

## OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

- ▶ **Gloria Smethers** has a new email address; it is now [gloria.smethers@aimint.org](mailto:gloria.smethers@aimint.org). AIM has changed the last three letters to 'org' instead of 'net', so please note this for the future.

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- ▶ **John & Carolyn Miller** were excited to be present at the dedication of the updated Bru Bible which they have worked on for many years. The dedication was held in one of two main Bru areas on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The exact location cannot be revealed due to the political situation.

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- ▶ **Ed & Val Schubert** give praise that they were finally granted the permit to hook up the electric for their new daycare facility, and without having to pay any bribes to officials. That is quite a testimony to their neighbors!

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- ▶ **Yoriyoshi & Emiko Abe** have a new address, effective immediately. It is #503 Bell World Building, 960-1 Kamigo, Ebina City, Kanagawa 243-0434, Japan. They'd love to hear from you!

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- ▶ **Global Ministries** is once again sponsoring a work team to Camp LIWA in Fairbanks, AK. The dates are **August 1-15**. If you are interested, contact the GM office at 1-800-866-7584, or email to [ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com). You can download applications at our website, [www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com). Go to the Structures tab at top of page, then Commissions, then Global Ministries, then Short Term Mission Opportunities.

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- ▶ **Rev. Abraham Powell**, a member of our Liberia leadership team, was in the USA until the end of December on business. He met with GMC Director Randy Sizemore and Bishop Bruce Hill to give them an update on the ebola situation among our churches. Unfortunately, while in PA he received word that five people from one of our churches had died from the disease. Please continue to uphold our EC brothers and sisters in Liberia in prayer; for safety, protection from this deadly disease, and for strength to remain strong in their faith.

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- ▶ **Dan Dixon** will be coming home for a 5-month furlough starting in April of 2015. He is available for speaking through early August. If you would like to have Dan speak at your church, please contact the Global Ministries office at 1-800-866-7584 (or 717-866-7584) or email to [ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com). Dates are filling fast, so don't delay!

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- ▶ **Ken Sears** is also returning to the USA in June until the end of the year. Ken has no more Sunday mornings available, but is available for midweek (daytime or evening) meetings, as well as Sunday evenings. Again, please contact Pat at the GM office to arrange for Ken to speak at your church or event.



**GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION**  
OF THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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## EC CHURCH - JAPAN

**2014** was a banner year for the E.C. Church of Japan. In May, they applied for and were granted National Conference status, meaning that they are equal to the E.C. Church - USA. Rev. Nobuo Abe, now the Chairman of the EC Church - Japan, invited a delegation to come from the USA to Japan in the fall to celebrate with them as they had a ceremony in the mother church at Kyodo. Bishop Bruce Hill led a delegation of five members to participate in the official recognition of their new status.

In addition to celebrating National Conference status, it was also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the late John and Machi Masuda returning to Japan to begin the work of planting E.C. churches. The mother church, Kyodo Grace, was noting its 40th anniversary of the church building as well. One of the most special moments was when Rev. Abe ordained his own son, Tomoyuki, as an elder in the EC Church - Japan.

Currently the EC Church-Japan consists of Kyodo Grace Church pastored by Rev. Kenichiro Sudo and his wife Megumi, Sagami Grace Chapel pastored by Rev. Nobuo Abe (Chairman) and his wife Keiko, and Fuchinobe Community Church plant, pastored by Rev. Tomoyuki Abe and his wife Jessica. In addition, Yoriyoshi Abe and his wife Emiko returned to Japan in September after Yoriyoshi graduated from Evangelical Seminary in PA. They are currently at Kyodo Grace where Yoriyoshi is associate pastor. Plans are for them to get established for 1-1½ years before starting another church plant.

Japan is still a very difficult country to evangelize. Although the gospel has been present since the 1600's, less than 1% of the population claims to be Christian. Please keep our leaders and EC church members in Japan in prayer as they seek new and creative ways to meet the need of their own people to know Jesus. Some church members have faced pressure and even persecution from friends, family members and employers to keep quiet about their faith or to deny it. Misologists believe God has great things in store for Japan if its people will open their hearts to Him.

—Pat Strain

JANUARY PRAYER CALENDAR INSIDE

FACILITATING MISSION WORKERS  
EMPOWERING NATIONAL CHURCHES  
ENGAGING THE LOCAL CHURCH

# EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



# JANUARY 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			*denotes retiree	1	2	3
			<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b>	<b>Ken Sears</b> – teaching at Zaporozhye Bible College, Ukraine. Continued prayers for political situation	<b>David &amp; Celia Dick</b> – serving OMS at headquarters in Greenwood, IN	<b>BJ &amp; Rachel Whitaker</b> – church planters in Spain. Continued prayers for BJ's family as they deal with loss of his sister
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Pray for our <b>EC-USA leaders:</b> Bishop Bruce Hill and his leadership team	<b>Ron &amp; Brenda Anderson</b> – church planting consultants	Pray for <b>Rev. Nobuo Abe</b> , chairman of the E.C. Church-Japan	<b>Dan Dixon</b> – serving at Rift Valley Academy, Kenya – new semester	Pray for the <b>orphan boys</b> at Mercy Home in Nepal	<b>Jonathan &amp; Kathy Wilson</b> – translators among Binandere people in Papua New Guinea	Pray for the <b>evangelistic outreach programs</b> done by our Mexico E.C. churches
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Pray for the <b>teachers and students</b> at Evangelical College of Theology, NE India	Pray for <b>Rev. Matthew Gueh</b> , leader of the E.C. Churches in Liberia – health and safety	<b>Gloria Smethers</b> – serving at AIM Retirement Center in FL	Pray for <b>Rev. Th. Janga</b> , leader of the E.C. Church of Nepal and the pastors there	Pray for GMC Director <b>Rev. Randy Sizemore</b>	<b>Barbara Erb</b> – retired but still serving in Surinam	Pray for <b>Rev. Elias Martinez</b> – leader of the E.C. Church of Mexico and plans as they prepare to become a National Conference
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> <b>Kurt G.</b> –training young people to work in closed countries; support need	<b>David &amp; Conce Roof</b> – church planting in northern Brazil. Work teams to help with church building	<b>Art &amp; Mary Ellen Davis</b> – retired but active in Kenya	<b>Ed &amp; Val Schubert</b> – praise that electric was finally connected for new daycare building!	<b>Chris &amp; Deb Bowers</b> – training missionary pilots at Moody Aviation, WA	Pray for the <b>mothers and children</b> who come to the daycare program sponsored by Sagamihara Chapel, Japan	<b>Jamie &amp; Anita Farr</b> – working with Wycliffe Bible Translators so the whole world hears the Good News
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Pray for the <b>Ebola Response Team</b> in Liberia as they help people to cope with the disease	<b>David Hershey</b> – new semester as campus minister at PSU-Berks campus	<b>Brian &amp; Missy Wagner</b> – teachers/ administrator at Rift Valley Academy, Kenya	Pray for <b>Rev. L. B. Angam</b> , General Director of the E.C. Church of India - wisdom	<b>Randy &amp; Chris Amberman</b> – working with Navajo youth and church leaders	Pray for the <b>persecuted church</b> around the world, particularly in areas in the Mideast and northern Africa	<b>Yoriyoshi &amp; Emiko Abe</b> – church planters in Ebina City, Japan