



# Missions Prayer Calendar

A SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY  
FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

OCTOBER

"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 toward seeing unbelieving people of all nations become committed followers of Christ!



**PARKSIDE**  
CHURCH

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 A205. 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. You can pick up a copy of the book at Books by the Park. The prayer requests for different countries in this calendar are excerpts from that book and the [operationworld.org](https://operationworld.org) website.



## Give

Thanks to your generous giving, we were able to allocate \$3,421,410 towards missions in 2024. 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 God 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, C

*\*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



B & J\*

M, O, P, P, G

*\*Names withheld for security purposes*



J & A\*

A

*\*Names withheld for security purposes*



Mike & Joan Ross

Steve, Ben, Aaron



OCT

1

**Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan**

Pastor Yukimasa Otomo, who visited Parkside in May, shared with his church that many people here are praying for their church in Japan and other pastors and churches around the world. The church was encouraged to hear of our prayer support for them. May our prayers for Pastor Yuki and the church continue. Chris is working closely with a SEND missionary-led church whose pastor will be retiring in a couple of years. Ask God to give them wisdom on how to move forward.

**Portugal (Europe).** Population: 10,411,834 Believers: 3.0%. Pray for church planting efforts in Portugal. Many congregations closed, and many others appeared. Nearly half of current evangelical congregations were started since 2001, and the vision to grow and plant more churches is widespread. Pray for continued church growth, for affordable and appropriate meeting places, and for leaders for these future churches.

OCT

2

**Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay**

In September, Andrew's parents, Kep and Debbie, visited Montevideo to work with the Equipping Servants International (ESI) ministry there and spend time with the family. Pray that as a result of the training, these pastors will continue to study the Bible so that they understand it, live it, and faithfully teach and preach it in their local churches. Ask the Lord to continue to provide wisdom, strength, and love as Andrew and Angie seek to serve people within the context of the local church.

**Puerto Rico (Caribbean).** Population: 3,235,290 Believers: 25.2%. Evangelical churches grew from 0.1% in 1900 to over 25% today! Pray for effective training and support of new mission ventures. Media ministries use TV, local radio, and internet sites to offer practical answers to life and faith questions. Pray for ministries to continue shaping future leaders and for discipleship movements to transform the lives of believers.

OCT

3

**J & A, Missionaries in Training, United States**

J continues his training for mission work. Pray for energy and wisdom as J and A work through an extensive list of requirements their family needs to fulfill before heading overseas. Pray also for them as they welcome the arrival of a new baby. Ask God to watch over their toddler son's heart, mind, and health through all these changes. As they travel, pray for their safety.

**Qatar (Asia).** Population: 3,115,889 Believers: 1.0%. Almost every Qatari follows Islam, whether they are from Arab, Persian, or Bantu (former slave) backgrounds. Pray that Qataris at home and abroad would hear about Jesus and for the birth of a Qatari Church. Pray for Christians to take employment opportunities (from manual labor to executive positions) to increase the presence of God's kingdom in Qatar.

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4

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

At the last minute, with bags packed for Peru, Mark and Patti learned that their passports didn't have the required six months remaining on them to be able to enter the country (a new rule to them)! Despite having to work from home, Mark and the Panao Quechua team made great progress.

They not only made it through the books of Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, and the first 13 chapters of 2 Samuel with members of the community, but they also had fun in the process. From October 6-24, Mark will be working remotely with the project that is made up of four related central Quechua languages. They hope to finish adapting Exodus, start on Leviticus, and continue working on outstanding issues in books they have already adapted. Pray for God's continued blessing on the translations of the Old Testament into these Quechua languages.

**Romania (Europe).** Population: 18,908,651 Believers: 5.4%. Romanians as a mission force are a new and quickly expanding dynamic. At least ten indigenous sending agencies have emerged since 2000, and training programs are multiplying. Romanians can easily access fields that Westerners cannot, and agencies are interested in Romanians serving with them. Limiting factors are the lack of financial support/sponsorship and the lagging missions vision in many churches. Pray for the removal of every barrier to the full flowering of an indigenous missions movement.

OCT

5

**Parkside Heights Church, United States**

This month, Parkside Heights will install church elders. Thank God for providing for their church in this way. There will also be a "Lunch and Learn" event for those newer to the church who want to know more about the history and priorities of Parkside Heights. Pray for those attending to become woven into the life of the church as they continue to seek the Lord in his Word and in the community of believers. In addition, pray for the baptisms taking place as they rejoice with and thank God for those being baptized.

