



Missions Prayer Calendar

A SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY
FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

DECEMBER

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."

— MATTHEW 9:37 (ESV)

Introduction

“Pray also for us...”

So states the apostle Paul in Colossians 4:3 (ESV), acknowledging a somewhat stunning reality: though the Christians to whom he was writing were separated from him physically, they could nonetheless participate in his ministry! God’s people could *join* in God’s work of taking the gospel to those who hadn’t heard it simply by praying for their missionary pastor.

These realities are no less true today. As a church, Parkside has been blessed with the opportunity to support many missionaries scattered around the world, all of whom are seeking to share the Good News of Jesus with people who have yet to hear and believe it. Can we really help them, being thousands of miles and numerous time zones away? According to Paul, yes! The purpose of this missionary prayer calendar is to inform you of what is going on in certain parts of the world and invite you to participate in the work through prayer.

The format is simple. Each day, you will find a missionary or organization that Parkside supports, along with one of their specific prayer requests. You’ll also find a different country of the world and how you can best be praying for the people there.

Our hope in arranging this is that you’ll know the privilege of participating in the work of the gospel, which as Paul also tells the Colossians, is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world. We trust that praying for the nations will increase our heart for the world, causing us to increasingly desire and work toward seeing unbelieving people of all nations become committed followers of Christ!



To see unbelieving people become
committed followers of Jesus Christ.

What You Can Do



Pray

Utilize this booklet and enter into the work of our missionaries via prayer. You can also receive the daily prayer requests in your inbox by signing up for the daily devotional at parksidechurch.com/subscribe.

Join us Sunday evenings for Missions Prayer Time, online or in-person, from 5:00-5:45pm in Room A205. For an online invitation, email Cliff at cjjbandrews@sbcglobal.net.



Learn

Increase your awareness of what God is doing among the nations by reading *Operation World* by Jason Mandryk. You can pick up a copy of the book at Books by the Park. The prayer requests for different countries in this calendar are excerpts from that book and the operationworld.org website.



Give

Thanks to your generous giving, we were able to allocate \$3,543,635 towards missions in 2023. As we look to the future, it seems there are even more opportunities for us to take the gospel to the world, and we are trusting God for the capacity to do so.



Go

Consider traveling to serve our missionaries or other partners by participating in a short-term mission trip. Watch the bulletin for details on upcoming trips.

Parkside Church Missionaries



E & J*
M, J, C
**Names withheld for security purposes*



Mark & Patti Bean
Andy, Emily, Eric, Ernie



Wes & Nancy Collins
Elisa, Molly, Isaac



Chris & Leanne Harrington
Mark, Lillia, Claire, Graham, Jude



Andrew & Angie James
Nicole, Camille, Zack



Kep & Debbie James
Heather, Katie, Andrew



B & J*
M, O, P, P, G
**Names withheld for security purposes*



Mike & Joan Ross
Steve, Ben, Aaron

DEC

01

Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan

Please pray for Chris and Leanne as they plan a “reverse mission trip” in March 2025. A group of their Japanese English class students and church youth will come to Cleveland, stay with host families, and tour the greater Cleveland area. Their church in Japan uses this type of annual trip to grow deeper in relationships and to have a chance to share the gospel with the students and their families more directly. In preparation for the trip, their pastor will spend two months sharing what Christians believe with the students and their parents. It is a massive opportunity for the gospel. Pray that the Lord will open the hearts of the participants and their families to the gospel. Also, pray that the Lord will provide the necessary host families.

Burundi (Africa). Population: 13,591,657 Believers: 27.0%. The socio-political situation is one of cautious hope, due to the decades-old enmity between Tutsi and Hutu that boiled into a violent eruption claiming 300,000 lives in the 1990s. Pray for genuine respect and cooperation as these two peoples build Burundi’s future together. Due to the past violence and current poverty, leadership for the churches is in short supply. Ask the Lord for financial provision for those who wish to equip themselves for the Lord’s service.

DEC

02

Parkside Church Westside, United States

Pray for Parkside Church Westside as they spread the gospel locally and globally. Pray for The Christmas Store that will take place December 3-7. More than 100 Lakewood families will be helped with Christmas gifts for their children. Pray that the church can encourage families and point them to the hope found in Christ. Pray for a church family abroad who is working with a minority language group to advance the gospel in all languages. Continue to pray for the health and safety of Nathanael Wiles as he finishes his time with Samaritan’s Purse at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya, and as he seeks the Lord concerning his future. Pray for Building Hope in the City and the work that they are doing with immigrants in the Cleveland area. Pray for the relationships that Parkside Westside members are forming with refugees. Also, pray for the Cleveland Pregnancy Center and the help they provide to moms in need.

Cabo Verde Islands (Africa). Population: 604,461 Believers: 6.6%. Economic and ecological problems must be wisely addressed. Scant resources were poorly managed in the past, intensifying Cape Verde’s poverty. Pray for government leaders who will make good decisions and develop the economy for the betterment of the whole nation. **Cayman Islands (Caribbean).** Population: 69,885 Believers: 21.3%. With one church for approximately every 500 people, Christian faith and values should (and do) have a significant influence on society—pray that this may continue to be the case amid the materialism and hedonism. The new constitution includes recognition of the Christian heritage of the Cayman Islands. Pray that God’s sovereign power would not only be acknowledged in documents but lived out with joy!

