



# Missions Prayer Calendar

A SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY  
FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

APRIL

"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](https://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](mailto: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](https://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

APRIL

01

### **E & J, North Africa**

Praise God for the encouragement, teaching, worship, and rest their family experienced at a recent conference. Their children were blessed by a great kid's camp put on by volunteers. Following the conference, they returned to the USA to request permission from the consulate to travel back to their country of service. E received favor from the officials who oversee approving visas, and their request was approved! Thank the Lord for this answer to prayer. As E and J make plans to return to North Africa this month, pray that they would love and trust Jesus in such a way that their three children would see him as supremely valuable.

**Sierra Leone (Africa).** Population: 8,977,972 Believers: 3.9%. Sierra Leone continues its effort to move forward and away from its tragic recent history. The horrifying civil war of the 90s and the crippling effect of Ebola in 2014-2015 both reversed efforts at nation-building. Many Christian ministries and aid agencies continue to help the long-term process of meeting people's physical, psychological, and spiritual needs. Praise God for their freedom to minister. Pray for their fruitfulness.

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02

### **Bobby & Julie, Central Asia**

Pray for Bobby as he preaches on Mark in Russian on April 6. Pray for his car, which is having problems, and that God will provide a vehicle that can be used not only to transport their five kids, but also for their team business. They hope to offer outdoor excursion transportation to get to places which are more difficult to reach. The mountains, lakes, and gorges are very accessible but require a sturdy vehicle with some horsepower and four-wheel drive. Their teammates are also enthusiastically pursuing the fitness and athletic side of the business. Pray for a space for a field and a gym with a café and gathering place.

**Singapore (Asia).** Population: 6,052,709 Believers: 7.8%. Singapore is a strategic center for regional and global Christian mission due to its infrastructure, stability, location, and strong Christian population. Pray that Singapore will be a blessing to the least-evangelized nations and peoples around it and a servant leader that facilitates the emerging missions movement from other Asian nations.

APRIL

03

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

Thank God for the good Equipping Servants International (ESI) Facilitator Training conference they had in March with 40 Italian pastors and church leaders. This month, these pastors are organizing small groups to begin the ESI three-year discipleship process. Continue to pray for Boris and Marco as they lead ESI groups of Spanish-speaking pastors in Virginia and South Florida and for Jose leading ESI groups of Spanish-speaking pastors in Los Angeles. Pray that each Italian-and Spanish-speaking participant will grow in their understanding of the gospel and their love for Jesus and that they will live true to the gospel as they teach and preach God's Word faithfully in their local churches.

**Slovakia (Europe).** Population: 5,702,832 Believers: 1.2%. Evangelical congregations are few and small. The growth of recent years has slowed, but there is a new desire to reach out and be more active in church planting. To recapture vitality, each congregation must understand what being the church actually means. Pray for the quality of spiritual life and for fervor in evangelical churches.

APRIL

04

### **Mark & Patti Bean, Peru, United States**

Patti will be in Dallas, Texas, on the weekend of April 4, helping establish a "Share-the-Care" group for Mark's sister Margaret. Patti writes, "Margaret and I have a special relationship. I had the privilege of discipling her through college and being good friends with her before Mark and I realized we were more than just friends." Now, Margaret anticipates needing more help as she enters what may be the homestretch of her cancer journey. Pray that Patti will be an encouragement, and that God will put together a great team to help Margaret in the months ahead. Pray for the eight Quechua pastors that Mark worked with last month and will be working with again in May. This month, they are in their respective communities reading and hopefully teaching the chapters that they translated in March. Pray for God's Word to impact their lives and ministries as they interact with it daily.

**Slovenia (Europe).** Population: 2,118,965 Believers: 0.1%. Slovenia has had a Protestant witness since the Reformation, but it still has very few evangelical churches and needs church-planting teams. The very small evangelical population is divided by ethnic group. Pray for unity and for an evangelical alliance to unite the churches. Most congregations lack a full-time pastor and need outside financial assistance. Pray for Slovene believers to evangelize their country, to support their pastors, and even to send missionaries!

