

Bethany Church of Sierra Madre, California
MISSIONARY PRAISE & PRAYER CONCERNS

“Stand firm then, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”
Ephesians 6:14-15

← Date Sensitive

July 2, 2023

	<p>USA <i>PRAISE:</i> For the opportunity for Jesus and His church to be a light in the darkness. <i>PRAYER:</i> For spiritual revival in Jesus.</p>
	<p>Missionary Fellowship Speaker – No missionary fellowship is planned for the summer months.</p>
	<p>BRAD & ADRIENNE BARTZ: Athletes in Action, Cru, USA brad.bartz@athletesinaction.org <i>PRAISE & PRAYER:</i> [Dated 5/24] We're feeling more settled and finding a bit of a rhythm...finally. Kids are doing better and Adrienne and I are finding our groove. Days are long and hot, but one blessing of our new home is that we have a pool. The kids love going down for a night swim before bed. Lots of new relationships and connections.</p>
	<p>BETHANY CHURCH – Pastoral Search The Search Team is currently meeting and working through a lot of information as they undergo the search process. Have any comments, feedback, or questions? Email us and let us know at: searchteam@bethanychurchsm.org</p>
4	<p>BETHANY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL <i>PRAISE & PRAYER:</i> [Dated 6/29] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for wonderful refreshment this summer for all of the staff members. • Pray for more children being enrolled for the seats that still have not been filled. • Pray that the various repair projects will move forward quickly and efficiently during these weeks before school starts. • Thank you for any and all prayers you make on behalf of this wonderful ministry. </p>
	<p>JOSEPH & MICHELE BUTLIG: Cru, LA Metro Area michelle.butlig@cru.org <i>PRAISE & PRAYER:</i> [Dated 7/2] Here is an update from Jessica! Thank you so much for your prayers for my conference this week. I truly did feel the prayers this week. It was a crazy busy week yet I felt so much peace. I'm truly so thankful. This week, at the training time, I was able to connect so well with my team, learn so much from sermons/seminars, strengthen my relationship with God, and feel prepared and ready for my mission trip. We traveled all day yesterday and arrived safely in Fiji. The people are so welcoming to us and we spent the day orienting ourselves, checking into our home for the next two weeks and going grocery shopping. And doing our best to stay awake from the time change and jet lag! Please pray for us for REST - the kind of rest that restores the soul and for FLEXIBILITY - with learning, our team and what the Lord has in store for us this week as we go to various schools and share with the students about the love of Jesus. It has been wonderful to see so many teachers, principals and coaches popping up all over the place and asking us to come share with their students! Thank you so much for your prayers. [Dated 5/22] From Jessica Butlig: I was given the opportunity to go on a summer missions trip to Fiji & New Zealand with Cru Ministry. I feel that I've been called to go across the world for a month (June 25 – July23) to share my story and bring the good news to others. I am taking a huge step in faith to follow God's plan for me to go on my first ever mission trip. I hope to grow my faith, gain new friendships, learn new cultures, and most of all help others come to Christ. On my summer mission trip in Fiji & New Zealand, I will be given the opportunity to share the Gospel in high school classrooms. This will be done by presentations, assembly programs, meeting with students in common areas, and after-school outreaches. One of our mission opportunities will be installing water filtration systems in homes of need, while the rest of the team will be connecting with the families. https://filterofhope.org I will be able to connect with students throughout the community. I hope to build my faith with Jesus and build relationships with peers across the world by sharing my story and the good news. ----- Michelle is currently partnering with a sex trafficking organization nearby as their case manager. She is training another woman to join her as the need has grown greatly. She is currently connecting with over 20 women on a regular basis – to encourage, share God's love with and provide resources as they get back on their feet and find healing from being</p>

