



# Women on Mission

Women who are personally engaged in the Great Commission are the leaders, servants, and disciples every Southern Baptist church desperately needs. Why? Because Christians who live on mission are the biblical standard for Christian discipleship. Faithful believers who live on mission demonstrate a joy and enthusiasm for serving Jesus that the rest of the church can follow. They know the mission matters most and do what it takes to help the church learn about missions, pray for missions, support missions, do missions, and tell about Jesus! These are often the people who are helping raise up the next pastors, teachers, and missionaries in your church, too.

Women on Mission® is for women ages 18+. When churches include missions discipleship curriculum in adult groups, participants will

- **learn** of ways Christians can fulfill God's mission in the world;
- devote time to **praying** for missionaries and the fulfillment of the Great Commission;
- **give** generously and sacrificially to advance the work of God's mission; and
- develop a missional lifestyle through actively **sharing their faith** with those around them.

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Our passion.

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# How do I get missions discipleship started at my church?

1

Read through the **one-week lesson** below.



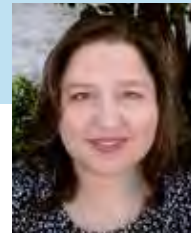
2

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3

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4

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The monthly meeting plan flyers are available to print in color at [wmu.com/thismonth](http://wmu.com/thismonth).

Sample Session

OCTOBER



# FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE IN LOVING OTHERS.

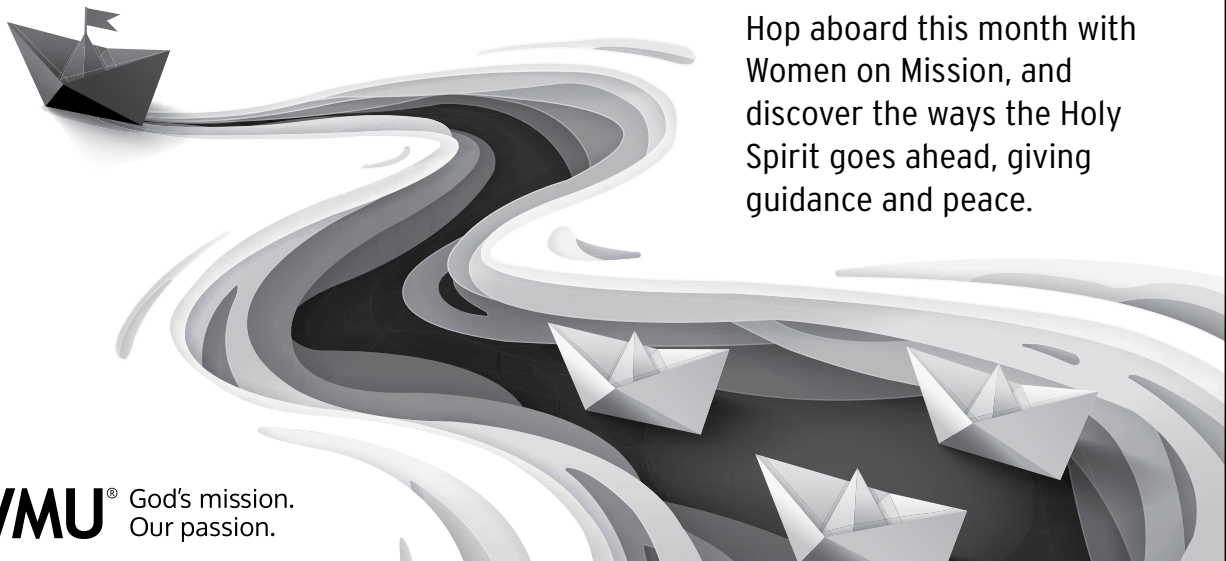
*What has two wheels, shiny chrome, and can start conversations about Jesus? This month, join Women on Mission to learn how God's overwhelming love is expressed to you and through you. Discover ways to combine your interests with the gospel as you follow Jesus' example in loving people.*

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

NOVEMBER

# Learn to listen to the Holy Spirit.



Hop aboard this month with Women on Mission, and discover the ways the Holy Spirit goes ahead, giving guidance and peace.

**WMU**® God's mission.  
Our passion.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

The meeting plan covers the Bible study, the Prayer article, and the missionary focus.

# WE LOVE BECAUSE THE FATHER FIRST LOVED US

Show love through presence.

Use with articles on pages 16, 26, and 28 of the September 2024 issue of *Missions Mosaic*.

## BEFORE THE MEETING

(What to do or obtain before the meeting)

- Gather Bibles, copies of *Missions Mosaic*, and pens or pencils.
- Prepare a vase of cut sunflowers. These will be used in the Attention-Getter, so procure enough flowers for each woman to be able to pull off at least one petal.
- Ask two volunteers to present the "Jason" monologue and the "Cassie" monologue (p. 8).
- Print copies of the "Four Kinds of Prayer" activity sheet (p. 9) for each participant.
- Prepare the craft paper sunflower prayer reminders (p. 3).

## ATTENTION-GETTER

1. Say, *Do you remember pulling petals from flowers while saying, "He loves me; he loves me not"? As believers, we never have to wonder whether God loves us.*
2. Demonstrate what the women will do. Take a sunflower from the vase. Pull off a petal. Say, *I feel loved when [fill in the blank].* (Examples: someone listens, a friend sends me a card, a child wants to spend time with me, someone else cleans the house) Give the flower to a nearby woman to complete the sentence. Continue until everyone has had an opportunity to share.
3. Say, *Today we are learning about missionaries who share Jesus' love with people who are hard to get to know. We'll also look at God's love for us and pray for others.*

## BEGIN WITH THE BIBLE STUDY ARTICLE

(See *Missions Mosaic*, page 26.)

1. Call on a volunteer to read 1 John 4:7-21 aloud. Ask for general impressions.
2. Split participants into three groups. Assign one group to study verses 7-11 to find out how God revealed His love. Direct the second group to read verses 12-16 to learn how believers can acknowledge God's love. Instruct the third group to read verses 17-21 to discover the result when God's love is demonstrated in relationships. Encourage the groups to discuss their answers and share examples within their groups.
3. Gather the groups back together, and discuss their discoveries and evidence.

4. Say, *Now let's look at missionaries who are demonstrating Jesus' love in their relationships.*

## TRANSITION TO THE THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE

(See *Missions Mosaic*, page 16.)

1. Ask, *Where was the world's attention this summer? Why?* (Answer: Paris; the Summer Olympics). *Jason and Cassie Harris live and serve in Paris, France. They were active in sharing Jesus through Olympic pin trading, which is a popular hobby. Even outside the Olympics, the world comes to the French city. Jason says that Muslims, Chinese, and West Africans live there, to name a few. More than 40 percent of residents in Paris and its suburbs are first- or second-generation immigrants. And France is*

*considered the least-churched country in Europe. The part of the city where the Harrises live has about 60,000 people and no Christian church. Let's dig in to find out more about the Harrises' work.*

- Prompt the first volunteer to share Jason's monologue. Ask participants, *What stood out to you the most?*
- Prompt the second volunteer to share Cassie's monologue. Again, allow for brief reactions to the monologue.
- Distribute copies of *Missions Mosaic*, and encourage participants to skim the article. Ask, *What is the Paris team's catchphrase?* (Answer: Sit to share). Explain what that looks like in the Harrises' ministry. Compare the Harrises' "sit-to-share" approach with the answers given in the Attention-Getter. Simply spending time with someone often presents opportunities to share Jesus with him or her.

### TRANSITION TO THE PRAYER ARTICLE

(See *Missions Mosaic*, page 28.)

- Divide participants into pairs, and distribute the "Four Kinds of Prayer" activity sheets and pens or pencils.
- Instruct each pair to scan the Prayer article, then work together on the activity sheet, completing each definition of prayer and responding to the prompts for personal reflection. Adjust the time you allow for this activity based on the discussion you observe.
- Say, *Prayer is our way of communing and communicating with God. The Prayer article encourages us to use prayer to know God's heart for*

*ourselves and for others. The author shares a Bible verse with each quality or type of prayer. We have begun to examine our prayer lives in light of these qualities or types of prayers. Set aside time to read each Scripture and meditate on it. Then, allow the Spirit and the verse to guide you as you pray according to that particular prompt. For example, you could thank God for knowing your heart and for giving you His Spirit to intercede for you.*

- Pray aloud, using the "Four Kinds of Prayer" activity sheet, serving as an example for participants.

### WRAP UP

- Look up 1 John 4:16. Ask for a volunteer to read it aloud.
- Say, *We are going to pray this verse over missionaries who are celebrating a birthday today.*
- Take a paper sunflower on which you have written the missionaries' names and places of service. Demonstrate by tearing off a petal and saying, *Jesus loves [missionary name], who serves in [place of service].* Or you might say, *Jesus loves [missionary name], who serves among [name of the affinity group the missionary serves].*
- Give the flower to another person. She will tear off a petal and repeat the phrase. Repeat until each person has read a missionary's name.
- Guide the group to pray silently using 1 John 4:16.

### NOTES:

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# MONOLOGUES

## JASON

My wife, Cassie, and I serve in Paris, France, with our four children. We haven't been here long, just since the COVID-19 pandemic. Before, we were in Asia, a place I had believed God wanted me to serve since I was 16. But when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we had to leave Asia quickly and were unable to return. Our hearts were broken. We asked God, "What next?"

What was next ended up being France. It is one of the places in the world where the nations have gathered and people need Jesus. In the part of the city where my family lives, we have nearly 60,000 people and not one Christian church. Many French people don't know a committed Christian. They have never heard the gospel clearly spoken to them. Most French have historical ties to the Catholic church but say they are atheists or agnostics. Less than 5 percent of French people regularly attend mass each week.

All this makes sharing Jesus and starting a church difficult. My team begins by building relationships. Our team's catchphrase is "sit to share." Since the general culture is hesitant to build relationships quickly, we choose to spend committed, intentional time with people. We have long meals with them or go out for coffee so we can get to know them. We listen, laugh, and get to know their hearts. We literally sit with them, listening and watching for opportunities to share Jesus. Building relationships can seem like a long process.

Sometimes we have a surprise—someone responds quickly to the gospel. In summer 2023, about 85 volunteers came to help our team meet more people and share Jesus. While those volunteers were with us, four people became Christ followers. Many others were interested in meeting to talk more.

One man who decided to follow Jesus is Mathias. He has been open to studying the Bible and asking Jesus to help him with the struggles in his life. Please pray for Mathias as he grows in his faith.

During the Olympics, 600 volunteers joined us to help make Jesus known among the nations that descended on Paris. One way we shared the truth of the gospel was through pin trading. Collecting and

trading Olympic pins is very popular. Special pins were designed to combine the Olympics with the "I am" statements of Jesus. In this city that always smells like freshly baked bread, we shared that Jesus is the Bread of life.

## CASSIE

During our transition from Asia to France, God prompted Jason and me that He wanted us to return to the nations. When we asked God to tell us which nation, He simply repeated, "Go to the nations." We pondered this call. In our time of thinking and searching, we discovered there are specific places where the nations are truly gathered. France is one of those places. We learned there was a great need for Christian workers in that country. Not long after, we were assigned to Paris, and Jason became team leader in the city. At that time, it was a two-family team. Now we have 12 adults and ten children on the team, and we continue to grow.

I'm in language school, in addition to the work we do. In 2023, a group of 85 volunteers helped us make connections in our city. One of the women they connected with was Cherry. She was interested in hearing the gospel and studying the Bible, so I began meeting with her. She grew in her Christian faith. However, she had to return to India, her home country. I still communicate with her. Please pray with me that Cherry would be a strong witness for Jesus in the dark place where she lives.

Reaching out to people in my neighborhood is something I really enjoy. During back-to-school week, I made cookies and took snacks and drinks to a small park near our house. Many of our neighbors gather there with their children. The conversations we had were great! We're continuing our efforts to build relationships with our neighbors.

I also mentor our new team members and serve at our local French partnering church. I help with childcare and host a small group Bible study in our home.