APRIL

05

### **Shoreline Church, United States**

Pray for Shoreline as they look for opportunities to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and share the message of redemption with their local community during the Easter season. Pray for those visiting Shoreline for the first time would be welcomed and ministered to by the church body. As their Young Families Ministry meets at a local park this month, pray for the bonds of unity and fellowship to be strengthened. Pray for Theresa Durbin and her volunteers who lead the Lunchbox Kids group. Thank the Lord for the 19 students who said "yes" to Jesus at Greater Cleveland Youth For Christ's "Big Chill" event held at the Youth for Christ City Life Center on the urban west side. Please pray for the leaders as they follow up with each student. Also, thank God that the "Deaf Teen Quest Club" (for deaf and hard of hearing students), held at the City Life Center, is going well.

**Solomon Islands (Pacific).** Population: 756,673 Believers: 33.3%. Ethnic diversity and fragmentation as well as geography render the Solomons a patchwork of tribes and political groups rather than a unified nation. This hinders not just national identity but also Christian ministry. Pray that God might knit these many islands and tribes together in the gospel. **Saint Barthélemy (Caribbean).** Population: 11,019 Believers: 2.3%. This island caters to the uber-rich, trading on its sophistication and isolation for its exclusivity. There is little interest in spiritual things. Pray that amid the boutiques, cafés, and villas there might awaken a hunger for spiritual reality and the opportunity to know God. Pray also that the few churches on the island might minister meaningfully into this unique context.

APRIL

06

### Church Plant Training Ministry in Asia

The ministry is hoping to finalize an agreement to purchase property for one of their training centers. Pray that the drafting of the sale agreement will be smooth, clear, and aligned with God's perfect will. Pray that the lawyers will have wisdom as they carefully review all documents. Pray that the Lord will miraculously provide for the full purchase amount, registration, legal fees, and all related expenses. Pray that there will be no delays or obstacles in the process and that every official and party involved will act with integrity and efficiency. Pray that they will continue to walk in God's wisdom, discern any potential issues, and be shielded from any deception or hindrance. Pray that all involved will remain united in spirit, strengthened in faith, and unwavering in trust as they take these next steps.

**Somalia (Africa).** Population: 18,706,922 Believers: <0.1%. Somalia now has a parliament and recognized national leaders after 20 years without an effective central government. But the militant Islamist group Al-Shabaab (linked to Al-Qaeda) still controls much of southern and central Somalia and continues to hold influence in rural areas. Pray that Somalia's rulers might learn from the past, govern for the good of the people, and respect human rights and religious freedom. Pray that those deceived by the enemy into committing terrorism might encounter Jesus, who loves them and died on their behalf.

APRIL

07

### Fieldstone Counseling, United States

On April 11, Fieldstone Counseling will have its first informational lunch in Columbus, OH. They are praying that many helpful connections will result from this gathering as they prepare to open a location there. Fieldstone has immediate openings for counseling—pray that those in need of help will connect with them. Continue to pray for their counselors as they actively care for counselees and offer lasting hope for life's hardships.

**South Africa (Africa).** Population: 61,020,221 Believers: 21.1%. Biblical Christianity has a strong legacy in South Africa. But poverty, injustice, corruption, and terrible violence are alarmingly widespread for a nation with so many claiming to be Christian. Pray for the many Christian agencies that serve among the needy sections of society. Pray that the spirit of violence might be bound under the authority of Christ.



APRIL

08

**Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay**

They are thankful that, by the grace of God, their children's transition to their new school was smoother than expected. Please continue to pray that Camille and Zack will adapt to the new school and make a few good friends. Pray that God will continue to lead the IBM church plant in their final stages of building renovation.

**South Sudan (Africa).** Population: 11,277,092 Believers: 29.5%. South Sudan is the world's newest country. The nation was born in a great spirit of unity, happiness, and hope. Thank God for this freedom from the long, painful domination by the north. Yet, little more than 10 years on, over a quarter of the population rely on aid agencies for food, the majority of females have suffered sexual violence, and progress is continually stalled by ethnic rivalries who refuse to share power, reconcile, or build a better future together. Every family in South Sudan suffers lasting effects from the horrors of war and conflict. Pray for the church to have a good influence in society and leadership, to make life better for all people.

