

MidAmerica District Missionaries' Praises and Petitions

AFRICA (updated August 1, 2008)

Albright, Stephen & Lori - Mission Protestante CMA, BP 438, Conakry, Guinea, W. Africa
email: albright@speedymail.org

PRAISE: 1. For all He has done in the clinic this past year. It has been a busy year as we have added lots of new staff, completed a building project, hosted many teams, etc. Last June the clinic saw 300 patients; this June 1700 were seen!
2. For the decisions that are made for the Lord weekly. Just last week one nurse led 9 people to the Lord in one day.
3. For providing the financial needs of the clinic and a new vehicle for us.

PRAY: 1. That God will bring us godly, qualified nursing candidates and a chaplain to help us follow up on decisions that are made.
2. Pray that God will continue to mold us into a unified team. As you can see in the above praises, the clinic has grown a lot in the past year, and along with growth comes growing pains. Pray especially for wisdom for Stephen as he leads our very multi-cultural team.
3. For Katie and Matthew as they begin a new school year in the fall. Katie is a senior and is beginning to apply to colleges. Pray for God's direction for her. Pray as we begin to make plans for Home Assignment--where we will live, etc.
4. Pray that our new vehicle will arrive soon. Although it has been ordered, we have not had word on it. Our current one is not road worthy, and we are not really able to drive it for the long trips.

Braafhart, Bob & Becky - Mission Protestante CMA, BP 19, Koutiala, Republic of Mali, West Africa
email: bbraafhart@gmail.com (returning to Mali this month)

Farho, Mike & Sue - 01 BP 6491, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire, West. Africa email: Mike@Farho.net
web site: <http://www.Farho.net>

PRAISE: 1. For the work accomplished by the short-term missions team, and for the funds they left to help with the one-room Modeste Church C&MA school.
2. That the Ivorian government likes the school so much that they provide a teacher, which is a really big deal since the church and the villagers can't afford a salary for a teacher.
3. That God is continuing to reveal Himself and causing people to turn to Him and telling their friends of their new faith in Christ.

PRAY: 1. For God's guidance as the Farho's and a Modeste church elder plan the continued construction of the church school.
2. For Radwan and his family and their needs and for Fauzi and his son, Nassif.
3. That God will continue to give Mike & Sue opportunities to encourage new believers in their faith.
4. For wisdom in the use of funds as inflation is causing unplanned cost increases.

Howard, Joseph & Maria - Mission Protestante CMA, BP 35, Sevare, Republic of Mali, W. Africa
email: howardbozo@comcast.net (on home assignment)

PRAISE: 1. That Joseph and Maria got to see fruit that remains among the Bozo.
2. For Bara, Mami, Kobi, Baramani, who are God's own children now.
3. For Jesus, who is so beautiful and majestic that He commands such worship and adoration.
4. For fellow workers (you), who have persevered in prayer and giving.

PRAY: 1. For safety in their travels.
2. For continuing rest in their hearts, knowing that Jesus remains among the Bozo to fulfill His wonderful plan.
3. For Bara, Mami, Kobi, Ali, Baramani's growth in love and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sorensen, Barbara - BP 2030, Brazzaville, Congo, Central Africa email: barb_sorensen@kastanet.org

PRAISE: 1. A recent inmate named Lola, who led the singing/worship time in our Friday afternoon gatherings, was released last Wednesday. The Lord in His grace found him a job as a guard one night a week. He is staying with friends not far from one of our C&MA churches and is attending each service.

2. Elga and Dorelle are growing in their joy and fellowship with the LORD. They were a part of last summer's young girls class, and I have been meeting with them through the school year because their time schedule allows afternoon sessions. It is so good to see their insatiable hunger for Him.
3. Two church members made their marriages official the past 2 Saturdays after years of living together. Praise God for the testimony and encouragement it is for others to follow in their steps.

