

## MidAmerica District Praises and Petitions

### AFRICA (updated Sept. 1, 2010)

**Albright, Stephen & Lori** - Guinea, Africa email: [albright@speedymail.org](mailto:albright@speedymail.org)

PRAISE: 1. For a peaceful first round of elections.

2. For a great summer vacation with Matthew.

3. For safety in recent travels - our recent trip to Conakry took 16 hours both ways.

4. For increased openness and awareness among our clinic staff towards Muslims (who make up a large percentage of our patients).

PRAY: 1. Peace during the second round of elections scheduled for September 19. Pray also that the election does not get delayed.

2. For spiritual growth among our employees and increase in our patient load at the clinic.

3. For Katie as she begins college in Ohio, Matthew in his senior year in Senegal (and wisdom for college choices), and Stephen and I as we parent them from afar.

4. For wisdom as we plan upcoming visiting team schedules. Thank you so much for partnering with us!

**Braafhart, Bob & Becky** - on home assignment email: [bbraafhart@gmail.com](mailto:bbraafhart@gmail.com)

PRAY: 1. Adjustment back to living in the States.

2. Finding friends and our children fitting in.

3. Wisdom for Bob as he pursues employment options. He desires to work out of the home once again.

**Howard, Joseph & Maria** - on home assignment from Mali, Africa email: [sorogo7@gmail.com](mailto:sorogo7@gmail.com)

PRAISE: 1. We enjoyed a week with our son, Jake, who visited us from Ohio. Jake is a missionary candidate doing home service with the Alliance at Destiny Church of the C&MA in Twinsburg, Ohio.

PRAY: 1. We see the Orthopedic specialist Wednesday, September 1. We are looking forward to hearing the report on Maria's progress. It seems very slow, but we know the Father is in control. Pray that we would walk in step with the Father through this process.

2. September 12 we have the opportunity to speak at the Mannville, WY, Alliance church's missions conference. Pray that we will speak God's Truth clearly. Pray that as we share the Open Doors around us that people will see how the Father is working and inviting them into partnership with Him to reach their sphere of influence as well as around the world with the Gospel of Jesus.

**Lindsay, Brian & Abby** - Guinea, Africa email: [brianplindsay@gmail.com](mailto:brianplindsay@gmail.com)

PRAISE: 1. We have reached our financial support goal for living and ministry expenses! We thank God for those that were led to give us one time gifts and those that will be supporting us monthly.

2. For safe travels. We enjoyed our time with Abby's parents in Senegal, and our flight to Guinea went smoothly. All of our bags arrived safely in Guinea, and the customs officials did not even open our bags!

3. Although life here in Mamou, Guinea has been a little challenging, we are thankful for cool weather and gorgeous mountain scenery. This has really helped with the transition.

PRAY: 1. For our adjustment to life here in Guinea. It's taking awhile to get used to even day-to-day things like buying supplies at market and cooking from scratch.

2. Language study is a major prayer request for us, and we know it will be for a long time. We begin French classes 6 hours a day on Monday, August 30. Pray that we will apply ourselves to our studies. Also pray for James that he will adjust to being with a babysitter during the day while we are in class. After 2 months of French study in a classroom, we will begin to use personal language helpers, and we ask that you pray that God will provide the right helpers for us.

3. For our health and safety in Guinea. We are so thankful that we have not had any major illnesses since we arrived. Please pray for James as he has not been sleeping well since we have left the States and wakes up several times a night (so of course we aren't sleeping well either). There are scorpions and poisonous snakes in our area, so pray that the Lord will protect James as he plays in the yard.

**Sorensen, Barbara** - Republic of the Congo, Africa email: [barb\\_sorensen@kastanet.org](mailto:barb_sorensen@kastanet.org)

- PRAISE: 1. For continued conversions at the women's HIV+ organization and in the prison. Thank you so much for praying. HIS amazing grace is opening, inclining and illuminating hearts.
2. Congo celebrated its 50th year of Independence on Aug. 15. We praise Him for all the open doors here and peoples' interest in hearing the Good News.
  3. For young couples and young people that are longing to know His will for their lives and to follow Him fully. What a joy to see young people that are treasuring the One and Only, the Lord Jesus Christ, and living lives set apart for Him!

