

Vivian Carter

📍 Northern Africa · January 2, 2022

Today we're going to pray for one of our missionaries in Northern Africa. Our church supports her through our Cooperative Program giving. We'll call her Vivian Carter, not her real name. That's because she lives in a dangerous country and her ministry focus is Muslim women.

Vivian was 10 years old when she told God that if He wanted her to go to Africa, she would go. It was 35 years, three children and a deserting husband later that she made good on that promise. Now she is establishing programs to help women recover from emotional and mental trauma. She teaches Bible stories which tell how people recovered from pain, betrayal, and loss with God's help.

Vivian and other workers also plan to set up a new internet site that will answer questions about faith and enable people to hear the gospel. Let's pray for Vivian and her new life of ministry. She has survived with God's help. She knows He will help others like her.



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Derek & Kristin Duvall

📍 Utah • January 9, 2022

Today let's pray for two of our North American missionaries who are planting a church in one of the most difficult places in the nation: Salt Lake City, Utah. They are Derek and Kristin Duvall. They have planted a church that meets in a school building in the town of Harrimon, which is part of Greater Salt Lake City. Salt Lake City is where the headquarters for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) are located and many people here follow that group's non-scriptural teachings.

Derek and Kristin called their new church "Awaken City," which is pretty much their daily ministry — seeking to awaken the people of Metro Salt Lake City to the need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Awaken City was the first evangelical church ever planted in Harrimon. But since many newcomers now live in the area, Derek and Kristin have good prospects to develop a strong and growing church.

Our church supports Derek and Kristin through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's support them now with our prayer!

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Travis & Beth Burkhalter

📍 South America • January 16, 2022

Today in our prayer time, let's pray for two of our missionaries serving in the nation of Colombia, South America. Travis and Beth Burkhalter live in the big city of Medellin. Our church supports them through the Cooperative Program. The two work with the Embera people, an ethnic group with their own language and culture.

After 10 years in Colombia, Travis and Beth speak Spanish well. But the Embera people speak Spanish poorly because they prefer their own language. When Travis saw they could not understand his Bible teaching in Spanish, he decided he must learn their language.

The Embera language is unwritten, so there are no books to help learn it. Travis found a man who speaks the language to help him. The two usually have language class in Travis' car, because the Embera people live in a poor part of the city where crime, drugs and gangs are common.

Travis records words and sentences and writes down the sounds as best he can. It is hard work. But Travis said it's necessary for these people to know Christ. Let's pray for Travis, that one day his language study will result in many coming to Christ.

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Thomas & Elizabeth West

📍 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary • January 23, 2022

Today we're going to pray for two of our missionaries serving in London, England. These days London is a huge city filled with people who have come from just about every country in the world. The city is a major missions challenge.

Our missionaries, Thomas and Elizabeth West, have gone there with their two kids to reach people for Christ. Thomas is pastor of Redeemer Queens Park Church. He is leading church members to establish friendships and do service projects that will lead to sharing the gospel. The idea is to provide spaces where people can ask questions about Jesus and learn who He really is.

Thomas prepared for his difficult ministry by studying at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, a school our church supports through the Cooperative Program. Southeastern is one of the nation's largest and best seminaries, helping equip hundreds of pastors and missionaries each year.

Let's thank God for the ministry of Southeastern Seminary and its graduate, Thomas. Let's pray that he and Elizabeth will lead many people in London to faith in Christ.



Stuart Robinson

📍 East Asia • January 30, 2022

Today for our missions prayer time, let's go to South Korea and learn how God solved a good problem. Along the way we'll pray for Stuart Robinson, one of our many missionaries serving in South Korea. He lives in the huge city of Seoul, the nation's largest city with some 10 million residents.

The good problem was that a church was growing. Growth is wonderful and to be prayed for. But finding a meeting place in Seoul is difficult. Most South Koreans live in small apartments in high-rise buildings. Having church services in these apartments is difficult, since noise that would offend neighbors is not socially acceptable. Besides, a group meeting in an apartment is likely to be seen as a cult to be avoided.