- PRAY:
1. At the end of July we have 3 College of Prayer sessions in 3 towns here in Central Africa. Pray that God will meet us and that the leaders will be catalysts available to be used by the Holy Spirit.
 2. Continue to pray for TEE Bible Classes that we will be obedient to what His Word is teaching us. Pray that I will be an available instrument that He may use. The Tuesday morning class is recently released inmates. Pray that HE will create His light in their lives. Their needs are so innumerable, and He is able to meet each one just as He promises.
 3. For wisdom as we develop relationships with more orphanages.

Thorson, Carolyn - BP 49, Lebamba, Gabon, Africa email: cthorson1@gmail.com Personal blog: <http://carolyns-capers.blogspot.com> Hospital web site: <http://bongolohospital.org>

- PRAISE:
1. All 11 students passed the last trimester ending in June.
 2. That the vehicle fund is increasing.

- PRAY:
1. For the 11 nursing students in the Bongolo Nursing School academically, clinically, and spiritually as they continue their 29-month study program.
 2. Pray for me as I teach Introduction to Pathology, Obstetrics, and Obstetrical Pathology in the nursing school and also as I do the hospital bookkeeping and help with the Mission bookkeeping.
 3. For the chaplaincy program at the Bongolo Hospital. As of July 2008, more than 1300 people had accepted Christ while at the hospital.
 4. That the hospital will receive the needed license to be able to order medicines for our AIDS/HIV patients.
 5. That Christians at the Chapel at Memba will take active rolls in the church. This Chapel has no Pastor to lead them.
 6. For transitions on our field as some missionaries leave and new ones come. Pray for the adjustment of everyone concerned.

Wright, Tim & Bev - Mission Protestante CMA, BP 19, Koutiala, Republic of Mali, West Africa email: tbwright2@gmail.com

- PRAISE:
1. That we have recovered from our "bug" problem. Tim had a flu bug, and Bev had a blister bug that leaves deep burns that blister and itche and the blisters break open and spread. Pray we don't come in contact with the little critters again!
 2. That Mali has been getting rain. Pray that the rains come as needed the next months until harvest time in October.
 3. We are thankful for 30 years of married life that God has given us as of August 5. Please pray that God will continue to bless our life together as we minister here in Mali
 4. That the Roeddings and Barnwells have been able to return to ministry here. Please pray that God will strengthen them as they adjust back to Mali.

- PRAY:
1. Our field conference will be held in September. Please pray that the details of the conference will be worked out and that the conference will be a refreshing and meaningful time for all of our Mali missionaries. Pastor Corey and a group from our home church in Newton, IA will be here.
 2. Continue praying for the ministry of our Koutiala Women and Children's Hospital that the many who come for physical help will also receive spiritual help. Please pray especially that God will strengthen our 4 missionary nurses who have such a big work load.
 3. As we continue as Field Director couple, please pray that God will continue to give Tim wisdom as he leads, guides, and makes decisions concerning the field and that God will continue to strengthen us in mind, body, and spirit as we serve one more year.
 4. Jonathan has been home for the summer but heads back to school in Dakar, Senegal, on Aug. 12 to start his junior year. We are thankful for the great time we've had with him this summer, but please pray that he would have a safe trip and that he would have a good adjustment back to dorm life.

ASIA (updated June 1, 2008)

Lemke, Dale & Heidi - Sengendai Nishi 1-19-6 #502, Koshigaya Shi, Saitama Ken, 343-0041, Japan
email: dhlemke@juno.com web site: www.dhlemke.com (Username: the alliance; Password: japan)

PRAISE: 1. That we have received Mia's adoption decree from the Japanese Family Court.
2. That Selah's adoption process is going smoothly.
3. That Dale's mom has been healthy for over two years now.
4. That our friend, Hitomi, started to follow Jesus.