DEC

03

E & J, North Africa

Praise God that in November, they finally got their business registered in the "C" region. One of J's longtime language tutors is getting married, and J was invited to a special teatime. Pray for God's blessing on this friend and for J to have boldness and clarity as she continues declaring the truth to her tutor.

Cambodia (Asia). Population: 17,121,847 Believers: 1.6%. Spiritual darkness persists in Cambodia and must be lifted by prayer. That darkness is seen in ubiquitous spirit shrines, Buddhism's opposition to any ideological rival, and a general moral collapse. Pray for the light of the gospel to so shine that the structures of society as well as of individuals may be decisively changed.

DEC

04

Parkside Kent, United States

This winter marks their first time celebrating the holiday season. Please pray that their worship would be marked with the genuine thanksgiving and joy of knowing Immanuel, God with us! Pray that individually and corporately they would be marked by eagerness to share Jesus with unbelieving friends, students, neighbors, and family. In a world marked by anxious striving, pray that the message of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, would take root in many hearts. Ask that God would continue to grow their love for one another as the family and body of Christ.

Cameroon (Africa). Population: 29,394,433 Believers: 9.0%. Leadership and discipleship training in the churches are urgent needs, as Cameroon's churches struggle with shallow and biblically illiterate Christianity. Today's spiritual mess has its roots in a failure in theological training. Pray for godly leaders who are well trained in the Scriptures as well as for a spiritual revolution in theological faculties and seminaries that will bring new life and biblical standards to churches so long deprived.

DEC

05

Kep & Debbie James, Africa, Europe, Latin America, United States

They thank God for the 40 Liberian pastors they trained last month in Monrovia. The pastors will begin ESI (Equipping Servants International) groups this month. Pray that each participant will experience deep gospel transformation as they study through Romans, meeting weekly to mutually encourage one another in their walk in Christ. Pray that the leadership of the ILC Church Kep and Debbie started in Bolivia in 1990 will continue honoring Christ by staying true to his Scriptures. Kep and Debbie are grateful for the privilege of working together with us in spreading the gospel.

Canada (North America). Population: 39,107,046 Believers: 7.7%. One of the world's leading industrial nations with the lowest public debt of G8 nations, Canada is marked by freedom of religion; however, rapid secularization and pluralization are taking place at every level. The influence of Christianity has seen a long, sustained decline in Canadian society. Pray for a much-needed revival, starting in the church and radiating outward to address the failure of relevance, morals, and theological and spiritual dynamism in the Church. Pray that Canadian Christians would be more concerned with being loving witnesses to the gospel than with political agendas and culture wars.

DEC
06

Scranton Road Bible Church, United States

They are thankful for the support of Parkside during their Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach projects. Pray for all the families SRBC will be reaching through The Christmas Store project this year. Pray for ongoing relationships that point people to the good news of Jesus Christ. Pray for their teen parent ministry that meets every Monday. Pray that the mentors will have discernment as they have conversations. Pray that these young parents will have life-changing encounters with Christ. Pray for the families who have finished their membership class and will be welcomed into membership in the new year. Pray for the teens and adults who are preparing for baptism. Pray for their elders and pastoral staff as they approach the end of the year.

Central African Republic (CAR) (Africa). Population: 5,915,627 Believers: 32.3%. The CAR was one of the world's most evangelized nations, but the upheavals here and in nearby Chad and Sudan mean the progress in some regions has reversed. Muslims grew rapidly in influence, especially in the cities. Few Christians feel equipped to reach out to them. Pray for all CAR denominations to send students for missionary training. Pray that those with training would resist the draw to serve as a city pastor and instead go to the unreached.

DEC
07

Johannes (& Mathapelo) Thaele, South Africa

About 30 leaders from their children's ministry are gathering at a camp on December 7-9. Pray for God's guidance as they plan for 2025 and seek to discern what is of greatest importance in their ministry. Their students will also have a camp retreat to celebrate all God has done throughout the year—including VBC (Vacation Bible Camp), when the Parkside youth team visited South Africa. Pray that this is also a time for them to reflect on their relationships with Christ and to commit to being more rooted in him.

Chad (Africa). Population: 18,847,148 Believers: 10.1%. Many Muslims have heard the good news! New groups of believers from Muslim backgrounds have emerged. Bible storytelling and Chadian Arabic Christian radio help spread the gospel in culturally relevant ways. Violence in nearby Darfur at the hands of other Muslims caused some to question Islam and left them open to the loving ministry and witness of Christians. Still, Islam grows in numbers, and in financial and social influence. Pray that Christians will learn to reach out to the Muslims around them.

DEC

08

Parkside Heights Church, United States

Parkside Heights is thankful for the college students who attend their church and for the blessing they have been to their church family. As many of them will be away for the Christmas holiday, please pray that God would open doors for fruitful relationships and conversations and that they would continue to grow spiritually. Pray also for courage, endurance, and comfort from the Lord for those in their congregation who are currently going through difficult circumstances as they navigate through the holiday season.

Chile (Latin America). Population: 19,658,839 Believers: 18.4%. Student witness needs strengthening in the 54 universities and colleges and among the 500,000 students. Chile's evangelicals need to focus much more on reaching and discipling young people. Systematic inequalities and underinvestment in education prompted massive student demonstrations in 2006, which in turn forced government reforms. Pray for students to find their identity in Christ and not in the many other alternatives they face.

