



# Missions Prayer Calendar

A SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY  
FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

JANUARY

"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!



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 toward 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, E

*\*Names withheld for security purposes*



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

JAN

1

**Bobby & Julie, Central Asia**

Continue to pray for Julie as she teaches math at the international school and for the group who went on a mountain retreat with Bobby. With a new family joining their team, pray for good communication and unity as the team grows internationally. Pray for their children as they study diligently and work hard caring for one another.

**Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China) (Asia).**

Population: 7,396,076 Believers: 6.1%. The massive protests of 2019 seem a distant memory as Beijing's grip on Hong Kong has relentlessly squeezed out all effective opposition to its control. Divisions in the church over the protests and associated politics need to be healed and believers need to be reconciled. Although the setbacks to Hong Kong's freedoms can be discouraging, believers in China itself have demonstrated that the flame of the gospel cannot be snuffed out by even the most brutal oppression. May the church in Hong Kong learn how to be a powerful witness amidst the profound changes it is experiencing.

JAN

2

**E & J, North Africa**

Pray for Jessica's health as she goes through the miscarriage of an early pregnancy. Pray that God would sustain her so that they do not have to seek medical intervention. They look forward to the day when everything will be made new and put right. Pray for the success of their date business. Their goal is to recover enough funds to send another shipment to the US. This will bless many farmers and suppliers in the "Chay" region and increase their legitimacy and credibility.

**People's Republic of China (Asia).** Population: 1,416,096,094 Believers: 5.7%.

The survival and growth of the church in China are two of the most decisive events of our generation. The window of opportunity for spiritual receptivity might not be open indefinitely. China today faces materialism—with increasing wealth, the debilitating effects of spreading corruption, moral decline, and the growing social and economic impact of the one-child policy. All of these may profoundly affect the spiritual openness of the nation and the church itself. Pray that the Refiner's fire might keep burning and that the church's spiritual cutting edge—honed in the midst of persecution—might not be blunted.

JAN

3

**Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay**

Please pray for Andrew and Angie as they lead a short-term mission trip on a riverboat in the Bolivian Amazon with a group of young people from Montevideo until January 10. Pray for safe travels and that the journey would bear lasting fruit—both in the lives of those they encounter and in the hearts of the young people, deepening their passion for missions and evangelism.

**Republic of China, Taiwan, (Asia).** Population: 23,112,793 Believers: 2.8%.

Taiwan remains a stronghold of Buddhism and Taiwanese folk religion. Over 90% of Taiwanese follow some combination of Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and traditional religions. Buddhism now grows strongly among educated professionals. Most traditional folk religions have many gods, and people pay offerings to ghosts or seek advice from the spirit world. Taiwan remains the only major Han Chinese population in the world without a significant spiritual breakthrough. Pray that this will change.

JAN

4

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

As J and A continue to prepare for mission work abroad, pray for their personal time with the Lord. Their desire is for their marriage to be continually strengthened in the Word. Pray for wisdom for J and A as they raise their toddler son and infant daughter with all the constant changes currently in their lives. Pray that the light of Christ would shine through them to those who do not know him.

**Colombia (Latin America).** Population: 53,425,636 Believers: 7.5%. Pray that peace might hold in this nation so troubled by violence in the past. A long-lasting armed conflict included the government, left-wing guerrillas, right-wing paramilitaries, foreign multi-national corporations, and drug cartels. The historic peace deal in 2016 is now being followed up by the Special Jurisdiction of Peace—an effort to bring justice to those victimized during the conflict, and to those who committed human rights violations or broke international law. Meanwhile, the meltdown of neighboring Venezuela has brought as many as 4 million Venezuelans into Colombia. Pray that believers in Colombia might be peacemakers amidst continuing tensions and violence. Pray also for the church to love their neighbors—including the millions of Venezuelans who find themselves in such desperate need.

JAN

5

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

This month, Mark will be concentrating on the book of Joshua for the C4 project (four Central Quechua languages). They set the book of Leviticus aside last month and began Joshua. For the Panao Quechua project, Mark hopes to finish the book of 2 Samuel and begin Ezra and Nehemiah. Continue to pray for the different participants to not only grow in their abilities to read, write, teach, and translate, but also to grow in their love of God and his Word. Last month, Patti accepted the request to walk a new-to-Wycliffe Latino couple through a couple years of orientation as they get started in their first assignment. She is not sure yet which of two couples will be assigned to her. Pray for a good connection as she begins walking alongside them this month.