PRAY: 1. That we will continue to grow in our Japanese learning.
2. That Selah's adoption decree will be issued by January 2009 so that we can prepare for May 2009-May 2010 home assignment ministries in the U.S. That we will not have any difficulties receiving immigration visas for both Mia and Selah.
3. That God will help us meet people who are spiritually seeking and that they will be willing to meet with us to study the Bible.
4. That God will give Heidi wisdom as she meets with a new believer, Hitomi, for Bible discussion and prayer. Please pray that Hitomi's husband and two girls will start to follow Jesus.
5. That God will give Heidi wisdom and the ability to communicate well in Japanese as she meets with three non-Christian mothers for Bible discussion.
6. That God will give Dale wisdom and the ability to communicate well as he meets with two non-Christian men for Bible discussion.
7. That God will give Dale wisdom as he meets with a young believer, Hideji, for Bible discussion, accountability, and prayer.
8. That God will raise up a new church through new believers in our area.
9. That God will help Dale in preparing a sermon series designed to help Japanese Christians engage their friends and family in Bible reading and discussion.
10. That God will work through three Christian students at the local university to be light on their campus.
11. That God will give the university students we know the courage and desire to respond to our invitation to read and discuss the Bible with us.
12. For spiritual health and discernment.
13. For the Holy Spirit to move among the Japanese people and open their hearts to the gospel. Pray for Japanese Christians to be unashamed witnesses for Christ.
14. For friends that we have met who do not yet follow Christ.

Rebok, Dave & Mi - Cambodia daveandmi@hotmail.com

PRAISE: 1. That no one died in the fire that swept through Phnom Penh on April 11 destroying 500 homes and displacing over 2000 people. Mi's Aunt Naomi and 4 children plus a cousin were in this number.
2. That Dave and Mi have found so many good projects to work with the CMA team here.
3. That God has His eye on this needy country. Your prayers are appreciated

PRAY: 1. That Auntie Naomi and all the other fire victims would soon be able to rebuild, finding the relief aid they need after having their lives turned upside-down. As of May 22 they still are waiting for positive word from the government, so pray they will not be discouraged in the mean time.
2. For the New Jerusalem women's group, led by a lady named Naisim, to remain a firm example of commitment in the church as well as outside the church setting when they go out to witness.
3. For our men's group as they struggle for direction and encouragement (and recruitment!)
4. For our youth groups as they continue to learn what maturity in the Lord really means.
5. For Khmer people nationwide to not look at Christianity as a foreign religion, but rather to embrace God's offer of abundant life in Jesus Christ.
6. For revival among the various ethnic people groups all over Southeast Asia.

EUROPE (updated June 1, 2008)

Altemose, Bruce & Pat - Calle Depositos, 16, 28816 Camarma de Esteruelas, Madrid, Spain.

email: houseparents@ecaspain.com (on home assignment for six months on June 13)

PRAISE: 1. For the school year completed and the friendships made. Graduation is on June 6.

2. That Meredith can help at an English Camp with the Westergren's & Wendel's in Tres Cantos.

PRAY: 1. That we end our time together well with the girls and for their transition as they will have new house parents in the fall as we will be in the States for 6 months.

2. That we have wisdom to know what to take and what to leave and strength to do the job. Please pray that we don't have trouble at the airlines or going through customs.

3. That Meredith will have a good experience and that they will see Christ in her as she helps at English camp. She will be staying with a Spanish family, Rosa and Javier, and their two children.

4. Our older daughter, Melanie, would really like for us to visit her in OR in early July. Please pray we have the finances to go visit her (fly one way and drive her car back the other).

5. We need to raise more support in order to return to Spain and ministry at the Academy in January. We are with IFAP, so we are not covered by the GCF. Please pray that we will be able to make good contacts with individuals and churches.

Shady, Mark & Viviane (Miner) - c/o AGAPE, PP 73, 88000 Mostar, Bosnia Herzegovina

email: markshady@allmail.net

PRAISE: 1. We praise the Lord for His protection on us as we travel and for the unbelievable beauty that we were privy to during the many hours of traveling.

2. That my parents were able to come and visit us for a month. They really connected with our landlord and his wife. Pray this relationship will lead them to know Christ personally.