DEC

09

**Emily (& Blake) Ackerson, Bridges International, Australia/
Amy Cottle, OMF, Thailand**

Praise the Lord for the good work that continues in Mahasarakham, Thailand. Pray that more Thai people will come to the church plant and come to saving faith. Pray that the team will encourage each other and work well together. Pray that BM, Elle, and past students will grow in faith. With the upcoming Christmas season in Thailand, pray for strength and energy for the team and for many souls to be reached for Christ! Pray that Amy will trust the Lord and his timing in her job search.

Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China) (Asia).

Population: 7,496,681 Believers: 6.1%. The massive protests of 2019 seem a distant memory as Beijing's grip on Hong Kong has relentlessly squeezed out all effective opposition to its control. Divisions in the Church over the protests and associated politics need to be healed and believers need to be reconciled. Although the setbacks to Hong Kong's freedoms can be discouraging, believers in China itself have demonstrated that the flame of the gospel cannot be snuffed out by even the most brutal oppression. May the Church in Hong Kong learn how to be a powerful witness amidst the profound changes it is experiencing.

DEC

10

Bobby & Julie, Central Asia

Please pray for Bobby as he prepares to preach Sunday, December 15, in Russian. Pray for their team as they do evangelism training. Pray for gospel opportunities during the Christmas season. Pray for Julie as she coaches CrossFit classes and for their Christmas party.

People's Republic of China (Asia). Population: 1,425,178,782 Believers: 5.7%.

The survival and growth of the Church in China are two of the most decisive events of our generation. The window of opportunity for spiritual receptivity might not be open indefinitely. China today faces materialism—with increasing wealth, the debilitating effects of spreading corruption, moral decline, and the growing social and economic impact of the one-child policy. All of these may profoundly affect the spiritual openness of the nation and the Church itself. Pray that the Refiner's fire might keep burning and that the Church's spiritual cutting edge—honed in the midst of persecution—might not be blunted.

DEC
11

Edgar (& Lety) Rivera and Neri (& Karina) Rivera, Mexico

Pray that God will continue to give Edgar wisdom in assembling a Mexican Board for the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) work in Mexico. Pray for the three ESI groups that he is leading in Oaxaca and for the Bible study he recently started with two families in the town of San Lucas, which has been closed to the gospel. Pray that God would give Filemon conviction as he deals with family members who don't want him to study the Bible. Pray that God would open doors for their son, Juan, and his wife, Amy, as they prepare to serve in a closed country. Pray that Neri will have wisdom as he facilitates ESI groups in the state of Chiapas. Pray for continued growth of the church plant. Pray for strength for Neri as he recuperates from chemotherapy treatment last month. Pray that Neri has wisdom to work within his limitations. Pray for healing and for Karina and the family during this difficult time. They are thankful that God provided a car with an automatic transmission and that Karina now has a driver's license.

Republic of China, Taiwan, (Asia). Population: 23,950,214 Believers: 2.8%.

Taiwan remains a stronghold of Buddhism and Taiwanese folk religion. Over 90% of Taiwanese follow some combination of Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and traditional religions. Buddhism now grows strongly among educated professionals. Most traditional folk religions have many gods, and people pay offerings to ghosts or seek advice from the spirit world. Taiwan remains the only major Han Chinese population in the world without a significant spiritual breakthrough. Pray that this will change.

DEC
12

The City Mission, United States

In November, Laura's Home celebrated the graduation of 19 women who completed their courses of study. Pray for them as they move forward with hope in Christ. Laura's Home and Crossroads both have annual Christmas parties, giving mothers the opportunity to shop for their children, and for children to pick out gifts for their mothers. The men they serve also select toys for their children to make this day special for many families. Pray that the hearts of the women, men, and children who come to The City Mission will be reached and their lives changed through the transforming power of the love of God revealed in the Christ child. Pray for the staff and volunteers as they serve during what can be a challenging, but by God's grace, fruitful Christmas season.

Colombia (Latin America). Population: 52,340,774 Believers: 7.5%. Satan's hold on Colombia must be broken by prayer. Pray for Christ's lordship to be proclaimed over spirits of violence, revenge, lawlessness, corruptions, and occult practices. Missionaries are targets for the enemies of the gospel, both physical and spiritual. Pray for courage and faithfulness for both native and expatriate missionaries.

DEC
13

Shoreline Church, United States

This season brings many opportunities for Shoreline to reach the local community. They are thankful for the results of their fall donation drive for both the Lake Country Free Clinic and Project Hope and have begun their *Give A Christmas Blessing* project. Kids in need will be given Christmas gifts for their families. Pray that those receiving the gifts, as well as the volunteers that participate, will be blessed. Shoreline will host a "Gingerbread Bash" and an "Evening of Christmas Carols" sing-along this month. Pray for the fellowship that will take place at these events. They are also holding an event called *Surviving the Holidays*. Pray that those who are grieving will find comfort in the message presented as well as from others who attend. Praise the Lord for the opportunity Brian Walls has had to coordinate the MOTUS youth leader network lunches for the last few years through Youth For Christ. Seventy-five youth leaders benefited from the training and fellowship last school year and close to 35 have already benefited this school year.

Democratic Republic of Congo-DRC (Africa). Population: 105,625,114 Believers: 18.7%. The powerful spiritual evil that presides over much of the land manifests in many ways, beyond mere civil wars, killing, tribalism, greed, and corruption. Cry out for God to deliver this land, binding the spirits that exercise such wicked control over the suffering people. Pray for nominal Christians to find new life in Christ. There is a notable lack of biblical knowledge in most churches; pray that the Bible would be read, used, and applied in the churches in the DRC.

