



Missions Prayer Calendar

A SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY
FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

MARCH

"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

MARCH

01

Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan

On March 25, a group of Japanese young people and church members, led by Pastor Yukimasa, will be arriving in Cleveland for a week. The group has been meeting in preparation for the trip to learn about America and what Christians believe. The trip is part of many years of connection with these students through the Shiogama Bible Baptist Church youth ministry and English classes. The Lord has used trips like this in the past to open hearts to the gospel. Please pray for the group as they prepare and travel. Pray that the Lord will use this trip for his glory in their lives.

Myanmar (Asia). Population: 54,964,694 Believers: 5.0%. Buddhism has a strong hold on the Burmese majority, as well as over the Shan, the Rakhine, and the Mon peoples. Most children receive education in Buddhist monasteries. Burmese Buddhism mixes in occult beliefs, superstition, and fear of the spirits. Reportedly, thousands of Buddhist monks have quietly become believers and many study the gospel and listen to Christian radio. Pray for this quiet movement of Buddhists to Christ to keep spreading, growing, and deepening.

MARCH

02

Parkside South Asia Medical/Dental Trip

Pray for the team leaving for South Asia on March 6 to serve our ministry partners there by providing a medical/dental clinic for the workers and their families. The team members are David Bonnet, Michael and Robyn Brady, Dave Cameron, Tiffany Kral, Rania Kirolos, Lois Mullet, Kaitlyn Roegner, Sarah Scott, Stacey Spinder, Nathanael Wiles, and Barb Wynveen. Pray for safety, unity, and that they will be an encouragement to those they meet. The team returns to Cleveland on March 16.

Namibia (Africa). Population: 2,645,805 Believers: 12.2%. Several strategic groups formed to see Namibia transformed for Christ. Pray for all to hear the gospel once again and many to turn back to Christ and pray for unity and cooperation among all groups seeking to uplift Christ in this nation. Pray for current and future pastors and leaders to be trained and formed to God's standards. Pray also that the mainline training institutes would capture a love and respect for God's Word.

MARCH

03

Mark & Patti Bean, Peru, United States

March 3-22, Mark will be working with the group representing four related Quechua languages. They hope, with God's help, to adapt Genesis 22 through 32. Mark will be in Ohio while they gather in Huanuco, Peru. Mark and Patti took equipment down in January to help facilitate working from a distance. Pray that the technology works to keep both sides clearly communicating with each other. Pray for each of the men involved to grow in their ability to read (and write) their own language. This is a first for most of them and is so important!

Nepal (Asia). Population: 31,240,315 Believers: 2.8%. Freedom of religion is guaranteed by law, but only in limited measures. Non-Hindus cannot proselytize. If they do, they risk fines, imprisonment, and in the case of expatriates, expulsion. Despite this law, the church in Nepal grows because of courageous evangelism. Pray for perseverance for believers, that neither laws of man nor threats of violence deter them from sharing the gospel.

MARCH

04

Fieldstone Counseling, United States

Pray for strength and wisdom for their counselors as they offer Christ-centered care to those who are struggling—resulting in encouragement and growth empowered by the Holy Spirit. Currently, they have openings for those desiring counseling. Pray that people in need of help will connect with Fieldstone. Their *ReStoried* group is now forming to serve women who have experienced abuse and the impact of trauma. Pray that these women will find this group to be a safe and meaningful space to share their stories and hear the truth about who they are, who God is, and how God transforms suffering and sorrows.

Netherlands (Europe). Population: 17,671,125 Believers: 4.3%. Christianity in the Netherlands seems to have reached a low point. Less than 10% of the population now attend church weekly. The Netherlands leads the world in promotion of secular and New Age views or values. Few restrictions exist for drug use, deviant lifestyles, prostitution, euthanasia, and abortion. Half the nation's church buildings are now either destroyed or converted for other uses, such as bars and mosques. Pray for revival that restores the nation spiritually.