**Russia (Europe).** Population: 143,997,393 Believers: 1.2%. Russia's increasing predations in other former Soviet states fully manifested in the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The hundreds of thousands of young lives spent and the hundreds of thousands of others that have fled the country exacerbate an already grim demographic future for Russia. When you add to this the countless billions spent and a tattered global reputation, recovery may take generations—if it comes at all. For the sake of Russia, its neighbors, and the world, pray for peace, transparency, and truth to prevail in a nation where all three have been in short supply.

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6

**Kep & Debbie James, Africa, Europe, and the Americas**

Pray for Kep and Debbie as they lead a marriage conference on October 6-8 and for Debbie as she teaches at a women's retreat on October 10-12, both at the ILC Church in La Paz, Bolivia. Continue to pray for the De Ark Church in Amsterdam and for the upcoming ESI training in San Jose, Costa Rica, in February 2026.

**Rwanda (Africa).** Population: 14,569,341 Believers: 26.9%. The closure of thousands of churches in 2024 brought attention to the relationship of the government to religion. This was not persecution so much as the move of the state to exercise regulations upon places of worship. The requirements included matters of safety and hygiene, along with registration, doctrinal statements, and qualifications for pastors. Pray that every congregation might have a place to gather and every Christian would have ample opportunity for fellowship and worship. May the churches with more resources be a blessing to those with few.

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7

**Ruth (& Artis) Powell, United States, Zambia**

Praise God for the 30 pastors who attended the ESI facilitators' retreat in Zambia. There were four from Zimbabwe, one from Tanzania, and the rest of them were from Zambia. Thank God for the great job Paulo and Isaac did leading the retreat. Pray for strength for Paulo as he encourages the pastors who are a part of small groups in Zambia and for health for his family. Pray that the pastors who are a part of ESI will continue to faithfully meet. Last summer, Ruth shared the gospel of Christ with 125 children in the village of Kasempa. Pray for the Lord to provide someone committed to discipling the children and that the children will continue to grow in grace. In the USA, Ruth conducts after school Bible clubs in the public schools. Pray for more volunteers to assist her in this ministry of sharing the gospel with children who may never have heard about the love of Jesus Christ.

**Saint Barthélemy (Caribbean).** Population: 11,414 Believers: 2.3%. This island caters to the uber-rich, trading on its sophistication and isolation for its exclusivity. There is little interest in spiritual things. Pray that amid the boutiques, cafés, and villas there might awaken a hunger for spiritual reality and the opportunity to know God. Pray also that the few churches on the island might minister meaningfully into this unique context. **Saint Helena (Africa).** Population: 5,197 Believers: 8.8%. The Christian heritage of Saint Helena is strong, but islanders committed to faith are decreasing. Most Christians are nominal, and church attendance continues to decline. A critical mass of evangelicals on the islands is needed to generate spiritual momentum.

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8

**Truth For Life, United States**

Please pray for God to provide the right candidate to fill the Director of Content position. Ask God to bring forward someone with the skill set and experience to expand the reach of God's Word through Truth For Life. Pray for Alistair during the month of October as he speaks at several conferences and pastor appreciation events, including a one-day seminar hosted by Truth For Life. Pray for God to use Alistair to encourage men in ministry and to strengthen them as gospel leaders. Pray for Truth For Life customer service representative Amy Duble as she deals with health concerns. Please lift her up in prayer, asking God to give the doctors wisdom and insight and to strengthen Amy and her family as they navigate an unknown course.

**Saint Kitts & Nevis (Caribbean).** Population: 46,922 Believers: 21.7%. There is no lack of churches or other ministries on these islands, but their impact is limited. Pray for the Holy Spirit to revive, empower, and embolden believers for kingdom effectiveness. Pray especially for ministries that draw together the diverse denominations. **Saint Lucia (Caribbean).** Population: 180,149 Believers: 14.5%. The veneer of religion without true faith is a widespread problem—the more historic churches are in significant decline. Living Christianity decreasingly influences much of society as increasing materialism undermines spiritual life. Pray for genuine renewal in the churches and for the spiritual and moral transformation of society.

OCT

9

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

E & J are thankful for our prayers for their recent team meetings. It was nice spending time with their teammates, catching up and planning for the future. The elders of the fellowship where they serve expressed some concerns about a team member, who was sent to work with the team down south. Please pray for healing in that relationship and that the things that need to be addressed will be addressed well in grace and truth.

