



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 towards seeing unbelieving people of all nations become committed followers of Christ!



PARKSIDE
CHURCH

To see unbelieving people become
committed followers of Jesus Christ.

What You Can Do



Pray

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

Join us Sunday evenings for Missions Prayer Time, online or in-person, from 5:00-5:45pm in Room A205. For an online invitation, email Cliff at cjjbandrews@sbcglobal.net.



Learn

Increase your awareness of what God is doing among the nations by reading *Operation World* by Jason Mandryk. The prayer requests for different countries are excerpts from this book. You can pick up a copy at Books by the Park or visit their website, 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

JAN
01

Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay

They have now been waiting four months for the local bank to approve the opening of an account for the "Iglesia Bíblica de Montevideo" church plant. Because of past cases of fraud and money laundering, Uruguayan banks are suspicious of opening accounts for churches and religious organizations. Pray for grace with the bank representatives so they can finalize this process and proceed with purchasing the new facility for the church. Their children finished the school year and are now beginning their summer vacation. Andrew and Angie are thankful that they are doing well and are growing in their love for the Lord. Pray that their children will grow up to be godly men and women.

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

JAN
02

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. Pray for all the logistics for the Parkside dental team going to Mexico this month and that God would prepare hearts in San Miguel to receive the gospel. Pray for another pilot to help Amos fly in Mexico. Pray for Juan Carlos, who is getting married this month, and for Gregorio as he continues flight training. 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.

Israel (Asia). Population: 8,306,679, Believers: 0.4%. Interest in the gospel increased within Israel, especially among Jews, and especially the last few years. At least 12,000 Jews recognize Jesus as their Messiah just within Israel. Messianic Jews are now an undeniable part of Israeli society, but growth also brings persecution. Pray for boldness in witness, and perseverance in faith despite the opposition.

JAN
03

Bobby & Julie, Central Asia

They are looking forward to opportunities to connect with family, friends, and church while they are in the U.S. for the next couple of months. Pray that God will use these opportunities for mutual encouragement and for furthering the gospel in Central Asia. They are preparing to have their baby boy in Ohio at the beginning of February. Please pray for health for the new baby, Julie, and the family, and for their relationships with Jesus.

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

JAN
04

Parkside Heights Church, United States

This month, Parkside Heights is celebrating their second anniversary and thanking God for his goodness to them as a church body. In addition, they will welcome returning college students after winter break. Pray for good transitions back into student and church life. With the start of a new year, some in the Heights communities may be thinking of connecting with a local church. Pray for opportunities to engage those who have come to check out Parkside Heights for the first time and those who are coming to reconnect.

Jamaica (Caribbean). Population: 2,834,321, Believers: 28.0%. Jamaica has a wonderful Christian heritage, with a rich history of sending missionaries. It has the most evangelicals and the best-resourced churches in the Caribbean. The Bible Society (Kingston) provides Bibles to most mini-states of the region with a special vision for young people. Praise God that many foreign workers entrusted leadership to national leaders, and the Jamaican Church became its own. Pray that the 15 Bible schools and seminaries, and the Keswick teaching conferences may be strongholds of biblical theology, godly lifestyle, and mission sending for the Caribbean.

JAN
05

Parkside Church Short-term Mission Trip, Mexico

Please pray for the team from Parkside traveling to Mexico today to work with Mike Ross and local believers and provide a dental clinic in the village of San Miguel. The team members are Dave Cameron, Gus Komar, Joan Komar, Lon Miller, and Melvin Steedly. Pray for good health, safety, and that they will be a blessing to all those they encounter as they share the love of Jesus. The team returns on January 13.

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

JAN
06

Truth For Life, United States

Thank God for providing Truth For Life with the resources needed in 2023 to continue teaching the Bible in 2024. As they begin the new year, pray for God to open the door to many more translation opportunities.

These projects bring biblically sound books and online articles to many around the world in their own languages. Pray for Elizabeth Garner as she assumes her new position as Translation Coordinator. Pray also for Marcie Herbert in her new assignment as Administrative Assistant and for Brittany Foust, who joins the Digital Communications team. Additionally, ask God to fill needed key roles in Customer Service and Communications.