MARCH

05

Emily (& Blake) Ackerson, Bridges International, Australia/ Ruth (& Artis) Powell, United States, Zambia

The Ackerson's team focuses on three campuses with nearly 80,000 international students in total. Pray that God will guide them to those who are actively seeking Jesus. Pray for the development of trusted relationships with the South Asian community at the University of Sydney. Last month, Emily worked with a film crew to create a film to help mobilize churches to welcome international students during the holidays. Pray that the final version of the video will be completed this month so they can promote the "Friends for Dinner" hospitality program in churches in time for Easter and that this film can be used to help mobilize the church to be engaged in reaching the nations at their doorstep. Ruth and Artis Powell are new Parkside missionaries who do ministry both here in Cleveland and in Zambia, where Ruth founded a Christian organization called Village Hope International. Praise God for providing a local doctor to help people in Kasempa, Zambia. His name is Alex Mpumba Jr. Pray for him and for the provision of his needs, especially medicines to treat and help people. Many people in the village die from lack of medical care, even from things that could have been easily prevented. Thank God for the five afterschool Bible Clubs they lead in public schools in Cleveland, Euclid, and Painesville. In the past, they have held Bible clubs in more schools, but this year they are short on volunteers to help. Pray for more volunteers.

Netherlands Antilles (Caribbean). Population: 209,708 Believers: 7.7%.

The Papiamentu Bible was published in 1997. Pray for impact on the majority of the population who use it. Pray also for literacy programs and more Christian literature in the language. Biblical literacy will go a great distance in discipling and renewing the Christian population. **New Caledonia (Pacific).** Population: 295,966 Believers: 7.0%. Most Kanaks are Christianized, and most villages have a church, but the gospel is often confused with Western culture. Animist practices usually underlie a Christian veneer. Pray for pastors to discern between tradition and the pure gospel, and that a truly biblical, truly Kanak church may continue to grow and demonstrate the power of Jesus over the evil one.

MARCH

06

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

Pray for the small group of Ambassadors Football staff who will travel to Asia March 5-14 to meet with the leaders of different denominations.

They will discuss ministry strategy to reach primary school children with the Word of God through soccer. Pray that God will bless their travels and meetings and ultimately that many children would come to faith in Jesus, greatly impacting the next generation. The doors are also now open for ministry in Liberia, and they plan to launch Ambassadors Football there in April. Pray for the necessary funding for the trip and equipment for the new program. Pray for the right individuals to be trained as coaches and Bible teachers.

New Zealand (Pacific). Population: 5,269,939 Believers: 18.2%. Christianity is on a precipitous decline in New Zealand. The largest group is now “no religion” at 48%. New Age spirituality focuses on individualism and nature and attracts many Kiwis (New Zealanders) who feel disappointed by the church. But 24/7 prayer rooms and other recent prayer groups prove that God still moves in the Kiwi church! The recent decline is more a case of the pruning of nominal Christianity—what remains is much more alive. Pray that God will pour his Holy Spirit into the church and draw back the many who have left.

MARCH

07

E & J, North Africa

Last month, two of four families on their team were informed that their residency is being rescinded and that they have 30 days to leave the country. It was said that it would happen to the third family as well.

The officials said that they still have the option to apply for new visas from the US consulate, but they can't get residency until this order is overturned. It is likely that E and J's family will be included in this as well. Pray for favor with relevant officials as they try to appeal the decisions against their friends. Pray for peace which surpasses understanding as they face a lot of unknowns. Keep praying that God would open a door for them to have a long-term legitimate presence there for his sake.

Nicaragua (Latin America). Population: 7,142,529 Believers: 29.8%. God brought many people to himself, even amidst the nation's suffering. Volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and hurricanes led many to question life and eternity. War, conflict, and political struggles turned many toward the compassion of Christians and hope in Christ. Evangelicals grew from 2% in 1960 to 30% today, and growth continues. Pray for Nicaragua's many evangelicals to be a genuine blessing to their nation.

MARCH

08

Parkside Green, United States

Pray for God to work powerfully through Pastor Adam's preaching from Galatians and to guide their annual meeting on March 9. Pray for the Lord to accomplish his purposes through their weekly "Kid Connect" program and through the adult Bible study on the Gospel of John. Continue to ask the Lord to work through the global partners they support: Dr. Jen Kintner in Dubai, UAE; Brett and Jennifer Wright in Arua, Uganda; and Bryan and Erin Joseph at the Rio Grande Bible Institute and Language School as they prepare to serve in Mazatlán, Mexico.

