



Missions Prayer Calendar

A SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY
FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

JANUARY

"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

JANUARY

01

Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan

Their mission field in Japan, has been led faithfully by Paul Suzuki for 12 years. His desire is to step away from leadership and pass the baton to the next generation. This month, the missionaries of SEND Japan vote on whether to confirm Chris as the new area director of SEND Japan. This would bring Chris & Leanne new opportunities to share in and encourage the ministries around the country. Pray for them and for all of SEND Japan during this time of transition.

Finland (Europe). Population: 5,549,886 Believers: 12.1%. Humanism, secularism, and materialism have strangleholds on most Finns. While the majority look favorably upon the Church's social work, only 8% of Finns attend any kind of religious service monthly or more. Spirituality has more or less become privatized. The last revival occurred during the 1960s. Interest in spiritual things offers some hope, but Islam and fringe religious movements are currently the fastest growing. Pray for a spiritual breakthrough that will cause people to seek the Lord.

JANUARY

02

Parkside Heights Church, United States

This month, Parkside Heights will celebrate their 3-year anniversary and are thanking God for his goodness to them as a church body! Pray for good transitions back into student and church life as they welcome college students returning from winter break. With the start of a new year, some in the Heights communities may be looking to connect to a local church. Pray for opportunities to engage with those who come to check out Parkside Heights for the first time and with those who are coming back to reconnect.

France (Europe). Population: 64,881,830 Believers: 1.0%. Most French have a profound ignorance of, or indifference to, the gospel—many having never meaningfully encountered it. Yet, the relativism of postmodernity has generated acute emptiness and existential angst; as many have noted, this in turn has created a spiritual hunger that has grown rapidly in recent years. Pray that such hunger might overcome the suspicion toward religion. Pray that Christians would be prepared to patiently and relationally share Jesus with those who seek.

JANUARY

03

E & J, North Africa

Praise the Lord that E's interviews with the authorities went well and the residency renewal process is moving forward. Please pray for a seeker, "Ralf," who expressed interest in learning more about Jesus though some videos and discussions. Pray that our good King would reveal himself to their friend.

French Polynesia (Pacific). Population: 311,383 Believers: 7.2%. Those with a vital personal faith are now rare. As a result, there is a reversion to the bondage of pagan occultism and a multiplication of syncretistic and foreign sects, especially two forms of Mormonism. Pray for a spiritual revolution to take place. **Gibraltar (Europe).** Population: 32,718 Believers: 2.9%. Gibraltar has a good position for outreach to the region, as well as to locals, immigrants, and foreign tourists. Pray that local congregations will gain vision for outreach! Muslims working in or visiting Gibraltar are very open to receive Christian material and to hear about Jesus; pray that this opportunity might be utilized sensitively but decisively. Pray for effective methods of reaching them and for more workers for this rare opportunity.

JANUARY

04

Truth For Life, United States

Ask God to provide clarity, wisdom, and insight to the Directors at Truth For Life as they begin a new year. With so many priorities and opportunities, ask the Lord to give focus and guidance according to his will for the ministry. As the Truth For Life Accounting Department moves through a transition, pray that God will help new Accounting Manager, Cristian Paskar, get up to speed quickly and contribute to the team effectively in his new role. Pray for Bob Butts and Mike Costlow as they travel to Dubai for a meeting with Truth For Life's international translation partners. Pray for safe travel, fruitful discussions, deepened relationships, and new opportunities to bring the gospel to a global audience.

Gabon (Africa). Population: 2,484,557 Believers: 12.7%. Spiritist beliefs and practices lie beneath the surfaces of Catholicism, other Christian groups, and Islam. Many Gabonese still use charms, hallucinogenic drugs, and ancestral spirits, and go to medicine men. Some leaders of the government, the police, and the army participate in nighttime rituals that use witchcraft and black magic. Christians who do not participate can be refused academic or professional opportunities. Pray for followers of Jesus to remain faithful to him alone, and for such faith to spread the gospel even further.

JANUARY

05

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

Pray for the African missionaries Kep and Debbie worked with in the Egyptian based church planting ministry. As these committed men and women plant churches in very difficult and resistant communities across North Africa, pray that the Lord will use them for a rich harvest for the kingdom. The Liberian pastors in Monrovia are planning to begin ESI (Equipping Servants International) groups. Pray each participant will experience deep gospel transformation as they study through Romans. Pray that the leadership of ILC Church that Kep and Debbie started in La Paz, Bolivia will continue honoring Christ by staying true to his Scriptures.

