

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

▶ **Chris & Deb Bowers** along with daughters Katie and Emily, were able to spend most of the month of December in PA with Chris' family. They return to Spokane, Washington area the day after New Year's.

▶ **Jim and Joan Farr** return to Papua New Guinea early this month for approximately 10 months on the field. This will be to finish up any open projects, celebrate the Baruga scriptures in the village in June, and make arrangements to sell, give or otherwise dispose of their property as they prepare for retirement in 2019.

▶ **Cassie Wells**, EC missionary candidate with Disciple Makers, has moved to be closer to her work assignment at Kutztown University. Cassie's new address is: 107 S. Main St. Apt. 4, Alburts, PA 18011.

▶ **Ken Sears** was able to once again spend the Christmas holidays with his parents in TX. He returns to Ukraine in mid-January.

▶ **Dave Hershey** and the Christian Student Fellowship student members handed out cookies at the Penn State-Berks campus in early December, while asking students how they could pray for them. Since it was the week before finals, you can guess what most of the prayer requests were for! The CSF students will also be hosting a video game tournament as a way to meet other students who wouldn't attend Bible study.

▶ **Ron & Brenda Anderson** extended their stay with family in the USA after the passing of Ron's mother, mostly to help his father adjust to the loss of his life partner. They had planned to spend Christmas with son Mark and his family, and will return to Spain in mid-January. Please continue to pray for Loren Anderson.

▶ **Val Schubert**, who is facing surgery on the arteries in her legs, has at the behest of her family, decided to wait and have the surgery in the USA instead of Honduras. No date for the surgery has been set as of this writing. Please keep Val in prayer that there will be no complications before she has her surgery.

▶ **Rev. Randy Sizemore, GMC Associate and Rev. Rick Sergi, chairman of the Liberia Committee**, will be traveling to Liberia January 19-29 for the annual conference of the EC Church of Liberia. Pray for safe travels, health and stamina during this trip. Rev. Sergi is the pastor of Emmanuel E.C. Church in Bethlehem, PA.

▶ **Beth Grimm** will be traveling to Guatemala this month, from January 8-29, to do more evaluation of MK students with possible learning disabilities. Beth then develops a teaching plan for the teachers and parents, and works with them so they understand how to implement it to aid the student in learning. This allows missionary families to remain on the field instead of having to return to the USA to make sure their child gets a decent education.

▶ **Jonathan & Kathy Wilson** may have logged more miles than Santa over the Christmas holiday. They flew from Papua New Guinea to spend time with daughter Sarah and her family in Oregon, then headed to Colombia, South America where oldest son Justin and his family are living and teaching English. Daughter Jonita joined them at Sarah's for the holidays.



GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMUNITY
OF THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE

JANUARY 2018



LIBERIA

Located on the western coast of Africa, the country whose name literally means "Land of the Free" was established in 1822 (with the support of the American government) as a colony for free-born and formerly enslaved African Americans. From its inception, though, ethnic issues divided the population of Liberia and fueled hostility between people groups. Recent decades of war and political corruption have left Liberia poor and destitute. Road systems and buildings are in shambles. Worst of all, the people are left traumatized and scarred by a nation in constant conflict.



An estimated 200,000 people were killed during the wartime that spanned from 1989 to 2003. Over 50,000 children under the age of 17 have been killed in direct combat. And every Liberian child has been affected. Many were orphaned.

Since the fighting ended in 2003, the E.C. church has been directly involved with restoration efforts. There were 36 E.C. churches that remained after the war, but since many are back in the jungle or 'bush', they are inaccessible except on foot, so the current number is uncertain. Most of our E.C. church members belong to the Bassa tribe.

In January 2016 the church held its first election for the next leader of the Church. The new leader is Rev. Abraham Powell. Rev. Powell's vision led to the 2017 VBS project of raising funds for a literacy project. Since the war, many of the public schools have not been reopened, so there is a generation of Liberians who are functionally illiterate. Rev. Powell's plan will establish teaching centers in E.C. churches, with teachers who will teach people to read using the Bassa scriptures. In this way, the people will learn to read and learn about God at the same time. We met our goal of \$10,000 for the VBS project, and Rev. Powell reports that the program is now underway.

