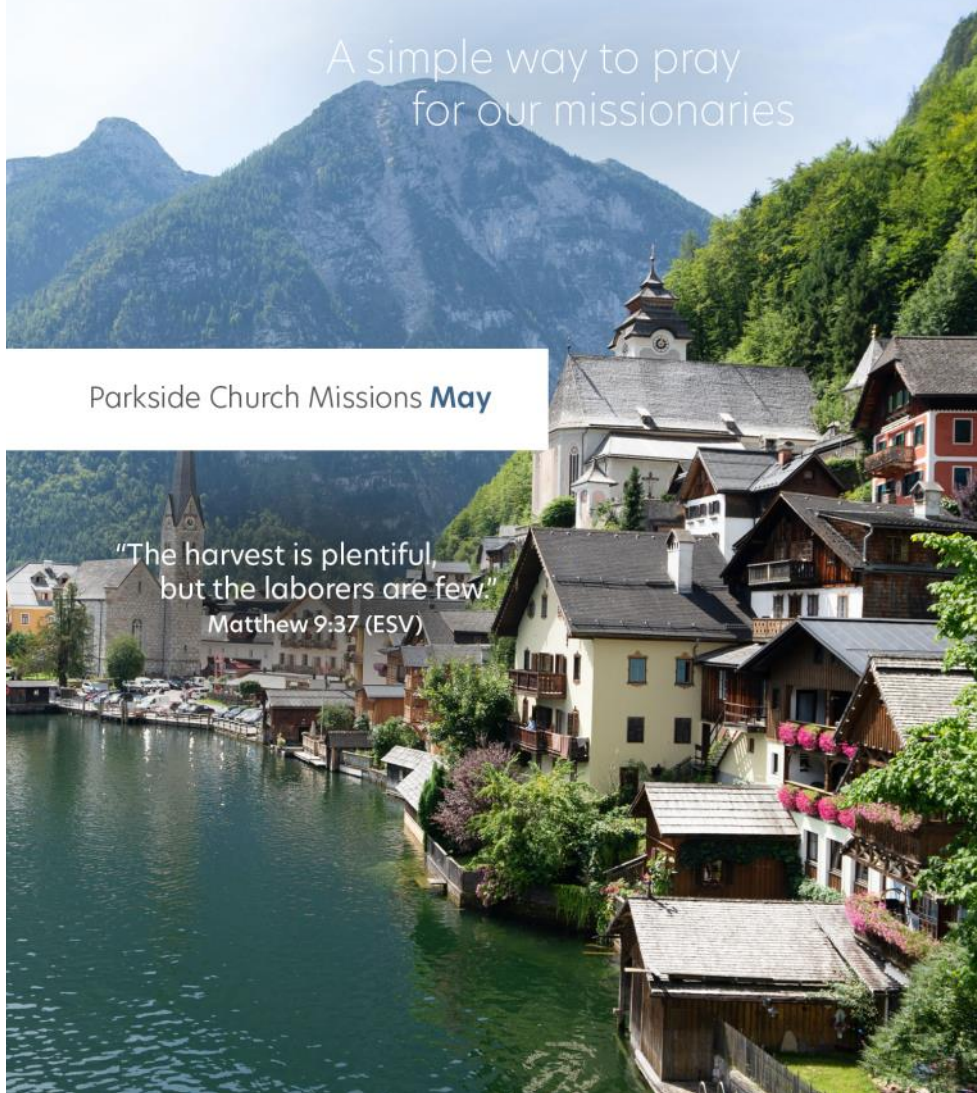


Prayer Calendar

A simple way to pray
for our missionaries

Parkside Church Missions **May**

"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!



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.

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.



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 or visit their website, operationworld.org.



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 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

**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

MAY

01

Mike & Joan Ross, Mexico, United States

Pray for Gregorio as he does specialized pilot training early this month to prepare to fly with Missions Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Pray for Pastor Pedro as he continues to share the gospel in Mamey, Mexico with those touched by the ministry of the January Parkside dental team. Pray that Mike and Joan might be an encouragement to Neri and Karina Rivera as they visit them later this month in Tapachula, Mexico.

Fiji (Pacific). Population: 887,759 Believers: 25.2%. There are many claims of great revival in Fiji, and there is undeniable fruit of God at work in remarkable ways, as individuals, communities, and even the environment see transformation. Some specific areas that warrant prayer: unity, leadership training for the many churches, and mission vision. Pray for existing missions and for a greater future of Fijian missionary investment. **French Guiana (Latin America).** Population: 291,714, Believers: 4.5%. The most responsive peoples [to the gospel] are Haitians, Antilleans, Hmong, Amerindian tribal people, Brazilians, and the interior bush tribes (Maroon). Pray for a cooperative spirit among evangelicals and for continued unifying influence, especially among ministers.