The Gambia (Africa). Population: 2,841,803 Believers: 0.8%. Thank God for the mostly friendly relationships between Muslims and Christians in Gambia. Christians have more religious freedom here than in most Muslim countries. But most Christian work has been in the Greater Banjul area (coast). Few reach out to the Muslim majority, especially those who live upriver in the less-developed inland area. Pastors who serve inland struggle to maintain financial support. Pray for continued religious freedom and peace. Pray for Gambians to have a vision to reach their own nation, and for creative ways to support those who move into more isolated areas.

JANUARY

06

Parkside Church Westside, United States

Pray for Parkside Church Westside as they spread the gospel locally and globally. Pray that they continue to love and serve their neighbors in Lakewood. Pray for a church family abroad who is working with a minority language group to advance the gospel in all languages. Pray for the health and safety of Nathanael Wiles and his next steps as he finishes up his time with Samaritan's Purse. Pray for International Friendships as they care for students living far from home this semester. Pray for Building Hope in the City and the work that they are doing with immigrants in the Cleveland area and for the relationships that Westside members are forming with refugees. Please also pray for the Cleveland Pregnancy Center and the help they provide to moms in need.

Georgia (Asia). Population: 3,717,425 Believers: 1.5%. Young Georgians have lost interest in the Church, with a majority leaving during teenage years. Youth groups have grown in some cases where intentional efforts were made to reach out to young people in creative and relevant ways and where youth were empowered to lead. Pray for churches to thoughtfully share the gospel with young people in relevant ways.

JANUARY

07

Mark & Patti Bean, Peru, United States

January 6-25, representatives from four related Quechua languages will meet for the second time. They hope to adapt Genesis chapters 3-21 together. They will also be coming with feedback from the first two chapters of Genesis that they took back to their respective villages. This time, Mark will be there in person to work with them and Patti will accompany him. Mark will take down equipment to help resolve some technical issues that made communicating from Ohio difficult the first time. Pray for Mark as he continues to work out the differences between the languages and figures out rules to input into the computer program so that better drafts can be made. Pray for protection for Mark's body from colds, gut issues, or worse since his body still doesn't have the resources to defend itself well. Praise the Lord that their grandson Jeremiah has been declared cancer free from mixed-phenotype acute leukemia. He still deals with graft vs host disease after his transplant last year, and his immune system is still quite compromised, but things are looking up!

Germany (Europe). Population: 83,252,474 Believers: 2.1%. Germany's wealth, influence, and location in the EU and Europe could be of great value for the Kingdom of God. Like much of Europe, Germany faces a crisis of spirituality. New Age, the occult, Satanism, and new forms of the old pagan religions all gain followers, but none grow as quickly as the group claiming, "no religion". Migrants bring their own versions of faith with them—including vibrant Christianity. Pray for God to raise up leaders who will love righteousness and strong moral values, even when they face temptation to compromise.

JANUARY

08

Mike & Joan Ross, Mexico, United States

Pray for wisdom regarding the future of the MAF work in Mexico and the best use of the tools God has provided to reach the lost. Mike and Joan are grateful for the time they spent both with Edgar and Lety and with Neri and Karina in Mexico in December. Pray that Mike and Joan's extended family would love the Lord with all their hearts. Pray that God will open doors for the Parkside dental team to serve in La Mesilla, Amoltepec, this month and will be present in all the details as the team serves the needy in that area, and ultimately that the gospel would be understood through word and loving care. Pray that God will bless the work of MAF around the world and bring much spiritual fruit for his Kingdom.

Ghana (Africa). Population: 34,777,522 Believers: 24.2%. Christianity has long been established in the south. About 63% of Ghanaians call themselves Christian, but many have only a tenuous link to a church, and attendance figures rarely top 10%. Pray that the true gospel may shine into the hearts of those who call themselves Christian but who are not born from above. Pray for a decisive break from all fetishism and occult bondages, and that true liberty in Jesus is found.

JANUARY

09

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

It has been five years since Matt and Laura returned from Lima, Peru, where they oversaw Ambassadors work across Latin America.

