

# Prayer Calendar

A simple way to pray  
for our missionaries

Parkside Church Missions **December**

"The harvest is plentiful,  
but the laborers are few."  
Matthew 9:37 (ESV)



# Introduction

## “Pray also for us...”

So states the apostle Paul in Colossians 4:3 (ESV), acknowledging a somewhat stunning reality: though the Christians to whom he was writing were separated from him physically, they could nonetheless participate in his ministry! God’s people could *join* in God’s work of taking the gospel to those who hadn’t heard it simply by praying for their missionary pastor.

These realities are no less true today. As a church, Parkside has been blessed with the opportunity to support many missionaries scattered around the world, all of whom are seeking to share the Good News of Jesus with people who have yet to hear and believe it. Can we really help them, being thousands of miles and numerous time zones away? According to Paul, yes! The purpose of this missionary prayer calendar is to inform you of what is going on in certain parts of the world, and invite you to participate in the work through prayer.

The format is simple. Each day, you will find a missionary or organization that Parkside supports, along with one of their specific prayer requests. You’ll also find a different country of the world and how you can best be praying for the people there.

Our hope in arranging this is that you’ll know the privilege of participating in the work of the gospel, which as Paul also tells the Colossians, is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world. We trust that praying for the nations will increase our heart for the world, causing us to increasingly desire and work towards seeing unbelieving people of all nations become committed followers of Christ!



To see unbelieving people become  
committed followers of Jesus Christ.

# What You Can Do



## Pray

Utilize this booklet and enter into the work of our missionaries via prayer. You can also receive the daily prayer requests in your inbox by signing up for the daily devotional at [parksidechurch.com/subscribe](https://parksidechurch.com/subscribe).

Join us Sunday evenings for Missions Prayer Time, online or in-person from 5:00-5:45pm in Room A207. For an online invitation, email Cliff at [cjjbandrews@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cjjbandrews@sbcglobal.net).



## Learn

Increase your awareness of what God is doing among the nations by reading *Operation World* by Jason Mandryk. The prayer requests for different countries are excerpts from this book. You can pick up a copy in the bookstore.



## Give

Thanks to your generous giving, we were able to allocate \$2.4 million towards missions in 2020. As we look to the future, it seems there are even more opportunities for us to take the gospel to the world, and we are trusting Him for the capacity to do so.



## Go

Consider traveling to serve our missionaries or other partners by participating in a short-term mission trip. Watch the bulletin for details on upcoming trips.

# Parkside Church Missionaries



**E & J\***  
M, J  
*\*Names withheld for security purposes*



**Mark & Patti Bean**  
Andy, Emily, Eric, Ernie



**Wes & Nancy Collins**  
Elisa, Molly, Isaac



**Chris & Leanne Harrington**  
Mark, Lillia, Claire, Graham, Jude



**Andrew & Angie James**  
Nicole, Camille, Zack



**Kep & Debbie James**  
Heather, Katie, Andrew



**Mike & Joan Ross**  
Steve, Ben, Aaron

DEC

01

**Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay**

Please pray for God's guidance as they continue to look for a facility for their church. Please continue to pray for the young woman in their church who is struggling with severe depression. She continues to decline despite seeking multi-disciplinary help.

**Madagascar (Africa).** Population: 25,686,510 Believers: 11.5%. The old beliefs still prevail in many ways, despite the growth and spread of Christianity. Compromise with the old beliefs, veneration of ancestral spirits, and witchcraft is widespread among those who claim to be Christian. A Christian veneer often prevails, but many have little understanding of the biblical message of salvation. Revival as well as biblical teaching and leadership are urgently needed. Pray for a new move of the Holy Spirit to reawaken these churches.

DEC

02

**Mark & Patti Bean, Peru, United States**

Thank the Lord with them for the ways he has blessed their ministry and lives: Mark finished adapting a whole set of Bible studies for another Quechua language, this time for Huallaga Quechua. A second recording of the Old Testament is completed, this time for Huaylas Quechua. Like the Huamalies Quechua recording, it is also being prepared for distribution. And they are thankful for so many faithful friends who continue to encourage, pray, and supply their needs.

**Malawi (Africa).** Population: 20,536,979 Believers: 19.6%. The increasing activity of Islam is a significant issue in Malawi. Malawi has a great influx of funds via the Africa Muslim Agency. These extend Islam's influence through primary education, scholarships for tertiary students to go to Muslim nations, aid distribution, drilling wells, medical aid, mosque building, and many other means. Although the impact of these has thus far been quite limited, pray for awareness and training for the equipping of Christians to meet this challenge. Pray also for a persistent, loving witness to Muslims throughout Malawi.