MAY

02

Parkside Heights Church, United States

Thank God for bringing a good collection of students and young adults to an event they had in March. Pray that those who attended would find meaningful connection at Parkside Heights, where they can either explore the faith for the first time or grow in their faith. May 1 they held another event called "Lunch & Learn," which was a free lunch designed to give an overview of the history and priorities of Parkside Heights for those who were not part of the original church planting core. Pray that newcomers get a sense of the vision of the church, moving beyond just attending on Sunday mornings to involvement in a small group or service team.

Finland (Europe). Population: 5,495,753, Believers: 12.1%. Humanism, secularism, and materialism have strangleholds on most Finns. While the majority look favorably upon the Church's social work, only 8% of Finns attend any kind of religious service monthly or more. Spirituality has more or less become privatized. The last revival occurred during the 1960s. Interest in spiritual things offers some hope, but Islam and fringe religious movements are currently the fastest growing. Pray for a spiritual breakthrough that will cause people to seek the Lord.

MAY

03

E & J, North Africa

During the month of fasting, they found that people were more eager to talk about spiritual things. Continue to pray that E & J would present the truth boldly and clearly. Recently, a local friend and language tutor lost his father unexpectedly. Pray that he and his family would find true comfort and joy in Jesus.

France (Europe). Population: 64,930,944, Believers: 1.0%. Most French have a profound ignorance of, or indifference to, the gospel—many having never meaningfully encountered it. Yet, the relativism of postmodernity has generated acute emptiness and existential angst; as many have noted, this in turn has created a spiritual hunger that has grown rapidly in recent years. Pray that such hunger might overcome the suspicion toward religion. Pray that Christians would be prepared to patiently and relationally share Jesus with those who seek.

MAY

04

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

Pray for believing international students who are preparing to return home, that God will provide solid Christ-centered communities for them and that they will be witnesses for Christ to their families and neighbors.

Pray for Emily and Blake's continued preparations to move to Sydney. They are still waiting to get their visas approved. Pray that they would come in this month so they can be ready to move in June. Pray for their transition, that the Lord would be preparing them emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

French Polynesia (Pacific). Population: 304,378 Believers: 7.2%. Those with a vital personal faith are now rare. As a result, there is a reversion to the bondage of pagan occultism and a multiplication of syncretistic and foreign sects, especially two forms of Mormonism. Pray for a spiritual revolution to take place. **Gibraltar (Europe).** Population: 31,582, Believers: 2.9%. There is a need for unity among believers in different and diverse small groups of churches, most of which came into being out of the mainline denominations. Pray for further evangelical growth and for revival among the mainline majority churches.

MAY

05

Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay

Their church held an evangelistic dinner on Good Friday, and they were surprised that nearly one hundred people showed up to the event and that at least 30 of them were non-believers. Please pray for fruit in the

lives of the people who heard the gospel that day. Continue to pray for the church as they seek to be more involved in evangelistic outreach in the community.

Gabon (Africa). Population: 1,779,155, Believers: 12.7%. Prosperity teaching is a foreign element that has made rapid inroads into the Gabonese Church. In a poverty-stricken country, such promises of health and wealth are met with great hope, but generally only the pastor sees any prosperity. Pray for responsible teaching that gives Gabonese believers true hope and enables them to find responsible and biblical ways out of poverty.

MAY

06

Scranton Road Bible Church, United States

Praise the Lord for a good Easter outreach and follow-up. Pray that the 20 new families who came will respond to the gospel! Pray for their new weekly soccer outreach/discipleship program in partnership with

Ambassadors Football on Friday nights from May 6-June 10. Pray for their church leadership as they start their new elder training. They are looking for a new van to replace their old van; pray that God would provide for this need. Pray for effective gospel ministry in word and deed.

The Gambia (Africa). Population: 2,227,413, Believers: 0.8%. Young people have flocked to Banjul (the capital) and are increasingly subject to Western culture at the expense of their traditional values. Pray that God would raise up a new generation of Christian young people who will lead their peers into a lifestyle of godliness.

MAY

07

Mark & Patti Bean, Peru, United States

Praise God that the training of people to sell Quechua Bibles finally took place. Mark attended and took his turn teaching by computer.

The training included teaching about features in the Bible that can help people understand it better. Pray for steady progress as Mark reviews scripture translations made by two different teams, checking for accuracy, clarity, and naturalness. In May, Mark anticipates getting a PET scan that his oncologist will review to determine if he needs to continue chemo treatments a bit longer or if he can stop. Pray for the right decision to be made.

Georgia (Asia). Population: 3,982,461, Believers: 1.5%. Young Georgians have lost interest in the Church, with a majority leaving during teenage years. Youth groups have grown in some cases where intentional efforts were made to reach out to young people in creative and relevant ways and where youth were empowered to lead. Pray for churches to thoughtfully share the gospel with young people in relevant ways.

MAY

08

Truth For Life, United States

Thank God for the men in ministry across the country and around the world who watched the Basics Conference livestream. Pray that God will use the conference in the lives of those who attended (both in person and via livestream) to encourage many pastors to preach the gospel with passion and conviction. Pray with thanks to God for bringing Don Hurst to Truth For Life as the IT System Administrator. Pray that Don will get up to speed quickly and contribute in a significant way in this important role.

