MISSIONARY PRAYER REQUESTS

MOST RECENT UPDATE by KRW: 11/24/25

Here is a link for our extended family, the Evangelical Friends Missionaries, that are supported in partnership though 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

Mark and Sandy Acell – People International (CO) October 23, 2025

for spiritual opportunities to share the Good News - for both Mark and Sandy on the Friday morning English learning Zoom calls. Pray the same for Mark's WhatsApp meetings, mostly with Afghans in Afghanistan.

For Qasim R to come to faith in Jesus. Just this last week Mark was able to have a great conversation with him. He is a high school guy in Afghanistan. They connected through their interest in cars — especially Dodge Challengers — Mark's favorite car! Qasim was checking with Mark about the truthfulness of what he was learning in school. They talked about the formation of the English Bible and the Protestant Reformation of Martin Luther. Pray that Qasim will take the time to read the link Mark sent him about Martin Luther, explaining salvation by faith in Jesus, rather than good works.

https://www.bibleanalysis.org/who-was-martin-luther-and-what-was-his-significance-in-the-history-of-christianity/

ACELL'S ADDRESS IS: 8201 S. Santa Fe Drive, Lot #66,

Littleton, CO 80120; Mark: 330-354-2284

Sandy: 330-354-8047

<u>Jacob and Jaya Beera – Hope Ministries Int'l (India)</u> September 1, 2025

Please pray for the medical clinic project and help them complete the construction. Estimated cost is an additional \$200,000 to complete the two-story building.

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

PRAISES

REJOICE! Kelsey and Dr. Taylor Lynch were married on September 19th!

M & S have never been to such an amazing wedding event - as it was four days long. It was way up in the Colorado mountains at a retreat center in a rural area near Aspen. Thankfully Kelsey and Taylor could afford to pay for it from their savings. Thursday was the rehearsal. Friday was the wedding, a reception dinner outdoors, in long rows of tables to seat the 100 guests plus a wandering sax player hooked up to a wireless mic. Saturday there were field games, a hike, and Western Line Dancing after dinner. Then on Sunday there was a brunch before everyone returned home. M & S are happy that both girls are married and living near them. What a whirlwind summer it has been! Taylor is a great guy! He grew up in Breckenridge, CO, up in the mountains where his parents still live. It amazes M & S that when they were skiing, back in the 80's as students at Denver Seminary, they skied at the Breckenridge ski area, just down the road from where Taylor was to grow up.

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 children and stayed with them all day. They enjoyed watching their children learn Bible stories 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. →**

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.

Abe and Diane Bible - Ukraine

November 25, 2025

For Abe as he works and plans for the year of 2026. He always needs to be one step ahead on everything, discerning what the most pressing needs are for the leaders, how to guide them as they move forward.

For the Lord's ongoing protection on A & D and on all of these people who are seeking to minister, to evangelize, to build the Kingdom of God. Are we under attack? Yes, even if it is through "normal" things of life, like the aging of pipes in the ground. Or war issues like long daily power outages people all across Ukraine are enduring now. The list is endless. Satan would use anything and everything to discourage, to distract, to dishearten. Pray that all of them will keep the ETERNAL focus primary. They know Who their Hope is. They know Who their Peace is. And they know that their strength is in His Joy.

Yes, they do have heat again! No pictures of them sitting around a campfire trying to warm their hands! It took 3 men hours and hours of work over 4 days but finally it was all hooked up. And it seems to be running with no problems. A & D are grateful for a neighbor and a friend who were able to give it so much time!

When Abe was doing cleanup of their yard for the winter he went down into their little cellar and discovered that there was water all across the floor. Called the neighbor again! Fortunately he could find the problem, which was a city connection, out in the manhole on the street and turn off the water there. Then, another phone call to their young fix-it man. A couple hours later he came, and was able to fix it! Whew! Thank you Lord for your protection!

David and Susan Broadwell - Cru: Unto

October 22, 2025

On 10/25, Dave will travel to Kenya and Tanzania. While there, he will meet with the Cru National Team Leaders of each country and visit many ministry sites where Unto has projects in various states of completion. Northern Kenya is a predominantly Muslim region, and Dave is particularly excited to visit a church there where Unto recently installed a water catchment system. The water is captured and freely shared with those in the area. It is also used to irrigate a small farm used to provide much needed food. The message of Jesus is spoken about often as people from the surrounding area come to the church to collect water. Pray for safe travels for Dave. He'll be in a different hotel every night he is in Africa, so he has lots of traveling around to visit past and future ministry sites.