**Democratic Republic of Congo-DRC (Africa).** Population: 112,832,473 Believers: 18.7%. The powerful spiritual evil that presides over much of the land manifests in many ways, beyond mere civil wars, killing, tribalism, greed, and corruption. Cry out for God to deliver this land, binding the spirits that exercise such wicked control over the suffering people. Pray for nominal Christians to find new life in Christ. There is a notable lack of biblical knowledge in most churches; pray that the Bible would be read, used, and applied in the churches in the DRC.

JAN

6

### Truth For Life, United States

Thank the Lord for providing a new Director of Content, Jason Ehmann. Ask the Lord to give Jason and his family a smooth transition as they move from Nevada to Cleveland in early January. Pray that Jason settles into his new role quickly and that God will use him in the years ahead to help shape content that leads many to know and trust in Christ. Praise God that many people requested the booklet *The Man on the Middle Cross* and the new Truth For Life Gospel tract at the end of 2025. Pray that these resources will reach the hands of many who will learn about Jesus for the first time and pursue knowing him as Lord and Savior.

**Republic of Congo-ROC (Africa).** Population: 6,484,437 Believers: 15.9%. The Congo has past troubles, but future potential. After two decades of Communism, the past dictator eventually became president of the new democracy. But in the years between he provoked a civil war that devastated the land, killed thousands, and displaced over 300,000 people. The church needs revival and restoration. Pray for a new move of the Spirit. Churches need to be swept clear of flawed worldviews and false beliefs and instead filled with the Spirit's power and led by biblical truth.

JAN

7

### Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan

Chris and Leanne were thankful for our prayers throughout the Christmas season. It was a great opportunity for them to point to the birth of Christ and to the ultimate reason for which he came. Pray for the leadership of SEND Japan as they seek God's wisdom for the year ahead. Mrs. A is the mom of six young children and is a strong believer. Her husband allows her and the kids to go to church, but he is not a believer. Pray for his salvation. Pray for this family and that God will do a miracle in this dad's heart.

**Costa Rica (Latin America).** Population: 5,152,950 Believers: 14.8%. Evangelicals in Costa Rica grew to 15% of the population and established one of Latin America's most effective mission movements. But the church needs prayer. Most Costa Rican churches are good at winning "converts," but they fail to disciple them well. Pastors survive on minimal incomes and have little help, so they struggle to provide consistent pastoral care. Christians often fall away in difficult times or move to different churches. Pray for effective and sustainable models of doing church and making disciples in Costa Rica.

JAN

8

**Scranton Road Bible Church, United States**

Pray that the families who participated in their Christmas outreach will understand the great love of Jesus and respond. Pray for leaders to find refreshment and rest as they take a small winter break before ministry programs resume in mid-January. Pray for the men in their elder cohort as they prepare to present them to the congregation in January. Pray for their small mission team heading to Cuba in February—that they will find favor and that the Lord will open doors for effective gospel ministry.

**Côte d'Ivoire (Africa).** Population: 32,711,547 Believers: 10.5%. Pray for the church of Côte d'Ivoire. Evangelical churches have grown steadily since the 1990s, even during the conflicts of 2002-2007. Abidjan alone probably has over 3,000 churches now, mostly new and independent. But many Christians do not know or understand the Bible, and churches pursue prosperity teaching, or focus on miracles and healings more than on Christ.

JAN

9

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

Nearly three years ago, Victor, a pastor of a small church located next to a housing complex for international students attending the University of New South Wales, connected with Power to Change (Cru in Australia) with a desire to reach international students with the gospel. The church now hosts monthly dinners and social gatherings in the building, and several students have started attending church. One volunteer launched a Bible study with Chinese students, and one student has already trusted Christ! Pray that they can develop a fully established team on campus next year so more students can encounter Jesus. Blake and Emily are thankful for prayers for their son, Nathaniel. Over the past few months, he has truly turned a corner at school, and they have been amazed to watch him step into friendships and classroom learning with growing confidence. They honestly can't explain it apart from God graciously hearing our prayers. Continue to pray for Emily's health.

