



# Missions Prayer Calendar

A SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY  
FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

DECEMBER

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."

MATTHEW 9:37 (ESV)

# Introduction

## “Pray also for us...”

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

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

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

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



To see unbelieving people become  
committed followers of Jesus Christ.

# What You Can Do



## Pray

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

Join us Sunday evenings for Missions Prayer Time, online or in-person, from 5:00-5:45pm in Room 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. The prayer requests for different countries are excerpts from this book. You can pick up a copy at Books by the Park or visit their website, [operationworld.org](https://operationworld.org).



## Give

Thanks to your generous giving, we were able to allocate \$3,091,762 towards missions in 2022. 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

*\*Names withheld for security purposes*



Mike & Joan Ross

Steve, Ben, Aaron

DEC

01

**Kep & Debbie James, Africa, Latin America, United States**

Pray for Kep and the Equipping Servants International (ESI) team who are in Liberia until December 10 leading two facilitator training seminars.

Please pray that the Lord will use this time to encourage each of the 210 church leaders to study the Bible, to understand its central message, to live it, and to teach and preach it—faithfully impacting churches across Liberia.

**Dominican Republic (Caribbean).** Population: 11,332,972 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.

DEC

02

**Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan**

Praise God for Chris's safe return from SEND's Directors' Counsel in Thailand. It was an encouraging and valuable time. Leanne felt our prayers while Chris was away. Please pray that the strength of the missionaries of SEND would come from being in the presence of Jesus, not just strategizing and laboring. December lends itself to many ministry opportunities due to the Christmas holiday. Pray for wisdom for Chris and Leanne and their Japanese ministry partners as they plan events, invite, and spend time with people this month. Pray that God will be glorified and made known in all they do.

**Ecuador (Latin America).** Population: 18,190,484 Believers: 8.5%. Evangelical numbers are large enough to significantly impact society. The potential is great, but many in-house issues need resolution. 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.

DEC

03

**Bobby & Julie, Central Asia**

There is a strong sense that people want to talk about and process current events going on in the world. Please pray for Bobby and Julie as opportunities arise to listen and share as people have swirling thoughts about many issues. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." Pray for them as they share and show the sacrificial love of Jesus and the good news about God's peace. Pray specifically for Miss G, their language helper, and for Alexander and a group of friends Bobby met while hiking—that they will hear and respond to the gospel message. Pray for Bobby and Julie as they communicate with their landlord and take care of various logistics in preparation for their return to NE Ohio in late December.

**Egypt (Africa).** Population: 112,716,598 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. President Sisi appears to be instilling authoritarian rule once again, but many—including Christians—feel this is necessary to curb Islamist movements from regaining control. 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.

DEC

04

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

Parkside Church Westside appreciates prayer as they spread the gospel locally and globally. Please pray that they will continue to love and serve their neighbors in Lakewood. As they prepare to hold their Christmas

Store for Lakewood families in need of hope, pray for opportunities to show these families the love of Jesus and that they would be drawn to the hope found only in Christ. Pray for the members of Parkside Westside to boldly proclaim Christ in the daily mission fields in which the Lord has placed them. Pray for a church family who is working abroad with a minority language group to advance the gospel in all languages. Also, pray for the health and safety of Nathanael Wiles and the work he is doing at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya.

**El Salvador (Latin America).** Population: 6,364,943 Believers: 31.6%. The growth of Evangelicals in the midst of 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.'

DEC

05

### **Church Plant Training Ministry, South Asia**

Pray for their annual Christmas Cantata performance and for those who will come to see it. Pray also for the Christmas outreach program. Pray for more doors to open for Regional Development Trainings. Pray for their

team members to grow and be encouraged that their service to the Lord is not in vain. Pray for the Lord's enabling as they work to achieve their target for this year.

