

MISSIONARY PRAYER REQUESTS

MOST RECENT UPDATE by KRW: 09/16/25

Here is a link for our extended family, the Evangelical Friends Missionaries, that are supported in partnership through the EFC-ER Great Commission Budgets. <https://friendsmission.com/pray/>

Below is a list of **OUR** First Friends monthly supported missionaries that we as a church strategically partner within Canton, Ohio and globally. This list will be updated as the new request comes in. Please pray for our missionaries if there are current requests or not.

PRAYER REQUESTS	PRAISES
<p><u>Mark and Sandy Acell – People International (CO)</u> July 26, 2025 For spiritual opportunities for both Mark and Sandy on the Friday morning English learning Zoom calls. Please also pray the same for Mark's WhatsApp meetings, mostly with Afghans in Afghanistan.</p> <p>For Abdul Wahab to come to faith in Jesus. He lives in Pakistan and just turned 30. He is a voracious learner about the relationship between history, general politics, and spiritual things. He and Mark have really connected and enjoy each other's company.</p> <p>For their financial support to increase by \$287 per month. This is important as the amount of their health care costs have recently increased. Already they have dropped one of Mark's asthma medications due to its high cost, as there are no supplemental insurance programs that are willing to cover it.</p> <p>ACELL'S NEW ADDRESS IS: 8201 S. Santa Fe Drive, Lot #66, Littleton, CO 80120</p> <p>Their cell phone numbers remain the same. Mark: 330-354-2284 Sandy: 330-354-8047</p>	<p>Heidi and Nati are married! Heidi has married into a wonderful godly family. As a matter of fact, Daweet, Nati's dad, and his sister are both students at Denver Seminary. They still enjoy their ethnic background. Daweet and Elizabeth were born in Ethiopia, while Nati was born here in Denver.</p> <p>M & S's friends Tim (American) & Lily (Taiwanese) who bought their Ohio house, have been able to temporarily move into the house. Things are slowly working out with the US government for their long-term plans to split their retirement, each year, between Taiwan where Lily's family lives, and where they planted a church from scratch, and the Canton area where Tim grew up, and still has two brothers there.</p> <p>Mark's long-term fatigue is noticeably better now that God has led him to four new supplements that are helping significantly. If you'd like to know what they are, just text them. They could go into the details of the permanent cellular damage Mark experienced back in 1995 in Turkey, but they don't want to bore you! Mark is certainly a much more "happy camper" now!</p>
<p><u>Jacob and Jaya Beera – Hope Ministries Int'l (India)</u> September 1, 2025 Jacob wrote in the December 2024 newsletter about plans to construct a clinic building in a tribal village in India. God provided some finances to start the construction. They had brought in fill-dirt and leveled the site last year. When J & J returned to India in March 2025, he found an experienced contractor to continue construction, and they drilled a bore well for water. Paperwork and permits took more than a month before construction began. Unexpected rainfalls caused another month of delays. Finally, they purchased construction materials such as steel, gravel, and cement to begin the work. By God's grace, they were able to start, but more rains slowed progress. Despite these hurdles, they have finished pouring a concrete slab roof. Praise the Lord! They hope to finish the ground floor by the end of 2025. Estimated cost is an additional \$200,000 to complete the two-story building. Please pray for this project and help them complete the construction.</p>	<p>The children in India were very excited about attending VBS at Hope Church in Mori. Stacy Beera came home for summer holidays and organized her friends to conduct the VBS. She gathered her girlfriends from different locations, jobs, and schools, and they put their heads together to develop a plan and syllabus. Jesse Beera organized his friends to handle tasks such as printing pamphlets, distributing them to the churches, and purchasing all the groceries needed to feed those attending breakfast and lunch. VBS classes were from 9am-4pm. Children came in vans, three-wheelers, motorbikes, and cycles. There were adult volunteers to keep the children safe while crossing the road, supply drinking water, and serve food. Quite a few parents brought their</p>

Many Christian children's homes, schools, and organizations in India have been forced to close their doors due to mounting pressure and many more are at risk. The situation has escalated to alarming levels, with Hindu extremists forming mobs of 70 to 100 or > to attack Christians and Christian institutions.

