

▶ **PLEASE NOTE** – Church Center will be closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup> through December 27<sup>th</sup>, and December 31<sup>st</sup> – January 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Christmas and New Year’s holidays.

▶ GMC will again be sponsoring a **Work Team to Alaska**. The dates are August 7-20, 2016. The team will be serving at Camp LiWa outside of Fairbanks. Forms can be found on our website, [www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com). Go to the Our Structure tab at the top of the page, click on that, then Commissions, then Global Ministries, then the Short Term Mission Opportunities. You can download and/or print the application from there. Call the GMC office with any questions (717-866-7584.) Application deadline is **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016**.

▶ **Jonathan and Kathy Wilson** will be relocating from New York to the missionary apartments in Lititz in January. The mailing address is 38 E. Orange Street, Lititz, PA 17543. They will remain there until July and then return to Papua New Guinea.

▶ **Chris and Deb Bowers** will be coming to PA in the middle of this month to visit Chris’ family as well as doing some deputation. They will be staying until late February.

▶ **Ken Sears** will be finishing up his time in PA by the middle of this month, then flying to TX to spend the holidays with his parents and some of his siblings. Ken will return to Ukraine in early January.

▶ Director of Global Ministries **Randy Sizemore** and a small team will be going to Liberia next month to be present during their National Conference. Rev. Matthew Gueh, who has been the field leader for the more than 15 years, is stepping down from leadership. Pray that the conference and election will go well, and that there will be a smooth transition of leadership.

▶ **We need your help! Roy and Sue Haglund** are coming to PA next April for two weeks of deputation. We need a place for them to stay; preferably a 1-bedroom apartment, somewhere in the Lebanon/Lancaster Counties area. If you have this type of housing or know of someone or a church that offers this, please contact Pat in the GMC office. The phone number is 1-800-866-7584, and the email is [ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com).

▶ We are also looking for housing for **BJ and Rachel Whitaker** and their two daughters for next summer. They need a place for June-August, preferably in the Lebanon/Lancaster Counties area. The Whitakers would prefer a 3 bedroom apartment or house, but could make do with a 2-bedroom. Again, please contact Pat at the GMC office if you know of any possibilities. Thanks!

▶ **Ron and Brenda Anderson** will have ministered to young church planters in Hungary in late November for a week.



## BABY LOVE

**W**ho doesn’t love a baby?! We love to hold them, soothe them, rock them, cuddle them, and pretty much act like idiots over them. Let’s face it, adults turn into mush when a baby is brought into the room, especially if it’s the child of a family member or friend.

Our feelings might change however, if that baby never grew, but remained constantly as a newborn, constantly dependent for feeding, diaper changes, cleaning, etc. What was once adorable and new would become very old after 3, 5, 10 years! Part of the joy of a baby is the anticipation of the possibilities for that child as it grows.

At Christmas, we think about the Christ child, the baby Jesus in the manger. We sing songs about him, we have the children put on a Nativity play, and we decorate trees in his honor. It seems sometimes that we are content to keep Jesus as that sweet babe in the manger; forever smiling angelically.

But do we really think about what it cost Christ to come into the world? We preach about the cost of the cross, but Jesus also paid a price when He came to earth and incarnated as a man. He left behind His glory as the second Person of the Trinity to walk among the very creatures into whom He had helped breathe life. What must it have felt like, to leave the realms of heaven for the dusty, dirty streets of Bethlehem? He who had the power to speak worlds into existence became totally powerless and vulnerable. We can never imagine or understand that kind of sacrifice.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, let us also celebrate and be grateful that the babe in the manger became God with Us, that we might have hope for reconciliation with our Creator. Jesus’ sacrifice began long before He went to the cross; remember that as well this holiday season and rejoice.

*Did you know that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?*

(From *MARY DID YOU KNOW* – Lyrics and melody by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene)

Pat Strain

# EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



# DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

## ANNIVERSARIES

December 10 –  
Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus  
December 12 –  
Randy & Chris Amberman

1

**PRAYER NEEDS**  
**Jim & Joan Farr** – returned from villages, getting back to 'normal' life in Ukarampa

2

Pray for the **EC Church-USA leadership** as the plans go forward for restructuring

3

**Rev. Dan Moury** – recently returned from filming trips to Finland and Nepal for Wycliffe

4

**Rev. Joe Toy** – distribution of Christmas stockings to needy inner city children

5

Pray that people will **remember the true meaning of this season**, not the commercial trappings

6

– Sue Haglund



7

**PRAYER NEEDS**  
**EC Church of India** – preparation for a change of leadership this spring

**Roy & Sue Haglund** – serving MAF, need for more support

**Our church planters**, both in the USA and around the world

9

**Janet Baker** – retired missionary in Lebanon, PA

10

**Rev. Matthew Gueh** – preparing for change of leadership in next month's elections

11

**Jim Ehrman** – serves with Love 146 and Rivendell Institute

12

**Sarah Wilson** and **Brady Nash** are united in marriage in Washington state

13

– Rev. Dan Moury



14

**PRAYER NEEDS**  
**Dan & Mary Lynne Wills** – praise that they were not affected by the flooding in SC

**EC Church-Japan** – that they will see results from the recent Franklin Graham crusade

**Rev. David Dick** – serving OMS as a VP at large and Islamic expert

16

**Rev. Nobuo Abe** – wisdom in guiding the EC Church of Japan as they seek to plant new churches

17

**Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus** – working at Rift Valley Academy, Kenya – health and hectic schedule

18

**EC Church of Nepal** – continued protection of pastors and leaders as they proclaim the Good News

19

**Rev. L.B. Angam** – that recent summit on unifying the presbyteries will bear fruit

20

**PRAYER NEEDS**  
**Christmas Missionary Offering** – please be generous! Funds help cover our international churches and office operating costs

21

**Rev. Elias Martinez**, field leader of the EC Church of Mexico – building new church with help of Mexico Conference

22

**John & Carolyn Miller** – working on Bru-related languages, leadership team at Language Center, NE Thailand

23

**EC Church of Liberia** – preparing for election of new field leader at January National Conference

24

Pray that the many who only attend church on this evening of the year will truly hear the message & open their hearts to the Savior who loves them.

25



**“Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”**

26

**EC Church of Mexico** – that they will continue to work in unity to reach their community

27

**PRAYER NEEDS**  
**Jim & Janet Stahl** – praying about relocating to the Lehigh Valley to be closer to family; will continue ministry with The Seed Company

28

**Rev. Jim & Bonnie Bound** – retired but still actively ministering in VT

– Janet Stahl



29

**Rev. Th. Janga** – pray that the needed headquarters/orphanage can be built soon

30

**Robert & Bettina Schaeffer** – continued ministry through LIFE to those struggling with alternate sexual lifestyles

31

Prayer for the upcoming year – new opportunities to share Christ with people we meet and/or work with, family, and our communities

– Gloria Smether



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2 – Jim Farr  
January 3 – Lamar Stoltzfus  
January 5 – Jim Stahl  
January 8 – Celia Dick  
January 10 – Dan Wills

\*DENOTES RETIREE