Our children help too. They have gone with us to invite other children to an art outreach project we hosted in a park. They helped give out water bottles, and they try to have spiritual conversations with their friends at school.

ACTIVITY SHEET

# Four Kinds of Prayer

Complete the following about types of prayer explained in the Prayer article, "Pray to Know God's Heart."

1. Personal prayer is a way for you to learn about God's \_\_\_\_\_ for you and all those you pray for.

Here are some things that characterize my personal prayer life:

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2. Corporate prayer is praying with other believers; it opens our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to how God is working around us and reveals to us more of God's \_\_\_\_\_ through others.

Here is an example of when corporate prayer has been especially meaningful in my life:

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3. Fervent prayer is an expression of great \_\_\_\_\_ and deep \_\_\_\_\_.

Here are some things I pray fervently about:

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4. Intercessory prayer is praying on \_\_\_\_\_ of people who have \_\_\_\_\_.

Here are the people and their needs over which I am praying:

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Additional articles, which are often written by other Women on Mission group leaders, are provided to help leaders improve their leadership skills.

# REMEMBERING THE BASICS

## DEMONSTRATE SINCERE HOSPITALITY.

As a leader, you put in a lot of work preparing lessons and events and facilitating missions conversations. When the time comes to host your Women on Mission gathering, don't miss out on opportunities to connect with those attending. The basic elements of hospitality can have a significant impact.

Regardless of whether someone is a first-time attendee or a faithful regular, you want to ensure she feels welcome in your gathering. In addition to verbally communicating your welcome, incorporating important nonverbal elements will help ensure all the women feel seen, known, and loved.

### SHE IS SEEN.

Eye contact is a powerful nonverbal tool that can display hospitality. Whenever you are speaking with someone, be sure to maintain eye contact and really listen to what she is saying. Active listening, where you build upon what was shared, communicates value and inclusion, which are important elements for a person to feel welcome. If you notice someone new, be sure to say hi to her quickly and introduce her to someone else in the group so she feels engaged instead of like an outsider.

### SHE IS KNOWN.

At the core, we all want to feel known. Even a simple gesture such as using someone's name can go a long way in helping her feel welcome and known in the group setting. It's OK if you are not good with names—just offer name tags for people to wear.

### SHE IS LOVED.

Sincere hospitality can also demonstrate to someone that she is loved. Your warm greeting, quick conversation, and encouraging words will help an attendee feel like she belongs and is loved for who she is.

Don't forget the power of following up! If you see that new visitor again in a different setting, be sure to greet her and invite her back. You could also send her a quick text message or a card in the mail if you have her contact information.

We can easily become so engrossed in conversations with people we already know that we may overlook new people. By showcasing care and concern for the attendees, you are creating a culture of sincere hospitality that will help each person feel seen, known, and loved.

**ASHLEY HALL** is a freelance writer and pastor's wife based in east Texas. She grew up watching her grandmother actively serve in WMU, and God used that to foster a heart for serving others, both at home and abroad, within her.

The Bible studies are vetted  
by an SBC doctrinal reader.

# FREE TO Love

THE FATHER LOVED US  
BEFORE WE KNEW HIM.

• LEAD WOMEN ON MISSION:  
• Use with meeting plan on  
• pages 6-7 in *Women on*  
• *Mission Leader* (Fall 2024).  
•

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I remember being a young girl, plucking the petals of a flower, and quoting these fickle words, “He loves me; he loves me not . . .” Daydreams fulfilled or shattered hung on those words. Each of us can rejoice, though, that we *never* have to play that game—or any game—to figure out whether God loves us. We do not love God and then try to catch His attention or persuade Him to love us. He loved us first!

He created us and our entire world. He provides a way of salvation through Jesus Christ. He trains and disciplines us through His Word. He calls us into service. And He never leaves us forsaken but instead provides comfort through His Spirit. God the Father loves us in purity and passion.

In the span of 15 verses (1 John 4:7–21), John used the word *love* 27 times. He wasn’t stuck on repeat or struggling to think of other godly attributes to commend. John wanted his readers to understand the undeniable reality of God’s love and acknowledge believers’ responsibility to reflect that unconditional love in service to one another.

### GOD REVEALED HIS LOVE

#### • Read 1 John 4:7–11.

John previously explained in verses 5–6 that those who do not know God will not hear or understand the teaching of the Spirit. Their hearts simply will not resonate with the truth of Scripture. Out of His love for us, God made a way for us to have communion with Him. He desires for us to share in His love, and we are to love one another as an overflow of His love for us.

God revealed His love, or “manifested” it as the ESV puts it, by sending Jesus. To *manifest* is to make something obvious, and God quite literally made His personal presence obvious to humankind through His Son coming to walk among us.

God loved us first and gave us His greatest gift, so we are to respond as a child would to a kind and gentle father and as one desperately lost yet miraculously saved. First John 4:10 reminds us, “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” To *atone* is to make right. We are incapable of atoning for ourselves. But God did it for us.

Through salvation, we are granted the privilege of being in right relationship with our Creator. We live in the freedom of God’s great love and grace. Our reasonable service, then, is to also love one another.

### ACKNOWLEDGE GOD’S LOVE

#### • Read 1 John 4:12–16.

In Exodus 33, Moses asked to see God’s glory, and God told him, “You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live” (v. 20). However, he was granted the privilege of standing in a “cleft in the rock” and seeing God’s back after He had passed by (vv. 22–23). Disciples of the first century saw Jesus, the evidence of the Father’s love, with their own eyes. Now we see through the testimony found in Scripture and our eyes of faith, which is “confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Heb. 11:1). Because we have faith in Him, God puts “his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come” (2 Cor. 1:22).

The Holy Spirit teaches and reassures us of God’s love through His Son. He opens our minds and hearts to God’s character and intentions as we study God’s Word, spend time in prayer, fellowship in communion with other believers in His church, and consistently exercise our faith. Loving one another “is how we know that we live in [God] and he in us” (1 John 4:13).

### PERFECTED IN GOD’S LOVE

#### • Read 1 John 4:17–21

Verses 17–18 profoundly state: “In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love.” Without the Holy Spirit to keep us on the right path, our imaginations might run back to the fickle, uncertain feelings of “he loves me; he loves me not,” or wander into memories of tainted love from those who treated us wrongly. We may recognize patterns of behavior in ourselves that are more self-centered than truly loving.

But there is no fear between God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is only a confident, perfect love; we can—and should—live in that same love, assured of our position before God.

Since God loved us first and because we are like Jesus, we do not have to fear reprisal from our heavenly Father, and we are free to selflessly love others. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are physically present in our lives. We can see them! If we can love God, whom we do not see, how can we reject His command to love those we do see? We cannot; we must not!

We rely on God’s love in being obedient to how the Holy Spirit spurs us on to be His hands and feet in this world. In loving one another, we both bear one another’s burdens and partner in service to others.

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**ELEANOR WITCHER** first grasped her call to missions while attending Girls in Action. In addition to years of volunteering, she served with the International Mission Board until her retirement.

LEAD WOMEN ON MISSION:  
Use with meeting plan on  
pages 6-7 in *Women on  
Mission Leader* (Fall 2024).

THIS MONTH, VISIT [WMU.COM/BLOGS](http://WMU.COM/BLOGS)  
for an update on the work and current  
praises and prayer requests.

# “GO TO THE NATIONS”

THE HARRIS FAMILY ENGAGES THE LOST IN  
PARIS AND AT THE OLYMPICS.

Jason Harris said a lot about his city is familiar to everyone. “Paris needs very little introduction if you are talking about the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, or the savory pastries that fill the boulangeries (bakeries) lining city streets.”

From the day he and his wife, Cassie, arrived in Paris, France, as International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries, they and their four children—Kerah, Jude, Silas, and Ethne—noticed how the smell of fresh bread is everywhere, and everyone seems to be carrying a baguette. “We have enjoyed baguettes so much that we even named our French cat Baguette,” Jason shared.

But once you get past Paris’s landmarks and trademarks, other prominent features of the city of 2.1 million are easy to see—like the fact that it’s deeply in need of a Savior. “Most French have historical links to the Catholic church but would consider themselves atheists or agnostics, with less than 5 percent of French now regularly attending mass each week,” Jason explained.

## NOT ONE CHURCH

Many areas of Paris and its suburbs don’t have evangelical churches either. The legacy French—French with generational history in the country—are considered one of the least-reached people groups in Europe, and France is considered the least-churched country in Europe, Jason said. “In our neighborhood, there are around 60,000 people and not one church. How many people live in your town? How many churches are there? Can you imagine not even having one church in your town? Many French people don’t even know a committed Christian and have never clearly heard the gospel.”

The Harrises find that’s also true of their neighbors who aren’t ethnically French and who make up a large part of the population. More than 40 percent of the residents in and around Paris are first- or second-generation immigrants.

“The nations truly are in Paris,” Jason added. “When you walk the streets, you will pass hijab-covered Muslims, Chinese shop owners and students, and countless French-speaking West Africans—all of whom desperately need Jesus.”

That reality is a big part of why Jason and Cassie answered the call to move to Paris.

## FOLLOWING GOD’S LEADING

Before living in Paris, the Harrises served as missionaries in Asia. God had worked in Jason’s life when he was a

teenager and started drawing him toward the nations, eventually Asia and one nation specifically. That country played a pivotal role in Jason’s life. “It struck me that there seemed to be an open door at the time, a massive response and need to equip the [Asian] church, an opportunity not to be missed.”

God called him to go, and one day when he was 16, he told a man in his church about that call. Jason shared, “He responded by taking a crisp \$100 bill from his wallet and handing it to me. He said, ‘My grandparents were missionaries in [Asia]; this is for your future mission to [Asia].’” Jason had no plans to go to that country in Asia at that time and didn’t know a single missionary who lived there. But he accepted that \$100, putting it in a shoebox labeled “for [Asia].”

Ten years later, after graduating college and getting married, he took that \$100 out of that shoebox to pay for visas when he and his wife took a vision trip to the Asian country where God was calling them. “We realized on that trip that we needed more training, so upon returning [to the United States], we headed to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. And after three more years of training, we landed in [Asia], where we would spend the next nine and a half years of our lives proclaiming the gospel and planting churches.”

## “WHAT NEXT, LORD?”

But when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, they had to leave Asia quickly and were unable to return.

“Our hearts broke,” Jason said. “As we sat in a mission house isolated during COVID, tears ran down our cheeks. It wasn’t long before we were asking, ‘What next, Lord?’”

God was faithful to answer, and He prompted the Harrises to return to the nations. “When we began to ask which nation, we only heard the same confirmation, ‘Go to the nations.’ As we pondered and talked about this [message], we soon discovered that there are specific places in the world where the nations truly are gathered. We learned that there was a great need for IMB personnel in Paris, France.”

Jason serves as team leader in the city and is excited that the team continues to expand. “When I arrived in France just over two years ago, we had one other family on our team,” he said. “Today we have 12 adults and ten children on our team, and we are continuing to grow. Needless to say, a large part of my



job has been recruiting and onboarding our new team members.”

### “SIT TO SHARE”

Much of the Harrises’ and their team’s time in Paris has been focused on language learning and building relationships in the city. But as they move toward their long-term goals, their vision is to establish five church-planting target hubs by 2026. Right now, their team is divided among three target hubs. “It takes time to reach most French people,” Jason explained. “They are often slow to build new friendships.”

His team has a catchphrase—“sit to share”—that involves spending long periods of time with people eating meals, drinking coffee, and talking. But even though the general culture is one of slow relationships and slow responsiveness to the gospel, they’re still seeing some people respond quickly.

In summer 2023, around 85 volunteers arrived in Paris to help the team meet more people and share the gospel. While those teams were present, four people made professions of faith, and many others were interested in meeting to talk more.

“Our team is busy meeting with people now,” Jason said. “One man who professed Christ is named Mathias; his heart has been very open to studying the Bible together and asking Jesus to help him with the struggles in his life. Please pray for Mathias.”

