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## Supported Workers and Ministry Partners

# Prayer Requests

### December/January 2024



**David and Estelle Abernathy**  
JAARS and Wycliffe Bible  
Translators  
Waxhaw, NC

#### PRAY

1) At long last some of the material that my team has been working on is being published electronically. Four or five of the exegetical summaries for New Testament books are in that batch, which have been waiting far longer than any of us had ever expected or wanted. Now they will be available for Bible translators all over the world to help them better understand the texts they are translating. Praise the Lord!

2) A fellow in Germany has finished a 191 page summary of Leviticus 16, where the process for the atonement of sins is described. He began this work about four years ago, though he has also had other projects. It's a very exhaustive study, and it was very exhausting for me to edit!

#### **Frank and Sheree** **Serving in Restricted Area**

#### PRAY

- 1) Pray for the many new students at the preschool. Pray for enfoldng them in our program and for our small space which is getting tighter by the day. Pray we can be in our new space by Easter which has been promised to us. We know God is faithful.
- 2) Praise God for Syrian refugees teaching their first class in our Bachelor program. They were honored to be asked and did a great job. May this grow more in the future.
- 3) Pray for 4 of our bachelor students who are close to graduating. Pray they would stay strong and faithful to finish their assignments.
- 4) Pray for wisdom in deciding which teaching and training opportunities to take and where the Lord wants to use us.



**Michael and Linda-Lee Wadhams**  
Ministry to the Nooksack and  
Lummi Indians - West Coast  
Indigenous Team Leader  
Bellingham, WA

### **PRAISE**

- 1) The Nooksack families have laid their first building foundation for the Prayer House.
- 2) The At-Risk sewing ministry for the Nooksack girls is going well.
- 3) Our children's ministry at River of Life church received permission to continue into 2024.

### **PRAY**

- 1) Please pray for the above points.
- 2) Family - we are under tremendous spiritual attack. We are facing enormous challenges and need prayer against the evil of the Devil's schemes.

*Joel 3:16*

*"The Lord roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But the Lord is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel."*

### **PRAISE**

- 1) God gave us an awesome Christmas Store. It was really cool to see so many people come together to bless the families we serve in AC. We had close to 40 shoppers representing well over 100 kids.

### **PRAY**

- 2) Jan-March are slower months here and we would ask for prayer to make the most of it as a church family. Diving deeper in fellowship with one another and the Lord. And being able to rest some too.
- 3) Pray for our Men's and Women's Bible Studies as they resume. Particularly a greater thirst for God's Word and the discipline to seek the Lord in it regularly
- 4) Pray for our folks to remain on mission and looking for opportunities to be salt and light wherever God puts them.



**Peter and Katie Eck**  
Church Planter - New City  
Fellowship  
Atlantic City, NJ

**Stephen and Natalie**  
**Serving in Restricted Area**

### **PRAY**

- 1) That we'd be able to find good rhythms and routines as a family as Natalie's back to teaching.
- 2) That the Father would use the Christmas season as an opportunity to share hope, especially as many people in the region are feeling particularly hopeless with the war.
- 3) That we'd get good rest over our holiday break!



**Mitch and Jessica Spence**  
Church Planters - Living Hope Church  
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

#### **PRAY**

1) Please continue praying for our country and in particular the people, us Zimbabweans living in a dreadful situation and without great hope of any material change in the short term. Pray that we'd find hope and comfort and identity and security in Christ and his unfailing love.

2) Please continue praying for our leaders and in particular for a President and his government, that they might turn from their evil and wicked ways and come to truly fear the Lord and serve their people. Pray they might find forgiveness in Christ.

3) Please pray that we (the Spence's), would know that Lord is at work in us through the chaos of life particular to our context and so to see in those often mundane, frustrating and even heart-breaking moments numerous opportunities to grow in Christ.

#### *Psalm 25:2*

*"O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me."*

#### **David and Aliece** **Serving in Restricted Area**

#### **PRAY**

- 1) As we conclude our home assignment and returning to the field in Jan., please pray for the children's re-transition back to the field.
- 2) Zebadiah is a junior and is thinking about future career pursues and majors for college, please pray to give him Wisdom of discernment. He's also taking his Driver's License test in Jan., please pray that he passes.
- 3) Aliece is very busy as our country is in turmoil and many people developed severed psychological challenges, including suicides. Please pray for strength and words of comfort for her.
- 4) Also, Aliece is working on revamping some of her classes to better serve the field situations, please pray for wisdom.
- 5) David's field partners and churchers that he serves are being persecuted. While this does not affect David's ministry (we just go underground deeper), it does raise the risk and challenges. Please pray for him and his team's safety.