Niger (Africa). Population: 28,238,972 Believers: 0.1%. The numbers of those who follow Christ increases, but Niger's high birthrates far outpace Christianity's growth rate. There is great pressure to remain in—or return to—Islam. New believers feel isolated. Below the radar, movements are forming of Jesus followers who have seen enough of Islam to choose a different path. Pray for those from a Muslim background who have chosen to follow Jesus; may they persevere and remain faithful amidst all the difficulties they will face.

MARCH

09

Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay

The door has opened for a new Equipping Servants International (ESI) group to begin on March 17 with pastors from various parts of Uruguay. Praise the Lord for this answer to prayer! Pray that the group will get off to a good start, that the pastors will become more firmly grounded in the gospel, and that the fellowship among them will build God-glorifying relationships.

Nigeria (Africa). Population: 229,152,217 Believers: 30.8%. Africa and Nigeria's greatest spiritual challenge is discipleship, not Islam, not corruption, and not even the need for missions. The church grew so fast that many new believers have little chance to be disciplined. Much division and false teaching enters churches. Prosperity teaching distorts the gospel. A form of Christianity mixed with African tribal religious practices is common. Many Christians seem to live by other values than what the Bible clearly teaches. Pray that humility, simplicity, and holiness might become the motto of the Nigerian church.

MARCH

10

Scranton Road Bible Church, United States

Pray for Scranton Road Ministries as they grieve the tragic loss of their After School Enrichment Ministry director, and many are also grieving the death of others. Praise the Lord for new members and baptisms last month. Pray that these men and women will be strengthened in their faith. Pray for the elders of SRBC as they navigate some difficult decisions. As they continue studying 1 Thessalonians, pray for their pastors as they study and preach and for the congregation as they receive the messages.

Norway (Europe). Population: 5,514,477 Believers: 8.4%. Norway has a powerful spiritual heritage, and influence from prayer and revival movements across the last 200 years remains clear. But Norway faces the same battles as other European societies, where people believe that different religions or moral practices can be true for different people or in different situations. Pray for a new revival and for a deep commitment to biblical faith and practice. Pray for God to re-establish the roots of Norway's rich Christian past.

MARCH

11

Kep & Debbie James, Africa, Europe, and the Americas

March 11-14, Pastors Mickey Aquilino and Charles Cano will accompany Kep and Debbie to Florence, Italy, to lead an ESI facilitator training conference. Pray for them and for the pastors as they study Romans 1-3 in preparation for the four days of training. Continue to pray for the leadership of the ILC Church in La Paz, Bolivia. Pray that they will continue to honor Christ by staying true to his Scriptures.

Oman (Asia). Population: 4,713,553 Believers: 0.8%. Praise God that Oman enjoys an open and modern society compared to others in the region. All residents may practice their faith, and the government gave land to build places of worship! Pray now for spiritual openness to the gospel among all peoples of Oman.

MARCH

12

The City Mission, United States

In Cleveland today, it is estimated that 12,000 people are homeless. Some have fled abusive relationships, others have suffered medical emergencies that left them unable to work, and with the rising cost of food and rent, some have simply given up. With this on our hearts, pray that lives touched by the staff and volunteers at Crossroads, Laura's Home, Rothstein Village, and New Horizons will be transformed through the power of the gospel.

Pakistan (Asia). Population: 245,209,815 Believers: 0.6%. The church continues to grow despite many obstacles. Some Christians live devoted lives, committed to God, but the majority have a weak, immature faith. Ask God to raise up humble, committed spiritual leaders with passion to serve the church. Pray for more students in Bible and leadership training, wise and godly leaders, and adequate financial resources for Christian work.