Germany (Europe). Population: 80,422, 308, Believers: 2.1%. Theological education was a major cause of decline in the national Protestant Church because the unchallenged monopoly of state-endorsed academic training and the continued influence of higher criticism undermined confidence in God's Word. Pray for more professors who openly proclaim the Truth in universities and pray for greater numbers of evangelical students in what used to be spiritual morgues. Pray also for the many Bible colleges, seminaries, and training institutions that retain a closer adherence to biblical truth; pray that effective and practical ministry training might also occur.

MAY

09

Johannes (& Mathapelo) Thaele, South Africa

Winter has started and the weather is cold with lots of rain. In April, South Africa experienced floods in different parts of the country. Water got inside Johannes and Mathapelo's house, and the Center was really a disaster.

Some houses collapsed and roads were destroyed. 445 people in their province lost their lives and 66 cannot be found. Pray for God to protect the people and give hurting families hope in Christ. They had more than 600 people attend their Easter church service. It was great for them to see people serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray for hearts to love Jesus and commit to following him as his disciples.

Ghana (Africa). Population: 29,567,415, Believers: 24.2%. Christianity has long been established in the south. About 63% of Ghanaians call themselves Christian, but many have only a tenuous link to a church, and attendance figures rarely top 10%. Pray that the true gospel may shine into the hearts of those who call themselves Christian but who are not born from above. Pray for a decisive break from all fetishism and occult bondages, and that true liberty in Jesus is found.

MAY

10

Parkside Green, United States

Please pray for God to work through their new stage-of-life community groups launching this month, adult studies on systematic theology and decision-making, as well as kids' and youth ministry. Also, please ask the

Lord to bear eternal fruit through the aviation missionaries they help support in Arua, Uganda, and the two missionaries they help support in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Greece (Europe). Population: 11,283,784, Believers: 0.4%. Evangelism and discipleship remain the real needs in reaching Greece. Short-term ministries spread the gospel to many, but to have a lasting impact, a longer-term presence is needed. Pray that national churches might develop in the areas of prayer, outreach, and church planting.

MAY

11

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

Pray for the 1,825 ESI participants in 168 groups meeting in 14 countries, with 2,730 total graduates since it began in 2002. Pray that these men and women will grow in their love for God and commitment to honor Christ by being true to his Scriptures, with Jesus and his gospel at the center. Pray for the 120 pastors and church leaders from 14 African countries that Kep and Debbie met with in Tanzania April 20-23. Pray for those who are considering starting ESI in their African countries of origin. Praise God for ESI expansion in Latin America in 2022. ESI Peru is taking ESI into British Guyana; ESI Ecuador is taking ESI into Central America, and ESI Columbia continues to oversee ESI expansion into Venezuela and just started three new groups in La Coruña, Spain.

Greenland (North America). Population: 57,130, Believers: 4.7%. Indigenous believers and forms of church are growing. With input from faithful Caucasian missionaries and indigenous Christian leaders, the Greenlandic Church is expressing itself in ways that are culturally compelling as well as biblical. Pray that the unique worldview and culture of the Inuit people might be made complete in Christ.

Grenada (Caribbean). Population: 108,393, Believers: 19.6%. The devastation of hurricanes in 2004 and 2005 is still felt. Although fewer than 40 were killed, 90% of the nation's buildings were destroyed, and the agriculture and tourism sectors were virtually annihilated. Both sectors have been rebuilt, but the nation is deeply in debt as a result. Pray for ways to recover from this debt and to protect from such scale of damage in the future; and above all, pray for dependence on God rather than on material things.

MAY

12

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

Please pray for the launch this month of a new initiative in partnership with Scranton Road Bible Church. It is a 6-week program called Jr. Ambassadors. In addition to the soccer they play, children interact with a weekly devotional and are challenged to memorize scripture. Pray for the coaches as they minister to the kids and their families. Matt and Laura are looking for the best schooling situations for both their youngest child, Braeden (9) who has cognitive delays and sensory processing disorder, and for Claire, their oldest, who is looking for a university to attend. Pray for the best decisions to be made in both situations. Also, pray for their middle daughter, Alyssa, as she prepares to enter high school in the fall.

Guadeloupe (Caribbean). Population: 483,814. Believers: 4.3%. Christianity is a cultural veneer for most. The rapid growth of sects and evangelical groups highlights the spiritual emptiness. Occultism and magic are widespread influences. Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict of sin and bring many to true repentance.

Guam (Pacific). Population: 201,438, Believers: 14.2%. The influx of US culture, with all its pros and cons, has irrevocably shaped Guam. There is an increasing presence of wealth and tourism, but also gambling, substance abuse, and prostitution/sex trafficking. With the American military presence increasing on the island, these issues will only intensify in the future. Pray for biblical righteousness to shape Guam's society and public life.

