

MidAmerica District Praises and Petitions

September 2020 Updates

AFRICA

Albright, Stephen & Lori - Guinea

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PRAISE: 1. We were able to completely finish Hannah's dental implants this summer. We had a wonderful dentist who was willing to shorten the healing period just a bit in order to squeeze the whole procedure in.

2. For safety in many miles of travel and for the opportunity to visit friends and family and supporters.

PRAY: 1. For Hannah as she adjusts to boarding school.

2. For God's clear direction as we return to Guinea and adjust to ministry with Covid restrictions.

Gilbert, Michael & Amy - Senegal

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PRAISE: 1. We are all healthy and eager to start school and get into a routine.

2. It has been a restful summer, filled with language learning and swimming!

3. We are thankful for time this summer to connect on a deeper level with our new Senegalese and American friends.

PRAY: 1. We begin a new school year in person on September 3. Please pray for the health of our own family but also good health for the DA [Dakar Academy] community and staff.

2. For ministry opportunities to serve the Senegalese people and speak into their lives.

Hofman, Eric & Wendy - Bongolo Hospital, Gabon *(home assignment)* email: erichofman12@gmail.com

PRAISE: 1. We made it to our final destination in the US! We had a few twists and turns along the way, but God provided through it all, and we are being very well taken care of. The kids did great on the planes and all of our bags arrived safely. Now we have two weeks of self-quarantine in which we can work on getting over jet lag and settling in.

PRAY: 1. That over the next couple weeks, we would adjust well, that we would connect with God and each other in new and deep ways, and that God would guide us in our activities in this new strange world of Corona virus in the US.

Petersen, Doug & LaShawna - Guinea *(home assignment)*

email: dougspetersen.1@gmail.com

PRAY: 1. For meaningful connections with church communities as we tour over the next year for our home assignment.

2. For our girls that they would adjust well to being here and beginning school.

3. For our unborn son who is having medical problems.

4. For our teammates still on the field who are alone for this season due to COVID.

ASIA

Kamphausen, Jeff & Karyn - Thailand *(home assignment)*

email: karynkamphausen@gmail.com

PRAY: 1. We are grateful for time in the US this summer with family. Pray for our two oldest daughters in college that they would adjust well, grow friendships and flourish spiritually as they study.

2. Because of Covid-19, the borders to Thailand have been closed. Pray that we will be granted special permission to return at the beginning of October, for tickets on repatriation flights, a reasonably priced quarantine hotel, and good health. Thank God for the opportunity our youngest daughter is having at a local, public high school as we wait to return to Thailand. Ask Him to use this experience to strengthen her faith and draw her closer to Him.

3. For Jeff as he leads students through virtual interactions rather than in person until we can return to Thailand. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work through the small group curriculum as large chapel sessions change because of social distancing.

4. Thank God with us for a new staff member joining Jeff in the Spiritual Life Office at the school. Pray for Jack as he adjusts to life in Thailand, begins his new job and develops his working relationship with Jeff and the students. Ask God to sustain him physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Burns, Brian & Katie - Thailand NEW! email: brianandkatieburns@gmail.com

- PRAY:
1. Brian will be spending the next 3 months doing an intensive Thai language course. He plans to take the government exam in December. Pray for stamina.
 2. Katie is homeschooling the older 2 kids while also caring for our 3-year-old and baby. Please pray that she will be able to balance everything without being overwhelmed and still have quality time with the kids.
 3. For new friendships for our kids as well as for us. It would be such an encouragement to have another couple friend we could share life with.

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 the C&MA field budgets, as they are at risk (like everything else) of not being fully funded because of the corona virus. Same with local church giving, which in many countries is down because of congregations not being allowed to meet.
 3. For a poor family in Siem Reap that Mi has taken under her wing and helped for years, that they would have enough meds and other needs to financially stay afloat.
 4. For 2 elderly women in the Island Church outside Phnom Penh. They still attend, but they are in their mid-80s, and life becomes more difficult for them.
 5. For our niece in Phnom Penh and her fiancé in the US. He is coming to Cambodia next month to continue the immigration process for her. They are both Cambodian. Also, their relationship has taken a rocky turn, but they mutually want to mend it. Please pray they can stay together and that some day soon they would find Jesus.
 6. That the Holy Spirit will help us to plant and water seeds of love daily in members of our extensive family here, believers and non-believers alike, as they are our base for never-ending discipleship.

