

PAUSE TO PRAY

MARCH 30, 2017

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS – Offer thanksgiving for all who are standing ready to assist in a time of emergency, natural disaster or terrorist attack. Pray for them, and ask that all officials and supervisors receive wisdom, knowledge and understanding for emergency preparedness plans.

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 those of our church family who are recovering at home from injuries or surgery, including **Ken L and Al S**. Remember, also, **Norene Z** as she remains in Florida following her mother's death last week. Ask the Lord to be with each of these during their times of healing, challenge or grief.

Ask the Lord to bring healing to **Audrey E** to allow her to resume attending services. Pray for the medical team as they consider possible paths for treatment and for her to sense the Lord's peace and provision.

Pray for **Maricel A** as she anticipates a positive result from the filing of a petition regarding her immigration status. Ask the Lord to give her the heart to trust His providence.

Pray for **Dr. Dwight Perry** as he comes to speak on April 23 on the theme of racial reconciliation.

We are seeking volunteers to assist in our **Backyard Bible Club** neighborhood outreach during the week of July 24-28. Ask the Lord for a good response both in available volunteers and in spiritual impact in the community.

As **Easter** approaches, intercede for outreach efforts, special services, focused events and literature distribution that proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ask of the Lord a spiritual harvest of many who will receive the gift of eternal life.

Continue to intercede for the **issues connected to religious and expressions of conscience in our society**. Ask the Lord to give wisdom and grace to individuals and churches, skill to legal teams defending such cases and a greater sense of the value of this freedom to the good of our country.

Intercede for the **April 6 Succession Team Meeting** as planning begins for the next, and possibly final, months of Evangel's ministry. Pray for the logistical, legal, formal and scheduling issues yet to be resolved. Ask the Lord for a spirit of joy, gratitude and appreciation as our congregation makes this transition.

Our **Negotiations Team** is searching for an effective home administratively for the proposed "legacy" fund. We would need to secure a place for funds to be deposited and disbursements to be made. Pray for this search to be settled in the near future.

Pray for the vision-casting dinners our **Converge MidAmerica** staff will be hosting in Michigan and Illinois next month and in early May. Ask the Lord to bless these events and achieve their mission and fundraising goals.

Members & Friends: Bonnie H, Glenn and Ginnie H, Lil H

MISSION UPDATE

The following continues from last week from **Gil Zinke**, Training Leaders International.

Just before dusk on Friday, March 17, we headed to the Koshe slum. Some of you heard about that place in the news of the past week. The slum is built on the lower slopes of a massive landfill, into which Addis Ababa has been depositing its trash for 50 years. A high mountain of trash has resulted. On Saturday night, March 11, a huge slope of the mountain gave way, burying the slum under a landslide of toxic soil. As of our visit, 113 bodies had been recovered. That may be less than half of those lost. Power shovels still are digging.

As we arrived, a huge crowd of demonstrators was forming to march from the main road down into the slum. There were police everywhere for crowd control. We walked quickly down in front of the marchers and then took a side street to get out of their way. Our purpose was to deliver 10 heavy bags of food supplies, and the comfort of Christ, to 10 selected survivors of the deceased. One family we visited had lost six members. A young woman, age 20, had lost both of her parents and now had to raise her two younger sisters alone. All around us were the smells of death and sounds of weeping. There was also an Orthodox priest preaching to a silent, or moaning, crowd of peaceful, but shocked, demonstrators, many of whom were holding candles as the sun went down.

After supper, back at the hotel, we debriefed regarding the sheer joys of loving the kids at the orphanage and the gut-wrenching horror and sorrow we had witnessed so shortly after. The power in the hotel went out as we talked and prayed. I got to bed late.

We left our hotel for the airport at 11 a.m. on a shuttle bus. The trip, which should have taken 30 minutes, took 50 minutes, because cars lined up for a particular gas station were backed up onto the expressway, totally plugging our exit. After waiting in that line for five minutes without movement, we went on to the next exit and doubled back. Check-in was smooth, and we all ate lunch, then proceeded to the gate.

Our plane was 40 minutes late taking off. The flight was only 40 minutes. Then, almost all who deplaned boarded a nondescript shuttle bus – crammed full to the jump seats, with the luggage on top – for another 40-minute ride from the airport into the city of Hawassa. During both the flight and the bus ride, I talked to a Christian airplane mechanic seated next to me. He was going home to Hawassa for the weekend. We were dropped off at a main hotel, where we were met by Evangelist Demeke.

The four of us each settled into a room in the Beshu Tullu Hotel, awaiting the arrival of the others. I bought a SIM card and units for my phone, and a kilogram of mangoes. The two cars arrived from Addis. We spent time at Pastor Tesfaye's house, followed by a late, heavy dinner at a restaurant. Then we planned for the morning and bid each other goodnight. Tomorrow (March 19), four of us will each preach at a different church. Thanks for your prayers.

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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