**Eritrea (Africa).** Population: 3,748,901 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.



DEC

06

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

Please pray for their holiday project (Holiday Connections). Pray that the donors and clients will connect with ease and begin to build a relationship beyond Christmas. Pray that the hearts and minds of women would be open and transformed regarding their pregnancies. Pray that new churches and individual donors will come alongside them as they continue to be a voice for the preborn. Pray for protection of their frontline as they lean into difficult places trusting in God—that he will help them put their faith in him and not the laws of man.

**Estonia (Europe).** Population: 1,322,765 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.

DEC

07

**Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay**

A new building for the Iglesia Bíblica de Montevideo church plant has been found and reserved, but they are still working through all the paperwork to purchase the building. Please pray that God would guide them in this process. Pray that they would be able to open a local bank account to complete the purchase. The process has been longer and more involved than anticipated.

**Ethiopia (Africa).** Population: 126,527,060 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.

DEC

08

**Scranton Road Bible Church, United States**

Pray that God will soften the hearts of those who received Thanksgiving Boxes last month and those who will shop at their Christmas Store. Pray that they will share the gospel clearly and consistently through the Advent season with their friends and neighbors. Pray for the teens in their youth group as they seek to be serious about their discipleship with Jesus while facing so much in their daily lives to dissuade them from that path. A young elder's development class has started. Pray that the Lord will raise up possible candidates for leadership in their church. Also, pray for more leaders to help during their mid-week Good News Kids ministry.

**Faeroe Islands (Europe).** Population: 53,270 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.

**Falkland Islands (Latin America).** Population: 3,791, 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.

DEC

09

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

E & J's colleagues who made a trip to the "C" region found it to be a valuable and encouraging time. Ask our Father to continue to open doors for E & J to move there. E's friend and language helper, "Andrew," left to pursue other ventures. Pray that the good news he has heard would find root in his heart and that he would turn to God in repentance and faith through Jesus.

**Fiji (Pacific).** Population: 936,375 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. **French Guiana (Latin America).** Population: 312,155 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.

DEC

10

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

Pray that God will bless and encourage their Truthpartners and donors when they receive the December communications. These communications show how their partnership brings the gospel to a worldwide audience. Pray that they will also be greatly encouraged to learn of the book translation work that is underway and that they will remain committed in their partnership with the ministry into the New Year. Pray for their volunteers as they prepare and ship packages to listeners in December. And please pray that Rebekah and Jeannie, who guide their distribution team, will have endurance through the end of the year.

**Finland (Europe).** Population: 5,545,475 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.



DEC

11

**Emily (& Blake) Ackerson, Bridges International, Australia/  
Amy Cottle, OMF, Thailand**

Amy Cottle's team in Mahasarakham has added several new locations for Christmas outreaches this year. This will allow more people to hear the gospel for the first time. Pray for the wisdom and energy needed this month to do these outreaches and that many people will be moved to learn more about Jesus.

**France (Europe).** Population: 64,756,584 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.

DEC

12

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

Jon and Ruthie are thankful for the ESI ministry, through Kep and Debbie James, which is impacting the leadership of a denomination with whom they partner. Ambassadors Football is focused on training adults to disciple the next generation and ESI focuses on teaching the pastors to handle the Bible correctly as they communicate it and live it. The ESI ministry is having a great impact on the pastors and their ministry to children, called DT6 (Deuteronomy 6), which has been transforming the lives of children and families. Pray that these complimentary ministries would be used by God in a powerful way. Goran is thankful for our prayers during his month-long trip in Europe. He had great meetings in 11 countries and God kept him safe on 13 flights and through many hours of driving. Pray for wisdom and God's leading going forward as there have been invitations for Ambassadors to help minister in Turkey, Kosovo, Ukraine, and Belarus.

**French Polynesia (Pacific).** Population: 308,972 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: 32,688 Believers: 2.9%. Muslims working in or visiting Gibraltar are very open to receive Christian material and to hear about Jesus; pray that this opportunity might be utilized sensitively but decisively. Pray for effective methods of reaching them and for more workers for this rare opportunity.