Another young woman, Cherry, was eager to hear about the gospel and ready to study the Bible. “We gave her a Bible, and Cassie began meeting to study with her. She has been growing a lot in her faith,” he added. “Unfortunately—or maybe fortunately—she was unable to stay in France and had to return to her home country of India. We continue to communicate and pray that she can be a strong witness [for] Christ in the dark area where she lives.”

### A FAMILY EFFORT

Cassie is still in full-time language study, but she also spends a lot of time reaching out to local women. For back-to-school week, she made cookies and took snacks and drinks to a small park near the Harrises’ house where crowds of neighbors gather with their children.

“She had lots of great conversations with other neighbors as we continue in this very relational



ministry,” Jason said. Cassie also mentors and meets with team members and serves at their local French partnering church, helping with childcare and hosting a small group Bible study at their home.

The Harris children participate in larger outreaches also. “For example, [one] summer they helped go out and invite other children to come do an art outreach project we hosted in a park. They helped [give] out water bottles, and they try to have spiritual conversations with their friends at school as well.”

### PREPARING FOR THE OLYMPICS

A big part of the Harrises’ work in 2024 involved preparing for outreach efforts during the 2024 Olympics, which were held in Paris from July 26 to August 11.

“We expect to have close to 600 volunteers in summer 2024 who will be coming to make Jesus known as the nations descend on Paris for this worldwide celebration and competition of sport,” Jason said, in anticipation of the events.

One major outreach tool his team used was Olympic pin trading. “We [designed] and [printed] thousands of

Olympic gospel sharing pins,” he explained. “They have an Olympic element that also connects to an ‘I am’ statement of Jesus from John and a simple gospel sharing [color] scheme all combined in one pin, thus giving multiple connecting points to share the gospel.”

Through the pins, Jason’s team and hundreds of volunteers shared with people about how Jesus said He was the Light of the world, the Door of the Sheep, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life, the True Vine, and the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In the place that constantly smells like bread, they told people about how Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).

Jason asked for prayer for this Olympic outreach, as well as for other efforts:

- A digital engagement strategy his team is launching across Paris
- Several English-focused outreaches
- Strong relational connections through which he and his team can share the gospel
- Closer local partners
- Believers like Mathias and Cherry to continue growing in their faith

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**GRACE THORNTON** is a former *Missions Mosaic* editor who loves to watch how God brings the nations to places where they can get to know Him as we read about in Acts 17.

# PARIS, FRANCE

... at a Glance

FAST FACTS

- First- or second-generation immigrants make up more than 40 percent of the population of Paris and its suburbs.
- "Legacy French," those who have lived generationally in France, are considered one of the least-reached European people groups. France is considered the least-churched country in Europe.
- Although most legacy French have historical connections to the Catholic church, less than 5 percent regularly attend mass, and most consider themselves atheists or agnostics.
- One of the most recognizable things in Paris, the Eiffel Tower, was not intended as a permanent landmark. It was set up for the 1889 World Fair, and the plan was to remove it after 20 years.
- Paris is called the City of Light. This may date to the Age of Enlightenment, a time in the seventeenth century when many intellectual visionaries lived in the city. Or it may be due to the fact that Paris was one of the first European cities to install electric street lights.
- Parisians commonly greet friends and family with a kiss on both cheeks—first the left, then the right—to say hello and goodbye. It's called the *bisou* (*bee-zoo*).
- The Seine (*sen*) runs through Paris. If the city were a clockface, the river enters at the 5, runs through the center of the clock, and leaves at the 8.
- An island in the Seine River, Île de la Cité, housed the first settlement that eventually became Paris. The Romans called it Lutetia. Paris grew outward in a generally circular shape from that central point in the river.

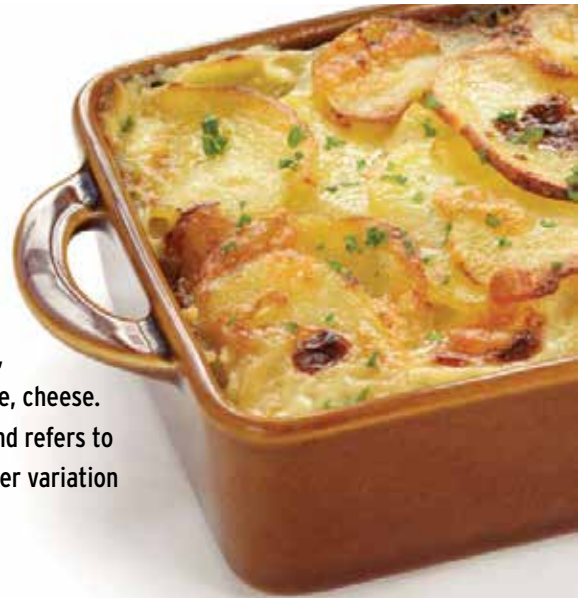




# GRATIN DAUPHINOIS

This familiar side dish, which originated in the Dauphiné region of southeastern France, is more commonly called potatoes au gratin, and it's an example of how French cuisine turns simple ingredients into velvety, mouth-watering goodness. While the original recipe did not include cheese, many variations exist, including garlic, bacon, onions, chives, and, of course, cheese.

Au gratin (*oh grat-an*) literally means "by grating" or "with a crust" and refers to a dish topped with breadcrumbs and browned in an oven. (And that's another variation people use when making gratin dauphinois/au gratin potatoes!)



## INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 5-6 medium-size potatoes
- ¾ cup milk (whole or reduced fat)
- Salt and pepper
- ¾ cup heavy liquid cream
- Nutmeg
- 1 cup Gruyère cheese, grated

Source: <https://www.delscookingtwist.com/french-gratin-dauphinois/>

## INSTRUCTIONS

Heat oven to 430°F, and grease the bottom and sides of a 9-inch gratin dish or casserole dish with butter. Mix together milk and cream. Set aside. Peel and thinly slice the potatoes. Layer half the potato slices in the dish in an even layer. Season with salt and pepper, and sprinkle with nutmeg. Add slivers of butter all over, then cover with ½ cup of grated cheese. Add the remaining layer of potato slices. Season with salt, pepper, and nutmeg, then pour the milk-cream mixture over the dish no higher than the top layer of potato slices. Cover with remaining grated cheese. Bake for 50-60 minutes, until the surface is golden brown and potatoes are fork-tender. Serve warm.



# PARISIAN ARCHITECTURE

The architecture many people recognize as Parisian dates to the mid-1800s when Napoleon III directed a radical overhaul of the city. At that time, the city was stuck in the Middle Ages with cramped, disease-ridden housing. Georges-Eugène Haussmann left his mark on Paris by designing stone buildings decorated with wrought iron window grills (and French double windows) and balconies. Their gray roofs, angled specifically to allow for maximum sunlight to reach the streets below, sported chimneys and dormer windows.

These Haussmann buildings account for about 60 percent of city dwellings and are highly regarded by both locals and foreigners. Interiors are marked by hardwood flooring, intricate moldings, and inlaid mirrors hanging above marble fireplaces. The views from the rooftop dormer balconies are some of the best in Paris.

This Parisian style has been imitated in many cities around the world: you can find the familiar stone facades, ironwork, and rooftops in sections of the Upper West Side of Manhattan; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and even some Chinese cities.

In addition to giving Paris a distinct and unifying appearance, Haussmann modernized the sewer and water systems and integrated public parks and squares into the city. The elegant, straight, tree-lined streets, wide sidewalks, and streetlights brought about the cafés and kiosks that enliven and define Paris today.

.....  
**MEGHAN BOWKER** is the editor of *Missions Mosaic*.



# WE LOVE BECAUSE THE FATHER FIRST LOVED US

## UNDERSTANDING THE SOURCE AND MOTIVATION OF OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS

Prayer Patterns is also vetted by an SBC doctrinal reader.

Prayer Patterns is a monthly devotional guide highlighting prayer for missionaries on their birthdays.

No one loves like the Father loves. He embodies the characteristics of pure, fervent love: compassionate, tender, steadfast, selfless, and just. He is kind, patient, devoted, and forgiving. So much more than the love of a romantic partner, family, or friends, the love of our heavenly Father is deep, enduring, and could never be described in full.

As followers of Christ, we are compelled to emulate the Father—no easy task. But in His perfect demonstration of love, He gives us a road map to follow, an example to strive for. We love because He loved first. We show the world what the Father looks like through our words and actions.

Look for opportunities to love this month. Be quick to serve. Exercise patience in your relationships. Give generously of your time, talents, and resources. Love like He loves, and do it all for the glory of God!

### Prayer Calendar Idea

If you lead Women on Mission or another missions group, then try this idea to encourage women in your group to pray for missions this month. Use yellow craft paper to cut out shapes that look like sunflower petals. Write the name of a missionary celebrating a birthday on the day of your meeting and his or her area of service on each petal. Tape the petals to a circle made from brown paper. Attach a green chenille stem to finish the look. Make as many sunflowers as you need so that each group participant can have a petal. Pass the sunflower(s) around, and ask each woman to tear off a petal. Instruct each woman to silently pray 1 John 4:16 over the missionary.

### missionary of the week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

EVIE TUCKER

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES

PASSAGE: DEUTERONOMY 1:19-25

FOCUS: DEUTERONOMY 1:21b

For Syrians, the world has been crumbling for years, and the earthquakes in February 2023 added mounds to the literal and figurative rubble of a nation torn apart by the strife of civil war.

Evie Tucker, who serves with the International Mission Board, said her Syrian refugee friends face hopelessness. Some have been displaced from their homeland for ten years and struggle to build a life for themselves.

Evie has made several trips to a region heavily hit by the earthquakes to assess and meet needs. Her team works with national believers and local churches to support families and communities affected by the earthquakes. Their aid comes in various forms, including supplying food and tents and hosting volunteer teams who provide medical assessment and water filtration systems.

Evie said she knows God has her exactly where He wants her. She desires that her team would serve Him and share hope and truth with those who are hurting and in need of a Savior.

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM takes the gospel to the nations and the neighborhoods. Your financial support through the Cooperative Program provides opportunities for missionaries to share about Jesus anywhere and everywhere.

PRAY for Evie's team members as they serve to meet both physical and spiritual needs of hurting people.



IMB PHOTO

### PRAY FOR .....

#### NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

- CALIFORNIA: Andrew Hudson
- CONNECTICUT: Jose Nater
- KANSAS: Zachary Schemmer
- MARYLAND: Stephen Tewell
- NORTH CAROLINA: Peter Bond
- TEXAS: Jared Patrick
- UTAH: Benjamin Sutton

#### INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

- ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: AM, MS
- CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: MO
- EUROPEAN PEOPLES: Vikki Franks
- NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: MH, DJ, AL, NO
- SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: JH, VM
- SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES: MW
- CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** James Smith  
**RETIRED IMB:** Chuck Barbour,  
Bonnie Doughtie, Betty Gardner,  
Charles Morrison, Jan O'Dell,  
Betty Rushing, Jeanie Wood

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**

**PASSAGE: DEUTERONOMY 1:26-33**

**FOCUS: DEUTERONOMY 1:30**

The Book of Deuteronomy has always intrigued me. Even after God miraculously delivered the children of Israel from their Egyptian oppressors, these people struggled to love and obey Him. This sounds like a familiar storyline from my life. I love exploring Deuteronomy to unearth treasures from Moses's writings—directives seemingly written just for me!

Moses began with assurances. In yesterday's passage, he said, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged" (v. 21). God was and is a faithful God; He does not abandon His children. The focus verse today declares, "The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you" (v. 30). What comfort to the heart of a believer!

Many of us in the United States are observing Labor Day today. Pray and thank God for those who work hard in a variety of roles to make our country function effectively. Pray also for missionaries who serve faithfully around the world, doing whatever it takes to share the gospel. Ask God to equip them to love as He loves and to serve in His strength.

**Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Matthew 28:19 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Sub-Saharan Africa's end vision is "African churches sending African missionaries to the ends of the earth." Pray African churches would catch this vision and send missionaries to the nations.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**COLORADO:** Thomas Fike  
**FLORIDA:** Ricardo Carrillo Uribe,  
Winner Olmann

**IOWA:** James Abner

**UTAH:** Barrett Smith

**ONTARIO:** Henock Tezera

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** JM

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** KM

**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** MB, CO, BT

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** NC, RM, SM, DR

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN**

**PEOPLES:** DA, WT

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** JH

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Horace Coppedge,  
Ventura Robleto

**RETIRED IMB:** Sharon Everhart, JL,  
Linda Miller, Linda Witherspoon

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**

**PASSAGE: DEUTERONOMY 4:32-40**

**FOCUS: DEUTERONOMY 4:35**

I'm overwhelmed every day by the creativity and power of God. Each day gives me new reasons to praise Him, new opportunities to serve Him, and new blessings poured out by Him! Take time today to express thanksgiving to the Maker and Giver of life. Sit quietly in His presence, and recall His faithful love. Reflect on Deuteronomy 4:35: "The LORD is God . . . there is no other."

Turn your thoughts to families serving the Lord through the International Mission Board, the North American Mission Board, state missions boards, and local associations. Family life in 2024 is not easy, and serving in ministry adds extra pressure. How can you encourage missionary families? First, pray. Ask God to surround them with evidence of His presence. Pray for their safety, for courage, and for healthy relationships. Pray families would model the Father's love to those they work with and serve. Search [imb.org](http://imb.org), [namb.net](http://namb.net), or your state convention

website to find specific ways to pray for their ministries. Pray Deuteronomy 4:40 for missionary families.

**Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Pray Theological Education by Extension students in Tanzania would not grow weary or be discouraged. Pray God would help them balance time and energy between the many responsibilities of daily life, studying God's Word through their daily lessons, and making time to attend the weekly seminars to discuss what they have learned.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**ARIZONA:** Armen Oganessian

**CALIFORNIA:** Chase Feindel

**FLORIDA:** Alvaro Cardozo

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Hector Rengifo

**TEXAS:** Elisaul Rivero Arias

**UTAH:** Dustin Stottmann

**VIRGINIA:** Celso Henriquez

**QUEBEC:** Steven Polino

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** Melissa Stormer

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** JE,

Young Kim, Taylor King, JM, JS

**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** TO

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Lauren Coale

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN**  
**PEOPLES:** MS

**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** SA, KC

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Renaud Balzora,  
Nancy Hern, David Richardson

**RETIRED IMB:** Carol Chatman,  
Billie Fudge, Joanne Gray, WH,  
Miwha Han, Cal Hogue,  
Charlotte Kirby, Rosanne Tyner,  
Sherry Vaughan

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

**PASSAGE: DEUTERONOMY 5:1-21**

**FOCUS: DEUTERONOMY 5:10**

When I was growing up as a Sunbeam (yes, I'm that old!) and in Girls' Auxiliary (both of these groups have been renamed since that time and are now known as Mission Friends and Girls in Action), I was fascinated by the thought of living with my parents in some faraway country, telling people about Jesus, and leading an extraordinary life. My young mind didn't have a clue

Many of these are real-time requests from the missions field.

about the hardships and trials of being a missionary kid—living in a foreign land, adjusting to a new culture, and sharing my parents with so many other people.

Missionaries who are parents are sometimes faced with tough decisions regarding school for their children. Their only option may be a boarding school in another city or province or sending their college student thousands of miles from where they've been living to continue their education. Deuteronomy 5:10 promises God's "love to a thousand generations of those who love [him] and keep [his] commandments." Pray missionary kids and their parents would be reminded anew that God's love and protection knows no bounds. Pray missionaries would rest on the truth that the Father's love covers them and their children wherever they are.

**Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Soon women serving as missionaries in sub-Saharan Africa will gather together. Pray for safe travel, good health, and the logistics of this important time. Pray they would be refreshed in their spirit, that their hearts would be open to hear from the Lord, and that they would have fun as they fellowship together. Thank the Lord for this opportunity for these missionaries to be further equipped for cross-cultural ministry and encouraged through studying God's Word.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**  
**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**FLORIDA:** Jean Robert Jn Baptiste  
**NEW YORK:** Justin Adamson  
**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Crystal Capps  
**TEXAS:** Caleb Norman  
**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** Fernando Dzublik, Melodie Lyons  
**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** IL  
**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Brittany Lawrence, AS  
**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** WH, MS  
**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** LM  
**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** Thiago Montanher

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**  
**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**  
**RETIRED NAMB:** Harry Davis, Lawrence Martin, Robert Tallent  
**RETIRED IMB:** Tommy Beard, Stephen Bowers, Tricia Bridges, Evelyn Corley, Paul Savage, Charles Seelen, BT, Kittie Trail

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**  
**PASSAGE: DEUTERONOMY 5:22-33**  
**FOCUS: DEUTERONOMY 5:32-33**

Healthy fear: What exactly is that? My dad used that phrase when I was growing up. He reminded me that fear is a form of reverence and honor. Fear of God in this sense is not negative. It demonstrates admiration and respect, though it certainly also recognizes the power, authority, and judgment of our holy God.

Obedience is an act of love and healthy fear. Following God's commands should be a natural response to Him. Deuteronomy 5 recounts God's amazing promise to the Israelites of what accompanies obedience and a healthy fear of Him. Read today's passage, and identify some of these assurances.

Fear also brings to mind anxiety and distress. As you pray for missionaries in dangerous situations—cities and countries where war, violence, political instability, or other dangers are prevalent—ask God to calm each servant with the peace only He can give. Praise Him for these faithful believers who don't allow their fear to keep them from obeying God's call. Pray they would love others out of the overflow of the Father's love for them.

**Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** After conducting trauma healing workshops with displaced people in Burkina Faso, workers received a message that said, "Thank you. I can sleep now, and my heart has a new beginning." Many people in Burkina Faso have experienced severe trauma as terrorists continue to take control of the country. Pray that as healing

comes from God's stories, hearts would turn to Him for complete restoration.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**  
**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**GEORGIA:** Lucius Rouser  
**INDIANA:** Atanasio Sete  
**KENTUCKY:** Jacob Medley  
**LOUISIANA:** Andrew Hanna, James Richardson  
**MISSISSIPPI:** Sonya Abram  
**OHIO:** Ulises Machado Gil  
**PENNSYLVANIA:** Kenneth Sachs  
**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Madison Atherton  
**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** AR  
**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** KB, JH, JS, Savannah Whittington  
**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** AH  
**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** KS  
**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** MD, JG  
**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**  
**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**  
**RETIRED NAMB:** Norma Charles, Wanda Freeze, Josephine Holmes  
**RETIRED IMB:** Fred Beck, JK, DL, Betty Mitchell

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**  
**PASSAGE: DEUTERONOMY 6:1-19**  
**FOCUS: DEUTERONOMY 6:4-6**

God's design from the beginning has been for parents to instruct their children in His ways. Moses admonished the children of Israel to listen, learn, and live by God's commands. He charged them with passing this knowledge on to future generations.

For me, the word *children* also includes those we parent spiritually. Discipleship has always been rooted in Scripture. From the early days of the Old Testament writings all the way through the New Testament, we are instructed to teach others about God's love and desire to bring His children to Himself. We are to share His free offer of salvation through His Son and the blessings of obeying His commandments. We who have walked with the Lord for a long time have a great responsibility to guide and be role models to those who are just beginning their faith journeys.

Pray for missionaries who seek to love, evangelize, and disciple others as they emulate the Father.

**Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Pray God would open the hearts and minds of believers in sub-Saharan Africa to better understand how His truth applies to their lives. Pray they would be obedient to God’s teachings, even when it means giving up a part of their past that does not please God.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**CALIFORNIA:** Semeon Zerabruk

**FLORIDA:** Hernan Gimenez

**LOUISIANA:** Josue Gomez

**MINNESOTA:** Jordan Hecox

**NEW YORK:** Taylor Drenzyk

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** CB, Gary Clifton, Cort Letcher

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** KK, BV

**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** JM

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Crystal Nelson

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** MC, BK

**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** DE, Monika Landry

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Donald Ledbetter, Richard Logsdon

**RETIRED IMB:** SB, Joy Bates, Elsie Brown, Fred Day, Frank Drinkard, Bob Farmer, Bob Hall, Steve Robertson

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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

**PASSAGE: DEUTERONOMY 7:1-9**

**FOCUS: DEUTERONOMY 7:8**

Songwriter Stuart Townend wrote these piercing lyrics: “How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure” (“How Deep the Father’s Love,” 1995). I can’t wrap my finite mind around the complexity and enormity of God’s love. I stand in awe of His love for me. Our theme this month, “We Love Because the Father First Loved Us,” moves us to love because He loves and to love like He loves. What does that look like?

Consider the ways missionaries express God’s love: digging a well in

an arid desert, reading to a child, singing exuberantly with a congregation in a new church plant, or teaching a Bible study in the home of a tribal leader. How do you show the Father’s love? By caring for a sick neighbor, by sacrificially giving to a missions offering, or by volunteering at a local food pantry? Remember that we love because the Father first loved us.

**Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** An IMB missionary in Cape Town, South Africa, was walking down the road when she passed a woman named Shannon and a conversation ensued. Shannon said she couldn’t get close enough to God. She heard the gospel but did not profess faith in Jesus. Pray Shannon would realize she just needs to believe in Jesus, and then she will be near God forever.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**CALIFORNIA:** Azad Barwari

**FLORIDA:** Clint Patterson, Dawt Sang

**LOUISIANA:** Dawesteniell Louis

**MAINE:** Lawum Kayamba

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Steven Castello

**MISSOURI:** Jacob Miller

**NEW JERSEY:** Vijay Allampalli

**NEW MEXICO:** Juan Mendoza Medina

**OHIO:** Daniel Osborn

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** KB

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** Fred Cai, JL

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** GB, Cheryl Enoch

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** RG

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** TD, GW

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Matthew Gaston, Margaret Hawkins

**RETIRED IMB:** Russell Fox, Earl Jolley, Lauree Moore

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**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

**SEE FEATURE ON PAGE 34.**

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**ARKANSAS:** Ricardo Ramirez

**CALIFORNIA:** Steve Kang

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** Jesus Barros

**FLORIDA:** Angel Bermudez, Emilio Herrera

**MICHIGAN:** Robert Parsons

**MISSOURI:** Pat Rankin,

Ezekiel Ruboneka

**OKLAHOMA:** Denise Fholer

**UTAH:** Robert Wood

**WYOMING:** Tyler Martin

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** Young Mo Kim, BR, Doug Roberts

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** WA, MC, MW

**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** BB, MH, ZH

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** AY, AY

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** KS

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** CG, RL

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Sybil Akins, Urban Green, Abraham Lerma, Harry Morris

**RETIRED IMB:** Wade Coker, Barbara Cole, David Ford, Jane Fray, Nora Gass, Baker Hill, Keith McDougal, Guy Muse, Bill Phillips, WS, Peggy Sue Siebenmann, Don Stelzer

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**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

**PASSAGE: 1 CHRONICLES 16:7-36**

**FOCUS: 1 CHRONICLES 16:29**

I’ve always liked reading the Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles. Knowing these books parallel 1 and 2 Kings in many ways intrigues me. I also love the family history that’s recorded. These are more than just names—they are the chosen, covenant people of God!

Songs of praise resound throughout 1 and 2 Chronicles. In 1 Chronicles 16, David offered thanksgiving and worship to our holy God. As you read through his prayer today, note the reference to God’s character as our Savior and how we are to respond: “Save us, God our Savior” (v. 35), “Say among the nations” (v. 31), “Bring an offering” (v. 29). Wrapped up in these verses, our missions-minded eyes can see His command to evangelize, proclaim to all nations, and give in gratitude for all God has done.

Ask God to give you eyes to see what He is doing, a heart tuned in

## missionary of the week

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

**EMANUEL AND IOANA GROZEA**  
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

**PASSAGE: DEUTERONOMY 31:1-8**

**FOCUS: DEUTERONOMY 31:8**

Emanuel and Ioana Grozea are helping revitalize Romanian Baptist Church, which was dying when they arrived. God gave Emanuel and Ioana a burden for what Romanian Baptist Church needs to be in this generation—a house of worship for all nations.

