

PAUSE TO PRAY

FEBRUARY 9, 2017

HOMELESS AND HUNGRY – Pray for all the churches, ministries, agencies and individuals in your area and state who are working to assist the poor, hungry, homeless, suicidal, abused, addicted, alcoholic and mentally ill.

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.

Eric & Janet Johnson (Converge Worldwide [BGC], Mexico)
Bob and Debbie Long (Next Generation Initiative, Philippines)
John & Elaine Mehn (Converge Worldwide [BGC], Japan)

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

Praise the Lord for **Ken L's** successful surgery on Monday. Pray for his recovery and for wisdom in deciding the next steps in his treatment.

Pray for our shut-ins – **Marita R, Elaine S and Lois S** – that our wonderful Lord will strengthen, encourage and comfort them day by day. Ask the Lord to be with their families as well.

Pray for the effective witness of **Gil Z's sister Beth** to the hospice care worker who serves her. Ask the Lord to encourage a positive response to the gospel.

Susan M has asked prayer for her cousin's daughter, **Hillary**, who is being treated for end-stage cancer. Ask the Lord to bring spiritual renewal and a sense of His comforting presence.

Pray for **Vivian T's mother**, who is battling a significant health issue. Intercede for her ability to travel to the United States soon to visit the Ticas.

A long-time school friend of **Dave and Beth S's son Jon** took his own life in West Chicago on Tuesday. Pray for the family in this hour of their grief and for Jon, as he has seen several classmates pass away in recent years.

Ask the Lord to prepare **Dr. Dwight Perry** for his presentation to us on April 23 on the theme of "Breaking Barriers." Pray for our inspiration and instruction for that day.

Intercede for our **negotiations** with a local Wheaton congregation regarding potential sale of our property. Ask specifically that the Lord would clearly indicate His will regarding this and encourage us to pursue other paths, if appropriate. Pray for the Congregational Meeting on February 19.

Pray for our upcoming "**Songs of the Cross**" service featuring hymns, readings, Scripture, communion and the musical artistry of Tony Payne, Associate Professor of Music at Wheaton College. This special worship hour is scheduled for March 12.

Members & Friends: Pastor Dave and Jennie, Mike & Gail W, Bill & Donna W

MISSION UPDATE

The following is from **Arrive Ministries**, Gundersons' Mission Agency.

On Friday, January 27, there was an Executive Order signed by our new President barring refugee admissions to the United States for 120 days. This action stopped all refugee arrivals through Arrive Ministries, causing significant challenges to our staff and budget and fears and dashed hopes within refugee communities in Minnesota and around the globe.

Whether additional refugees will be allowed to come to Minnesota and be reunited with their families, and whether the court order will be upheld under appeal, is completely unknown. Right now, funding is critical to retain our staff, services and ministry programs during this time of uncertainty and moratorium-induced refugee reductions. Simply, we have lost grant funds that are linked to the actual number of refugees we resettle.

For over 25 years, we have prided ourselves in being able to accomplish our dual mandates: to serve and empower both the church and vulnerable refugees. For us, this has manifested itself in many ways, including a strong refugee resettlement program, where scores of church teams have welcomed and served newly-arriving refugee families.

As we, and our partner World Relief, advocate enthusiastically for refugees in the United States and abroad, we are aware that our community has a wide range of opinions, both theologically and politically, and recognize that these differences may strain our sense of unity.

We will continue to equip volunteers to work with the thousands of refugees who are already our neighbors and those who will be coming in the months to come.

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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