DEC

13

**Equipping Servants International (ESI), Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Lesotho, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, United States, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe**

Pray for the 2,500 ESI participants, in 220 groups, meeting in 28 countries, with 2,900 total graduates since beginning in 2002. Pray that these men and women will grow in their love for God as they study his Scriptures and experience gospel transformation in their lives, relationships, and local churches. In November, Pastor Elias and his ESI Brazil team launched a facilitator training workshop with 60 pastors in Minas Gerias, Brazil, while Paulo held an ESI training in Sierra Leone. Paulo is also leading a facilitator training from December 13-18 in Guinea Bissau, Africa. Pray these trainings will produce much spiritual fruit for the Kingdom.

**Gabon (Africa).** Population: 2,436,566 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.

DEC

14

**Parkside Heights Church, United States**

Parkside Heights normally meets at John Hay High School for Sunday morning services, but the school is closed Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Please pray for God's direction as they try to find a place to have services on those two Sundays. Also, with the many opportunities their church family will have to get together with family and friends during the Christmas holiday, pray that God would open doors for fruitful relationships and conversations.

**The Gambia (Africa).** Population: 2,773,168 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.

DEC

15

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

Johannes spent six days in the hospital in November with an infection in his left lung. This makes it difficult for him to breathe and talk with large groups of children. Pray for healing over his life. He is happy to see how the ESI groups in Bloemfontein are benefiting from the study of the Bible. One group has a day for Bible study and another day for prayer only. Pray for these groups to continue. Thank God for using ESI to help revive his Church in South Africa.

**Georgia (Asia).** Population: 3,728,282 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.

DEC

16

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

Parkside Green is thankful for the baby dedications and baptisms that were held in November. Please pray for the Lord to use their Advent and Christmas gatherings to help people become committed followers of Jesus Christ. Pray that God will strengthen the missionaries they support in the UAE and Uganda, as well as for a family that is exploring missionary opportunities in Mazatlán, Mexico.

**Germany (Europe).** Population: 83,294,633 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.

DEC

17

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

Pray for wisdom regarding the future of the work in Mexico and how to use the tools that God has provided to reach the lost. Pray that Mike and Joan's extended family would love the Lord with all their hearts. Please pray for Mike as he works on the logistics for the Parkside dental team going to Mexico in January, that God would make clear where the team should serve. Continue to pray for Pedro and Roberto as they faithfully do follow-up visits to Pueblo Viejo and share the gospel in neighboring communities. Pray for another pilot to help Amos fly in Mexico. Pray for Juan Carlos who is getting married in January and for Gregorio as he does flight training in Washington this month. Pray that God will open the door for Juan and Amy to serve in a closed country. Pray that God will bless the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) around the world and bring much fruit for the Kingdom.

**Ghana (Africa).** Population: 34,121,985 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.

# The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth



ocean



ocean

ANTARCTICA



AN UPDATE FROM  
**Andrew & Angie James**  
PARKSIDE MISSIONARIES SERVING IN URUGUAY

Dear Parkside Family,

We wanted to give a brief update on life and ministry in Uruguay. During the past year, we've faced a couple important transitions. The first had to do with the schooling situation for our oldest daughter, Nicole. Schools in Uruguay are divided in two segments of six years, and Nicole had to transfer to a new school at the beginning of this year. The new school was in a different part of town, which meant that she couldn't move up with any of her friends.

Knowing our daughter, we imagined the transition would be hard, but we didn't fully anticipate how hard it would be. During the first few months, Nicole really struggled—both because she was having a hard time fitting in and because of her new schedule, as she was spending less time with us. Thankfully, though the transition was hard at first, Nicole started to process the situation in a new light and eventually began making some new friends. Now, she is doing much better.