Numerous Christian schools have faced violent assaults, with staff members being manhandled during these attacks. J. Beera High School and College of Education has received threats and warnings, indicating that they may be next in line for such aggression. Thankfully, they have not yet experienced any direct incidents, but the atmosphere remains tense. Despite the adversities, they remain steadfast in their mission. They are currently feeding, sheltering, and educating 150 children across 3 children's homes. Pray that the Lord will soften the hearts and open the eyes of those who are persecuting Christians. It is J's hope that they may find Jesus and experience transformation in their lives. Pray for the restoration of freedom in India, allowing individuals to worship as they choose without fear of retribution.

Hindu extremists consider themselves superior to Christians and Muslims. But it doesn't stop there. They are filled with rage and hatred, attacking churches and mosques with sticks and stones. Some states have enacted laws prohibiting Christians from carrying Bibles in the streets, even without proclaiming Jesus. Carrying a Bible is now a punishable offense, even punishable by jail. Hindu extremists are taking the law into their own hands to stop Christians from proclaiming the Gospel, even from praying in their own homes. They come in mobs to Christian prayer groups, armed with sticks and stones, beating and even killing them. Many pastors have been killed, and churches are being torn down. When Christians go to the High Court to file a petition, their petitions are often not accepted. The police refuse to protect the victims or arrest the attackers; in some cases, they even support the attackers. Victims have no one to protect them unless they go to the Supreme Court. One MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) publicly encouraged people to attack Christians. He said that if they kill a pastor or priest, he would pay a ransom of 11 lakh (a lakh is one hundred thousand) rupees, which is approximately \$14,000. So far, no police or officials have taken action against this MLA. If a Christian or Muslim says such a thing, they are immediately arrested. There is little justice for Christians in India. →**

[Abe and Diane Bible – Ukraine](#)

September 16, 2025

A & D spent several days with Daniel and Priscilla in early September (son-in-law and daughter) and it was a great time being together. But we see that they are both very tired. They are dealing with refugees and soldiers all the time. And the war drags on. They have taken a few days the week of 9/15 to refresh. But just pray the Lord would undertake for them in all their responsibilities.

A & D bought two new laptops while they were in the States. Abe's was risky so they needed to replace it. They decided they

children and stayed with them all day. They enjoyed watching their children learn Bible stories and verses, sing, and praise God. Stacy and her friends wore uniforms and were very enthusiastic about teaching the children. When they sang action songs, the children participated with smiling faces and joyful hearts. There was jubilation, and the church resounded with praise and joyful noise. Traffic on the road stopped to watch and listen. The three days went by quickly and ended with the children receiving certificates for their participation, as well as snacks and gifts. God was glorified!

Jesse has just entered his final year of his MBA program, and he's doing well. He's still heavily involved with the ministry, managing things at the church, keeping the books, and running errands to the bank. It's quite a job! It often takes all day just to handle a few transactions.

Stacy has just started her third year in medical school. She has one more year of classes and then two years of internship. She's studying hard; keep her in your prayers for perseverance, safety and good health.

**There is some good news though. The more Christians are persecuted, the more Hindus and Muslims are turning to Christ (by the hundreds) not only in India but around the world. They are not only accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior but also sharing their conversion stories on YouTube with millions of people. India needs your prayers.

A beautiful thing happened while they were in the US for the summer: Ivanka, who was staying in A & D's home with her husband while A & D were traveling, wrote and said that the deck was falling apart. You could say "again" as Abe had patched and painted and repaired many times through the years since he built it. Ivanka said someone had offered materials (a kind of plastic, very durable deck boards) at cost and her husband was willing to build it from. So, when A & D returned, there was a beautiful deck that is basically maintenance free for years to come! The issue is, even though they sit on