MARCH

13

Wes & Nancy Collins, Guatemala, United States

Praise God for a wonderful celebration of the completion of the Mam Bible in Comitancillo, Guatemala, in January. Over 1,000 Mams were in attendance, including 25 pastors from various denominations. It was a joy for Wes and Nancy to be able to be there. Wes helped with the literacy program and the translation of the New Testament into Mam, which was completed in 1998. He has been a consultant for the OT, but a group of Comitecos took a major part of the work upon themselves to complete! Pray for continued widespread use of the Scriptures, as well as for God to bless the desire of Comi pastors to see the various churches more united and the Scriptures lived out. Some of the Comi leaders will be going to other areas in Guatemala to celebrate more Bible completions in various indigenous languages. To God be the glory, great things he has done!

Palestine (Asia). Population: 5,494,963 Believers: 0.1%. The horrific Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, not only escalated murderous violence in this region, but also provoked deep division on the Israel-Palestine situation globally—not least among Christians. Pray for a just settlement of land issues. There are hundreds of Jewish settlements (including many illegal outposts) in Palestinian territory, and there are over two million Arab Israeli in Israel. Both sides feel strong claims to the land. Both feel aggrieved at past—and very real—injustices. Both Israelis and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their exclusive capital. Both believe God is on their side. Pray that the God of all justice will bring true justice and mercy to both Jews and Arabs in the Holy Land. Pray not only for the peace of Jerusalem, but also that both sides meet the Prince of Peace. It is through him alone that any meaningful reconciliation will come.

MARCH

14

Bobby & Julie, Central Asia

Continue to pray for Bobby's Russian teacher as they read through the Gospel of Mark and for her son-in-law, who has ALS, and her daughter. Pray for Bobby as he continues to preach through the Gospel of Mark in Russian. Pray that God would give Bobby and Julie encouragement and patient endurance in his call for them to share the gospel in Central Asia.

Panama (Latin America). Population: 4,527,961 Believers: 19.3%. Proximity to Colombia and the prevalence of offshore finance in Panama mean that drug cartels and other undesirables have a strong presence. Much of Panama's economy is in service to either these offshore banks or is used to launder money. In 2016, the leak of the Panama Papers exposed massive scales of international tax evasion and fraud facilitated through Panama-based services. Pray for a government that will root out corruption, oppose wickedness, and uphold righteousness.

MARCH

15

Shoreline Church, United States

They praise the Lord for new committed members to the church body as well as for an influx of new families attending. Recently, they welcomed Matt Pretty as an elder. Pray for him and his young family. Continue praying for the community teams that faithfully meet in local cities every month. Greater Cleveland Area Youth For Christ is thankful that the Juvenile Justice Ministry has had the opportunity to share the gospel with 600+ youth this school year. Pray that these youth will come to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for them as they follow-up with the 54 young people who made first-time decisions for Christ this year.

Papua New Guinea (Pacific). Population: 10,515,788 Believers: 25.7%. Translation and literacy programs and appropriate Christian literature are fundamental for acculturating the gospel. PNG has over 800 languages, and the majority still do not have a single verse of Scripture. About 210 languages have a NT, but only 12 or so have a complete Bible. Translation teams are needed for 160 languages and possibly for a further 250. Pray for translators, for means of making the arduous task faster and more accurate, and for indigenous translators/language assistants.

MARCH

16

Mike & Joan Ross, Mexico, United States

Pray for wisdom regarding the future of the Missions Aviation Fellowship (MAF) work in Mexico and for the best use of the tools God has provided to reach the lost. Praise God for the Parkside dental team and their hard work in La Mesilla. The *Jesus Film* was shown in the local language while patients and their families waited for attention. About 300 patients were served by the team. Pray that God's Word and the loving care received will cause many to turn to Jesus. Pray that God will bless the work of MAF around the world and bring much spiritual fruit for his kingdom.

Paraguay (Latin America). Population: 6,947,270 Believers: 6.1%. Thank the Lord for evangelical church growth. Pray for Christian unity and collaboration among many different evangelical denominations. Pray that local churches will embrace the challenge of the unreached and needy within Paraguay and beyond.

MARCH

17

Parkside Heights Church, United States

They thank God for the success of their first Parkside Heights Youth Retreat! Pray that those who attended the retreat will continue to grow in faith and love for one another. This month, many college students will be leaving for spring break, and some will be involved in short term mission trips. Keep them all in prayer as they travel and pray for good spiritual conversations.