The Ambassadors Football offices around Latin America are recovering from the ramifications of the global pandemic and continue to serve the Lord and the people in the region. Please pray for Ricardo (Brazil), Felipe (Colombia), Daniel (Peru), Roberto (Chile), Gabriel (Bolivia), Maltez (Guatemala/El Salvador), Phil (Mexico) and Lucasse (Haiti) as they lead their staff and volunteers. They all face significant challenges, including gangs running things in Haiti and political turmoil across the region, but are tremendously dedicated and are seeking to cast a vision and train the Church in Latin America to reach the next generation through soccer.

Greece (Europe). Population: 10,302,720 Believers: 0.4%. Evangelism and discipleship remain the real needs in reaching Greece. Short-term ministries spread the gospel to many, but to have a lasting impact, a longer-term presence is needed. Pray that national churches might develop in the areas of prayer, outreach, and church planting.

JANUARY

10

Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay

They are thankful to be back in the U.S. and for the opportunities to refresh and reconnect with friends and family. Please pray that the Lord would continue to sustain and strengthen the leadership of their church in Uruguay during their absence and that he would continue to guide them in the final stages of their church construction. In December, Andrew had a meeting with a group of local pastors from different parts of the country to propose the idea of starting a new ESI group in March. Some pastors showed interest. Pray that the Lord will continue to open doors for this initiative.

Greenland (North America). Population: 56,789 Believers: 4.7%. Indigenous believers and forms of church are growing. With input from faithful Caucasian missionaries and indigenous Christian leaders, the Greenlandic Church is expressing itself in ways that are culturally compelling as well as biblical. Pray that the unique worldview and culture of the Inuit people might be made complete in Christ.

Grenada (Caribbean). Population: 126,887 Believers: 19.6%. The impact of COVID on Grenada has been felt nearly as keenly as the devastating hurricanes Ivan and Emily of years past. These hurricanes destroyed or damaged up to 90% of the island's buildings. The global spread of COVID devastated Grenada's tourist industry, on which it is heavily dependent. Pray for sustainable solutions to Grenada's current challenges, for debt reduction/forgiveness rather than restructuring, and for Grenadians to put their faith in God above all things.

JANUARY

11

Parkside Green, United States

Please ask the Lord to accomplish his purposes in and through the people of Parkside Green in 2025. Pray that the Lord will instruct and inspire them through Pastor Adam's preaching from Galatians. Pray for the new adult classes, including a Bible study on the Gospel of John. Please also continue to ask the Lord to work through the missionaries they support in Dubai, UAE; Arua, Uganda; and Edinburg, Texas, where the Joseph family is attending a Spanish language school.

Guadeloupe (Caribbean). Population: 396,346 Believers: 4.3%. Christianity is a cultural veneer for most. The rapid growth of sects and evangelical groups highlights the spiritual emptiness. Occultism and magic are widespread influences. Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict of sin and bring many to true repentance.

Guam (Pacific). Population: 174,114 Believers: 14.2%. Guam is the hub of Micronesia, and as such, the population is multicultural and diverse. There is spiritual and church growth among many of the immigrant communities, including the Chinese, Koreans, and Filipinos. Micronesian groups have dozens of churches, although their more isolated villages and their tribal culture present an evangelistic challenge. The continued influence of cultural and animistic traditions holds back their discipleship. With such ethnic and denominational variety, unity is an important issue and a need for prayer.

JANUARY

12

Parkside Short-term Mission Team, Mexico

Pray for the team who left for Mexico yesterday to work with Mike Ross and local medical personnel to provide a dental clinic in the village of La Mesilla, Amoltepec. Team members are Jennifer Aspinall, Emma Aspinall, Dave Cameron, Caleb Komar, Gus Komar, Joan Komar, and Gerald McMichael. Pray for safety, unity, and that as the team serves the needy in that area, the gospel might be understood through word and loving care. The team returns to Cleveland on January 19.

Guatemala (Latin America). Population: 18,358,430 Believers: 24.4%. Praise God for the growth among evangelicals who now are almost 25% of the population, in 25,000 congregations! Churches that fail to disciple new believers may lose them in the next two decades. Pray that pastors and leaders will demonstrate Christ-like humility and rise above foolish divisions and greed.