Young, Mark & Melissa - Manila, Philippines (*home assignment*) website: goyoungs.com

- PRAISE:
1. We have had wonderful connections with our families since returning home. These have been enriching and encouraging times!
 2. We have been able to secure 2 vehicles for our tour travels; this was a huge blessing!
 3. We have been healthy and well and continue to remain connected as a family.
 4. We have had several successful zoom meetings with our ministry partners in Manila; we hope to continue our support and prayer for them in the days to come!
- PRAY:
1. For safety as we travel during our tour and speaking engagements.
 2. For connection and patience as we seek to homeschool our 2 teenagers during this time.
 3. For wisdom and discernment in making decisions regarding the length of furlough. The Philippines continues to be closed and have many restrictions.
 4. For our teachers and staff as they seek to support our students and their families during this difficult time in Manila.

EUROPE

Linscombe, Jason & Erica - France email: linscombej@cmalliance.org

PRAISE: 1. The initial work is finally complete in setting up equipment in a datacenter for The Alliance to use with ministries globally.

- PRAY:
1. For details to come together as we help a retired pastor's wife install a kitchen in her new apartment. She uses this not only for their own family's needs but also to bless others in the community sharing the gospel.

MEXICO

Greenfield, Janice - Guadalajara email: twig4u@gmail.com

PRAISE: 1. God has given me the joy of meeting again with the same 11 students, studying the Life of Christ. God is blessing.

- PRAY:
1. The weekly Tuesday night Women's Bible Study is starting to meet again starting September 1st. Pray that we will grow together and stay safe.
 2. For many who are still without work and regular income.

3. Schools are online here until December... a very complicated situation for many children without the means to do this.

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

PRAISE: 1. For His continued faithfulness and creativity during this "different reality". The pandemic has turned our worlds a bit sideways, but life in ministry continues with many opportunities to praise God and share the hope we have in Christ.

2. For two very specific answers to prayer for healing in our women's Bible study and prayer group. Both Luz and Nancy were given benign diagnoses. Pray for God to continue to build our confidence in Him as we look to Him for the "impossible."

PRAY: 1. For Ana Miriam and me as we coach a group of volunteers (adults and adolescents) in telling God's story from Genesis to the birth of Christ during these next months until the Advent Season. We are using our training in orality to change up our usual Sunday a.m. messages. Pray that those who listen will hear God speaking and calling them to deeper personal relationship.

2. As I continue to mentor several women and train them in discipling others. Pray for wisdom and discernment as together we listen to God's voice.
3. For our pastors and leader teams who are working hard to wisely navigate the effects of the Covid crisis. Pray for people to give generously even with reduced incomes.
4. For Marcia Thayer, from my home church, who will be serving here in Mexico City for two months, caring for our ministry center while the couple who is in charge take a short home assignment in Canada. Pray for God's protection over her health and that she will find joy even in virtual connections.

White, Doug & Helen - Guadalajara email: doughelen@gmail.com

PRAISE: 1. For the many opportunities to minister deeply to "Soul Care" areas in individuals lives over the last two months. God has been so, so good. He is using us, and He is doing the work.

2. For hungry hearts wanting more of the fullness of Jesus Christ and wanting to follow Him.
3. For huge progress on the permits needed to begin construction on the land for Aliento de Vida, Breath of Life Church that we are involved in.
4. For a much needed rest we will be taking, God willing, in Wisconsin during part of September. Also that we can meet our newest granddaughter who will already be 6 months old.

PRAY: 1. For God to show His great love over the lives of people with signs and wonders and healings to bring glory to the name of Jesus.

