

PAUSE TO PRAY

JULY 6, 2016

FREEDOM - “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (liberty).” (2 Corinthians 3:17) Pray for an increase of spiritual hunger and desire for the Lordship of Christ and for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of believers and in local congregations across America.

Pray for the **ministry, personal spiritual growth and godly relationships of these missionaries**. Ask God to provide all financial, spiritual and prayer resources to maximize their impact for Jesus’ sake.

David & Carmen Gunderson (Arrive Ministries, Somali Refugees)

Beth Hanna (Camino Global, Mexico)

Ben and Sarah Johnson (Immigrant Hope, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

Alyce Johnson (Proclaim! International)

Select one of our **special-interest missionaries** for prayer and intercession. Pray, also, for the **person seated next to you** on Sunday.

Pray for **the family of Gary K** as they mourn his loss following a long illness. Intercede especially for his wife, Barbara, and their daughter, Theresa, during this challenging time.

Pray for **Nimrod and Vivian T and their family** as they travel to Canada and other parts of North America. Intercede specifically for their ability to raise support in anticipation of their return to the Philippines next year and for safety in their journeys. They plan on returning to Wheaton later in August.

Pray for the protection of **religious liberty**, especially as it impacts the advance of the gospel in our nation. Intercede for those organizations and individuals who seek to inform the public about both the value of constitutional protections and current threats to the religious community.

Our nation is experiencing a rise in **violent crime**, particularly in communities that are most vulnerable. Pray for an improvement in relationships with law enforcement in those communities and for the witness and work of churches located in their midst.

Our **Feasibility Team** has an important meeting scheduled with their counterparts at College Church for Wednesday, July 20. The results of this meeting will most likely determine the direction of our possible merger. Intercede for the Spirit’s leading that day, for effective dialogue, careful listening and a desire to see the gospel of Christ increase its visibility in our community.

Give thanks for **recruiting efforts** that are proving fruitful in many evangelical mission agencies. Intercede, specifically, for more candidates to be drawn to Europe and other areas where an effective, culturally-sensitive witness is urgently needed. Pray, also, for Converge Worldwide as they seek to place qualified individuals in fields of service.

Pray for this emphasis of **Converge Worldwide** President Scott Ridout to become a reality in many of our churches: “These are exciting days in our movement. God is at work starting and strengthening churches worldwide. He has given us a unified 10-year vision to ‘open the front door’ by starting new churches, launching multisite campuses and affiliating independent congregations into our movement. We also will ‘close the back door’ by improving the assessment, coaching and training our pastors and missionaries. We will

‘tear down the walls’ through addressing spiritual, cultural and racial barriers to unity and godly diversity. And we’ll ‘build the house’ by developing greater coordination, collaboration and resources needed to support our mission. We ask you to commit to pray for God’s wisdom, courage and favor so that many people around the world will meet, know and follow Jesus.”

Members & Friends: Paul and Juliann A, Isidro (Bong) and Alanie A, Felipe and Carol A

MISSION UPDATE

The following is from **John and Elaine Mehn**, Converge Worldwide, Japan.

Looking to finish the task of the Great Commission, mission experts have identified over 6,600 unreached people groups (UPG) in the world. UPGs are defined as any group less than 2% Christian. Practically, they need outside help to complete the evangelization among their people. There also are unengaged unreached people groups (UUPG) with over 1,200 groups that have no known Christians and no missionaries working with them. Our mission focus must be on these peoples.

The second-largest unreached people group in the world are the Japanese (see www.joshuaproject.net/unreached/1). This group in the 10/40 window are over 120 million people who are only 0.45% Christian. There are still 22 cities and over 1,800 towns in Japan that have no church. There is much to do. So pray for the Japan Congress on Evangelism this September 27-29 in Kobe, Japan. Also, the CPI Church Planting Next Steps seminar in November.

In late June, we attended our national mission conference Converge 2016 in Denver. At this meeting, we were challenged to **REACH** across the street and around the world. On the last day, individuals and churches adopted 30 unreached people groups that will have church planting teams starting right away. Converge is focusing on planting churches among the least-reached peoples of the world. Thanks for your partnership with us.

Prayer Partner Spotlights:

- ◆ For July and August, we will be near our Illinois home base, spending time with family and some vacation time.
- ◆ The dollar is declining against the Japanese yen, which means we will need to raise more financial support.
- ◆ In late July, we will be taking a five-day Road Trip with our daughter Beth and our two grandchildren to Kentucky to visit Elaine’s sister, Lou. John and Elaine will be visiting our church in Cincinnati.
- ◆ Ask God for wisdom as John is preparing for the workshops at the Japan Congress on Evangelism in September.

If you have a prayer concern you would like to put on the Prayer Chain, please contact Gloria Neal at home or at the church office.

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