

MidAmerica District IW Praises and Petitions

July 2025 Updates

AFRICA

Albright, Stephen & Lori - Guinea

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PRAISE: 1. For wonderful times as a family as we celebrated Hannah's graduation and wedding! It was wonderful to have the whole family together!

2. For the team (from Nebraska!!) that came and helped out with projects around Tinka! They got an amazing amount of work done in 5 days and were such an encouragement to us!

PRAY: 1. For healing for Stephen's wrist. He sprained it quite badly.

2. For a soul care we are hoping to do with the local church here in Dalaba. Pray for God to prepare hearts.

3. We would love to host some pastors and their families here at Tinka over the summer. Pray that God brings the ones that need to be here.

Hofman, Eric & Wendy - Bongolo Hospital, Gabon

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PRAISE: 1. Wendy continues to recover slowly but surely from her surgery. She has made it through the difficult two weeks of liquid-only diet, and she is now able to branch out to soft foods. It's still hard for her to watch as we eat yummy things like pizza and nachos, but she is so thankful that she can now eat (albeit slowly) things like eggs, fish, soft meats, and mashed potatoes!

2. We're entering into a fun time of family coming in from out of town for visits along with Esther's LIFE youth conference July 2-9. Thank you to so many of you for thoroughly providing for Esther's conference expenses!

3. On the hospital side of things, we received a couple of payments from insurance that will help us to pay salaries in June (and hopefully July), and we praise God for this provision.

4. Pastor Benjamin, our new hospital director, has been stepping fully into his new role, meeting with the various departments of the hospital. He has big shoes to fill! Pastor Serge is working on packing up his house and will be moving in the next month or so.

PRAY: 1. For guidance for Pastor Benjamin in his new role as hospital director

2. For continued smooth recovery for Wendy.

3. For safe travels and good connections (both with God and new friends) for Esther during the LIFE conference

4. For good visits with family

Petersen, Doug & LaShawna - Guinea

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PRAISE: 1. That we made it back to the US and have been able to settle in.

2. For a season of rest and reconnection.

PRAY: 1. For us as we prepare and begin sharing with supporters and churches.

2. For progress in our land dispute that has been locked in a legal battle for years.

3. For God to call forth more people to join our team and the work we're doing.

4. That God would put other believers into contact with the students we've been working with who will continue to share the Gospel.

ASIA

Burns, Brian & Katie - Thailand

[Nothing recent has been received.]

PRAY: 1. Brian: In addition to our role as Regional Developers, pray for extra strength and endurance as I write up my doctoral degree.

2. Katie: Is working on the Empower program through the Alliance. She is looking forward to the spiritual growth ahead, but it will take a lot of discipline to complete the program while being a homeschool mom.

3. Sophia (11) and Titus (9): Having good attitudes in homeschool. Praise for ability to learn quickly.

4. Hudson (7): Spiritual protection. Praise for having a best friend, Ransom. Praise for his spiritual tenderness.
5. Lincoln (4): Safety in play; praise for a carefree childhood so far.

Nick & Katie Strob - Tokyo, Japan

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[Nothing recent has been received.]

- PRAY:
1. For Kathryn's new Japanese teacher (a substitute for her other 2 teachers) and that she can continue to be a witness and reflect Christ to this new teacher and her other teacher who is not a believer.
 2. For our friendships with mom friends, dentist office worker friends, and others in the community we are friendly with. Please pray that our walk with Christ would easily intersect in our conversations.
 3. For our language development.
 4. For Josiah and Lily to develop in their Japanese and English skills and for our wisdom in their education.

Young, Mark & Melissa - Manila, Philippines

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PRAISE: 1. Our school, Bright Lights Learning Center, just had its largest enrollment ever at our primary location! In addition, at the new school we started in a different area, we had twice the number of enrollees than anticipated! This is miraculous and a major opportunity to encourage and love at-risk youth in both areas. Please pray for our teachers and staff as they handle the influx of students and families!

- PRAY:
1. Mark just had MACI knee surgery. The surgery went very well, for which we are grateful! Please pray for his recovery - it will be a long road - potentially over 12 months. But we are committed to the process and hopeful that he will be restored to a pain free, mobile life!
 2. For our family as we navigate being in different cities this summer while in the US due to the surgery. There are a lot of moving parts, so we are asking the Lord for grace in filling in all our gaps.

MEXICO

Van Dalen, Norma - Mexico City

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PRAISE: 1. For a good finish to the time serving as the International Worker in Residence at Crown College. It was a joy and privilege to teach, spend time with students who are interested in missions, and interact with the international students and TCKs.

2. My heartfelt thanks to the wonderful pastors, Alliance Women and faithful churches in the MidAmerica District for their support and prayers as I served with The C&MA for 36 years, in both Venezuela and Mexico City. I will officially conclude my full-time service as of August 1, 2025.

- PRAY: 1. For me as I head into "retirement." I am in the process of finding more permanent housing and a part-time job. I will retain my credentials as "Retired in Ministry" and hope to be able to serve the Mexican church on occasion to encourage their pastors and leaders.

Prusia, Darrol & Kim - Guadalajara

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PRAISE: 1. For the start of the Martial Arts group. We are starting out with five instructors. They all have different backgrounds in martial arts but are eager to learn from one another and use their experiences to reach the lost.

- PRAY:
1. We are taking a summer break with the ESL classes for the students. We just recently were introduced to two people who are interested in teaching ESL. They are both nationals but have a high level of English. So we started a program for them, "Teaching the Teachers." So they will learn how to teach our curriculum and become effective teachers.
 2. We have an English VBS the first week of August. Please pray that it is well attended and that we can fully engage the missions team from Omaha.
 3. We would like to ask prayer for Darrol and me as our two seasoned missionary couples look forward to retiring in the next 3 years that we can effectively step into the leadership roles as they become available.