DEC
14

Human Coalition, (Health for Her Cleveland), United States

Pray for a smooth and successful Holiday Connection project with the women and their families and for many opportunities for them to see Jesus. The clinic continues to be in need of both a sonographer and registered nurse. Pray for the right people to fill those positions.

Republic of Congo-ROC (Africa). Population: 6,244,547 Believers: 15.9%. Congo is a land rich in natural resources, but the majority of the population live in or very near to poverty level. Pray for benign government, for wise economic policies, and for justice to prevail in society. The Church needs revival and restoration. Congo has been Christianized—superficially, at least—but never truly converted. Pray for a new move of the Spirit. Churches need to be swept clear of flawed worldviews and false beliefs, and instead filled with the Spirit's power and led by biblical truth.

DEC
15

Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay

Andrew and Angie thank God that the Uruguayan school year has come to a close and that their children are doing well. Please pray that their children will grow up to love and serve the Lord. On December 18, Andrew and the family fly to the United States for home assignment. Pray that it will be a good time to refresh and reconnect with their family and church family.

Costa Rica (Latin America). Population: 5,246,714 Believers: 14.8%. Pray for the pastors who are under-resourced, surviving on low incomes, and without strong teams to help them in their work. This generally leads to a failure to provide solid pastoral care for struggling believers, which in turn leads to members drifting away. Pray for effective and sustainable models of doing church and making disciples in Costa Rica.

DEC
16

Parkside Green, United States

Please ask the Lord to use the people of Parkside Green to spread the good news of Jesus during the Christmas season. Ask the Lord to equip and inspire them through Pastor Adam's Advent preaching and the Christmas outreach service on December 22. Continue to ask the Lord to bear lasting fruit for his Kingdom through the missionaries they support in Dubai, UAE, and Arua, Uganda. The Joseph family leaves for Spanish language school at the end of December. Pray that they will continue to experience God's grace in their lives.

Côte d'Ivoire (Africa). Population: 29,603,302 Believers: 10.5%. Pray for the Church of Côte d'Ivoire. Evangelical churches have grown steadily since the 1990s, even during the conflicts of 2002-2007. Abidjan alone probably has over 3,000 churches now, mostly newer and independent. But many Christians do not know or understand the Bible, and churches pursue prosperity teaching, or focus on miracles and healings more than on Christ.