MAY

13

Indigenous Church Planting Organization in Arab & Muslim Countries

Pray for protection of their church planters in Mauritania and in other countries as well. Satan is hard at work trying to push back the light.

Praise God for the new believers in Spain. Pray for continued growth and for a boldness in sharing their newfound faith. Pray for Brother Philip and his wife, who are presently in the USA. Pray for profitable use of their time, encouragement as they meet with donors and churches, good visits with their son and daughter, and rest and refreshment for their souls.

Guatemala (Latin America). Population: 18,091,326, Believers: 24.4%.

Leadership training is a key issue, but a solid foundation has been laid.

Pray especially for effective ways to train leaders of poorer rural churches. Pray also that pastors and leaders would demonstrate Christ-like humility and graciousness and rise above petty divisions, pride, and carnality.

MAY

14

Health for Her Cleveland, United States

Their boutique, part of their conference room, and the reception area were damaged by water. Please pray that their insurance company will cover the cost of clean-up and repair of the damage. Pray for Joy, their new Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator. Pray for donation of new items needed for the boutique: shirts, blankets, socks, onesies, sleepers, and clothing (3m-12m). Pray that women in Cuyahoga County with unplanned pregnancies would choose life and come to know the hope and love found in Jesus Christ.

Guinea (Africa). Population: 13,467,039, Believers: 0.7%. The Church suffered serious numerical setbacks in the late 1990s and 2000s. Some established denominations shrank significantly, and evangelism and church planting slowed—probably largely due to nominal Christians falling away. Pray for believers who will persevere and pray against the enemy who seeks to destroy these young and weak Christians before they can grow.

MAY

15

Kep & Debbie James, Bolivia

Praise the Lord for the time Kep and Debbie were able to spend in Africa in April. They taught students at training centers in Senegal, Chad, and Turkey. Please pray for these 60 students as they go out to plant churches across North and West Africa and the Middle East in the next months. Pray that as students of God's Word, they will grow in their love for Jesus, resulting in gospel transformation in their daily lives. Continue to pray for Kep and Debbie as they relocate back to Cleveland to dedicate 50% of their time to the work in Africa and the other 50% with ESI.

Guinea-Bissau (Africa). Population: 2,064,988, Believers: 1.6%. Church leadership is solid, mature, and indigenous, with increasingly well-organized training programs for general discipleship and for pastoral training. But poorer and more remote rural congregations are much less appealing to workers and are therefore neglected. Those who do minister rurally must often care for several congregations at once. Pray for the vision of the evangelical Church to be fulfilled, and for trained, passionate national workers to go to the remote and unreached parts of Guinea-Bissau and to the entire region.

MAY

16

The City Mission, United States

Crossroads' residents were presented with certificates for completing Tri-C's "Workforce Success Seminar" at Olivet Church. They are thankful that Crossroads will begin serving as a Tri-C Access Center so even more of their residents will be able to receive this training! MetroHealth's mobile clinic will visit Crossroads weekly to help their residents assess their physical well-being and access appropriate services. Praise the Lord six men obtained employment during the month of March, and that The City Mission has been able to resume use of their chapel and dining rooms as construction progresses.

Guyana (South America). Population: 745,024, Believers: 19.8%. Ministry among young people is vital because family life, further education, employment, and the future in general are great challenges. Most evangelical denominations have work among youth. Praise God for many decisions to follow Jesus; pray for effective discipleship. **Iceland (Europe).** Population: 370,487, Believers: 3.8%. The majority of Icelanders are Christian, but only nominally so. Biblical Christianity and a lifestyle of following Christ are alien concepts to most. Some of the more isolated areas are spiritual wastelands, with almost no active Christianity at all. Ask the Lord to break into Icelandic society and orchestrate a revival that touches every person and aspect of life.

AN UPDATE FROM KEP JAMES

*"And when they (Paul and Barnabas) arrived
(in Antioch) and gathered the church together, they
declared all that God had done with them, and how
he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles."*

(ACTS 14:27)

WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Aren't you amazed at the way God works? Often it seems to me that life is like a giant jigsaw puzzle, with God putting each piece in the perfect place of his choice, at the perfect time of his choosing. I think about the Bible stories of Joseph and Moses, and they clearly testify to God working in the lives of his children, bringing them into a relationship with himself and a place of usefulness in his hands. We can thank him that he still works in our lives today. God is constantly working to accomplish his purposes, directing every one of our steps for his glory and for our good.

A HEART FOR MISSIONS & HELP FROM NEAR AND DISTANT PLACES



Debbie and I met at Wheaton College in 1979, both believers from our teen years, and were married in 1981, the same year that Parkside Church (then The Chapel) invited me to come on staff as the youth pastor. I had always felt a call to missions, but it was when Alistair and I went to the Urbana missions conference in the mid-eighties that I sensed that God was moving us to finally go.