3. That our children were home on spring break while my parents were here. Thank you for those who gave so Maria could spend one of the weeks on a missions trip to Rawanda.

4. Thank you for praying for Mark as he teaches the preaching class. It is wonderful to see how God is working in their lives and hear them preach. He teaches 8 students, and 2 of them are former drug addicts/users, and 1 is a recovering alcoholic.

PRAY: 1. For the struggling work in Trebinje and that God would raise up leaders to help build a church in this town with so much potential.

2. For Viviane as she continues to teach the food and aerobic class. It draws some ladies that do not attend the church. Pray that their eyes would be open to the truth.

3. For Mark as he is working on teaching an extension course in the town in Zenica in April. He will also have several sessions in the Bible School in March and April.

4. For safety in their travels and as Mark teaches in Zenica, Mostar, and Trebinje using Bosnian.

MEXICO (updated July 1, 2008)

Greenfield, Tim & Janice - email: chilemex03@hotmail.com

PRAISE: 1. The Thursday morning class for women is going great. We finished the study on "Interpersonal Relationships" in June and will start a study on "Lies Women Believe about God" for the month of July. We decided not to take a break since we have been having 30 ladies in attendance, including nine new ladies.

2. We are excited to have four young men studying at the seminary. God is calling them into ministry, perhaps full-time for some of them. This is a real answer to prayer because we have a tremendous need for national pastors in Mexico and are asking God to raise up men to serve Him.

3. The men of the Prince of Peace church have begun to meet regularly again. They have done work on the church building and had a wonderful Father/Son breakfast this past month. Pray that the interest and commitment will continue and that they will be able to reach out to other men.

PRAY: 1. We are house hunting. By the end of July we need to move out of the house that we have been living in this year because Steve & Deb Zopfi return to Guadalajara at that time, and it is their house. We have looked at around 14 houses but just haven't found the right one yet. *Update:* Monday we found a house that is a good possibility. If everything goes as planned, we'll be moving July 15.

2. Our *Campo de Verano (Vacation Bible School)* begins July 7 for two weeks. We have a large number of children from unsaved homes registered to attend. Please pray for the many workers and that many children and families will have an opportunity to come to know the Lord as their Savior.
3. Eduardo Espinosa is a young man in our church that just found out he is full of cancer - lungs, pancreas, etc. God has given him incredible peace, and we are trusting that God will heal him miraculously or will take him home. Pray that God will use this to bring more unity to the family and that the church will see this as an opportunity to show God's love and care. *Update:* Thursday morning Eduardo went to be with Jesus.

SOUTH AMERICA (updated July 1, 2008)

Bubna, Tim & JoLee - Caixa Postal 21.192, 04.602-970, Sao Paulo, Brazil email: tjbubna@uol.com.br

- PRAISE:
1. We had a planning a retreat for our pastors from the Airport Church, and it was probably one of our best times together ever!
 2. We thank God for the leaders He is raising up, and we find it a privilege to walk beside them.
 3. Praise for the baptismal service at the Airport Church. We had 10 people baptized and 20 who signed the membership book!

- PRAY:
1. July 16th we will be landing in Minneapolis for our year of home assignment--lots to do and lots of transitions.
 2. The National Church leaders and the missionary leadership team met in June planning for the future of the Brazilian Alliance. We had good meetings last week. We are facing some BIG challenges, and we need God's daily wisdom. Please keep praying for our mission and national leaders.
 3. May God bless you for investing in eternity through the Great Commission Fund. Let's keep asking God for more people willing to contribute to the GCF!

Van Dalen, Norma - email: norma_vandalen@hotmail.com

- PRAISE:
1. Praise God for the blessing of having served in Venezuela for almost 18 years and the joy of seeing people come to know Jesus personally, grow in their walk with God, take leadership in the local church, and continue to move forward in what God has for them.
 2. Praise God for strength in the midst of saying goodbye to friends, selling everything, and packing to move again.
 3. Praise God for His never-ending faithfulness and love in this journey.