JANUARY

13

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

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

Pray for the 3,000 ESI participants in 250 groups in 36 countries to experience gospel transformation in their lives, relationships, and local churches. Pray for Boris and Marco as they lead ESI groups of Spanish speaking pastors in Virginia and South Florida and for Jose leading ESI groups of Spanish speaking pastors in Los Angeles. There are three groups of African pastors meeting weekly in ESI groups in London and two new ESI groups are meeting in Paris. Pray that the participants in these various groups will grow in their understanding of the gospel and their love for Jesus and live true to the gospel as they teach and preach God's Word faithfully in their local churches. Plans are being made to start ESI groups in Italy and the Netherlands in 2025. Pray for Jose Gutierrez as he leads an ESI Facilitator Training workshop in Jinotega, Nicaragua, January 13-15.

Guinea (Africa). Population: 14,528, 770 Believers: 0.7%. The Church declined around 15 years ago. Evangelism and church planting slowed down, and less committed Christians left the faith. 43% of the population are under age 15. Pray for believers who will persevere and pray against the enemy who seeks to destroy young or weak Christians before they can grow.

JANUARY

14

The City Mission, United States

The Rothstein Village Transitional Housing for Families is set to be completed in the coming weeks. Breaking ground only a year ago, this project has been a true labor of love. Pray for the Laura's Home graduates as they enter the New Horizons Transitional Housing Program. Pray that lives touched by the staff and volunteers at Crossroads, Laura's Home, and New Horizons will be transformed through the power of the gospel.

Guinea-Bissau (Africa). Population: 2,197,149 Believers: 1.6%. Church leadership is solid, mature, and indigenous, with increasingly well-organized training programs for general discipleship and for pastoral training. But poorer and more remote rural congregations are much less appealing to workers and are therefore neglected. Pray for the vision of the evangelical Church to be fulfilled, and for trained, passionate national workers to go to the remote and unreached parts of Guinea-Bissau and to the entire region.

JANUARY

15

Emily (& Blake) Ackerson, Bridges International, Australia

Although 2024 was a challenge, Blake and Emily acknowledge how abundantly the Lord has provided for them. Praise him for Emily's continued recovery and for keeping Addie healthy. Praise God for the students who trusted Christ in 2024. Please pray for the Lord to establish them in their new faith and grow their love for Jesus. Pray for Chen as he returns home at the end of the month and that they can find him a healthy local church where he can continue to grow. Praise God for the summer mission held in December and pray for the students to continue to grow in making disciples as a new year begins. Pray for Pastor Victor and Kingsford Church as they continue to build relationships with students at the University of New South Wales. During the Christmas holiday fourteen Christian families hosted 42 international students. Pray that God would work through the love that was shared by these families. Praise God for the ways he worked through the two churches who sent teams from Tyler, Texas to minister there in 2024.

Guyana (South America). Population 819,594 Believers: 19.8%. Ministry among young people is vital because family life, further education, employment, and the future in general are great challenges. Most evangelical denominations have work there among the youth. Praise God for many decisions to follow Jesus; pray for effective discipleship. **Iceland (Europe).** Population: 375,318 Believers: 3.8%. The majority of Icelanders are Christian, but only nominally so. Biblical Christianity and a lifestyle of following Christ are alien concepts to most. Some of the more isolated areas are spiritual wastelands, with almost no active Christianity at all. Ask the Lord to break into Icelandic society and orchestrate a revival that touches every person and aspect of life.

JANUARY

16

Scranton Road Bible Church, United States

Praise God for a great Christmas Store outreach last month. Both their Good News Kids and Youth Group have grown through the year. Pray for them as they make plans to address the logistical challenges created by the growth in these ministries. Pray for the 32 believers who will be baptized and for those who will be welcomed into membership in January. The elders at SRBC are facing difficult decisions. Pray for them as they seek wisdom to navigate these issues.

The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth





AN UPDATE FROM The Rivera Families

MISSIONARIES SERVING IN MEXICO

The Riveras live and serve in Oaxaca and Tapachula Mexico. Although they share the same last name, they are not related. Both families work with Equipping Servants International (ESI).

