

January 2019

17. Indonesia: Our partner church's great conference was able to proceed in spite of current unrest. We praise God, the same church leadership was re-elected that has proved so valuable over the last several years! Pray for the Christians in a country that has the greatest number of Muslims of any.

18. Central Asia: Johannes & Karoline write: "After much commotion, we've finally found a house. We praise God for this! Although we now no longer live close to the congregation, we are trying to build relationships with the young people and to mold them."

19. Bangladesh: Wolfgang & Dorothea Stauß write from the College of Theology in Savar: "The Master's degree students enthusiastically participated in the course on children's ministry and discovered a lot of new things. We pray they will be able to put to good use what they have learned in their future church ministry and the rearing of their own children." **Benedikt Tschauner** led his first worship service on Christmas, which was a considerable linguistic challenge for him. Pray that the message of joy will resonate in the hearts of listeners.

20. Malawi: Tobias & Sarah Müller share: "Tobias preaches most Sundays at congregations of our partner church. He also visits graduates from the theological-vocational Chisomo Center to encourage them in their ministry. Conversations with them and about their questions are a nice but also challenging task. Tobias visited a pastor up north in December and conducted discipleship classes."

21. Canada: Paul Knauer: Continue to pray for our CEO **Mark Outerbridge** and the LMC Board as they prayerfully consider and work together in seeking God's direction for 2019.

Thought of the Week 4: "Thanks be to God throughout the world, to the one whose Word is always kept. Let thanks be raised to Him who has sent comfort and council to us sinners. Be ye welcome, o my salvation! Hosanna to you, o my inheritance. Prepare, o Lord, my heart to receive you wholly." Heinrich Held [hymn]

22. Canada: Markus & Regine Gommel: Markus had been writing a story about a refugee named Iman immigrating to Toronto, and shared it monthly in the Isa Fellowship gathering. Now he would like to turn it into a play and he hopes that many people from Isa Fellowship will join as actors so it can be performed at the February Isa Fellowship gathering.

23. Canada: Paul Knauer: Give thanks to God for each of our many committed and faithful supporters for Liebenzell Canada and worldwide. We thank God for this partnership in the gospel and rejoice in the unity of sharing the good news of God's forgiveness and new life in Christ our Lord.

24. Zambia: Margit Schwemmler writes: "At the Evangelical University, we are currently busy planning strategy. On Dec. 22, a small group met for additional consultations, to be followed by a wrap-up meeting with all involved sometime this month. Pray that in all things, Jesus and His commission will take center stage. Above all, however, we are looking for full-time instructors. Pray for candidates to see this work as a calling who are prepared to fully commit, even if this means taking a financial haircut."

25. Bangladesh: Michael Kestner will be returning to Bangladesh, December 29th, with **Regine** following January 21st. They will once again work in the ministry at the Khulna Children's Village as well as in congregations and discipling of Christians. Pray for new coworkers and missionaries for the work in Bangladesh.

26. Intercultural Teams Germany: Tobias & Sarah Zinser write: "In November, we had Persian and Arab worship services. A course titled 'Dealing with the Results of Trauma' for Afghan women has started at the House of Hope."

27. Ecuador: Christmas is a great opportunity for sharing the Gospel. **Rainer & Katharina Kröger** hosted outreach events in December in Juan Montalvo, Cuambo, Santa Lucia and La Concepción. Pray that hearts would remain open for God's word.

28. Zambia: Hans-Peter and Britta Hertler were to fly back to Zambia, December 31st. They will be saying good bye to Kasama and will move to Ndola, since Hans-Peter is taking over as team leader.

Thought of the Week 5: "Pray first, talk later." Augustinus Aurelius, Bishop of Hippo

29. Spain: Theo & Carolin Hertler share from Marbella: "The weekly women's meeting is attended by up to six women. We are happy how E. has faithfully followed Jesus and supported the ministry along with her family. In the face of illness and opposition she trusts in her Lord. What's also wonderful is that one of our neighbors came to one of our events at the congregation."

30. France: Michael & Tina Eckstein write: "The congregation in Saint-Lô held their Christmas worship services December 16 and 23. Thank you for praying for the preparations, for congregational members to participate joyfully and many friends to respond to invitations."

31. Zambia: Frank & Julia Wittmann share from Amano-School: "The road construction company has lived up to its promise! We now have a soccer field." Please join in thanking the Lord for this blessing that will help the school!



Prayer Guide January 2019

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."*

Isaiah 43:18, 19 (NIV)

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Thought of the Week 1: "Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will." Jonathan Edwards

1. The DRC: Based on the riches of her natural resources, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the richest countries on earth. But most of the money flows into the pockets of the President. Millions of Congolese, many children among them, suffer from enslavement. Add to this violence from rebel factions. The country urgently needs a new government. After much delay, presidential elections were to proceed Dec. 23rd. Please pray that the politicians will look after the wellbeing of the people and provide calm and justice.

2. Germany: Following a period of rehab, Lia Anderson will begin the first phase of chemotherapy mid-December. Unfortunately, it must be assumed that a small amount of tumour tissue remains after the radiation therapy. Thank you for attending to the whole family in this new and difficult phase with your prayers!