The second major transition had to do with the church plant. We had moved into a two-year rental facility early in 2022 which, at the time, was suitable to our needs and allowed us to develop several ministries during the week. When we were about a year away from the contract expiring, we started thinking more seriously about what we would do next. We had the option of extending the rental agreement for another three years (for a total of five), but by then it became evident that it might be better to search for a new facility, given that our



current building was starting to reach capacity and that it only has one bathroom (which creates complications on Sundays). The need to look for a new building created an extra layer of stress on top of an already busy ministry schedule. We knew we needed to find a new facility, but we knew it would not be easy finding a new building in the over-crowded urban area we were trying to reach. In addition to this, we were concerned about how the church would finance the move.

Thankfully, after looking at many options and after much time in prayer, we found a facility that was in the place we were trying to reach, and that had everything we need for the church. To our astonishment, God provided not only the location, but also the resources needed to buy it through the generosity of Parkside Church. Looking back, we realize that we really had nothing to worry about. Our Heavenly Father had everything in his hands.

We are currently completing all the legal paperwork needed to purchase this facility and should be able to move in within the next couple of months.

As for our work with ESI (Equipping Servants International), we are thankful for the way this ministry has opened doors to train Uruguayan nationals for church ministry. This year, we completed the training process with a group of people from our church. It has been wonderful to see how the students have taken what they have learned and applied it to their ministries among women, children, and youth, as well as to their Bible exposition on Sunday mornings. We've found ESI to be a helpful resource in raising up leaders within the local church and hope to keep using this resource in conjunction with church planting in the future.

We thank God for the way he has guided us through these important transitions and thank you for your continued support and prayers.

In Christ,  
Andrew and Angie James



**Photos:** *Opposite page:* The James Family, while visiting La Paz, Bolivia.  
*Above left:* Church meeting. *Above right:* ESI graduation.



DEC

18

**Shoreline Church, United States**

As Shoreline seeks to serve their local community, they looked to those neighbors right next door who are in need. They assembled their first Christmas blessing project to meet those needs, in the hope of meeting their eternal need of Christ. As they deliver these gifts, please pray that the conversations that take place will ultimately open eyes to see God's love. They are thankful for all the children's ministry volunteers that will be serving Christmas Eve morning, as well as the worship team leading the Christmas Eve candlelight service. Pray that the friends and relatives that have been invited for this special service will have open hearts to hear the gospel. Praise the Lord that Youth for Christ was able to present the gospel to 250 people at a Cavs basketball game. Pray for the YFC leaders as they follow-up with the students who made decisions for the Lord and connect them to solid local churches and Bible studies.

**Greece (Europe).** Population: 10, 341, 277 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.

DEC

19

**E & J, North Africa**

E has a new language helper. Please pray that they will learn to work well together. Pray also that he will be receptive to the good news and to reading the Bible together. Recently, an unbeliever came to a local book study that E and a colleague attended. Pray that the good news he heard would take root in his heart and bear fruit. Pray that their brothers and sisters will have hearts of love and compassion toward unbelievers.

**Greenland (North America).** Population: 56,643 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: 126,183 Believers: 19.6%. The impact of COVID on Grenada has been felt nearly as keenly as the devastating hurricanes Ivan and Emily of years past. These hurricanes destroyed or damaged up to 90% of the island's buildings. The global spread of COVID devastated Grenada's tourist industry, on which it is heavily dependent. Pray for sustainable solutions to Grenada's current challenges, for debt reduction/forgiveness rather than restructuring, and for Grenadians to put their faith in God above all things.

DEC

20

**The City Mission, United States**

More families are sleeping in cars or living doubled up than The City Mission has ever seen. Pray for the staff at Laura's Home, Crossroads, and Pathways as they serve Christ and the residents, believing that God transforms lives. They are committed to success by working together, knowing all are made in the image of God.

**Guadeloupe (Caribbean).** Population: 395,839 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: 172,952 Believers: 14.2%. Guam is the hub of Micronesia, and as such, the population is multicultural and diverse. There is spiritual and church growth among many of the immigrant communities, including the Chinese, Koreans, and Filipinos. Micronesian groups have dozens of churches, although their more isolated villages and their tribal culture present an evangelistic challenge. With such ethnic and denominational variety, unity is an important issue and a need for prayer.