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

JAN
07

E & J, North Africa

Last month, E and J had some Christmas parties with friends and neighbors. Pray that those times would deepen relationships and trust with their friends there. Please continue to pray for their business efforts.

Pray that God will lead them and give them clarity on a way to bless the "C" region through a business, allowing them to establish long-term legitimacy.

Kazakhstan (Asia). Population: 16,726,108 Believers: 0.7%. "To be a Kazakh is to be Muslim"—but theirs is a folk Islam strongly influenced by shamanistic practices. Other Muslim countries (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan) invest huge amounts of money to send Muslim missionaries. They successfully convert even some ethnic Russians to Islam. After the Soviet Union broke up, the number of mosques grew from 46 (1989) to 2,300 (2020)! The government works to keep Islam moderate, and Kazakhstan is the only Central Asian state where Islam is not accorded special status. Pray for freedom from historic spiritual bondages.

JAN
08

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 Equipping Servants International (ESI) groups that he 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 open doors 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 chemotherapy. A decision has been made to finish the current treatment with the last infusion scheduled for January 9. Pray for healing and 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.

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

JAN
09

Fieldstone Counseling, United States

Fieldstone has many new and exciting things happening this year. Please pray for their upcoming transitions. New counseling residents are arriving and other members of their team are departing. Also, pray for new and upcoming seminars and support groups. Pray that those in need can attend these groups, connect with Fieldstone Counseling for care, and find lasting hope for life's hardships. Pray that their counselors will be encouraged and strengthened in Christ as they meet with their counselees.

Kiribati (Pacific). Population: 115,185 Believers: 7.2%. The once-strong Congregational Church (Kiribati Protestant) is in slow decline and losing members to other groups. The theological college in Tarawa is not evangelical. Pray for a return to the Bible. Nominalism and syncretism with traditional spiritism practices are all too common. **Liechtenstein (Europe).** Population: 38,940 Believers: 0.5%. Liechtenstein has changed from a feudal backwater in the 1930s into a sophisticated and affluent modern state. Expatriates represent several Christian confessions, but non-religion and Islam are growing rapidly. Few in this country have ever been confronted with the necessity of a personal faith in Christ. Pray encounters with the gospel might likewise multiply.

JAN
10

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

Kep is thankful for a wonderful time spent with 230 Liberian pastors in Monrovia and Harper, November 28-December 10, taking them through the ESI Facilitator Training material. Many of these pastors made a commitment to study the Bible, to understand its central message, to live it, and to teach and preach it faithfully in the churches. Pray that this will impact churches across Liberia. Pray that the leadership of ILC Church, that Kep and Debbie started in Bolivia in 1990, will continue honoring Christ by staying true to his Scriptures.

North Korea (Asia). Population: 24,802,254 Believers: 1.0%. The Church in North Korea was the birthplace of Korean revival, but most Christians fled to the south during the Korean War or were martyred and their churches destroyed. Very little is known about today's underground church, only that it has survived and is growing amid great suffering and danger. There are four propaganda "show" churches in the capital, but up to 100,000 Christians are interned in labor camps. Possessing a Bible, saying "God" or "Jesus," and meeting as believers are all punishable by death. Pray for North Korean believers to persevere in what is probably the most difficult country in which to be a Christian.

JAN
11

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

Ambassadors will be partnering with Scranton Road Bible Church to run after-school soccer programs at a local elementary school. Pray that this opportunity will not only introduce children to soccer and challenge them to practice soccer instead of getting in trouble or playing video games, but also will introduce them to Jesus. They hope this will be a model for additional programs connecting churches and schools across Cleveland and Akron and then to cities across the U.S. and other parts of the world.

South Korea (Asia). Population: 51,784,059 Believers: 16.8%. Society and culture in South Korea changed rapidly in the last generation. Economic growth was remarkable, but global success also exposed corruption in politics and industry. A wide gap now separates the rich and poor. Pray for wisdom for leaders, and justice for the most vulnerable. South Korea leads the digital revolution. Digital ministry is widespread for both evangelism and discipleship. Pray for the gospel to impact the many spiritual needs of this society.