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09

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

In Australia, local Christians are hosting international students in their homes during the Easter season. Pray for those hosting as they share the love of Christ and for many students to respond by taking steps toward Jesus. Pray for their South Asian outreach this Easter. They are also inviting students to hear a story of Jesus' life leading up to Easter. Please pray for open doors for the gospel. Pray for these students, who are mostly Hindu, to continue to feel connected as Bridges personnel take steps to share Jesus. Pray for their son Nathaniel as his transition to kindergarten has been challenging. Ruth is thankful for small differences that God is making in the lives of people in the village in Kasempa, Zambia. Since they hired the doctor last month, many people's lives have been saved. He checks blood pressure and blood sugar, and he treats people with malaria, fever, and other diseases that easily kill people in the village. Zambia is a Christian nation, so the doctor can pray with patients and give them real hope. He is operating from a small shelter until the Lord provides the \$2,900.00 that is needed to build a small clinic building. Land is already available, and the workforce is ready. Pray that God will provide the needed funds for the clinic.

**Spain (Europe).** Population: 47,473,373 Believers: 1.0%. Few churches can afford to pay for a full-time pastor, let alone a team of them. As a result, churches must use bi-vocational pastors or be entrusted to full-time foreign missionaries, who end up pastoring instead of church planting. There are at least 15 seminaries and Bible schools. Some newer, larger churches provide in-house leadership and theological training. Pray that these schools would be filled with young Spanish future leaders, shaped by solid instruction in the Word of God.



APRIL

10

**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.

**Sri Lanka (Asia).** Population: 21,949,268 Believers: 1.2%. Tolerance and nonviolence have historically been watchwords of Sri Lanka. For centuries, it was a Buddhist kingdom that welcomed refugees from India fleeing persecution—Hindus, Muslims, and Christians. However, this multi-religious, multiethnic country now sees religious extremism and persecution rising. Persecution against Christians comes in waves, and at least 250 churches were destroyed or damaged in recent years. Beneath the layers of Buddhism and Hinduism, the ancient spirits, gods, and demons still hold power. Pray for the power of Christ to break these strongholds.

APRIL

11

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

Matt is excited to announce that Ambassadors Football's Toward the Goal (TTG) curriculum is all done! The episodes take a child from Genesis to Revelation using soccer, parables, and Bible stories. Pray for them as they develop a version of this curriculum for the World Cup, which will take place in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico in the summer of 2026. A great partnership is developing with OneHope, whose goal is to provide God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world. By partnering with local churches, they have worked in every nation. Ambassadors is working with OneHope on a test pilot curriculum to translate and utilize TTG in the French-speaking countries of Africa. If it goes well, they could build on that momentum to get TTG and soccer ministry into numerous countries and ultimately into the hands of kids and their families with the help of churches and Christian coaches globally. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as they collaborate on this project with OneHope.

**Saint Helena (Africa).** Population: 5,253 Believers: 8.8%. The Christian heritage of Saint Helena is strong, but islanders committed to faith are decreasing.

Most Christians are nominal, and church attendance continues to decline. A critical mass of evangelicals on the islands is needed to generate spiritual momentum.

**Saint Kitts & Nevis (Caribbean).** Population: 47,847 Believers: 21.7%. There is no lack of churches or other ministries on these islands, but their impact is limited.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to revive, empower, and embolden believers for kingdom effectiveness. Pray especially for ministries that draw together the diverse denominations.

APRIL

12

### Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan

Pray for the group of Japanese young people and church members, led by Pastor Yukimasa, who visited Cleveland at the end of March.

The Lord has used trips like this in the past to open hearts to the gospel.

Pray that God will continue to use this year's trip (organized by Chris and Leanne and hosted by families from Parkside) for his glory in the lives of the 14 students and chaperones from the Harrington's church in Japan.

