

► **CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR MISSIONARIES:** This is the annual reminder for individuals or churches who wish to give monetary Christmas gifts to our EC missionaries. If the missionary serves overseas, it is better to give the monetary gift through either the GMC office or the mission agency with which the missionary serves. Cashing checks overseas always costs the recipient a lot in fees, plus it may open your check to being altered and cashed for a much higher amount than you intended. **DO NOT SEND CARDS TO THE GMC OFFICE TO BE FORWARDED TO MISSIONARIES.** If the missionary is in the USA, either permanently or on furlough, then mail the card, check and/or gift directly to them. If you need current mailing addresses, contact Pat at the GMC office for that information. Thanks!

► **Jim Ehrman** officially ends his missionary status as of the end of this year. He will remain involved with Rivendell Institute in a much reduced capacity. He is now Dean of Academic Affairs as well as Interim Assistant Professor of Leadership and Culture at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown, PA. Jim, Aiyana and the family have relocated to Lebanon, PA to be able to more involved in seminary life. We wish him the best in this new endeavor.

► At the fall Global Ministries board meeting, we approved two new missionary candidates. **Cassie Wells** is a member of our Trinity Lighthouse Church in Royersford, PA. She will be working with Disciple Makers and is currently raising support so she can be assigned. **Ivy Limbert** is a member of our Trinity EC Church in Lititz and she will be teaching at Black Forest Academy, a school for missionary children in Germany. Ivy is also currently support raising and hopes to be able to start with the new school year next August. Both of these young women are available to speak in your churches and share about the ministries to which they have been called. Call the GMC office to make arrangements to have them share in your congregations.

► **John and Carolyn Miller** will be retiring as EC missionaries at the end of this year. Although technically on furlough with Wycliffe until the end of next April, they will remain in Houghton, NY where they have an apartment. If you wish to send them a note or a card expressing your appreciation for their many years of service as translators of God's Word, you can send it to them at 9788 Circle Drive, Houghton, NY 14744 or email to [john-carolyn\\_miller@sil.org](mailto:john-carolyn_miller@sil.org).

► **John Miller** was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer and will be undergoing radiation and hormone therapy treatments. The center is a 40 mile drive from their home, so keep them in prayer for safe travels to and from the treatments.

► Praise that none of our missionaries and their homes/facilities suffered damage in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. **Jamie & Anita Farr** and family, **Dan & Melinda Moury** and family, **Gloria Smethers** (all in Florida), and **Dan & Mary Lynne Wills** at JAARS in North Carolina all reported they were fine and there was no serious damage to their respective properties.



## Lowest Common Denominator

**I**n mathematics, the lowest common denominator is the least common multiple of the denominators of a set of fractions. It simplifies adding, subtracting, and comparing fractions. That's a good thing!

In life, the lowest common denominator isn't always so good. Surveys confirm what many of us suspect; that people are becoming more rude and self centered overall. Morals seem to be declining faster than Blockbuster Video stock (now defunct.)

As I write this, it is election time in the USA. From local races all the way to the battle for the White House, the name calling and mudslinging have reached a new low. Teachers who usually have their students follow the presidential candidate debates as a lesson in civics are turning the TV off due to the crude language being used. There was a lesson, but not the one intended.

We like to think we've evolved into better beings over the centuries, but really, mankind hasn't changed that much since creation. We were created from dirt, and we've been throwing it at each other ever since. No matter how hard we try, the muck and mire of our sin nature seems to cling to us a bit.

Two thousand years ago, into this sprawling, brawling mass of humanity, God the Creator sent His Son, part of Himself, to live among His flawed creation. Jesus came from the heights of glory to roll in the mud with us. He was born with blood and pain as all babies are, experiencing our human condition and all that involved.

Unlike us however, Jesus didn't become immersed in the mud. He showed us how we could be free from sin's stain and rise above the muck of our nature. He provided a way to be reconciled with our Creator and left us a blueprint of how to live so we reflect His love to those around us. Jesus became one of us to show us there is a better way to live, to give us hope. So why would we crawl back down to the same filth we were raised out of?

As we again celebrate the incarnation of our Lord and Savior, remember that those of us who call ourselves by His name are to be salt and light to a world that knows only uncertainty and turmoil. The lowest common denominator for Christians should be love, not mud.

Pat Strain

# EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



# DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>JANUARY BIRTHDAYS</b> January 2 – Jim Farr January 3 – Lamar Stoltzfus January 5 – Jim Stahl January 8 – Celia Dick January 10 – Dan Wills		<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b> December 10 – Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus December 12 – Randy & Chris Amberman		*DENOTES RETIREE	1	2	3
4	5	6 – Sue Haglund 	7	8	9	10	
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> <b>Jim Ehrman</b> – transitioning to new career as Dean of Academic Affairs at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown, PA	<b>EC Church-Japan</b> – pray that the various outreaches of our churches and church plants will be successful	<b>David &amp; Conce Roof</b> – in USA over holidays, visiting family and doing deputation	<b>Joe Toy</b> – handing out Christmas stockings to underprivileged children in the Philadelphia area	<b>Rev. Joel Copeland</b> , Chief of Chaplain Services at the VA Medical Center in Lebanon PA	Pray for the <b>EC Church of Northeast India</b> as they work towards more cohesiveness and unity	<b>Ivy Limbert</b> – missionary candidate to serve at Black Forest Academy in Germany	
11	12	13 – Rev. Dan Moury 	14	15	16	17	
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> <b>John &amp; Carolyn Miller</b> – retiring at end of this year; for John's health and continued service to God as He directs	Pray for <b>Bishop Bruce Hill and the Conference Network Team</b> which meets to plan goals for the EC Church-USA	<b>Jim &amp; Joan Farr</b> – serving as translators among the Baruga and Korafe peoples in PNG	<b>Cassie Wells</b> – missionary candidate who will be serving with Disciple Makers	Pray for the <b>EC Church of Liberia</b> as it struggles to recover from the scars of civil war and the Ebola epidemic	<b>Lamar &amp; Janice Stoltzfus</b> – in USA for a year of deputation; traveling mercies as they visit our churches	<b>Janet Baker</b> – retired missionary living in Lebanon, PA	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 	
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> <b>Christmas Missionary Offering</b> – goes to help our international churches and costs of GMC office	Pray for the <b>EC Church of Mexico</b> as they continue preparations to become a National Conference this coming May	<b>BJ &amp; Rachel Whitaker</b> – church planters in Alcora, Spain – pray for opportunities to share God's love	Pray for <b>those who will not be able to spend Christmas with family</b> because of serving the Lord overseas	<b>Brian &amp; Missy Wagner</b> – serving at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya as administrators and teachers	Pray for the <b>EC Church of Nepal</b> which faces more intense persecution in light of changes to laws	<b>May your hearts be filled with wonder as you contemplate the true meaning of Christmas</b>	
25 	27	28 – Janet Stahl 	29	29	30	31 – Gloria Smethers 	
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> <b>Christ the Savior is born!</b> Let heaven and nature sing!	Pray for <b>those who don't know Jesus Christ as Savior</b> , especially friends & family	<b>Dan &amp; Melinda Moury</b> – serving with Wycliffe at the headquarters in Orlando, FL	<b>Rev. Jim &amp; Bonnie Bound</b> – retired but still pastoring in Vermont	Pray for <b>Jonathan &amp; Kathy Wilson</b> – translators with the Binandere people in Papua New Guinea	<b>Dan &amp; Mary Lynne Wills</b> – serving at Wycliffe-JAARS center in Waxhaw, NC	<b>Gloria Smethers</b> – serving as staff nurse at AIM Retirement Center in FL	