JAN
12

Indigenous Church Planting Organization in Arab & Muslim Countries

Pray for the country of Mauritania, that God's light will continue to grow, and more people will learn about the salvation and hope available through Jesus. Pray for the women in South Sudan as they go out to evangelize. Pray for divine appointments and open hearts. Pray for Brother Philip and Vicky as they get ready to move to Kenya for the next year to get a new missionary school off the ground. Pray for God's direction and protection for all their field workers, as many are in difficult and dangerous locations.

Kuwait (Asia). Population: 4,310,108 Believers: 1.5%. Kuwaiti Arabs are increasingly exposed to Christians via travel, business contacts, and studying abroad. This is particularly so for students; Kuwaiti students abroad are being reached so effectively that many families are now sending their children to study in Egypt, UAE, etc. in order to protect them from Christian witness. Pray that Christians might take advantage of these opportunities and that the gospel message might fall on open hearts, prepared by the Holy Spirit. Pray also for those Kuwaitis who hear and want to respond; cultural and familial pressures prevent many from following Christ.

JAN
13

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. The Christmas Fair at Laura's Home was a success. They thank everyone who volunteered and donated gifts, making this a joy-filled Christmas for their residents.

Kyrgyzstan (Asia). Population: 6,735,347 Believers: 0.7 The government needs courage, resources, and even miracles to make right the economy and society. The regimes that followed Communism have so far only brought more corruption, crime, and poverty. Many people migrate from rural to urban areas, which results in large slum populations in Bishkek. Others leave the country to find work. Pray for Christians to find good, legal jobs. High rates of alcoholism, drug trafficking, gambling, and prostitution create huge challenges. The poor, elderly, and disabled suffer the most. Pray that believers can address these challenges, and positively affect their society and economy.

JAN
14

Mark & Patti Bean, Peru, United States

Mark is currently working through the book of Numbers with one of the Quechua teams. Pray for attention to detail as he continues to serve as a consultant. Pray for the safe delivery of their granddaughter, due to arrive by C-section on January 15. Pray for the medical team, expecting to perform surgery on her a week or two after her arrival, to spare as much of her kidney function as possible. Mark & Patti are thankful for the opportunity to be in the Sydney area to help during most of January. Pray for good connections with their two little grandsons and energy and wisdom to serve their family well during this joyful and difficult time. Pray for healing and strength for both Emily and the baby.

Laos (Asia). Population: 7,633,779 Believers: 2.6%. Praise God for rapid church growth, even under government restrictions and persecution! Indigenous Laotians lead almost all churches and evangelism efforts. Over 90% of all trained leaders left Laos in 1975, and most congregations lack a trained pastor. Pray urgently for leaders both in the recognized churches and in the house church networks. Pray that new believers will grow strong in faith, and not fall away.

JAN
15

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

Baby Ackerson's due date is January 15. Pray for a smooth and uncomplicated delivery and a healthy baby. Praise God that Emily's parents, and later, Blake's mom can travel to visit and help during their first several weeks with a newborn. Pray for special times as a family and for their two boys as they transition into family life with a new little one. On January 18-21, all Australian Cru staff working with international students will gather in Sydney for training, encouragement, and fellowship. On January 19, Blake will facilitate a seminar and workshop on ways to partner with churches in reaching international students. Pray this will be an encouraging and visionary time with the staff.

Latvia (Europe). Population: 1,830,211 Believers: 7.0%. After decades of Communism, the Soviet Union's collapse left a moral vacuum in Latvia which was quickly filled by opportunistic negative influences. Drug and alcohol abuse, a widespread sex trade, and high rates of abortion and suicide all point to significant needs. People often feel numb or even helpless. Latvia has done relatively well from a technology and development perspective but needs prayer for the deeper and eternal needs of its people.

JAN
16

Parkside Green, United States

Pray for the Lord to bear fruit through the missionaries they support in the UAE and Uganda, and for the Lord to guide a church family that is preparing for a fulltime missionary opportunity in Mazatlan, Mexico.

Also, please ask the Lord to work through Pastor Adam's preaching in 2 Timothy, through the adult classes on Colossians and spiritual disciplines, and through youth/children's programming to help everyone attending Parkside Green become committed followers of Jesus Christ.