	<p>trafficked. The pain and trauma she hears from these ladies is great but God is so good, and we rejoice in the praise stories as we see lives change. Thank YOU for your prayers and support.</p>
	<p>DEAN & KATHIE CARLSON: OC International, Colorado Springs deancarlson@oci.org PRAISE & PRAYER: 1. Pray for ministry that flows out of intimacy with God and is aligned with what he’s doing. 2. Intercede for the health of OC workers as they serve others. 3. Ask the Lord of the Harvest to raise up new OC global workers. 4. Pray for wisdom for OC leaders as they navigate fast changing local, national, and global contexts. 5. Ask for fruitfulness far beyond OC’s capacity for God’s glory and the discipling of nations.</p>
3	<p>BOB & SUSAN COMBS: Navigators, Los Angeles susancombsmetro@gmail.com PRAISE & PRAYER: On July 3rd we will be running our 7th annual summer internship. Every year brings its own obstacles, but this year has been filled with multiple challenges. One of the largest is that we had to end our partnership with the county who paid our students. We highly value being able to give each youth a stipend, so Bob has worked hard to raise both program and stipend money. Also, in our previous years, we have partnered with The Navigator’s Collegiate staff to help run our college level internship. However, there was no staff available to help us this year, so we have had to downsize that side of the program significantly. Typically, we have college students from all over the country and they live in a frat house at USC. Without enough staff, we could only accept local students and while we will keep the same content, they will not get the experience of communal living.</p> <p>While we would prefer things to run smoothly, we don’t want to do things in our own strength so the difficulties keep us dependent on the Lord. We trust that God is going to work in each of the lives of the 40 participants and we will see lots of answered prayer.</p> <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise God for each of our graduates. Pray for the college graduates to find jobs. Pray for those going to college (Cal State Long Beach, UC Santa Barbara, UC Merced, Long Beach City College) and for those who are looking into trade schools and jobs. • God has provided 90% of the funds we need for the internships. • Please pray for our internships – that we would depend on the Lord and that everything would run according to His plan. • Please pray that we could get some down time this summer. We are going to be busy all July with the internship and August will be filled with looking at colleges for Kaylin and getting Eden back to school. It has been a challenging year, both ministry wise and personally, and Bob and I are both feeling run down.
2, 27	<p>JERRY & ELIZABETH DIRKS: TEAM – Evangelical Christian Academy (ECA), Spain jerylzdirks@yahoo.com PRAISE & PRAYER: [Dated 7/1] We are enjoying visiting people and being close to my brother and sister in law. We will be at Bethany tomorrow for church. Thank you for praying for my toe. I have found a temporary solution to the pain: cutting a big hole in my shoes to allow the toe to peek out. And since I have to have surgery again once returning to Spain, the shoe will be needed to be this way for a long while yet.</p> <p>Right now we would really appreciate prayer for Alicia as she has developed liquid in her middle ear causing pain and pressure. We are not insured for regular appointments within the US but only emergency. So I took her to urgent care on Monday and the doctor recommended claritin and other allergy meds, plus Benadryl. But so far no relief after a week or so. Please pray for healing, as doctor visits to a real EENT would be out of pocket and we are trying the “wait and see” method before doing that. Thank you.</p> <p>[Dated 5/3] Here is a bit of our itinerary: We fly to Alberta on June 13th. Then on June 17th, Elizabeth and Lily will fly to California to be able to help out with VBS in one of our supporting churches. In order to give Alicia a bit more time with her grandparents, she will stay with Jerry and our other two girls a week longer in Alberta.</p> <p>They will all then meet us in California on June 24th. We will be based at my brother’s home in Huntington Beach. Our plans are to do as much visiting of churches, supporters and family while in Southern California.</p> <p>We all leave together on July 27th to return to Alberta.</p> <p>From July 27th to August 25th , we will based near Strathmore, Alberta. We will be visiting Three Hills area and churches in other surrounding towns. Our plan is to meet up with as many people as we are able to in that short time. Sometime in mid-August, Elizabeth will take Alicia to university in the US where she will be studying nursing.</p>