<p>would just get two of them. They knew that it would entail a lot of adjustments and tweaking. But...the goal is that they will serve them at least for 5 years, if not longer, and because they are identical it will be easier for D, or whoever needs to troubleshoot. Pray that the Lord will give D wisdom to work through all the details that will make it easier later on. There are still a lot of little glitches that she needs to smooth out. And pray that she will keep a good attitude about it!!! LOL</p>	<p>the deck, etc., it is also the pathway to their little warehouse and so it gets a lot of traffic. That is why it was not optional to do nothing about it. And otherwise Abe would have had a big job to return to when they got back because the wood was rotting. Yes, it cost some money, but it all happened with little trouble to A & D and will be enjoyed for years!</p>
<p><u>David and Susan Broadwell – Cru: Unto</u> September 1, 2025</p> <p>For Dave's upcoming trip to Mali and Burkina Faso. Pray for safe flights and extra legroom. Sometimes it is a challenge fitting his 6'5" frame into the airline seats. He will be enroute for 24+ hours each way. Pray that he could make great relational connections with the in-country staff. Ask the Lord to deepen good friendships on top of a good working relationship. Pray for wisdom as they make plans for the future - this could involve drilling water wells, providing humanitarian aid or other ways of ministering to the people in these nations.</p> <p>For Susan who is helping Cru's Global Operations Team as an Executive Assistant while they have a vacancy. Pray she can learn their systems even though the role is for the short term.</p>	<p>The Cru Staff Conference took place in July in Milwaukee, WI, and they heard about their calling - first and foremost, to Jesus, and then their calling to all the world. They heard many stories of God being on the move on campuses and through churches all around the globe. There is a strong hunger for the Lord and it sure seems as if this is a significant time unlike any other, where God is making himself known. Within Cru and outside of Cru, they're hearing from surveys, reports, missiologists, churches, and other partnering organizations that this could very well be the generation that helps to fulfill the Great Commission! The conference was visionary, aligning, and a great time to connect with co-laborers.</p> <p>Following the Staff Conference, all 6 of them were able to take a family vacation. It was a special treat to be able to all be together in the same place at the same time. D & S treasure times like these, as they are now empty nesters! Samuel moved into his dorm at the University of Central Florida and has had a great start to his college career.</p>
<p><u>Grace and Peace Fellowship (Rumples) - Dom. Rep.</u></p>	
<p><u>Brian and Breanna Hayes – Young Life (W.Va.)</u></p>	
<p><u>Brian & Alyssa Holaday – Cru: Ohio State</u> September 12, 2025</p> <p>For Natalie, Madison, Jacob, Young, Chloe, Macy and Andrea (who surrendered their lives to Christ for the first time): that they would continue to meet with staff & student leaders, get connected to our community, and continue on the lifeline journey of discipleship to Jesus.</p> <p>For the upcoming 2nd annual Fall Kickoff outreach in partnership with Ohio State football players, local churches, and other campus ministries: that many Christian students would invite & host their non-Christian friends who, in turn, would encounter Jesus, respond in faith, and get connected with a Christian community.</p> <p>Praise testimony from Alyssa: This school year I have the privilege of discipling a senior student, Rebecca, who is in Alpha Gamma Delta and who co-leads a small group for Greek girls & North off-campus girls. Cru staff and students have been busy connecting with students from all over campus and</p>	<p>Natalie told us that she was having a really hard day mental health wise a few days prior, and after a really hard moment, she went on Instagram where she immediately saw a post for Cru at OSU. She clicked on the link and filled out a spiritual interest survey that I ended up receiving. Natalie told Rebecca and me that her dad was in the army so she moved a ton growing up. Natalie went to church here or there, but didn't go consistently. We had the opportunity to walk through the gospel with her and explain to her clearly how she can have a relationship with God through Jesus. She said she never put it together that Jesus is the one that bridges the gap to God—that we are separated from God, but because of Jesus' death & resurrection, we are forgiven of our sin and can have a relationship with God. She decided right then with Rebecca and me to pray to receive Christ and surrender her life to God! Praise God for this new life in Christ! God is already doing big things on campus this school year. We've received SO many spiritual interest surveys. 400 students came to our worship night outside on campus and 400 students came to our first Real Life (which was 70 more than our biggest one last year)! So many students are hungry for the</p>

