

► **APOLOGY** – I missed the name of **Rev. Nathan Kennedy** as one of the E.C. team that traveled to Nepal in November for their recent annual conference. Nathan has been serving as the chairman of our India/Nepal Committee, so we were so very glad that he could be a part of this group.

► Many thanks for your prayers for the safety of the E.C. team that went to Nepal for nine days last month. It was the largest team that we ever took over there, so the logistics were a bit overwhelming. Everyone returned safely.

► Please keep **Rev. Janga and our churches in Nepal** in prayer, as the Nepalese government has passed a law making it illegal to try to convert someone to another religion or even talk to them about your religion. The penalties include large fines and jail time. It will also impact any foreign missionaries, as they also may be susceptible to the penalties; at the very least, they would be deported within two days.

► **Janice Stoltzfus** wanted our readers to know that she is available to speak at women's groups. Contact the GMC office if you would like to book Janice to share about her journey with breast cancer and/or being a missionary wife and mother. Janice and Lamar will be in the USA until next August (2018).

► We offer our condolences to **Rev. Ron and Brenda Anderson**, as well as **Rev. BJ and Rachel Anderson Whitaker**, on the passing of Ron's mother, Helen Anderson, in early November. Helen and Loren Anderson were missionaries in Guatemala for many years under the Primitive Methodist Church. Ron was able to see his mother before she was called home. He and Brenda will remain in Colorado with family through Thanksgiving before returning to Spain. Notes of sympathy can be sent to Andersons at [ron.anderson@ecmi.org](mailto:ron.anderson@ecmi.org) and to the Whitakers at [bj.whitaker@ecmi.org](mailto:bj.whitaker@ecmi.org).

► **PLEASE NOTE** – When you are sending funds for support of E.C. missionaries or E.C. fields, the checks should be made payable to **"E.C. Church"**, not E.C. Global Ministries. We have one bank account for EC monies, and the name Global Ministries does not appear on it anywhere. Our bank has been gracious in accepting checks still written to Global Ministries, but that could end at any time. **All monies sent to Global Ministries should be made payable to E.C. Church**, and you can mark the destination/designation in the memo section, or include a note. Thank you!

► Congratulations to **Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe**, who are expecting their first child, a baby girl, the day after Christmas. The Abes are church planters in Ebina City, near Tokyo, Japan.

► Best wishes to **Roy and Sue Haglund**, who are retiring at the end of this month. The Haglunds have served over 42 years with Mission Aviation Fellowship, both in the USA and abroad. Roy was a pilot for many years, and most recently both he and Sue worked at MAF headquarters, first in Redland, CA and now in Nampa, ID. The Haglunds will remain in Idaho for now, since they are strategically located between daughter Sarah and her family in Chicago, IL and daughter Bethany and her family in Washington state. If you would like to send a note of congratulations, their address is 3126 S. Glacier Bay Way, Meridian, ID 83642. You can also reach them by email at [rhaglund2@yahoo.com](mailto:rhaglund2@yahoo.com).



# Wake Up and Get to Work!

Most Christians will once again celebrate Christ's birth on the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month. Much of the rest of the western world will celebrate Santa Claus coming to town. As I write this, Thanksgiving has not even arrived, but the stores are already touting Christmas decorations and gifts. This year it seems they barely waited for Halloween to pass before stocking Christmas themed merchandise. In fact, I think some stores had Jack O' Lanterns and Christmas trees side by side.

Many of us shake our heads and complain as consumerism continues to creep into our Holy days, but we feel helpless to do anything about it. We see our society going further away from Biblical standards and are discouraged, but also inactive. When did the Church become so ineffectual? Why is it that a movement that changed the world seems largely to be sitting on its hands today in America?

Recently I heard a sermon regarding this topic. It was based on Romans 13:8-14, where the apostle Paul addressed many of these same issues with the young church in Rome. He reminds them that their first responsibility is to love one another; this is the fulfillment of the law. Then he urges them to 'wake from your slumber' (v. 11) and realize that the Lord could come back at any time. In light of this, the believers have responsibilities.