**Saint Martin (Caribbean).** Population: 24,941 Believers: 2.5%. The tropical location and French liberality combine to make this a playground for the most wealthy. Exclusive hotels, clothing-optional beaches, designer-clothing boutiques, and cafés typify the island's culture. There is little room for or interest in a life of service to Christ. Pray that in the midst of this elegant but hedonistic paradise, people might gain a hunger for an eternal heaven. **Saint Pierre & Miquelon (North America).** Population: 5,574 Believers: <0.1%. These isolated islands and their people have long been Catholic. Traditions are strong and change has come slowly, despite the economic downturn when the fishing industry all but disappeared. Pray for people to find hope in a living relationship with Christ.

OCT

10

### **Parkside Green, United States**

Pray for the Lord to use Pastor Adam's new preaching series on Malachi and new classes this fall to equip the people of Parkside Green to be faithful witnesses. Please also ask the Lord to accomplish his purposes globally through those they support: Dr. Jen Kintner, overseeing women's ministry training at the Gulf Theological Seminary in Dubai; Brett and Jennifer Wright, now on home assignment in the US, where Brett is pursuing additional aviation training/certification; and Bryan and Erin Joseph, completing language school and biblical training in Texas this fall before launching into full-time missions service in Mazatlán, Mexico, in January 2026.



**Saint Vincent (Caribbean).** Population: 99,925 Believers: 39.1%. St. Vincent is a religious country, but most are not related to God through a personal faith in Jesus Christ. There is a crisis of holiness, lack of spiritual fruit, and growing apathy, especially regarding missions. Pray for revival and for restoration of a biblically based, Spirit-led church. **Samoa (Pacific).** Population: 219,307 Believers: 18.0%. Samoans have been Christian for over a century, and every village has at least one church. But the traditional class structure and pre-Christian cultural standards were not necessarily transformed by the gospel. Pride and politics influence church life too much, and the financial demands on a poorer population are heavy.

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11

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

It is springtime in South Africa, and the youth are planning an open-air outreach. They want to see unbelievers come to know Jesus Christ.

Pray for Johannes and the youth as they share the gospel. Continue to pray that those involved in the Bible study group at Grasslands Primary School will grow stronger in their commitment to follow Jesus and become more effective in reaching other children.

**San Marino (Europe).** Population: 33,573 Believers: <0.1%. The Sammarinese are Catholic by tradition and culture, but few practice their faith. San Marino calls itself the "Ancient Land of Liberty," and people have freedom to worship. But evangelism hardly exists. Past outreach by evangelicals resulted in jail or expulsion from the country, so no churches or ministries currently evangelize here. Pray for a new season of true spiritual liberty. **São Tomé & Príncipe (Africa).** Population: 240,254 Believers: 4.2%. Evangelicals are free to minister and do see significant growth. Pray for the development of locally led, culturally relevant congregations with effectively trained Christian leaders. Pray also for local support of national workers and for the launching of an interdenominational training center.

OCT

12

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

Pray for wisdom regarding the future of the Missions Aviation Fellowship (MAF) work in Mexico and for the best use of the tools God has provided to reach the lost. Pray for much fruit as Pedro and Roberto follow up

after the Parkside Dental Team visit with people in La Mesilla. Pray for the pastors in Amoltepec to use the resources they have to reach the lost. Pray for Edgar and Gregorio as they make trips to Amoltepec to encourage and equip the believers. Pray for Gregorio and Eily as they work to get a visa for her to accompany him to Candidate Classes with MAF in Idaho. Pray that God will bless the work of MAF around the world and bring much spiritual fruit for the kingdom.

**Saudi Arabia (Asia).** Population: 34,566,328 Believers: 0.3%. Saudi Arabia is the birthplace and stronghold of Islam. From Mecca, Islam holds influence over billions and touches many cultures worldwide. All Muslims must pray toward Mecca five times daily, and over two million Muslims make the pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca every year. Pray that many who seek God might encounter the living Christ.

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13

**Jon (& Ruthie), Matt (& Laura) Pheneger, Goran (& Beth) Tomic, Ambassadors Football, United States**

In mid-October, Goran will meet with European Ambassadors leaders in Slovakia to discuss ministry opportunities and plans and visit several ministry partners. Pray for safety as he travels and for wisdom and unity as meetings unfold. He heads to Chile on October 22 to lead a four-day training in Santiago. After that, Goran will visit ministry partners in the city of Temuco, where over the last few years, a strong bond has been built with the Mapuche people. Pray for strength and that God will use his time there to encourage and equip believers in soccer ministry. Pray for wisdom for Jon as plans are being made to share the gospel at the FIFA World Cup 2026 next summer.

**Senegal (Africa).** Population: 18,931,967 Believers: 0.2%. Senegal is both open and closed spiritually. The nation enjoys religious freedom and tolerates many faiths, and Senegalese feel proud about this. But few of the Muslim majority have ever come to Christ. Even after long-standing Christian presence and outreach, a spiritual heaviness covers the land. Pray for the spiritual breakthrough for which so many wait.

