

MidAmerica District IW Praises and Petitions

May 2025 Updates

AFRICA

Albright, Stephen & Lori - Guinea

email: stephenlori1986@gmail.com

PRAISE: 1. For a wonderful prayer retreat with colleagues. Pray for God's leading and direction as we move forward.

PRAY: 1. For our team - we have one family leaving for a year of Home Assignment next week; our teacher will be in the US over the summer. Pray for those in language study to be able to absorb the language.
2. We will be in the US for Hannah's graduation and wedding - both in May. Pray for refreshing and sweet times with family.

Hofman, Eric & Wendy - Bongolo Hospital, Gabon

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PRAISE: 1. The Gabonese presidential elections have come and gone, and all remains peaceful in the country. The interim president was elected with 90% of the vote, which shows that the country is very much behind him. May God use him and his administration to care for the people of Gabon!.

2. We also had a great time celebrating Esther and Hannah's birthdays.

3. Another thing to celebrate is that Esther and Eli were baptized on April 27! We praise God for His work in their lives and that they want to follow Him!

4. Many people (including us) were blessed by the short-term team from Samaritan's Purse.

PRAY: 1. For our trip to the US (Omaha) for Wendy's surgery; we leave on May 9. The kids' last day of school is next Friday (May 2nd).

2. For wisdom and efficiency for Eric as he continues to try to get caught up on finances.

3. For continued financial provision for the hospital; we have had enough for each day and are very thankful for gifts that come in as we need them!

4. For smooth handing-off of tasks that Wendy and Eric are not able to do while in the US.

5. That God would continue to work in the hearts of Esther, Eli, and Hannah as they grow deeper in their relationship with Him.

Petersen, Doug & LaShawna - Guinea

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PRAISE: 1. For a great final semester at our center before we return to the US for home assignment.

2. For health, especially our children, after a lot of illness and injuries.

3. That 80% of our students who came to our Easter event took a Bible home.

4. For new students to continue reading and studying scripture.

PRAY: 1. For our family as we transition back to the US for a year. There have been a lot of mixed emotions.

2. For rest and recovery during our home assignment.

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

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

5. For God to reveal Himself to our students in powerful ways through visions, dreams, and miracles.

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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PRAISE: 1. Fujimi Christ Church had an Easter event that was well attended, and many Japanese adults and children from our communities heard about Jesus and the Easter story for the first time!
2. Our family transitions have gone well. Lily is transitioning really well to kindergarten, and Josiah is adoring having his sister at school with him. Kathryn's transition to morning classes 3 days/ week have also been going well.
3. Our team leaders are a blessing to us, and it is a joy to be on the team as we start the 'real' work of starting a church together by the power of the Spirit!

PRAY: 1. For the seeds planted at the Easter outreach event.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. For our language development.
5. 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. We had a wonderful end to our Filipino school year on April 14. So many good things happened this year with our students!
2. We had 12 more students graduate from High School and 2 more from college!
3. We confirmed that we will continue with the new school we started in the new area. They will begin again in June, just like our current location.
4. Jaxen is doing amazing in school! This is a major answer to prayer. He's also getting his Driver's License here in Manila...so this praise also doubles as a prayer request.

PRAY: 1. We are considering collaborating with another ministry to open another school in an area with no ALS education options. Pray for wisdom and clarity.
2. Mark will have knee surgery soon. We are waiting for the insurance to clear him. So, his surgery will either be in May or June...and the recovery will be lengthy. Pray for patience, fast recovery, and provision.
3. We've negotiated a new partnership with One Child. We need a new staff person to help run that new program; pray also for the 150 families that will be impacted!

MEXICO

Van Dalen, Norma - Mexico City

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PRAISE: 1. For opportunities to continue to build relationships of trust for having spiritual conversations with the Spanish-speaking students here at Crown College. Pray for those who will stay here over the summer months and are so homesick for family and all that they miss from their birth countries.
2. For a good conclusion to my Spring tour ministries in several churches. I am so grateful for all of the ways our local churches engage and invest in missions.

PRAY: 1. For God's wisdom, guidance and provision as I look for housing and part-time employment after I leave Crown.
2. For continued opportunities to serve the Spanish-speaking community here and outside of the USA.
3. For a renewed vision for serving God during this next phase of life.

Prusia, Darrol & Kim - Guadalajara

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PRAY: 1. For our English class. We have been struggling with not enough teachers to be able to expand the ministry. We are trying to balance the classes we have and thinking about adding a conversation club during the week and preparing for that.

2. We have a super busy summer coming up with work teams and ministry teams coming. We are asking the Lord to help us get organized with what we can offer with the people we will have and the publicity we will need to reach the lost.
3. We have Hope Coffee starting to ramp up. We are working on our coffee roast, pricing (we want to have fair price since coffee prices have skyrocketed), packaging, labeling. We found someone for the labeling, but they have been slow on producing anything for us; it's been super frustrating.
4. We are planning to start Martial Arts soon. We need prayer for how to start and when.
5. We are also slotted to take our Home Assignment in September to January so with that in mind, we are not sure how to continue to navigate all of our ministries through this time. We are definitely seeking wisdom from the Lord.