DEC

03

**Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan**

Please pray for their friend's son. This little boy has a genetic blood disorder that required him to have a blood transplant before age five. He finished the chemotherapy and received the transplant in the middle of November. He needs to be in isolation for a month, remain in the hospital for four months, and then stay quarantined at home for a year. Pray for God's healing and care for this 4-year-old boy, that his body would accept the healthy blood and begin producing healthy blood quickly. Pray for his 7-year-old brother who cannot be with his mom and brother for this extended amount of time. Pray for God to give strength to their friend as she cares for her younger son and is away from her older son. Pray specifically that God would get the glory in their eyes and the Lord would draw this family to himself. Last year, God answered prayers to help the older brother speak. Pray that God also shows them his power and love at this time.

**Malaysia (Asia).** Population: 32,016,875 Believers: 4.3%. Religious freedom for all faiths is constitutionally guaranteed despite changes that threaten this. Pray especially that the Christian community may continue to possess the liberty to practice, profess, and propagate their faith amid the discrimination and intimidation arising from the process of Islamization currently occurring.

DEC

04

#### **Parkside Church Westside, United States**

This fall they have enjoyed getting to gather, learn, and grow together through a variety of groups and events. Many have enjoyed participating in community groups, a handful have been participating in a *Gentle & Lowly* book study, a group of women have been meeting together monthly for a time of encouragement, and children and student ministries continue to faithfully press on. As they look ahead to Christmas, they are excited about their annual Christmas Store that allows them to serve over 100 families in the community with stockings, gift cards, and Christmas presents. Please pray that families would encounter the gospel through this ministry and that some of them might even join them for a Christmas Eve service.

**Mali (Africa).** Population: 16,767,115 Believers: 0.7%. Islam in Mali tends to be moderate and uniquely West African. The large majority practice a tolerant brand of Islam that incorporates elements of African traditional religions and superstitious folk practices. Large amounts of aid from Libya and Saudi Arabia keep the population further tied to Islam. Pray for Muslims in Mali to have the opportunity to hear, read about and experience Jesus and the assurance of salvation he alone offers.

DEC

05

#### **Mike & Joan Ross, Mexico, United States**

Please pray for their team in Oaxaca, Mexico who were given notice that they have until January to relocate the MAF office at the airport. Praise God for good progress toward building. Pray for wisdom in planning, execution, and funding.

**Malta (Europe).** Population: 422,300 Believers: 1.3%. The most religious nation in Europe, Malta has deeply Catholic sensibilities. The majority regularly attend mass and over 80% feel that their religion is important to them. However, not many Maltese enjoy a personal walk with the living Lord Jesus. Pray that their strong religious tradition may serve as a door into and not a barrier against greater commitment to the Kingdom. **Martinique (Caribbean).** Population: 415,147 Believers: 6.1%. Many Christians come from dysfunctional or single-parent families and from a background of immorality and drug abuse. Pray for churches to be grounded in the Word, and for young people to be called into full-time service.

DEC

06

**Jon (& Ruthie), Ambassadors Football, United States**

During the first week of December, Jon will be traveling with a colleague and speaking to the faculty and students at the Anglican Theological College in Rwanda. Pray that the Holy Spirit speaks through the Word of God and Jon's messages so that glory goes to God and the work of his Kingdom expands. COVID-19 has impacted the program income significantly in 2020 and 2021. The needs of their missionaries around the world have been greater this year than previous years. Pray for God to provide what they need according to his will and his purposes for the mission in the coming year. Ruthie and Jon are grateful to Parkside for the prayers and support over the years.

**Mauritania (Africa).** Population: 4,091,379 Believers: 0.1%. All Mauritanian peoples remain essentially unreached, and the vast majority have yet to hear the good news of God's grace through faith in Jesus. Believers in Mauritania have at times been imprisoned, beaten for their faith, or have endured ostracism by family or tribe. Pray for godly indigenous leadership to develop. Pray for increasing freedom of religion, both socially and legally. Pray for seekers to encounter Jesus, and that any who follow him might be courageous in the faith. Also pray that God might minister to believers despite the lack of fellowship.

DEC

07

**Kep & Debbie James, Bolivia**

Pray for continuing gospel impact through Debbie's ministry as she teaches the Bible and disciples the women in La Paz, Christmas provides many opportunities for Kep and Debbie to make Christ known in Bolivia. Pray that much fruit will result from these opportunities this season.

**Mauritius (Africa).** Population: 1,369,990 Believers: 10.1%. This complex multi-ethnic and multi-religious society makes evangelism a challenge; pray for great wisdom and discernment among Christians. The Hinduization of government and culture, as well as strong ancestral and ethnic ties, make it difficult for Indians to become believers. However, large numbers of Hindus are coming to Jesus through the bold witness of evangelical churches.

DEC

08

**Parkside Church Green Campus, United States**

Please ask the Lord to work in their lives through the church's advent series and Christmas outreach on December 19. As they take a short break from some of the adult classes and groups, pray that they will focus their minds and hearts on the wonder of Jesus' incarnation and salvation. Lastly, ask God to grant safety and strength to a new missionary they are helping send to Dubai, UAE.