The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth





AN UPDATE FROM E & J Serving in North Africa



E & J are Parkside missionaries serving in a closed country. We have blurred their photo (below) for their protection. They write:

Time is really flying by here in North Africa and its hard to believe that we've already been here three and a half years. As we press on, and as you stand with us, it is important to remember what our goal is:

"To glorify God by obeying him in order to see a sustainable, reproducing movement of maturing, Bible-believing and Bible-obeying local churches among the 'C' [initial only for security purposes]. This is done as a team, in partnership with 'C' believers, and the national church."

This goal helps direct our efforts here. "C" stands for the minority people group that we are focused on reaching. They have no churches, and the Bible has yet to be translated into their language.



Our first step in this process is to learn the dialect of Arabic that is widely spoken across the country. This is necessary for good relationships with the national church, government officials, and our neighbors. Competency in the national language will be a bridge to help us start learning the "C" language in the future. E has moved out of full time Arabic language study while J continues to labor in it. J is beginning to have some good

spiritual conversations with language tutors, neighbors, and the babysitter. What a joy and privilege it is to declare the Truth to people who have never had the opportunity to consider it before!



To see our goals accomplished, we need to have a long-term, legitimate presence in the country and among the "C." To develop this, we need to have a business that will provide both official permission and understanding from our neighbors, who might otherwise be suspicious of foreigners. E and his coworkers

have been developing a business that gives us a good reason to leave the big city and move to the more rural and less developed "C" region. Once we are able to validate our business model and get the green light from the authorities, we plan to move to the "C" region with our colleagues.



We are thankful for how the Lord has been caring for our family. M is 6, J is 5, and C is 2. The older two attend a local school and are growing in their ability to navigate the language and culture here. They both have demonstrated a concern for the salvation of their teachers

and classmates. C plays at home and enjoys singing, dancing, and dressing up. Pray for the salvation and sanctification of our children and that we will shepherd them well in the ways of the Lord.

The Lord has been so gracious, kind, and good to us! As we count his many blessings, we are particularly thankful for:

- Supportive teammates
- Patient language tutors
- Kind neighbors
- Steady progress in language ability

We are so thankful for our Parkside family. Thank you for praying for us and the work here. Ask that God would use our efforts to glorify the name of Jesus among people who have never heard.

Photos: (Page 1) Top: Aerial view of "C" region. Bottom: E & J with their children: M, J, & C. (Page 2) Top: "C" region. Bottom: M & J playing together.

Peru (Latin America). Population: 34,683,444 Believers: 11.6%.

The Quechua and Aymara peoples, descendants of the Incas, are emerging from centuries of oppression, cultural deprivation, grinding poverty, and isolation.

The Quechua church is flourishing as Christianity at last becomes indigenized in Scriptures, structures, worship, and music. Whole villages are turning to Christ.

Pray for: a) Millions of mountain Quechua and Aymara still bound by superstitions of pagan and "Christian" origin; b) Bible translation has been a major factor in the Quechuan renaissance and church growth. Pray for the translation teams at work and for widespread use of these new resources; c) The full reconciliation between Quechua and Spanish speakers at the foot of the cross, and the full integration of all ethnic groups into national Christian life.

MARCH

18

Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay

The James family returned to Uruguay at the end of February and have resumed their ministries in the church there. Pray that God will guide and strengthen them as they start a new year of ministry. Their two youngest children, Camille and Zack, have just begun classes at a new school. Pray that the transition would be smooth and that they would be able to make friends.

Philippines (Asia). Population: 119,106,224 Believers: 12.3%. Metro Manila is a megacity of 13 million people, with the Greater Manila area up to 26 million. It faces enormous challenges, but God is greatly at work here. Many are open to the gospel, but most evangelical churches are in wealthier areas. Nearly 50% of slums and squatter communities have no evangelical church. At the same time, Manila is home to the country's wealthy elite. Pray that the gospel will impact them also, as they hold much power and the potential to transform Manila and the whole nation.

