

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

- ▶ **Dan Dixon** returned to Kenya after a six month furlough in the USA. Dan is again teaching junior high students and coaching for the fall term.
- ▶ **Jim Ehrman** finished two weeks of comprehensive exams at the end of August. This was for his Ph. D. program. We don't know when Jim will receive word of his results, but wish him all the best. It's been a long time coming!
- ▶ Congratulations to **Kurt and Nancy G.** on the safe birth of their second grandchild and first granddaughter. Nadya Grace arrived safely in late July. Mom, Dad, baby and big brother are all doing well and getting adjusted to being a family of four now.
- ▶ **Lamar and Janice Stoltzfus** hosted a team from their home church, Faith EC in Lancaster PA, during late July/early August. The team did some repairs and maintenance at Rift Valley Academy dorms and other buildings.
- ▶ Congratulations to **Adam Toy**, youngest son of **Rev. Joe and Wendy Toy**. Adam graduated from Air Force boot camp in Texas in late July. Continue to pray for Joe as he does open air ministry in Camden, NJ, a town with a reputation for violence.
- ▶ This will be a banner year for **Jonathan and Kathy Wilson**. Youngest daughter Jonita graduated from high school in Papua New Guinea in June, daughter Sarah graduates from Moody in December and she recently became engaged. So the Wilsons have another graduation and a wedding to look forward to in this furlough year! Congratulations!
- ▶ Unfortunately, **Rev. Ralph Owens** and **Steve Lockoff** weren't able to finish their 2700 mile bike journey to raise funds for our EC churches of Liberia through the Help Liberia Bike Tour. They left Washington state in June and planned to ride for the better part of two months to St. Louis, MO. Steve was struggling with health issues beginning in Montana that worsened by the time they arrived in Colorado. Doctors determined the symptoms were related to altitude sickness, and Steve had to get to lower altitudes immediately to avoid possible permanent damage to his brain and lungs. So they regretfully returned to PA in early July. However, you can still contribute through GMC to the Help Liberia fund. These monies will be used to continue the fight against the Ebola virus, which has resurfaced recently in Liberia. Call the GMC office at 1-800-866-7584 for more information. And many thanks to Ralph and Steve for their herculean effort!
- ▶ Retired missionary **Marcia Hopley** was recently gifted with the opportunity to return to Kenya (where she and late husband Thom served with AIM for many years) to see her African son retire. She had a great time reconnecting with friends and family.
- ▶ Congratulations to **Randy and Chris Amberman** on the marriage of their youngest daughter Megan this summer. Best wishes to the new couple!



GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION
OF THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 2015



NEW GODS FOR OLD

In the story of Aladdin, a young boy is tricked by a sorcerer into entering a booby trapped cave in order to retrieve a magical lamp. Aladdin manages to get the lamp away from the sorcerer, and when it is rubbed, a powerful genie appears that grants wishes.

However, Aladdin keeps this information to himself. Later, after having the genie make him fabulously wealthy, he marries the daughter of the king. One day, the sorcerer comes back in disguise and tricks Aladdin's wife into giving him the magic lamp by offering 'new lamps for old.' After all, who wouldn't want a new shiny lamp rather than an old tarnished one?

Human nature seems to crave new things: new car, new house, new spouse. When the sparkle rubs off what we already have, we think that replacing it with something new and shiny will make us happy. Unfortunately, this pattern dates all the way back to ancient Israel. Jehovah tells Jeremiah the prophet that Israel has left Him for other gods. In Jeremiah 2:11, the Lord says "*Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged my Glory for worthless idols.*" (NIV)

This attitude seems to apply to our theology as well. If the God we read about in the Bible doesn't fit with our 'modern' world view, we'll exchange Him for one that is more tolerant, more accepting of our behavior. We'll reinterpret His Word to suit our own perspective. If He doesn't give us what we want or do what we want, we'll trade Him in on a better model.

A very wise man once said, "There is nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:9) Israel's sin of turning to other gods is ours as well. Even as Christians, we tend to let our eyes wander, to let other things/idols take first place in our hearts. We live in a world that encourages us to put ourselves first – our desires, our feelings, our wants and perceived needs. Is it any wonder that even the Church is having trouble staying focused on Christ and its true purpose in Him? We need to turn away from the distractions of this world and remember to whom we belong, then act accordingly.

"We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true – even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Dear children, keep yourselves from idols. (1 JOHN 5:20-21, NIV)

SEPTEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR INSIDE

Pat Strain

FACILITATING MISSION WORKERS
EMPOWERING NATIONAL CHURCHES
ENGAGING THE LOCAL CHURCH

EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



SEPTEMBER 2015

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 - Laura Whitaker (2012) | 4 | 5 - Aiyana Ehrman |
| | | PRAYER NEEDS David Hershey – campus ministry at Penn State/ Berks in Reading PA | Dan Dixon – back in Kenya, teaching middle school students in various subjects | Randy & Chris Amberman – starting after school clubs again | Pray for Rev. L.B. Angam, General Director of our EC Church-India | Ken Sears – safety in travel for deputation over next several months |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| PRAYER NEEDS Rev. Lalrosiem Songate – finishing doctoral degree to return to India | Be grateful for a job and the ability to work | Pray for Rev. Th. Janga, field leader of the EC Church of Nepal | Gloria Smethers – serving at AIM Retirement Center in FL | Pray for the persecuted church around the world, especially in Sudan | Pray for Rev. Elias Martinez, field leader of the EC Church of Mexico | Pray for EC church planters , both in USA and abroad |
| 13 - Gwen Melger * | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| PRAYER NEEDS Dave & Celia Dick – serving at OMS headquarters in Indiana | Pray for Rev. Tomoyuki & Jessica Abe – pastoring Fuchinobe church plant in Japan | Ron & Brenda Anderson – work in Spain with ECMI | Congratulations to Kurt & Nancy G. – first granddaughter born safely in late July | David & Conce Roof – in USA for brief vacation and to do deputation; returning to Brazil next month | Gwen Melger – retired in FL, health issues | Pray that our churches and members will be bold for Christ |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| PRAYER NEEDS Pray for the EC-USA leadership as they work through the changes approved at National Conference | Jamie & Anita Farr – back from some vacation time in PA with family in July | Pray for Rev. Matthew Gueh, field leader of the EC Church of Liberia | Ed & Val Schubert – working with disadvantaged women and children in Honduras | Chris & Deb Bowers – training missionary pilots in WA for JAARS-Wycliffe | Pray for Rev. Nobuo Abe, Chairman of the EC Church - Japan | BJ & Rachel Whitaker – church planting in Alcora, Spain |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | ANNIVERSARIES September 3 – Dave & Celia Dick September 3 – Ron & Brenda Anderson September 3 – Ed & Val Schubert | | OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS October 7 (1996) – Adam Schubert October 10 – Chrisanne Amberman October 11 – Mary Ellen Davis * October 12 (1995) – Andrew Roof |
| PRAYER NEEDS Jonathan & Kathy Wilson – in USA for a year of furlough, special family events | Kitty Miller – retired but still active in Allentown, PA | Pray for the missionaries sent out by EC Church of India to neighboring states | Brian & Missy Wagner – new school year at Rift Valley Academy, Kenya | | | |

*DENOTES RETIREE