	<p>DAVE & TRACY E. PRAISE & PRAYER: Dave and Tracy serve as missionaries helping to develop Christian leaders especially in the areas of integrity and evangelism.</p>
9-15	<p>DAVE & MARILYN GRAFFENBERGER: OMS, ECC dgraffenberger@cs.com PRAISE & PRAYER: [Dated 7/1] Thank God for His provision, and thank you for praying especially for the important June 13 meeting Dave had in Haiti. God provided wisdom, discernment, knowledge, understanding and unity as a new five-year lease agreement was signed for the campus property where the Bethesda Medical Center is located. Thank God that the Cholera outbreak in the Cap Haitien area is decreasing and also thank God for the generous donors who responded to the request for extra funds for supplies and medications. Thank God that a ministry with property located beside Radio 4VEH and Cap Haitian Christian School is installing a solar power system and will be able to sell power to both locations. This will be the major source of electricity and only require diesel generators at the station for back-up. Pray for Dave July 9-15 as he travels to Santa Marta, Colombia, to participate with One Mission Society missionaries from the Latin American/Caribbean region in their 2023 leadership training. Pray for Marilyn adjusting to impaired left eye vision and pray for protection of her right eye.</p>
	<p>BOB & MARIA HILL: Greek Bible Institute (GBI) Athens, Greece hillsingreece@cs.com PRAISE & PRAYER: [Dated 5/31] Now that “summer is here,” we are able to focus on some of the activities we have not had time for with the rush of college activities... We continue steadily, though humbly, to minister at the Agia Paraskevi Evangelical Church. Though the core group is small, we have a growing ministry with live streaming and posting on the church’s Facebook page. Keeping the church going keeps us out of mischief! May God richly bless you all. And have a good summer.</p>
	<p>JERRY & MARILYN, SA [changes made for security reasons] PRAISE: [Dated 6/30]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Servant Partners global visioning summit in the Dominican Republic came off beautifully even though two participants, including R, could not get visas and had to attend virtually. Much progress was made towards the development of a covenant that will guide in the development of global SP partners in the future, including our work in South Asia. • Our new translator has been able to complete a draft translation of lesson two of the Finding Our Comfort in God trauma healing course for oral learners. • Jerry was able to send off 4/5 of the goal of funds to help cover the children’s school expenses, including the eldest daughter’s first year of college, for the family who lost income last year due to the father’s debilitating stroke which, thankfully, he has made a full recovery. • The number of house churches for Muslim-background women (jamaats) and Hindu (satsangs) has reached 400 and the weekly meetings are full of spirit filled worship and study and testimonies of God’s ongoing work. • 140 women have completed a year of literacy training, passed their exams and most came to faith in Christ during their year and are ready to join existing house churches or form new ones. • R & F survived a second unexpected visit from municipal authorities inquiring about all facets of the work, including taking bank records and interviewing leaders. So far there has been no negative fallout. • The community health ministry is reporting many successes in getting primary health care to needy women, leading some to faith and gaining child benefit medical cards for women below the poverty line. • Project women were able to help almost 1480 women not previously part of our project get enrolled in the new government “beloved sister” income subsidy project. The help resulted in winning the trust of many of the women and opening doors to hearing faith stories and interest in joining different project ministries. <p>PRAISE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for continued protection from ever increasing government interference and meddling. Pray project women would be gentle as doves and wise as serpents in fending off suspicious inquiries from government officials or Hindu nationalists wishing to hinder any work they suspect of being Christ centered. • Pray for the 140 literacy graduation celebrations which are sweet times of testimony and empowerment and the rapid incineration of graduates into existing or new house churches. • Pray for R & F as they begin to look for potential property for a training center and coordinate with Engineering