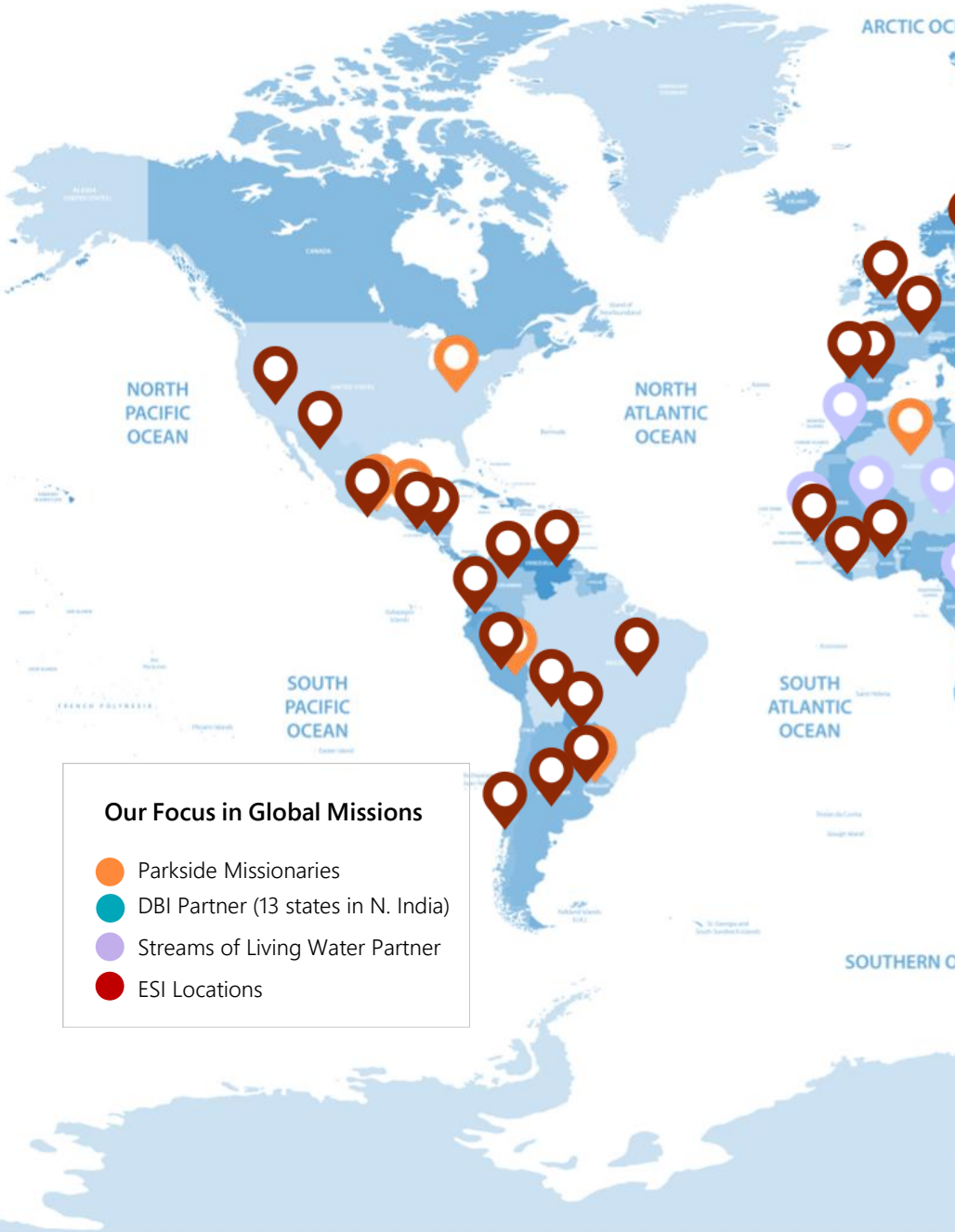
DEC
17

Emily (& Blake) Ackerson, Bridges International, Australia/ Amy Cottle, OMF, Thailand

Pray for the 12 students who will be sharing Christ with others during their summer mission in Sydney. Pray that the Lord would use this week to impact both those who hear the gospel and the students who share the gospel. Pray for their various Christmas outreaches to international students. Pray that the 40 international students who have signed up for a hospitality program called *Friends for Dinner* will experience the love of God as they enjoy a meal with a local Christian this Christmas.

Croatia (Europe). Population: 3,986,627 Believers: 0.4%. The profound impact of historic and recent hatred among Croat, Serb, and Bosnian could continue to hamper the affected nations for generations to come. The iron bond shackling ethnicity to religion also hampers progress and stifles spiritual breakthrough. Pray for true reconciliation and for the religious and ethnic bondages to be broken—these can only happen through the power of Christ.

The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth





MISSIONS
UPDATE FROM

Johannes & Mathapelo Thaele



The Thaele family lives and serves in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Johannes' many roles in South Africa include husband, father, pastor, youth worker, church planter, community developer, and evangelist.

FAMILY LIFE

My wife, Mathapelo (Grace), is working in the educational field. She is also continuing her studies and earning her honors in education. My daughter, Mamello, age 14, is in grade eight, and this year is her first year in high school. My son, Bokang, is 20 years old and is currently upgrading his mark for an access to university curriculum.

SCHOOL MINISTRY

I visit schools once a week to share the gospel with students and teachers during their assemblies and help them become devoted disciples of Jesus Christ by connecting them to the nearby church. Next year, we have a planned Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) at one of the schools where I am serving, and Parkside Church volunteers will be coming to South Africa to lead it. There is a new door that God has opened. Hearing the testimonies from other schools on the work God is doing with us through Parkside, new schools have reached out, asking us to serve at their schools. The message of salvation is reaching more souls, and we are praying for more workers.

COMMUNITY CENTER & SOCCER MINISTRY



Every month, children and youth gather to engage in activities and learn from God's Word and one another. Every week, we host a Good News Club to reach out to the people in our neighborhood. People have come to believe that Jesus is their Lord and Savior. During outreach services, our youth go into the

community to give out clothes to those who are in need of them. We have also formed a soccer team for some young brothers from the neighborhood who are keen soccer players. Before and after a game or practice, we join them in prayer. Some of them have even

embraced Christ as their Lord and Savior. Our youth also hand out evangelistic brochures, introducing those in attendance to Christ during practices or games.

HOSPITAL & RADIO MINISTRY

I visit hospitals once a month to pray for the sick and share the Bible with them. I am still preaching and sharing Christ with people on the radio, by God's grace. I currently serve over 40,000 listeners on the university station and over 90,000 listeners on our local station.

NEW CHURCHES

The Lord has blessed us with committed youth members who saw a need to start a campus church at Central University of Technology (Bloemfontein campus). I am the overseer and guardian of their new movement. We have two services on Sundays—the first one is at our local church, and the second one is at the university. The aim is to have all the students from the campus join our youth in serving the Lord and introduce Christ to those who don't know him.

Through VBC, we have managed to build a church structure for a new church that has been planted. This is the same church where former Parkside member Elizabeth Johnson was involved. The structure can accommodate up to 120 congregants. We are praying for committed people who will form a stable structure that will be a church supporting system and take ownership of the church that God has created for them. Our vision is to plant one church a year around Bloemfontein, as God assists us in maintaining the ones planted before.

EQUIPPING SERVANTS INTERNATIONAL (ESI) BIBLE STUDY



In Bloemfontein, we have started an ESI Bible study. We have two committed pastors who are teaching and helping congregants from our church and other churches in analyzing and understanding the Word of God. The Bible study reached our neighboring country Lesotho, and

I am conducting the Bible study sessions there while monitoring the progress of the South African Bible study sessions.

Thank you, Parkside, for your prayers and support.

Johannes (Thapelo) Thaele

Photos page 1, Top: Thaele family; *Bottom:* Youth giving out clothing in the community.
Page 2: ESI graduation.

DEC

18

Jon (& Ruthie) Ortlip, Matt (& Laura) Pheneger, Goran (& Beth) Tomic, Ambassadors Football, United States

Pray for protection over leader Daniel, his family, and team in Mozambique, where looting and violence is taking place following a presidential election in October. Police are using force, and at least 20 people have been killed. Many of the protesters are young people without hope for the future. Pray for peaceful resolutions so that life outside of their home and ministry can resume—resulting in children being reached and established with a solid foundation in the Word of God through their soccer ministry.