#### **Tim and Barbie** **Serving in Restricted Area**

#### **PRAY**

- 1) Tim has just finished Genesis 9 as he checks the rough draft for accuracy, and he and Pastor Barnabas have reached the middle of chapter 7 in their once-a-week meetings.
- 2) The team is still addressing questions in the audio recording and the typesetting. If your language has no way to say, "Table of Contents" so you entitle the page, "The Books of the New Testament," and then the entry after Revelation is "Glossary", that's a small problem. Good thing someone noticed that!
- 3) 25 easy readers are printed (100 copies each), and we're trying to arrange payment and shipping from afar for this work done in our capital city.
- 4) We struggle with the feeling that we can never quite get a leg up on all that we have to do. Practical tasks are routinely like that for most people, of course, but we often ask ourselves, "Have we done enough to resolve such-and-such a conflict, or to get so-and-so up and running again?"

## PRAY

- 1) That our "Giving Tuesday" and End of The Year Giving Campaigns would prove fruitful.
- 2) For me (Charles), as I travel to share the mission of AAM at various churches this winter
- 3) For our finances - Things are tight right now, and we may have to consider reducing staff hours and layoffs.
- 4) That African American leaders in the PCA would enter the new year refreshed and encouraged to continue serving faithfully in the PCA.
- 5) That more African Americans find and make a healthy home here in the PCA in 2024.



**Charles and Charlotte McKnight**  
MTW African American Ministries  
Coordinator  
Winston-Salem, NC

## Isaiah 61:1

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. . . ."*



**James and Kelly Broadaway**  
Campus Outreach - South Africa  
Cape Town Team Leaders  
Cape Town, South Africa

## PRAY

- 1) That the students who are being established would all multiply their lives in evangelism. (6 students leading other students to faith during the year).
- 2) 3 student-led investigative bible studies.
- 3) See 30 Professions of faith/gospel renewals (which would mean we possibly have about 120 students in our regular ministry pipeline).
- 4) Have functional Khula Lead & Khula Multiply Events. (This is the name of Campus Outreach in Cape Town for contextual reasons).
- 5) Host a student summer leadership project in the Western Cape. (Approximately 20 Students)
- 6) Send students and staff to a short-term cross-cultural project to an international location.

## Tim and Jenn Serving in Restricted Area

## PRAY

- 1) Please pray for Tim as he represents the Great Commission Council at CrossCon. Pray that God would use GCC to encourage churches, missionaries, and the next generation toward more biblical, healthy missions.



## PRAY

- 1) Our prayers for this season as we have been having different Christmas outreach events and programs as well as having the opportunity to invite neighbors in church and in our homes is that God with His Spirit will work in their lives and draw them to Himself. We pray for the people who attended our church services as well as our outreach events and were exposed to the Gospel that they will come to know Christ. We pray that we will be able to continue to minister to them and to have opportunities to share the Gospel.
- 2) Especially we pray for a new group of people that new friendships and relationships have been growing, that God will make them part of the life of the Church.
- 3) Apart from the different events that we had in the church and in the neighborhood we were able to participate in the public school Christmas party of the neighborhood and were able to build bridges with families, parents and teachers. We pray that God will use these relationships for His kingdom. We thank God because in all the things that happened this Christmas season it had encouraging outcomes. Either by new relationships or by a deepening of older relationships and for people hearing to the truths of God's coming in Jesus Christ.
- 4) We pray that we will be able to rest in the holidays and be refreshed for a renewed season of ministry this winter and new year.
- 5) We are really grateful for your prayers and we continue to ask your prayers for a spiritual awakening in our neighborhood in Neos Kosmos, Athens.



**Erik and Hara Petrou**  
Church Planters - Pnoi Zois  
Church  
Athens, Greece

## *Psalm 10:17*

*“O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart. . . .”*



**Cliff and Rose Chin**  
Charlotte Chinese Baptist Church  
Charlotte, NC

## PRAY

1) Our work with the local refugee community is going well. Much prayer and wisdom are needed as we embark on the New Year. In December, we participated in the Charlotte Eagles Christmas Village event. Various churches and groups offered an afternoon gathering filled with fellowship and fun for local refugee kids. It was a great turnout, and we had many opportunities to share the love of Christ with others. Please pray that the seeds that were planted will bear fruit in the days ahead as we continue our work in this area.

2) Tutoring efforts are also progressing well and there is discussion about expanding the number of students this year. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as we evaluate potential new students, and that God will provide experienced tutors to accommodate the needs. Please also pray about God providing a person who has a heart for this work and who is skilled in organizing and scheduling efforts to help oversee the tutoring program administratively. This is a need that we have identified if we are to grow and bring in more students.