Stuart went to a Baptist family who owns a café. Since they closed their café on Sundays, could the church meet there? They immediately said yes! In fact, they said God had already told them they should do just that.

Our church supports Stuart as he serves in that big city. Let's pray that through him many will find Christ — AND a good place to worship!

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Ryan & Tricia McCammack

📍 Georgia • February 6, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, let's grab a glass of iced tea and head to Georgia. We want to pray for Ryan and Tricia McCammack, two of our North American missionaries serving in the Atlanta area. In 2016, they moved there with their eight children and planted Gospel Hope Church in Avondale Estates, a city east of downtown Atlanta, within its famous 285 beltline.

This is a part of DeKalb County that has struggled with racial issues and low incomes. Ryan is leading Gospel Hope Church to focus on discipling believers and planting more churches. They have launched small groups around the area to help.

The church welcomes all people, a fact reflected in its multicultural staff and membership. One man who visited had been to church, but at Gospel Hope he grasped what the gospel means and became a follower of Jesus. Now he leads a ministry team and is preparing to become a pastor.

Our church supports Ryan and Tricia through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray that they will continue to impact lives as they represent Christ throughout their area.

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Ryan & Aubrey Curry

📍 Sub-Saharan Africa • February 13, 2022

Today we want to pray for two of our missionaries who are pioneers. They are Ryan and Aubrey Curry. In 2021, they moved to Mozambique, a country on the southeast side of Africa. There they seek to lead the Manyika people to Christ. There are nearly 250,000 people in this group. They have their own language and culture. Most of the people worship spirits; their religion is part of their cultural identity. It's estimated there are fewer than 400 Christians among them.

Ryan and Aubrey are pioneers, going where few missionaries have gone before. They will begin by learning the Manyika language and figuring out where to live among their new people group.

Our church helped train them for missionary service through our International Mission Board. We helped buy the plane tickets so they could fly to Africa. We will support them financially so they can live and serve in this difficult assignment. Now let us also pray for their safety and their success as they carry the gospel to these lost people.

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Kaluba Kapapula

📍 Gateway Seminary · February 20, 2022

Today we're going to pray for one of the seminary students our church supports through the Cooperative Program. For background, remember that our church supports six of the best and largest seminaries in the country. One of those is Gateway Seminary. Gateway has five locations in California, Colorado, Arizona and Washington.

That student we're praying for today is Kaluba Kapapula. Kaluba is from Zambia, a country in south central Africa. He has served 28 years as pastor, church planter, and educator in Zambia. Back in 2004, Kaluba came to America and served six years at a church in Colorado. That's when he started attending Gateway Seminary.

But family and ministry needs called him back to Zambia in 2010 — he became the leader of two Bible colleges. Now Kaluba is back at Gateway, this time at the main campus in Ontario, California, which is part of greater Los Angeles.

Kaluba plans to work on a master's degree and then a PhD, so he can teach and lead in equipping pastors and missionaries in Zambia. Let's ask God to give him a bright, productive future!



Ralph Adair

📍 South Asia • February 27, 2022

Today in our prayer time let's focus on one of our missionaries in a very difficult place to reach people for Christ. We'll call him Ralph Adair, not his real name. That's because he serves in a part of South Asia which is mostly Muslim. We Southern Baptists have been sending missionaries there for some 20 years, but response has been small. There are local believers, but most are afraid to share their faith in Christ.

But Ralph is hopeful. He is hopeful a time is coming when local believers will rise strongly and begin proclaiming the gospel. One local believer — we'll call him Saalim — has begun witnessing, because he wants to see his nation turn to Christ. Ralph says Saalim may become the key to more local believers beginning to share their faith.

Our church supports Ralph through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's join him in praying that a mighty movement of God will happen where he serves.

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Shahid & Maroofa Kamal

📍 British Columbia, Canada • March 6, 2022

Let's go to Canada in our missions prayer time today. Specifically we are going to the Pacific coast of Canada, to the province of British Columbia and on to the city of Surrey. This is part of Greater Vancouver where about 2.4 million people live. People from many lands have settled here; half the population speaks a language other than English.