OCT

14

**Equipping Servants International (ESI), Africa, Europe, and the Americas**

There are 3,000 ESI participants in 250 groups in 37 countries.

Recently, four new groups started in Italy, four in London, five in Paris, one in Los Angeles, and three in Virginia and Florida. Pray that as participants study Romans together, they will grow in their love for God and experience deep gospel transformation in their lives, relationships, and local churches. Pray for Jose Gutierrez as ESI expands in Central America and for Pastor Sebastian, who is overseeing the work of ESI in Colombia, Panama, and Spain. He is encouraged to see evidence of God's grace transforming many lives.

**Serbia (Europe).** Population: 6,689,039 Believers: 0.6%. Evangelicals in Serbia face many difficulties. The recent religion law creates difficulty for all new religious groups, including many new evangelical groups. Protestants have a long history among Hungarians and Slovak minorities but little impact among Serbs and Albanians. Many do not live out their faith. Pray for revival. For groups where ethnic identity determines religious identity, evangelicals can appear to be traitors and part of a religious sect. But through all these challenges, newer churches do grow and minister Christ to others!

OCT

15

**Scranton Road Bible Church, United States**

Continue praying for their elder cohort as these men prepare to step into the role of elder at SRBC. Pray that those in their Good News Kids ministry and youth group will understand the gospel message and grow as disciples of Jesus. As Pastor Mark Pratt continues preaching through the Gospel of Mark, pray that the church will understand the beauty of Christ's work in their lives and respond.

**Seychelles (Africa).** Population: 132,779 Believers: 5.9%. The vast majority of Seychellois claim to be Christian, but evidence of true spiritual transformation seems outweighed by superstition and nominalism. Pray that the Holy Spirit may bring new life evidenced by repentance and sustained fruit.

**Solomon Islands (Pacific).** Population: 838,646 Believers: 33.3%. Ethnic diversity and a divided geography (six major island groups) create a divided society. These language and culture barriers also inhibit Christian work. Pray that Christianity may take root in each group in a relevant way and can overcome division. Pray for true forgiveness and reconciliation that come only through repentance.

OCT

16

**Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay**

Thank the Lord that their family is doing well. Pray that their three children will grow up to love and serve the Lord. In ministry, they constantly encounter individuals who have deep struggles and need the help and support of someone to walk alongside them. Their church in Montevideo will be holding a biblical counseling workshop on October 17. Pray that the workshop will enable them to build a team of counselors to serve in the church.

**Sierra Leone (Africa).** Population: 8,819,794 Believers: 3.9%. Sierra Leone continues its effort to move forward and away from its tragic recent history. The horrifying civil war of the 90s and the crippling effect of Ebola in 2014-2015 both reversed efforts at nation-building. Many Christian ministries and aid agencies continue to help the long-term process of meeting people's physical, psychological, and spiritual needs. Praise God for their freedom to minister. Pray for their fruitfulness.

OCT

17

**Parkside Church Westside, United States**

Pray for those who will be baptized during both services on October 19. Pray for the church's involvement with International Friendships as they care for students living far from home; with Building Hope in the City as they develop relationships with immigrants in the Cleveland area; and with the Cleveland Pregnancy Center as they provide help to moms in need. Pray for their missionaries working with a minority language group to advance the gospel in all languages. Pray for the safety of Ryan and Samantha S. as they seek to share the gospel with Somali refugees in Africa. Continue to pray for the health of Nathanael Wiles.

**Singapore (Asia).** Population: 5,870,750 Believers: 7.8%. Singapore is a strategic center for regional and global Christian mission due to its infrastructure, stability, location, and strong Christian population. Pray that Singapore will be a blessing to the least-evangelized nations and peoples around it and a servant leader that facilitates the emerging missions movement from other Asian nations.

# The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth



ocean



NORTH  
PACIFIC  
OCEAN



INDIAN  
OCEAN



ocean

ANTARCTICA





## AN UPDATE FROM OUR SOUTH AFRICA VBC TEAM

Twenty members from Parkside Church traveled to Bloemfontein, South Africa, from July 10-19. The team members were Audrey Beleiu, Darrius Beleiu, Eloise Cocirteu, Michael Coy, Kelly Coy, Rusty Johnson, Allie Mach, Nick Mach, Naomi Melnik, Faith Menefee, Jacob Ockunzzi, Jennifer Platek, Catherine Popa, Andrea Popa, Emily Sheer, Eric Shultz, Myra Schultz, Kris Wagner, Brian Walls, and Maria Walls. The Parkside team partnered with Pastor Johannes (Thapelo) Thaele and the young adults of The Rivers of Life Church. Our mission was to serve the local church through a Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) at Grassland Primary School. This opportunity was possible because of the more than 30 years of faithful weekly gospel presentations to students by Pastor Thapelo.

