DECEMBER 2012

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

- Congratulations to Jamie and Anita Farr. The Farrs have adopted their fourth child, Sierra Rose, in October. She joins sister Abigail and brothers Jared and Brandon. The Farrs are hoping to soon move into a larger home (for obvious reasons.) Please be in prayer that all will go as planned.
- ▶ Hannah Moury, oldest daughter of **Dan and Melinda Moury**, fell off a playhouse in early November and had a laceration in her liver. She is healing well, but had to miss her ballet recital as doctors said no stretching or bending.
- Praise that all of our missionaries survived hurricane Sandy with minimal hardship. Bettina Schaeffer reported their apartment never lost power, Robert was with his father who is recuperating from surgery and they did lose power for two days but had hot food and heat courtesy of Robert's sister; Joe Toy had some water in basement and tree branches down; Jim Ehrman was out of the country but it took him over 50 hours to get home from Manilla! Continue to pray for those in the NY/NJ area who are facing massive cleanup and trying to rebuild their lives as well as their homes.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAILING GIFTS/MONEY TO MISSIONARIES:

- **1.** If the missionary is currently serving in the USA or is in the USA on furlough, you can send your gift, check and card directly to them. Contact the GMC office if you need a current address.
- **2.** If the missionary is serving overseas, please send the check to the Global Ministries office made payable to E C Church with a note in memo line or a note detailing which missionary(ies) are to receive funds and the amounts. You can mail a Christmas card directly to the missionary; again, contact us if you need to check an address.
- **3. DO NOT** include a check in a Christmas card and mail it to GMC; we cannot forward Christmas cards overseas. **DO NOT** mail a check directly overseas unless a missionary has specifically instructed you to do so; it usually costs quite a bit to cash checks overseas, and there are many check-altering schemes that could wind up emptying your bank account.
- **4.** Many countries will charge customs duty on any packages sent, so check with the missionary first to see if they want or can use what you intend to send.
- **5.** If you have any questions, call or email the GMC office. Our toll free number is 1-800-866-7584, and our email is <u>ecglobal@eccenter.com</u>.

EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



DECEMBER 2012

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

ecently the northeast coast of the USA was ravaged by a 'superstorm'. Hurricane Sandy combined with other winter storms to produce a rare and incredibly strong storm that battered the coastline from New Jersey to New England. While many areas sustained damage, for the most part central PA dodged a bullet, as we say.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said of New Jersey and New York City. The devastation there was overwhelming. One area that was particularly hard hit was Staten Island. I remember seeing a dramatic interview where a distraught older woman told the reporter, "I want to go home, but there's no home anymore!" The flood waters had pushed her house off its foundation and crushed it, scattering the family's belongings amidst debris for over two miles.

I can't imagine how heart wrenching it must be to lose everything you own, everything you've worked for years to accumulate. It can happen so quickly – flood, fire, natural disaster. I don't say this to frighten you, but to remind you that the things of this world are all very temporary.

That's the bad news; the good news is that we can be assured of acquiring something that can't be taken away from us. Those who know Christ as their Savior have a faith that is built on a solid foundation, one that will hold no matter what happens in this world. God's promises are true and eternal; we can always count on them.

As you get ready to celebrate the Christmas season this year, be grateful for the blessings you have received, both material and spiritual. And in the spirit, His Spirit, of giving, share that special gift of salvation with friends and family who might not know Jesus personally. In addition, you can give a blessing to someone who needs material help by donating to World Relief as a Christmas gift. Their website is www.worldrelief.org. You can designate your gift to go to help those devastated by Hurricane Sandy, or any other part of the world. Have a blessed holiday.

"Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his',... – II TIMOTHY 2:19

–Pat Strain

DECEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR INSIDE

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

GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION OF THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