Leading the church, now called Maranatha Baptist Church, into this new future has been challenging, but today the church is reaching people from Albanian, Nepali, Polish, Latino, Egyptian, Italian, Turkish, and Armenian backgrounds. Each language group meets individually for Sunday School and then unites for corporate worship together.

**THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM** takes the gospel to the nations and the neighborhoods. Your financial support through the Cooperative Program has supported the Grozeas and their efforts to reach the nations in New York City.

**PRAY** God would guide Maranatha Baptist Church as it seeks to plant three new churches by 2030. Pray He would raise up leaders to start these new gospel-preaching churches.



to His call, a commitment to pray for those who are serving, and a conviction to generously support His work.

Prayer Focus—Ohio: Matt Neace planted River City Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. His sending church is Revive City Church in Cincinnati. “Pray for my wife, Tina, as she battles breast cancer.”

### PRAY FOR .....

#### **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**CALIFORNIA:** Clifton Stanton

**COLORADO:** Jaymee Collins

**MICHIGAN:** Nathan Sharpe

**NEW JERSEY:** Jundy Bautista

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Chapin Jones

#### **INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** CK, SK, JP

**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** HS

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Timothy Price

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** DN, LT

**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** AN, DP, JT

#### **CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

#### **STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Howard Kim,

Cecilia Sullins, Chun Yi

**RETIRED IMB:** William Bowers,

Karen Clark, John Divers, JL,  
Charles Love, Dorothy Miller,

Cynthia Morreau, Linda Moussa,  
Carol Schulz, Randy Simmon,  
Penny Young

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**PASSAGE: 1 CHRONICLES 29:1-20**

**FOCUS: 1 CHRONICLES 29:12b-13**

In today’s passage, the leadership of God’s people was about to shift from King David to his son Solomon. Not only would Solomon take on the responsibilities of leading the nation, but he would also oversee the building of God’s Temple. David reminded his son and the people that “the task is great” (v. 1). He provided details for the work and collected the people’s contributions.

David loved Solomon and prayed for his success as a leader. Amid all that was happening, David wisely pointed the nation to prayer. None of this elaborate work would be possible without their loving, generous, majestic God. Acknowledging Him in prayer was vital.

We have the overwhelming privilege to pray to this same benevolent, resplendent God. Pray for missionaries and missions teams around the world who are doing the work of building places of worship. These places may be storefronts, school buildings, or even mud huts, but they are places for God’s people to gather and praise His name!

Prayer Focus—Virginia: Carter Mundy is the lead planter and pastor of Redemption Church in Roanoke, Virginia. His sending church is Mercy Hill Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. “We are preparing to move into an old church building that is currently under renovation. It will be so helpful since we’ve been mobile for three years. Pray God would provide for our needs to pay for that new space. Pray He would grow our church to 250 people, give us 20 more baptisms (we’ve had three so far this year!), and send five people on mission from our church (short or long term).”

### PRAY FOR .....

#### **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**FLORIDA:** Jacob Turner

**OHIO:** Justin Lee

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Todd Wood

**TEXAS:** Timothy Chen

**VIRGINIA:** Oscar Sosa

#### **INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** MW

**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** RH, JJ

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** AM

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN**

**PEOPLES:** RM, SM, VM, TS

**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** JI, LL

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:**

Diana Bledsoe, Lydia Steelman

#### **CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

#### **STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** James Back,

John Rasberry

**RETIRED IMB:** Chanelle Acton,

Leticia Clark, Sandy Cole, Bill Curl,

Peggy Dane, Wirt Davis,

Monica Hatton, Peggy Mulkey,

Peggy Williams, Philip Wilson

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

**PASSAGE: 1 CHRONICLES 29:21-30**

**FOCUS: 1 CHRONICLES 29:28**

Many of us have read, studied, and learned about King David. We know

he was a shepherd, a giant-slayer, a musician, a loyal friend, and a king. He was also an adulterer and a murderer. But he was loved by God, just like we are—regardless of our past. These final words in 1 Chronicles give a glimpse into how David transitioned from being the nation's leader to passing the work on to the next generation. (Also read the brief eulogy of David in Acts 13:36.)

As I consider the text in 1 Chronicles, I'm reminded of all the missionaries who have served throughout the years, loving like the Father loves. What an amazing groundwork they laid! What a legacy of faith, perseverance, and love. Spend some extra time in prayer for the retired missionaries who celebrate birthdays today. Pray for their physical and spiritual well-being. Pray those who come behind them would continue the work they started.

**Prayer Focus—Oklahoma:** Mike Holland is a disaster-relief chaplain in Healdton, Oklahoma. "We are prayerfully asking for God's guidance, favor, and direction as we begin a mission in our backyard called Acts of Kindness. Our mission statement is to empower the body of Christ in Healdton to come together to reach out to the needy with acts of kindness in order to further the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in our community. We believe meeting people's physical needs will open a door to meeting their spiritual needs. Pray for us as we launch this backyard mission, and pray it would be rooted and grounded so it can be replicated again and again in other communities in need."

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**  
**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**FLORIDA:** Phillip Scarnecchia  
**ILLINOIS:** Maurice Gaiter  
**NEBRASKA:** Shane Lester  
**OHIO:** Travis Smalley  
**TEXAS:** Reynaldo Cantu,  
 Jonathan Leftwich  
**WEST VIRGINIA:** Henry Garcia  
**PUERTO RICO:** Oscar Ortiz-Rivas

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** TH  
**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** BC  
**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** MI, BW  
**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:**  
 James Adair, Allie White  
**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**  
**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**  
**RETIRED NAMB:** David Anguiano,  
 Thomas Hart, Thomas Kelly,  
 Jerry Yates  
**RETIRED IMB:** Alicia Barrett,  
 Roland Cheng, Bob Crider,  
 Anne Fortenberry, David Miller,  
 Robert Watson

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**  
**PASSAGE: 2 CHRONICLES 6:12-42**  
**FOCUS: 2 CHRONICLES 6:14**

The Book of 2 Chronicles records some beautiful prayers. Following in the footsteps of his father, David, Solomon assembled all the people to pray and dedicate the Temple. His posture demonstrated heartfelt sincerity as he knelt and lifted his hands. Verse 14 is one of my favorites because it reminds me there is no one like our God, who keeps His covenant and shows steadfast love to us. Every time I approach God in prayer, I need to remind myself of His sovereignty, His faithfulness, and His love.

As you intercede today on behalf of missionary servants around the world, ask God to give them insight into His Word and skills to communicate effectively to those they serve. Pray for Bible translators as they work diligently to enable people to read God's Word in their heart language. Pray for missionaries who will interpret the truths of Scripture to some who have never heard. Our all-powerful, faithful, loving God hears us when we pray!

**Prayer Focus—California:** Ramon Jones is the planter and pastor of Upward Church in Upland, California. His sending church is New Creation Bible Fellowship in Tracy, California. "We have a vision of baptizing

100 people before the year 2025. Pray God would move so that we are able to baptize that number, and pray He would provide a church building of our own. Pray the Lord would give us strength for our mission and the vision for our church."

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**  
**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**FLORIDA:** Christopher Cornette  
**KENTUCKY:** Lonnie Riley  
**MARYLAND:** Mark Wright  
**MISSOURI:** Zoe Smith  
**WEST VIRGINIA:** Roy Polmanteer  
**ONTARIO:** Binu Philip  
**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** Don Friesen,  
 Rick Thompson  
**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** JB,  
 Adria Fleming, SJ, MS  
**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** BM, ET, TW  
**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Jennifer Humphrey,  
 Maria Wentley  
**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** DB, JG, NG, AL, RP  
**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**  
**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**  
**RETIRED NAMB:** Mildred Evenson,  
 William Hinson, Ellen Hitt,  
 Larry Theisen  
**RETIRED IMB:** Dale Beighle,  
 David Cheng, Lloyd Farmer,  
 Roberta Fisher, Cindy Hoover,  
 Dennis Johnson, Tim Mitchell,  
 Mike Shockley

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**  
**PASSAGE: 2 CHRONICLES 20:1-12**  
**FOCUS: 2 CHRONICLES 20:12b**

King Jehoshaphat obviously made his best decisions when he sought divine intervention (which is true for all of us!). In 2 Chronicles 20, he was about to face an enormous army, so he asked God for help. Because he was "alarmed," Jehoshaphat "resolved to inquire of the LORD" in his fear and distress, and he called all the people of Judah to fast as they sought God (v. 3).

When have you encountered an insurmountable obstacle with seemingly no way out? Hopefully, you acted like Jehoshaphat and turned immediately to the Lord for help.

Missionaries experience hurdles as well. Families on stateside assignments deal with many overwhelming experiences. Their children may struggle with the transition to the United States. Home for them may be Asia, Africa, or Europe. America, despite being their passport country and home to family members, is a foreign land.

Pray for missionaries on home assignment. Pray the Father would remind you and help you to extend His love and grace to them during their time in the US. Ask God to provide sensitivity, security, and calm while they're away from their place of ministry. Pray 2 Chronicles 20:12 for them: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

Prayer Focus—Georgia: Jason Dees is the planter and pastor for Christ Covenant in Atlanta, Georgia. His sending church is Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia. "Pray for my wife, Paige. She has been battling Lyme disease for a while, and it can be very debilitating at times. We're in an exceptionally busy time with pastoring a growing church and parenting elementary school-age and middle school-age children, and I'm sure some of the stresses from that exacerbate Paige's condition. Pray for wisdom and discernment on how to navigate this time in our lives."

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

- ALABAMA: Holly Shirley
- CALIFORNIA: Wayne Browning
- OKLAHOMA: Jean Niyondiko
- RHODE ISLAND: Darren Sullivan
- TEXAS: Aaron Orr
- QUEBEC: Jean-Philippe Beaudry
- INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**
- ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: LB, Angela Dawson
- CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: TF
- NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: BD, DS
- SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: MC, KW
- CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**
- STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**
- RETIRED NAMB:** H. Hester, Emily Yarbrough
- RETIRED IMB:** CB, Linda Beck,

Carolyn Dubberly, Sung Kim, DM, Peg Templin

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

**PASSAGE: 2 CHRONICLES 20:13-30**

**FOCUS: 2 CHRONICLES 20:17**

Mental health challenges are real. Whether someone is living with an eating disorder, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, or some other diagnosis or experience, emotional and psychological needs deserve the same attention given to physical needs.

Intercede today for those serving through the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, and state missions boards who are living with mental health challenges. Ask the Lord to guide them to wise treatment options and caring medical professionals, and pray for effective self-care decisions, restorative rest, and healing. As you read the second half of 2 Chronicles 20, which addresses God's promises to the Israelites as they faced down an enemy, consider the truths in these verses that apply to all believers. Pray them for missionaries and their families who may be facing battles, like a mental health challenge: "For the battle is not yours, but God's" (v. 15); "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. . . . The LORD will be with you" (v. 17); "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever" (v. 21).

Prayer Focus—Alaska: Michael and Connie Saffle are serving as evangelism catalysts through Sabbath Peace Fellowship in Chugiak, Alaska, where Michael also pastors. "We thank God for His healing hand over Connie as she has been recuperating from major ankle surgery. She developed an infection in the incision, but it is healing well now. Soon she will be out of the wheelchair and undergoing extensive physical therapy to relearn how to walk. God's hand has been on us these

last ten weeks. No sickness or disaster has overtaken us. Also, thanks to the wonderful women who have sent cards to Connie. They buoyed up her spirit in the dark times. Pray God would continue to sustain us through this season."

