

PAUSE TO PRAY

MAY 7, 2017

INTERNET EVANGELISM – One million or more people will indicate decisions for Christ over the Internet in 2017. Offer thanksgiving for all Internet outreaches that are bringing the gospel and redemption to multitudes of individuals, many living under repressive governments in foreign lands. Pray that the Lord multiply these efforts.

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.

Pray for **Gil Zinke** as he departs next week for overseas training and serving. Ask the Lord to give safety in travel and effectiveness in equipping local leaders for fruitful ministry.

Ask the Lord to bring comfort to the **family of Ken L** following his passing last week. Give thanks for his faithful attendance at Evangel over the past years.

Pray for **Larry and Betty E** in their search for a buyer for their Wheaton business property.

Praise that **Dave S's Aunt Andrea** received a positive medical report. The cancer she has is 99.9% curable! She will have surgery to remove the tumor and lymph nodes (standard procedure) on May 15, with radiation to follow. Please continue to pray for her and her husband, Jerry, and the medical team as they begin the treatment process.

Remember **Eric Johnson** in his journey to health and a return to active ministry.

Many in the Evangel congregation have **family members** who need the Lord's presence to heal, provide, guide or sustain in a variety of ways. Each person we see on Sunday is part of a larger network of relations who could profit from God's sustaining grace and goodness. Pray, also, for these same to seek God to be the focus of their lives.

Several families within our congregation will be planning moves in the near future. Ask the Lord to assist each household in their real estate transactions and guide in the search for a new church home.

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

Give thanks for the good spirit exhibited during last week's **Open House** for the people of Vineyard Church of DuPage. Pray that cooperation between our two congregations would continue through our common business concerns.

Pray about coordinating schedules with **Vineyard Church** regarding the possibility of a couple of shared events with their church at our location. Intercede for these possibilities and the benefits that would arise from them.

Pray for the selection of up to five **Trustees** to serve the "Legacy" fund to be established this fall. The purpose of this fund would be to oversee mission contributions in Evangel's name over the next several years.

We will hold an **Open Forum** on May 21 to encourage those seeking church connection in their future. Ask the Lord to bring a thoughtful and caring sense to all who attend, along with practical suggestions going forward.

We are planning on **congregational meetings** for May 7 and June 4 and 11 to discuss and decide on staffing issues and major changes to our bylaws (from a church to a foundation) and the contract to sell our property. Ask the Lord to guide the preparations for these important meetings.

Members & Friends: Arlene M, Greg and Susan M, Jim and Gloria N

MISSION UPDATE

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

In missions, we should keep our pulse on the needs of the people we work with. For the Japanese, the needs are quite staggering. Japan is the 10th most populous country in the world with 127 million people, a large number to bring the gospel to. Because only less than 1% are believers in Christ, they are listed as the second-largest unreached people on the planet. There are churches here, but only about 8,000. But how many churches are enough? Using a rule of thumb of 1,500 people to be reached by each church, Japan would need at least 50,000 churches.

It is not just missionaries who are doing the math. Japanese church leaders also are thinking about these numbers. Recently, we have been working with a growing group of visionary leaders who have a dream of over 50,000 churches in Japan. They are thinking not of addition, but the multiplication of the church. There will be some key meetings throughout this year, which will further enlarge this vision among a growing group of leaders: Church Multiplication Vision Festa, July 2-3, Sendai; Global Church Planting Network, September 26-28, Nara Pref.; Church Planting Institute Conference, October 25-28, Saitama.

Please pray for these visionary leaders, that God would enlarge their visions, protect them from spiritual warfare and increase their number. Pray, too, for these events, which can be real catalysts to understanding how to complete the task of the Great Commission in Japan. Pray as John works with many of these leaders. And pray that this dream of 50,000 churches will become a reality.

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.

FULL NAMES, SENSITIVE MATERIAL and content that represents a potential SECURITY RISK on the internet may not appear on the website version – see the full bulletin at church, or contact the church office with questions