Lebanon (Asia). Population: 5,353,930 Believers: 0.5%. Lebanon reels from decade after decade of tragic communal wars, foreign interventions, and internal crises. The impact of COVID, the massive explosion in Beirut in 2020, and the ongoing fuel/energy crisis intensify Lebanon's woes further. Meanwhile, over a million refugees seek shelter in Lebanon—from Palestine, Iraq, Syria, and beyond. Pray for this biblical land to know the loving mercy and rich blessings of our loving Father.

JAN
17

Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay

Andrew and Angie, along with their children, will be leading a group of Uruguayan young people on a mission trip to Paraguay from

January 17-29. Please pray for fruit from this trip, both in the lives of the people they will be serving, and in the lives of their young people.

Lesotho (Africa). Population: 2,330,318 Believers: 12.1%. Lesotho faces great challenges. The HIV infection rate is among the highest in the world (23.2%). Family breakdown, poverty, unemployment, and limited access to water frustrate daily life. The people and the government struggle to cope with these burdens. Pray for wise leadership and creative ways to improve quality of life.

JAN
18

Parkside Short-term Mission Trip, South Asia

Pray for the team traveling to South Asia to provide a medical/dental clinic for ministry workers and their families. Team members are Steve Bautista, Adam Bonnet, David Bonnet, John Bonnet, Wayne Fleck,

Faith Goldfuss, Natalie Kauffman, Rania Kirollos, Lois Mullet, Cheryl Ogden, Ernestine Patterson, Tumba Powell, and Stacey Spinder. Pray for team unity, safety in travel, good health, and that they will be a spiritual encouragement to those that they serve. The trip dates are January 18-28.

The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth



ocean



NORTH
PACIFIC
OCEAN



INDIAN
OCEAN



ocean

ANTARCTICA



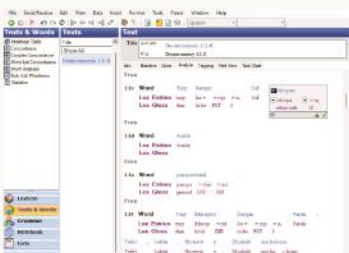
MISSIONARIES SERVING IN PERU & THE UNITED STATES

Mark and Patti consult on Bible translation and help provide biblical materials for Quechua churches in Peru.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & BIBLE TRANSLATION

Last year, a professor at Carnegie-Mellon reached out for help for one of his PhD students. Her specialty is machine translation using large language models, with an interest in modifying the model to help Bible translation. She was looking for language data and someone who could evaluate her results. That's how Mark entered the picture. Recently, Z defended her dissertation and passed. What a cool example of someone wanting to use their gifts to further the kingdom of God.

FIELD TESTING A NEW PROGRAM



SIL, our linguistic organization that partners with Wycliffe, is working hard to develop new linguistic software. They have had their Fieldworks Language Explorer, or FLE_x, out for some time. FLE_x is the current computer tool for people to analyze, document, and better understand the languages they work in.

Now they're working on FLExTrans for adapting Scripture from one related language to another. This tool has advantages over using the modified large language model approach, but it has some disadvantages, too. Since Mark has experience with related language adaptation, he is taking part in a field test. Helping to improve FLExTrans and understanding how much work it takes to get adequate results will help it be more useful for new teams. Mark has also begun using it to help one of the teams he is consulting for.

OTHER WORK



In addition to working with linguistic data to help computer programmers, Mark continues to check new Scripture translation and to mentor Antonio to be a translation consultant. The book of Numbers is currently "under the microscope." Recently Mark was honored by being certified as a senior translation consultant by SIL International.

PORTABLE – AND ON THE GO!

What a blessing that at this stage most of our work can be completed just about anywhere in the world. That's important this month as we spend time with our daughter's family in Australia. We plan to be on hand for the arrival of our newest grandchild (#12), a little girl due to arrive by C-section on the 15th. We hope to give her two pre-school brothers some attention while mama and baby recover.

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise for the gift of meaningful and challenging work that is so enjoyable.

Praise for good health to be able to do it!

Pray for the medical team expecting to perform surgery on our new granddaughter a week or two after her arrival in order to spare as much of her kidney function as possible.