In August 2024, Principal Mrs. Ledimo of Grassland Primary School, who is a believer in Jesus, was presented with the opportunity to host a VBC for her sixth and seventh grade students, who would be on school holiday in July of 2025. The sixth and seventh grade students were selected for their command of the English language, though their first language is Sotho.

Since the VBC was held during the students' three-week holiday, this provided full access to the school grounds. Understanding that many students face food insecurity when school is not in session, Parkside Church hired the school's kitchen staff for \$12 dollars a day to prepare daily breakfast and lunch. This initiative not only ensured the children were fed but also created an opportunity for ministry to the kitchen staff as well.

The week's curriculum and schedule were adapted from the Parkside VBC model. The students were divided into ten groups of 27 students each, co-led by a Sotho and an American leader. These groups traveled throughout the day to each station. The stations included music, athletics, "Upward Bound" hiking skit, crafts, memory verse (Philippians

2:10-11), mathematics, Bible time focused on the life of Jesus, small group discussion, and gospel presentation. Our goal was to “throw the seeds of the gospel by lifting Christ high.” The week exceeded all expectations. The school grounds were filled with singing as the students traveled to each station. By mid-week, the students mastered Philippians 2:10-11. We know this Word will not return void!



The final day of the VBC was held at The Rivers of Life Church, with over 300 students and many of their siblings attending as well. This transition was designed to connect the children with the local church for ongoing discipleship. The students performed their songs and recited memory verses, and they were invited to attend Sunday services and given oranges to eat on the way home.

Since the team's return to the U.S., more than 60 students, along with some of their parents, have begun regularly attending The Rivers of Life Church. The church has started a new Saturday children's church to provide focused discipleship specifically for the children in addition to Sunday attendance.

It was a privilege to serve with our brothers and sisters at The Rivers of Life Church. We also had the opportunity to visit their two new church plants. In 2024, Parkside's VBC supported building a little metal structure in a very poor neighborhood for the first church plant. A second church plant now meets in the recycled building materials from the first plant.

As a team, we are deeply grateful for God's favor and for the prayers, which covered every detail of this mission—from the logistical arrangements to the spiritual impact on the children, their families, and the school staff. Please pray that as a result, unbelieving children will become committed followers of Christ.

-Rusty Johnson

**Photos: Page 1:** Parkside team and Rivers of Life team inside the building that Parkside funded. **Page 2, Left to Right:** Upward Bound skit, Kelly and Mike Coy with students, Kris Wagner and Jen Platek leading students in song.

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18

**Emily (& Blake) Ackerson, Bridges International, Australia**

Pray for their ministry at the University of New South Wales, where they have been able to meet students interested in learning about Jesus.

Pray for the volunteers from several local churches to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the gospel in a clear and loving way. Continue to pray for their South Asian ministry at the University of Sydney, where they are seeing more students open to hearing stories about Jesus. Praise God for one student from a Hindu background who is now trusting in Jesus. Pray for protection and growth for her as she starts her journey of discipleship.

**Slovakia (Europe).** Population: 5,474,881 Believers: 1.2%. Evangelical congregations are few and small. The growth of recent years has slowed, but there is a new desire to reach out and be more active in church planting. Pray for the quality of spiritual life and for fervor in evangelical churches.

OCT

19

**Fieldstone Counseling, United States**

Fieldstone Counseling is grateful for our continued prayers and support. Pray for their counselors and Executive Director as they attend the CCEF National Conference. Pray that it will be a chance for refreshment,

growth, and encouragement as they seek to be further equipped for ministry. Pray for their counselors as they walk alongside those facing life's hardships, offering lasting hope through the truth and love of Christ. Pray that those in need will be able to connect with them and receive timely, Christ-centered care.

**Slovenia (Europe).** Population: 2,117,072 Believers: 0.1%. Slovenia has had a Protestant witness since the Reformation, but it still has very few evangelical churches and needs church-planting teams. The very small evangelical population is divided by ethnic group. Pray for unity and for an evangelical alliance to unite the churches. Most congregations lack a full-time pastor and need outside financial assistance. Pray for Slovene believers to evangelize their country, to support their pastors, and even to send missionaries!