Cuba (Caribbean). Population: 11,174,587 Believers: 8.8%. Evangelical churches were devastated by waves of emigration to the USA as well as by persecution. Recovery has taken a long time, but the Church is now a force to be reckoned with. Many new believers are young people. Pray that this dynamic faith community would be a light to the nation and have a powerful transforming effect on Cuba; the potential for positive impact is great.

DEC

19

Equipping Servants International (ESI), Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, England, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Somalia, South

Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Pray for the 3,000 ESI participants in 250 groups in 36 countries as these men and women grow in their love for God as they study his Scriptures weekly. Pray that they will experience gospel transformation in their lives, relationships, and local churches. Pray for Boris and Marco as they lead ESI groups of Spanish speaking pastors in Virginia and South Florida. Pray also for Jose leading ESI groups of Spanish speaking pastors in Los Angeles. Pray that each participant will grow in their understanding of the gospel and their love for Jesus, that they will increasingly live true to the gospel, and that they will teach and preach God's Word faithfully in their local churches. Pray for the three groups of African pastors meeting weekly in ESI groups in London, also for two new ESI groups meeting in Paris. Pray for those wanting to start ESI groups in Italy and the Netherlands in 2025.

Czechia (Europe). Population: 10,503,734 Believers: 0.7%. Over 70% of the population consider themselves non-religious, although many use horoscopes and mix different spiritual ideas. The successful transition to a market economy was a positive change for the country, but it put economic stress on the most vulnerable people. Crime, sexual immorality, substance abuse, depression, and suicide all have notably higher rates today than they did during Communist times. Ask God to lift the spiritual heaviness from over Czechia. Social changes create new opportunities for ministry. The aging population and new immigrants (especially Russian speakers, East, and Southeast Asians) need loving outreach.

DEC

20

Wes & Nancy Collins, Guatemala, United States

Wes and Nancy send their greetings and are grateful for their long-term relationship with Parkside. Wes recalls Parkside trips to visit them in Comitancillo, Guatemala, and shares that seeds are still being planted and Christians are growing in Christ. Pray for their ministry partners, Byron and Miriam, and Samuel and Maria, as they faithfully spread the gospel there among the Mam people. Pray for Wes and Nancy as they continue to deal with the challenges of Wes' Parkinson's disease, especially the memory issues.

Denmark (Europe). Population: 5,939,695 Believers: 3.5%. Denmark retains a core of Christian traditions and values in its social laws and values. And Danes began to show more openness to spiritual things in recent years. But over half the population is agnostic or atheist by some reports. And many people's spiritual search does not lead them to Christian faith and the Church. Pray that more Danes will rediscover the faith that shaped so much of the nation's history and society.

DEC

21

E & J, North Africa

J's application was accepted, and she was granted provisional residency while her application is being processed. E had interviews with the authorities as part of preparing the application for his residency. The interviews went well, and the residency renewal process is moving forward. Please pray for favor with those in authority as they continue to complete steps needed to move to the "C" region to spread the gospel.

Djibouti (Africa). Population: 1,152,329 Believers: 0.1%. Mission work is a challenge in this hot, dry, but often humid land, and working conditions are extreme. Physical and spiritual oppression, economic disparity, ethnic tensions, and a paucity of believers lead easily to discouragement and worker attrition. Pray for God to send long-term workers, especially from nearby countries and people groups.

DEC

22

Truth For Life, United States

As they wind down the year, they rely on God to move in the hearts of those who benefit from Truth For Life to provide the resources needed to close out their budget successfully. They appreciate our prayers for the ministry along these lines, and please pray with thanksgiving for all that God has already provided. Thank God for providing Truth For Life with a new Accounting Manager, Cristian Paskar. Ask the Lord to help Cristian get up to speed quickly and make a smooth transition into his new role.

Dominica (Caribbean). Population: 73,368 Believers: 16.8%. The Carib Indians live on an isolated reservation on the northeast coast of Dominica. They are among the last indigenous peoples in the Caribbean to survive the arrival of colonialism and subsequent waves of immigrants. Most are nominally Christian, but only a small number actively follow Christ. Pray that these socially deprived people may find their true identity and fulfillment in him. **Equatorial Guinea (Africa).**

Population: 1,754,993 Believers: 4.4%. Training leaders and discipling believers are strategic and growing ministries. Pray that graduates of training institutions may be used by the Spirit to evangelize the nation and disciple believers. Pray for greater opportunities for laity to grow in their faith; the move from a nominal Catholic/animist worldview to a biblical one is a significant transition.

DEC

23

Church Plant Training Ministry in South Asia

Pray for the ministry's upcoming 70th anniversary celebrations in February 2025. Pray for more doors to open to expand their one-week Regional Development Trainings. Pray for the students to be faithful in learning and practicing God's Word. Pray for the team to grow in the Lord and bear fruit for his glory. Pray for the church to faithfully share the gospel and for the Lord to grow the work.

Dominican Republic (Caribbean). Population: 11,434,005 Believers: 9.1%. Pray for endurance, provision, and faithfulness for those called to minister, especially those serving in the poorer, rural areas. Pray that the 15 or so Bible schools and the National Evangelical University may provide spiritual, mature, and stable leaders for the future.

DEC

24

Fieldstone Counseling, United States

Pray that counselees would be encouraged through the good news of the gospel and that their counselors would be strengthened in Christ as they meet with them. Fieldstone is grateful for the love and support they have received this year. Please continue to pray that they will meet the fundraising goals for 2024. All donations go directly to providing scholarships to those in need of counseling and to support their staff.