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

- MISSOURI: Shawn Hughes
- NEBRASKA: Ryan Johnston, Samuel Larson
- NORTH CAROLINA: Michael Cravatt
- OKLAHOMA: Zachary Foley
- TEXAS: Michael Burr, Steven Lacey
- INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**
- AMERICAN PEOPLES: DC, Michael Grant, James Tieman
- ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: TB, Elizabeth Blandeburgo, JE, ST, Hannah Weng
- CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: GH, MW
- EUROPEAN PEOPLES: Joshua Graham
- NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: CO
- SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES: NR, TT
- CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**
- STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**
- RETIRED NAMB:** Tom Bacon, Dale Lindstrom, Daniel Sheffield, Richard Taylor
- RETIRED IMB:** Harriet Eager, Mark Ellis, Jack Gentry, Janet Graves, Judy Hoaldridge, ML, Alan Locke, Mike Norfleet, Viola Palmer, Rusty Pugh

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

SEE FEATURE ON PAGE 37.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

- COLORADO: Adam Roberts
- MISSOURI: Joshua Hartley
- NORTH CAROLINA: Kathie Aiken, Mark Gragg
- OHIO: Michal Feliciano
- OREGON: Shawn Snyder
- TENNESSEE: James Hill
- INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**
- ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: RB, Rachel Hulicki
- CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: CH
- EUROPEAN PEOPLES: Kevin Humphrey
- SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: KR
- SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES: Stephen Dinkins
- CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**
- STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**
- RETIRED NAMB:** Viva Ames, Mary Brinkley, Troy Cunningham, Billy Jones



## missionary of the week

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

**RANDY AND KIMBERLY WINDHAM**  
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES

**PASSAGES: 2 CHRONICLES 29:1-2; 31:20-21**

**FOCUS: 2 CHRONICLES 31:20-21**

It was their first official service as a church, and excitement showed on everyone's faces. They'd been working up to this moment for months.

Kimberly Windham, International Mission Board (IMB) missionary serving in Zambia, looked around, and her heart leapt with joy. This was church in its purest form—believers gathered to worship God and learn His truths directly from Scripture. It's something Kimberly and her husband, Randy, never tire of experiencing. Teaching Zambians to plant churches and transform lives with the gospel is their passion.

As this group grows spiritually and in number, it moves seamlessly to healthy church formation. Now it's the new church's turn to train others and multiply.

"It's a seamless training," Randy said, adding that one pastor started four churches and now trains others. Because you give, "We never stop training and planting churches."

**THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM** takes the gospel to the nations and the neighborhoods. Your financial support through the Cooperative Program helps missionaries and church plants be intentional in a gospel reach to their communities.

**PRAY** God would strengthen new church plants and give them opportunities to act on what they have learned.

**TO LEARN MORE** about IMB's work in Zambia, including the Windhams' church-planting strategy, pick up a copy of *Missions Traveler: Zambia* from [wmustore.com](http://wmustore.com).



from healthy churches to join us in making disciples and planting churches among the displaced Indigenous people of Bogotá. Pray new believers would share the gospel when they return to their villages."

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**MARYLAND:** Brian Zimmerman

**OREGON:** Michael Samuels,  
Audrey Spurlin

**TEXAS:** Diego Manosalva

**VERMONT:** Shaun Stotyn

**BRITISH COLUMBIA:** Kyungjo Jung

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** KH, MH, AI,  
YP, JS, MS

**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** KB, LE

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Judy Armacost,  
Lisa Gregory

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN  
PEOPLES:** RF, CL

**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** RR

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:**  
Jack Thompson

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Gerald Corbaley,  
Della Hamrick, Elvenor Johns,  
Charles Ransdell, Ellen Udovich

**RETIRED IMB:** Evelyn Brown,  
Donald Crawford, Elisabeth Faile,  
Karen Galloway, Emilee Goff, GP,  
Myron Witmore

**RETIRED IMB:** Steven Brubaker, RC, ED,  
Laverne Gregory, Jo Ann Parham,  
Betty Smith, Glen Swicegood

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

**PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 1:1-14**

**FOCUS: COLOSSIANS 1:3**

How you view Jesus Christ affects every aspect of your life. This was the critical message the Apostle Paul emphasized in his short but impactful letter to the church in Colossae. He was committed to elevating the deity of Christ in a time filled with skeptics. Paul's investment in the spiritual growth of the believers in Colossae demonstrated that he prioritized his calling.

Because prayer is important to me, Colossians 1:3 grabs my attention. Not surprisingly, the word that jumps out at me is *when*. There

was no question *if* Paul was praying but *when* he prayed. I love that! He was praying for them even though he had not visited Colossae yet. Paul expressed his love for these people through prayer. Let that sink in.

Thousands of missionaries benefit when you and I lift them up in prayer—missionaries we have never met but who are carrying out God's call on their lives and trusting that others will intercede to the Father for them. Will you pray? Ask the Father to direct His love through these servants into the hearts of those they serve.

**Prayer Focus—American Peoples: The Indigenous Team Bogotá** wrote, "To reach the more than 3,000 displaced Indigenous people in Bogotá, Colombia, we need more participation from local churches. Pray God would raise up 12 Colombian believers

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

**PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 1:15-29**

**FOCUS: COLOSSIANS 1:17**

For four years, my husband and I were missionary parents. It was a unique time for us and for our daughter's family. When I describe those years, I use words like *honored*, *blessed*, *anxious*, and *scary*. We were proud parents, but we also grieved the separation, and we dealt with fear concerning their safety. Those years changed my perspective about how I pray for missionaries and their extended families.

Today's Scripture passage reminds me once again that Christ is not only the Creator and head of His church but that "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (v. 17). Whether we're

separated from those we love or struggling with overwhelming diagnoses or decisions, He reigns supreme over all the details.

As you pray for yourself, your loved ones, and missionary servants and their families, remember: Christ knows. He cares. He sees. He intervenes. His plans are good. His mercy is boundless; His grace is abundant. He will never abandon us. He is God, and He is trustworthy. He is love, and we are to called to follow His example. Thanks be to God!

**Prayer Focus—Asian Pacific Rim Peoples:** Bullying in Japanese schools has become so serious over the past ten years that police must get involved more often now. Japanese culture prizes conformity. Students who are different are often targeted for bullying, and they don't talk about it with adults. Pray Japanese students would find hope in Christ and a safe escape from bullying. Pray the gospel would saturate Japan.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**ARIZONA:** Jesse Powell

**TEXAS:** Larry Cortez,

Kingsly Raja Mohandoss

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** EC,

Rose Noblit, SR, LW

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Lance Borden

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN**

**PEOPLES:** DK, SK, RT

**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** AS

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** John Blake,

Judith Edwards, Edward Langley,

Lupe Rando

**RETIRED IMB:** Bert Corbett,

Clay Coursey, Brenda Hostetler,

Ron Roy, PS, Mary Stanton

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

**PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 2:1-15**

**FOCUS: COLOSSIANS 2:6b-7**

Friends of mine in southwestern Georgia are incredible gardeners. Tomatoes, corn, peppers, and beautiful flowers: they grow it all. They patiently and meticulously tend each plant. Obviously, they

know what is needed to produce an abundant crop.

Gardening is a great analogy for growing in Christ. Patience, hard work, and perseverance are necessary when we desire to flourish as believers. In Colossians 2, Paul doled out great counsel for anyone who desires to grow in Christ: Be united with fellow believers in love (v. 2). Stay connected to the Father, and acknowledge His blessings: “rooted and built up . . . overflowing with thankfulness” (v. 7). Be discerning about following Christ rather than the world’s teachings (v. 8).

Use Paul’s instructions as an outline to pray for missionaries. Pray the Lord would grant them unity with their partners on the missions field. Pray for a close and growing relationship between each missionary and the Master, that they would develop intimacy with Him, love as He loves, and be thankful. Ask the Father to grant them wisdom as they fulfill their calling.

**Prayer Focus—Central Asian Peoples:** Scattered throughout a remote valley, a handful of people from an isolated and unreached people group have come to faith in Jesus. Many more are open to hearing the gospel. Pray for continued openness and that the lost would be dissatisfied with their current beliefs in spirits, magic, and animism. Pray believers among this people group would share the gospel boldly.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**COLORADO:** Joshua Green

**GEORGIA:** Timothy Recker

**OHIO:** Joel Ku, Timothy Shamburger

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Michael Kelley

**TEXAS:** Jaime Estrella,

Simon Villalobos del Angel

**QUEBEC:** Jason Maul

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** JB, JH, SP

**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** WC, SN

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Zack Dove, JM, TM,

RS, Kenneth Woods

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN**

**PEOPLES:** JT

**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** MC

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:**

Jane Thompson

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Lawrence Baldrige,

Sofia Rojas

**RETIRED IMB:** Richard Beal,

John McPherson, Marylu Moore,

Janice Ray

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

**PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 3:1-17**

**FOCUS: COLOSSIANS 3:15**

My mother would have been 98 years old today. She’s been enjoying the grandeur of heaven for more than 20 years, and I still miss her.

Those who serve God around the world as missionaries aren’t always able to care for aging parents or celebrate birthdays with extended family. They have willingly answered God’s call to serve, often living many miles away from loved ones. Parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews often grieve the distance between them and those they love.

Colossians 3 urges every Christ follower to “set your minds on things above” (v. 2) and “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” (v. 15). Following God’s call isn’t always easy, but, as believers, we have the blessed assurance that He is always with us and worth any sacrifice. Therefore, we trust Him and press through challenging circumstances to honor and obey Him. Pray missionaries would remember the admonition in Colossians 3:17: “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

**Prayer Focus—Deaf Peoples:** Deaf college-age believers in Southeast Asia attended a soccer tournament to share the gospel with spectators and players. Their church partnered with another local church as well as with a college student

from the United States. Together, they shared the gospel with 200 people. Pray these 200 people would respond to the gospel in faith and choose to follow Jesus.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**ALASKA:** Joshua Seely  
**CALIFORNIA:** Ray Alonso, Daryl Murata  
**TEXAS:** Marshall Canales  
**VIRGINIA:** Gibreahil Bezabeh

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** JA, Jadon Gadson, SP, SS, SY  
**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** MS  
**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Andrew Hayes, Angela Stoda  
**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** KG  
**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** EB  
**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** Shayla Ballard, AC, DI

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Norma Carpenter, Ronald Climer, James Myers, Dolores Thomas, Pablo Urbay

**RETIRED IMB:** Clay Addison,

Peggy Gilliland, Mary Polglase, Norma Powell, John Wakefield

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**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

**PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 3:18-25**

**FOCUS: COLOSSIANS 3:18-19**

After 52 years of marriage, my husband and I still have work to do! Throughout these years, we've experienced joy, heartache, contentment, turmoil, peace, and fear. We recognize our marriage is a work in progress. Our love remains, but some seasons are more difficult than others.

Paul offered instructions to married couples and families in Colossians 3:18–25. He used words like *submit*, *love*, and *obey*. All those directives require commitment and hard work. Having Christ at the center of your marriage makes the tasks easier, but, even in the best circumstances, marriage is challenging.

Focus your prayers on the marriages of missionary couples. Marriages suffer when time isn't

devoted to concentrated commitment between spouses. Whether these servants are in bustling cities, remote nations, or places that devalue the sacredness of marriage, all marriages benefit from scriptural instruction, godly counsel, and prayer. Ask the Lord to provide the resources and time these couples need. Pray these couples would love each other out of the love the Father has shown them.

**Prayer Focus—South Asian Peoples:** More than 1.2 million people live in Bundi, a district in southeastern Rajasthan, India. Most are Hindus. Pray the Lord would work through the witness of believers who are already there. Ask Him to send more laborers into this harvest field. Pray everyone in Bundi would have a chance to hear and receive the gospel.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**INDIANA:** Dennis Runner  
**MICHIGAN:** David Livingston  
**MISSOURI:** Baden Groves  
**NEVADA:** Timothy Royal  
**OKLAHOMA:** Steven Taff  
**TEXAS:** Reinaldo Segura Fernandez  
**ONTARIO:** Joel Garcia

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** EB, DC, TK, KM  
**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Ingrid Woodbridge  
**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** WE, CV

**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** MP, JR, MR, GY

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Raymond Allen, Sylvia Cunningham, Byron Lutz, Lyle Seltmann

**RETIRED IMB:** Annette Hall, Ted Stanton

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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

**PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 4:1-6**

**FOCUS: COLOSSIANS 4:2**

Colossians 4:2 is one of my favorite Scripture verses. I can't fully grasp that I have the privilege of conversing with the Creator of the universe . . . but it's true!