- PRAY: 1. On August 25 I will begin a 5-week course with 8 young girls in our C&MA Church in the neighborhood of Ouenze. The course is called "Learning to Live." It is very basic truths that are discovered as the student searches the Word for the response. Thank you for praying that their hearts will cherish His Word and be faithful in attendance.
2. For us as a missionary body as we look to closure of our missionary work here in Congo in 2017. Pray that we may see as He sees and invest in hearts and lives that are anointed and called by Him for ministry.
  3. For our pastoral couples that they will find joy in service. Pray that they will continue to be men and women of vision motivated by an ardent desire to see His glory displayed in all they do.

**Thorson, Carolyn** - Gabon, Africa email: [cthorson1@gmail.com](mailto:cthorson1@gmail.com)

Personal blog: <http://carolyns-capers.blogspot.com> Hospital web site: <http://bongolohospital.org>

- PRAISE: 1. Martine and Annuska, two recent Nursing graduates, continue on in their one-year Midwifery course. This summer they successfully finished the first quarter of classes and will start the second quarter on Monday. They are both getting a lot of good experience in the maternity.
2. My brother, Larry, and his friend, Dave Zimmermann, were here for Field Forum. It's the first time any of my family has visited me on the field. It was so much fun having them here.

- PRAY: 1. That the 14 new Nursing Students arrive at Bongolo and find housing (not provided) by the starting date of school.
2. For New Nursing Student Orientation to take place at Bongolo Hospital from September 6-17. That the new Nursing Students will catch on to what they need to learn.
  3. For the first Quarter teaching of the Nursing School which starts on September 20 and goes for about 11 weeks. I will be teaching Pharmacology.
  4. That the new believers at the Nzoundou Chapel would be faithful in attending Sunday services and that they would grow in their new faith.

**Wright, Tim & Bev** - Republic of Mali, West Africa email: [tbwright2@gmail.com](mailto:tbwright2@gmail.com)

- PRAISE: 1. We just returned to Mali after a great vacation and settling Jonathan into college at Toccoa Falls, GA. We traveled many miles and had a wonderful time with family and friends. We are so thankful for God's protection and guidance. Jonathan has enjoyed his first week of college and is very happy where is. It was hard for us to leave our last one and return to Mali "kidless," but God gave and is giving peace and strength each day. He is good!

- PRAY: 1. While we were in the states, we were able to make some great contacts with people who want to partner with us to reach Mali for Christ through radio. We are excited about the possibilities. Please pray with us that as we focus now on getting more FM radios set up, that the path would be clear. Our goal is to upgrade the nine FM radios that are currently broadcasting, and to set up three to five more radio stations in the next two to three years. Mali is the one country in West Africa that is wide open to radio at this time, so we need to be diligent while the opportunity is available. Pray for Etienne Saye, the studio worker who maintains and repairs the equipment as well as does the recording and production of radio programs.

**ASIA** (updated Sept. 1, 2010)

**Kong, Joe & Kay** - Cambodia email: [josephkongfamily@gmail.com](mailto:josephkongfamily@gmail.com)

- PRAY: 1. For Joe for wisdom to understand the immediate needs of the National Church Committee and to train them accordingly.

2. For Kay as she has been officially assigned to the role of Women Mentoring ministry, short-term mission coordinator, and church planting with Joe
3. For more open doors to make contact with high-ranking government officials to build relationships with them.
4. For our much-needed "Work Fund" to do the ministry. All contributions can be sent to the C&MA, P.O. Box 35000, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3500 with Memo "Kong's Work."

**Rebok, Dave & Mi** - Cambodia email: [daveandmi@hotmail.com](mailto:daveandmi@hotmail.com)

- PRAY:
1. That we have the energy to keep up with obligations so that ministry will be effective and helpful to others.
  2. That we can divide our time well for work plus other activities such as language study, reading books, and our hobbies (Mi knits and gardens, and I write). That we show the light of Jesus by our actions, especially through patience and doing extra things here and there for the kids in our clan.
  3. That the kids will take God seriously while they are still young (they range in age from 4 on up into the 20's).