**Croatia (Europe).** Population: 3,848,160 Believers: 0.4%. The deep impact of historic and recent hatred among Croat, Serb, and Bosnian may hurt the nation for generations to come. Pray for true reconciliation and for God to break these religious and ethnic bondages through the power of Christ!

JAN

10

**Parkside Green, United States**

Please pray for the Lord to use Pastor Adam's new sermon series; their adult education classes on the New City Catechism, Ethics, and John 14-21; and their youth/children's ministries to help people become committed followers of Jesus Christ. 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, finishing their home assignment in the US and visiting Ohio in mid-January; and Bryan and Erin Joseph, visiting with them throughout January before launching into full-time missions in Mazatlán, Mexico.



**Cuba (Caribbean).** Population: 10,937,204 Believers: 8.8%. Cuba faces a difficult future. Communist Party leaders hold power, but this economic approach cannot last forever. The economy is one of the weakest in the Caribbean, and too few young people remain to support the older generation. Deep poverty led to a successful black market with widespread crime, drugs, and prostitution. The regime imprisoned more than 500,000 for political reasons, and over a million became refugees in the USA. Pray that the Cuban diaspora might find Christ and influence their original homeland. Pray for reasonable reforms, freedom, forgiveness, and for every industry built on sin to be overcome by good.

JAN

11

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

Kep and Debbie meet regularly with the Equipping Servants International (ESI) South America, Africa, and Europe country leaders—encouraging them in their study of God’s Word, pursuit of holiness, commitment to walk in the gospel, and in their daily growth in their relationships with Jesus and faithfulness to the Lord in their marriages and families. They are encouraged by positive reports from many of the 300 ESI pastors they met with in Rwanda who received teaching from God’s Word concerning Christ honoring marriages and gospel generated integrity. Pray for true gospel transformation across Africa.

**Czechia (Europe).** Population: 10,609,240 Believers: 0.7%. Over 70% of the population consider themselves non-religious, although many use horoscopes and mix different spiritual ideas. The successful transition to a market economy was a positive change for the country, but it put economic stress on the most vulnerable people. Crime, sexual immorality, substance abuse, depression, and suicide all have notably higher rates today than they did during Communist times. Ask God to lift the spiritual heaviness from over Czechia.

JAN

12

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

Please pray for partnerships that are forming with denominations and other organizations around the world. Indonesia, Kenya, and Chile are just a few of the countries where they are envisioning and training multiple churches to reach out to their communities through soccer. Ambassadors Football is encouraged as they work alongside Kep James and ESI in several countries. They met with Kep recently about working together in Bolivia. As each ministry brings its strengths, pray for the Lord to use their partnership to impact the church.

**Denmark (Europe).** Population: 6,002,507 Believers: 3.5%. Denmark retains a core of Christian traditions and values in its social laws and values. And Danes began to show more openness to spiritual things in recent years. But over half the population is agnostic or atheist by some reports. And many people’s spiritual search does not lead them to Christian faith and the church. Pray that more Danes will rediscover the faith that shaped so much of the nation’s history and society.

JAN

13

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

Pray for wisdom regarding the future of the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) work in Mexico and for the best use of the tools God has provided to reach the lost. 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. Thank God that a visa has been issued for Eily to accompany Gregorio to Candidate Classes with MAF in Idaho this spring. Pray for wisdom for Mike and Joan in planning trips to Mexico this year. Pray that God will bless the work of MAF around the world and bring much spiritual fruit for the kingdom.

**Djibouti (Africa).** Population: 1,184,077 Believers: 0.1%. Mission work is a challenge in this hot, dry, but often humid land, and working conditions are extremely difficult. Physical and spiritual oppression, economic disparity, ethnic tensions, and a paucity of believers lead easily to discouragement and worker attrition. Pray for God to send long-term workers, especially from nearby countries and people groups.