OCT

20

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

Pray that God will continue to give Edgar wisdom as he works with the Mexican board for the Alas de Socorro (MAF) work in Mexico. Pray for Edgar and Lety's daughter Esther as she starts Bible college. Pray for the

two ESI groups that Edgar is leading in Oaxaca and for a new group forming in Ensenada. Pray for trips that Edgar is making to Amoltepec to encourage the pastors and believers there. Pray that Neri will have wisdom as he facilitates ESI groups in the state of Chiapas. Pray for continued growth of the church plant. Praise the Lord that they are now able to meet in their new church building. Pray for strength for Neri as he continues battling lymphoma and for wisdom to work within his physical limitations. Pray for healing for Neri and for extra strength for Karina during this difficult season in their lives.

**Somalia (Africa).** Population: 19,654,739 Believers: <0.1%. Somalia now has a parliament and recognized national leaders after 20 years without an effective central government. But the militant Islamist group Al-Shabaab (linked to Al-Qaeda) still controls much of southern and central Somalia and continues to hold influence in rural areas. Pray that Somalia's rulers might learn from the past, govern for the good of the people, and respect human rights and religious freedom. Pray that those deceived by the enemy into committing terrorism might encounter Jesus, who loves them and died on their behalf.

OCT

21

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

Pray for the faithful use of the Scriptures that have been translated into people's heart language and for ongoing Scripture translation projects. Many of those involved in translating are dealing with health issues and other struggles. There is excitement for having the whole Bible in the Mam language in the Comitancillo area of Guatemala. Pray that this excitement will continue and that their leadership will be faithful in holding celebrations for this whole Bible completion in other areas of Guatemala. As the Scriptures spread across the land, pray for the Mam people to grow in their faith and for the growth of godly churches as well. Continue to pray for Wes and for his family as they care for him in his journey with Parkinson's and dementia.

**South Africa (Africa).** Population: 64,747,320 Believers: 21.1%. Biblical Christianity has a strong legacy in South Africa. But poverty, injustice, corruption, and terrible violence are alarmingly widespread for a nation with so many claiming to be Christian. Pray for the many Christian agencies that serve among the needy sections of society. Pray that the spirit of violence might be bound under the authority of Christ.

OCT

22

**Bobby & Julie, Central Asia**

Julie is teaching math at an international school. Ask the Lord to grant her strength and use her for his glory. Pray that God will provide a second vehicle for Bobby and Julie to serve both the needs of their family and the ministry. Pray for the new family to join their team. Pray for good communication and for unity as the team grows internationally.

**South Sudan (Africa).** Population: 12,188,788 Believers: 29.5%. South Sudan is the world's newest country. The nation was born in a great spirit of unity, happiness, and hope. Yet little more than 10 years on, over a quarter of the population relies on aid agencies for food, the majority of females has suffered sexual violence, and progress is continually stalled by ethnic rivalries who refuse to share power, reconcile, or build a better future together. Every family in South Sudan suffers lasting effects from the horrors of war and conflict. Pray for the church to have a good influence in society and leadership, to make life better for all people.

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23

**Shoreline Church, United States**

As the season changes from summer to fall, many ministry opportunities and needs arise in Shoreline's local community. Pray that they remain attentive to those needs and to opportunities to share the gospel. They are grateful for their partnership with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in the Mentor school district. Pray that ministry continues to grow and for the equipping of more volunteer leaders. They are thankful for the new volunteers as well as seasoned ones who have stepped up to teach in their children ministry this year. As their community teams faithfully meet every month to discuss the sermons, pray that their faith in and love for Christ will grow deeper.

**Spain (Europe).** Population: 47,889,958 Believers: 1.0%. Spain has experienced a profound transformation since 1978. It abandoned a dictatorship for democratic rule, moved from poverty toward wealth, integrated into Europe, and increased religious freedom. But economic progress and increasing secularization seem to have deeply eroded moral foundations and have accelerated a rapid decline of spirituality. Spain's younger generations are among the most spiritually disengaged in Europe. Materialism and hedonism have brought about widespread prostitution, alcohol overconsumption, and illicit drug use. Pray for Spain to wake up to the lies that have blinded it to the truth of the gospel.

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24

**Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan**

Chris and Leanne recently had the privilege of meeting Ms. N, a new believer. She received her first Bible just before they met her, and she was bubbling over with the joy of freedom in Christ. She lives with her parents, who have an extensive number of idols in their home. Please pray for Ms. N's parents and family to have faith in Christ and be set free from their spiritual oppression and for Ms. N to grow in her new relationship with Jesus. Chris and Leanne are looking forward to being a part of an elementary school sports day on October 25. It is a day when the whole community comes together for a celebration. As the Harringtons meet families in their neighborhood, pray that God will help them develop many relationships so they can make him known there in Nishibori.