Pray that we might fix our gaze on things not seen rather than the momentary trials and afflictions that beset different family members and friends.

Liberia (Africa). Population: 5,418,377 Believers: 14.6%. Liberia has a complex and painful history, including racism and colonialism. But Praise God for the stability and peace of recent years. Hundreds of thousands of refugees returned, a new president came to power, the country began to rebuild, and Christian ministry began to thrive once again. Liberia has an atmosphere of hope and progress, despite the obvious challenges which remain from the civil wars and the devastation and trauma they caused. Pray that Liberia might truly fulfill its name as a "land of freedom."



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. Pray for Pastor Elias and his ESI Brazil team as they encourage small ESI groups of pastors across Brazil, and for Paulo, as he encourages pastors across Africa.

Libya (Africa). Population: 6,888,388 Believers: 0.3%. Large numbers of migrants come into Libya. A few find work in Libya, but more cross the dangerous deserts and seas in search of a new life in Europe. The current chaos in Libya gives freedom for traffickers to exploit these vulnerable people. Pray that these tens or even hundreds of thousands would find salvation, and not just earthly gain. Some of these migrants are believers; many others find Jesus in the midst of their turbulent lives. Pray that they might have a powerful spiritual impact on Libyans and on fellow migrants.



Shoreline Church, United States

Pray for guidance for the leadership team at Shoreline as they look for opportunities in 2024 for active participation in the local community.

Shoreline's desire is to be known as a church that helps men, women, and children grow in their relationships with God. Pray that the upcoming Women's Conference, March 16th, with guest speaker Lydia Brownback, will strengthen and encourage their women. Praise the Lord that Youth For Christ's urban ministry "City Life" is having another great year. Hundreds of kids have benefited from all the programming at the Teen Center in Cleveland's near west side. The cooking classes, art classes, music lab, open gym, and weekly clubs all point to Jesus. There have been more than nine first-time decisions for Christ this school year. Pray for the new programming to be added in Cleveland's east side.

Lithuania (Europe). Population: 2,718,352 Believers: 1.1%. Freedom has brought progress. Doors for the gospel remain open, and evangelical positions can have a hearing in society. However, with freedom came many dangers—increased materialism, hedonism, and nihilism. Substance abuse, suicide, and most sinister, trafficking women for prostitution in the West, all disintegrate the nation's foundations. Economic growth must be paired with real social and spiritual transformation; pray that God would bring massive societal change through his people.



Wes & Nancy Collins, Guatemala, Peru, United States

In Guatemala, there is an increase in the number of Indian people getting involved in supporting the literacy program. Continue to pray for their partner, Byron, as he ministers to these people. Please pray for Wes's youngest brother, Miller, who has lost a son, is going through radiation for prostate cancer, and is very depressed.

Luxembourg (Europe). Population: 654,768 Believers: 0.5%. The growth of other faiths presents a challenge to traditional faith. Pray that believers in the Lord Jesus might seek and make use of chances to share the gospel and help shape the nation according to biblical principles. **Maldives (Asia).** Population: 521,021 Believers: 0.1%. Powerful social and official forces limit freedom of expression and belief. Islam is the only recognized religion, and the government forbids open practice of all other religions. Pray for the light of the gospel to shine among Maldivians. Pray against strongholds of pride, fear, and selfish pursuit of physical pleasures.



Human Coalition Cleveland (Health For Her), United States

Please pray that God continues to provide all that they need in the New Year. Pray for more opportunities to encourage, support, and empower women to choose life for their unborn babies. Pray also that a new support group that will form at a church on the east side of Cleveland, called "Embrace Grace," will be a tremendous support to their clients.

Macedonia (Europe). Population: 2,045,824 Believers: 0.2%. The evangelical witness is small but growing. Even so, there are fewer than 100 evangelical congregations. Expressions of oneness in Christ are increasing, including pastors' prayer summits and networks, citywide worship events, and even websites focused on the issue. Pray that believers might press into true unity and that Christians' love for one another might attract many to Christ.