JAN

14

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

Ruth shares that children in Zambia are hearing and responding to the gospel. The ministry sponsored two teachers from their small school to take the Child Evangelism Fellowship course. Upon completion, these teachers, along with others, started doing open air evangelism at events. In one day, over 700 children heard about Jesus Christ, and 600 of them prayed to ask Christ into their lives! Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide them and help them to grow in Christ. Also, continue to pray for after school Gospel Outreach Bible Clubs in Cleveland, Euclid, and Painesville, where 71 boys and girls meet weekly to study the Bible.

**Dominica (Caribbean).** Population: 65,872 Believers: 16.8%. The Carib Indians live on an isolated reservation on the northeast coast of Dominica. They are among the last indigenous peoples in the Caribbean to survive the arrival of colonialism and subsequent waves of immigrants. Most are nominally Christian, but only a small number actively follow Christ. Pray that these socially deprived people may find their true identity and fulfillment in him. **Equatorial Guinea (Africa).** Population: 1,938,431 Believers: 4.4%. Training leaders and discipling believers are strategic and growing ministries. Pray that graduates of training institutions may be used by the Spirit to evangelize the nation and disciple believers. Pray for greater opportunities for laity to grow in their faith; the move from a nominal Catholic/animist worldview to a biblical one is a significant transition.

JAN

15

**The City Mission, United States**

Pray that the Lord will continue to use The City Mission to restore hope and change and a home for Clevelanders who are living in crisis. Pray for the staff and volunteers as they provide essential needs with the compassion of Christ for the women and children living in Laura's Home, in the Transitional Housing, and with the men at Crossroads.

**Dominican Republic (Caribbean).** Population: 11,520,487 Believers: 9.1%. Pray for endurance, provision, and faithfulness for those called to minister, especially those serving in the poorer, rural areas. Pray that the 15 or so Bible schools and the National Evangelical University may provide spiritual, mature, and stable leaders for the future.

JAN

16

**Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay**

Please pray for wisdom and guidance as they make plans for the activities of 2026. One of the plans is to open a new ESI group this year. Continue to thank the Lord for Andrew and Angie as they serve him in Uruguay. Pray that their family will continue to grow in their faith and in their love for the Lord.

**Ecuador (Latin America).** Population: 18,289,896 Believers: 8.5%. Evangelical numbers are large enough to significantly impact society. Pray for: vision and growth to continue, unity within the great variety of churches, cultural sensitivity, and integration of Quichua and Lowland Indians into the national church scene, improved availability and quality of pastoral training, and effective and appropriate ministry to children and young people.

JAN

17

**Shoreline Church, United States**

Praise God for another year in ministry! Continue to pray for the students involved in the children's and youth ministry. Pray for their youth pastor, Brandon as he partners with Fellowship of Christian Athletes and shares the gospel in the local public and private schools. Thank God for the work taking place in their young adult ministries as God continues to grow and strengthen them. Pray that as all the Bible studies start meeting again, they will continue to be a place of spiritual growth and friendship. Pray for the next *How To Have A Spiritual Conversation* workshop beginning in February. They praise God for the feedback of conversations that were ignited from the last workshop that Pastor Scott led and are continuing to pray for those that are putting what they learned into action.

# The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth



ocean



NORTH  
PACIFIC  
OCEAN



INDIAN  
OCEAN



ocean

ANTARCTICA



## AN UPDATE FROM THE THAELE FAMILY

PARKSIDE MISSIONARIES SERVING IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Thaele family lives and serves in Bloemfontein, South Africa. The church where Johannes (Thapelo) serves as overseer got its start through the care and attention of Elizabeth Johnson (recently in heaven with the Lord), and her family. When they saw a need to provide tap water to the community, they offered support, and from there, a church, and now a satellite church, have been established. Johannes' many roles in South Africa include husband, father, pastor, youth worker, church planter, community developer, and evangelist.

### FAMILY LIFE

My wife, Mathapelo (Grace), is working in the educational field, and she has obtained her honors in education. My daughter, Mamello, is 15, and she is in grade nine. My son, Bokang, is 21 years old and he has completed upgrading his mark for access to university curriculum. He has applied at the University of South Africa to study education.