I've established a few goals for my prayer life. First: *be still and focus on His voice*. I need to slow down and make prayer a priority to draw

near to God. I need to be "watchful and thankful" (v. 2), anticipating God to be at work in me, through me, and around me.

Second: *seek Him through His Word*. His character and instructions are in the pages of Scripture. Don't neglect scheduled time in His Word daily. Remember that He will never contradict His written Word.

Third: *respond in obedience*. It is critical that when I hear from God in His Word, I obey. As I discern the Spirit's work in my life and seek counsel from others, I can test anything I hear or believe against Scripture—and as it leads, I must obey.

*Lord, thank You for inviting me to pray. Teach me to listen and obey. Help missionaries prioritize time spent with You and dedicate themselves to be obedient to Your work in their lives.*

**Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** An IMB missionary and several Congolese partners held a worship workshop in a church led by South Korean missionaries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Music is important to Congolese culture and the church. Pray church members would worship God in spirit and in truth with theologically sound music. Pray God would help them as they write new worship songs.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**ILLINOIS:** Charles Campbell  
**MISSISSIPPI:** Joseph Stanley  
**OKLAHOMA:** Dale Hamm  
**VERMONT:** Ricky Vest

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** Shelton Johnson, Alexander Montgomery  
**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** BM, CT  
**DEAF PEOPLES:** KN  
**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Michael Domke, BK, LL  
**GLOBAL:** CZ

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Arnold Lane, Carol Webb

**RETIRED IMB:** SA, Carolyn Burriss, Randy Covington, Vertie McClelland, KP, John Purl, Elinda West

## missionary of the week

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

**CLAY MYATT**

CLEVELAND, OHIO

**PASSAGE:** ISAIAH 26:1-21

**FOCUS:** ISAIAH 26:3-4



God showed Clay Myatt that his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, had a genuine need for Bible-believing churches. Clay planted King's Cross Church in the fastest-growing neighborhood in downtown Cleveland.

In fact, King's Cross Church's first baptism was a Brazilian woman who had a dormant faith before she came to the young church plant. She had attended worship services and a small group before realizing she had never been baptized, and she decided to follow Jesus in this first act of obedience.

The church has reached out to the community in several ways, including block parties and outreach experiences at nearby Cleveland State University.

**THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM** takes the gospel to the nations and the neighborhoods. Your support through the Cooperative Program helps provide for Clay and King's Cross Church as they share Jesus in downtown Cleveland.

**PRAY** God would use the church's outreach efforts to help others discover the love of Christ.

### PRAY FOR . . . . .

#### **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**ARIZONA:** German Granillo

**CALIFORNIA:** Jared Pinson

**IOWA:** Eddie Mejia

**MICHIGAN:** Jeremiah Williams

**MISSOURI:** Micah Bartig

#### **INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** RK

**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** LB, JD, KS, CW

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** SC

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** MH, AK

#### **CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

#### **STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Howard Blalock, Louie Clay, Dennis Holmes, Edmund Hunke

**RETIRED IMB:** Pam Brownfield, Jerry Cadenhead, Shirley Gunn, Steve Haines, Sandy Holt, Cheryl Johnson, Linda Watkins, Preston West, Alicia Zorzoli

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

**PASSAGE:** ISAIAH 30:12-18

**FOCUS:** ISAIAH 30:18

Waiting is not pleasant. Whether we are at a doctor's office, sitting in afternoon traffic, or in line at the supermarket, patience often runs

thin when we have to wait. We live in a world where people want what they want, and they want it now.

Do you ever experience impatience in your prayertime—wondering why God doesn't function on your timetable? The prophet Isaiah proclaimed to the unfaithful Israelites, "Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!" (v. 18).

Some of us have prayed for missionaries and the people they serve for years. We ask God for the salvation of people who live in nations we've never even heard of. We petition Him for His mercy and strength to sustain missionaries. We ask Him for protection, for financial provision, and for peace in turbulent situations. We trust His compassion. Keep praying, and wait as He works. **Prayer Focus—American Peoples:** Pray for missionary Elizabeth Leininger as she

meets weekly to disciple a group of eight women at the El Zulia church plant in Colombia. They are finishing a study on biblical truth. Pray God would transform their lives and that the women would teach their children about biblical truth.

### PRAY FOR . . . . .

#### **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**FLORIDA:** Loti Marc

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Robert Parker

**MISSOURI:** Jason Zellmer

**VIRGINIA:** Hector Nolasco Montano

#### **INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** DC, RC, EG,

Bryan Jackson, BS

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** CK, SK, KS

**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** Joe Binford, AS

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** HH

#### **CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

#### **STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Frank Claiborne, Woodrow Reynolds, Cloyd Sullins, Billy Wellman

**RETIRED IMB:** Vesta Clary, Dave Cone, Dave Daniels, Bobbi Inman, Joy Johnson, HP, Gene Roach, Coy Sample, Bonita Wilson

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

**PASSAGE:** ISAIAH 40:1-31

**FOCUS:** ISAIAH 40:28-29

What are you guilty of taking for granted? Your family, a hot shower, a warm home, or a place to worship God freely and without fear? And what about God's Word? We have unlimited access to God's Word! My bookcase holds multiple translations of the Bible. I have biblical commentaries, dictionaries, and Bible studies. I can go online and compare a dozen translations. Basically, I can read or listen to Scripture whenever and wherever I go.

Imagine the joy when the Bible is translated into the native language of a people group for the first time! The Bible is a tangible expression of the Father's love for us. Missionaries can provide Bibles to those they serve, and those who are seeking to know more about Jesus can read for themselves. A new believer can read

the prophecies about Jesus throughout the Old Testament. A whole new world of knowledge becomes available, and the Word can make an eternal difference!

Pray more people would have the Bible translated into their languages where no translation of Scripture exists. “The LORD is the everlasting God” (v. 28), and everyone needs to know about Him! **Prayer Focus—Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** Two believers recently met a man at a coffee shop and gave him a Bible in his native language. The man was shocked and kept saying, “I’ve never seen one before!” He started to read it immediately. Pray that as he reads Scripture, he would understand the truth about who Jesus is and give his life to Him.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**  
**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**ILLINOIS:** LaDonna Wilkin, John Yi  
**MASSACHUSETTS:** Victor Moura  
**ALBERTA:** Wenzhuo Zhang  
**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** EK, Matthew Sanders  
**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** GA  
**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** DD, BG, BM, RM, CS  
**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** CE  
**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** Grace Kim  
**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**  
**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**  
**RETIRED NAMB:** Ileana Gutierrez  
**RETIRED IMB:** Judith Bliss, CC, Mary Chandler, JoAnn Crawford, Mary Anne Davis, Bob Hunter, Linda Jackson, ML, John Monroe, Ellen Steele, Jerry White

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**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**  
**PASSAGE: ISAIAH 41:1-29**  
**FOCUS: ISAIAH 41:9-10**

No one likes to be sick. We would never choose to spend our time visiting doctors, being in the hospital, or feeling helpless and unable to function. Recently, two of my friends experienced health challenges. One woman serves in the South Pacific, the other in South America. One had an infected tooth;

the other had a noncancerous breast tumor. Through the care and medical coverage provided by our mission boards, both women were able to get the help they needed and are expected to make full recoveries. Thank God for His provision!

Reading today’s Scripture passage in Isaiah 41, I was struck by these assuring words that, no matter where we are or what we face, the Father’s love is evident: “I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, ‘You are my servant’; I have chosen you. . . . So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you” (vv. 9–10). Praise the Lord!

**Prayer Focus—Asian Pacific Rim Peoples:** Pebbles has heard the gospel many times over the past ten years, yet she still rejects Jesus. Join believers who love her in asking God to soften her hardened heart. Pray Pebbles and her family would trust in Jesus.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**  
**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**CALIFORNIA:** Albert Lee  
**FLORIDA:** Jim Contreras Duarte, Mark Douglas  
**GEORGIA:** Woongje Chun, Martin Rodriguez  
**NEW MEXICO:** Jesse Hardy  
**TEXAS:** Juan Rivera  
**ALBERTA:** Dudley Hale  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA:** Christian Rowland  
**SASKATCHEWAN:** Zhengde Zhai  
**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** NF, SG, AH  
**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** GG, Brandon Gregory  
**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** PK, KS  
**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** KL, MR  
**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** Todd Hoskins  
**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**  
**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**  
**RETIRED NAMB:** Martha Hunter, Danny Kuykendall, Douglas Pilot, Clarence Smith  
**RETIRED IMB:** Gail Joule, WL, Lissa Roberson

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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**  
**PASSAGE: ISAIAH 42:1-17**  
**FOCUS: ISAIAH 42:16**

Sometimes life is hard. Your son turns his back on what he knows to be true about Christ. You’re worried about a job situation. Your coworker receives a terminal diagnosis. Your friend becomes involved in an inappropriate relationship. How do you respond? Counselors tell us that people usually handle difficult situations in one of two ways: react or respond. Reacting is emotional; responding involves thought and deliberate action. As followers of Jesus Christ, we have an anchor in hard times. Instead of exploding in anger or fear, we can rest in His sovereignty.

Those who serve in missions experience hard times, too—often made more difficult because of the darkness where they serve. The good news is we all have the promises of God to sustain and hold us no matter the circumstances. Pray this promise from God for yourself and missionaries around the world: “I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them” (v. 16).

**Prayer Focus—Central Asian Peoples:** Pray for a Baloch woman who is a nonbeliever. Her husband is a believer and has been living in another country. He recently got his visa and is coming to live with her. Pray he would share the gospel with her and that God would prepare her heart to receive it in faith.

**PRAY FOR . . . . .**  
**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**IDAHO:** Dave Carver  
**KANSAS:** Matthew Miller  
**LOUISIANA:** C. Anthony Eaves  
**TEXAS:** Luis Matos  
**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** CA, CR, BS

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** ML, FR,  
Kasia Ridgeway, Trey Shaw  
**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN  
PEOPLES:** SB, CR  
**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** Paul Ingold  
**GLOBAL:** NB

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**  
**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Norman Beckham,  
Mary Ferguson, William Forman,  
Malcolm Webb

**RETIRED IMB:** Susan Bowers,  
Billy Bullington, Evelyn Bullington,  
Bill Goff, Bill Hagewood,  
Donna Harper, Paul Martin,  
Keith Parker, Syd Pearce,  
Peggy Perrin

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

**PASSAGE:** ISAIAH 43:1-28  
**FOCUS:** ISAIAH 43:2

Isaiah expressed that the blessing of knowing God is ever-present. In Isaiah 43:2, he declared God’s promise to the Israelites: “I will be with you” through it all. This is a promise and assurance all His followers can cling to!

This verse turns my thoughts to the challenging task of being a parent. Parenting is a full-time, unbelievably glorious job where you never know what to expect. One thing we can all agree on: every day with a preschooler, eight-year-old, or teenager is an adventure. Loving children, investing in the next generation, and raising them in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4 KJV) is both wonderful and difficult. Our goal is to love our family, and we can do this because the Father first loved us.

Consider what raising a family in another culture or in an unfamiliar city is like. People may speak a different language, amenities (clean water, air conditioning, even electricity) may be limited, and the conveniences of American life (malls, movie theaters, pizza) may not exist.

Pray for missionaries who are parents. Ask the Lord to give them wisdom, empathy, and extra patience, to guard their families and protect them from the enemy, and to provide the time and energy for quality family time together.

**Prayer Focus—Deaf Peoples:** A father and daughter have started attending a Deaf church in Southeast Asia. They are interested in the Bible and how it can guide them in their lives. Pray this father and daughter would know God’s truth and love, and pray the church would disciple them well.