2. For the church to grow in holy living and evangelism to reach the lost around them.
3. For the ministry of the Bosques (Woodlands) Campus of the Breath of Life Church while we are gone. Doug is the "interim-lead pastor" for the Bosques Campus. Pray that the other leaders will be used by God to minister His Kingdom among His Church.
4. For our hearts to hunger and thirst more and more for God.

SOUTH AMERICA

Hernandez, Noé & Keila - Asunción, Paraguay email: khernandezart@gmail.com

PRAY: 1. For the students and teachers of IMAP. We currently have 31 studying in the ministry training program. The first class is set to graduate in December! Praise God for the way he has provided and equipped for this institute.

2. The Alliance church in Ciudad del Este has worked for the past few years with a tribe of the Mbya (an indigenous people group) outside the city. Please pray for wisdom as both the church and the mission make decisions on healthy, sustainable ways to work with the Mbya.
3. The church in Villa del Sur has been having work done on a new parsonage. Praise the Lord the work has gone very well, and Pastor Vicente and family were able to move in mid-August. Please pray that this home will be a blessing to Vicente's family and for the church as it reopens its ministries.
4. Continue to pray for the Liberda family (currently in Costa Rica), the Zuber family (currently in Louisiana), and the Grover family (currently in Puerto Rico). These three couples have been appointed as new missionaries to Paraguay and will be moving here as soon as the borders open.

Please pray for them as they wait patiently, and please pray that the Paraguayan government will allow travel to and from the country soon.

5. For all the missionary kids (8 total) who are studying through remote learning. They are champions, some awakening at extremely early hours in order to meet in their on-line classes.

UNITED STATES

Arant, Julie - Global Friends, Omaha, NE

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- PRAISE: 1. For a fruitful summer in Okoboji! Three Russian girls came to Christ, and another from Turkey is very close.
2. A student from India is helping facilitate a Bible study. She is still a proclaimed Hindi, but she is hungry for the Gospel!
 3. "A" from the Middle East wants to host his own Bible study! Although not yet a Christian, he wants to invite his friends to hear about Jesus!
 4. For raising up laborers and faithfully providing leadership for Global Friends Bellevue and Global Friends Lincoln.

- PRAY: 1. For our international friends in Okoboji who represent some of the most unreached people groups, such as: Dagestan, Siberia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Liberia, and Russia.
2. "C" from Japan is very close to giving her heart to Christ. Please for her as she just lost her grandmother and that this will strengthen her desire to know Jesus.
 3. Pray as we relaunch Global Friends in September with picnic and boating outreaches. After these events, we will divide into 4 separate homes each week. Please pray for wisdom for our team as we decide logistics and which Scriptures would be timely for students.
 4. As COVID continues to affect our world, please pray for continued safety and healing within our community.

Perrotto, Matt & Teri - Envision, Miami, FL

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- PRAISE: 1. We held a food distribution with the Miami Dade North side police district and had between 25-30 officers show up to hand out over 7000 lbs. of food to the community. Pray we have other opportunities to work alongside the police to reach our community.

- PRAY: 1. Every week we have been receiving food through a government-approved grant; please pray that the grant is renewed and we can continue to receive food to hand out. The need is great with people still not returning to work because of COVID-19.
2. Also pray for ways that our team can continue to reach/help those affected by the virus.

Medrano, Dan & Jocelyn - Envision, Miami, FL

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September

- PRAY: 1. For Jocelyn, Dan and Mila to transition to the new work/life balance needed to work with a new baby.
2. For the team to find a new food distributor(s) to donate the needed food for the distributions.
 3. For Cuba--the pastors, their families and our Christian brothers and sisters--that God would provide for their needs during this crisis.

October

- PRAY: 1. For continued wisdom and joy for the team. Ask God to lead us in how to reach His people in Miami. Pray for wisdom as we navigate new restrictions due to Covid.
2. For Cuba: the new believers who are coming to Christ but who must meet underground. Pray for their safety and for persecution and corruption to end in Cuba.
 3. For wisdom for Dan and Jocelyn. Ask the Lord to lead us in what our next steps will be after our residency is finished. Pray He gives us peace about whatever option we are led to.

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