

MidAmerica District IW Praises and Petitions

November 2023 Updates

AFRICA

Albright, Stephen & Lori - Guinea

email: stephenlori1986@gmail.com

PRAISE: 1. For several good conferences - we have seen God work in amazing ways!

2. For a great member care training we attended recently. Pray that we are able to use all that we learned.

PRAY: 1. For our teammates. We have 2 couples in language learning this year, and next year we will have 3. Language study is always a difficult season, as it seems spiritual attacks intensify. Please pray for their health, for their children, for healthy rhythms, for quick comprehension of the language.

2. For the national church: reconciliation, repentance, renewal, revival.

3. We will be on Home Assignment February through May. Please be praying as we plan our itinerary - that God will show us clearly where we need to go.

Gilbert, Michael & Amy - Senegal

email: amyggilbert@icloud.com

PRAY: 1. We see God moving in the hearts and lives of our dorm boys. God is getting their attention and asking them to choose Him over their own desires. Please pray that their hearts are open to the Holy Spirit's leading.

2. It is not easy watching the dorm boys go through hard times. We are grateful though, because it allows us to come alongside them, mentor them and encourage them in their walk with Christ. In the end, we have a better, deeper connection to them, and they see that we truly care about them. So, we are grateful.

3. Michael and I (Amy) are in the midst of some slight shifting and in a very busy season in life. Please pray that we use our time efficiently, that we protect our down time, and that we continue to put our family first in busy seasons of life.

4. Andrew is in the school musical this week. They perform Nov. 3-4. Please pray for him and the rest of the cast as they perform "Frozen Jr." to the Dakar Academy community this week. Pray against sickness and pray for energy as they work this week.

Hofman, Eric & Wendy - Bongolo Hospital, Gabon

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PRAISE: 1. Angelique came to the eye clinic as the guardian of a patient. Since the hospital does not have the funds/personnel to provide food service or personal laundry service at the hospital, each patient that comes needs to bring with them a guardian (family member or friend) who cooks/cleans for them during their stay. While Angelique was here, she heard the gospel and gave her life to Jesus for the first time. Isn't it just like our God to use a lack of resources to draw more people to Himself!?

PRAY: 1. Wendy had hoped to set up a meeting with an ophthalmologist in Libreville (Dr. Emmanuel), who is working to start up an ophthalmology residency that he is inviting Wendy (and Bongolo) to be a part of - but Dr. Emmanuel is currently sick and in the hospital. Pray for his healing.

2. Hospital finances - even with the recent payments, the government insurance still owes us around \$500,000.

Petersen, Doug & LaShawna - Guinea

email: dougpetersen.1@gmail.com

PRAISE: 1. Many students are engaging in scripture for the first time.

2. Our team is fully staffed, and we have a unified vision.

PRAY: 1. For health for our family, including sleep. We've all been sick and are very tired.

2. For favor with our students and opportunities to have Gospel conversations.

3. For wisdom and direction around the future location of our ministry center.

4. For resolution to our land dispute.

ASIA

Burns, Brian & Katie - Thailand

email: brianandkatieburns@gmail.com

[Nothing recent has been received.]

PRAY: 1. For good health and protection for the whole family.

Rebok, Dave & Mi - Cambodia

email: daveandmi99@gmail.com

- PRAY:
1. For all our relatives in America and Asia who are not yet believers.
 2. For Mi's visitation ministry, and in particular for a lady she visits regularly named Ming Pov, who is over 70 and had to stop going to church 2 years ago. Starting this year, she is no longer able to walk. Mi usually takes a couple of aunties with her when they visit this lady.
 3. For Ming Pov's daughter named Vanna, who Mi recently led to Christ. She has been going regularly to New Jerusalem Church for at least a couple of months, and we would like to see her continue and grow into a solid believer.
 4. For all 30 students who attended a week-long leadership training course in October, that they would eventually, each at their own pace, take what they learned and become leaders in whatever capacity God reveals to them.
 5. For a side effect of rainy season, namely dengue fever, which takes the fragile lives of children in the tropics. One of our staff members named Chanthou had a nephew who died in October at the age of 10. Please pray for her extended family and that this deadly disease would be put down.