For Susan as she is heavily engaged in ministry in their community in Orlando. She is deeply connected at church and is reaching out to others at the gym, through a book club, and even by hosting a Bunco group at our home.

In November, Susan and Dave are taking their first trip away (just the two of them!) since before Hannah was born 27 years ago. Pray they have lots of fun and connect in a deep way.

Last week, Susan and Dave enjoyed hosting a friend who is the National Team Leader for Cru in Liberia. He was in the US for a conference and came to Orlando for several days to meet with various leaders in the ministry. D & S took him out to lunch with Samuel and Hannah at their favorite barbecue place. They were missing Naomi and Hannah's husband, Ben, but it was a great time introducing him to some of their family. He was able to share some stories with them of his time growing up in Liberia during the civil war and Ebola. The Lord has worked in a mighty way in his life - it was a privilege to have him with them.

FYI: Dave was scheduled to travel to Mali and Burkina Faso in late September. Shortly before his departure, the trip had to be canceled due to jihadist activity in the area. Unfortunately, in much of the world and especially in some of the more difficult countries in Africa, this is just part of the world they live in. Cru-Unto national staff remain safe and able to continue in ministry, moving forward with many humanitarian projects and the personal ministry that is generated as a result.

Brian & Alyssa Holaday - Cru: Ohio State

November 21, 2025

For their financial need: through their ministry partner team, B & A's monthly support is at a healthy level (i.e., one that enables them to be a stable presence on campus and to bless students without hesitation)! At the same time, their monthly support is insufficient to fully cover the cost of their family helping give leadership to the upcoming Chicago Summer Mission. Also, Alyssa recently had surgery and has another upcoming surgery to hopefully remedy the postpartum pelvic floor pain she has been dealing with since 2016, and although insurance has helped, they need some additional help covering the out-of-pocket costs of these procedures. (\$15,000 by 12/31/25)

Use this link to explore how to give to this need: https://give.cru.org/more-ways-to-give.html.

BH – Operation Mobilization (Middle East)

Through evangelism, discipleship, Bible study, worship, prayer, this semester staff and students have engaged in at least 589 gospel conversations (12 of which led to a student trusting Christ for the first time!), 353 students have gotten involved in small groups (including 147 freshman), and 41% of students have been actively engaged in evangelism and discipleship (including 122 student leaders). Also, their students have at least 219 ongoing relationships with non-Christians to whom they're consistently reaching out, and this semester, they've had at least 281 spiritual conversations with these non-Christians in their lives. B & A rejoice not in numbers in and of themselves, but in whom these numbers represent: students being transformed into lifelong, Christ-centered, multiplying disciples!

<u>Josh and Abigail Jellel – Send International (Asia)</u> October 13, 2025

Abigail has jumped into her new responsibilities as Assistant Asia Regional Director wholeheartedly. She has been in Taiwan working to bring some structure to SEND's newest ministry areas, Vietnam and Indonesia, as well as preparing the newest missionaries headed to serve throughout Asia. Please pray as she will accompany SEND's first missionary to Indonesia in October. She will also have the opportunity to meet with ministry partners on the ground in Indonesia to continue to learn of ways that SEND can build teams of people who bring the message of Jesus to those who are least likely to hear about Him.

The final stretch of Home Service (furlough) was full of fun and encouragement! They LOVED their first time at Mt. Zion Community Church and their second time in person with Stanwood Community Church. They are so blessed by all of their church and individual supporters!

It was a privilege to celebrate SEND's 80th anniversary and the new International Director, Jon Eckstein. They spent time looking back at all God has done in the last 80 years and looking to the

future of taking Jesus to the least-reached people in the world.

Ken & Kathy Keyes – Wycliffe (headquarters in TX) October 20, 2025

For God's provision for funding for the Balversa for the ongoing months. (See details below.)

That the remaining unreached will hear of God's saving love.