Two years later, we left for Costa Rica so we could study Spanish. When we arrived in La Paz, Bolivia, our country of service, in 1988, our daughter Heather was just 4 years old, Katie was 2, and Andrew was born shortly after. For two years, we attended a church in La Paz while learning the Bolivian culture, and then started the ILC church plant in 1990. God raised up Pepe Rocha, who was 15 when we met him, to later

become the pastor of this church plant. Pepe served alongside me for seven years as the associate pastor of the ILC church, and later he became the senior pastor. With Bolivian pastors and elders fully in place in the ILC Church, we wondered if we should leave Bolivia to focus our attention somewhere else, but the sense from the Parkside elders and pastors was that we should use the relationships God had already given us in La Paz to focus on pastoral training. Pastor Pepe from our Bolivian church agreed with this decision since false doctrine and prosperity theology was shifting the churches in Bolivia away from Jesus and his Word.

LESSONS DEVELOPED, LESSONS LEARNED

In 2001, I developed material for pastoral training while continuing to pastor the ILC church alongside Pepe. The next year, I launched Equipping Servants International (ESI) with 15 pastors from La Paz. The ESI approach is simply about studying the

Nothing that occurs in our lives
is ever by chance. Our story is really God's
story—and we are amazed to be part of
what he is doing in moving the church
that he loves toward his Son,
and his Gospel, and his Word.

Bible! It is a pastoral training process where pastors and church leaders spend 14 hours each week studying the Bible and then meet once a week to discuss what they have learned and to talk and pray about their personal spiritual progress. This three-year mutual discipleship process is designed to get beyond mere Bible information to experience gospel transformation.

In many ways, ESI came out of the difficulties and failings I experienced in my own early pastoral ministry. I was trying to live the Christian life out of my own self-effort but struggling to ask for forgiveness in my closest relationships, struggling with a loss of joy, serving God out of a sense of duty, and not giving attention to studying the Bible that I was teaching! I believed the gospel, but didn't know how to live in light of it. Sadly, much of my preaching encouraged moralism and self-effort rather than a reliance on Jesus and the help he offers in his Word through his gospel and by his Spirit. I thank God that his grace taught me the truth of Colossians 2:6-7, that the Christian life is meant to be lived in the same way we came to Christ Jesus in

CONTINUED >

the first place—by trusting in Jesus; by relying on his righteousness! As I began to devote time to serious study of his Word, the Lord showed me what it means to live the Christian life in the power of the gospel—for the gospel that justifies is the same gospel that sanctifies us as we are transformed by God's Word. Finally, God taught me the importance of living the Christian life no longer as a lone ranger but now with other believers in a relationship of mutual discipleship and accountability.

That, in essence, explains what ESI is about. We seek to help pastors and church leaders make the study of God's Word a lifelong commitment, to understand what the Bible says with Jesus in the center, so we can live what the Bible says by grace, and so that we can faithfully teach and preach what the Bible says. We encourage pastors to walk alongside other pastors, and to mutually encourage and pray for each other.

ESI'S GROWING GLOBAL PRESENCE & NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTH AFRICA



In time, ESI has expanded into 14 countries. Currently we have 2,730 graduates and 1,863 active participants in 165 groups in 14 countries. We have groups active in the countries of Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Spain, and Sweden. We also started a Pastoral Assistant

program in the ILC Church in La Paz to prepare servants to plant churches in cities around Latin America.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Debbie and I returned to Parkside for 10 months. During our time in Cleveland, the Parkside pastors and elders asked me to evaluate and to help a ministry in North Africa, based out of Cairo. The need was to assist their 15 church planting training centers be thoroughly biblical and gospel-centered. In 2021, I visited the leaders in Cairo and two of their training centers in South Sudan and Chad. Returning to Cleveland, I worked with ministry leadership to help adjust their training curriculum. This past fall, I traveled to Cairo to train the 15 leaders of their training centers in how to study the Bible thoroughly—seeing Jesus and his gospel at the center.

In November 2021, the Parkside pastors and elders asked Debbie and me to refocus our ministry to include Africa (50% Africa; 50% ESI Latin America), which we are thrilled to do.

2022 has become a transition year for us. We spent the month of April teaching students in three of the church planting training centers—located in Senegal, Chad, and Turkey. We will be in Cleveland in May and August to get set up in the Cleveland area and will leave Bolivia in October.

MEANWHILE, GOD IS DOING ONE MORE AMAZING THING...



About a year ago I received a phone call from a Brazilian missionary named Paulo Sergio, whom Debbie and I had never met. He had done ministry in the Bolivian lowlands and heard how God was using the study of the Bible in the ESI groups there to help pastors. He asked, "My wife and I are being sent to Tanzania. Is there any way you could help us set up ESI in Tanzania?"

In April, Debbie and I, along with a team of people from Parkside, led an ESI Training Retreat with 120 pastors and church leaders from 14 countries in English speaking Africa: Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, and Egypt. Pray with us that God will use this training to mobilize pastors and local churches to move toward Jesus, his Word, and his gospel throughout the entire continent of Africa!