**Saint Lucia (Caribbean).** Population: 180,805 Believers: 14.5%. The majority of Saint Lucians speak French Creole. The NT, recently translated into Creole, is being used for literacy projects. Pray for the Word of God to be acquired, read, and applied in the lives of Saint Lucians. **Saint Martin (Caribbean).** Population: 32,337 Believers: 2.5%. The tropical location and French liberality combine to make this a playground for the most wealthy. Exclusive hotels, clothing-optional beaches, designer-clothing boutiques, and cafés typify the island's culture. There is little room for or interest in a life of service to Christ. Pray that in the midst of this elegant but hedonistic paradise, people might gain a hunger for an eternal heaven.

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13

### Parkside Church Westside, United States

Pray for Parkside Church Westside as they spread the gospel locally and globally. Please pray that they continue to love and serve their neighbors in Lakewood. Pray for their members to boldly proclaim Christ

in the daily mission fields into which the Lord has placed them. 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 and the next steps for him as he has finished up his time with Samaritan's Purse. Pray for the safety of Ryan and Samantha S. as they seek to share the gospel with Serbian refugees in Africa. Pray for International Friendships as they seek to care for students living far from home this semester. Please 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 Westside members are forming with refugees. Continue to pray for Cleveland Pregnancy Center as they provide help to moms in need.

**Saint Pierre & Miquelon (North America).** Population: 5,815 Believers: <0.1%. These isolated islands and their people have long been Catholic. Traditions are strong and change has come slowly, despite the economic downturn when the fishing industry all but disappeared. Pray for people to find hope in a living relationship with Christ. **Saint Vincent (Caribbean).** Population: 103,683 Believers: 39.1%. St. Vincent is a religious country, but most are not related to God through a personal faith in Jesus Christ. There is a crisis of holiness, lack of spiritual fruit, and growing apathy, especially regarding missions. Pray for revival and for restoration of a biblically based, Spirit-led church.

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14

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

Pray for the ILC Church, which Kep and Debbie started in Bolivia in 1990, that its leadership will continue honoring Christ by staying true to his Scriptures. In July, several ESI groups plan to start in Holland. Pray for the planning and for the participants. Continue to pray for the three groups of African pastors meeting weekly in ESI groups in London and for three new ESI groups meeting in Paris. Pray for Jose Gutierrez as he works with pastors in Nicaragua who plan to start ESI groups.

**Sudan (Africa).** Population: 49,358,228 Believers: 14.7%. The gospel spread through these many years of upheaval. Although the conflicts created terrible suffering, they made the church more mature. The wars scattered Christian refugees throughout the country, so even through suffering the good news spread. Churches formed in places and among peoples that previously had no Christians! Praise God that this growth occurs across many denominations. Pray for them to find unity through Christ.

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15

### **Parkside Heights Church, United States**

As Parkside Heights makes plans for Good Friday and Easter services, pray with them that many from the surrounding community and colleges would come to hear the good news. In honor of the many college students who have become part of their church family, they will share home baked treats for a "sweet send-off" at the end of the month. As these students graduate or leave for the summer, please pray for their continued spiritual growth and for doors to open for them to share the gospel with family and friends.

**Suriname (Latin America).** Population: 628,785 Believers: 13.8%. Nearly half the population profess to be Christian, but many have little understanding of their faith, and Christian belief is often mixed with spiritism. Pray for new life and dynamism to replace traditionalism and syncretism practiced by many. **Tonga (Pacific).**

Population: 108,683 Believers: 15.5%. Tonga's rich Christian heritage is a blessing but has reached the point of oversaturation. The proliferation of denominations generates competition among churches, as newer groups entice believers away. Pray that Tongan Christians would seek Christ rather than seeking the church that benefits them the most.

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### **E & J, North Africa**

In March, one of the elders at the local fellowship was installed as the lead pastor. Praise God for the sweet celebrations and pray that their brothers and sisters would have a deeper appreciation for the bride of Christ. Keep praying that God will open a door for E and J to have a long-term, legitimate presence in their country of service for his sake.