<p>having them fill out spiritual interest surveys. We've been following up with those students who filled out surveys to meet up with them, share the gospel with them & connect them to small group Bible studies. Natalie, a junior transfer student, wasn't one of those who filled out the surveys in person, but she did fill one out online! She met up with both Rebecca and me on the first day of classes. Continued at right →</p>	<p>gospel, for a relationship with God, and for a community of brothers & sisters in Christ to do life with. Thank you for your partnership in ministry that is having an eternal impact on OSU students' lives! We can't wait to see how the Lord continues to work in their lives this year!</p>
<p>B H – Operation Mobilization (Middle East) September 11, 2025 Persecution</p> <p>There is a 19-year old guy in our community who has only recently come to faith in the Lord Jesus. He has been severely persecuted by his family and is now in hiding. We are praying for safety and wisdom, but also that his family's anger would decrease and there could be reconciliation between them. We need a miracle.</p> <p>New Team Leader</p> <p>The team I'm a part of has a new team leader, a German man with his wife. The role of a team leader is very important and we are praying that God gives them the wisdom and vision they need to lead us.</p> <p>Work needed</p> <p>Two of the guys in our community have been searching for jobs for months. It's been incredibly difficult financially for them. Please pray that God would not only provide work for them, but also give them trust in him during this challenging season.</p> <p>Growth for the guys in our house church</p> <p>It was great to see the house full of guys at our house church on Tuesday, who came to study God's word together. But more than numbers, we want to see those who have come to Christ growing in their faith. We want to see maturity and leadership. Please lift these guys up in your prayers and ask God to let the root go down deep.</p> <p>Wisdom</p> <p>I feel overwhelmed a lot of times. The needs are great, the struggles are real, and I often don't know what to do. Please pray that God gives me wisdom and humility. Pray that God gives me courage and strength as well.</p>	
<p>Josh and Abigail Jellel – Send International (Asia) June 2025</p> <p>J & A have been asking us to pray that the Lord would make it clear how to streamline Abigail's many responsibilities for the new (four-year) term. The Lord has answered! She was asked to serve in the Asia Assistant Regional Director position. This new role harnesses her last ten years of ministry and leadership experience in Asia and focuses it in new ways. In addition to generally assisting the Asia Regional Director with ministries and missionaries in the Asia region, she will be taking on the primary leadership of SEND's newest ministry areas in Asia—Vietnam and Indonesia.</p> <p>While the scope of her responsibilities will be changing slightly, most other things will not be changing. They still plan for Taiwan to be our home base in Asia, making for easy travel to the rest of the region for as much in-person time with people and ministries as possible. Thank you for praying for Abigail as she undertakes this new ministry role!</p> <p><u>They still need \$605/month and \$5500 in one-time gifts. In order to be released to focus on Abigail's new position they must reach 100% of these financial goals.</u></p>	<p>It was great to have a chance to spend two months in Asia in the middle of Home Service (furlough)! With Abigail getting ready to start her new leadership role, she had the opportunity to attend SEND Thailand's annual conference, and the privilege of presenting the tenure awards for missionaries who have been serving for 5, 10, and 15 years. She also was also able to join some other SEND Asia women, as well as missionaries from other organizations, for a time of rest and encouragement at a missionary retreat in Danang, Vietnam. From there, they renewed their resident visas and caught up with coworkers in Taiwan (always great to be home!). And finally, Abigail attended two different trainings in Manila, Philippines for her new leadership role. It was a great chance to spend time learning with new leaders from other SEND's other geographical regions, as well as two days focused specifically on training for Asia regional leadership.</p>