Nick & Katie Strob - Tokyo, Japan NEW!

email: thestrobfamily@yahoo.com

- PRAISE:
1. God has been gracious to us in this very busy and stressful time. Nicholas and I have had lots of growth and a healthy marriage in this time that could have brought strain or tension.
 2. We have had many wonderful interactions with churches and individuals who have committed to praying for us and financially supporting us.
 3. Josiah (4) and Lily (2) have been troopers during this heavy travel season. With the Alliance mission requirements, I have transitioned to a work-from-home mom more than a stay-at-home mom. They have handled that transition so well.
- PRAY:
1. For God to provide the remainder of our financial needs to launch to Tokyo, Japan. (Currently at 50% of our monthly needs)
 2. For our transitions from Iowa to Ohio in these months. Please pray it can be a fun adventure for our family and that God would give us wisdom. Please also pray for supernatural graciousness to flow out from Nicholas and I towards each other and our children, as we will all be experiencing new things and changes.
 3. For our visa applications to go through without any complications.
 4. For ample opportunities for Nicholas and I to enter in to Josiah's and Lily's little hearts and minds and big feelings for little ones! Please also pray that God would grant them peace and quiet anxious thoughts and feelings they may have in these months of change and uncertainty (and peace and trust in God for Nicholas and me!).
 5. Against spiritual attacks as we approach actually launching to serve an unreached people group. Please pray against Satan's fiery darts as we are fighting a spiritual battle.
 6. For our physical health. Please petition on our behalf to remain healthy this winter.

Young, Mark & Melissa - Manila, Philippines

email: melissa_young@hotmail.com

- PRAISE:
1. A wonderful church in Iowa helped our family acquire a new vehicle! This was an answer to prayers prayed for nearly 2 years! We are beyond delighted and so thankful to the Lord for his provision through the care and support of the church! This helps alleviate a lot of stress in planning and driving in a VERY traffic-filled city!
 2. Kharis is doing well in Year 2 of college! Her BioMed studies have proved challenging, but Kharis has found her stride, and she is flourishing!
 3. We have 3 more teams coming to participate in our life and ministry here in Manila in the next three months. We're so excited to share our work with them!
 4. Jaxen has the opportunity to try out for the varsity basketball team – we're so excited about the potential!
- PRAY:
1. With teams coming, pray that we have wisdom, energy, and creativity to interact well with our students. Also pray that Holy Spirit comes in a powerful way for each team.

2. We are in need of housing for 5 weeks in Lincoln, NE. Pray that the Lord provides the housing we need for that time frame.
3. Bea, one of our college students, just had surgery to remove a tumor on her head. Please pray that its benign and that she can return to life and school.
4. For Jaxen as he continues to brave Grade 10 and all the homework he has to navigate weekly (3 hours per night!) – pray also that Melissa has the gumption to encourage him through it!
5. We have several team meetings coming up to discuss budgets for next year and the consideration of additional students to our care center – please pray we have wisdom and insight.

MEXICO

Greenfield, Janice - Retired from Mexico

Special request posted Oct. 25: *My dear friends, these last days have been moments I never thought I would live. Our dear Noah, my 15-year-old grandson, grew deathly ill in four short days. After hours of prayer and an arduous fight for his life in an excellent children's hospital here in Atlanta, God answered our prayers in a way we were not expecting, by taking him Home. Please pray for our family, especially my son, Nathan Greenfield, his wife Rachel Mitchell Greenfield, and their four girls.*

Van Dalen, Norma - Mexico City

email: norma_vandalen@hotmail.com

- PRAISE:**
1. For a great time teaching Pastoral Epistles in Ahuatitla to a small group of faithful leaders in the church there. Three of them are serving as pastors and church planters, and others are serving faithfully in their local church. God continues to use them to reach nearby communities where there are no Jesus followers or churches.
 2. I am finally settling into my "new home" and working at getting new rhythms as I adjust to some added responsibilities related to living here. Pray for a joyful spirit and the stamina to serve well those who use our ministry center.
 3. The positive response to a training time for the servant leaders' group at the local community of faith where I serve. Pray as we seek God's will together for the future vision of La Fuente.
 4. for the opportunity to walk with women leaders who are seeking to go deeper with Jesus. May God tune our ears and hearts to hear the voice of Holy Spirit.