# The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth



## Our Focus in Global Missions

-  Parkside Missionaries
-  Ministry Partner (13 states in N. India)
-  Equipping Servants International Locations





## AN UPDATE FROM THE 2025 MEXICO DENTAL TEAM

**As I think about the January dental mission trip to Mexico, my first thought is the word “mission.” What constitutes a successful mission?**

The biblical concept of mission involves someone being sent under the umbrella of the authority of the sender, the obedience of those being sent, and a task to be accomplished by those sent. It is this framework that my thoughts have been settled on as I think about the work of the Parkside team—Jennifer Aspinall, Emma Aspinall, Dave Cameron, Caleb Komar, Gus Komar, Joni Komar, and me.



The team had times of prayer, fellowship, food, laughter, and reflection. But there was also a solemnity of purpose. I have seen the same individuals go back time and again to the southern mountains of Mexico. But why? In our standard of living, we took a huge step back. Southern Mexico is poverty-stricken, lacking good electrical service, without enough running water to shower when in the villages, extremely hot with no air conditioning, and full of inescapable dirt. Home sounds pretty good after a week in Mexico.



What drove the team is the call of Jesus to “go into all the world and proclaim the gospel!” It was seeing this proclamation of the gospel go forth that motivated when tiredness and hunger were telling us to quit. Quitting was not an option because outside the door awaited a line of people wanting relief from their dental pain.

Dental work opens doors to hearts, but the gospel opens and enlivens the heart to the truths of God’s Word.



During the dental procedures in the village, Pedro, one of the pastors in El Mamey, and his brother, Roberto, set up The Jesus Film to play on a laptop. This was probably the first time people saw this film in their own language. Also, during the day, Pedro and Roberto were handing out gospel tracks and telling of the love of God in sending his Son to be the Savior of the world. Pray for them as they visit the people and continue to water the seed of the gospel. Pray for those who heard the Word of Christ.

The next place of service was at a private elementary Christian school. It was a blessing to see Bible verses in the English class in our own tongue. I am told that a Christian school is very much a rarity in that area. Pray that God will bring forth fruit in this work and that he will work in the hearts of not only the students, but the teachers, administrators, and other staff members.



Lastly, we served at a men's rehab center. Drugs, alcohol, and hopelessness is a pervasive problem men struggle with in the city. Men voluntarily admit themselves into the rehab center seeking help. They are seeking answers. The answer the center provides is the gospel of Jesus Christ. We witnessed men reciting Scripture together in unison, praying together, singing together, and enjoying the company of one another. The hope is that when the time comes for them to once again journey on their own, they will remember that they are not alone and are part of a community of other men who are on the same journey. Pray that these men will not lapse into their former style of living and will instead seek the accountability of fellow believers who will encourage them in their pilgrimage through this life.

The seven Parkside Church volunteers that participated in this year's dental mission trip were joined by several Mexican nationals that included dentists, pastors, and doctors. We conducted dental procedures or provided some level of medical care to about 300 people. Please pray for the people of Southern Mexico.

-Gerald McMichael

**Photos:** (Page 1) **Top:** Gus, Caleb & Joni Komar **Middle:** Ladies in the village cooking for the team. **Bottom:** Dave Cameron and Gerald McMichael with a patient. (Page 2) **Left:** The team with friends at the Christian school. **Middle:** Children doing crafts while waiting to see the dentist. **Right:** Jennifer and Emma Aspinall.



**Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) (Africa).** Population: 1,222,075 Believers: 25.1%.

Eswatini is the last absolute monarchy in sub-Saharan Africa. Around 25% of the workforce is unemployed, while the economic situation continues to decline. The constitution banned political parties, and the lack of democracy and human rights suppress change and make positive progress very difficult. Pray that the king might see his position not as a privilege but as a responsibility to serve his people and his land. Pray that Christians might be at the heart of grassroots movements that care for the neediest in Eswatini.

