

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

► **Ken Sears** returned to Ukraine in early September after spending some time with family and friends in Texas for the month of August.

► **Joe Toy** is grateful for all who contributed school supplies and/or backpacks for the annual distribution among the center city neighborhoods. Joe reports that he and his team members were able to distribute 200 backpacks filled with supplies, and the leftover supplies were given to an inner city Christian school. 12 EC churches contributed to Joe's backpack project – many thanks to all of you!

► **Don't forget** to call or email your reservation for the **Susquehanna Region Mission Brunch!** The brunch will be held at St. Paul's EC Church in Reamstown, PA on **Thursday, October 4th**. We will begin at 10 a.m. and finish by noon at the latest. There is no charge, but donations to offset the GMC costs would be appreciated. Reservations are required so we can give the good folks at St. Paul's a head count. **Reservation deadline is September 28th**. Call 717-866-7584 or email to ecglobal@eccenter.com. The brunch is open to anyone interested in learning more about the Global Ministries program of the EC Church.

► **Val Schubert** had to have surgery on both of her legs in September due to some arterial damage. Keep her in prayer for a full and speedy recovery, so she won't be off her feet any longer than absolutely necessary.

► **Gloria Smethers** will be spending the first two weeks of this month traveling to Israel with her sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law and some other friends. This is a teaching tour, so there will be lectures and insights along the way. Please keep Gloria and her extended family in prayer for safety in travel and many wonderful opportunities to learn more about the land where our Savior walked and taught.

► **Praise! The 2018 VBS Project** was able to reach its goal of \$10,000. These monies will go to the library of Evangelical College of Theology in Churachandpur, India to help with the needed volumes to maintain their certification. If you haven't sent your VBS offering yet, please do so; the amount we raised won't cover the total cost of ECT's need, so additional funds are most welcome and needed.

► We have learned that retired missionary **Janet Baker** may have to have back surgery. She has a consultation with a specialist next month. Please keep Janet in prayer. If you want to send her a note of encouragement, her address is: Apt. 315, 609 N. 12th St., Lebanon, PA 17046.

► **Café 1040**, the organization with which **Kurt G.** serves, has a new video showcasing the experience of one of their summer interns. You can access it at <https://vimeo.com/266773427>. Take a look and see the exciting work that is happening!

► Our MK's and teachers aren't the only ones back to school! **Jamie Farr** is taking graduate courses at Wheaton College for an MA degree in Intercultural Studies. Please keep him in prayer as he tries to juggle working full time for Wycliffe, school and an active young family. Keep Anita in prayer also as she has to fill in for Jamie with their four active children while he is gone.



GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMUNITY
OF THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE

OCTOBER 2018



JAPAN

The country of Japan may not be large, but it has one of the world's densest populations. The region around the capital city of Tokyo (Tokyo-Yokohama) has over 33 million people, making it the largest populated metropolitan area in the world.

Our EC work in Japan began with Rev. John and Machi Masuda. They did their higher education in the USA, but returned to Japan in 1962 and started with home bible studies which grew into home services. In 1974, the Masudas were able to build and dedicate the first EC church building in Kyodo, a suburb of Tokyo. **Megumi Kyokai (Grace Church)** is the flagship church of our EC work in Japan and is currently pastored by Rev. Kenichiro Sudo, once an assistant to Dr. Masuda.

Rev. Nobuo Abe, Chairman of our EC Church-Japan which is its own National Conference, also pastors the **Sagamihara Grace Chapel**. This building also was purchased and is the second EC church that owns its own building which also houses the parsonage. This church is very involved in ministry to the area of Fukushima, which was heavily damaged by a tsunami several years ago. They also have a ministry to mothers and preschoolers with parenting tips and devotions.

We have two church plants as well; one in Fuchinobe and one in Ebina City. Our churches in Japan are planted along train lines to make transportation easier for those who attend. Rev. Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe pastor at **Fuchinobe Community Church**, where they have a congregation of young families. Currently an American missionary is working with them, teaching English classes as an outreach. Jessica continues to have a tea time ministry with mothers of her daughters' friends. Although not Christians, these women are interested in learning more about the Bible.

Rev. Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe are ministering at **Grace Garden Church** in Ebina City in a rented space. Recently they hosted an English camp for children, which was a great success, and opened the door for spiritual discussions with both children and parents.

Even after 600 years of gospel witness, less than 1% of the Japanese population identifies itself as Christian. Please pray for our Japan church leaders and members as they strive to impact their culture for Christ.