**Mayotte (Africa).** Population: 250,252 Believers: 0.1%. Pray for more laborers to be called to Mayotte for long-term ministry, especially Francophone Africans. Those already there do a great job in a difficult field. Pray for encouragement and unity and for an increase in their number and fruitfulness. **Federated States of Micronesia (Pacific).** Population: 117,533 Believers: 24.3%. Pray for Bible translation and distribution. Pray for the development of reading programs and oral resources based on Scripture that would dynamically impact the population.

DEC  
09

**Amy Cottle, OMF, Thailand**

December is a great time to introduce the gospel to Thai people through various Christmas activities. Many students are still studying online from their homes so there will be both online and in-person events. Please pray that the students will understand the gospel message, and many will be moved to know more about the Savior.

**Mexico (Latin America).** Population: 119,682,457 Believers: 8.3%. Foreign missionaries' roles have changed significantly. Their presence is still needed in facilitating Bible translations, mobilizing Mexicans for mission, children and youth work, theological education, and leadership development. The majority are US citizens, so they need sensitivity and tact in their cultural adaptation in order to overcome perceptions arising from their origin and wealth. Pray that their ministries may assist the Church to be what God desires.

DEC  
10

**Scranton Road Bible Church, United States**

They are thankful for God's provision for the Thanksgiving Box outreach and for their continued relationship with Parkside Church. Pray that people will be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ through their Christmas outreaches. Their monthly marriage seminars have been very timely for many. Pray for God's continued blessing on these marriages within their church body. Thank God for new leaders who will be teaching in their children and teen ministries and pray for encouragement for them as they serve. Pray for the raising up of 2-3 new, younger elders for training in the next six months. Praise God for another year of the Lord's blessing on the corner of Scranton and Clark in Cleveland.

**Moldova (Europe)** Population: 3,378,426 Believers: 3.7%. Evangelical Christians have multiplied greatly in spite of many challenges. Materially lacking, their spiritual vitality and determination yield much fruit. Pray that God might provide the Church's material needs—employment, buildings, discipleship materials, training resources. Praise God that unity among denominations is increasing.



DEC

11

**Johannes (& Mathapelo) Thaele, South Africa**

Johannes' heart is humbled as he witnesses growth in God's work—with young people committing to follow Jesus Christ, joining the church, and participating in the church choir. Their children's ministry is also growing.

Pray for spiritual growth for their youth and children. Their children are busy with their final exams for the year which are difficult for them. Pray that they will find strength in the Lord. Throughout December they will be distributing evangelism tracks in the streets of Bloemfontein. Pray for this outreach project to be successful as their desire is to see people come to the Lord. Johannes is thankful for our prayers.

**Monaco (Europe).** Population: 33,806 Believers: 1.2%. Monaco is culturally Catholic, but the real culture is one of materialistic hedonism. It is very difficult to foster interest in spiritual things in such an environment. Pray that many would see the ultimate emptiness of such a lifestyle and seek the fullness of life Christ offers.

**Montenegro (Europe).** Population: 631,002 Believers: <0.1%. The evangelical community is tiny but multiplying. Evangelical congregations, while only a handful, have a vision for sharing the gospel; pray for continued church growth. Pray for steadfast witness in the face of opposition, for unity among denominations, and for fruitful ministry.

DEC

12

**Wes & Nancy Collins, Guatemala, Peru, United States**

Several indigenous students from Venezuela studied linguistics and translation with the Collins. Now the desperate need for food, medicine, fuel, and Christian training there is very great. Pray for funding for

projects to reach the most basic of needs and that people would be encouraged by the response of Christians to this significant and dangerous problem. Over four million people have fled the country. Pray for Venezuelan churches as they struggle to feed their people both physically and spiritually.

**Mongolia (Asia).** Population: 3,002,051 Believers: 1.2%. Developing Mongolian church leaders is a strategic need and the key to strengthening the Church. Good training is central to this—most churches, especially rural ones, desperately need biblically astute leaders and teachers. Pray for the right models of leadership and appropriate support structures to develop, from high-level academic study to informal training of laity.

DEC

13

**Shoreline Church, United States**

Pray that their Christmas Eve service and other holiday outreach opportunities would be fruitful. They are thankful for Paul Woodhams' installation as their newest elder. Youth for Christ missionary Brian Walls

praises the Lord that over 250 students heard the gospel at their Cavs outreach in November. Please pray for them as they follow-up with students who made decisions for Christ.

**Montserrat (Caribbean).** Population: 6,441 Believers: 23.4%. The massive devastation caused by the volcanic eruptions in the late 1990s nearly destroyed Montserrat as a habitable island. It will never completely recover. Pray for a new start, with Christ placed at the center of island life rather than the nominal Christianity which largely prevailed in the past. **Nauru (Pacific).** Population: 10,812 Believers: 12.1%. Spiritual awareness grows as the economy shrinks. Materialism's decline is faith's gain. Church life is reawakening, and evangelical numbers are growing.