APRIL

17

### **Scranton Road Bible Church, United States**

The church recently had significant water damage from a faulty fire sprinkler head. Please pray for them as renovations take place in the sanctuary, cafe, and offices. They are holding worship services in the gym during this season. Pray for their staff and ministry leaders as they manage the many changes in building use. Pray for their Easter outreach to the community and for their Easter services. Pray for the many members who are struggling with health issues. Pray for the men who will be starting a new elders training cohort. Praise the Lord for a successful mission trip to Cuba.

**Sweden (Europe).** Population: 10,673,669 Believers: 6.9%. The spiritual decline of Sweden is apparent on many levels. Only 23% of people believe in a personal God. Society places a high value on material comfort, personal pleasure, and individualism. Pray for God to raise up teachers and leaders who know the Bible, who know the culture, and who do not compromise with the majority mindset in society.

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### **Johannes (& Mathapelo) Thaele, South Africa**

The youth in the new church regularly reach out to people in the area by giving out clothes and preaching the good news to the lost. Please pray for God to empower them to be the hands, mouth, and feet of Jesus Christ. There are a lot of challenges in the community, such as drug abuse, alcohol addiction, separated families, crime, and young people who are already starting their families. Pray for these lost souls to be hungry for the Word of God and for their spiritual eyes to be opened as they are exposed to the love of God. ESI training for pastors from South Africa and Lesotho is planned at the end of April. Pray for God to use Paulo as he facilitates the training. Pray that God would grant these pastors understanding as they study the Bible.

**Switzerland (Europe).** Population: 8,851,431 Believers: 4.4%. The great reformers Calvin and Zwingli expounded the truths of Scripture in this land, but few today have any interest or understanding of real Christianity. Wealth, comfort, indifference, and vague religiosity are the norm. The younger generation explores eastern religions and the occult as much as Christianity. Pray that the Swiss may find the true way in Jesus Christ and that the nation might be stirred again by the Holy Spirit.

APRIL

19

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

The Human Coalition is testing some new initiatives to reach more clients. Pray for success in reaching and sharing the gospel with women facing unwanted pregnancies. Pray for funding for the women they serve from Columbus. Pray for staff members who are struggling to recover from illnesses.

**Syria (Asia).** Population: 24,348,053 Believers: 0.1%. Syria was hit hard by the powerful earthquakes of February 2023. The worst-struck regions were already devastated by civil war. In the aftermath of the destruction, there are those who spread darkness. Pray that the Lord might constrain lawlessness and wickedness. There are also those who are working in many ways to share the restoration that comes through Jesus. Pray for extraordinary opportunities and fruit for those who seek to be Christ's hands and feet in Syria.

APRIL

20

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

The purpose of ESI training around the world is to help local church pastors and leaders grow in Christ and experience gospel transformation as they study the Bible. There are 3,000 active participants in 250 ESI groups meeting in 37 countries. Pray that these pastors and church leaders will understand the message of the Bible, resulting in their living the gospel and faithfully preaching and teaching the Bible in their local churches.

**Tajikistan (Asia).** Population 10,331,513 Believers: 0.1%. Tajiks number 13 million in Central Asia. For nearly a thousand years, there was no significant outreach to Tajiks. Now, in addition to more than 1,000 believers in Tajikistan, there are a greater number of Tajik believers in Afghanistan as well as some in Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Pray for further growth and pray for the establishment of a truly indigenous Tajik church—this is beginning to happen as Tajik church leaders emerge. Pray especially for unity in this young expression of Christ's body.

APRIL

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### **Parkside Kent, United States**

March 10 marked one year since the first Parkside Kent core team gathered. Join them in thanking the Lord for his grace and abundant provision. Through the generosity of Grace Baptist Church, they recently took possession of a building, which will become the home of Parkside Kent. Please pray that they will be good stewards of this building so that it will continue to be a beacon for the gospel until Christ's return. Pray for wisdom as they make updates and establish plans to enter the building as their regular place of worship and ministry in the coming weeks.

**Tanzania (Africa).** Population: 69,419,073 Believers: 17.9%. Tanzania's Christian population, though numerous, needs discipleship. Many see lack of biblical knowledge as the greatest challenge for the church. As immature Christians are disciplined, lifestyles and worldviews will change, and this in turn will impact the social, economic, and political life of the nation.