JAN
23

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

Amy and her team in Mahasarakham have been praying for doors to open to begin cell groups in three communities. Pray that God will lead them to people seeking the Lord and give them the wisdom to move forward. Pray also that God will touch the hearts of those who heard the Christmas story at their Christmas events last month.

Madagascar (Africa). Population: 30,325,732 Believers: 11.5%. The old beliefs still prevail in many ways, despite the growth and spread of Christianity. Compromise with the old beliefs, veneration of ancestral spirits, and witchcraft is widespread among those who claim to be Christian. A Christian veneer often prevails, but many have little understanding of the biblical message of salvation. Revival as well as biblical teaching and leadership are urgently needed. Pray for a new move of the Holy Spirit to reawaken these churches.

JAN
24

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

"Finally, brothers, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored..." (2 Thessalonians 3:1, ESV). During the month of February, Kep and Debbie plan to be a part of an ESI Facilitator training in Spanish in Virginia, visit ESI groups in Uruguay and Bolivia, and then go to Brazil for another ESI Facilitator Training. Pray for Kep and Debbie as they prepare for these opportunities and give of themselves to spread the gospel.

Malawi (Africa). Population: 20,931,751 Believers: 19.6%. Malawi faces serious challenges in the future, such as the combination of poverty, high population growth, and increasing pressure on agricultural land. The grip of poverty hampers development not only in the financial sense but also in terms of education, AIDS prevention, family life, and even effective ministry and discipleship. Pray for leaders in Malawi, most of whom are church members, to act with wisdom, humility, and long-term planning on biblical principles.

JAN
25

Scranton Road Bible Church, United States

Pray for them as they read through the Bible together in 2024. Pray that the Lord will lead them as they read his Word together. Pray for wisdom as the elders navigate some delicate pastoral situations. Pray for leaders to be raised up and equipped in many different areas of the church. Praise God for the great Christmas Store outreach at the beginning of December. Pray that the gospel seeds that were planted will take root and grow. They thank God for Parkside's partnership in the gospel and all the ways that we have worked together over the last year as we have endeavored to love our neighbors.

Malaysia (Asia). Population: 34,308,525 Believers: 4.3%. Religious freedom for all faiths is constitutionally guaranteed, despite changes that threaten this. Pray especially that the Christian community may continue to possess the liberty to practice, profess, and propagate their faith amid the discrimination and intimidation arising from the process of Islamization currently occurring.

JAN
26

Church Plant Training Ministry, South Asia

In 2023, the Lord gave them the joy of reaching the goal of training 100,000 men and women since 2005. This was achieved through their one-week, one-month, and one-year courses. Praise God for opening the doors for them to begin ministry simultaneously in three new cities in 2023! Pray for the team members to serve the Lord with bigger and greater vision and for the students to grow in their knowledge and love for the Word.

Mali (Africa). Population: 23,293,698 Believers: 0.7%. Islam in Mali tends to be moderate and uniquely West African. The large majority practice a tolerant brand of Islam that incorporates elements of African traditional religions and superstitious folk practices. Large amounts of aid from Libya and Saudi Arabia keep the population further tied to Islam. Pray for Muslims in Mali to have the opportunity to hear, read about, and experience Jesus and the assurance of salvation he alone offers.

JAN
27

E & J, North Africa

In December, E had a long conversation with a neighbor, "James" about the depraved state of human nature, the tension between God's justice and his mercy, and how those seemingly contradictory attributes meet in Jesus' death in our place. Pray that "James" and his family would cast themselves on Jesus as the only provision for mercy and forgiveness of sins. The long-time pastor of the local fellowship there is retiring and transitioning out of his role. Please pray for the flock during this vulnerable time, asking especially that their brothers and sisters would not seek their own interests, but humbly serve each other for the sake of Christ.

Malta (Europe). Population: 535,064 Believers: 1.3%. The most religious nation in Europe, Malta has deeply Catholic sensibilities. The majority regularly attend mass and over 80% feel that their religion is important to them. However, not many Maltese enjoy a personal walk with the living Lord Jesus. Pray that their strong religious tradition may serve as a door into and not a barrier against greater commitment to the Kingdom. **Martinique (Caribbean).** Population: 366,981 Believers: 6.1%. Many Christians come from dysfunctional or single-parent families and from a background of immorality and drug abuse. Pray for churches to be grounded in the Word, and for young people to be called into full-time service.