DEC  
14

### **E & J, North Africa**

Continue to pray for good interactions with their neighbors. Recently, they were compelled to join a family for tea when they took some plates of cookies and brownies over to their neighbors. They also had their first drop in guest! Hospitality is going to be a main way that they will get to interact with their new friends. Pray that they would grow in their understanding of what good hospitality means there and that they would practice it sacrificially. Pray also that they would walk in holiness and intimacy with God.

**Morocco (Africa).** Population: 36,784,700 Believers: <0.01%. Islam was introduced by invading Arab armies in the 7th Century. The once strong North African, and largely Berber, Church was erased. Pride in Morocco's glorious past as a center of Islamic civilization and learning and deeply rooted prejudice against Christianity remain barriers to the acceptance of the gospel. Only a small percentage of the population has been clearly presented with the gospel. Pray that this nation may become open for the good news.

DEC  
15

### **Truth For Life, United States**

Please pray that God will use the Bible-teaching resources offered by Truth For Life to draw many to himself. Pray that people will order books and USBs to study God's Word on their own and share God's Word with others so that unbelievers will come to saving faith in Jesus and believers will be built up and strengthened. Pray that God will soon bring the needed team members in digital communications and IT to Truth For Life to support the ministry's technology and move the ministry forward.

**Mozambique (Africa).** Population: 28,545,405 Believers: 11.1%. Training church leadership is an urgent priority, probably the most strategic spiritual issue in the country. As many as 80% of pastors/church leaders have little or no formal training, with a large number, possibly even the majority, functionally illiterate. Funds and facilities for formal theological training are lacking. Pray that the effective formation of biblically literate, godly leaders would match the ever-increasing needs of the church.

DEC

16

**Pastoral Assistants (PAs), Bolivia**

Pray for the Pastoral Assistant volunteers in Santa Cruz: Daniel Cabrera, Yorch Cronenbold, Miguel Ortiz, Paolo Paris, Rolando Ruiz, and Aldruin Tapia; and in La Paz: Jonathan Ascarraga, Gerson Calderon, Albaro Cruz, Roberto Garcia, Juan Lopez, Pando Melendez, Miguel Perez, Edwin Quisberth, Gabriel Rodriguez, Miguel Rueda, Freddy Soliz, and Luis Velasquez. Due to the pandemic, the PA program is on hold. Pray for the safety of these men and that God will use them to encourage others in their communities during this difficult time. Pray that the PA program will be able to resume soon.

**Myanmar (Asia).** Population: 55,496,711 Believers: 5.0%. The military regime seeks to destroy Christianity (which it calls “the C-virus”), yet faith keeps spreading. Christians are generally kept out of positions of power and influence. Churches are not given permission to register and are thereby considered illegal and subject to harassment. The expulsion of foreign Christian workers in 1966 left a young church to cope on its own with little mature leadership or infrastructure. Adversity, persecution, and isolation have helped shape a resilient, enduring faith. Pray for the continued growth of the church amid great suffering and repression.

DEC

17

**Health for Her Cleveland, United States**

The clinic is looking for an OB/GYN doctor (volunteer position) to sign off on ultrasounds starting in July. Pray for the right doctor to fill this need. Join them in praying that God would open more doors and draw more women and families to the clinic and ultimately to him. Pray for the ministry and staff to have wisdom and discernment as they walk with individuals and families through the crises they face. Also, pray for the health and protection of all their staff and for a successful Holiday Connections outreach with families.

**Namibia (Africa).** Population: 2,614,338 Believers: 12.2%. Pray for current and future pastors and leaders to be trained and formed to God’s standards. Pray also that the mainline training institutes would capture a love and respect for God’s Word.

DEC

18

**Indigenous Church Plant Training Ministry in Asia**

Pray for continued protection of students, church members, team members, and their families from COVID-19. Pray that the right people would be benefited with their efforts in helping the poor affected by COVID. Pray for protection of the task force as they distribute oxygen concentrators, food aid, and masks. Pray that youth and children will be impacted through their computer trainings and English language classes.

# The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth



## Our Focus in Global Missions

- Parkside Missionaries
- Regional Missions Agencies

AN



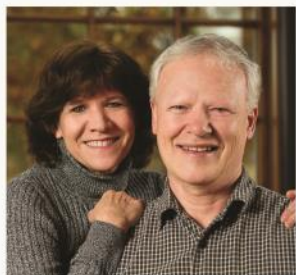
NORTH  
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OCEAN

ANTARCTICA

# SELECTIONS FROM THE JOURNAL OF KEP JAMES



Kep and Debbie have been in Bolivia planting churches and training church leaders across Latin America for 35 years. In addition, last October, they were asked to spend time with a ministry in North Africa that Parkside has been supporting. Kep recently visited the ministry training centers in Egypt, Morocco, and Senegal.

*Here are excerpts from his journal:*

**SEPTEMBER 27** I asked "S" (church leader in one of the closed countries of North Africa) to tell me how he came to faith in Christ. A missionary gave him a New Testament, and as he read, he became convinced. This happened in 2010 in an isolated Muslim context, but he soon found other believers, was baptized a year later, and joined a church of six members. His passion is to know Christ and to make Him known. Doing this in a country where to mention the name of Jesus is constitutionally illegal, makes daily life fraught with danger.

