

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

▶ **2014 VBS monies for Liberia** have been redirected from a youth camp to help provide food and sanitary measures for our Liberian church members. With the ebola virus still a very serious threat, any arrangements for large gatherings have been put on hold by government orders.

▶ **Dave & Celia Dick** will be spending some time in PA to do deputation and reconnect with friends/supporters. They will be in eastern/central PA from September 6th – 21st. All of their Sundays are already taken, but if you would be interested in having them on a weekday/weeknight, contact Pat Strain at the GMC office (1-800-866-7584) or email to ecglobal@eccenter.com.

▶ **Bishop Bruce Hill and his wife Gloria, Director of Global Ministries Randy Sizemore and his wife Carla, and Pat Strain** will be going to Japan the last week of this month to participate in the celebration of Japan becoming our third National Conference. It is also the 50th anniversary of Rev. John Masuda's return to Japan to begin the EC work there, and the 40th anniversary of the Kyodo Grace Church building where John preached until his homegoing.

▶ If you didn't have the opportunity to sign the **memory book for EC Church of Japan** at National Conference, you still have time! The memory book is now at Church Center in Bishop Hill's office. If you are in the neighborhood, stop by and write a note of congratulations and/or encouragement. If you can't stop by, feel free to send a note and we'll include it. Feel free to send a photo (4" x 6" is best) of your church, members, S.S. classes and/or board as well. We know our brother and sisters in Japan appreciate your prayers.

▶ **Chris Bowers'** parents, Dave and Judy Bowers, are now over in Papua New Guinea teaching at the MK school for a year. Chris and Deb and their two daughters are back in Washington state where Chris is currently teaching aviation to missionary pilots in training. Dave and Judy did manage to stop along the way for a visit so they could meet their newest granddaughter, Emily.

▶ **Jonathan and Kathy Wilson** are celebrating the finish of a large chunk of New Testament translation into Binandere, the language group of their village in Nindewari, Papua New Guinea. Mark, Luke and Acts were turned over for typesetting. Praise!

▶ As I write this (mid-August), we are receiving word of the brutal killings of unarmed **Iraqi Christians** by ISIS fighters. Even women and children are being slaughtered for their faith. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in this war torn part of the world, for their protection and that world leaders will not ignore this genocide.



GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION
OF THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

100 West Park Ave, Myerstown PA 17067 • phone 717.866.7584 • fax 717.866.7383

EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



SEPTEMBER 2014

STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND

In the book of Exodus, as the Israelites were leaving Egypt to head out to a new land, Jehovah instructed Moses to take them through the Red Sea. There were faster and easier ways to get to Canaan, but Jehovah God had a purpose: He wanted His people to know without a doubt that He was in control and the only way they could go forward was by His hand. In Exodus 14:16, Jehovah says Moses, "Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground." (NIV) Moses obeyed, and the people of Israel walked to freedom.

In the book of Acts, after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter and John are walking up to the temple to pray. A crippled beggar was sitting by the gate called Beautiful. He asked everyone going into the temple for money, including Peter and John. They looked at the man, who had his hand stretched out for a few coins, and Peter took him by the hand and gave the man a gift worth more than money; he healed the crippled beggar in the name of Jesus.

In both instances, someone had to act in faith and stretch out a hand. The fulfillment of a promise, a gift beyond imagination; both available because of reaching out in trust. God often works this way; He offers us more than we need, if we only will reach out to Him.

In contrast, one of my Sunday School teachers commented about the famous scene of Creation by Michelangelo on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. God is reaching out to Adam to imbue him with the breath of life. Adam is lying there, supine, barely pointing his finger towards his Creator. God is leaning towards him, stretching his hand out so far the angels hold on to His cloak so He doesn't fall from heaven. "All Adam had to do was move his finger an inch or two" Chris opined, "but he just lay there."

Unfortunately, that seems to be our reaction to God many times. We just sit there, waiting for Him to come to us, to act at our behest, to put forth all the effort. And all He asks of us is to stretch out our hands, to reach out and stretch our faith so He can use us to reach a world that so desperately needs to hear about a Savior who loved them enough to stretch out his hands and die on a cross for them.

Will you be willing to boldly stretch out your hand? See what God can do through you when you place yourself at His disposal. You may not part seas or heal cripples, but you may introduce a neighbor to Jesus. Think of the possibilities and reach out!

—Pat Strain

SEPTEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR INSIDE

FACILITATING MISSION WORKERS
EMPOWERING NATIONAL CHURCHES
ENGAGING THE LOCAL CHURCH

EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



SEPTEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 - Laura Whitaker (2012) 	4	5 - Aiyana Ehrman 	6
	PRAYER NEEDS Pray for those laboring for the Lord to spread the Gospel	Pray for persecuted Christians, especially in northern Iraq	Chris & Deb Bowers – training missionary pilots in Washington	Pray for MMK's who are leaving families and heading back to boarding schools and colleges	David Hershey – new semester at Penn State Berks campus with CSF	Our EC Church-USA leadership: Bishop, Conference Ministers, Director of Global Ministries
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 - Gwen Melger * 
PRAYER NEEDS Yoriyoshi & Emiko Abe return to Japan to begin their work as church planters	Gwen Melger – retired missionary in FL; health concerns	Jamie & Anita Farr – serving at Wycliffe headquarters in Orlando, FL	Pray for the EC pastors in Nepal – the country may be turning back to Hinduism	Chris & Randy Amberman – working with Native American youth	Jonathan & Kathy Wilson – Bible translators among Binandere in Papua New Guinea	Dan Dixon – pray for students and new school year at Rift Valley Academy, Kenya
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
PRAYER NEEDS Gloria Smethers – serving as a nurse at AIM retirement center in FL	David & Conce Roof – church planters in northern Brazil with OMS	Pray for our EC churches in Mexico, as they try to reach their communities	David Dick – serving with OMS as vice president at large	Pray for Rev. Nobuo Abe as he prepares for US visitors and celebration	John & Carolyn Miller – back in Thailand, health, political situation	Pray for the EC churches of NE India, that they may continue to multiply
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
PRAYER NEEDS Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus – serving as administrators at RVA in Kijabe, Kenya	EC-USA Delegation leaves for Japan to celebrate with our EC-Japan churches	Ken Sears – preaching/teaching in Ukraine – safety for the people in Zaporozhye	Kurt G. –training for students/young people willing to serve in closed countries	Don & Kathryn Kunkel – retired missionaries in Idaho	Ron & Brenda Anderson – directing ECI church planting efforts in Spain	Continue to pray for our churches in Liberia that the ebola virus will not claim more victims
28	29	30	ANNIVERSARIES <small>* INDICATES RETIREE</small> September 3 – Dave & Celia Dick September 3 – Ron & Brenda Anderson September 3 – Ed & Val Schubert		OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS October 7(1996) – Adam Schubert October 8(1997)- Hannah Lakatos October 10 – Chris Amberman October 11 – Mary Ellen Davis * October 12(1995) – Andrew Roof October 16 – Jim & Janet Stahl	
PRAYER NEEDS Special combined service in Japan celebrating National Conference status	Pray for our church planters, those in the USA and those serving around the world	Safety in travel as EC-USA delegation returns from Japan				