That's where our North American missionaries, Shahid and Maroofa Kamal, have planted a new church to reach South Asians, just north of the U.S.-Canada border.

Many of the Asians they are reaching for Christ are newly-arrived immigrants struggling to adjust to life in Canada. Often they are learning English as well. Shahid and Maroofa understand such struggles, because they moved from Pakistan to Canada in 2016. That same year they planted South Asian Community Church.

Most members are Punjabi-speaking people from Sikh and Hindu backgrounds. But our missionaries intend to win them to Christ, disciple them and send them out to reach others for Him. Our church is supporting Shahid and Maroofa through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for them.

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Anders & Jessica Snyder

📍 Idaho • March 13, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, we're going to pray for two of our North American missionaries serving in Idaho. Anders and Jessica Snyder serve in Nampa, Idaho, a city of about 100,000 people located west of the bigger city of Boise. Our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving.

Anders and Jessica are specialists not in PLANTING churches, but in RE-PLANTING churches. When they arrived with their four children at the existing church on Almond Street, there was a good building. But the membership had declined to about 35 members. Anders and Jessica helped figure out how to reach the diverse neighborhoods around the church and began leading outreach efforts. Soon those 35 members had tripled in the re-planted church now named Calvary Church Nampa.

The well-put aim of the church is to “make Jesus non-ignorable in Nampa and to the ends of the earth.” Let’s pray for Anders and Jessica. Let’s ask God that this re-planted church will succeed at making Jesus “non-ignorable.”

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Joshua Valdez

📍 New Mexico • March 20, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, grab a water bottle, because we're going to the deserts of New Mexico. Our North American missionary we'll pray for today is Joshua Valdez. He has planted a new church in Farmington, a city in the northwest corner of the state. Many tourists drive by here headed to or from Shiprock, a striking rock formation, or the Four Corners area, both further west. But Joshua says half the county is unchurched and the resulting spiritual darkness has led to rampant drug and alcohol abuse, poverty and hungry children.

Besides being our missionary, Joshua also works at a local high school as an intervention specialist. During the COVID-19 lockdown, he was sent out to find students not taking part in online classes.

Joshua has seen firsthand how hopeless many young people are. Quite a few of those have begun attending Joshua's Higher Ground Church — and some young people say they have found hope in Christ there that was missing elsewhere.

Our church is supporting Joshua's missionary labors through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for him to stay strong in faith, health and ministry.

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Bobby & LaKeisha Williams

📍 Louisiana • March 27, 2022

Today in our prayer time, we're going to New Orleans, Louisiana, so we can pray for Bobby and LaKeisha Williams. They are two of our North American missionaries serving there. They planted Next Level Church in 2007 and are working on another new church plant in the city of Slidell, about 30 miles away.

Next Level is situated between I-10 and Lake Pontchartrain. It's an area of low incomes, drug use and prostitution. Bobby and LaKeisha have led Next Level to provide a broad range of community services, from fitness camps to health fairs, cooking classes and the like. They routinely provide food, clothing, school supplies and hygiene items to the community. By meeting needs, they also get to tell many more people about Jesus. Only His kind of light will change the spiritual darkness that prevails in this part of the inner city.

Through our Cooperative Program giving, our church is supporting Bobby and LaKeisha as they minister in New Orleans and launch that new church in Slidell. Let's thank God for what they've done and ask for His continued blessing into the future!

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Sarah Crew

📍 Northern Africa • April 3, 2022

Today in our prayer time we're going to pray for one of our missionaries serving in Northern Africa. We'll call her Sarah Crew. Through our Cooperative Program giving, our church supports Sarah and her missionary husband, Ray, and their four children, as they live and serve in Northern Africa.

They hired a young woman named Aziya to tutor the kids. They taught Aziya about Christ, but she did not decide to follow him. Sarah lost touch with Aziya after she married a Muslim man. They heard later the two had divorced.

For 11 years, Sarah prayed for Aziya. But she had no news of her. One day Sarah met Aziya in a restaurant. Aziya was quick to tell about what had happened: she had felt a discontent that drew her to God. "I heard Him call my name," she explained.