3. Germany: We are praying for Donata Schiller. The results of medical exams suggest that her impaired blood cell formation by the bone marrow is resulting from a complicated combination of various causes. She had another appointment in December at a special clinic for blood disease in the city of Essen. Based on current findings, chances for a return to Ecuador have diminished notably.

4. Papua New Guinea: Sebastian & Katharina Proß share: "We have now been able to submit the papers needed for our daughter's visa, in Port Moresby. Pray for the visa to be issued quickly, so we can fly back to PNG by the middle of January. Coworkers in leadership sound confident and are of good courage. The Saturday prep meetings are attended by about twenty volunteers."

5. France: Evelyn Theurer writes from La Roche-sur-Yon: "The Advent season is of little importance here. This is why I tried to provide an opportunity for pause and reflection as a means of preparation for Christmas and host three evening events to that end. The topic for Dec. 4 & 11 was the 'The Light of the World', while the Dec. 7 meeting had Mary as its focus. Please pray that Jesus would find space in the daily lives of individuals."

6. Canada: Ken & Heather Davis: After the Christmas break the Impact Volunteers will be returning to their placements to continue their work. Please be in prayer for them as they enter the second half of their time in Canada.

7. Japan: Sister Gretel Ruoff writes: "At the end of October I was greatly encouraged. I had the privilege of leading the first Bible study at a newly-starting house circle. The I. couple had been wanting to provide friends and acquaintances with opportunities to learn more about the Bible and the Christian faith. With an attendance of 14, all seats were taken. Four individuals had never before attended any Christian event. I was surprised at the openness, the good questions, the valuable contributions, and an atmosphere of trust. Afterwards, one of the women bought a Bible on the way home and is already looking forward to the next meeting!"

Thought of the Week 2: "Be content with leaving your prayer in His hand. He knows when to give, how to give, what to give and what to refuse. When you pray earnestly, ardently, persistently, but with humility and submission; then you will overcome." C.H. Spurgeon, retranslation

8. Germany: The Neubrandenburg team is happy so many people from the Reiterbahn district came to our Christmas Market on the first of Advent and spent some time in the Oasis. A number of good conversations with visitors resulted.

9. Germany: Heike Strauß with Samuel, Sabrina & Sebanja are adjusting to life in Germany. Please pray for strength for her and them. Last month it was a year that their husband and father, Gerd Strauß died.

10. Chile: Andrés & Kathrin Vergara share: "Andrés has devised a program he intends to use to train congregations for missions, starting in March. It includes topics like: learning to deal with cultural differences, mobilizing congregations for world missions, preparation of short-term assignments, and so forth. Andrés was to present the program at a pastor's breakfast on Dec 4. Also, thank you for praying for our children! We desire for them to find friends from Christian families."

11. Canada: Paul Knauer writes: Pray for **Mark Outerbridge** and me as we represent Liebenzell Canada at the Vancouver Missions Fest - January 19-21, 2019. Pray that the Lord will establish many new meaningful relationships as we share what God is doing through our ministries. We pray for a deepening prayer burden among believers for outreach and missions. We also ask the Lord for new missionary recruits, and a widening of the support base to further God's kingdom mission.

12. Bangladesh: Benedict & Verena Tschauner write: "We are praying for the coworkers at the children's village. Recently they've started taking turns doing the evening devotion with singing, prayer and a short talk. Three of them have never led this kind of event. We are also meeting on a weekly basis to exchange thoughts and ideas on pedagogical and organizational topics."

13. Germany: Aaron & Ilonka Köpke share: "Our team is looking forward to receiving two new missionaries, **Jonathan & Melanie Nill**. We're grateful for having been able to find an apartment right in the district!"

14. France: Norbert & Susanne Laffin share: "We are happy for two elderly ladies who attended our Club of Friends for the first time. One of them is already 96 years old, but is feeling at home in the group. We were surprised; a teenage girl we had met just before and invited actually came to our worship service in Alençon. She lives in a part of town we are praying for. So we are being encouraged to share at the individual level. Our Impacters had planned to start a kids club in December. Pray for the kids from the congregation to bring their friends."

Thought of the Week 3: "I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." Gilbert Keith Chesterton

15. Russia: Sister Sabine Matthis writes from Berjosowski: "For a long time, I've been praying for renewal and forward movement in the church ministry and lo and behold, when I returned from furlough there were new people in the congregation! Of great help is that we've found someone who has taken charge of the music program. What's also new is that we are now able to have TEE training sessions after our worship services, in which attendees diligently participate. Pray for them to grow in the faith and learn to involve Jesus ever more in their daily lives."

16. Japan: Thomas & Irene Beck share from Tokaichiba: "The outreach concert in November was attended by many who heard the Gospel. For some of those in attendance it was the first time they set foot in a church. We are praying for them to be found by Jesus. A special high point was the baptism of Mr. I and our son Marco in September. It was moving to hear how Mr. I came to faith. After five years and with much prayer and listening to God's word he entrusted his life to Jesus. We look forward to seeing how God will use him."