

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

▶ **Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus and family, Jim & Joan Farr, Dan Dixon, and Gloria Smethers** will all be returning to the USA this month to begin furloughs. The Stoltzfuses, Farris and Gloria will be home for a year, Dan for six months. Please contact the GMC office for state side addresses.

▶ **Jonathan, Kathy & Jonita Wilson** returned to PNG in mid-June, finishing their year of furlough. **David, Conce & Andrew Roof** will be returning to Brazil in early August after finishing their year of home assignment.

▶ It's summer, and that means it's time to start planning for back to school! **Joe Toy** is again looking for volunteers to buy and stuff backpacks with school supplies, to be distributed to underprivileged inner city youngsters. Please go to Joe's website, [www.oamphilly.org](http://www.oamphilly.org) for details on what items to buy. NOTE: You need to make arrangements to get backpacks to Joe; **DO NOT** bring supplies to Church Center or expect Joe to pick them up at your church. Contact Joe for possible drop off locations at 1-610-583-2266.

▶ We give praise with **Gloria Smethers** that her court hearing about her car accident last year went well. Gloria doesn't have to appear in court again, and will be able to leave to come to the USA for her furlough year.

▶ Please keep in prayer our missionary couples expecting family additions: **Chris and Deb Bowers** are expecting their first child in late August, and **BJ and Rachel Whitaker** are expecting their second child at about the same time.

▶ Remember that our **VBS Project** for this year is to raise funds to put up a security fence around the women's dormitory at Evangelical College of Theology in NE India. You can download 5-minute VBS lessons from our website, [www.ecglobal.org](http://www.ecglobal.org).

▶ **Ken Sears** also gives praise that his visa was granted in a timely manner, and he won't have to leave Ukraine again.

▶ **Jeremy & Kristen Kunkel** spent two weeks in June leading a project to Zambia for Engineering Ministries International, Jeremy's board. The team is helping to design a retreat center for Navigators.

JAPAN

**K**nown as “The Land of the Rising Sun,” Japan is comprised of over 3,000 mountainous islands. The capital city of Tokyo currently ranks as one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world with over 30 million inhabitants living in greater Tokyo.

Though rich economically, Japan is one of the most spiritually bankrupt areas of the world. About 84% of Japan's population follow the rules of Buddhism or Shintoism; however close to 80% of the total population claim no personal connection to their religious practices at all. More than 67% of mid-sized towns do not have a single church, and there are still rural areas that have never been introduced to the gospel.

Recognizing the need to reach out to a hurting culture, the Evangelical Congregational Church strives to be the face of Christ in a place where 99% of the population is non-Christian. Currently, the EC Church of Japan consists of three congregations and one church plant in the greater Tokyo area, with an average morning worship attendance of over 100 people. They are Kyodo Grace Church (founded by late Rev. Dr. John Masuda and now pastored by Rev. Sudo), Sagamihara Grace Chapel (pastored by Rev. Nobuo Abe, field leader), Kobuchi Mission Church (pastored by Mr. Arita, lay preacher), and Fuchinobe church plant, pastored by Rev. Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe.

After the major earthquake and ensuing tsunami in 2011 that devastated the northeastern coast of Japan, it was Christian agencies that responded first with food and aid. The EC Church-USA contributed \$60,000 to the recovery effort. Our EC churches in Japan used the money to go into the affected areas, bringing food and hope to people who had none. Rev. Nobuo Abe and a group of evangelical pastors continue to minister to that decimated area.

Global Ministries has committed to help Tomoyuki and Jessica by underwriting \$1000 monthly of their support to help them get established in their church plant. Can you help? We do not send any other support to our Japanese churches, but we want to see the Good News spread in this strategically placed country. Think what a powerhouse Japan could be for Gospel if there would be a great spiritual awakening in that land! Please be in prayer for our work in Japan, and contact the GMC office if you can help to support it financially. Domo Arigato!

-Pat Strain



JULY PRAYER CALENDAR INSIDE

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

# EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



## July 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>HERE AND THERE</b> - Randy Sizemore	2	3	4 	5	6	7 - Jim Ehrman 
July 1-7 - working at Twin Pines as Assistant Camp Director for Equipped to Go camp						
<b>PRAYER</b> Jeremy & Kristin Kunkel - return from project in Zambia, new apt	Kurt & Nancy G. - training young adults who will serve in closed countries	EC Church of Nepal - pray instability in government doesn't result in persecution	"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." PTL!	Pray for those who don't have the freedom to worship as they choose; the persecuted church	Kitty Miller - prayer for guidance for next assignment after finishing current furlough	Brian & Missy Wagner - teaching at Rift Valley Academy, Kenya. Graduation on July 14th
8	9 - Rev. Dan Dixon 	10	11 July 11 - GMC staff meeting - morning	12	13 - Rev. Kurt G. 	14
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Jonathan & Kathy Wilson - back in PNG after a year furlough	Pray for Rev. Matthew Gueh, field leader of the EC Church of Liberia	Pray for the VBS programs being held through the summer, to reach children	Pray for the EC Church of Japan - opportunities for growth	Pray for Rev. L.B. Angam, new General Director of EC Church of India	Art & Mary Ellen Davis - retirees living and serving in Kenya	Pray for our EC church planters, both in USA and abroad
15 - Hannah Wagner (1999) 	16	17	18	19	20 - Pat Strain 	21 - Janet Baker * 
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Pray for the EC Church of Liberia - to be a force in the recovery program for the country	Ed & Val Schubert - in USA for summer furlough, visiting family	Gloria Smethers - return to USA for a year of furlough	David & Conce Roof - returning to Brazil at end of month	Jim & Janet Stahl - leading Bible story telling seminars in India this month	Robert & Bettina Schaeffer - LIFE Ministries in NY	Pray for the EC Church of Mexico - safety for members, boldness in witness
22	23 - Carla Sizemore 	24 - Rev. Don Kunkel * 	25	26	27	28
July 22 - August 11 - OUT - Vacation and 25th Anniversary celebration						
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Pray for Rev. Nobuo Abe, field leader for the EC Church of Japan	EC Church of NE India - pray for new leaders taking office	Jim & Joan Farr - leaving for furlough in CA and PA	Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary to Randy & Carla Sizemore!	Roy & Sue Haglund - working with MAF at headquarters in ID	Jim Ehrman - serving at Yale with Rivendell Institute	Pray for Rev. Elias Martinez, field leader of the EC Church of Mexico
29	30	31				
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Pray for our EC leadership in the USA - bishop, conference ministers	Jim & Bonnie Bound - retirees living and serving in VT	Pray for Rev. Th. Janga, field leader of the EC Church of Nepal				

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**  
August 15 - John Miller

\* INDICATES RETIREE (c) INDICATES CANDIDATE  
+ INDICATES MISSIONS ASSOCIATE

### ANNIVERSARIES

July 14 - Dan & Mary Lynne Wills  
August 3 - Jim & Bonnie Bound\*

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