### **EUROPE** (updated Sept. 1, 2010)

**Shady, Mark & Viviane (Miner)** - Bosnia email: [markshady@allmail.net](mailto:markshady@allmail.net)

- PRAISE: 1. Thank you for being a part of this venture through your gifts and prayers. We depend on your support of the Great Commission Fund
- PRAY:
1. For Viviane as she starts her aerobic class this next month. Most of the women who attend this and the other women ministries are unchurched.
  2. The Bible school sessions start in September too.
  3. We took Esther and Max to Black Forest Academy the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup>. School started for them the next week after that.
  4. If our statistics are right, only 0.00025 of the people here have a personal **relationship** with Jesus. Please be praying with us, our team, and our national partners as together we deliver the message of hope.

### **MEXICO** (updated Sept. 1, 2010)

**Greenfield, Tim & Janice** - Guadalajara email: [chilemex03@hotmail.com](mailto:chilemex03@hotmail.com)

- PRAISE: 1. A beautiful young woman of 22 from our city of Guadalajara was crowned Miss Universe. She has made our city proud.
- PRAY:
1. Rodrigo is home but is not making progress. They say the brain damage has been severe. Pray for his family and for a supernatural, divine miracle that will bring glory to God. But above all, pray for God's perfect will to be done.

**Van Dalen, Norma** - Mexico City email: [norma\\_vandalen@hotmail.com](mailto:norma_vandalen@hotmail.com)

NOTE: Remember Norma at this time as her mother passed away August 26. The funeral was Aug. 30, and she will be home on compassion leave for 10 days. These requests were sent prior to that date and she had hoped to send more.

- PRAISE: 1. We are thankful for the short-term mission groups that came, and our last one is to arrive on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. It will be a very busy time, as we will have activities all day long and then English classes in our homes for a couple of hours in the evenings.
- PRAY:
1. We would appreciate your prayers for continued contacts in our neighborhood as a result of the English "clinic." I will also begin teaching again in September, so that will add a few things to my plate.

### **SOUTH AMERICA** (updated Sept. 1, 2010)

**Bubna, Tim & JoLee** - Sao Paulo, Brazil email: [tjbubna@g.mail.com](mailto:tjbubna@g.mail.com)

- PRAY:
1. For wisdom and direction as we work through this transition out of Brazil. We want to hear His voice and follow Him.

2. For our Brazilian missionaries to India. They were scheduled to return after a 4-month furlough, but the husband has been diagnosed with hepatitis C. So they are running more tests and determining what the treatment and timeline should be. Pray for direction and peace for them during this time.
3. Continue to pray for the construction at the Airport Alliance Church. We are in the final stage, which is the sanctuary, so we have moved to the back fellowship room. It is a little crowded and warm, but we will make it work. As usual, the money is running out before the work is done. So we are praying for the funds to continue to come in so that the work can be completed.
4. For our Marriage Encounter that will be happening the last weekend in September. Pray for marriages and lives to be transformed.
5. For Tim as he teaches this semester at the Bible Seminary.

**CAMA/MARKETPLACE MINISTRIES** (updated August 7, 2010)

**A & T**

PRAY: 1. For their return to their country, adjustment, protection, etc.

**A & F**

PRAY: 1. For wisdom in how to effectively run the project/organization here.  
 2. For opportunities to reflect the character of God in very practical ways.  
 3. For a genuine love and admiration for the people.  
 4. For special grace in raising our children in the way of the Lord.  
 5. For our expat co-workers, that they would see Christ in us and be drawn to Him.

**B**

PRAY: 1. That my students will learn but mostly pray that they will remember how they are loved, encouraged and accepted for who are and for how Christ sees them—His precious children.