EDGAR AND LETY RIVERA OAXACA



Edgar currently leads two (ESI) study groups in Oaxaca. He makes regular trips to encourage the indigenous pastors in Amoltepec, whose first language is Mixteco, through the study of God's Word using ESI material. He is in the process of starting a new ESI study an hour south of Tijuana in Ensenada, Baja California where there is a large

group of Mixteco speaking immigrants from Amoltepec. Edgar is participating on the Board of Directors for the Mexican entity of Mission Aviation Fellowship working to build a solid base for the work in Mexico.

LOCAL MINISTRY & FAMILY LIFE

Lety keeps busy as a wife and mother. She also enjoys teaching women's Bible studies and is involved with ministry at a local women's prison. Edgar and Lety have three children: Ana Gracia (29), Juan (27) and Esther (17). They have one grandchild, Ander, who will be two in April. They are involved in a local church where Edgar is responsible for teaching the Word on a regular basis. Ana has finished her master's degree and year of required rural service. She is now working at a hospital as a nutritionist and part of the praise team at a local church. Juan is a missionary-in-

training at Parkside. Juan and Amy hope to serve as missionaries in a closed country. Esther is a senior in high school and is considering options to continue her education.

Edgar and Lety are very thankful for all the loving care and prayer support they receive from the members of Parkside Church which encourages them in the ministry.

NERI AND KARINA RIVERA

TAPACHULA



Neri and Karina live in the City of Tapachula in the State of Chiapas near the border with Guatemala. Chiapas is the Mexican state with the fastest church growth but with the least access to pastoral training. They also are confronted daily with the needs of 130,000 refugees from South and Central America living near them.

PREACHING THE WORD AND MAKING DISCIPLES

Neri is leading a church plant in the City of Tapachula. They are experiencing continued growth and are busy with evangelistic Bible studies and discipleship training. They have acquired property which required an unexpected investment in a solid foundation for the building but are pleased that the roof will be installed in the near future. Neri leads three ESI study groups and helps train new ESI leaders. Two of the groups require a 10-hour drive each way over mountain roads and through areas with cartel activity.

FAMILY LIFE

Karina is a busy mother and actively engaged in ministry alongside Neri. They have six children: Zian Areli (34) is a nurse, Zurizadai (30) teaches college English, Angie (26) is studying graphic animation, Carol (24) is finishing an engineering degree in biochemistry, Sara (15) and Juan (10). They also continue with custody of four orphaned children from their church plant (ages 11-17). They are very grateful for Parkside's participation in the gospel with them.

Photos (Opposite page) Edgar, Lety, and Esther Rivera. (Above Top) Neri & Karina Rivera.

Haiti (Caribbean). Population: 11,867,030 Believers: 16.0%. Pray for the current hunger crisis. Haiti needs godly leaders who will prioritize the good of the nation and address its massive problems. Two centuries of misrule, tyranny, and recent flawed democratic attempts have brought hopelessness and despair. Corruption is rampant, and robberies and kidnappings are commonplace. Pray that men and women may be raised up who will reverse these trends and establish justice, righteousness, and long-term stability.

JANUARY

17

E & J, North Africa

On a recent trip to the "C" region, "Abe," a taxi driver, asked E & J about what they believe, and they were able to have an extensive conversation about the good news. Once they got back home to the capital, "Abe" gave E a call to check in on them and to express appreciation for the time spent together. Please pray that "Abe" would think deeply and carefully about the truth and that the Spirit would convict him of sin and his need for Jesus' righteousness.

Honduras (Latin America). Population: 10,759,406 Believers: 23.0%. Missions vision has grown significantly in the past decade. There are now several mission agencies that train and send cross-cultural workers. Pray for the whole Honduran Church to gain a greater vision for outreach and mission. Foreign mission agencies can still play a key role in training and development, specialized ministries, and in holistic projects, for which there are many openings. Pray for humble sensitivity and for a legacy of raising up and empowering Honduran leadership and initiatives.

JANUARY

18

Fieldstone Counseling, United States

As new counseling residents are arriving and other members of their team are departing, pray for these transitions. Also in the plans for 2025 are new seminars and support groups. Pray that those in need will attend these groups, connect with them for care, and find encouragement with lasting hope for life's hardships. Pray that their counselors would be encouraged and strengthened in Christ as they meet with their counselees.