MARCH

19

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

Pray for the club that the Phenegers run in NE Ohio. The club has 20 teams with over 400 kids involved. This month, they will hold a banquet at Parkside. Many of the players and their families will gather to hear what has been happening within their club and in clubs around the world. Pray for their coaches, who share the Word with players and disciple them on a weekly basis, and for the high school students attending retreats where they will clearly hear the gospel. Pray also for their ministry in clubs running in other parts of the country and around the world.

Poland (Europe). Population: 40,221,726 Believers: 0.3%. Praise God for the stability, progress, and freedom that allows believers to preach the good news! Many Poles dreamed of new wealth after independence from Communist rule. Sadly, unemployment and poverty still affect many, especially in rural areas. Pray the people might search first for God, above all other pursuits.

MARCH

20

Kep & Debbie James, Africa, Europe, and the Americas

Pray for the following ESI leaders serving various peoples around the world: Boris and Marco training Spanish speaking pastors in Virginia and South Florida; Jose leading Spanish speaking pastors in Los Angeles; and Jose Gutierrez working with pastors in Nicaragua. Also pray for the three groups of African pastors meeting weekly in ESI groups in London, for the three new ESI groups meeting in Paris, and for the ESI groups preparing to start in Holland in July.

Portugal (Europe). Population: 10,223,349 Believers: 3.0%. Pray for church planting efforts in Portugal. Many more churches are needed. The EA targeted a goal of 4,000 evangelical churches by 2015. Instead, evangelical congregations actually decreased from 1,630 to 964, despite nearly 300 new church plants. 82% of new church plants have congregations with fewer than 25% Portuguese participating. Pray for continued church growth, for affordable and appropriate meeting places, and for leaders for these future churches.

MARCH

21

Parkside Kent, United States

Please pray for the ministry of Parkside Kent to students at Kent State University and NEOMED. They are grateful for the beginning of a Sunday college/young adult group and were thrilled to have more than 30 people attend in February. Pray that this group will establish relationships, encourage students as they study the Bible for themselves, and equip them to live for Christ. This past month, they had the opportunity to meet with students from the CMDA (Christian Medical and Dental Association) at NEOMED for their weekly Bible study. They have been so grateful to have a consistent group of students from both KSU and NEOMED who worship with them each Sunday. Pray that Parkside Kent would be good stewards of where God has placed them.

Puerto Rico (Caribbean). Population: 3,268,802 Believers: 25.2%.

Evangelical churches grew from 0.1% in 1900 to over 25% today! Pray for effective training and support of new mission ventures. Media ministries use TV, local radio, and internet sites to offer practical answers to life and faith questions. Pray for ministries to continue shaping future leaders, and for discipleship movements to transform the lives of believers.

MARCH

22

Bobby & Julie, Central Asia

Pray for clarity and wisdom for them as they seek to serve God in Central Asia. As Bobby and Julie continue to learn the Russian language, pray that the Lord would bless their commitment to accomplish this task for his glory. Pray for God's blessing on their marriage and four children. Pray for continued wisdom for them and their teammates as they work on their team business.

Qatar (Asia). Population: 2,737,061 Believers: 1.0%. Almost every Qatari follows Islam, whether they are from Arab, Persian, or Bantu (former slave) backgrounds. Pray that Qataris at home and abroad would hear about Jesus, and for the birth of a Qatari Church. Expatriate workers come from many nations. Pray for Christians to take employment opportunities (from manual labor to executive positions) to increase the presence of God's kingdom in Qatar.

MARCH

23

Parkside Church Westside, United States

Pray for Parkside Church Westside as they spread the gospel locally and globally. 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 Nathanael Wiles and his next steps since he has completed his time with Samaritan's Purse. Pray for the safety of Ryan and Samantha S. as they share the gospel with Serbian refugees in Africa. Pray for the church's involvement with International Friendships and with Building Hope in the City, a ministry that reaches out to immigrants in the Cleveland area.