**C & L**

PRAY: 1. That our time in the USA right now would meet our goals of allowing us some much needed R and R, casting a vision and getting people excited about our work, and increasing our monthly support so that we can meet our basic living needs.  
 2. Spiritual growth for our assistant manager, Jack, and salvation for our manager, Teresa, and all of our unsaved staff at the shop.  
 3. Wisdom as we promote and grow our new project of working with local coffee farmers. It is really exciting, but they have so much need.

**D & H**

PRAISE: 1. M. is having fun and making friends at her preschool while H. is becoming friends with one of the preschool moms.  
 2. H. and S. have started attending a weekly moms-and-tots group with a mother and daughter who live in our apartment building.  
 3. H. has also started doing a Japanese-English language exchange with a woman living in our apartment complex.

PRAY: 1. D. continues to have opportunities to build connections through his work. We would appreciate your continued prayers for God's direction in building relationships and that He would help us meet people who are seeking Him.  
 2. As far as finances are concerned, we need an additional \$1200 in monthly support. Our return has been a faith journey. We are excited to be here, and we trust that God will continue to provide for all of our needs.

**D & J**

PRAISE: 1. For a great response and interest in Sababu from students and adults after speaking at LIFE.  
 2. For the grand opening of Sababu Manufacturing Company.

PRAY: 1. For the leadership team of Sababu and that they would continue to establish a Christ-like environment in the workplace.  
 2. That we finish well as our exit date in December grows closer.

## G & C

PRAISE: 1. C and the children now all have dependent visas to go with his business visa, which is a huge blessing.

## L

PRAY: 1. For the protection of the local believers that God will strengthen, encourage them, and keep them close to His word during this time of trial.  
2. For freedom of religion.  
3. For the aid organizations placed under investigation. Pray that God will also keep them safe, give them wisdom and peace, and that by some miracle they will be allowed to continue working in the country.  
4. For me to receive and hear God's clear guidance for my future.  
5. For preparation for what's next.  
6. For the financial support I will need for my new assignment.

## M & S

PRAISE: 1. That John has returned to the U.S.A. after his 2<sup>nd</sup> tour of duty.  
2. We did a 2.5 mile prayer walk, and it was so crowded that we had to walk in the water. Praise God for bringing so many here for vacation.

PRAY: 1. Their resident visas need to be renewed.  
2. The population really changes during the summer months, as this is considered a vacation spot for this area. We have also been able to minister to many college kids.

## R & C

FAMILY: 1. We are grateful for a good summer (except for one week of a conference in the US) when R. could work from the office here, which allowed for family time in the evenings and weekends. D. could spend several days working alongside a "handy man" here and gain some practical experiences. Both he and K. had a job as teachers' aides during a summer school program at their school. We are so grateful for this provision of purposeful activity as well as income for them.

2. With only 2 weeks left, we can all feel the major transitions approaching, and each one deals with it differently. We appreciate your prayers for readiness when the times for the good-byes come. K. will leave for Wheaton on August 9. J's school starts August 12. R. will take D. to Taiwan August 14. The dorms will open the 15th, school starts the 16th, and his 17th birthday is the 19th. At this point R. plans to stay for these days of initial adjustments, auditions, finalizing schedules, and dorm birthday party, and then return home Aug. 20.

3. C's experiences as camp counselor at a Christian high school girls' camp are definitely stretching her in new ways. To know about troubled kids is one thing; to care for them 24-7 is something else. She is aware of the need of the power of God. Talk alone won't accomplish much. She has a little more than 2 weeks left. School might just seem like a "breeze" afterwards. She is looking forward to the fall semester when she will be taking on new responsibilities as Mukappa leader at Crown College (a fellowship group for TCKs and international students) as well as preparing to lead a mission team next summer.

MINISTRY: 1. Our long-prayed-for finance person for the office has finished his pre-field orientation in Colorado Springs. We look forward to Niel's arrival on August 8. There will be many decisions coming up: looking for an apartment, a church, a new way of life, etc. For a young single, these things seem to be even more important.