**Sri Lanka (Asia).** Population: 23,229,471 Believers: 1.2%. Sri Lanka once was known for its tolerance and non-violence. For centuries, it was a Buddhist kingdom that welcomed refugees from India (Hindu, Muslim, Christian). But Buddhist extremism has grown in this multi-religious, multi-ethnic country. Intensifying Hindu extremism and Arab-funded Islamization in eastern Sri Lanka both target Christians. Beneath the layers of Buddhism and Hinduism the ancient spirits, gods, and demons still hold power. Pray for the power of Christ to break these strongholds.



OCT

25

**The City Mission, United States**

Thank God for the successful Running with a Mission fundraising event held in September. Ask the Lord to supply the right people to fill open positions at The City Mission. Pray for the Crossroads Center, which offers men in crisis a place to rest, refocus, and be restored through the transforming power of God's love. Pray also for the ministry of Laura's Home, a bridge from crisis to stability for women and children, where staff and volunteers serve Christ by caring for every person, knowing all are made in the image of God.

**Sudan (Africa).** Population: 51,662,148 Believers: 14.7%. The gospel spread through these many years of upheaval. Although the conflicts created terrible suffering, they made the church more mature. The wars scattered Christian refugees throughout the country, so even through suffering the good news spread. Churches formed in places and among peoples that previously had no Christians! Praise God that this growth occurs across many denominations. Pray for them to find unity through Christ.

OCT

26

**Kep & Debbie James, Africa, Europe, and the Americas**

Last month, ESI Colombia leader, Pastor Sebastian, led a three-day ESI Facilitator Training in Caracas for 50 Venezuelan pastors. Pray that this launch of ESI training will bring hope to that city, where the gospel need is great. In mid-September, Kep and Debbie began a six-week ministry journey across South America and Africa which will culminate on October 31. Their itinerary included ESI leadership meetings in Fortaleza, Brazil, and Montevideo, Uruguay; retreats in northern and southern South American countries; and an ESI pastors' conference in Rwanda, Africa. Pray for lasting spiritual fruit from these meetings and for safety and rest for Kep and Debbie as they complete their journey.

**Suriname (Latin America).** Population: 639,850 Believers: 13.8%. Nearly half the population profess to be Christian, but many have little understanding of their faith, and Christian belief is often mixed with spiritism. Pray for new life and dynamism to replace traditionalism and syncretism practiced by many. **Tonga (Pacific).** Population: 103,742 Believers: 15.5%. Tonga's rich Christian heritage is a blessing but has reached the point of oversaturation. The proliferation of denominations generates competition among churches, as newer groups entice believers away. Pray that Tongan Christians would seek Christ rather than seeking the church that benefits them the most.

OCT

27

**Jon (& Ruthie), Matt (& Laura) Pheneger, Goran (& Beth) Tomic, Ambassadors Football, United States**

After a recent training in South Africa, one of their mentor coaches posted the following, "In the community, shootings remain a constant threat, even on the fields where our children play. But despite the challenges, we remain committed to offering a safe space for these young hearts. Through soccer, we give them a place to escape, a place to laugh, to grow, and most importantly, a place to discover the hope that lies beyond the hardships they face." Pray for the coaches around the world who are coming alongside children and youth to share the good news of the gospel and for the leaders of Ambassadors as they encourage them to make disciples.

**Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) (Africa).** Population: 1,256,174 Believers: 25.1%.

Eswatini is the last absolute monarchy in sub-Saharan Africa. Around 25% of the workforce is unemployed, while the economic situation continues to decline. Pray that the king might see his position not as a privilege but as a responsibility to serve his people and his land. Pray that Christians might be at the heart of grassroots movements that care for the neediest in Eswatini.

OCT

28

**E & J, North Africa**

In September, E and Isaac had the opportunity to share the good news with two of Isaac's friends. They spent a couple of hours together answering questions and giving a reason for the hope they have.

Praise God for Isaac's boldness in reaching out to his friends! Pray that our Father will draw many to his Son. As E and J parent their three children, continue language study, and share the gospel, pray that the Lord will be glorified through their lives and the lives of their teammates.

**Sweden (Europe).** Population: 10,656,633 Believers: 6.9%. The spiritual decline of Sweden is apparent on many levels. Only 23% of people believe in a personal God. Society places a high value on material comfort, personal pleasure, and individualism. Pray for God to raise up teachers and leaders who know the Bible, who know the culture, and who do not compromise with the majority mindset in society.