Romania (Europe). Population: 19,618,996 Believers: 5.4%. Romanians as a mission force are a new and quickly expanding dynamic. At least ten indigenous sending agencies have emerged since 2000, and training programs are multiplying. Romanians can easily access fields that Westerners cannot, and agencies are interested in Romanians serving with them. Limiting factors are the lack of financial support/sponsorship and the lagging missions vision in many churches. Pray for the removal of every barrier to the full flowering of an indigenous missions movement.

MARCH

24

Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan

Tomorrow, 13 students and chaperones connected with the Harrington's church in Japan arrive for a week in Cleveland. Pray for Chris and Leanne as they lead the group and for the Parkside host families as they build relationships with their Japanese guests. Pray that the Lord's love shines through their care for the students and chaperones. Chris and Leanne are encouraged by the number of people from Parkside desiring to help and support them in ministering to their students and church family from Japan.

Russia (Europe). Population: 143,957,079 Believers: 1.2%. Russia's increasing predations in other former Soviet states fully manifested in the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The hundreds of thousands of young lives spent and the hundreds of thousands of others that have fled the country exacerbate an already grim demographic future for Russia. When you add to this the countless billions spent and a tattered global reputation, recovery may take generations—if it comes at all. For the sake of Russia, its neighbors, and the world, pray for peace, transparency, and truth to prevail in a nation where all three have been in short supply.

MARCH

25

Johannes (& Mathapelo) Thaele, South Africa

ESI classes have started for the pastors currently in the equipping program. They are preparing to hold ESI Facilitator Training conferences in South Africa and Lesotho in April. Pray for Johannes as he makes preparations for the training—specifically for the accommodations needed. Pray that the pastors will implement what they learn from the training. Praise the Lord that people are coming to the new church plant and are giving their lives to Jesus Christ. It was launched with the help of the funds raised at Parkside’s VBC 2024. Pray for these new believers to be rooted in Christ and to become committed followers. As Johannes and his helpers continue to minister to children in the schools, pray for God to soften the hearts of the children to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rwanda (Africa). Population: 14,414,910 Believers: 26.9%. Rwanda made great progress since the tragic events of 1994, when Hutu extremists seized power and began the genocide of the Tutsi minority and Hutu moderates. Eight hundred thousand perished in 100 days. Over 1 million fled, and more violence followed. Political stability since 2000 allows Rwandans a chance to rebuild. Rwanda’s economy is now one of the fastest growing in Africa. The government banned ethnic identification. People are called Rwandans, and only Rwandans. Give praise for the people’s commitment to reconcile and build peace. Praise God that churches help lead this movement.

MARCH

26

E & J, North Africa

E and J and their teammates have been building a business to give them long term access and legitimacy in the “C” region of the country. Pray for favor from the local government. Pray that their first shipment of products from that region that are on a boat bound for the USA will prove successful. Pray for God’s continued blessing on their marriage and family as they serve him in North Africa where they face unique challenges.

Samoa (Pacific). Population: 228,966 Believers: 18.0%. Samoans have been Christian for over a century, and every village has at least one church. But the traditional class structure and pre-Christian cultural standards were not necessarily transformed by the gospel. Pride and politics influence church life too much, and the financial demands on a poorer population are heavy. **San Marino (Europe).** Population: 33,614 Believers: <0.1%. The Sammarinese are Catholic by tradition and culture, but few practice their faith. San Marino calls itself the “Ancient Land of Liberty,” and people have freedom to worship. But evangelism hardly exists. Past outreach by evangelicals resulted in jail or expulsion from the country, so no churches or ministries currently evangelize here. Pray for a new season of true spiritual liberty.

MARCH

27

Human Coalition (Health for Her Cleveland), United States

Pray for their staff and volunteers as they remain committed to transforming our culture of death into a culture of life by sharing the love of Christ with each woman who contacts them because she is facing an unwanted pregnancy. Pray for their staff to seek the Lord as they lovingly counsel and share with their clients the hope found in the gospel.

São Tomé & Príncipe (Africa). Population: 236,381 Believers: 4.2%.