The E.C. Church of Liberia holds its annual conference this month, and GMC Associate Rev. Randy Sizemore, along with Liberia Committee chairman Rev. Rick Sergi, will be there to represent the E.C. Church of the USA. We look forward to hearing how God's work is progressing through our E.C. churches in that country which needs spiritual and physical healing.

Pat Strain

FACILITATING MISSION WORKERS
EMPOWERING NATIONAL CHURCHES
ENGAGING THE LOCAL CHURCH

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 - Jim Farr	3 - Lamar Stoltzfus	4	5 - Jim Stahl	6
	PRAYER NEEDS Pray that those of us who call ourselves Christians will be worthy of His Name; that our witness will be true to the Word	Chris & Deb Bowers - training missionary pilots in WA - returning from time with family in PA	Pray for the EC Church of Latin America , that they may grow and flourish despite the threat of violence from the drug cartels	Dan Dixon - teacher and coach at Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya	Pray for the EC Church of Liberia , still dealing with aftermath of civil war and epidemics. Pray they can be a healing influence in society	Pray for the EC Church of Nepal , facing almost certain persecution from govt. due to new regulations against evangelizing
7	8 - Celia Dick	9	10 - Dan Wills	11	12	13
PRAYER NEEDS Jim & Joan Farr - returning to Papua New Guinea after furlough time in USA; getting ready for celebration of the Baruga scriptures in June	Beth Grimm - three weeks in Guatemala this month to test students with learning disabilities and recommend new teaching procedures	Dave & Celia Dick - ministering at OMS headquarters and as special consultant to OMS president	Ron & Brenda Anderson - returning to Spain after being in USA for Ron's mother's funeral and spending time with family	Pray for Bishop Bruce Hill and wisdom in choosing the successor for GMC Associate Rev. Randy Sizemore	Pray for Chaplain Maj. Josh Metz , serving in Missouri. The recent move was a bit rough on the family and their belongings	Yoriyoshi & Emiko Abe - church planters in Ebina City, Japan - welcomed their first child, a baby girl!
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
PRAYER NEEDS Pray for Rev. G. Abraham Powell , bishop of EC Church of Liberia - wisdom in moving the church forward, strategic planning and institution of literacy program	Kurt G. - working with young men considering full time mission service in closed countries in Asia area	Pray for Rev. Th. Janga and his wife Mercy , field leader in Nepal, as they press forward with the Gospel	Pray for the EC Church of Japan , that they may make inroads into their society and steer it towards Jesus Christ	Randy & Chris Amberman - working with Navajo church leaders and with youth in after school programs	Pray for Randy Sizemore and Rev. Rick Sergi as they travel to Liberia for that country's annual conference	Ivy Limbert - teaching English as a Second Language at Black Forest Academy, a school for MK's in Germany
21	22	23 - Anita Farr	24	25	26 - Kathy Wilson	27
PRAYER NEEDS Pray for Rev. Dr. Lalrosiem Songate , principal of Evangelical College of Theology in NE India -training future pastors and missionaries	Pray for Rev. Juan Zuniga and his wife Rosie as they lead the churches of Mexico forward	David Hershey - campus minister with CSF at Penn State-Berks Campus in Reading, PA	Rev. Jim & Bonnie Bound - retired missionaries in Wolcott, VT	Pray for the EC Church of Northeast India - vision in expanding beyond Manipur state and even beyond India	Dan & Melinda Moury - videographer with Wycliffe at headquarters in Orlando, FL	Pray for Rev. Nobuo Abe , Chairman of the EC Church of Japan - for clarity of vision as the church moves forward
28	29	30 - Randy Amberman - David Hershey - Melinda Moury	31 - Christopher Bowers			
PRAYER NEEDS Pray for the persecuted church, especially in Iraq , where the number of Christians has dropped dramatically	Pray for safe return and smooth flights for Randy and Rick as they return from the EC Church of Liberia's annual conference	Janet Baker - retired missionary in Lebanon, PA	Pray for Rev. Kaitinkap Vaiphei , General Director of the EC Church of NE India - vision for reaching neighboring states			

*DENOTES RETIREE

ANNIVERSARIES

February 6 - Dan & Melinda Moury