OCT

29

**Parkside Kent, United States**

They are thankful for our continued prayers. God is both blessing and stretching them! On September 14, they added a second morning service, and on the following Sunday, September 21, they celebrated their one-year anniversary. They thank the Lord that all of this is his doing. Please pray that they remain steadfast in prayer, fully dependent on the leading of the Holy Spirit, pleasing the Lord in all they do. Pray that the additional space created by a second service results in their members boldly inviting unbelievers to worship with them.

**Switzerland (Europe).** Population: 8,967,408 Believers: 4.4%. The Swiss Evangelical Alliance, Free Churches, and other agencies are working on a renewed vision for the evangelization of Switzerland. Most Christian non-profit groups have united as a more audible voice within society regarding religious freedom, evangelism and mission, aid and social responsibility, environmental issues, media, youth, and others. Pray for increasing numbers of congregations as well as for renewal of many existing ones.

OCT

30

### **Church Plant Training Ministry in Asia**

Pray for the daily distribution of hot cooked meals to be a bridge to reach people with the good news. Pray that each student will be equipped to proclaim the good news faithfully, rightly handle God's Word, and serve effectively in ministry. Pray that the targets set for this year will be achieved with the help of the Lord.

**Syria (Asia).** Population: 25,620,427 Believers: 0.1%. While the oppressive Assad dynasty was toppled in 2024, hostilities continue in a few areas due to the scores of factions involved in the conflict. A transitional government that oversees most of Syrian territory has been formed. Pray the peace of God for a land exhausted by war, and the mercy of God for the long-suffering people. A spirit of hopelessness afflicts many—pray for hope that might find its ultimate fulfillment in Christ!

OCT

31

### **Human Coalition (Health for Her Cleveland), United States**

Pray for donations of new fall and winter clothing in sizes newborn to six months for their Blessings Boutique. Pray that God will also supply their need for an increase in donor funding for the clinic for the new fiscal year. Pray that clients who are ordering the abortion pill online without an ultrasound to verify viability will realize the dangers involved.

**Tajikistan (Asia).** Population 10,786,734 Believers: 0.1%. Tajiks number 13 million in Central Asia. For nearly a thousand years, there was no significant outreach to Tajiks. Now, in addition to more than 1,000 believers in Tajikistan, there are a greater number of Tajik believers in Afghanistan as well as some in Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Pray for further growth and pray for the establishment of a truly indigenous Tajik church—this is beginning to happen as Tajik church leaders emerge. Pray especially for unity in this young expression of Christ's body.

*Global prayer requests were taken or adapted from Operation World, 7th Edition (2010), Pray for the World (2015), and [www.operationworld.org](http://www.operationworld.org). Both books are published by InterVarsity Press. All rights reserved.*

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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>Africa/Europe/The Americas</b>	Kep & Debbie James
<b>Central Asia</b>	Bobby & Julie
<b>United States</b>	J & A

## Partial Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

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

# Financial Support of Nationals

- Bolivia & Around the World**

  - Twenty 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 had 3,350 graduates since 2002, and has 3,000 active participants in 250 groups meeting in 37 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, England, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Parkside Church has assisted and continues to assist in providing participants with the required materials.
- Mexico**

  - Two 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.
- South Asia**

  - Twenty full-time church planting missionaries were trained and sent out, fully supported by Parkside Church.
  - Twelve 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 students in the farm schools, local church, and university in Bloemfontein, receives full financial support from Parkside Church.

## Financial Support to Mission Partners and Local Churches

Fieldstone Counseling	Parkside Church Westside
Hope for Glasgow	Parkside Green
Human Coalition Cleveland	Parkside Heights Church
The City Mission	Parkside Kent
The Edge Sports & Arts Academy	Scranton Road Bible Church
Truth For Life	Shoreline Church

## Financial Support to Mission Individuals

Emily (& Blake) Ackerson	Jon (& Ruthie)
Matt (& Laura) Pheneger	Ruth (& Artis) Powell
Goran (& Beth) Tomic	

**Parkside Church funding of Missions in 2024: \$3,421,410**



# Get Involved

in a short-term missions trip

## South Asia Trip

Medical/Dental Outreach

Trip Dates: February 26-March 8, 2025

Informational Meeting: October 26, at 11:45am, Room A219

Trip open to both medical and non-medical team members.

To find out more about joining a future short-term team,  
please contact the church office at 440.543.1212  
or visit [parksidechurch.com/missions](http://parksidechurch.com/missions).



PARKSIDE  
CHURCH

To see unbelieving people become  
committed followers of Jesus Christ.