APRIL

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### Truth For Life, United States

Pray for Alistair and members of the Truth For Life team as they attend the 2025 Gospel Coalition conference *Alive Together*. Pray for opportunities to have meaningful conversations with others attending and for God to open the door to ministry partnerships. Pray for IT Director Rick Lane and his wife Anne as they navigate challenging health issues facing Anne. Ask God to give the doctors wisdom and for Anne to fully recover and return soon to caring for her family.

**Thailand (Asia).** Population: 71,885,799 Believers: 0.5%. Thailand means "Land of the Free" because it successfully retained its freedom when surrounding countries were colonized by Western powers. Yet the land is held captive in a complex web of Buddhism, traditional culture, spirit appeasement, and even occult practices, with a social cohesiveness out of which few have dared to come. For many Thai, their nationality and religious identity are inextricably linked. Pray for spiritual breakthrough so that the Thai might truly be free in the Lord Jesus.

APRIL

23

### Wes & Nancy Collins, Guatemala, United States

Please continue to pray for the widespread use of the Scriptures in the Mam areas of Guatemala and other areas where Mam is spoken. Pray for help with Wes's memory issues and overall needs caused by his Parkinson's Disease.

**Timor Leste (Asia).** Population: 1,379,883 Believers: 2.3%. Protestant churches emerged only recently, and their growth is modest. Nominalism and lack of understanding of the gospel characterize the majority. There is great need for biblically trained and spiritually active pastors. Pray that evangelical churches may be planted among every people and in every area of Timor. Pray for true unity among national church leaders.

APRIL

24

### Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay

They are thankful a new ESI group has been launched with pastors from various parts of the country. Please pray that these studies will help build fellowship among pastors and will encourage them to be grounded in the Word. Pray for Andrew and Angie and their children as they continue to spread the gospel in Uruguay.

**Togo (Africa).** Population: 9,260,864 Believers: 10.7%. The church in Togo stagnated between 1960 and 1990. Long-established groups grew slowly and remained confined to particular ethnicities. False shepherds and unbalanced prosperity teachings are also increasing as the true church grows. Pray that strong, indigenous congregations and denominations with solid teaching, biblical worldviews, and visionary leadership will be established.

APRIL

25

### **The City Mission, United States**

Pray that the hearts and souls of those experiencing crisis and homelessness in Cleveland will be lifted by the power of the gospel shared through the staff and volunteers who work at The City Mission. Pray for God to provide through generous Christians the two vital components—time and resources. As these men and women repair relationships, rebuild their lives, and break the cycle of poverty, pray that they will have time with Jesus Christ, who gives them the strength to walk back into the community, confident, and productive. Praise the Lord and pray for their most recent class of 17 Crossroads graduates who each successfully completed all their individualized programming.

**Trinidad & Tobago (Caribbean).** Population: 1,538,200 Believers: 20.2%. Christianity is professed by nearly two-thirds of the population, but true disciples faithful to God's Word are not so common. Greater theological training—for leaders as well as laity—is needed and a discipleship mentality must be fostered. Thank God for the minority who do live to please God and pray that purity and passion might be restored across all denominations.

APRIL

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### **Bobby & Julie, Central Asia**

Continue to pray for the salvation of Bobby's Russian teacher as they begin each session by reading the book of Mark. Pray for her son-in-law, who is dealing with ALS. Pray for their children as they fight the good fight amidst challenges in school and with their siblings. Pray that M and O will continue to grow as servant leaders in the family and at school. Continue to pray for the older women who have helped Julie with their two youngest children—Zukra, a believer who is battling cancer, and Xacyat, a Muslim who recently returned from a trip to Mecca. Finally, please pray for Bobby and Julie as they grow in their faith and desire to follow Jesus and walk in the Spirit amidst busyness.