Evangelicals are free to minister and do see significant growth. Pray for the development of locally led, culturally relevant congregations with effectively trained Christian leaders. Pray also for local support of national workers and for the launching of an interdenominational training center. **Seychelles (Africa).**

Population: 236,381 Believers: 5.9%. The vast majority of Seychellois claim to be Christian, but evidence of true spiritual transformation seems outweighed by superstition and nominalism. Pray that the Holy Spirit may bring new life evidenced by repentance and sustained fruit.

MARCH

28

Equipping Servants International (ESI), Africa, Europe, and the Americas

Pray for the 3,000 ESI participants in 250 groups in 37 countries to grow in their love for God as they study the Scriptures weekly.

Pray that they will experience gospel transformation in their lives, relationships, and local churches.

Saudi Arabia (Asia). Population: 37,473,929 Believers: 0.3%. Saudi Arabia is the birthplace and stronghold of Islam. From Mecca, Islam holds influence over billions and touches many cultures worldwide. All Muslims must pray toward Mecca five times daily, and over two million Muslims make the pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca every year. Pray that many who seek God might encounter the living Christ.

MARCH

29

Truth For Life, United States

Pray for God to provide guidance for the many initiatives underway at Truth For Life. Pray specifically for God's leading as they work to create new Bible study content, improve donor communications, make website improvements, and seek opportunities to expand internationally. Also, please pray that God will use the new daily devotional audio podcast to encourage believers, convert unbelievers, and strengthen local church members and pastors throughout the world.

Senegal (Africa). Population: 18,221,567 Believers: 0.2%. Spiritually, Senegal is both open and closed. The nation enjoys religious freedom and is remarkably tolerant toward other faiths—a point of pride for Senegalese, perhaps because so few Muslims have ever come to Christ. Pray for the spiritual breakthrough for which so many wait.

MARCH

30

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

Pray that God will continue to give Edgar wisdom in assembling a Mexican board for the MAF work in Mexico. Pray for the two ESI groups that he is leading in Oaxaca and for a new group forming in Ensenada. Pray for the Bible study he recently started with two families in the town of San Lucas. 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 continues treatment for lymphoma and for wisdom to work within his physical limitations. Pray for healing for Neri and for extra strength for Karina during this difficult time. Pray for the safe arrival of their first grandchild.

Serbia (Europe). Population: 7,097,028 Believers: 0.6%. Evangelicals in Serbia face many difficulties. The recent religion law creates difficulty for all new religious groups, including many new evangelical groups. Protestants have a long history among Hungarians and Slovak minorities but little impact among Serbs and Albanians. Many do not live out their faith. Pray for revival. For groups where ethnic identity determines religious identity, evangelicals can appear to be traitors and part of a religious sect. But through all these challenges, newer churches do grow and minister Christ to others!

MARCH

31

Church Plant Training Ministry in Asia

The ministry Platinum Jubilee Celebration in February was a momentous occasion, bringing together 600 church leaders, pastors, and ministry partners over three days of worship, fellowship, and vision casting. This historic event marked the ministry's 70th anniversary, the completion of Vision 2025, and the launch of Vision 2045, setting the stage for future ministry endeavors. As the ministry moves forward with Vision 2045, the focus remains on prayer, discipleship, evangelism, and community impact. To God be all the glory!

Kosovo (Europe). Population: 1,667,483 Believers: 0.1%. The evangelical church is very small but growing. Though it started around 80 believers at the outbreak of war in 1998, there are now over 2,000, mostly young men and teens (often, girls are forced to keep their faith secret). The formation of an evangelical alliance (Evangelical Movement of Kosovo) and the recognition of evangelicals as one of Kosovo's five faith communities are both answers to prayer. Pray for unity among believers and continued growth in numbers and spiritual maturity.

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 37 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 (& Mathapelo) 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

The Edge Sports & Arts Academy

Scranton Road Bible Church

Truth For Life

Shoreline Church

Financial Support to Mission Individuals

Emily (& Blake) Ackerson

Jon (& Ruthie)

Matt (& Laura) Pheneger

Ruth (& Artis) Powell

Goran (& Beth) Tomic

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

Get Involved

in a short-term missions trip

South Africa Trip

Vacation Bible Camp

Trip Dates: July 10-20, 2025

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.