Pat Strain



FACILITATING MISSION WORKERS
EMPOWERING NATIONAL CHURCHES
ENGAGING THE LOCAL CHURCH

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 PRAYER NEEDS Gloria Smethers – spending two weeks in Israel on trip with family; safety and good learning opportunities	2 Pray for the EC Churches of Nepal , which still face persecution from local Hindu mobs as well as government harassment	3 Pray for Rev. Jeff Byerly , Ministerial Development Associate – that we may identify and encourage men called to minister in our churches	4 Susquehanna Region Mission Brunch – St. Paul's EC Church, Reamstown, PA - 10 a.m. - noon. Make your reservation today!	5 Pray for our EC church planters , both in the USA and abroad; consider partnering with them	6 Brian & Missy Wagner – teacher & administrator at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya. Pray for the new school year to go well.
7 PRAYER NEEDS Pray for Jane Heck , retired missionary, teaching in OH while caring for her parents	8 Pray for Rev. Ted Rathman , Global Ministries Associate, as he leads his first GMC board meeting tomorrow	9 Global Ministries Community Board Meeting – Pray for business to be conducted, and vision cast	10 – <i>Chrisanne Amberman</i> Pray for our EC churches in northern Mexico , which still are affected by the violence of the drug cartels along the US-Mexico border.	11 – <i>Mary Ellen Davis*</i> Pray for chaplain Major Josh Metz , serving the US Army and teaching at an ethics school in Missouri	12 Pray for our international church leaders – Rev. Abraham Powell, Liberia and Rev. Juan Zuniga, Mexico	13 Ken Sears – preaching and teaching at Zaporozhzhye Bible Seminary in Ukraine
14 PRAYER NEEDS Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus – working at RVA in Kenya. Pray for Janice to continue to gain strength so she can keep up with her work assignments.	15 David & Conce Roof – church planters in Brazil with OMS. Pray for opportunities to begin a new work in surrounding areas.	16 Ed & Val Schubert , currently in USA– pray for healing for Val and a good furlough time with friends and family through IL to PA	17 Joe Toy – heading to London, England to do 2 weeks of outreach with Sports Fan Outreach during games held there.	18 – <i>Rev. Jim Bound*</i> National Ministry Team – pray for the Bishop, Leadership Team, pastors and lay representatives conducting the business of our denomination	19 Jonathan & Kathy Wilson – translators in PNG with SIL – currently in their village, working with Binandere scriptures	20 Pray for Marcia Hopler , retired missionary living in Philadelphia, active in her church plant and a prayer warrior.
21 – <i>Josiah Moury (2004)</i> PRAYER NEEDS Cassie Wells – campus ministry at Kutztown University with Disciple Makers. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel and open hearts	22 Pray for the EC Churches of Liberia , as they continue to minister to a nation ravaged by war and disease; that they can be a unifying force	23 Robert & Bettina Schaeffer – serving with LIFE Ministries in NY & PA, pastoring in St. Clair, PA	24 BJ & Rachel Whitaker – church planters in Spain with ECMI. Pray they won't get discouraged due to not seeing much fruit for their labors so far	25 Pray for the EC Churches of Northeast India – their vision to reach neighboring tribes as well as neighboring countries with the Gospel	26 Pray for our international church leaders – Rev. Kaitinkap Vaiphei, India; Rev. Th. Janga, Nepal; Rev. Nobuo Abe, Japan	27 Dan & Mary Lynne Wills – working at JAARS Center in NC. Pray for Dan's health; praise for no lingering effects from stroke
28 – <i>Brandon Farr (2006)</i> PRAYER NEEDS Pray for the persecuted church worldwide , especially in Iran, where the small remaining Christian population is being targeted	29 – <i>Rebekah Moury (2009)</i> Jim & Janet Stahl – training native language speakers to tell Bible stories in their own language	30 Pray for the EC churches of Japan , that they can find new and effective ways to share the Gospel	31 Praise! We met our goal for our 2018 VBS project. These monies will go to the library at Evangelical College of Theology in India.	NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS November 2 – <i>Barbara Erb*</i> November 3 – <i>Rev. Joe Toy, Jr.</i> November 8 – <i>Jane Heck *</i> November 9 – <i>Jessica Rathman</i> November 14 – <i>Art Davis *</i>		ANNIVERSARIES October 16 – <i>Jim & Janet Stahl</i> November 1 – <i>Kurt & Nancy G.</i> *DENOTES RETIREE + DENOTES CANDIDATE