Ben also talked with José, the Hispanic man running the shop. He and his wife, Juanita, are Hispanic Jews who had settled in Jerusalem. That coffee time led Ben and Christy to become friends with José and Juanita. Ben and Christy spoke often of their faith in Jesus and shared Bible stories. When Christy's Mom died, she and Ben went to States for the funeral. They soon returned to the coffee shop to talk.

José saw their Christian faith in action. He told them, "I want the peace you have! I believe Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for my sins and rose again!" José and his wife went through many changes, but later Juanita also became a follower of Christ. Over time, their son and others in the family also came to faith in Christ.

Our church supports Ben and Christy through our Cooperative Program giving. It is great that, even in a time of grief, they were able to share their faith! Let's pray for them now.



Lena Eckhart

📍 South Asia • December 10, 2023

Today, in our missions prayer time, let's start with a question: Can art help people find Jesus? The answer is yes! Let's pray today for one of our missionaries in South Asia. We'll call her Lena. That's not her real name because she is in a place where the Christian faith is strongly opposed. Our church supports her through the Cooperative Program.

Now back to the art question. Lena goes into public areas with her supply of henna, a dark plant dye that can temporarily look like a tattoo on the skin. In South Asia, women often get henna designs on their hands for weddings or other special times. Lena offers to paint designs on the hands of women with the henna. The design illustrated a Bible story, which Lena shares as she works. After a few Bible stories, the henna was forgotten. The women began responding to the truth; baptisms followed.

Some of the women endured beatings and harassment from their families for becoming followers of Jesus. But they stayed with their Savior.

One woman had her arm broken when her Muslim husband and brother beat her up. But she chose to be baptized anyway. Lena was threatened more than once. But she is still there. Let's pray for Lena's protection. Let's pray for these new Christians risking their lives to follow Jesus.



Carlton & Cornelia Walker

📍 Japan • December 17, 2023

Today in our prayer time, we're going direct our focus to Japan and the trainline there. First, we must understand that Japan has been slow to respond to the Gospel. The Christian faith has grown in most other parts of Asia, but in Japan, not so much. The first need is prayer. But how can Christians be enlisted to pray for Japan, or its huge capital, Tokyo? Answer: A 50 mph prayer meeting!

Carlton and Cornelia Walker, our missionaries in Tokyo, encourage visiting volunteers and online participants via Zoom (prayyamanote.com) to ride with them on the JR Yamanote Line, a train that makes a loop around the city and 30 stops in a little more than an hour. A prayer guide explains needs in the neighborhoods, so prayers can be very specific.

Through the Cooperative Program, our church supports Carlton and Cornelia and other missionaries as they work hard to share Jesus with the Japanese people. Let's pray for the Walkers — and that many thousands of Christians will pray for the salvation of Japan, starting with the capital city, Tokyo.



Daniel & Grace Kim

📍 Zambia • December 24, 2023

Let's pray today for Daniel and Grace Kim, two of our missionaries who serve in Zambia, a country in south central Africa. Daniel and Grace were born in South Korea, but spent many years in the United States before they were called to become Southern Baptist missionaries in 2000. That means our church helps support their ministry as we give through the Cooperative Program.

South Korea and Zambia seem quite different, but Daniel and Grace noticed that people from the two countries are alike in some ways. For example, rather than just asking how someone is, Koreans will ask if they slept well or woke up well. Zambians have a similar tradition. Daniel and Grace focus their ministry on the 63 churches that make up Copperbelt Baptist Association — making them stronger and improving their understanding of the Bible.

To multiply their impact, Daniel and Grace have also called in volunteers from South Korea, who were financed by their home churches and the Korean Foreign Mission Board to work for a year. The volunteers also worked with students at Copperbelt University. Daniel and Grace continually emphasize solid Bible teaching and doctrine, because false doctrine is common in Zambian churches.

Let's pray for Daniel and Grace as they work to strengthen the churches for ministry and outreach.

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Stan Meador

📍 Brazil • December 31, 2023

Let's head way south in our prayer time today — let's go to Brazil. That's where our missionary, Stan Meador, serves and we want to pray for him today. Our church supports him through our Cooperative Program giving. COVID-19 hit Brazil as it did much of the world. Stan had to stop visiting the church leaders he had been teaching. For months, he and his wife were stuck back in the United States.

But he didn't stop teaching. He switched to message apps and texted lessons, questions and answers to and from students. Marta was one of those students. She was very nervous about studying the Bible on her own. As a former Catholic, she thought she needed a priest — or Stan — to correct her mistakes. But the computer study led Marta to realize she could study the Bible on her own. She saw that what she learned, she should share. She began sharing her lessons with Lucas, her husband, who was not a believer. At first, he listened just to be polite. But his eyes were opened and he, too, began to study the Bible on his own.

One night, he prayed to receive Christ into his life as Savior. When Stan and his wife returned to Brazil, six new believers were ready for baptism. And Lucas was one of those six. Let's pray now for Stan and those new Christians — and ask that many more will find Jesus.