JAN
28

Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan

Chris and Leanne are thankful for our prayers and for how the Lord blessed their various Christmas gatherings. They are grateful for the kids and families who were able to come, connect with their church family, and hear about the God who chose us to be with him by coming to be with us. Pray the Lord would continue to give them opportunities to share their faith and the source of their love and hope with friends.

Mauritania (Africa). Population: 4,862,989 Believers: 0.1%. All Mauritanian peoples remain essentially unreached, and the vast majority have yet to hear the good news of God's grace through faith in Jesus. Pray for increasing freedom of religion, both socially and legally. Pray for seekers to encounter Jesus, and that any who follow him might be courageous in the faith. Also pray that God might minister to believers despite the lack of fellowship.

JAN
29

Parkside Church Westside, United States

Pray for Parkside Church Westside as they continue to spread the gospel locally and globally. Pray for them as they love and serve their neighbors in Lakewood by boldly proclaiming Christ daily in the mission fields in which the Lord has placed them. Also, pray for a church family who is working abroad with a minority language group to advance the gospel in all languages. Continue to pray for the health and safety of Nathanael Wiles and the work he is doing at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya.

Mauritius (Africa). Population: 1,300,557 Believers: 10.1%. This complex, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious society makes evangelism a challenge; pray for great wisdom and discernment among Christians. The Hinduization of government and culture, as well as strong ancestral and ethnic ties, make it difficult for Indians to become believers. However, large numbers of Hindus are coming to Jesus through the bold witness of evangelical churches. Pray for continued church growth—may the body of Christ in Mauritius reflect the beautifully multi-cultural nature of God's Kingdom!

JAN
30

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

Goran will be traveling to Croatia in late January/early February for a soccer outreach tournament. Please pray that the gospel will be clearly presented and that unbelievers will hear and believe.

Mayotte (Africa). Population: 335,995 Believers: 0.1%. Pray for the Muslim majority. The indigenous people of Mayotte are 99.9% Muslim. Although there is religious freedom and direct, open-air evangelism is permitted, response has been very slow, and most converts have returned to Islam. Pray for a spiritual breakthrough. **Federated States of Micronesia (Pacific).** Population: 115,224 Believers: 24.3%. Biblical Christianity faces challenges on three fronts. On one front are the traditional cultural elements such as the use of magic and of sakau. Another front is the pull of Western consumerism and the temptation to migrate to the USA. Finally, Mormon missionaries are highly active in Micronesia. All three require a response of wisdom and faith. Pray for a revelation of the power and love of Jesus to the peoples of Micronesia.

JAN
31

Johannes (& Mathapelo) Thaele, South Africa

Thank God that the door is opening to begin a Good News Club in one of the schools. Initially, the principal of the school didn't want the gospel to be presented in his school. Johannes asked him several times for the opportunity to talk to the children, but he refused. In December, a call came from the school asking Johannes to come and talk with the children, so he went. Please pray this relationship will be stable for the next year. Thank God for the disciples made last year as people had opportunity to give their lives to Christ through ESI study groups. Pray for their ESI groups to continue to make an impact on their communities by spreading the gospel in 2024.

Mexico (Latin America). Population: 128,455,567 Believers: 8.3%. Mexico faces social and economic challenges. The government sees the difficulty of traditional solutions and now invites Christians and churches to help meet human needs. 60% of Mexicans struggle with poverty, both rural poor and slum-dwellers. Native Amerindians face greater poverty, less education, and more political unrest. Evangelical ministry among them has a good response, but also opposition. Pray that Mexicans, both indigenous and mestizo, might find their identity and purpose in the love of Christ and the purposes of God.

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.

Full Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

North Africa	E & J
Japan	Chris & Leanne Harrington
Uruguay	Andrew & Angie James
Africa/Latin America/United States	Kep & Debbie James
Central Asia	Bobby & Julie

Partial Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

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

Financial Support of Nationals

- Bolivia & 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.



PARKSIDE
CHURCH

To see unbelieving people become
committed followers of Jesus Christ.