Details re: Ken's health and meds

So far Ken is doing great. He is fatigued, but not much more than prior to this second round of treatment. He's had 2 zaps of radiation and should get 3 more. He takes two chemo medicines orally. One he had before and will have a limited number of rounds of that with increasing dosages each round. The second medicine, BALVERSA, is approved for bladder cancer, but not brain cancer, yet. Dr. Youssef has had success using it with brain patients so he suggested it to K & K and they're trying it. He warned us it was expensive but was confident that the pharmaceutical company would help pay for it. It will be an ongoing treatment. The first month Balversa was a copay of \$5. Not bad! This month the story was different. The insurance paid part and the pharmaceutical kicked in some, but we still had a bill of \$4,900!!! Kathy learned the pharmaceutical kicks in 10K a year. We used that up these first two months! Kathy has been part of a Bible study by Jennifer Rothschild "Missing Pieces." One part was trusting God even when we don't understand and don't see a good way forward. So ok, here's a very good chance to put that into practice: K & K agreed to pay for the medicine so it could be shipped. They did have \$1800 set aside in their "HSA medical expenses account." And the rest got put onto the credit card (ouch)! In late February when they filed their taxes, Kathy was surprised to see they would get a HEFTY refund. They were really looking forward to that, but for some reason, the IRS held onto it and never did explain why! (continued at right \rightarrow *)

Family update: Peter left for Kazakhstan, the land of his birth in August. He's helping various groups there. It's been great and eye-opening for him. He's investigating options for future work and seeking God's guidance on going back fulltime as a ministry worker. He HAS a return home ticket for Christmas!

God provided **Max** with a fulltime landscaping job at Dallas Baptist University (DBU) which comes with FREE TUITION for his master's degree studies! He is living at home, thriving, and getting a good start on his undergraduate college debt.

* Kathy made phone calls, letters, and office visits and still nothing happened! That refund came to the bank the very day she charged the meds to their credit card! That will cover almost all of it! Praise God! She thought she could hear Him laughing as they saw how He had orchestrated all of this.

"Thank you for praying for us even when you may not know the specifics. Thank you for your love for us and for God. (While Ken was reading this letter over, I just got an email from Wycliffe explaining our insurance WILL fully cover the cost once we meet our out-of-pocket maximum for the year, which is probably in the next month!)

Wycliffe and other similar organizations are seeing amazing progress in Bible translation. Wycliffe's World Day of Prayer is coming November 11.

We're thrilled to be part of that work - and you should be, too. Keep up those prayers.

M and V K - Asia and stateside

*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

Sue - Asia November 1, 2025

The crackdown continues against Christians, which includes the prohibition of youth, teenagers, and children to be a part of any Christian meeting. They are, however, very much welcomed to the basketball court for camp and classes. Continue to pray for a revival amongst the families in the area which include parents leading their families in Bible reading and study.

Jesse and Betsie (the son and daughter of one of Sue's in-country teammates) are both in the local house church youth group now and they love it! Jesse is a part of the worship team, and Betsie also serves the very young ones on Sunday mornings. Due to the current climate, the youth are divided into four smaller groups, meeting in different places. Pray for them and many others to continue their passion for Jesus and serving others. Betsie just began discipleship classes and once done with that, will in turn disciple a younger person.

The second week of the trip to the mountains included an amazing basketball camp! Due to Asher's efforts and those of his coaches, the local authorities want to develop additional basketball opportunities and have formed the first U15 boys team which includes three people groups-- Lisu, Dai and Jingpo.

The new interns from the mountains are doing well. Benjamin has experienced the culture shock of new surroundings, city culture, different foods, missing home and friends. Team members Joy, Faith, and Jacklyn are doing an amazing job teaching them what to expect and how to overcome and be victorious in every situation. Pray for them to continue to lead well and have wisdom in these challenging days.

Lighthouse Ministries - Canton, OH

Greg Linville - CSRM

November 24, 2025

In Nagaland, many children and individuals with disabilities are still hidden behind closed doors due to social stigma. While social organizations and a few churches are making efforts, there remains a significant gap in creating real belonging and participation within the larger church community. To address this, a one-day sports ministry program with persons with disabilities is being organized in November 2025, in partnership with CSRM, to help break stigma, raise awareness, introduce *From Barriers to Belonging* by Dr. Vickie Byler (CSRM Executive Director) as a practical resource for churches, and inspire churches to include all abilities. *Participants: 100 individuals with disabilities, 200 leaders and parents (300+ total) Activities: Inclusive sports, testimonies, book distribution, medals, J316 ball giveaway, and refreshments.*

The Church has a unique and powerful role to embrace, include, and lead change. Many pastors and church leaders have family members with disabilities but lack a platform to act. We believe this is the need of the hour, and sports can be a powerful bridge to bring them into community.