Nothing that occurs in our lives is ever by chance. Our story is really God's story—and we are amazed to be part of what he is doing in moving the church that he loves toward his Son, and his Gospel, and his Word.

*"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all
that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout
all generations, forever and ever." (Eph. 3:20-21)*



PHOTOS:
Opposite page.
Kep teaching ESI
students.
This page: Kep and
Debbie at ESI
Training in Sudan
and Tanzania.

MAY

17

Mike & Joan Ross, Mexico, United States

The MAF team in Oaxaca, Mexico is faced with the need to build a new office. Praise the Lord for significant progress in constructing the new building and for the use of a temporary mobile office. Pray for continued progress and timely occupancy. Pray for more pilots needed to serve with MAF around the world and especially for a pilot to help Amos in Oaxaca.

Haiti (Caribbean). Population: 11,722,392, Believers: 16.0%. Missions plays a valuable supportive role to the national Church. Upheavals and violence have forced most missionaries out of the country at one time or another; many never return. Pray for these servants of the Lord, for their testimony and service, and that they may contribute to the maturing of the Haitian Church.

MAY

18

Bobby & Julie, United States

Please pray for Bobby, Julie, and their children as they work toward leaving St. Paul to return to Bainbridge, before moving to central Asia. They are grateful for good news about visa requirements. They are also thankful that they have made great progress in repairing their aged house as they prepare to depart once the children have finished the school year. Pray that God will help them as they hope to leave for Ohio sometime around the middle or end of June. Pray that they will rest in God's sovereign power and care as they plan their steps.

Honduras (Latin America). Population: 9,136,431, Believers: 23.0%. Missions vision has grown significantly in the past decade. There are now several mission agencies that train and send cross-cultural workers. Pray for the whole Honduran Church to gain a greater vision for outreach and mission. Foreign mission agencies can still play a key role in training and development, specialized ministries, and in holistic projects, for which there are many openings. Pray for humble sensitivity and for a legacy of raising up and empowering Honduran leadership and initiatives.

MAY

19

Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan

Since the pandemic began, the borders of Japan have been closed to new residents, which means new missionaries have been waiting to come and join the work in the field. Recently, Japan reopened their borders and now nine new missionaries are arriving! It has been hectic, but Chris and Leanne feel blessed to have these brothers and sisters joining them. Some have been waiting for over a year with 100% of their support raised. Pray the Lord will help them find the neighborhoods and communities where he desires their new coworkers to live and minister. Pray for language to come easily to them as they begin learning Japanese and for the new ministry partnerships. Chris and Leanne thank and praise God for sending more harvesters into the fields. Pray that he sends more still.

Hungary (Europe). Population: 9,766,105, Believers: 2.8%. Hungarians have lost contact with the gospel, despite enjoying a rich theological history. They seek answers in many places: materialism, hedonism, alcohol, and increasingly, false religion. Postmodern mentalities predominate. Pray for all falsehoods and empty philosophies to be exposed as such and for Christ to be exalted as the truth in this historically Christian nation. Pray that Hungarians might see the truth of the gospel and the freedom it brings through Jesus.

MAY

20

Shoreline Church, United States

Pray for Chris Durbin as he transitions to become the Lead Pastor at Weymouth Church in Medina. Pray for Shoreline's new youth pastoral resident, Brandon Sherr as he builds relationships with the students and parents of Shoreline as well as with local schools in the community. Pray that all their church attenders might be encouraged to share their faith with family, neighbors, and coworkers. Pray that the ladies who attended their women's conference last month will be encouraged to live out their faith in their daily lives. Youth for Christ is excited that the state lock-up in Massillon has been added to their existing prison ministry at Green Road (State) and Quincy (County) and that over 80 young men have already made first-time decisions for Christ through this key ministry. Pray that God will continue to draw young men and women to himself.

India (Asia). Population: 1,367,224,576, Believers: 2.2%. India has more unreached individuals than any other nation. Christians in India are unequally spread—the south and northeast have a much higher proportion of Christians than the more populated north and west. Thirteen states in North India are less than 1% Christian. Pray that the Church worldwide might rise to this task. Training Christian workers is an important need that is immediately urgent and essential in the long-term. The life and health of the church depend on the proper development of pastors, teachers, evangelists, and missionaries. In churches, poor discipling and lack of teaching and modeling of biblical life and leadership are problems. There are over 100,000 full-time workers in India; about half are pastoring local churches. There is, on average, one trained pastor for every six congregations.

MAY

21

Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay

Every Friday morning there is a movable market/fair that sets up in the street outside their church. Once a month, the church will be setting up a stand in the market to distribute coffee and invitations, as well as helping people carry groceries and engaging in conversations. In addition to this, they carried out several efforts to meet neighbors and hand out invitations in April. Please pray for fruit from these evangelistic efforts. As the church continues to grow, they need more leaders for the various ministries. Pray that God would continue to raise up mature local believers to further the spread of the gospel in this country.