**SEPTEMBER 28** Spent the day teaching Romans to the students here in the city. What strikes me is how FEW biblical resources the believers have. Despite this, it seems that they are learning ABOUT the Bible but not studying the Bible. So, the time invested this week helping them study Romans has been met with gratitude and enthusiasm. They are making good observations in the text, and it gives me joy to see these students learning and living the central message of the Bible - Jesus and His gospel!!

**SEPTEMBER 29** What an amazing experience to be with North African brothers. Spent time early this morning with "S" praying and reading the Scriptures together before class. He shared from 1 Peter 1:18-19 where it says that Christ redeemed us not with silver and gold, but by His precious blood. Before, when he was a Muslim, there was nothing more precious to him than gold and comfort. Now that he knows Jesus, those things no longer satisfy. He has found the greatest treasure that is worth even the pain of persecution and rejection that he faces daily.

**OCTOBER 4** Had a long conversation tonight with "A," one of the students. (Traveled yesterday to a different North African country.) He spoke English, so I asked how he came to faith in Christ. He lived as a Rastafarian mooching off other people. In Bahrain, a young man talked with him about Jesus, gave him a Bible, and invited him to a Bible

study group. He read the Bible but was also impressed by the kindness he saw in this group of believers. He had never seen among any Muslim he had ever known, kindness and respect toward the poor. God used the Scriptures and the love of believers to draw him to Christ. "A" is thankful for these 10 months studying and growing as a Christian. —Lord, I pray that as we dig into Your Word tomorrow, You will show "A" that it is not enough just to learn about the Bible, but that he needs to be every day IN the Bible to learn it, to live it, so that he can teach it correctly to others. Help him to feed himself every day on Your Word, which is the basis of growth in Christ.

**OCTOBER 5** Progress going a little slower than I had hoped because this group has never done anything like this before. I have to repeat and give many examples from the Bible and from life, so they capture the idea. It is challenging doing this through a translator! I gave them homework for tomorrow to study Romans 1. I'll spend time with them tonight taking them step by step through this. Tomorrow, two of them will lead the Bible study discussion.

**OCTOBER 7** Good progress today. One of the students, "P," taught the Bible for the very first time ever and did a good job!! "E," the leader of the training center, told me that when "P" first came to the Training Center 10 months ago he was a new believer. Every time he would mention the name Jesus, he would immediately follow it by saying, "to Him be the praise." Every time! Because as a Muslim he had learned that's what you do when you speak the name of Mohammed or Allah. After days of this, the other students pulled him aside to explain, "You can just say 'Jesus,' and that is OK!!" It is amazing to see former Muslims following Jesus, thrilled to learn from Him and to make Him known! They are really starting to "get" why studying the Bible HAS to be the constant drumbeat of their lives.

**OCTOBER 8** Spent time last night with "E," the leader of the school, going over our new curriculum and the importance of building biblical/gospel-centered culture. I think he sees why we have made the curriculum changes and is on board with getting the students to study the Bible every day for themselves.

*We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord as an extension of Parkside Church in Africa (and still in Latin America!). Please pray for us that the Lord will use our effort to encourage the ministry as it seeks to strengthen the local church and plant churches throughout this region. Remember that when you pray, you are there with us!*

- KEP AND DEBBIE JAMES

**Nepal (Asia).** Population: 35,268,659 Believers: 2.8%. Freedom of religion is guaranteed by law, but only in limited measures. Non-Hindus cannot proselytize. If they do, they risk fines, imprisonment and, in the case of expatriates, expulsion. Despite this law, the Church in Nepal grows because of courageous evangelism. Pray for perseverance for believers, that neither laws of man nor threats of violence deter them from sharing the gospel.

DEC  
19

**Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan**

Chris and Leanne ask for prayer for wisdom in knowing how to care for the many kids who have stopped attending school and are shutting themselves in from society. They are seeing this more and more, even amongst their close friends and in their church. Japanese parents cannot force their children to attend school because of the history of severe bullying. Their church is praying about how they can minister to these kids and their concerned parents. The Christmas season brings many opportunities to talk about Christ. Pray that they, along with their teammates and Japanese Christian brothers and sisters, will be bold in sharing the reason for celebrating this season.

**Netherlands (Europe).** Population: 17,142,910 Believers: 4.3%. Christianity in the Netherlands seems to have hit rock bottom. Less than 20% attend church with any regularity—the lowest figure in centuries. Possibly 65% of Dutch claim no affiliation with a church. Half of the nation’s church buildings have been destroyed or converted for other purposes, such as bars and mosques. The Church has effectively withdrawn from engaging in the public sphere. But many think that hedonism and secular materialism’s emptiness are becoming apparent, and that church decline is slowing and even reversing. Pray for this opportunity to be seized by astute believers to regain momentum for church growth and spread the leaven of the Kingdom.