Sarah was so pleased that her years of prayer had been answered! Let's pray now for our missionary, Sarah, who patiently prayed for a woman to find Christ. And let's pray too for Aziya, that she will continue to grow in her new faith.



Ryan & Kierstin Ivy

📍 Nevada • April 10, 2022

Today let's go to Las Vegas, Nevada — not to gamble, but to pray for two of our North American missionaries serving there. They are Ryan and Kierstin Ivy — they moved from Alabama to serve in Las Vegas. Imagine: our church is helping them plant a new church in Sin City through our Cooperative Program giving!

Their new church is called Image Church and it meets on the southwestern side of the city, just off Highway 160. Many new churches are needed in Las Vegas. About two million people live here (plus 40 million visitors each year!), but few are followers of Jesus.

This is one of the brightest cities on the planet, NASA says, because buildings and signs shine so much at night. But the light of Jesus is mostly missing.

Ryan and Kierstin say that's why Las Vegas is a place of spiritual darkness, with many worldly things to take attention away from the gospel. Still, they have been able to pull a congregation together and start discipling new believers.

Let's pray for Ryan and Kierstin and their difficult ministry. Let's ask God to send more missionaries to join them!

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Penny Sargent

📍 East Asia • April 17, 2022

We're going to East Asia today for our missions prayer time. Our missionary, Penny Sargent, serves in East Asia, where she focuses on reaching women for Christ.

A while back she was moping around because she did not get to have a short vacation break out of the city. But that very week she met three women who did not follow Christ. She began to meet with them and within two months, all three of them had put their faith in Christ. Penny says seeing people come to Christ is the best vacation ever!

Soon after these women made decisions for Christ, COVID-19 put the country on lockdown. Penny had to leave the country. If Penny had left town when she originally planned, those women might have never heard the gospel.

Let's pray now for our missionary, Penny, and thank the Lord that she turned a short-term loss into a gain for eternity.

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Matt Queen

📍 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary • April 24, 2022

In our prayer time today, we're going to Fort Worth, Texas. That's where one finds Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, one of America's best and largest seminaries. And it's one of the six great seminaries our church supports through our Cooperative Program giving.

Today we're going to pray for Matt Queen, a Southwestern professor who occupies the L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism. In Matt's "Everyday Evangelism" class, students swap textbooks for sidewalks part of the time — because he leads students out and about in Fort Worth so they can share the gospel with people they meet.

Matt says for lost people to be saved, we who follow Christ must go and tell them how to be saved — and we must go in the power of the Holy Spirit. He wants his students to develop lifelong habits of praying for lost people and sharing the gospel with lost people.

Today let's ask the Lord to bless Southwestern Seminary and Professor Matt Queen as he leads students to witness on the streets of Fort Worth.



Dustin & Jill Conner

📍 Alberta, Canada • May 1, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, let's go to Canada. Start in the middle of the country and head west — just before the Rockies, we'll come to a cluster of high-rise buildings that are Calgary, in the province of Alberta. More than 1.5 million people live in Metro Calgary — and about 95 percent of them are lost. Calgary is Canada's fourth largest metro area.

This is where our two North American missionaries, Dustin and Jill Conner, are serving. They moved from North Carolina to Calgary in 2017 and saw they were in a mission field needing many new churches. They became Southern Baptist missionaries and planted Hope Church in 2018. Hope has been meeting in a rented club house in northwest Calgary.

Hope Church has grown to include members from 10 nations, reflecting the many immigrants who have settled here. Hope grew, in fact, even during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Our church supports Dustin and Jill through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray that Hope Church will continue to grow and also help plant more new churches across this big city.

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Joe Brewster

📍 American Peoples • May 8, 2022

Today for our missions prayer time, let's go to Peru, down in South America. We're going to pray for Joe Brewster, one of our missionaries who serves there. He's one of many missionaries our church supports across South America through our Cooperative Program giving.

About 50 indigenous people groups live in Peru. That means they have their own culture and languages other than Spanish. Many of these groups are poor. Each group is a separate mission field. A Christian missions leader in one of those groups asked Joe how they could raise money for missions — despite being poor.

