

► **David and Conce Roof** give praise that they were able to use the classroom space in their new building starting in late February. Even though the second floor isn't completely finished, this meant they could hold two events at the same time. Wonderful!

► **Roy & Sue Haglund** are in PA for a couple of weeks (April 3-17) to do deputation and connect with friends. They will be staying in the Steelstown (Annville) area. The Haglunds do not have any open Sunday mornings, but have some Sunday evenings, Saturdays and week-days/evenings available. If you'd like them to share with your small group, bible study, or other gathering, they would be glad to do so. Contact Pat at the GMC office (email ecglobal@eccenter.com or call 1-800-866-7584).

► **Kurt G.** will be coming east in late May for a couple of weeks to do deputation and also attend National Conference. The dates are May 15-29. Kurt does not have any Sunday mornings open, but will be available some Sunday evenings, Saturdays and weekdays/evenings. If you'd like Kurt to share with your small group, bible study, or other gathering, he would be glad to do so. Contact Pat at the GMC office (email ecglobal@eccenter.com or call 1-800-866-7584).

► **The 2016 GMC/VBS Project** is to raise funds for a community outreach by our EC churches of Mexico. The program is to reach out to street kids, who are at danger of being recruited by gangs and drug cartels. Funds will be used to put a roof and chain link fence around an existing patio at one of our churches to create a 'safe space' for them to come and learn about Jesus. More information will be posted on our website soon.

► **The EC Church - India** will hold their annual conference and election of a new General Director (their equivalent of a bishop) in late April. GMC Director Rev. Randy Sizemore and Bishop Bruce Hill will be going for the conference, as will Rev. Nobuo Abe, Chairman of the EC Church-Japan and his son Rev. Tomoyuki Abe. Rev. Th. Janga from the EC Church of Nepal will also be there. Pray for a spirit of unity and harmony among the presbyteries regarding the next General Director.

► **Brian and Missy Wagner** made a quick trip back to the USA with daughter Hannah in March. Hannah is a junior and starting to scout out colleges. She will graduate next year (2017) so they want to get all their ducks in a row. They grow up so fast!

► Congratulations to **Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe** who are expecting their second child at the end of July. Daughter Alyssa is excited about being a big sister! The Abes are church planters in Fuchinobe, Japan.

► It is with joy and sorrow that we report the homegoing of one of our saints. **Dorothy Stermer** passed away on March 8th, from complications related to pneumonia. She would have been 95 this month. Dorothy served in Japan for decades, a faithful missionary servant of our Lord. Her memorial service was in her hometown of Allentown, PA.



JAPAN

Ancient Culture, New Life

The culture of Japan is an ancient one, believed to be over 3000 years old. Two religions have influenced the culture and still do today; Shintoism, the native religion which is primarily ancestor worship, and Buddhism, which was brought by Indian monks. Even today, most Japanese are familiar with their heritage and culture; it is still celebrated and very important.

For those who claim a religious affiliation, Shintoism and Buddhism make up over 98% of those polled. Christianity, which was introduced in the 1400's by Catholic missionaries, still stands at less than 1% of the population, even after all these years.

However, like many countries, there has been a major cultural shift over the past few decades. The strong ties of history and family are unraveling, leaving many Japanese uncertain of what they should believe in. They are searching for some meaning in their lives, as so many lost people are.

The EC Church-Japan has been reaching out to share the love of Christ with its own people. Our two established churches, Kyodo Grace E.C. in suburban Tokyo and Sagami-hara Grace Chapel, as well as the Fuchinobe church plant, have been implementing programs to help the community, in addition to traditional worship services. These include allowing local choral groups to use the building for practice time, children's day care, and mother & child programs where parenting tips are shared. This Easter, a new church plant Ebina Garden Church, was begun by Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe as an outreach to their neighborhood.

Last fall, all our EC churches were involved in the Franklin Graham crusade held in Tokyo. Over 40,000 people attended, and approximately 2000 people made decisions for Christ. Praise the Lord for this response! Pray that these new believers will be disciplined well and grow in the knowledge of Jesus.

Please keep our Japanese E.C. brothers and sisters in prayer as they share new life in Christ with the 120+ million people of Japan.

Pat Strain



EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



APRIL 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>MAY BIRTHDAYS May 4 – Nancy G. May 4 – Conce Roof May 5 – Valerie Schubert May 6 – Carolyn Miller May 6 – Jamie Farr</p>	<p><i>*DENOTES RETIREE</i></p> <p>ANNIVERSARIES April 4 – Chris & Deborah Bowers</p>				<p>1 – Mary Reimer*</p> <p>PRAYER NEEDS </p> <p>Please pray for all our missionaries who are traveling, both in the USA and abroad. Pray for safety and good health, and that their luggage will arrive with them.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Robert & Bettina Schaeffer – serving with LIFE Ministries in NY and PA</p>
<p>3</p> <p>PRAYER NEEDS Roy & Sue Haglund – Beginning a two week deputation swing in central/eastern PA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Randy & team return from Mexico Churches' conference</p>	<p>5 – Abigail Farr (2007) </p> <p>Pray for our Missionary Kids, especially those who are in boarding schools away from family</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Dan & Mary Lynne Wills – serving at JAARS headquarters in North Carolina</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Dave & Celia Dick – serving as VP at large and resource person for International Ministries at OMS</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Pray for the EC Church-Japan as they continue follow up with those who responded at Franklin Graham crusade last fall</p>	<p>9 – Dorothy Stermer* </p> <p>Pray for Bishop Bruce Hill and the leadership team as they continue to prepare for National Conference</p>
<p>10</p> <p>PRAYER NEEDS BJ & Rachel Whitaker – serving as church planters in Alcora, Spain. Preparing for home assignment this summer</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pray for the EC Church of Liberia and their new leadership team, that they may seek God's will to move the Church forward</p>	<p>12 – Deborah Bowers </p> <p>Jim & Janet Stahl – training national workers to accurately share the Scriptures in story form</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Elias Martinez, field leader of the EC Church of Mexico, as he guides the churches towards national conference status</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Lalrosiem Songate, principal-elect of ECT in NE India. He will be returning in July after finishing his doctorate</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Jim Ehrman – serving with Rivendell Institute at Yale University & Love 146 Ministries</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Praise for the growth in the EC Church of Nepal – 194 new converts and 156 baptisms last year!</p>
<p>17</p> <p>PRAYER NEEDS Kitty Miller – Retired but still very active in the Lehigh Valley PA area</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Jim & Joan Farr – translators/ linguists with Wycliffe-SIL in Papua New Guinea, among the Baruga people</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Nobuo Abe & Rev. Tomoyuki Abe as they leave Japan to join Randy and the Bishop in India</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Randy Sizemore & Bishop Bruce Hill leave for NE India to attend ECCI national conference</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Dan & Melinda Moury – videography work for Wycliffe at headquarters in Orlando, FL</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Pray for the churches of EC Church of India as they prepare to elect a new General Director</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Joe Toy – open air ministry in downtown Philly, college campuses, and special events</p>
<p>24 – Jared Farr (2008) – Elijah Hershey (2014) </p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Angam, General Director of ECCI, whose term ends with this election. Pray for his role in helping the new Director get established</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Rev. Jack Murray – retired but active in CA. Prayer for some health issues</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus – new semester at Rift Valley Academy, responsibilities in administration and property maintenance</p>	<p>28 – Junia Hershey (2011) </p> <p>Pray for the persecuted church worldwide, especially in North Korea and China</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Randy and Bishop Bruce return from India – pray that all their flight connections will go well</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Matthew Gueh, former leader of the EC Church of Liberia, that he may sense where God would use him.</p>