Hungary (Europe). Population: 9,994,993 Believers: 2.8%. Hungarians have lost contact with the gospel, despite enjoying a rich theological history. They seek answers in many places: materialism, hedonism, alcohol, and increasingly, false religion. Postmodern mentalities predominate. Pray for all falsehoods and empty philosophies to be exposed as such and for Christ to be exalted as the truth in this historically Christian nation. Pray that Hungarians might see the truth of the gospel and the freedom it brings through Jesus.

JANUARY

19

Bobby & Julie, Central Asia

Pray that during these short cold days and long winter nights, Bobby and Julie will be a light and share the love of Jesus with those around them. Pray that they will grow in their language learning and their ability to communicate the gospel. Pray for Bobby as he leads their team while Cliff and his family have returned home for several months. As they work through various discipleship opportunities and summer programs, pray for God's wisdom in planning for this year.

India (Asia). Population: 1,441,719,852 Believers: 2.2%. India has more unreached individuals than any other nation. Christians in India are unequally spread—the south and northeast have a much higher proportion of Christians than the more populated north and west. Thirteen states in North India are less than 1% Christian. Pray that the Church worldwide might rise to this task. Training Christian workers is an important need that is immediately urgent and essential in the long-term. The life and health of the Church depend on the proper development of pastors, teachers, evangelists, and missionaries.

JANUARY

20

Indigenous Church Planting Organization in Arab and Muslim Countries

They recently graduated a class of women from their missionary school in South Sudan. The women arrived with many issues to work through, but with God's grace and the wisdom and help of the leaders and teachers, they were ready to go and are now in the field. They will be facing many challenges and spiritual warfare. Please pray for God's protection over them.

The Islands of Indonesia (Asia). Population: 279,798,049 Believers: 5.6%. A spiritual conflict rages for Indonesia. Ancient and strong occult powers seek to oppose the influence of the gospel, while modern Muslim stratagems seek to eliminate Christianity and remove the presence of the good news. Pray specifically for the binding of these powers and for continued growth of the Church in the midst of intense opposition and growing persecution.

JANUARY

21

Amy Cottle, OMF, United States

Amy has successfully fulfilled the two terms of service that she committed to in Thailand with OMF. Her time with OMF, as a missionary, ended on December 31, 2024. Now, she plans to volunteer with OMF on their U.S. Candidate Team, doing what she can to get people to the field in East Asia. Amy is grateful for God's provision of a fulltime job as the Administrative Coordinator in the Department of Healthcare Education Initiatives at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). Please pray for her as she navigates the transition from her role as a missionary to starting this new position on January 21. Pray for God's help to adjust to living and working in the U.S.

Iran (Asia). Population: 89,809,781 Believers: 0.2%. Widespread protests in 2022 demonstrated that the younger generation is fed up with the legacy of oppression, bloodshed, cruel “justice,” corruption, economic hardship, and cultural isolation from most of the world. Despite external religiosity, drug addiction, and prostitution is widespread. Iran is an ancient, noble, and proud civilization. But in the modern era, these struggles have made many people very open to the gospel. Pray that Iranians’ desires for greatness, prosperity, freedom, and even for righteousness might ultimately be met through worship of Jesus.

JANUARY

22

Church Planting Ministry in South Asia

Pray for the upcoming 70-year anniversary of ministry celebrations in February 2025. Pray for more doors to open for the one-week Regional Development Trainings. Pray for new partnerships to be built.

Iraq (Asia). Population: 46,523,657 Believers: 0.2%. The emergence of Iraqi Arab evangelicals in recent years (now over 50,000) is an answer to prayer! Many of them come from Muslim and even extremist backgrounds, but they encountered Christ through evangelical witness, gospel radio, and especially through dreams and visions of Jesus. Pray for leaders for the churches. Many fled the country and others died, often targeted by Islamists. Many times, the Christian widows of these leaders continue with the pastoral and discipleship work.

JANUARY

23

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

Please pray as they anticipate celebrating 20 years of Ambassadors Football ministry in Brazil this year. Pray that this celebration will encourage those involved in ministry and bring glory to God.

Ireland (Europe). Population: 5,089,478, Believers: 1.5%. Evangelicals are experiencing sustained growth. The immigration surge contributed to this, with around one-third of evangelicals coming from non-Irish ethnicities. Pray for unity amid the new diversity, continued growth, good Bible-trained leadership to be raised up, and for the further development of holistic ministry by evangelicals.