DEC  
20

**Fieldstone Counseling, United States**

Fieldstone Counseling is grateful for the support they received at the Fieldstone Forward fundraiser dinners. They ask for continued prayer for wisdom and perseverance for their counselors as they seek to offer the comfort of God to those who are hurting. Many hurts are specifically poignant around the holiday season. Pray for openness, comfort, and growth through the Holy Spirit for the counselees as they receive counseling. Pray specifically for the upcoming support group, ReStoried, which will serve women who have experienced abuse. Fieldstone is thankful for our prayers as they continue the mission of offering lasting hope to those experiencing life’s hardships.



**Netherlands Antilles (Caribbean).** Population: 209,708 Believers: 7.7%. The Papiamento Bible was published in 1997. Pray for impact on the majority of the population who use it. Pray also for literacy programs and more Christian literature in the language. Biblical literacy will go a great distance in discipling and renewing the Christian population. **New Caledonia (Pacific).** Population: 288,298 Believers: 7.0%. Most Kanaks are Christianized, and most villages have a church, but the gospel is often confused with Western culture. Animist practices usually underlie a Christian veneer. Pray for pastors to discern between tradition and the pure gospel, and that a truly biblical, truly Kanak church may continue to grow and demonstrate the power of Jesus over the evil one.

DEC

21

### **Indigenous Church Planting Organization in Arab & Muslims Countries**

Praise God for the new basic school which just began for children November 1 in South Sudan and for the new school in Turkey which began November 8 for refugees. Pray for funds to come in to purchase bicycles for the church planters in Sudan and South Sudan. Fifty bikes are needed! Pray for the work in Lebanon to grow and become a beacon of light for the suffering people of that country.

**New Zealand (Pacific).** Population: 4,669,002 Believers: 18.2%. The increasing presence of other religious and spiritual options presents a challenge for Christians. The influx of immigrants from other faith backgrounds is an opportunity for Kiwis to share the gospel cross-culturally. More pressing, though, is the permeation of society with New Age spirituality. Its individualistic, non-structural, nature-attuned character appeals to many who are disillusioned with Christianity. Pray for ways for the gospel to be shared in an engaging and relevant manner; Jesus is still attractive to many who are turned off by organized religion.

DEC

22

### **Emily (& Blake) Ackerson, Bridges International, United States**

From December 28-January 1, Bridges is hosting a conference in Baltimore, MD, for international students. With more than 1,000 international students already registered from dozens of countries (the largest it's ever been!), please pray for the Holy Spirit's work to draw the nations to Christ. Over Thanksgiving many international students in Houston were matched with host families. Pray for these relationships to grow and that the hosts will have opportunities to express Christ during the Christmas season. Emily and Blake are hoping to leave for Sydney sometime in the spring of 2022 and they are having a special Christmas celebration with Blake's family in Colorado. Pray for their hearts to be drawn toward Christ as they celebrate his coming and look forward to his return.

**Nicaragua (Latin America).** Population: 6,681,798 Believers: 29.8%. Young people have grown up in a country ravaged by war and disaster and distorted by political ideologies. Stable families are rare. Not many churches are equipped or committed to meet their needs, despite the fact that 75% of the population is under age 30. Pray that the parachurch youth organizations and evangelical universities there will have a redemptive and transforming impact on society.

DEC  
23

**Edgar (& Lety) Rivera and Neri (& Karina) Rivera, Mexico**

Pray that God would give Edgar wisdom in directing the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) work in Mexico. Pray for the three Equipping Servants (ESI) groups that Edgar is leading in Oaxaca. Please continue to pray for healing for Edgar's back. As Edgar and Lety's son, Juan and his wife, Amy prepare for missions, pray that God would confirm their call. Pray that Neri will have wisdom as he encourages several ESI groups through this time of social restriction. Pray that the church plant will continue to grow, and that God would provide funding for a building. Pray that God would continue to bring fruit as his Word is proclaimed in Oaxaca and Chiapas.

**Niger (Africa).** Population: 22,946,657 Believers: 0.1%. Many believers are isolated, often illiterate, and rarely have systematic Bible teaching available. Pray for literacy programs as well as oral methods of learning scriptural truths and becoming disciples. Pray for groups to form, even if only very small, for the sake of those who need fellowship with other Christians.

DEC  
24

**Bobby & Julie, United States**

Praise God with Bobby and Julie for many answered prayers regarding returning overseas. They were formally invited to join "Team Urban" in central Asia and have accepted. Some teammates have already landed, and others are preparing to head over. In the meantime, Bobby and Julie have begun to reconnect with their sending organization and take the necessary steps so that they can arrive in Asia by summer. They have been progressing in preparations to leave their home and sell their belongings. They have been delving into available information about the region and languages. Please pray that they will be led by God's Spirit as they prepare to leave family, friends, neighbors, and belongings and join the workers in Asia. Pray that God will use their departure to encourage other believers to share the hope they have in Jesus.