After Joe talked to people from the group, they decided fish farms could help them produce fish. Then they could sell the fish for missions money. Joe got some money from Southern Baptists and soon they had built nine fish ponds. They plan to build more.

They've already sold nearly 18,000 pounds of fish and are using the profits to support their missionaries who will share the gospel far and wide. Let's pray for Joe today and for those fish farmers who are working hard to become fishers of men!

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Raphael Valter

📍 Georgia • May 15, 2022

In our missions prayer time today, we're going to pray for Raphael Valter, one of our North American missionaries serving near Atlanta, Georgia. Our church supports him through our Cooperative Program giving. Raphael planted a Spanish-speaking church called Iglesia Bautista Ágape in 2019.

The church has been reaching the many Hispanics who have settled in the Stone Mountain area, northeast of downtown Atlanta. Hispanics have come here from Mexico and many other Central and South American nations.

Raphael uses the shoe leather approach to evangelism — he goes door to door, calling on home after home as he meets people and shares the gospel. One of the first new believers was his own mother, who accepted Christ as her Savior soon after the death of her husband, Raphael's father.

Raphael and his wife, Aura Jicela, have four children. Let's pray for Raphael and the new church. Let's ask God that through it, many thousands of people will become followers of Christ.

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Nathan & Tessa Baker

📍 Sub-Saharan Africa • May 22, 2022

Now if you hear the word Madagascar you may think of the cartoon. But today we're going to the real island of Madagascar off the coast of Africa. That's where our missionaries, Nathan and Tessa Baker, serve. Our church supports them through the Cooperative Program.

The island is large, with mountains and highlands, so transport can be hard. And telling people about Jesus? They speak 20+ languages and dialects. Over the past 10 years, Christians on the island have developed more than 100 Bible stories in many of the dialects and languages spoken.

Nathan and Tessa arranged for a 20-minute program to air three times a week on a radio station so now those Bible stories are broadcast all over the island. The COVID-19 lockdown increased the audience size.

Many listeners have responded to ask about salvation, discipleship or local churches. A witch doctor asked Baptists to pray for him to be delivered from evil spirits! Next Nathan and Tessa are working on a drama from the book of Job — also to be on the radio. Let's pray for Nathan and Tessa.

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Ricardo & Meyna Barber

📍 Oregon • May 29, 2022

Today in our prayer time let's head to Oregon on the West Coast and then to Portland. That's where two of our North American missionaries, Ricardo and Meyna Barber, are serving. Our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving.

Ricardo and Meyna planted a new church, One Hope Fellowship, in 2019. They're meeting on northeast 27th Avenue, between the main airport and downtown Portland.

The COVID-19 lockdown left them gathering only virtually during 2020, but they stayed active in the community through a food bank and a tutoring program. They also co-sponsored a free medical clinic and helped some local residents with their rent. Helping people in the community allowed them to meet more people and have more times to share the gospel.

Portland is a beautiful city, but the lack of Christian influence in the culture has had many unfortunate results. Our missionaries, Ricardo and Meyna, want to focus all of Portland on Jesus, the city's one hope. Let's pray that One Hope Fellowship will grow to reach thousands of lost people and also help plant many more new churches.

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Liz Karwood

📍 South Asia • June 5, 2022

Today in our prayer time we are going to South Asia so we can pray for one of our missionaries we'll call Liz Karwood. We'll hear about one of her teaching times that's a good lesson for us as well.

Liz knows that missionaries alone cannot reach the millions of lost people in South Asia. They must train local believers to carry the gospel to their people. That's why Liz took a new believer named Lipti out into the local Muslim community to teach her how to share her faith. They went into a hair salon; Liz had her eyebrows done.

She started talking to the hair stylist about how sins can be forgiven. Then she called on Lipti to continue the conversation. Lipti told the women that through Jesus their sins could be forgiven. The stylist called other women from the back of the salon so they could hear Lipti. The women did not become believers, but it was a good start.

This visit taught Lipti that sharing her faith is possible — and sometimes, even easy. That's a good lesson for us too! Let's pray for Liz and her ministry in that difficult area.