<p><u>Ken & Kathy Keyes – Wycliffe (headquarters in TX)</u> September 5, 2025</p> <p>On September 2, Ken had a PSA PET scan to see if it would show cancer in his brain. It did. Ken's neuro-oncologist, Dr. Youssef, outlined several options for treatment that would be good on their own or even stronger if combined. After much prayer and consideration, Ken has decided to follow what might be the most aggressive regime. It'll be a combination of a "trial" but proven effective medicine Balversa, chemotherapy, and radiation. The doctors are now working on the insurance protocols and timing of Ken's treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pray for Ken's stamina, encouragement, and health. - Pray for Kathy's stamina and patience. - Pray for them to remain strong in faith in God's good care/love. 	<p>In Seattle (in August), Ken enjoyed renewing ties with high school friends at his class' 45th reunion. He and Kathy were both happy to see family, explore Tacoma a bit, and have some vacation days at the Oregon coast. While on the coast Ken connected with the language champion for the Qinault Nation of Washington state. It was a short, but relaxing visit. .</p>
<p><u>M and V K – Asia and stateside</u> September 15, 2025</p> <p>M and V's daughter, B, has on-going trouble with her wrist (the one she broke two years ago). This puts her in and out of therapy. She recently started seeing another doctor, so pray that they can make progress. They now have two grandchildren who are "teenagers" as CJ turned 13 in June, while Christy turned 14 last December. Caroline, the youngest, was very excited to turn 8 in July. Continue to pray for all 3 of them.</p> <p>Other prayer requests by date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealing with endless backlog of email • Sep 27-28: IFM* weekend trip to St Matthews SC • Sep 28: M preaches at C4 (their home church) • Oct 4-6: With M's Mom in Newnan GA • Oct 10-12: C4 Missions Conference • Oct 12: M leads worship at C4 • Oct 13: Word Weavers • Oct 26: M preaches at C4 (their home church) • Nov 1: JH** Global Zoom (tentative) • And of course, all of their weekly responsibilities, and the many projects pushed aside to write the September prayer-letter! 	<p>*IFM = International Friendship Ministries **JH = this is the foundation (in Hong Kong) for which M serves as International Partnership Director, touching associates all throughout Asia and other places in the world</p> <p>While in Ohio in July, V shared a testimony at Faith United in North Canton (where M grew up), and M brought the Sunday message at Champion Presbyterian in Warren. They were deeply impressed by Dr. Darell E. Hall, plenary speaker at EFC-ER's Yearly Meeting in Canton. (They later visited Dr. Hall's church in Atlanta.) Stan & Cheryl Terhune brought friends together to talk about M & V's ministry.</p> <p>In April, M created a special display celebrating "30 years of the Columbia International Festival." This year, they had extra help from the Chinese Youth Association, as well as many volunteers such as their two teenage grandchildren. Many key volunteers have been serving for decades, <i>so pray for younger people to step up and keep this important festival going.</i></p>
<p><u>Sue - Asia</u> August 21, 2025</p> <p>Sue and team give praise for the five teenagers baptized after a week at the local church learning about Jesus through the youth Alpha course. They came from the mountains to our city. The father, Asher's older brother, immediately began a home Bible study with them when they returned home. Their goal is to instill in them a love for God and His Word, and impact their community through home groups. Please pray that these families will begin to lead their children and family members.</p> <p>There will be more news next month about their time in the mountains, the past two weeks. It really was a breakthrough time in the midst of increased persecution.</p>	<p>This "camp" video is worth the 5 minutes it takes to watch it! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2Jlj5ogQIQ</p> <p>"A little camper, Lin, was presented with the 'camper of the day' award, which may seem like a small thing but to this family it was a huge blessing. As a young person with special needs, she had never been publicly celebrated for her actions. Her family brought her to our city for the camp, even though they live quite far away. The parents were very encouraged by her time with our coaches and other campers. Our students who attend our weekly classes are especially intentional to include and encourage each teammate. Kudos to our young people.</p> <p>Thank you for praying for and supporting our camps, as we were able to give scholarships to many students. This is a very uncommon practice</p>