Ecuador (Latin America). Population: 18,377,367 Believers: 8.5%. Evangelical numbers are large enough to significantly impact society. The potential is great, but many in-house issues need resolution. Pray for: vision and growth to continue, unity within the great variety of churches, cultural sensitivity, and integration of Quichua and Lowland Indians into the national Church scene, improved availability and quality of pastoral training, and effective and appropriate ministry to children and young people.

DEC

25

Bobby & Julie, Central Asia

Continue to pray for their family's relationship with Jesus and with each other. Thank God that their kids are flourishing at various stages.

Pray for wisdom as they continue looking for a car. Cliff, their team leader, along with his wife, Bekah, and their four children, are returning home for the first time after serving three years. Pray that God will use the time to unite the work of the gospel and strengthen the hearts and minds of his people as they reconnect with their churches and family. Bobby will be leading in Cliff's absence; pray for him as he encourages the team and guides their training time.

Egypt (Africa). Population: 114,484,252 Believers: 3.9%. A decade has passed since the upheaval of the Arab Spring. Some of the change protestors hoped for has arrived, but much remains the same as before 2011. President Sisi appears to be instilling authoritarian rule once again, but many—including Christians—feel this is necessary to curb Islamist movements from regaining control. Christians still live in a precarious situation regarding religious freedom and persecution. Many Muslims would prefer Egypt did not have such a large Christian population. Pray for a government that serves God's purposes—to restrain evil, punish crime, and enable peaceful and quiet lives among the citizenry.

DEC

26

Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay

With Andrew and Angie on home assignment, pray that the church plant would continue to grow and flourish during their absence. Pray for the James family as they refresh and reconnect here in the States. When they return to Uruguay, they plan to begin new ESI groups in 2025. Please pray that God will bring the students who will most benefit from this training.

El Salvador (Latin America). Population: 6,396,289 Believers: 31.6%. The growth of Evangelicals in the midst of travail has been a modern-day miracle, but now the need is for consolidation of the work. Pray for effective discipling and motivation of believers for service, witness, and missions. Pray also for increased unity and vision for outreach so that this nation might belong to Jesus—*El Salvador* is Spanish for 'the Savior.'

DEC

27

Mark & Patti Bean, Peru, United States

Mark and Patti praise God for the meaningful work in Bible translation that fills their days. A new Bible translation project with four other Quechua languages was funded in November, which means Mark has his work cut out for him for years to come. Pray that Mark will keep a healthy life balance as this new project takes off. Pray for continued progress towards health and healing for grandson, Jeremiah. Continue to pray for both their daughter, Emily, as she heals and for Blake, who does so much to care for the family. Praise the Lord for the intermittent help Emily and Blake's local church and colleagues continue to provide.

Eritrea (Africa). Population: 3,817,651 Believers: 2.1%. The Christian Church faces terrible ongoing persecution, both outside the recognized churches and, to some degree, within. Many leaders and lay members are in prison, and more are under house arrest; the government has seized many church assets. Pray that Christians may remain fervent for Jesus amid hardship and make a significant impact on their nation and beyond.

DEC

28

Indigenous Church Planting Organization in Arab & Muslim Countries

Their latest graduation class is so eager to go to the field, their hearts burning to tell others about Christ, that they are not taking a break to return to their families before heading out. The 23 young men and women are being sent out to Burundi. This country, rife with political corruption and much tension between Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups, is entering a new election period. Pray that the freedom to evangelize and spread the gospel continues.

Estonia (Europe). Population: 1,319,041 Believers: 4.9%. Despite a Protestant heritage, genuine faith in Estonia is rare. Many have limited Christian belief, but very few follow Jesus in any meaningful way. Most of the population needs to be re-evangelized. Pray for a new vision for evangelism and revival to reawaken the nominal majority.

DEC

29

Mike & Joan Ross, Mexico, United States

Pray for wisdom regarding the future of the MAF work in Mexico and the best use of the tools God has provided to reach the lost. Pray that Mike and Joan will be an encouragement to Edgar and Lety and to Neri and Karina as they spend time with them in Mexico this month. Pray that Mike and Joan's extended family would love the Lord with all their hearts. Pray that God will open doors for the Parkside dental team to serve in La Mesilla, Amoltepec, in January 2025. Pray that God will bless the work of MAF around the world and bring much fruit for the Kingdom.

Ethiopia (Africa). Population: 126,527,060 Believers: 19.6%. Bible translation remains a major challenge. Up to 88% of congregations use local languages in their meetings, so Bible translation is a must. There are 35 translation projects in progress; this represents nearly half of all living languages. Another 17 languages have translation needs that are currently unaddressed. Pray for wisdom in knowing which projects are priorities and pray for more nationals to become involved in them.

DEC

30

Matt (& Laura) Pheneger, Ambassadors Football, United States

Denominations and churches around the world are asking Ambassadors Football's missionaries for training, resources, and curriculum to minister through football (soccer). The ministry is reorganizing, clarifying roles, and looking for more workers and partners to fulfill what they have been called to do—connect people with Jesus through football. Please pray for them during this time of transition.

Falkland Islands (Latin America). Population: 3,803, Believers: 10.8%. Most of the population is very nominal in what faith they may have. Pray for a renewal of faith. Pray for believers in their witness to fellow Islanders and to fishermen, oilmen, and tourists of different nationalities who stop off in the islands.