### SCHOOL MINISTRY

I visit schools once a week to share the gospel with students and teachers during their assembly and help them become devoted disciples of Jesus Christ by connecting them to the nearby church. Most of the teachers and learners are committed followers of Jesus Christ. I am serving a minimum of 2,000 learners at each school,



and next year we have a planned vacation bible camp (VBC) at one of the schools where I am serving. The school ministry is growing in such a way that we partnered with Parkside for two consecutive years serving God and it was a success. We received very positive feedback from the parents and teachers.



God is opening more doors for ministry. Hearing testimonies from other schools on the work that God is doing with us through Parkside, new schools have reached out, asking us to serve at their schools. The message of salvation is reaching more souls, and we are praying for more workers. The field is big, and the workers are few.

## NEW CHURCH

Through the giving received from Parkside's VBC in 2024, we built a structure for a new church that has been planted and can accommodate up to 120 congregants. The church doing the planting is the church that Elizabeth Johnson was involved in. The church is growing, and this year, we celebrated a year of having a church building.



Thank you, Parkside, for your prayers and support.

Johannes (Thapelo) Thaele

**Photos: Page 1:** *The Thaele Family.* **Page 2, Top:** *Johannes serving in one of the schools.* **Bottom, Left and Right:** *Celebrating the first anniversary of the new church building.*

**Egypt (Africa).** Population: 118,365,995 Believers: 3.9%. A decade has passed since the upheaval of the Arab Spring. Some of the change protestors hoped for has arrived, but much remains the same as before 2011. Christians still live in a precarious situation regarding religious freedom and persecution. Many Muslims would prefer Egypt did not have such a large Christian population. Pray for a government that serves God's purposes—to restrain evil, punish crime, and enable peaceful and quiet lives among the citizenry.

JAN

18

**Bobby & Julie, Central Asia**

Please pray for an open door for the gospel, for people to hear the good news, and for the local churches to grow and spread. There are many mosques being built and many hindrances and barriers to church planting. Pray for God's direction and thank him for his favor. They are thankful that God has provided them with the money for a second vehicle to use for their tourism business. Pray that he will guide them as they look for a vehicle for the mountains and for long-distance travel.

**El Salvador (Latin America).** Population: 6,365,503 Believers: 31.6%. The growth of evangelicals amid travail has been a modern-day miracle, but now the need is for consolidation of the work. Pray for effective discipling and motivation of believers for service, witness, and missions. Pray also for increased unity and vision for outreach so that this nation might belong to Jesus—El Salvador is Spanish for “the Savior.”

JAN

19

**Parkside Heights Church, United States**

As the new year begins, they are thankful for the opportunity to pursue the purchase of a church building in the Heights. Please pray for God's continued favor and wisdom for all those involved in this endeavor. Also, pray for them as they plan for a leadership training workshop in late January with the goal to help others become committed followers of Jesus Christ.

**Eritrea (Africa).** Population: 3,607,003 Believers: 2.1%. The Christian church faces terrible ongoing persecution, both outside the recognized churches and, to some degree, within. Many leaders and lay members are in prison, and more are under house arrest; the government has seized many church assets. Pray that Christians may remain fervent for Jesus amid hardship and make a significant impact on their nation and beyond.

JAN

20

**Church Plant Training Ministry in Asia**

Pray that the people who heard the gospel through their various Christmas outreaches would be saved. Pray for courage, safety, and protection for believers in sensitive regions. Pray for protection of the associates as they work in remote areas. Pray for more doors to open for the one-week Regional Development Trainings. Pray that the sewing and computer courses offered at the centers will impart skills to men and women and strengthen their incomes.

**Estonia (Europe).** Population: 1,344,232 Believers: 4.9%. Despite a Protestant heritage, genuine faith in Estonia is rare. Many have limited Christian belief, but very few follow Jesus in any meaningful way. Most of the population needs to be re-evangelized. Pray for a new vision for evangelism and revival to reawaken the nominal majority.

JAN

21

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

They thank God for a successful *Holiday Connections* program. Pray for blessings on both the families who shared their lives and on those who needed support. They are grateful for all the lovely items donated to the Blessings Boutique for the babies and moms. Pray that the Lord will instill on the hearts of the women and men they encounter the value of unborn life and the abundant gift of life for the family. Also, ask God to provide the finances they need to start the new year strong so they are able to serve those facing crisis pregnancies.