DEC

21

**Emily (& Blake) Ackerson, Bridges International, Australia/  
Amy Cottle, OMF, Thailand**

Pray that the international students that Bridges International are matching with local families in Sydney this Christmas season will experience the love of Christ. Pray for their family as they prepare for a baby girl to enter their lives in January. Emily is having a difficult pregnancy. Pray for good health for both baby and Emily.

**Guatemala (Latin America).** Population: 18,092,026 Believers: 24.4%. Praise God for the growth among evangelicals who now are almost 25% of the population, in 25,000 congregations! The 1976 earthquake, the pain of war, and the witness of believers and missionaries all drew many to Jesus. Churches that fail to disciple new believers may lose them in the next two decades. Pray that pastors and leaders will demonstrate Christ-like humility and rise above foolish divisions and greed.

DEC

22

**Fieldstone Counseling, United States**

Fieldstone is grateful for the love and support they have received this year. Pray that they will meet their fundraising goals for 2023.

All donations go directly to providing scholarships to those in need of counseling and to support the counseling staff. Pray that counselees will be encouraged through the good news of the gospel and that their counselors will be strengthened in Christ as they share.

**Guinea (Africa).** Population: 14,190,612 Believers: 0.7%. The Church declined around 15 years ago. Evangelism and church planting slowed down, and less-committed Christians left the faith. Guinea has three Bible schools and six leadership training schools, but still lacks Christian leaders. 43% of the population are under age 15. Pray for believers who will persevere, and pray against the enemy who seeks to destroy young or weak Christians before they can grow.

DEC  
23

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

From AI Bible translating to developing new linguistic software, the Lord is using Mark and his years of experience to advance translation of the Bible. Continue to pray for Mark as he checks new Scripture translations and mentors Antonio to be a translation consultant. Pray for those who are learning new languages, which is never easy. Pray that Mark and Patti will fix their gaze on things not seen rather than on the momentary trials and afflictions that beset different family members and friends.

**Guinea-Bissau (Africa).** Population: 2,150,842 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.

DEC  
24

**Edgar (& Lety) 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. Pray that their ministry in a local church would bear fruit. Pray for continued rehab for Edgar's shoulder. Pray that God would provide the necessary visa as their son, Juan, and his wife, Amy, prepare for missions in a closed country. Pray that Neri will have wisdom as he leads ESI groups in Chiapas. Pray for continued growth of the church plant. Neri's lymphoma has not responded well to the chemotherapy. A more aggressive treatment option will require hospitalization. Pray for the whole family during this difficult time. Pray that God will continue to bring spiritual fruit as his Word is proclaimed in Oaxaca and Chiapas.

**Guyana (South America).** Population 813,834 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 there among the youth. Praise God for many decisions to follow Jesus; pray for effective discipleship. **Iceland (Europe).** Population: 375,318 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.

DEC  
25

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

Pray for protection of their workers in Mali and for greater stability in the region. Pray for God to soften the hearts of the refugees coming into South Sudan, that many would hear the gospel and respond. Pray for all their field workers, for God's direction and protection, as many are in difficult and dangerous locations.

**Haiti (Caribbean).** Population: 11,724,763 Believers: 16.0%. Pray for the current hunger crisis. Haiti needs godly leaders who will prioritize the good of the nation and address its massive problems. Two centuries of misrule, tyranny, and recent flawed democratic attempts have brought hopelessness and despair. Corruption is rampant, and robberies and kidnappings are commonplace. Pray that men and women may be raised up who will reverse these trends and establish justice, righteousness, and long-term stability.