Faroe Islands (Europe). Population: 53,444 Believers: 28.8%. The Faeroese need revival. Pray for the Spirit to continue impacting the Church in the Faeroe Islands; pray that Christians will be wise in engaging the postmodern and secular attitudes that increasingly challenge the primacy of the Bible and Christian tradition.

DEC

31

Kep & Debbie James, Africa, Europe, Latin America, United States

Pray for the African missionaries they work with in the Egyptian-based training ministry. Pray for these committed men and women as they plant churches in very difficult and resistant communities across North Africa. Pray that the Lord will use them to see a rich harvest for the gospel and that many gospel churches will be planted across the entire region that so desperately needs Jesus.

Fiji (Pacific). Population: 943,072 Believers: 25.2%. There are many claims of great revival in Fiji, and there is undeniable fruit of God at work in remarkable ways, as individuals, communities, and even the environment see transformation. Some specific areas that warrant prayer: unity, leadership training for the many churches, and mission vision. Pray for existing missions and for a greater future of Fijian missionary investment. **French Guiana (Latin America).** Population: 319,796 Believers: 4.5%. The most responsive peoples [to the gospel] are Haitians, Antilleans, Hmong, Amerindian tribal people, Brazilians, and the interior bush tribes (Maroon). Pray for a cooperative spirit among evangelicals and for continued unifying influence, especially among ministers.

Global prayer requests were taken or adapted from Operation World, 7th Edition (2010), Pray for the World (2015), and www.operationworld.org. Both books are published by InterVarsity Press. All rights reserved.

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Missions: More than Money

Several years ago the elders at Parkside moved from supporting many people with a little bit of funding to supporting a smaller amount of people with a lot of funding. The idea behind this transition was to strengthen the relationship between our church and our missionaries, that we might adequately care for them while on the field and that they might sharpen our desire to see unbelievers reached for Christ.

Practically, this means that our primary approach is now to cover 100% of our missionaries' financial needs so that they can focus their time and energy on their ministry rather than on raising support. When they are home, we provide housing and transportation. When they are away, we speak with them regularly and highlight their activity through various avenues so that our people can stay abreast of their progress and enter into their work by praying for them. Our role does not replace the work of mission agencies, but we seek to provide our missionaries with ongoing care in one place so that they might be most effective for the Kingdom.

As detailed in the pages that follow, we still offer partial financial support to some of the missionaries who we had been partnering with before the transition, as well as some other organizations and individuals.

Learn more about our missionaries and locate contact information for them at www.parksidechurch.com/missions.

Full Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

North Africa	E & J
Japan	Chris & Leanne Harrington
Uruguay	Andrew & Angie James
Africa/Latin America/United States	Kep & Debbie James
Central Asia	Bobby & Julie

Partial Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

Peru/United States	Mark & Patti Bean
Guatemala/United States	Wes & Nancy Collins
Mexico/United States	Mike & Joan Ross

Financial Support of Nationals

Bolivia & Around the World

- Twenty Bolivians serve as Pastoral Assistants (PAs), a pastor-in-training role. The PAs receive differing levels of support from Parkside Church depending on how long they have been involved and how they are serving.
- Equipping Servants International (ESI) is a three-year, part-time course designed to teach people how to think and live biblically. ESI has had 3,350 graduates since 2002, and has 3,000 active participants in 250 groups, meeting in 36 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, England, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Parkside Church has assisted and continues to assist in providing participants with the required materials.

Mexico

- Two Mexican pastors, Edgar (& Lety) Rivera and Neri (& Karina) Rivera, receive partial financial support from Parkside. They are currently teaching 75 Mexicans to think and live biblically through the Equipping Servants International (ESI) program in Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Tapachula.

South Asia

- Twenty full-time church planting missionaries were trained and sent out, fully supported by Parkside Church.
- Twelve students are enrolled in a 9-month, full-time preaching training course, fully supported by Parkside Church.

South Africa

- Johannes (& Grace) Thaele, a South African pastor working full time with students in the farm schools, local church, and university in Bloemfontein, receives full financial support from Parkside Church.

Financial Support to Mission Partners and Local Churches

Fieldstone Counseling

Parkside Church Westside

Hope for Glasgow

Parkside Green

Human Coalition Cleveland

Parkside Heights Church

The City Mission

Parkside Kent

Truth For Life

Scranton Road Bible Church

Indigenous Church Planting Organization in Arab & Muslim Countries

Shoreline Church

Financial Support to Mission Individuals

Emily (& Blake) Ackerson

Amy Cottle

Jon (& Ruthie)

Matt (& Laura) Pheneger

Goran (& Beth) Tomic

Parkside Church funding of Missions in 2023: \$3,543,635

Get Involved

in a short-term missions trip

Host Home Needed for Japanese Students

Dates: March 25-April 3, 2025

A team of 8-12 students in grades 5-8, connected with the church in Japan where Parkside missionaries Chris and Leanne Harrington serve, will be coming to Cleveland in March 2025. We are looking for families living close to Parkside who can host 2-3 youth and adult leaders in their home for those nine days.

South Asia Online Opportunity

Teaching English as a Second Language
Monthly, online conversation group

South Asia Trip

Teaching English as a Second Language
Trip Date: July 2025

To find out more about joining a future short-term team, please contact the church office at 440.543.1212 or visit parksidechurch.com/missions.



PARKSIDE
CHURCH

To see unbelieving people become
committed followers of Jesus Christ.