When Jesus finished his task here on earth and before he returned to his Father, he gave his followers a job to do. As Dr. Kirby Keller said in his message, "Instead of wringing its hands, the Church should be rolling up its sleeves!" It's wonderful that we remember and honor the time of Christ's coming to earth in fulfillment of His Father's promise, but wouldn't it be even more honoring if we followed through on the task he left for us?

Paul spoke to the church in Rome with a sense of urgency; we need to recapture that sense of urgency and focus on the job at hand. Believers know how transforming the love of God can be, so why aren't we making more of an effort to tell others? In a broken, hurting world, people desperately need to know they have value, that their lives matter, that someone loves them. This Christmas, the best gift you can give anyone is to share with them that there is someone who loves them beyond measure, and how His love changed your life. Times a wastin'; let's get to work!

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.* EPHESIANS 5:1-2 (NIV)

Pat Strain



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
		<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b> December 10 - Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus December 12 - Randy & Chris Amberman			1	2			
*DENOTES RETIREE + DENOTES CANDIDATE			3 <b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> BJ & Rachel Whitaker - church planters in Alcora, Spain - that tensions in Catalonia don't spread to the rest of Spain	4 Ed & Val Schubert - ministering to women and children in Honduras; Val's health/surgery, safety concerns	5 Dr. Juliana Leshner, Chief of Chaplain Services for S. Texas Veterans Health Care System	6 - Sue Haglund Pray for the <b>EC Church of Nepal &amp; its pastors</b> - a new law prohibits the conversion of anyone from one religion to another, or even evangelizing	7 David & Conce Roof - church planters in northern Brazil; David's course work for Master's degree	8 Pray for <b>Rev. Nobuo Abe</b> , Chairman of the EC Church of Japan - wisdom for growing God's kingdom	9 Eunice Wanjema - retired missionary living in Kenya
10	11	12	13 - Rev. Dan Moury Robert & Bettina Schaeffer - working with LIFE Ministries in NYC and PA; outreach opportunities in St. Clair PA area	14	15	16			
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Brian & Missy Wagner - teacher and administrator at Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya - praise recent elections were not violent	Wes & Mary Reimer - retired Wycliffe missionaries living in Florida - praise for no home damage during recent hurricanes	Pray for the <b>EC Church of Liberia</b> , as it tries to be salt and light to a country still recovering from war and disease	Pray for the <b>EC Church of Latin America</b> , as the churches along border are still struggling with drug cartel violence	Ken Sears - teaching, preaching and administrator at Zaporozhye Bible College in Ukraine	Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus - continued prayers for Janice's recovery; praise for good reports so far				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Pray for <b>Tomoyuki &amp; Jessica Abe</b> , church planters in Fuchino area of Japan - outreach strategies to grow church	Joe Toy - open air ministry in greater Philly area as well as large public events	Pray for <b>Rev. Kaitinkap Vaiphei</b> , General Director of the EC Church of India	Jim & Janet Stahl - training native speakers in Bible storytelling in Asia and Africa	Pray for the <b>persecuted church worldwide</b> , that they may stay strong and preach truth	Cassie Wells - missionary candidate with Disciple Makers; assigned to Kutztown University	Pray for the <b>EC Church of Japan</b> , as it reaches out to one of the hardest Asian countries to evangelize - its own			
24	25 	26	27	28 - Janet Stahl 	29	30			
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Pray for all those who have lost or don't know the true meaning of the Christmas season	For to us a Child is born; to us a Son is given. Isaiah 9:6	Pray for <b>Rev. Th. Janga</b> , field leader in Nepal - health and safety	Dan & Mary Lynne Wills - serving with Wycliffe at JAARS Center in NC	Pray for <b>Rev. Abraham Powell</b> , Bishop of the EC Church of Liberia	Gloria Smethers - nurse at AIM Retirement Center in Minneola, FL	Pray for the <b>EC Church of India</b> - unity in spirit and purpose to spread the Gospel			
31									
- Gloria Smethers  Pray for new opportunities to share Jesus with others this coming year!					<b>JANUARY BIRTHDAYS</b> January 2 - Jim Farr January 3 - Lamar Stoltzfus January 5 - Jim Stahl January 8 - Celia Dick January 10 - Dan Wills				