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Chelsea Sobolik

📍 Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission • June 12, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, we're going to Washington, DC, to pray for Chelsea Sobolik. She's one of our workers at our Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission there.

Our church supports the Commission — and Chelsea — through our Cooperative Program giving. The Commission's ministry is to put a Biblical perspective into laws and public discussions. That means our church has a voice in Washington through our commission.

Chelsea focuses her ministry on getting Bible values into government policies that relate to children and families. She also serves as a court-appointed advocate for children in foster care, helping assure those kids are well cared for.

All this is more than just work for Chelsea. She was adopted from Romania as a baby. Also, she and her husband, Michael, are adopting a child from India. So we can understand why Chelsea is so passionate about this ministry to which God has called her.

Let's thank God for the ministries of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and — especially today — for Chelsea and her ministry representing Christ in Washington.

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Mark & Hannah Bustrum

📍 Europe • June 19, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, we're going to pray for Mark and Hannah Bustrum, who are serving in Portugal. They are two of the many missionaries our church supports across Europe through our Cooperative Program giving. Just over 10 million people live in Portugal; it's estimated evangelical Christians number fewer than 50,000.

Since 2019 Mark and Hannah have been planting a new church. But, from its beginning, they have had input and help from Portuguese Baptists in how to proceed. Together, the team determined where to put the church and how to train its leaders. Mark and Hannah say local believers know their culture and the best ways to reach lost people for Christ. Local leaders suggest taking time to build good relationships with lost people, as opposed to rushing to get results.

That new church started with prayer, fasting and Bible study by our missionaries and local believers. "God's work, God's way, God's timing" was their strategy in a nutshell. Let's pray now for Mark and Hannah and their church planting partnerships in Portugal. Let's ask God for many new churches to reach the millions of lost people there.

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Don & Lanail Hamilton

📍 Kansas • June 26, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, let's go to the middle of the United States — to Kansas City, Kansas. That's where Don and Lanail Hamilton, two of our North American missionaries, are planting a new church, just south of downtown. Both Don and Lanail grew up in Kansas City and they say God has called them to plant Veer Church so it can welcome people from all ethnic groups to become disciples of Christ.

Nearly two-thirds of the city's 138,000 people are part of some ethnic group. Veer Church's four-sentence plan applies to all: "Know God. Find freedom. Discover purpose. Make a difference." Don has served on three other church plants. But he says planting Veer Church has been better because of the training and help he has received from our North American Mission Board.

Our church supports our board and the Hamiltons through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's ask God to guide Don and Lanail in their missions ministries and that Veer Church will grow and multiply to reach thousands for Christ!

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Simon & Popia Sim

📍 Massachusetts • July 3, 2022

In our missions prayer time today let's pray for Simon and Popia Sim, two of our North American missionaries serving in Massachusetts. In 2021 Simon and Popia planted a new church in the city of Lynn, which is up the shore a few miles from Boston and part of the Greater Boston urban area. They call their congregation Above the Hills Church, based on Micah 4:1. They meet on Stetson Street in the city center.

Simon and Popia are Cambodian and they are reaching the growing numbers of Cambodians moving into the city. Earlier Simon served with a Cambodian church in Connecticut. Popia is from the Boston area and helped plant a church for Cambodians there.

Many people fled from the Asian nation of Cambodia in the 1970s when a communist regime, the Khmer Rouge, killed as many as two million people. Most second-generation Cambodians speak English and are more focused on the present. Simon and Popia want them to know that true peace is only found in Jesus Christ.

Our church is supporting Simon and Popia through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for them and that new church.

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Jack & Prinna Wattanawongsawang

📍 East Asia • July 10, 2022

In our missions prayer time today, we're going to pray for one of our missionary couples serving in Japan. Let's call them Jack and Prinna. Our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving.

They need our prayers because Japan is one of the most difficult mission fields in Asia. Baptists and other church groups have sent missionaries to Japan for many years. But response to the gospel has been small.