**Tunisia (Africa).** Population: 12,564,689 Believers: <0.1%. In the years since 9/11 and subsequent events in the political-religious sphere, many Tunisians have become more fervent in their Islamic faith. Although the government strives against politicized Islam, the general trend in the Arab world at large and locally, and the lack of prospects for the younger generation, are pulling society toward greater Islamization. Pray that a living, growing Christian church might become a reality again in this land.

APRIL

27

**Parkside Green, United States**

Pray that the people who attended their Holy Week gatherings (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday) will become committed followers of Jesus Christ as a result of hearing the good news preached. Please also ask the Lord to work through their global partners in Dubai, UAE (Dr. Jen Kintner); Arua, Uganda (Brett and Jennifer Wright); and at the Rio Grande Bible Institute and Language School (Bryan and Erin Joseph, studying Spanish before serving in Mexico).

**Turkey (Asia).** Population: 86,260,417 Believers: <0.1%. Give praise for the slow but steady growth of Turkish evangelical Christianity. Pray for the evangelism and church planting of the past generation to carry on! Meanwhile, there is a remarkable turning to Christ of migrants from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, who are refugees in Turkey. While ministry to Turks and Kurds is watched closely, there seems to be greater freedom to minister to these refugees. Many are praying that the shaking of the nation from the 2023 earthquakes would trigger a mass movement of people to find and follow Jesus.

APRIL

28

**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.

**Turkmenistan (Asia).** Population: 6,598,071 Believers: <0.1%. Ethnic Turkmen Christians are few but have increased since independence, from one or two people to as many as 1,000. Persecution has brought growth, greater unity, and a strong spirituality, and the church continues to grow despite the constant threats. Pray for these believers to stand firm in their faith and to win others to Christ.

APRIL

29

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

Pray for Goran as he travels to Brazil this month to teach a ministry course. In June, Pastor Jasmin will host a large youth festival for people from the countries of the former Yugoslavia. Ambassadors Football has been asked to coordinate sports activities for the week-long festival. It will be a chance for former ethnic enemies to come together and show the unity only Jesus can bring—the one who reconciles enemies to himself and to one another. Pray for God's blessing on this youth festival and for other upcoming camps as preparations are made for summer ministries.

**Turks & Caicos Islands (Caribbean).** Population: 46,431 Believers: 32.4%. Christian values in society are challenged by offshore finance with its frequent money laundering, by tourism with its increasing licentiousness, and by illegal drug trafficking. Pray that churches might address these through holy living and genuine faith. **Tuvalu (Pacific).** Population: 11,478 Believers: 17.8%. Tuvalu faces an uncertain future. Very limited resources, possible rising sea levels and modern/global external influences make this traditional culture fragile, both environmentally and socially. Pray that wisdom would prevail in preserving Tuvalu as a nation and culture, and that the long-standing presence of the church would play a major role in this.

APRIL

30

### **Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan**

Chris and Leanne have spent much time in prayer and seeking counsel from others concerning where they should locate this summer when they return to Japan for their next four-year term. Chris has accepted a new position within SEND International as the area director for Japan. This new assignment has influenced their decision to move from rural Japan, where they have served for ten years, to Tokyo, one of the biggest cities in the world. Please pray for them as they plan for this transition and all the details the move entails. Pray for Chris as he begins his new position caring for missionaries, networking with Japanese pastors, and working towards the goal of making our Creator God known to the people of Japan. Pray for their Japanese ministry partners in Tohoku as they continue the ministry there.

**Uganda (Africa).** Population: 49,924,252 Believers: 37.0%. Young people's ministry is fundamental to developing the country, given that nearly half of all Ugandans are under 16 years old. Pray for the extensive ministry in schools and for ministries on university campuses. Pray also for effective Sunday school and youth programs in churches. Pray that a nation with such a high proportion of Christians and a high proportion of children might produce a generation that truly knows and loves the Lord!

*Global prayer requests were taken or adapted from Operation World, 7th Edition (2010), Pray for the World (2015), and [www.operationworld.org](http://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](http://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 [parksidchurch.com/missions](http://parksidchurch.com/missions).



PARKSIDE  
CHURCH

To see unbelieving people become  
committed followers of Jesus Christ.