	<p>Ministries Int'l. to evaluate and vet them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray Becca's upcoming scan will show continuing progress and for a sweet (and good air quality) visit to Minnesota to spend time with Daniel and Rebekah and her nieces and nephew.
	<p>ABE & MELISSA L.</p> <p>PRAISE & PRAYER: [Dated 10/8] For their ministry to reach far and wide.</p>
7-9	<p>TIM & REBECCA L.</p> <p>PRAISE & PRAYER: [Dated 6/1] Dear family and friends, This has been an incredible year, which I will break down into three update sections: Ministry, Health and Family.</p> <p>1) Ministry update: We are sponsoring a 2nd Consultation on FPGs: Over 50 influential mission leaders are due to descend upon us July 7-9 to discuss what it is going to take to get movements started among the nearly 300 Largest Frontier People Groups (1.6 billion people in just 291 FPGs, 20% of humanity, that until now have had little exposure to the Gospel and have resisted attempts... ..).</p> <p>We believe movements in these groups will impact virtually all the rest of the FPGs! One week of collaborative Level 202 training follows: Retooling for Effective Engagement in FPGs.</p> <p>Please pray for great discernment and cooperation to come out of this consultation and for protection for us and attendees: Ever since we decided to pull together this consultation, we and the 12 other families who have joined us at TelosFellowship.org have been hit with everything from bank fraud attacks to family problems, to major health problems. God has also done miracles providing a full time cook for the event and the one week of training following, as well as outstanding presenters and even some helpful funding.</p> <p>2) Health Update: We have been fighting off the return and metastasis of Tim's cancer, diagnosed a year ago, getting his PSA from a high of 1800 down to a low of 6 and a PET/MRI showed the tumor had shrunk to half and the lymph nodes were clearing up. However, he had a bicycle accident two weeks ago and severely dislocated his shoulder. He has not been able to use his arm since, and an MRI indicates significant destruction and that surgery is necessary. Please pray for rapid healing of his shoulder, so he will be healthy by our trip to Germany in August.</p> <p>3) Family update: Please do keep praying for our children: our oldest son Abe, now having spent 13 years with his wife Melissa and 3 daughters in South Asia-- we hope to get a few extra days with them in Germany. Son David and wife Christine are leaders here with us ... (and their four kids are doing well, ages 4 to 15). Emily with husband Daniel and 2 toddler daughters are still in Phoenix and can use prayer for finances and the Lord's direction. Please keep praying that our youngest, Nathan, will encounter the Lord in a life-transforming way.</p> <p>Thanks so much for being on our team, and enabling us to spend our lives seeking to get the Gospel to the least reached people groups!</p>
	<p>DAVE & CHERIE McD:</p> <p>PRAISE: [Dated 6/3]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for Grant & Julie being in our home/language center while we're in the US this summer <p>PRAYER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for children's and adult classes for Grant & Julie to teach (June – August) • for our family as we travel this summer for 2 months to see family, friends, and supporting churches • for us as we continue to parent Alan, Mason, and Maggie • for Alan, Mason, and Maggie to continue to grow in their physical, spiritual, social, emotional, and academic journeys!
3, 5-22	<p>MARVIN & LINDA MINGS:</p> <p>Pioneers serving Shoshones, Duckwater, Nevada lindasmings@gmail.com, bigsage1@gmail.com</p> <p>PRAISE & PRAYER: [Dated 7/1]</p> <p>We are so appreciative for all the prayers on behalf of our recent VBS/festival in DW. Both were better attended than prior to the covid break. There were no major mishaps, though both Marv and I had to escort someone to and from the ER in Ely. It was a time of reunion for the entire community, bringing an excited, exuberant spirit to activities. So many quality conversations and connections. It was a blessing. Thanks once again to FECC for being ever faithful to us, the kids, and the community.</p> <p>Unfortunately, from this high of activity in DW, came the low as a large number of the community were gone for the entire week attending the Annual Shoshone Language Reunion in UT. For them the festival just continued with family reunions and multiple activities. But DW was a ghost town as non Shoshone speakers continued their jobs. That atmosphere will continue with the 4 day weekend for the 4th of July holiday. Frustrating to have developed a momentum that halts.</p> <p>Next Monday [July 3], Marv will be officiating at the funeral of an elder who died a month ago. He was asked to officiate</p>

by a very traditional family, which was surprising. We are not expecting there to be a very large attendance due to the holiday weekend, but do appreciate prayers concerning the interaction with the elders' family.

The local graduation season has finally ended and cards dispersed. We do continue to ask for prayer for the 5 high school grads affiliated with DW and the 1 middle schooler who will now go to high school an hour away from the Rez. The fear and uncertainty is very real and can often paralyze.