- PRAY:
1. For God's direction as I consider what He has for me in the future.
 2. For refreshing from God, inspiration for our ministries, and peace that surpasses human comprehension.
 3. For God's Spirit to move and break through spiritual barriers in the hearts of Venezuelans.

CREATIVE ACCESS COUNTRIES (updated July 1, 2008)

J & C

- PRAISE:
1. A company was willing to invest in and provide ownership of the tourist business here and will keep it open. We will continue to work with them on a commission basis. We are thankful for God's intervention.
 2. We could feel His presence and peace as we made major decisions, changes, and watched as God pointed the way for us to walk. Thank you!

- PRAY:
1. Pray for D. B., the office manager. Several of us have had meaningful conversations with him this past month. Pray for dreams and visions and revelations of the Father to him.
 2. Pray for all the employees that they will see Christ in us as we walk through the transition phase of the company.
 3. Pray for contacts with men of peace: men and women of influence who will believe and open the doors to their communities.
 4. Pray for our friends H & H. We keep close ties with them, but long to see them find truth.
 5. Pray for Radio Shema as they are still experiencing financial problems. One of the few ministries having an impact in this country.

6. Pray as we lead a new small group ministry at the International Church. Pray for the groups that they will be able to grow and divide into more groups as they learn to invite friends to hear the Good News.
7. Pray for more outlets for our import-export company. We are in the process of making it an American company, allowing for a little less paper work on this end, but we need to find outlets for our products.
8. Pray for us as we seek direction - that we could find where God is at work and join Him there.
9. Pray for J and Y and their two children. They are refugees whom we have been helping over the past year. They are in severe financial and emotional turmoil right now. Pray that we will be able to help them through this difficult time.

L

- PRAISE:**
1. The bakery is doing well, and business is steadily rising; praise God! Pray for wisdom as we move forward and that the business will grow so that I can reach out to more families who need help financially and otherwise.
 2. Praise Him for the married couple who has taken the Big Plunge (we call it the H2O program) together. They really love Him and work diligently to keep a close walk with Him despite much opposition and hardship in their lives. Pray He will continue to protect them, strengthen them, and keep them on the right path.
 3. Praise Him for the new family who has joined the Class. Three from this family had made decisions but kept it a secret from the other family members. God has helped us to bring them together to confess to each other the decisions they've made and that they desire to move forward together as a family in Him. Pray for the rest of this family to come along as well so they will be united in one heart and mind.

- PRAY:**
1. Continue to pray for the two sisters I've told you about that are still in rebellion and still have not come back to Class. Some fairly new people in their lives have learned more about who they are and have threatened to expose them and all those connected with them to the authorities. Pray for them to come back to their senses and for the safety of all who could be affected negatively by this.
 2. A little boy from a family employed by co-laborers of mine had fallen a long distance, suffered a severe head injury, and was not expected to survive. Prayers were lifted up for him, and he has had a miraculous recovery. Now the family as a whole is searching for the One who made him well, and three others within the family have already made positive decisions. Pray for the journey for all at the different stages they are in..
 3. Pray Romans 8:15-17 for all the special people that you've learned about.

M

- PRAISE:**
1. I am so thankful for the blessing of being able to visit my brother and his family and my parents for two weeks in Hawaii. I am looking forward to doing some needed shopping.

- PRAY:**
1. Pray that the Internet connections I use will be working better on my return from Hawaii.
 2. Pray for the English class I teach on Saturday evening.

R & C

A & T (new)

- PRAISE:**
1. For the grace and enablement He gives us to live in such a harsh place.
 2. For His Spirit's leading and for confirmation of what God has shown us.

- PRAY:**
1. For health and safety, especially as we travel from village to village.
 2. For His wisdom and insight in dealing with hard situations in the role of leadership here.
 3. For strength, energy, and endurance to finish our mud house in the evenings after long hours of community service during the day.
 4. For supernatural ability to understand and speak the language and protection from the enemy.

C & L (new)