**Nigeria (Africa).** Population: 193,252,473 Believers: 30.8%. Christian leaders are under great stress in today's Nigeria, including spiritual opposition, political pressure, and financial temptations. Those in the north also face very real dangers from Muslim extremists. Pray for: a) Integrity and unity in leadership; b) The multiplication of leaders who are Spirit-led, well versed in the Scriptures, skilled in disciple-making, and steeped in the knowledge of God and the power of prayer; c) The hundreds of seminaries, colleges, Bible schools and training programs in Nigeria; d) Servant-leaders and mentors to be raised up.

DEC

25

**E & J, North Africa**

They are thankful that their teammate who was there by himself was able to finish what he needed to get done and return to his family.

Thanks for praying for him and for their teammates who were with them in Kansas. They made it to North Africa and God has provided a place for them to live. Please pray for them as they settle into a new home and new lives in North Africa. Pray also that God would give them favor with their neighbors.

**Norway (Europe).** Population: 5,200,079 Believers: 8.4%. Church planting is a real need in a society where church membership is high but actual belief and attendance are low. Even missions traditionally focused on foreign fields see the need on the home front. Between 1996 and 2005, more than 250 new congregations were planted. The challenge is two-fold: to disciple the many nominal Christians and to reach the increasing numbers of non-Christians in Norway. Pray for many new groups of committed believers to be formed.

DEC

26

**Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay**

Pray for the salvation of Hermes, Ezequiel, Claudia, Kevin, Diego, and other people God has brought into their lives. Pray for the young men they are training for Christian ministry—particularly for Markus, Álvaro, Eduardo, and Julio.

**Oman (Asia).** Population: 3,495,132 Believers: 0.8%. Pray for spiritual openness, that the gospel might have a powerful impact on all levels and peoples in Oman. The entire Muslim majority remains a big challenge. Proselytism of Muslims is illegal, and the few Omanis who have come to faith face huge pressure to return to Islam. There are no known churches among the semi-nomadic Mahra or Jibbali of Dhofar, the Baluch of the eastern coasts, the rural population, or the Swahili speakers.

DEC

27

**The City Mission, United States**

As construction progresses in their programming spaces, please pray that they will find ways to carry out all parts of Crossroads' critical ministry to men in crisis. Pray for the open positions that they have at Laura's Home, especially the Program Manager. Continue to pray for the health and safety of the residents at Laura's Home as well as for the staff that serves there. Thank the Lord for the people he brought into their volunteer sessions who are passionate about the work that they do and are excited about partnering with them. Pray for their team as they discern ways to retain current volunteers and cultivate new volunteer relationships. Finally, they praise God for the faithful and consistent volunteers who have continued to show up even amid the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19.

**Pakistan (Asia).** Population: 226,186,778 Believers: 0.6%. Believers from a Muslim background are in a unique and challenging situation. Islam has grave or deadly punishments for apostates. Yet increasing numbers of Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus, often through media as well as dreams and visions and the witness of Pakistani Christians. Some networks of Muslim-background believers are emerging for mutual spiritual support and discipleship. Pray for such networks to spread and fellowships to form for these believers so that they do not easily fall away. Ask the Lord to raise up leaders for these believers, and for their protection. Pray that any such movement will develop solid disciples with hearts to reach other Muslims.

DEC

28

**Equipping Servants International (ESI), Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela**

Pray for the 1,740 ESI participants in 162 groups meeting in 14 countries. Pray that these men and women will grow in their love for God and in their commitment to honor Christ by being true to the Scriptures with Jesus and his gospel at the center.

**Palestine (Asia).** Population: 5,806,284 Believers: 0.1%. Arab evangelicals number several thousand in 30 churches, most on the West Bank. They feel isolated and rejected by Jews, Arabs, traditional Christians, and even Western evangelicals. Pray for courage, endurance, and a spirit of love for evangelicals in Palestine. Pray especially for believers from a Muslim background to stay strong and to grow in their new faith.

DEC

29

**Matt (& Laura) Pheneger, Ambassadors Football, United States**

Please be in prayer for new staff and for works being developed around the world in Australia, Slovakia, Croatia, and Dallas.

Ambassadors also has families settling into cross-cultural situations. A family from Brazil who has served in the UK and Egypt is now ministering in Thailand. In Peru, a family from the States has joined the Ambassadors staff there. The husband, who is a third generation missionary and grew up in Lima, has returned "home." Please pray for all these missionaries as they put plans in place and seek God's direction.

**Panama (Latin America).** Population: 4,026,687 Believers: 19.3%. Evangelicals face major obstacles and challenges: a) Spiritual unity and vision. Pray for the churches to grow in unity; b) Traditional morality is under siege. Divorce, illegitimate children, domestic violence, immorality, and drug use are common. Pray for the conviction of sin and for solid discipleship that shows people how to live; c) Effective ministry to young people. For many, local church structures and ministry do not connect with them; d) Theological training that encourages holiness of life and spirituality. Pray for more Panamanians to be called into full-time ministry service.