The Islands of Indonesia (Asia). Population: 254,217,770, Believers: 5.6%.

A spiritual conflict rages for Indonesia. Ancient and strong occult powers seek to oppose the influence of the gospel, while modern Muslim stratagems seek to eliminate Christianity and remove the presence of the Good News. Pray specifically for the binding of these powers and for continued growth of the Church in the midst of intense opposition and growing persecution.

MAY

22

Fieldstone Counseling, United States

Pray for Fieldstone Counseling as they take on new counselees and seek to meet the increasing need for counseling. Pray that the counselors would be encouraged and strengthened in Christ as they listen and care for their counselees. In addition, pray for many of them who will be leading and speaking at churches and events this summer. They are grateful for these opportunities and are excited to equip churches, schools, and fellow ministries. Continue to pray for openness, comfort, and growth through the Holy Spirit for the counselees as they receive counseling.

Iran (Asia). Population: 83,740,317, Believers: 0.2%. Young people are particularly responsive to the gospel. With nearly two-thirds of the population under age 30, with disillusionment at an all-time high, and with frustrated desires for freedom, there is a unique window of opportunity to impact this generation with the liberating good news about Jesus. Pray that the unmet longings of their hearts might be fulfilled as they meet Christ. Already, much of the underground church is made up of this younger generation.

MAY

23

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

Pray that God would give Edgar wisdom in directing the MAF work in Mexico. Pray for the three ESI groups that Edgar is leading in Oaxaca. 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 ESI groups in Chiapas. Neri and Karina are attempting to integrate four orphans (9 to 14 years old) into their family, pray for wisdom and patience during this challenging process. Pray for the 90,000 refugees in the area. 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.

Iraq (Asia). Population: 40,227,611, Believers: 0.2%. Leadership for the churches is an increasingly desperate need. Many good leaders have fled the country; many others are dead, specifically targeted by Islamists. Much of the pastoring and discipling is handled by Christian widows of slain leaders; pray for their equipping and enabling. Pray for the return of leaders who have fled, for the development of new leaders, and for protection of all who shepherd God's people in Iraq.

MAY

24

Church Plant Training Ministry in Asia

Pray for the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of the team, especially after the pandemic, and for wisdom for the leadership on how to effectively lead the work. Pray for their communities as they rebuild after the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for protection from COVID-19 for all their centers, team members, interns, students, and church members. Pray that men and women passionate for the Lord and his work will join their training programs and then go throughout the country and impact the nation.

Ireland (Europe). Population: 5,145,254, Believers: 1.5%. Evangelicals are experiencing sustained growth. The immigration surge contributed to this, with around one-third of evangelicals coming from non-Irish ethnicities. Pray for unity amid the new diversity, continued growth, good Bible-trained leadership to be raised up, and for the further development of holistic ministry by evangelicals.

MAY

25

Amy Cottle, Thailand

Amy and her team are grateful for the prayers of Parkside Church which help sustain the ministry in Thailand. Pray for the community contacts in the neighborhood, Teacher Dang and Auntie Jawii, that they will have the heart to really know Jesus. Pray that new believers Honey, P.O., Guitar, Ent, and Folk will grow in faith. Pray that GaoDa will seek the Lord and turn from Buddhism. Pray for the salvation of students Grace and PK, who are in the U.S. this summer.

Israel (Asia). Population: 8,306,679, Believers: 0.4%. The Jewish mindset toward Christianity, often characterized by animosity and part of a long and painful history, is a barrier to be overcome. "Christian" nations are seen to be destroyers of the Jewish nation whether by persecution or by proselytization. Pray that the gospel may be understood as a fulfillment of their Jewish heritage and pray that a widespread turning to their Messiah might come. Those who oppose the gospel are more active than ever; pray also that all attempts to restrict religious freedom and to deny the Jewish identity of Messianic believers may ultimately cause even more Jews to come to faith.

MAY

26

Wes & Nancy Collins, Peru, Guatemala, United States

Many Maya Mam pastors and teachers are learning to use online resources for research and outreach. Please pray for them as they learn new skills.

Italy (Europe). Population: 60,408,428, Believers: 1.1%. The challenge of Christian leadership in Italy remains urgent, since lack of mature, qualified, and gifted leaders persists. Academic and pastoral training are needs, but finance, time, and lack of vision limit opportunities. Pray that the various means of training would bolster pastoral leadership across the nation and, in turn, uplift and disciple the whole Church to entirely new levels of maturity.

MAY

27

Kep & Debbie James, Bolivia

Pray for the ILC church in La Paz, Bolivia, that members will be faithful sharing Christ with people around them, and that the Lord will bring much spiritual fruit. Praise God that Debbie was able to hand her ILC Church women's ministry over to her ministry team which frees her to travel with Kep. Pray that Pastor Pepe and the elders of the ILC Church will be passionate about Jesus so they can lead the church in gospel transformation according to God's Word.