DEC  
26

### **Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay**

They are thankful that their family is doing well. Please pray that their children will continue to grow in their love for the Lord. Last month they were able to install David Cardozo as the first Uruguayan elder in their church plant. Pray that the Lord will give David grace to fulfill this important leadership responsibility. Pray also that God will continue to raise up other national leaders in their church.

**Honduras (Latin America).** Population: 10,593,798 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.

DEC

27

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

Two billion children in the world grow up with no exposure to the Word of God. Ambassadors is focusing on young children and developing a curriculum (Toward the Goal) using the power of storytelling to take children, ages 6-12, through the entire story of the Bible. Seven of nine episodes are nearing completion. Pray for them as they work to finish Season One. There are videos and booklets to be translated, followed by the planning stage for distributing TTG to as many children and their families as possible around the world.

**Hungary (Europe).** Population: 10,156,239 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.

DEC

28

**Bobby & Julie, Central Asia**

Bobby and Julie and family will return to Ohio at the end of December and stay through the end of March. God willing, their baby boy will be born the beginning of February in Ohio. Please pray for their travel and transition as they reunite with family and their brothers and sisters in Jesus. They are looking forward to spending time at Parkside and sharing what God is doing in their part of the world.

**India (Asia).** Population: 1,428,627,663 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.

DEC

29

**Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan**

Praise God that “Children’s Blessing” Sunday last month went well. Many of the kids who attended came from a Buddhist school. God has allowed access to this school little by little since the great triple disaster in 2011. The principal is set against Christianity, but about two years ago, she allowed their church to start an afterschool English class. Moms from the class meet twice monthly for tea or “Baby English” class, during which they have a relaxed time for conversation. These are the moms who brought their children to be prayed for. Please pray that God will continue to break through the spiritual strongholds in this area. It’s only through prayer that these hearts will open to Jesus.

**The Islands of Indonesia (Asia).** Population: 277,534,122 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.



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

Pray for their indigenous colleague, Byron, and his wife Miriam.

This precious couple heads up several ministries related to the Mam Bible translation production and promotion among the Mam people of Guatemala. Pray for wisdom for Byron, and safety. Wes & Nancy are thankful for the vision and prayer of their family at Parkside.

**Iran (Asia).** Population: 89,172,767 Believers: 0.2%. Widespread protests in 2022 demonstrated that the younger generation is fed up with the legacy of oppression, bloodshed, cruel 'justice', corruption, economic hardship, and cultural isolation from most of the world. Despite external religiosity, drug addiction, and prostitution is widespread. Iran is an ancient, noble, and proud civilization. But in the modern era, these struggles have made many people very open to the gospel. Pray that Iranians' desires for greatness, prosperity, freedom, and even for righteousness might ultimately be met through worship of Jesus.



**Kep & Debbie James, Africa, Latin America, United States**

Continue to pray for the ILC Church that Kep and Debbie started in La Paz, Bolivia in 1990. Pray that its leadership will continue honoring Christ by staying true to his Scriptures.

**Iraq (Asia).** Population: 45,504,560 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.

*Global prayer requests were taken or adapted from Operation World, 7th Edition (2010) and Pray for the World (2015). 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/Latin America/United States</b>	Kep & Debbie James
<b>Central Asia</b>	Bobby & Julie

## Partial Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

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



# Financial Support of Nationals

- Bolivia & Around the World**

- 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 had 2,900 graduates since 2002, and has 2,500 active participants, in 220 groups, meeting in 28 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Lesotho, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, United States, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. 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.
- South 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 fulltime 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	Scranton Road Bible Church
Truth For Life	Shoreline Church
Indigenous Church Planting Organization in Arab & Muslim Countries	

## Financial Support to Mission Individuals

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

**Parkside Church funding of Missions in 2022: \$3,091,762**

# Get Involved

in a short-term missions trip

## South Asia

Teaching English as a Second Language

Trip Date: July 2024

Online teaching opportunities also available.

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](https://parksidechurch.com/missions).



PARKSIDE  
CHURCH

To see unbelieving people become  
committed followers of Jesus Christ.