**Ethiopia (Africa).** Population: 135,472,051 Believers: 19.6%. Bible translation remains a major challenge. Up to 88% of congregations use local languages in their meetings, so Bible translation is a must. There are 35 translation projects in progress; this represents nearly half of all living languages. Another 17 languages have translation needs that are currently unaddressed. Pray for wisdom in knowing which projects are priorities and pray for more nationals to become involved in them.

JAN

22

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

Pray for the ESI groups meeting in Europe and the US—Italy (4), London (4), Paris (5), Los Angeles (1), Virginia and Florida (3). Pray that as participants study the Bible, they will see how all Scripture points to Christ and his gospel—and they will experience genuine gospel transformation in their lives and marriages. Pray for the ESI Central America leader, Pastor Jose Gutierrez, as he meets and trains pastors in 2026 in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador, and northern Mexico. Pray for Pastor Sebastian Moreno, the ESI leader in Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, and Spain. Last month, their ESI Brazil team met with 120 pastors in southern Venezuela. There is a strong desire to start ESI groups to begin studying God's Word in small groups. Pray for Pastor Edgar Mamani, the ESI leader in La Paz, Bolivia, as he spends time with Tacana Indigenous pastors in the Tipnis jungle region of Bolivia, an area that is resistant to the gospel. Pray for their ESI Africa leaders, Paulo da Silva and Isaac Chitibwe, as they build leadership teams in many countries across Africa.

**Falkland Islands (Latin America).** Population: 3,469, Believers: 10.8%. Most of the population is very nominal in what faith they may have. Pray for a renewal of faith. Pray for believers in their witness to fellow Islanders and to fishermen, oilmen, and tourists of different nationalities who stop off in the islands.

**Faroe Islands (Europe).** Population: 56,002 Believers: 28.8%. The Faeroese need revival. Pray for the Spirit to continue impacting the church in the Faeroe Islands; pray that Christians will be wise in engaging the postmodern and secular attitudes that increasingly challenge the primacy of the Bible and Christian tradition.

JAN

23

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

Westside's community groups are continuing their study of Romans. Pray for the Holy Spirit to make the book live for them as they meet.

Pray for the church's involvement with International Friendships; with Building Hope in the City; and with the Cleveland Pregnancy Center. 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 Somalian refugees in Africa. Continue to pray for the health and safety of Nathanael Wiles who has returned to serve at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya.

**Fiji (Pacific).** Population: 933,155 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: 313,666 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.

JAN

24

### **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 MAF work in Mexico. Pray for their daughter, Esther, who is dealing with some health issues. Pray for the two ESI groups that Edgar is leading in Oaxaca and for a new group forming in Ensenada. Pray for wisdom and safety for Edgar who has received threats but desires to continue to encourage the pastors and believers in Amoltepec. 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 God that they were able to move into a more affordable house, which better fits their needs. Pray for strength for Neri as he continues battling lymphoma and for wisdom to work within his physical limitations. Praise God for encouraging results in recent blood work. Pray for healing for Neri and for extra strength for Karina during this difficult season in their lives.

**Finland (Europe).** Population: 5,623,330 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. 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.

JAN

25

**E & J, North Africa**

Pray for the foreigners and language tutors with whom they had the privilege of celebrating Thanksgiving. They find so much for which to be thankful, especially for so many relationships. Recently, E & J took training on peacemaking. Pray that they would be well equipped to be peacemakers in their team, church, and community.

**France (Europe).** Population: 66,650,805 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.

JAN

26

**Wes & Nancy Collins, United States**

Continue to pray for all the missionaries around the world, for their health and peace this time of year. As Wes and Nancy prepare to move into their oldest daughter's house, pray for wisdom and strength to handle the numerous details involved in moving out of their townhouse while dealing with health issues.

**French Guiana (Latin America).** Population: 313,666 Believers: 4.5%. The growth of evangelicals has been steady if not spectacular in the last 20 years. This is true for many minority groups but also among the Creole, previously considered to have few believers. Give praise for the opening of work among several Amerindian groups, with several churches planted among the Caribs/Galibi in particular.