DEC

30

**Mike & Joan Ross, Mexico, United States**

Thank God that their Missions Aviation Fellowship team in Oaxaca, Mexico has been healthy and busy flying despite the pandemic. Pray for gospel opportunities amid a busy schedule. Pray for the Mexican government to release funding to continue flying critical patients. Pray that God would give Juan Carlos ability in English as he studies to take FAA written exams for his pilot license.

**Papua New Guinea (Pacific).** Population: 8,468,136 Believers: 25.7%. Effective discipling is the most urgent and prevalent need. Nominalism, syncretism, and pollution of Christianity with spiritism and the occult are sadly widespread. Culturally appropriate ways of building biblical faith, character, lifestyle, and worldview must be developed; pray for creative, insightful groups to achieve this.

DEC

31

**Kep & Debbie James, Bolivia**

Pray for Kep and Debbie as they begin to refocus their attention to spend more time helping the ministry in North Africa (50% with the ministry in Africa; 50% with ESI Latin America). Thank God for the invitation they received to start an Equipping Servants group (ESI) in 2022 in Tanzania. Please pray that the Lord will bring the right people together to do it!

**Paraguay (Latin America).** Population: 7,532,572 Believers: 6.1%. The Roman Catholic Church has long dominated the spiritual and political life of Paraguay. Although it opposes corruption and immorality, there is also much superstitious traditionalism, strong devotion to Mary, and occult-related bondage to many pre-Christian deities and customs. These practices keep millions from liberty in the Lord Jesus and must be broken by prayer. Paraguay has never had a true spiritual awakening, and few of the Catholic Spanish-Guarani majority have a living relationship with Christ.

*Global prayer requests taken from Mandryk, Jason. Operation World : The definitive prayer guide to every nation. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Colorado Springs, CO: Biblica Publishing, 2010. Used with permission.*

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# Missions: More than Money

Several years ago the elders at Parkside moved from supporting many people with a little bit of funding to supporting a smaller amount of people with a lot of funding. The idea behind this transition was to strengthen the relationship between our church and our missionaries, that we might adequately care for them while on the field and that they might sharpen our desire to see unbelievers reached for Christ.

Practically, this means that our primary approach is now to cover 100% of our missionaries' financial needs so that they can focus their time and energy on their ministry rather than on raising support. When they are home, we provide housing and transportation. When they are away, we speak with them regularly and highlight their activity through various avenues so that our people can stay abreast of their progress and enter into their work by praying for them. Our role does not replace the work of mission agencies, but we seek to provide our missionaries with ongoing care in one place so that they might be most effective for the Kingdom.

As detailed in the pages that follow, we still offer partial financial support to some of the missionaries who we had been partnering with before the transition, as well as some other organizations and individuals.

Learn more about our missionaries and locate contact information for them at [www.parksidechurch.com/missions](http://www.parksidechurch.com/missions).

## Full Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

<b>North Africa</b>	E & J
<b>Japan</b>	Chris & Leanne Harrington
<b>Uruguay</b>	Andrew & Angie James
<b>Bolivia</b>	Kep & Debbie James

## Partial Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

<b>Peru/United States</b>	Mark & Patti Bean
<b>Guatemala/Peru/United States</b>	Wes & Nancy Collins
<b>Mexico/United States</b>	Mike & Joan Ross

## Financial Support of Nationals

- Bolivia**
- 18 Bolivians serve as Pastoral Assistants (PAs), a pastor-in-training role. The PAs receive differing levels of support from Parkside Church depending on how long they have been involved and how they are serving.
  - Equipping Servants International (ESI) is a three-year, part-time course designed to teach people how to think and live biblically. ESI has 2,659 graduates since 2002 and 1,740 active participants in 162 groups in 14 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay and Venezuela. Parkside Church has, and continues to assist in providing participants with the required materials.
- Mexico**
- 2 Mexican Pastors, Edgar (& Lety) Rivera and Neri (& Karina) Rivera, receive partial financial support from Parkside. They are currently teaching 75 Mexicans to think and live Biblically through the Equipping Servants International (ESI) program in Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Tapachula.
- Asia**
- 20 full-time church planting missionaries were trained and sent out, fully supported by Parkside Church.
  - 12 students are enrolled in a 9-month full-time preaching training course, fully supported by Parkside Church.
- South Africa**
- Johannes (& Mathapelo) Thaele, a South African pastor working full-time with children & teens in the farm schools of Bloemfontein, receives full financial support from Parkside Church.

### Financial Support to Mission Agencies

Fieldstone Counseling  
Indigenous Church-Planting  
Organization  
Parkside Green  
Shoreline Church  
Truth For Life

Health for Her Cleveland  
Parkside Church Westside

Scranton Road Bible Church  
The City Mission

### Financial Support to Mission Individuals

Emily (& Blake) Ackerson  
Jon (& Ruthie)

Amy Cottle  
Matt (& Laura) Pheneger

**Parkside Church funding of Missions in 2020: \$2.4 million**



**PARKSIDE**  
CHURCH

To see unbelieving people become  
committed followers of Jesus Christ.