- 3) It's been exciting to see the Lord at work in our Friday night Bible study for young adult refugees. Attendance has steadily increased the past month and is consistently numbering between 20-25 in attendance. Praise be to God! The challenge we are seeing now is how to move these people from Friday night Bible study to attending worship on Sunday morning. There are many factors that are in play. Please pray for wisdom as we navigate through them. We are working on developing a “core” group from amongst those attending Friday night who will commit themselves to assisting with worship on Sunday. Please pray that God would open the hearts of these people and He will open their eyes to the need for and importance of worshipping together regularly.

### PRAY

- 1) Boldness in the gospel and the conversion of many hearts.
- 2) Continued provision for our ministry.
- 3) Continued unity among the congregation.
- 4) Protection from all that would slow or stunt our ministry.
- 5) Spiritual maturity and growth among the children of the church.
- 6) Wisdom for the leaders and overseers of All Saints.



**Ben and Melanie Kappers**  
Church Planters - All Saints  
Reformed Church  
St. George, UT

### *1 Corinthians 2:9*

*“But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him. . . .”*

### **Nisin and Joanna** **Serving in Restricted Area**

### PRAY

- 1) Pray for CROSS - Our family is going to CROSS conference. Pray for us to encourage, meet students who might be interested in doing study abroad in the UAE and other connections.
- 2) Pray for funding as we come to the end of the year - the budget in Dubai has increased especially for housing and insurance. Please pray for Lord to provide additional needs.
- 3) Pray for students who are on break and in exams - this is a stressful time for many students who are writing exams. Pray for them to keep their eyes on Jesus. Pray for them to keep faithfully attending church. Pray for them to remember the gospel during this time and not turn away from their spiritual disciplines.
- 4) Pray for our team - as many of us are taking a break in the coming week, pray for our team to rest well and be refreshed by their time with their families. Pray for them to be ready to be back the second week of Jan where we'll start to enter into a really busy semester.
- 5) Pray for our church - Pray for covenant Hope that members will mature and grow into Christ. They will put on holiness and walk faithfully with Jesus.



**Craig and Sandy Day**  
Caleb Ministries Founders  
Matthews, NC

### PRAY

1) Pray for the families that receive our P.A.T. Memory Boxes and all of our resources that the hope of the gospel is evident as they read and hearts will be open to God's Truth.

2) So very thankful for the ladies who volunteer from Christ Covenant Church who desire to use their talents and gifts for His glory!

3) Very thankful for the life changing resources we have that change lives of those who have lost a baby due to Miscarriage, stillbirth, and early infant death or those who have dealt with infertility and/or those who have had an abortion in their past.



## PRAY

- 1) As the year draws to a close, so does my two year Church Planting Residency Program. We thank God for Union Chapel and for the equipping that has been taking place over the past two years.
- 2) We thank God for the handful of people who have committed to being part of a core group for our church planting endeavors for 2024. This has been an integral prayer request of ours that God would send us the right people for this ministry.
- 3) We will dedicate at least the first quarter of 2024 to core group development and vision casting. This will be the stopping stone for everything else that happens with regard to the church plant. Please pray for this foundational phase.
- 4) We desire that this church plant be built on prayer, in other words, by God's strength and doing. To that end, we want to instill prayer as a vital part of the church plant and so part of all that will be happening next year will be a weekly prayer meeting both for the church plant and the community within which we will be planting.
- 5) All the activities that will be taking place next year namely, evangelism, core group formation, vision casting, and fundraising, will all be in anticipation of the official launch of the church. Please pray for wisdom for us.
- 6) More personally, my wife Sim is pregnant with our first child. We look forward to the arrival of our child in the first quarter of 2024 and are deeply thankful to God for such a precious gift. Please pray for the health of both Sim and the baby.



**Bongo and Sibulele Mkiva**  
Union Chapel - Church Planting  
Resident  
Cape Town, South Africa

## *Philippians 1:6*

*“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”*

## **Chris and Savanna** **Serving in Restricted Area**

## PRAY

- 1) Please continue praying for our language acquisition. We are growing steadily in our comprehension and ability to hold our own in conversations with our Persian neighbors. We are thankful that God has been continuing to give us both a sustained energy and work ethic as we prioritize learning this language on a daily basis.
- 2) Praise God that Georgia-Lee's homeschooling is going so well. She can write her name and some other words now and is reading several simple sentences too. Such a testimony to Savanna's hard work as a teacher!! Savanna has been doing such a great job this term as a teacher!
- 3) Savanna and I are each experiencing growing relationships with Persians and non-Persians alike within our church and we are so thankful for the opportunities that God has given to us. Weekly, we each have opportunities to have gospel conversations with people who aren't believers and, for that, we are so thankful. We would ask for prayer that God would continue to lift us up and give our family more opportunities to speak our Savior's name into the world around us.
- 4) Please continue praying for our marriage. We are feeling very connected to one another and blessed right now. We continue to feel the Holy Spirit's presence in our family and marriage and we want to continue asking people to pray for this specifically.