2. We also appreciate your prayers for our admin team as we all adjust to new team dynamics.  
3. Summers are a busy season for our in-country teams as many short-term teams come for summer camps, etc. In addition, there are transitions due to home assignment schedules. We have 2 teams where the team leader goes on home assignment. That means an even greater adjustment for the teams.

4. As to the flooding here: None of "our" work is directly affected, though in some places this does open up new opportunities for outreach. It is hard to imagine the suffering of so many.

5. With tighter government restrictions for foreign "non-profit organizations," several of our teams were forced to adopt a "business" mode. Two teams are finishing up their business registration and related visa processes. Please continue to ask for wisdom and favor.
6. We had previously asked for prayer for 2 workers with serious health problems: Jacob's medication seems to have improved his condition. They are grateful for this and take one day at a time. Julie had another flare-up of her MS while traveling with her husband. It was amazing how the Father had timed their visit with medical co-worker/friends in another province who could arrange for her to immediately receive the 3-day IV treatment she needed.

## S

**PRAISE:** 1. His protection on the motorbike... I had an accident about three weeks ago and am so thankful to come away with just a few scrapes! And "Wanda the Honda" (thanks to Fran Corby for her excellent motorbike name suggestion) came away with only minor injuries also.

2. My new house - I LOVE it! And PTL the contract signing for the next year went smoothly last week.
3. His miraculous gift of life in little A. (Miracle). My teacher has now brought her little baby boy home, and he weighs 2.3 kilos (over 5 pounds)! I got to visit him recently, and I shared with my teacher that many of you were uplifting him - THANK YOU.

**PRAY:** 1. My host mom is leaving in the next few days to go have eye surgery in China where one of her sons lives. Please uplift her travels, ask for wisdom for the doctors, restored eyesight, peace, and for the Father to be glorified.

2. Four friends who are preparing to leave in the next weeks for a one-year internship in the US. It's a huge opportunity for them, and yet there will be major transitions ahead for them. Please ask that the Father would use this experience to deepen their walks (including my host brother, an employee at Candlelight, an employee in our silk company, and another friend from fellowship).
3. Family members of several of my believing friends. Please ask for the Spirit to soften their hearts and draw them to Himself.

## T

**PRAY:** 1. There has been a lot of spiritual "heaviness" on a lot of the young leaders of the fellowship groups as well as the teachers this semester. Perhaps this coincides with the increased prayer focus in both groups as well. Either way, pray for a spiritually refreshing summer for all—AND YOURSELF! And that this prayer movement will continue!

2. Speaking of that, some leaders will be attending some special training camps this summer. Please pray for their safety, security, and both head and heart knowledge during these times.
3. Pray for those from past years and this year who leave still considering and thinking about what they have heard. Pray that God will bring more divine appointments into their lives to help them move towards a decision.
4. Praise!! Some of the youngin's I know were baptized this semester!! Of course, I couldn't be there, but it's still so precious! We can learn a thing or two from them about the importance and meaning of baptism! It's a HUGE step for them!! Pray for God to be speaking to these young leaders hearts about balance amidst devotion to Him. Some of them really sacrificed their studies in the name of "service" this year to an unhealthy degree.
5. Pray for the grads who are moving on. Pray for them to find good fellowships to plug into and to stay growing in the Lord.
6. Besides this year's graduates, some of our leaders who have stuck around after graduation are now moving on. Pray for God to provide clear open gates and paths for them to travel to whatever is next for them. Pray for new leaders to replace them.
7. Pray that God would make it very clear to me what He wants me to commit to in the coming school year as there are many, many, many things I want to do, but...I'm not sure if I need to back off and focus again on language since my brain seems to be at a very key open stage right now.
8. Pray for God's blessing on my brain and heart for language study which will have a mix of practical and religious language focus this summer. Pray for a natural flow with my tutors and COURAGE for me to go out and make a fool of myself speaking to the local people.

9. Please continue to pray for unity among the teachers and that IF it is His will, a more cohesive team will form.
10. My computer has issues! Pray it will be an easy fix so I don't have to decide if I should worry about taking software and such in a computer from here.