

▶ **Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus** who are serving as staff at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya, were able to rearrange their cancelled flights and medical appointments from spring and are currently in the USA. They will be here until just after Christmas. The Stoltzfuses are not taking any speaking engagements; they are here to see family and for Janice to have her check-ups.

▶ **David & Conce Roof** are also getting in a quick trip back to the USA. They had hoped to come over Thanksgiving, but the airfare over Christmas was much cheaper (go figure!) so they will be spending the second half of December with family. Again, they are not taking any speaking engagements.

▶ Once again it is time for our **annual reminder regarding mailing missionary gifts**. If the missionary is serving overseas and you are sending a financial gift, it is better to send it through Global Ministries or that individual's mission agency. **DO NOT MAIL A CHECK DIRECTLY TO A MISSIONARY SERVING OVERSEAS UNLESS THEY EXPRESSLY INSTRUCT YOU TO DO SO.** Chances are they might not even get it, and you are opening yourself up to being defrauded. Even if they do receive it, it may cost them most of the amount of the check to process through banks overseas.

If the missionary serves in the USA, you can send your card and gift directly to them. Call the GMC office if you need mailing addresses. **DO NOT** mail Christmas cards to the GMC office for distribution overseas; we cannot forward them. Again, if you want to send a card (without a check in it!), send it early and call the GMC office if you need the overseas address. Thank you!

▶ **Ed & Val Schubert** have been dealing with some very difficult weather situations, on top of the stress of the pandemic totally redirecting their ministry. Hurricane Eta hit in early November, dropping many inches of rain on an already water-logged landscape. They are grateful for all the prayers for their protection.

▶ **Randy Amberman** made a quick trip back to PA in late October/early November to visit family and friends. He and Chris are continuing to minister to some of the children from their after-school program by helping them at the Neighborhood House. Chris and another missionary are actually helping to teach some students who have been struggling with the online learning. Other students bring their laptops and do virtual school there since they have no other access to internet.

▶ **Joe Toy** would appreciate prayers that many of the big events that are normally a part of his open air ministry can happen in the new year. Specifically, the Super Bowl outreach and Mardi Gras. Even though these happen in February, planning for these events needs to start now.

▶ **Mission Minded Kids Lessons** for Mexico are now on our EC website. These have been updated from the previous lessons. To access them, go to www.eccenter.com, click on the Structures tab in the top center of the home page, then on Communities, then Global Ministries, then look for MMK materials.

▶ The **VBS Project** for 2021 will focus on Nepal. They want to buy the land next to the current EC headquarters and orphanage so there is a buffer between them and the neighbors, and also so that no business builds and then complains about church activities.



Waving Goodbye

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING that this has been a year like none other most of us have experienced. When the Covid pandemic hit hard in March, our lives were turned upside down. Virtually the entire world was affected in one way or another, either by the onslaught of the disease itself, or by the repercussions of actions taken to slow the spread such as shutting down non-essential businesses and services, schools, etc. Hundreds of thousands saw their jobs disappear, with no idea of if or when they would be able to go back to work. Major life events - high school and college graduations, weddings, vacations, even funerals, all were impacted by the onslaught of an invisible enemy.

In the USA, the political atmosphere got very nasty, with accusations flying back and forth between the major parties. This rancor seemed to find its way down to the grass roots; suddenly people wouldn't talk to neighbors or even family members who had differing political views. Racial tensions flared and violence overtook many peaceful protests. As I write this, election day has passed but we probably won't know the results of any of the elections for another week. Even then, both parties have vowed to contest the results if their candidate loses.

Yes, it's been a memorable year, but mostly for all the wrong reasons. To paraphrase an old country song, "Happiness is 2020 in the Rear View Mirror." I think most of us are ready to wave goodbye to this year.

And yet - will things automatically become better on January 1st? Will the pandemic be gone or at least under control, will the contentiousness we see in our political system end, will the economy start booming, will all the devastating natural disasters stop? Highly unlikely. We will still need to deal with all the issues that carry over from this year, plus whatever the New Year throws at us.