We have another team arriving this month from a Bay Area, supporting church. The majority of the team are novices to DW, so we request your prayers as we work together to best utilize their gifts and presence.

They will be in DW **July 15-22**.

We were blessed in June with some family time as my niece was married in Reno and Cassie flew out to attend. Every little bit of time together is precious.

Our local reports have told us that summer has finally arrived in NV this weekend. We had a surprisingly cool and rainy June. We think of you and hope and pray that you are thriving during the midst of this summer. You bless us and we are so grateful for you.

WES & JACKIE RINGER: Wycliffe Bible Translators/SIL; So. Sudan wes_ringer@sil.org, jackie_marshall@sil.org
We serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators in South Sudan. Jackie has just finished serving as our director for nine years. She is now serving as our acting translation and linguistic coordinators besides doing some literacy work, and Wes as a translation consultant.

PRAISE & PRAYER: [Dated 7/2]

- Pray for the Tira people living in the Nubia mountains of Sudan. Their complete Bible has been published and has just arrived on Port Sudan. As you may know Sudan is in the midst of fighting between the Army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). **Pray that** these Bibles will be able to reach the Tira people.

- Wes consultant checked the book of Hebrews with a people group from Darfur in March and April. Their people group and many others have also been caught up as a result of this fighting between the Army and the RSF. **Pray for** their safety and that the Lord will use even this conflict to lead people to our Lord Jesus.

- **Praise** that the typesetting of the Laarim New Testament + Genesis, Exodus 1-24, Ruth, Psalms and Jonah is almost finished. The recording of their New Testament with *Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH)* began in June and should be completed in mid-July. The translators are finding a few things during the recording that they think may need to be corrected. Once the recording is finished, I will look this over with the translators, letting those from FCBH know which verses have been changed, so that the recording will agree word for word with the published text. Then the typesetter will make one last draft and the Laarim New Testament and their Old Testament books will go to the printer. **Pray that** the hearts of the Laarim people will hunger to receive God's Word. Their Laarim Bible should ready to be dedicated by February 2024.

- **Praise** that the work of checking with the Gbaya translators of their Old Testament readings in April has gone well. They have now completed the translation of all of their Old Testament passage for Year A, B and C. Wes has checked with them their readings from Psalms 103 to Daniel 3. Praise that the Gbaya people are now hearing all of the Scriptures being read to them each Sunday in Gbaya. **Wes will next work with them in August.** Wes will work with them again in August to finish checking all the rest of their Old Testament readings.

- **Pray for Wes** as he works with the Toposa in July in the consultant check of Galatians, 1-2 Peter and Jude. **Pray that** the remaining things that need to be done so that their Matthew, Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Hebrews and James will be typeset in July. The Toposa are a large people group and the last Scriptures that were printed for them was Luke and Acts in 2006. **Pray that** these New Testament books will be a blessing to the Toposa believers.

- **Pray for Jackie** as she works with the Bongo on their literacy and teacher training, and serves as our translation and linguistic coordinator. **Pray for wisdom and energy for her** in preparing the way for new people to take over the translation and linguistic coordinator roles.

- **Pray for Jackie and others** who are helping boys, living on the streets of Juba, who have severe wounds to clean their wounds week by week at a Saturday morning outreach. These boys have many needs, material, physical and spiritual. May God get other Christians involved and may these boys find life in the Lord and all the help they need.

GREG & JEANETTE SUMMERVILLE: Guatemala Deaf Ministries Inc. gandjguate@gmail.com

PRAISE & PRAYER: [Updated 6/23] ... We are in "Wedding" mode. Our son Luke is getting married this Saturday and we are busy getting ready here in San Diego.

First of all, Melki is doing fine. He is one tough cookie. He hardly missed any work. Thank you all for praying.

The church in Michigan met on Tuesday night. ... we should be getting a check for around \$3,800. Praise the Lord! They will look at our needs again in three months and we stand a good chance of getting more support from them. This is a good thing. Thanks for praying.