**French Polynesia (Pacific).** Population: 282,465 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.

JAN

27

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

The schools closed for Christmas and reopened on January 17. Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for Johannes and for God's wisdom to guide their team as they start the new year. Pray that they will see more children come to know Jesus in 2026. Their goal is to plant a church every year in the unreached areas around their community. Please pray that God will help them reach this goal for his glory.

**Gabon (Africa).** Population: 2,593,130 Believers: 12.7%. Spiritist beliefs and practices lie beneath the surfaces of Catholicism, other Christian groups, and Islam. Many Gabonese still use charms, hallucinogenic drugs, and ancestral spirits, and go to medicine men. Some leaders of the government, the police, and the army participate in nighttime rituals that use witchcraft and black magic. Christians who do not participate can be refused academic or professional opportunities. Pray for followers of Jesus to remain faithful to him alone and for such faith to spread the gospel even further.

JAN

28

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

Goran and Beth were in Slovakia in October when Ambassadors Europe leaders met to discuss ministry and plan for the future.

Leaders came from Spain, Wales, England, Holland, Serbia, Czech Republic and Slovakia. Pray for the work there, with many great opportunities for growth as well as challenges—finding facilities, facing opposition from local clubs, and support-raising for staff, especially those in Eastern Europe. 2026 begins with two big outreach tournaments in Holland and Croatia. Please pray for opportunities to share the gospel.

**The Gambia (Africa).** Population: 2,822,093 Believers: 0.8%. Thank God for the mostly friendly relationships between Muslims and Christians in Gambia. Christians have more religious freedom there than in most Muslim countries. Pray for continued religious freedom and peace. Pray for Gambians to have a vision to reach their own nation and for creative ways to support those who move into more isolated areas.

JAN

29

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

Last month, they had a wonderful visit with Kep's 95-year-old mother in Charlotte, NC. She's doing well and continues to enjoy meaningful ministry and friendships where she lives. Pray for Kep and Debbie's upcoming ESI Facilitator Training they will lead with Jose Gutierrez in Costa Rica on February 5–7. Pray that the 80 Costa Rican pastors and church leaders who are signed up to attend this training will commit to studying God's Word with ESI. Pray for the ESI pastors conference they are preparing to lead in late February in Brazil's Pantanal in the city of Vilhena.

**Georgia (Asia).** Population: 3,806,671 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.



JAN

30

**Fieldstone Counseling, United States**

Fieldstone is grateful for our continued prayers and support. Pray for wisdom and discernment as they look to the year ahead and seek to steward well the work God has entrusted to them. They have openings for counseling. Pray that individuals and families in need would be able to connect with them and receive timely, Christ-centered care. Please also pray that their counselors will be strengthened, encouraged, and guided by the Lord as they walk alongside those facing life's challenges, offering lasting hope for their hardships.

**Germany (Europe).** Population: 84,075,075 Believers: 2.1%. Germany's wealth, influence, and location in the EU and Europe could be of great value for the kingdom of God. Like much of Europe, Germany faces a crisis of spirituality. New Age, the occult, Satanism, and new forms of the old pagan religions all gain followers, but none grow as quickly as the group claiming, "no religion." Migrants bring their own versions of faith with them—including vibrant Christianity. Pray for God to raise up leaders who will love righteousness and strong moral values, even when they face temptation to compromise.

JAN

31

**Parkside Kent, United States**

As they begin the new year, please pray that the Lord will provide godly men to shepherd the flock as elders. Pray that the elders of Parkside Kent will be faithful men of godly character who will shepherd the flock because of their love for Christ and his church.

**Ghana (Africa).** Population: 35,064,273 Believers: 24.2%. Ghana enjoys a rich Christian tradition! Many newer churches emerged, and many traditional denominations have a vibrant spiritual life. When churches multiply quickly, doctrines can become confused. Ghana has the blessing of many training institutions. Pray for mature leaders for the church. Traditional African practices present the greatest challenge to Christians. Pray for a clear break from all bondage to charms and the occult and pray for true liberty in Jesus.

*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 3,200 active participants in 270 groups meeting in 35 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, England, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Italy, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, 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
Truth For Life	Scranton Road Bible Church
	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

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.