Fortunately, as believers we know where our true security lies. Our God is bigger than a pandemic, bigger than all the natural disasters, and bigger than the problems of our society. None of this has taken Him by surprise. Remember that when you start to feel anxious about what the future holds, and meditate on who holds your future.

I will be waving my personal goodbye at the end of this year to my position at the Global Ministries office. It's time to have some new blood, especially someone with more tech skills than I have. It has been a joy and a blessing to work with so many of you over the years. I pray that the Lord continues to richly bless you as you continue to serve Him.

Pat Strain



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

BIRTHDAYS
 January 2 - Jim Farr*
 January 3 - Lamar Stoltzfus
 January 5 - Jim Stahl
 January 8 - Celia Dick*
 January 10 - Dan Wills

		1 PRAYER NEEDS Jonathan & Kathy Wilson - translators in Papua New Guinea; recently returned from their village, working on Binandere Bible translation	2 Jim & Janet Stahl - doing their Bible storytelling training online with groups around the world	3 Pray for Rev. Abraham Powell , bishop of the EC Church of Liberia, that he can continue his vision of literacy and health education for his people	4 Ed & Val Schubert - safety during food distributions in Honduras	5 Pray for the EC Church of Nepal , as they continue to share the Gospel in a very antagonistic society
6 - Sue Haglund* PRAYER NEEDS Roy & Sue Haglund - retired MAF missionaries living in Idaho - Happy birthday, Sue!	7 Pay for Rev. Jeff Byerly , Ministerial Development Associate - working with men called to the ministry	8 Ken Sears - teacher/preacher/ administrator at Zaporozhzhye Bible Seminary in Ukraine - health, teaching online	9 Pray for the EC Church-Japan as they seek to share the Gospel in their communities	10 Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus - staff at RVA in Kenya - a good time with family in USA - Happy Anniversary!	11 Pray for the EC Church of India , as they try to minister in the midst of a shutdown due to the pandemic	12 Pray for Major Josh Metz , US Army chaplain serving in NJ
13 - Rev. Dan Moury PRAYER NEEDS Pray for Rev. Th. Janga , as he trains his pastors and leaders, and for his wife Mercy & the orphans they care for	14 Jim & Joan Farr - retired Wycliffe missionaries living in FL; for good health	15 Pray for the EC Church of Liberia as the leaders try to educate their people about preventive measures for Covid 19	16 Cassie Wells - serving with Disciple Makers at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, PA	17 Pray for the EC Church of Latin America , as our Mexican pastors have been especially hard hit by the Covid pandemic	18 Joe Toy - doing open air ministry in the greater Philly/Camden area; that planned events for 2021 happen	19 Pray for Rev. Nobuo Abe , Chairman of the EC Church-Japan, for wisdom and personal health
20 PRAYER NEEDS Gloria Smethers - nurse at AIM Retirement Center in Media, FL - continued safety for the residents and staff	21 Dan & MaryLynne Wills - serving at JAARS Center in NC, helping Wycliffe missionary families	22 Rev. Tomoyuki & Jessica Abe , candidates - working with Japanese living in France and pastoring there	23 Brian & Missy Wagner - teachers at RVA, Kenya - that students can return for spring semester	24 BJ & Rachel Whitaker , church planters in Spain - trying to start a new ministry in a new location with Covid restrictions	25 For God so loved the world...	26 Pray for Rev. Paozathang Singson , the General Director of the EC Church of India, as he seeks to lead six presbyteries
27 PRAYER NEEDS Rev. Yoriyoshi & Emiko Abe - church planters in Ebina City, Japan	28 - Janet Stahl Pray for Rev. Juan Zuñiga , Superintendent of the EC Church of Latin America - dealing with needs of pastors and their churches	29 Robert & Bettina Schaeffer - ministering in NY with LIFE Ministries and in St. Clair, PA	30 Pray for the persecuted church , especially in Nigeria and Sudan	31 - Gloria Smethers Pray that the upcoming year will be healthier and we will be more honoring to God in our behavior	*DENOTES RETIREE + DENOTES CANDIDATE	

ANNIVERSARIES
 December 10 - Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus
 December 12 - Randy & Chris Amberman