## PRAY FOR . . . . .

### NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

**CALIFORNIA:** Seungeon Bae  
**FLORIDA:** Bradley Brisco  
**MARYLAND:** Waldo Charles, Brett Flora  
**MICHIGAN:** William Sam  
**MONTANA:** Preston Rhodes  
**NEW YORK:** Safwat Attia  
**TEXAS:** Alberto Mayta

### INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** Mark Rutledge,  
John Tail

**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** TT

**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** MM

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN  
PEOPLES:** KB, JC, PE

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**  
**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Eliseo Aldape,  
James Underwood

**RETIRED IMB:** Clara Hutson,  
Hugh McKinley, Susan Partridge,  
Susan Robinson, Al Rodriguez

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

**PASSAGE:** ISAIAH 54:1-17  
**FOCUS:** ISAIAH 54:16-17

As a child, I vividly remember clinging to the cry of David in Psalm 56:3 (KJV): “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.” My mom shared that verse with me at night when we talked before bedtime. Whatever I was scared of—the dark, the storms, the unknown—she reinforced in my young heart that I could trust God no matter what.

We live in a scary world. As adults, we may not readily admit our

fears. We may be plagued with imaginary fear or the fear of things beyond our control, such as war, violence, or disease. Whether we label it as *worry*, *anxiety*, or *concern*, fear is real. But the protection and provision of our holy God is real, too, and His care is above all else. The prophet Isaiah declared, “No weapon forged against you will prevail” (Isa. 54:17). God’s work through His people will stand—nothing can stop it.

Pray those who serve in any aspect of missions would experience the matchless peace provided by the sovereign God of heaven and earth.

**Prayer Focus—All Missionaries:** Lift up missionary teachers, asking God to use their witness for Him in powerful ways. Many will be teaching English as a second language to people hearing the Word for the first time. Pray God’s Word would fall on fertile soil.

## PRAY FOR . . . . .

### NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

**CALIFORNIA:** Ruben Reyes  
**COLORADO:** Zachary Thurman  
**ILLINOIS:** John Jou  
**MINNESOTA:** Gerardo Rodriguez Antivero  
**WISCONSIN:** Walter Gutierrez Solorzano  
**ONTARIO:** Angel Norman

### INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** JT  
**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** SC  
**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Sarah Ponder,

Keri Sheckler

**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** KW

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:**  
Aaron Kuglin

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**  
**STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Vincent Inzerillo,  
Charles Miller, Yolanda Sanchez,  
Mary Warren

**RETIRED IMB:** John Floyd,  
Chuck Garcia, Felix Greer,  
Gregory Harvell, Doug Lee,  
Patti Quick, Jo Anne Rollison, JW



## missionary of the week

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

**MARTY AND CHANDLER**  
**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES**

**PASSAGE: ISAIAH 57:11-21**

**FOCUS: ISAIAH 57:15**



Marty and Chandler knew as soon as they left the missions field that they'd be gone temporarily. They were only returning to the United States to prepare for their next assignment. For this couple, the choice was an easy one: continue their call to missions with the International Mission Board (IMB). Many short-term missionaries finish one term with IMB and return for another—they are often called “boomerangs.”

When Marty and Chandler were on the field, they saw intentional discipleship lead to church planting and multiplication in a refugee camp in the Middle East. God called them to try this strategy in sub-Saharan Africa, which has been identified as the future epicenter of Christianity.

Marty trains seminary students to carry the gospel to 29 of the least-reached people groups living within their country. Chandler, armed with a few years of nursing experience in the US, equips pastors' wives with basic medical knowledge so they can make a tangible impact on their communities, providing opportunities for gospel access.

“What we realized is that local pastors and local believers can go places we can't go,” Marty said. “The best way for us to multiply ourselves and extend our reach is to train other people to go and share as well.”

**THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM** takes the gospel to the nations and the neighborhoods. Your financial support through the Cooperative Program helps missionaries plant churches and share Jesus in their communities.

**PRAY** God would bring out immense multiplication in communities like the one where Marty and Chandler diligently serve.

### PRAY FOR . . . . .

#### **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**ARIZONA:** Timothy Fowler

**FLORIDA:** Steve Miller, Josué Ramos

**VIRGINIA:** Eyu Hailu

**BRITISH COLUMBIA:** Rafael Aguilar Araujo

#### **INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** Philip Metcalf

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** BD,  
Alex Windle

**NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** EH

**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** JB, LB, MI

**GLOBAL:** DD, MM

#### **CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

#### **STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Miguel Olmedo

**RETIRED IMB:** Diann Bailey,  
Jeanine Boyd, MH, Mary Ellen Hill,  
Jo Ann Sturgeon

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

**PASSAGE: ISAIAH 61:1-11**

**FOCUS: ISAIAH 61:10a**

Praise is a natural component of prayer. Throughout the Book of Psalms, we're admonished to praise, honor, and extol the Lord. In Luke 10:21, Jesus praised the Father. When He taught His disciples how to pray in Matthew 6, Jesus included instructions about honoring the Father by acknowledging His worthiness.

Instead of petitioning God with our list of requests today, what if we just praised Him for who He is and what He's already done? We certainly can spend time petitioning Him—

you can always go to God with your needs. But consider taking time now to focus on praising Him. Recall His goodness throughout the generations, and praise Him for specific answers to prayers you've already prayed. Declare the majesty and holiness of your great God. Remind yourself of His great love and what His love enables you to do. Change the focus of the usual agenda, and replace it with awe of the Almighty.

Isaiah 61:10 says, “I delight greatly in the LORD.” In the quiet of your time with the Father, remember His faithfulness in the past, and rest in the assurance that He is God, He is good, and He is worthy of your love and service.

**Prayer Focus—In Your Church:** Pray for the children in your church and their missions leaders as they participate in Children's Missions Day. Pray God would grow a love for missions in children's hearts.

### PRAY FOR . . . . .

#### **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**CALIFORNIA:** Matthew Thibault

**FLORIDA:** Kidannie Laboy,  
Addam Setzer

**GEORGIA:** Osee Samedí

**INDIANA:** Ben Beck

**KENTUCKY:** Tanya Parker

**MISSOURI:** Cherith Laubinger

**NEW YORK:** Jose Garcia

**OHIO:** Sajjan Betham

**ALBERTA:** John Thiessen

**ONTARIO:** Neider Avendano

#### **INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**AMERICAN PEOPLES:** Laurie Bledsoe,

Peter Kim, Tina Louderback

**ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** CH, BM, ST

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** MG

#### **CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

#### **STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Bobby Graham,

Alejandro Leal, Micheal Summers,  
Billy Wells

**RETIRED IMB:** Emmett Barnes,

David Daggett, William Foster,

Louise Hill, Paula King, RL,

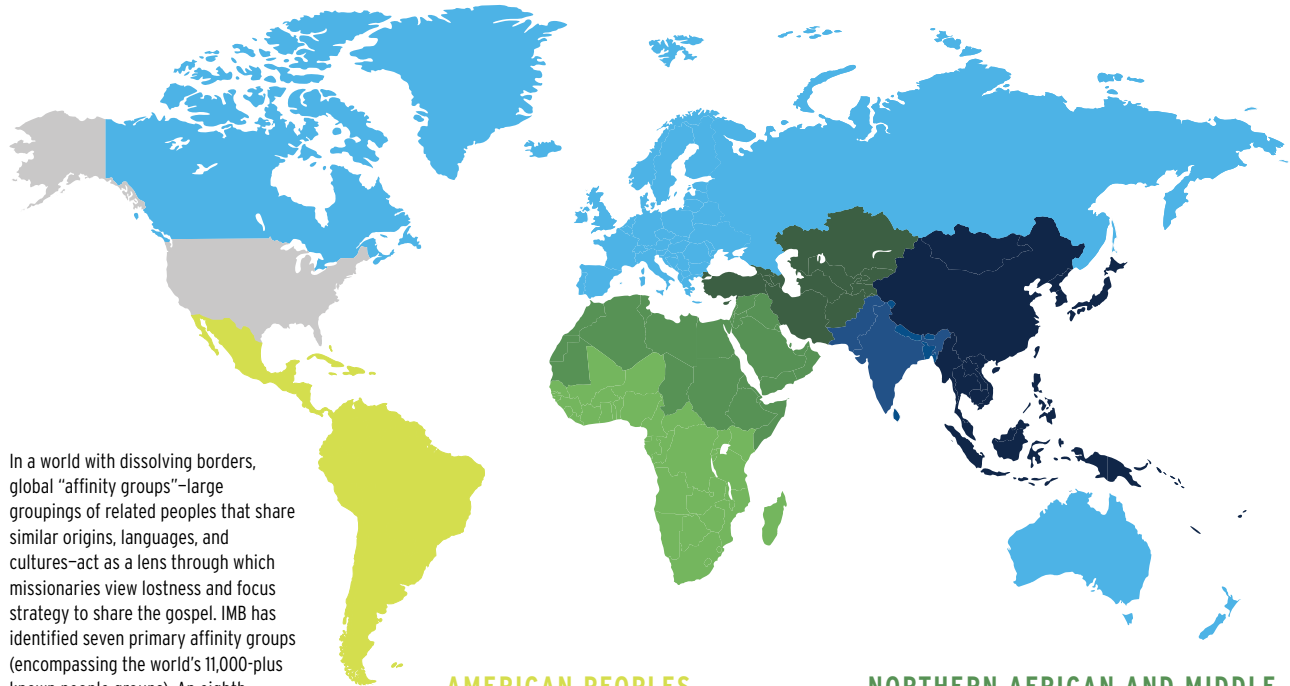
Michael Miller, Evelyn Moss,

Linda Muse, Gina Roberts, Carla Roy

*Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from The Holy Bible, King James Version.*



# THE WORLD BY AFFINITY GROUP



In a world with dissolving borders, global "affinity groups"—large groupings of related peoples that share similar origins, languages, and cultures—act as a lens through which missionaries view lostness and focus strategy to share the gospel. IMB has identified seven primary affinity groups (encompassing the world's 11,000-plus known people groups). An eighth affinity group uniquely targets the world's culturally Deaf peoples.



AMERICAN PEOPLES

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES

EUROPEAN PEOPLES

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES

DEAF PEOPLES



**BRENDA HARRIS** loves to listen as God speaks through His Word. She's a wife, mother, and grammie to Amber Joy. Brenda works for Kendrick Brothers Productions, contracts with Tennessee WMU, and is a member of Northside Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

## Prayer Calendar Information

Southern Baptist missionaries and their spouses who are serving for more than two years are listed on their birthdays.

- **NATIONAL** personnel serve in roles related to developing strategy and providing training and support other NAMB-endorsed personnel.
- **GLOBAL** personnel serve in roles related to developing strategy and providing training and support other IMB-endorsed personnel.
- **CHAPLAINS** are endorsed by the SBC via NAMB but are not listed as they do not receive financial support through NAMB.
- **VOLUNTEERS** are individuals who are not funded through SBC mission boards; they are self-funded. They are not listed here because of the inability to compile a complete list of these people, but they do need your prayers daily. The exception to this policy is the listing of self-funded missionaries who are affiliated with NAMB.
- **STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES** are personnel not related to NAMB or IMB but who receive primary support through state conventions.

## MISSIONARY FUNDING

Money given through the Cooperative Program, to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for International Missions, and to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions helps support SBC missionaries.

*International Mission Board:* All IMB missionaries listed on the prayer calendar receive their financial support from the IMB.

*North American Mission Board:* NAMB missionaries listed on the prayer calendar may receive full or partial financial support from NAMB or are jointly funded through partnerships between NAMB and state conventions. In addition, missionaries affiliated with NAMB through the Mission Service Corps funding option raise their own support. Some may receive partial financial support for ministry projects.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board provide missionary names and related information for the missionary prayer calendar. Should an error or omission be discovered, please address your concerns to NAMB at [namb.net/contact](http://namb.net/contact) or 1-800-634-2462 or IMB at [imb.org/contact-us](http://imb.org/contact-us) or 1-800-999-3113.