

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

▶ **Dan & Melinda Moury** give praise that they were able to sell their home in PA and are in the process of relocating to Orlando, FL so Dan can begin serving as a videographer with Wycliffe. No new address is available at this time.

▶ We offer our sympathy to **Ed and Val Schubert** on the passing of Val's mother, Cheryl Mong, in late October. Val's father is Rev. Keith Mong, pastor at the Martindale EC Church. Please keep the Mong and Schubert families in prayer during this time of loss.

▶ Many thanks to **Rev. Joel Kime** for his years of service as a member of the Global Ministries Commission. Because of time constraints with pastoring, family, and teaching duties, Joel has had to step off the GMC. We appreciate his insights and input, and will miss them.

▶ **Reminder** – If you are mailing a Christmas card and gift to U.S.-based missionaries, mail the items directly to them. If the missionary is serving overseas, send the card directly to them, but send the check to Global Ministries for processing. The check should be payable to 'EC Church' with a notation or letter stating who the gift is for and how much for each person, if more than one missionary is receiving monies. If you need a current address for any missionary, call the Global Ministries office at 1-800-866-7584.

▶ **Need a Christmas gift idea?** The Global Ministries Office has copies of Mae Royer's book, "In the Heart of Mexico" in paperback form. This book tells the story of Mae's life and service as a missionary nurse in Mexico, from the tropical area along the Pan American Highway to the founding of El Retiro Juvenil children's home in 1960. Mae wrote this book from more than 40 years of diaries, sharing details about people and places in central and northern Mexico. We also have copies of Dr. Carl Becker's book "God's Faithfulness", a sequel to "Another Hand on Mine", telling of his years of service in what was then Belgian Congo. Just call the GMC office and let us know how many copies you would like! The books are free, but we would ask for a donation to cover postage if you want to have copies mailed.



GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION
OF THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



DECEMBER 2011

RE-GIFTING

Re-gifting is a new name for an old practice; namely, passing along a gift you've received that you don't want. It may be the tacky Christmas sweater with a tree that lights up, or the pink bunny PJ's like those poor Ralphie received in "A Christmas Story". Almost all of us have received gifts we didn't want or couldn't use sometime during our lives.

But what about passing along a gift you do like? Have you ever given away something that was precious to you, that you treasured deeply? How would you feel if you shared something valuable, perhaps a family treasure, with a relative who turned around and threw it away? Most of us would be hurt, upset and angry. And yet that's what many people do with the Gift whose arrival we celebrate every December – the anniversary of God sending His Son to earth in human form. God gave a part of Himself, His precious Son, so that we could be reconciled to the Father. Some people refuse the Gift outright; others say thanks but put the Gift away unopened and forget about it. Still others pull it out a few times a year, dust it off, and use it on the occasional Sunday. Some proudly display it on their coffee tables, so visitors will know that they have it, although it doesn't seem to make much difference in their lives. Sadly, some people enjoy the Gift but don't tell anyone else about it.

But some realize how precious the Gift is, and how He has changed their lives. They are amazed and grateful that a Creator God thought enough of His creation to come down to their level and live among them. The Gift that is Jesus Christ, who came as savior of all mankind, has brought the gift of eternal life to those who accept this precious Gift.

This season, let's put a positive spin on re-gifting. Share the gift of knowing Jesus as Savior with those people whom God brings into your life. Give and give again by telling others the Good News that the world so desperately needs to hear. Unlike most of the gifts people will find under their Christmas trees this year, the Gift of the Savior will last forever. And that's so much better than any gift card! J

"The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14 RSV

–Pat Strain

DECEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR INSIDE

EMPOWERING NATIONAL CHURCHES
• FACILITATING MISSIONS WORKERS • MINISTERING TO
THE MARGINALIZED • CREATING WORLD CHRISTIANS

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December 2011

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

ANNIVERSARIES

December 2 – Brad & Maxine Waldman
 December 12 – Randy & Chris Amberman
 * INDICATES RETIREE
 (c) INDICATES CANDIDATE
 + INDICATES MISSIONS ASSOCIATE

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2 – Jim Farr
 January 3 – Lamar Stoltzfus
 January 5 – Jim Stahl
 January 8 – Celia Dick
 INDICATES RETIREE (c) INDICATES CANDIDATE + INDICATES MISSIONS ASSOCIATE

January 10 – Dan Wills
 January 11(1994) – Alyssa Stoltzfus
 + INDICATES MISSIONS ASSOCIATE

HERE AND THERE – Randy Sizemore

1 2 3
 Nov 29th – December 8th – traveling with EC group to meet with churches in Nepal
 PRAYER Pray for Liberia and a peaceful aftermath to recent elections
 Pray for the persecuted church as they share God's light with the world
 Pray for the EC Churches of Costa Rica and field leader William Araya

4 5 6 – Sue Hagland 7 8 9 10
 PRAYER NEEDS Pray for Rev. Janga and the EC churches of Nepal as they meet with the U.S., Japanese, and Indian delegates
 David Hershey – campus ministry at Berks-Penn State campus
 Joe Toy – open air ministries including special events and college campuses
 EC group returns from trip to Nepal; pray for safety in travel and good health
 Chris & Deb Bowers – serving with Wycliffe/ SIL in Papua New Guinea
 David & Celia Dick – serving with OMS as consultant/trainer around the world
 Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus – serving as teachers at Rift Valley Academy, Kenya

11 12 13 – Rev. Dan Moury 14 15 16 17
 PRAYER NEEDS BJ & Rachel Whitaker – church planters in Alcora, Spain with ECMI
 Randy & Chris Amberman – work with Navajo children
 Pray for Tomoyuki & Jessica Abe, church planters at Fuchinobe Community church
 Art & Mary Ellen Davis – retired missionaries in Kenya
 Pray for the EC churches of Mexico, especially those affected by drug cartel violence
 Ron & Brenda Anderson – ministering to ECMI teams/churches in Europe
 Dan & Mary Lynne Wills – serving with The Seed Company in NC

18 19 20 21 22 Dec 22nd – Church Center Christmas party – 11:30 a.m.-closing 23 24
 PRAYER NEEDS Pray for the EC churches in Japan and Rev. Nobuo Abe, field leader
 Pray for M.K.'s traveling to be with family for the holidays
 Dan Dixon – serving at RVA in Kenya
 Pray for Rev. Matthew Gueh, field leader of the EC Church of Liberia
 Nick & Lisa Lakatos – church planting in Mexico with OMS
 Pray for Rev. Lalrosiem Songate, General Director of EC Church of N.E. India
 Pray for missionary families separated from loved ones over holidays

25 26 27 28 – Janet Stahl 29 30 31 – Gloria Smethers
 Dec 23rd – 27th – Closed for Christmas holiday
 Dec 30th – closed for New Year holiday
 PRAYER NEEDS Christ the Savior is born! Hallelujah!
 John & Carolyn Miller – serving in Bible translation in Thailand
 Jamie & Anita Farr – serving with Wycliffe at headquarters in Orlando, FL
 Pray for the EC churches of Northeast India
 Jim & Bonnie Bound – retired missionaries in VT
 Pray for Rev. Elias Martinez, field leader for the EC churches in Mexico
 We serve a God who holds the future in His hands; Happy New Year!