JANUARY

24

Chris & Leanne Harrington, Japan

The group coming to Cleveland from their community in Japan have purchased their tickets. In the preparation meetings leading up to their trip in March, their pastor, Yukimasa, will be leading the group and their families through an overview of the gospel. This whole trip experience is a huge opportunity for sharing the gospel and for the group members to really have their hearts opened to it. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of the participants and their families. Also, pray for the planning and preparations here in Cleveland.

Israel (Asia). Population: 9,311,652, Believers: 0.4%. Interest in the gospel increased within Israel, especially among Jews, and especially the last few years. At least 12,000 Jews recognize Jesus as their Messiah just within Israel. Messianic Jews are now an undeniable part of Israeli society, but growth also brings persecution. Pray for boldness in witness, and perseverance in faith despite the opposition.

JANUARY

25

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 God would give Filemon conviction as he deals with family members who don't want him to study the Bible. Pray that God would open doors for their son, Juan, and his wife, Amy, as they prepare to serve in a closed country. Pray that Neri will have wisdom as he facilitates ESI groups in the state of Chiapas. Pray for continued growth of the church plant. The issues with the foundation of the new church building have been resolved and the roof will be installed soon. 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.

Italy (Europe). Population: 58,697,744, Believers: 1.1%. The challenge of Christian leadership in Italy remains urgent, since lack of mature, qualified, and gifted lay leaders persists. Academic and pastoral training are needed, but finance, time, and lack of vision limit opportunities. Pray that the various means of training would bolster pastoral leadership across the nation and, in turn, uplift and disciple the whole Church to entirely new levels of maturity.

JANUARY

26

Johannes (& Mathapelo) Thaele, South Africa

The schools reopened from summer break on January 15. Pray for God to prepare the hearts of children to accept the message of salvation and for new learners to hunger for his words. With the help from the funds provided by the children at Parkside's Vacation Bible Camp in 2024, they have opened a new building for church. They have about 50 new members. Pray for the lost to come to this new facility, find saving faith, and then serve God.

Jamaica (Caribbean). Population: 2,824,738, Believers: 28.0%. Jamaica has a wonderful Christian heritage, with a rich history of sending missionaries. It has the most evangelicals and the best-resourced churches in the Caribbean. The Bible Society (Kingston) provides Bibles to most mini-states of the region with a special vision for young people. Pray that the 15 Bible schools and seminaries, and the Keswick teaching conferences may be strongholds of biblical theology, godly lifestyle, and mission sending for the Caribbean.

JANUARY

27

Shoreline Church, United States

Shoreline is thankful for another full year of ministry in 2024. Pray for them as they finish up their sermon series in Exodus. Pray for the students involved in the children and youth ministries as school starts back and the regular life patterns return. Thank God for the work taking place in their adult ministries. As their Bible studies start meeting again, pray they will continue to be a place of spiritual growth and friendship. Pray for those who are in the process of becoming members. Praise the Lord that Youth for Christ of Greater Cleveland saw 44 young people start a relationship with Christ through their outreaches in jails, schools, deaf ministry, and their urban teen center. Please pray for the process of getting these students into local churches and Bible studies.

Japan (Asia). Population: 122,631,432 Believers: 0.5%. Spiritual powers and principalities in Japan hinder the gospel. The powers associated with idolatry in temples and ancestor worship in homes remain strong. Many Japanese claim no religion, but actually follow some rituals of Buddhism and Shintoism. Even the idea of a Creator God is foreign to the Japanese worldview. Many new religions get started in Japan each year, often based on Buddhism, but also on the occult, the worship of extra-terrestrial aliens, and other strange ideas. Ask God to remove the spirit of delusion!

JANUARY

28

Andrew & Angie James, Uruguay

Andrew hopes to begin new ESI groups in In Montevideo, Uruguay, in 2025. Please pray that God will bring the students who will most benefit from this training. As the church remodeling continues, pray that the result will bring glory to God. Also, pray that the Lord will continue to sustain and strengthen the leadership of the church. Pray that each of the James children will grow up to love and serve the Lord.