Dotzler Torres, Myhiah - Mexico

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- PRAY: 1. Luis Enrique and I had a very full month of travel last month. Please be in prayer for us in July and August as we prep for our 8th school year, starting at the end of August. Pray that we can use our time wisely to get things done in advance for Tekoa and also for some house projects we are working on that must be finished before the baby comes.
2. Keep me and baby in your prayers as I am in my last 2 months of pregnancy. We are so excited to meet our first baby and grow our family! There are a lot of unknowns for us, so be praying that Luis Enrique and I will put all of our trust in the Lord, as this is a part of His great plan for our lives!

CENTRAL AMERICA/CARIBBEAN

Wall, Stephen & Kezia - Dominican Republic

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[Nothing recent has been received.]

- PRAY: 1. Stephen teaches English classes 4 days a week; I teach self-defense classes every other week and Bible classes once a week.
2. The kids are both doing very well in school. They are making friends and excelling in their academics.

Laney, Dave & Robin - Jamaica

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PRAISE: 1. We are praising God for his perfect provision! Our children have their physical needs met, and God continues to bless us all with many extras. We have been the recipients of so much generosity (finances and time), care, prayer, and hard work. Teams provide so much for Robin's Nest, including the completion of large projects, encouragement for our staff, Jesus connection with our children, and a ton of prayer power and exposure as they share their experiences with their friends and family. Individuals who sponsor children, participate in fundraisers, and give generously to our budget all contribute to the mission of Robin's Nest, and we are beyond grateful.

- PRAY: 1. For endurance for Dave and me as we begin to feel our age with the long hours, complex work, and emotional weight of it all.
2. For July as it is a full month for teams and travel. Dave and I are visiting family, friends, and our home in the States, and we will return to a "full house" at Robin's Nest as we will host 3 teams and an intern. We will have a break in August so that we can prepare the children for school.
3. For our children. We have several who may have the opportunity to be reunited with family members through foster care. We will miss them terribly, but we are excited for them to have families! Also, several children are considering what it means to follow Jesus. Pray that God would draw them to Himself.
4. For our next directors who are in the interview process now. We believe they are just what Robin's Nest needs as our co-directors transition out next spring.

UNITED STATES

Arant, Julie - Global Friends, Omaha, NE

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- PRAY: 1. For our summer outreach events. Huy, one of our interns, has been very intentional about planning weekly hangouts with internationals who are looking for fun things to do with friends over the summer. Pray that the Spirit would soften our friends' hearts and open doors for natural Spirit-led spiritual conversations.
2. Specifically, lift up our remaining summer events: a picnic on July 4th and a home group on July 19th. Fall ministry will launch on August 22nd with our annual welcome picnic.
3. That the Lord would continue to make a way for international students, scholars, and refugees from the most unreached nations to come to Omaha. Pray especially that those open to the gospel would make their way to Global Friends, where they can experience the love and hope of Jesus.

Perrotto, Matt & Teri - Envision, Miami, FL

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- PRAISE: 1. Our Bible Club ended well with 11 middle school students praying to receive Christ! We are looking forward to next year with many of the same students.

2. We have received ALL the funds to purchase a ministry truck; Praise God! Continue to pray we find the one that will meet all our needs.
3. Madelyn has graduated from high school and will be taking some classes this fall at a local college, as well as pursue an internship. Pray she continues to hear her calling clearly.
4. Ellah has found a paid internship for the summer, where she gets to work alongside some amazing people at one of our partnering churches on the west coast of Florida.
5. A team from Omaha Christian Academy joined us for a quick weekend. They helped us begin renovations on a parsonage where Alec and Abigail will move in at the beginning of July.
6. A small team of skilled workers came to continue work on the parsonage.
7. We attended Council, which was a great time of connecting and relaxing.
8. Another group of skilled workers from various churches came to continue work on the parsonage. Matt's brother was among the workers, which was a blessing to have him here for the week to offer encouragement and advice!
9. A college team from Christ Community Omaha came and served our community well. They evangelized, helped with food distribution, and hosted a neighborhood cookout. What a great week!
10. June 15-20 Another group of skilled workers came and continued the work on the parsonage. As you can see, we have been spending a lot of time to make the parsonage a home for not only Alec, Abigail and their baby, but also for a new pastor and his family, who we are praying will come to help revitalize one of our partnering churches.

- PRAY:
1. We have four more teams to complete our summer. Pray for all of those teams to continue to help us make an impact in our area and complete the parsonage.
 2. For Ellah as she continues her internship.
 3. For Alec, Abigail and the baby as they transition to South Florida and prepare for the birth.
 4. For Marcus for the next year as he leans into God and navigates some changes.
 5. For Holly as she continues to adjust to living here full-time and as she gets comfortable in her new role as the ESL Director. We are so grateful to have her on our team!
 6. For Matt and me to finish the summer as strong as we started.
 7. **Campus Renovation:** Although no new permits have passed, we have come up with a plan with our contractor that will allow us to bring in our own workers to complete our portion of the construction. Pray for nothing to interfere with this plan! The work will be completed Aug. 3-9; hopefully, our next update will reflect the progress.

For security reasons, creative access worker updates (every other month) are only available upon request and are not posted on the Internet for security reasons. Contact Ilene Gardner, Missions and Prayer Coordinator, igard128@msn.com