Dotzler Torres, Myhiah - Mexico NEW! email: myhiah@tekoalearningcenters.com

- PRAY:
1. In the month of May, we will be taking all of our Tekoa students to the children's museum to celebrate them for Children's Day! Please be in prayer for this trip, all the planning that goes into it, the volunteers that will be working with our kids, and for our students to feel the love of Jesus!
 2. In June we will be receiving two different mission teams in Mexico. Please pray for my husband and me as we will be leading those teams. Pray for safe travel for everyone and for the Tekoa families to see the love of Christ through these teams as they work alongside of their children. Also, June is the last month of classes, so be in prayer for our staff as they work hard to love our kids well till the end!

CENTRAL AMERICA/CARIBBEAN

Wall, Stephen & Kezia - Dominican Republic NEW! email: wallk@weareenvision.com

- PRAY:
1. This past month was one of the hardest Stephen and I have faced since being in the DR. If you watched the world news or follow us on social media, you probably heard about the roof collapse at a nightclub in Santo Domingo, taking the lives of over 200 people. What we did not prepare for is that 'the Greenhouse' (our place of work) became the place for mourning. The Greenhouse is right next to the National Morgue. We watched as the bodies were being taken into the morgue and heard and saw the grief of family members who lost someone.
 2. We also just got through two-weeks of illness; both of our children were sick. But the good news is that we are all healthy now and recovering from a stressful April.
 3. Stephen teaches English classes 4 days a week; I teach self-defense classes every other week and Bible classes once a week.
 4. The kids are both doing very well in school. They are making friends and excelling in their academics.

Laney, Dave & Robin - Jamaica email: laneysinjamaica@gmail.com

PRAISE: 1. We have just celebrated our 1-year anniversary at Robin's Nest. God has done so much and continues to bless the children, the staff, and us! We are thankful for the opportunity to join Him in His work here.

- PRAY:
1. **For our children:** It seems as though several of our children will be moving from Robin's Nest over the next several months as they transition to family reintegration, mostly with extended family members. Please pray for good, strong placements that last.
 2. **For our staff:** This can be a stressful job. Please pray for strength and endurance that allows them to not just do a j-o-b, but to truly fulfill a ministry calling, taking seriously their call to raise these children well.
 3. **For Robin's Nest:** That God would continue to bring faithful partners to us as we desire to expand our budget to accommodate new, much needed staff positions (social worker/counselor), and raise the pay of our existing staff, allowing them to better support their families.
 4. **For us:** We have a busy summer ahead of us. Please pray for strength and faith as we walk through the challenges ahead, whatever they may be.

UNITED STATES

Arant, Julie - Global Friends, Omaha, NE

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PRAISE: 1. At a community connection event, Maisen met an American-born believer from Iran. She invited him to Global Friends, and after he experienced Nathan's home group, he reported, "This is the best group I have ever been apart of!" He was even able to translate for other internationals in the Bible discussion group!

2. Nathan had the exciting opportunity to take 6 international friends to church with him on Easter Sunday and then host a group of 15 at his home for lunch. Another group of 20 friends (representing Afghanistan, Iran, China, and several African countries) attended church on Easter and enjoyed lunch together afterwards. The Iranian was able to interpret the message of the gospel to the Afghans.

3. We are very encouraged by Johary & Hari from Madagascar, and Samuella from Congo, who are faithfully living out their faith and serving on Easter Sunday! Samuella had a meaningful opportunity to connect with and pray for a new believer. This is the kind of multiplication that Global Friends longs to see: disciples making disciples.

4. A few Fridays ago, Julie was praying that someone from Afghanistan would walk through the door. Not an hour later, an Afghan student arrived at her home. When Julie told him she had just been praying for someone like him to come, he was amazed—the timing matched perfectly with when he and his friends had decided to come!

PRAY: 1. At our home group Easter celebration a few weeks ago, a group of Afghans showed up to discuss Jesus' death and resurrection. A few of the women are hungrily seeking truth and asked great questions about what we believe. Please pray that God would meet "N" and "Y" in powerful and personal ways as they wrestle with who Jesus is.

2. Through his close friendship with Jimmy, "X" from China has become more and more open to spiritual conversations. He went to a college ministry retreat and shared that he is so happy he has made American friends. On the way home from retreat, "X" asked Jimmy many questions about what it looks like to become a Christian. Pray that he would believe that our God is the one true God.

3. Our End-of-the-Year Picnic Celebration is Friday, May 2nd, and our last home groups of the semester are this weekend! Please pray that many students would come and that our love and hospitality would be the catalyst for them taking one step closer to Jesus.

4. **Global Friends Vermillion, SD Update:** Praise God for answered prayers and the growing spiritual interest among several students as they explore faith and engage with Scripture. They are also facing challenges, including individuals struggling with personal hardships, forgiveness, and understanding their need for Jesus. Please pray for wisdom in guiding these conversations, for open hearts, and for meaningful opportunities to share the gospel.

Perrotto, Matt & Teri - Envision, Miami, FL

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PRAISE: 1. The new aXcess workers to a closed access county just a little south of Miami will arrive July 1 and will be stationed out of Miami. They happen to also be our son and daughter-in-law! We are very excited to see how God works and uses them in ministry.

2. Our new site associate, Holly Woodworth, just arrived in Miami and will begin to look for housing and get settled. Her main responsibilities will include directing Envision Miami's English program.

PRAY: 1. We have no real updates on our campus construction projects as we are still waiting for permits to be obtained and approved.

2. We have a few close friends and community members who are feeling some fear and anxiety about the state of our nation. Please pray for God to continue to show up and guide us all during this time.

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