Jamaica (Caribbean). Population: 2,834,321, Believers: 28.0%. The country finds itself in the midst of moral and social collapse. Powerful South American drug cartels, using Jamaica as a transshipment point for cocaine destined for the USA, wield great influence. As part of an anti-corruption drive, the government has invited greater participation from churches. Pray that government and church leaders may reject compromise. Pray for courage, moral integrity, and determination to turn the country back to God.

MAY

28

Parkside Church Westside, United States

As summer nears, pray that their gatherings would be full of fellowship and growth as a church. They look forward to Action Day Camp in June. Pray that it is a special week for the children—full of fun and the gospel message. Pray for all who attend and for the faithful volunteers.

Japan (Asia). Population: 123,664,363 Believers: 0.5%. Christianity is still regarded as an outside Western religion rather than a universal faith with the capacity to be truly Japanese. This is despite 500 years of Christian presence in Japan. Christians are a tiny minority in a society where consensus and conformity is important. Too few families come to faith, and too many individuals feel exposed. Pray for the Church to reach the size of critical mass and native character that will give it social credence and acceptability.

MAY

29

E & J, North Africa

E & J were looking at preschools for their son to go to in the fall and have found one that might be a good option. Please continue to pray for them as they plan for their children's education. Thank you for praying for their interactions there; they are having more opportunities to proclaim the Good News and address some common objections.

Jordan (Asia). Population: 7,518,599 Believers: 0.3%. Religious freedom could be a casualty amid rising religious tensions. This nation is a center for many Christian activities and ministries, and much Christian work in the Middle East would suffer were a setback to occur in Jordan. Pray for the freedom to proclaim the gospel and for followers of Jesus to be able to remain in Jordan.

MAY

30

Jon (& Ruthie), Ambassadors Football, United States

Goran Tomic, their European Team leader, recently visited their missionaries and partners in Germany, Slovenia, Croatia, and Serbia.

Their work in Croatia is just getting started, and they have a request from Ukraine to consider starting Ambassadors Football there after the war. Pray for God to give them direction for the future.

Kazakhstan (Asia). Population: 16,726,108 Believers: 0.7%. “To be a Kazakh is to be Muslim”—but theirs is a folk Islam strongly influenced by shamanistic practices. Other Muslim countries (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan) invest huge amounts of money to send Muslim missionaries. Traditional Islam is on the rise, even trendy in some sectors, despite the government actively opposing radical Islam. Orthodox Christianity is perceived as the religion of Russians, and evangelicals are often regarded as dangerous sects. Pray for this misconception to be broken; pray for freedom from historic spiritual bondages and prejudices.

MAY

31

Pastoral Assistants (PAs), Bolivia

During the pandemic, the PA program was put on hold for several months, but there are now two PA groups meeting in La Paz under the leadership of Pastor Juan Cardenas and one in Santa Cruz under the leadership of Pastor Javier Soliz. Pray for the eight Pastoral Assistant volunteers in Santa Cruz: Daniel Cabrera, Liliana Cronenbold, Claudia Herrera, Karen Hurtado, Miguel Olivera, Paolo Paris, Rolando Ruiz, and Aldruin Tapia; and for the 12 in La Paz: Juan Carlos Valdivia Arce, Grover Cantuta, Arturo Chávez, Pedro Garcia, Miguel Angel Guerra, Carlos Eduardo Soruco Michel, Fernando Moscoso, Miguel Angel Ayala Quiroga, Luis Eduardo Quiroz Rivero, Erick Rocabado, Alvaro Linares Salinas, and Rafael Oscar Lizarraga Yaravi.

Kenya (Africa). Population: 52,033,545 Believers: 48.9%. Long-term and rapid growth in churches has brought significant challenges for prayer. The need for trained leaders for the more than 80,000 congregations gives cause for concern. Pray for grassroots training programs that aim to ground leaders in the Word and to help them lead and plant truly biblical, truly African churches.

Global prayer requests taken from Mandryk, Jason. Operation World : The definitive prayer guide to every nation. 7th 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.

Full Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

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

Partial Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

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

Financial Support of Nationals

- Bolivia**

- 20 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 2,730 graduates since 2002 and 1,825 active participants in 168 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	Health for Her Cleveland
Indigenous Church-Planting	Parkside Church Westside
Organization in Arab & Muslim Countries	
Parkside Green	Parkside Heights Church
Scranton Road Bible Church	Shoreline Church
The City Mission	Truth For Life

Financial Support to Mission Individuals

Emily (& Blake) Ackerson	Amy Cottle
Jon (& Ruthie)	Matt (& Laura) Pheneger

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

Get Involved

in a short-term missions trip

India

ESL teaching

July 15-30, 2022

To find out more about joining a future short-term team, please contact the church office at 440.543.1212 or visit www.parksidechurch.com/missions.



PARKSIDE
CHURCH

To see unbelieving people become
committed followers of Jesus Christ.