	<p>here, but we are blessed to be able to embrace so many families in the community. Over the past three weeks we had three camps with 118 kids participating, and as you can tell from the video we have an amazing group of coaches!”</p>
<p><u>Lighthouse Ministries – Canton, OH</u></p>	
<p><u>Greg Linville – CSRM</u> August 25, 2025 From the directors in Madagascar, N’jaka & Domoina Rasamoelina, who visited FFC in summer 2024. See background info at right → <i>Updates on the progress of house construction. We praise God for the progress: All things went as expected according to what was written before the cyclones, but during (February and March 2025) and after the cyclones all prices of materials were going high, because the price of gas is going high also. The value of our currency decreased as well. So, we tried to make things happen with the available funds by saving every single penny in comparing prices and reducing the budget for family foods even if kids are working hard at school. Seraiah has been playing basketball league and needs a good diet; the other kids too need that; they understand the situation. They expect to have their own room upstairs when it's finished, but it won't happen without additional funds.</i> <i>With the funds of \$15,000, we have decided to make the roof with concrete slab instead of the normal roof, because it's safer and further from the electric cables. This means we used the funds to move the cables to make the slab. The second reason is that we know that the electric company will replace all wooden poles with concrete poles which are higher than the house height, so we have to wait for it. And we would be able to raise one floor in the future to host more guests and new homeless disciples. We are ashamed of asking for money often. As we estimated, we still need \$10,000 to finish it. This fund is for the interior crimping, doors and windows, tiles for the ground, toilets and bathrooms kits so that the kids may move upstairs.</i> PRAYER REQUESTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For continued favor and wisdom in copywriting and virtual assistant work, which helps support our family. 2. That our stepchildren continue to thrive—spiritually, emotionally, academically, and physically—in their homeschooling and basketball journey. 3. For the growth and provision of our family farming, especially the need for bio food and sustainability. 4. Funds to finish the house. We are still building our home, a dream project that continues little by little as the Lord provides. 	<p>N’jaka & Domoina give everything they have for the sake of the gospel, and their home is the base for their work, always a bustle of activity. Regularly they have between 12-15 people living in their house and many more coming through every day, even as unfinished as it is. Among other things, N’jaka, a former national team basketball player, is the chaplain for the military, church leader, church planter, and sports ministry trainer. Domoina is the ‘home manager’ who keeps everything running, literally, as she manages a house full of people and property where they raise chickens, goats, and pets. Together they also regularly counsel multiple couples to help them grow together in their marriages. They recently wrote: ‘We do not separate our family and our ministry.’ Indeed their family and ministry are intertwined as they give and serve selflessly with all that they have. Madagascar is a very underdeveloped country, with much poverty. N’jaka and Domoina’s house (family) is a lighthouse for Jesus in their neighborhood and community, and we highly recommend them to you!</p> <p><u>https://csrm.app.neoncrm.com/forms/international-donation-form</u></p>
<p><u>Cindy Mandrell – YWAM: Safe Harbor</u> From Melissa Brown: Summer is winding down and our school year is getting ready to start. It's crazy to think that Safe Harbor is entering a second year of schooling. Time is flying by!</p>	

<p>We create an individualized education plan for each girl. Last year, we were able to help a girl complete two years of schooling in one year! As we approach the new school year, please pray for our teaching staff, the volunteers who are committed to coming in throughout the year, and for the girls as they work toward earning their diplomas.</p>	
<p><u>Shareen Orchard – GFA (headquarters in Texas)</u></p>	
<p><u>Pregnancy & Parenting Center – Canton, Massillon</u> August 25, 2025 -September 15 is the date of the 20th Annual Abner Yoder Memorial Links Fore Life Invitational. Golfers will start with a buffet breakfast then hit the links for a great day full of fellowship, fun, and prizes at the beautiful Glenmoor Country Club. Afterward they will enjoy a delicious buffet lunch, and the winning foursomes will be named. It's rumored that a special competition will be offered to commemorate the 20th anniversary. A few general sponsorships are still available. Hole signs can be had for only \$300. Contact Chad Salle at 330.904.6694 or <u>csalle@tpapc.com</u> for more information. -For the opening of Unit 4 on Cleveland Ave: that it becomes a place of love, joy, learning, and knowing our Lord. More → -For Pam Princehorn and Maddie Bethel as they take on exciting new paths at TPPC. (Special Projects Director; Part-time Church Relations Manager, respectively) -For the Eva team as it's been very heavy for them of late. Knowing a life may hang in the balance with their work is daunting.</p>	<p>About Unit 4: Last September TPPC's Client Services ministry opened a site on Cleveland Ave beside their Eva clinic. Now nearly one year in, the Lord told them it's time to bring full service to that location. They've taken the next space, Unit 4, to build a classroom and a small boutique.</p> <p>Praise: -For YOU who provide your time, talent and treasure to make our work possible. We are so blessed to do what we GET to do in the name of Jesus.</p> <p>-For our Board, volunteers, churches and staff who give so generously of themselves to do the work of our Lord.</p>