**Saleem and Joy**  
**Serving in Restricted Area**

**PRAY**

- 1) A joint worship service that we are hoping to have on January 7 with several newer believers. Pray that they would come and that Saleem would be able to introduce several of them before hand so that they will feel more comfortable coming on Jan 7.
- 2) Pray for Saleem as he disciples several believers and is studying with seekers. Ask for strength, continued encouragement, and their growth with the Lord.
- 3) Pray for one seeking couple that we hope to meet with in the New Year.
- 4) Pray for us to finish the pre-marriage manual this winter/spring. It keeps getting put on hold for one reason or another. After we finish the translation, it will need to go to editors and then, print.
- 5) Pray for an upcoming forum that we will be a part of in February on marriage in the BMB (Believers of Musm Backgrounds) world. Pray that we will be able to have time to prepare well for this and that the time will be productive in gathering information that will benefit BMBs and those who are working with BMBs.
- 6) Pray for the local leadership meeting in January that will now meet three times a year. Pray for wisdom in decisions made and working well together, as well as with expats here.

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

*“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”*



**Wesley and Nicole Marshall**  
Church Planters - Hope City  
Presbyterian Church - East City  
Observatory, Cape Town,  
South Africa

**PRAY**

- 1) That our staff and their families would get rest over the holiday season.
- 2) Thank the Lord with us for his financial provision over the last year and ask him to continue to provide for his work through our church in the coming year.
- 3) We are expecting our third child and this pregnancy has been particularly hard for my wife. Please pray that she and baby will remain healthy and that she'll be able to carry the baby to term. Baby is due to arrive on 17 March 2024.





**Emily and Timothy Bantola**  
CRU - USA - Global Finance:  
Internal Audit Lead  
Abington, PA

### PRAY

1) Family from the Philippines and Japan are coming for Christmas and New Year. Pray for safe travels and wonderful memories made. This will be the first time Timothy's siblings and mom have all been together in 11 years.

2) In December, I joined Cru's global finance leadership team. Praise the Lord for fruitful strategic planning meetings a few weeks ago. Pray that, as a leadership team, we would lead spiritually and strategically.

3) There is a specific audit I am working on that is taking a significant amount of time and energy. Pray for Godly wisdom for me.

4) I plan to study for the CIA certification (Certified Internal Auditor) in 2024. It is a series of three exams. Pray I can put a realistic study plan in place and find time to study on top of my other ministry work.

5) Praises that over the past year, we have grown closer as a family, and seen God's working in each Timothy, my, Ephraim and Andrew's lives.

### *Psalm 33:22*

*“Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.”*

### PRAY

1) Continue to pray for Shelly Marshall as she trusts in the Lord in the midst of her battle with cancer. From an earthly perspective, the prognosis not good. But her hope is in Christ and the resurrection!

2) Pray for me (Lowell Ivey) and my family as we make the move from Virginia to Georgia. Pray that we would all make the adjustment well, and that we are able to get settled in a bit before I begin a busy travel schedule in January. Please remember Mae and the baby during this first trimester of pregnancy!

3) Pray for Raylene Casson in her work as the Correspondence Ministry Facilitator. New regulations in some states are making it more difficult for our students to receive their correspondence courses and letters.

4) Pray for Tim Busch in his work as Mentoring Ministry Facilitator. We currently have mentoring locations at 4 prisons in GA and SC. Pray for an open door to begin a mentoring program in TX.

5) Please pray for all of our ministry staff. We now have Regional Directors in CA, TX, FL, GA, SC, NC, and TN! We hope to begin exploratory work in Virginia and other states in 2024.

6) Please pray for our team as we look into ways we might take advantage of prisoners' access to tablets and technology.

7) Please pray for God to continue to provide the financial partners we need to do the ministry.



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### *Lamentations 3:24*

*“The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’”*

#### FAITH PROMISE

Matthew 9:37b-38: *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*

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#### Outreach and Missions Department Staff

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Tom Engstrom - Elder  
Jim Rea - Elder  
Steve Smith - Elder  
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Brendan Kelly - Deacon  
Matt Needles - Deacon  
Min Shin - Deacon  
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