Jordan (Asia). Population: 11,384,922 Believers: 0.3%. Religious freedom could be a casualty amid rising religious tensions. This nation is a center for many Christian activities and ministries, and much Christian work in the Middle East would suffer were a setback to occur in Jordan. Pray for the peace of this land, and for the King and government. Pray for the freedom to proclaim the gospel and for followers of Jesus to be able to remain in Jordan.

JANUARY

29

Wes & Nancy Collins, Guatemala, United States

Please continue to pray for all the villages that have New Testament translations in their language, that they will read the Scriptures and come to faith in Jesus, and for those who still need to have God's Word. Pray for the missionaries to those areas, especially in dangerous ones. Pray for those Christians in war-stricken countries and for the ministries like Samaritan's Purse who minister there. Many are in danger but put the priority on sharing God's Word above their own safety.

Kazakhstan (Asia). Population: 19,828,165 Believers: 0.7%. “To be a Kazakh is to be Muslim”—but theirs is a folk Islam strongly influenced by shamanistic practices. Other Muslim countries (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan) invest huge amounts of money to send Muslim missionaries. They successfully convert even some ethnic Russians to Islam. After the Soviet Union broke up, the number of mosques grew from 46 (1989) to 2,300 (2020)! The government works to keep Islam moderate, and Kazakhstan is the only Central Asian state where Islam is not accorded special status. Pray for freedom from historic spiritual bondages.

JANUARY

30

Parkside Kent, United States

As they start the new year, they are grateful for the Lord’s provision. Please pray for the students of Parkside Kent to be vitally involved in the life of the church and equipped to live as disciples of Jesus and ambassadors for Christ. Pray for Jordan as he continues to meet with students and prayerfully develops a college ministry.

Kenya (Africa). Population: 56,203,303 Believers: 48.9%. Long-term and rapid growth in churches has brought significant challenges for prayer. The need for trained leaders for the more than 80,000 congregations gives cause for concern. Pray for grassroots training programs that aim to ground leaders in the Word and to help them lead and plant truly biblical, truly African churches.

JANUARY

31

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

Pray for a full-time sonographer for their clinic so they can again serve women by providing ultrasounds. A full-time nurse is also needed. Pray for their staff to seek the Lord as they lovingly counsel and share the hope that is found only in the gospel with their clients. Pray that donations will come in to fill the needs in their Blessing Boutique.

Kiribati (Pacific). Population: 135,763 Believers: 7.2%. The once-strong Congregational Church (Kiribati Protestant) is in slow decline and losing members to other groups. The theological college in Tarawa is not evangelical. Pray for a return to the Bible. Nominalism and syncretism with traditional spiritism practices are all too common. **Liechtenstein (Europe).** Population: 39,822 Believers: 0.5%. Liechtenstein has changed from a feudal backwater in the 1930s into a sophisticated and affluent modern state. Expatriates represent several Christian confessions, but non-religion and Islam are growing rapidly. Few in this country have ever been confronted with the necessity of a personal faith in Christ. Pray encounters with the gospel might likewise multiply.

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Missions: More than Money

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

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

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

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

Full Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

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

Partial Financial Support of Parkside Missionaries

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

Financial Support of Nationals

Bolivia & Around the World

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

Mexico

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

South Asia

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

South Africa

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

Financial Support to Mission Partners and Local Churches

Fieldstone Counseling

Parkside Church Westside

Hope for Glasgow

Parkside Green

Human Coalition Cleveland

Parkside Heights Church

The City Mission

Parkside Kent

Truth For Life

Scranton Road Bible Church

Indigenous Church Planting Organization in Arab & Muslim Countries

Shoreline Church

Financial Support to Mission Individuals

Emily (& Blake) Ackerson

Amy Cottle

Jon (& Ruthie)

Matt (& Laura) Pheneger

Goran (& Beth) Tomic

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

Get Involved

in a short-term missions trip

South Africa Trip

Vacation Bible Camp

Trip Dates: July 10-20, 2025

Informational Meeting: January 19, 11:45am, Room B207

South Asia Trip

Teaching English as a Second Language

Trip Date: July 2025

South Asia Online Opportunity

Teaching English as a Second Language

Monthly, online conversation group

Host Home Needed for Japanese Students

Dates: March 25-April 3, 2025

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

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.



To see unbelieving people become committed followers of Jesus Christ.