- PRAY:**
1. For many opportunities to share the hope and peace we can experience when we have a personal relationship with Jesus, the Peace and Hope of this world.

CENTRAL AMERICA/CARIBBEAN

Stephen & Kezia Wall - Costa Rica then Dominican Republic NEW! email: walk@weareenvision.com

[After language learning in Costa Rica, they will direct the Envision site in the Dominican Republic. They have 2 children.]

- PRAY:**
1. For us in getting through this time of transition. We all miss home and the comforts of our life in the States. We also continue to pray for cohesiveness and peace in our little family. Lastly, that we will learn and do well in language school for us and the kiddos.
 2. We currently are on a border run, so pray for smooth and safe travels.

SOUTH AMERICA

Hernandez, Noé & Keila - Asunción, Paraguay

email: khernandezart@gmail.com

- PRAY:**
1. **For Noé** as he continues his missionary tour. He will be traveling in Texas until mid-November, then visiting 2 more churches in Iowa before the end of the year. Pray for safe travels, that he will communicate well about what God is doing in Paraguay and around the world, and for encouragement while he is away from the family.
 2. **For our kids.** Each of our kids has begun a new (for them) version of school. Lena is taking online classes (college freshman), Santi is in a hybrid program with a local high school partnering with a

community college (junior), and Eden is being homeschooled for 7th grade. Each of these provides new opportunities and challenges. Please pray for encouragement, joy, and perseverance.

3. **For Paraguay.** Life and ministry continues even while we are away. Pray for the local pastors and church leaders. Pray for the students enrolled in the Bible institute (IMAP). Pray for the other missionaries serving in Paraguay (Felipa, Grover, Bracewell, and Rodriguez families).
4. Keila's father passed away in October. This has been a difficult time for the whole family, but we are thankful that we are in Iowa and close to extended family at this time. Please pray for us as we grieve and process.

UNITED STATES

Arant, Julie - Global Friends, Omaha, NE email: juliearant@hotmail.com

- PRAY:
1. God continues to bless our weekly home groups! Our large home group will begin to experiment with a once-a-month meeting in another home and then multiply into two separate home groups next semester. Please pray for wisdom and discernment in how to best divide students and that this change would allow more students to be reached with the love of Christ.
 2. We will host our Christmas outreach on December 2, and we are excited to share the joy and gift of Christmas with our international friends. Please pray for divine heart and life change as a result of this event.
 3. Two churches in Omaha have expressed a desire to mobilize their families to host students over Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. Please pray that the kindness and hospitality students experience would open the door to spiritual conversations.

Perrotto, Matt & Teri - Envision, Miami, FL email: mtap5@yahoo.com

- PRAISE:
1. We have two awesome interns working with us for a year. They have already begun to take some tasks off our plate. One major item is the return of our ESL program. We have a huge waiting list of people needing to learn English. Our classes begin next week and will include all levels of learning plus a bonus day of just practicing English. This will help the immigrants in our community in so many ways.
 2. We are excited at the number of teams that have booked for next year. As of now, we only have a week in April and June available.
 3. Personally, our family was able to make a trip to Charlotte to visit our son and daughter-in-law. This was a great time of rest and a time to enjoy all the colors of fall that we miss in South Florida.
- PRAY:
1. For us as Matt's mom has been having a difficult time and has been placed on hospice. We know God is in control and are grateful that Matt was able to spend a week with her recently. We are also excited to go home for Thanksgiving with our whole family and spend more time with her.
 2. For our Robotics program, which will enter their first competition in December and for our after-school Bible club that has hit a few snags with the change in teachers.

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