	<p>With the \$3,800 from the Michigan church and another \$1,200 we can finish the bathrooms. Please pray for the \$1,200 to come in soon.</p> <p>Pray for our son Luke's wedding. We return to Guatemala in a little over two weeks. Our grandson's passport is still not here. Pray that it gets here soon.</p> <p>[Dated 6/10] Jeanette and I are in the States. She is in Virginia waiting for the birth of Lydia's first baby... I am in our home in Twin Peaks. Our son Luke is getting married on the 24th of June... My mother and stepdad will be selling their house and moving into our home here. Please pray that they would sell their house quickly and move over here without a hitch.</p> <p>The building construction is going well. The electrician finished his job. Now we are waiting for the power company to come and connect us. They have to run their lines from up the road. They said that we are on the list but the list could take several months by the time our name comes up. Please pray that we get power soon. This is really important for us.</p> <p>I am working on a list of what is needed to finish each part of the work on the building project. Our priority right now is to get the church finished. Please pray for the needed funds to come in so that we can hit the ground running when we return in the beginning of July.</p> <p>Our grandson James will be coming with us to Guatemala. Please pray that he gets his passport soon so that we can buy tickets.</p> <p>Please pray for Yulissa as she transitions back into the office manager position. Estuardo left last Friday to move to Michigan and marry his fiance. They met at a camp. Pray for Estuardo and pray for Yulissa.</p> <p>Elvis is pulling double duty with us not being there. Please pray for things to go well with the bus, school, construction etc.</p> <p>Pray for Sandy. She was our cook before COVID hit. She has a deaf daughter Karen who is an adorable 8 year old. Sandy's husband abandoned her and her children. She also has a 12 year old boy. Pray that the Lord would give us wisdom on how to help her.</p> <p>Pray for our boys in the school. We have several boys that need more than just 4 hours in the mornings of academic learning. Pray specifically for Yencer and his brother Deiner. They are 13 and 10. They are very poor. Pray that the Holy Spirit would encourage them. Pray for physical healing for Deiner. The doctor thinks he might have a heart problem.</p> <p>Pray for our girls too. It's tough growing up deaf in a poor country with uneducated parents who are trying everything they can just to put food on the table.</p> <p>Pray that the Lord would give us wisdom to know what to do, when and how to do it. Sometimes it feels like our hearts are going to burst with so much desire to help these people. But we are limited most of the time by our own capabilities.</p> <p>Pray for the Johnson family. Pray that they would learn Spanish and Sign Language quickly. Pray for safety and health. Pray for direction and wisdom. We are so looking forward to them joining us in El Progreso.</p> <p>Pray for Bethany. She is in the process of getting her temporary residency in Guatemala. She feels called to reach the Deaf. Pray that she would raise the necessary support. Pray for her health.</p>
	<p>SUE WILSON: At large; China</p> <p>PRAISE & PRAYER: For her ministry to reach far and wide.</p>
	<p>WATSON, R. PAULRAJ CHURCH GROWTH ASSOC. OF INDIA: Parents-in-law are Vasanth & Mano Albert</p> <p>PRAISE & PRAYER:</p> <p>For our trainees to establish successful ministries that transform communities physically and spiritually.</p> <p>For women seekers to take the next step of putting their faith in Christ.</p> <p>For the growth of the Indian Church throughout the country.</p>
	<p>ERIC & ANNE ZANDER: Belgium Evangelical Missions; Belgium</p> <p>PRAISE & PRAYER: Eric and Anne have committed their lives to communicating the Gospel and planting churches in their own culture. Eric leads several alternative expressions of church in a local social network.</p>
	<p>PRAYER: That the shipment of any supplies for any missionary or mission's organization will get to their destination/s safely and quickly.</p>
	<p>PRAYER: That all the missionaries will be blessed with the Hope of Jesus and the Power of the Holy Spirit to reach the lost with the gospel message.</p>

Any comments or suggestions regarding this list of concerns may be sent to Anne Penney at amp316@ymail.com