LONG TERM VISION:

- -Equip and mobilize churches to build inclusive ministries
- -Train theological students and leaders
- -Use sports as a bridge to belonging and gospel impact

CSRM congratulates two students who have recently received the AGON institute's certification. Both completed the 8-course, 18 month, training and are now further equipped to personally engage in sports outreach models that are theologically sound and philosophically proven. They are now empowered to train future sports outreach ministers. R. R. is one of the newer Global Network Partners who serves in Bangladesh. R. R. is the founder of the Freedom Charitable Bangladesh Foundation (FCB Foundation). B. B. has been with CSRM for over 10 years and serves in South Africa. He is the founder of Kingdom Sports Ministry (KSM)

In the last month, four students from four different countries have received scholarships to the AGON Institute. These students will be trained in the Christo-centric theology, the biblically based philosophy and strategically relevant and efficiently effective methodologies that will equip them to mobilize local congregations the world over to be able to empower their church members to use sport, recreation and fitness to reach friends, neighbors, co-workers, fellow students and family members with the Gospel..

Shareen Orchard - GFA (headquarters in Texas)

<u>Pregnancy & Parenting Center – Canton, Massillon</u> November 4, 2025

For their reconstruction of Unit 4 at the Cleveland Ave Client Services office. They're taking Unit 4 (they already have 1, 2 and 3 that houses our Eva Women's Clinic and Client Services) to add a classroom and Baby Boutique to their operation there. It's all a part of going directly into the communities they serve.

For TPPC's presentation of their plan to return to Massillon with a client services office. That location with be serviced by their Eva mobile ultrasound once they return so they have medical services in Massillon, too.

For TPPC staff, especially the ones working at the State Rd.

Praise for the sponsors, golfers, and the TPPC team who worked the golf outing to make it a resounding success. Thanks also to Glenmoor Country Club for always taking such good care of TPPC.

A little of TPPC's history along with focusing on their programs and services was the content for a Channel 5 Spotlight5 that aired in October. Reporter Sara Carnes and her team filmed Kayla Atchison (CEO) and Paula Mastroianni (TPPC Executive Director) in one of the rooms in Client Services. It's not very often that Cleveland news comes south to showcase a non-profit. Thanks, team 5!

office in Cuyahoga Falls. They do battle with the enemy being two-doors down from the actual regional abortionist. Death abounds, but He makes them strong!

Nishe Rothschild - Guatemala

October 16, 2025

For her son, Matthew, that the Lord will protect his heart and provide his needs. Also, please pray that the Lord will send him good Christian friends his way. See praise point re: Matthew —

For her daughter, Gabrielle, that the Lord will give wisdom to the psychiatrist, and that Gabriella won't have to try many medications. She is in the middle of adjusting to her new medication as it takes time to fully take effect. The doctor's advice was that Gabriella should be home this semester while he adjusts. So, pray for guidance on what to do for next semester, as she will either stay and take online college classes or try going back to the States again.

For her support which is still very low. It is not an easy thing to keep on serving the Lord and yet struggle with finances. So, please pray that the Lord will raise more monthly supporters. The ministry and personal needs are great. For physical, spiritual, and emotional strength for Nishe.

For all of the new believers that they will grow and bear fruit.

Thank you very much to the ones who have made donations for Matthew's plane ticket and for Matthew's wisdom tooth surgery. It was a challenge to monitor Matthew for 10 days. His face swelled like a balloon, and he felt like it was the end of the world. Praise God, now he is back at Penn State University in his third year in Chemical Engineering.

For 13 years, we have been participating in Children's Day, which is celebrated on October 1. Nishe brings together eleven Mayan schools every year. Her ministry contributes cake, candy, and piñatas. The principals give her 40 minutes to share the gospel. Children, teenagers, parents, teachers, principals, and visitors hear it. Every year, the Lord touches the hearts of many people. This year, 148 hands were up receiving Jesus in their hearts. Because the people are from eleven different villages, Nishe can't start a discipleship program. So, she asks them to look for a church in their own village. Thank you to all monthly supporters who are a part of all this great work!