To this day there are relatively few evangelical Christians in Japan — less than half of one percent of the population. Jack and Prinna moved to Fukuoka, Japan in 2016. They started prayer walking in all directions from their apartment. They tried to meet people and talk with them.

In 2020, they saw a woman and her granddaughter profess faith in Christ and they were baptized. Others in their family had become Christians through many meetings, classes and discussions. Let's pray for Jack and Prinna as they continue to look for ways to share Christ with this lost nation.

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Jonathan & Melissa Parnell

📍 Minnesota • July 17, 2022

Today in our prayer time let's go to Minnesota so we can pray for two of our North American missionaries serving there. Jonathan and Melissa Parnell work in St. Paul. Now, St. Paul and Minneapolis sort of run together into one big community called the Twin Cities — home for about three million people. About 13 percent of the residents say they are evangelical, but many more Bible-believing churches are needed.

Here's why we can be happy our church supports Jonathan and Melissa through the Cooperative Program: since they planted Cities Church in 2015, they have since planted four other new churches! Cities is now a strong, well-staffed church, meeting on Summit Avenue in St. Paul.

Jonathan wants each new church to be committed to discipling believers and multiplying into more new churches across the Twin Cities.

Jonathan and Melissa have served as foster parents to vulnerable children and have adopted some of them. Cities Church also ministers to kids in need. Let's pray for Jonathan and Melissa as they help bring people to faith in Christ!

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Jeff & Barbara Singerman

📍 Sub-Saharan Africa • July 24, 2022

In our missions prayer time today, we are going to Benin, Africa, so we can pray for two of our missionaries: Jeff and Barbara Singerman. Our church supports them through the Cooperative Program.

Soon after Jeff and Barbara moved to a new village, Jeff built a basketball court for his kids. One day, Jeff's son, Kevin, invited a local teenager, Marc, to come play basketball. Marc came, though he had never seen a basketball before. That led to a lot of basketball — and eventually, a lot of talking about Jesus Christ.

Marc became a believer and later God called him to full-time service. Now he works with the Benin Baptist Convention and helps arrange for U.S. volunteers to come minister in the country.

Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, sends volunteer teams to Benin. Marc and two other pastors have been helping Mount Vernon teams share Christ with the Kotafon people.

Let's pray for Jeff and Barbara, but also for their son, Kevin, who shared his faith along with playing basketball. And let's pray for Marc, who is being used of God to bring Christ to many.

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Derick & Kayla Sherfey

📍 Colorado • July 31, 2022

Have you ever been to Denver, Colorado? It's a beautiful city near the Rocky Mountains. Today we're going to pray for two of our North American missionaries who are planting a new church in Denver. They are Derick and Kayla Sherfey — our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving.

Why does the city need new churches? It's because few of the Metro Denver's nearly 5 million people have a relationship with Christ. Derick is pastor of The Oaks Church, a new fellowship meeting in southeastern Denver. The church has set up communities of believers to help with discipleship and outreach. People from some 40 nations speaking around 60 languages live within a mile of the church's meeting place on East Iowa Avenue.

The Oaks Church also has a helping center that partners with our North American Mission Board and other groups to provide a wide range of ministries, from counseling to help with finding jobs. They currently provide food to more than 50 refugee families each week.

Let's pray now for Derick and Kayla as they minister in Christ's name and grow that new church in the Mile High City.

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Kelvin & Elizabeth Joseph

📍 Europe • August 7, 2022

For our missions prayer time, let's pray for two of our missionaries serving in Poland. Let's see what happened when they made a difficult decision. They are Kelvin and Elizabeth Joseph, two of the many missionaries across Europe our church supports through our Cooperative Program giving.

When COVID-19 struck Poland, much of the nation went into lockdown, just as in many other nations. Kelvin and Elizabeth prepared to return to the United States. But then they made the difficult decision to stay. That decision had some good results.

A young man Kelvin had been sharing the gospel with prayed to receive Christ. Lockdown meant Kelvin had six months to disciple the man in his new faith. The young man later organized a Bible study for a friend — and that friend also prayed to receive Christ. The two continue to meet with other missionaries for further discipling, even though the Josephs moved to another city.

Let's pray for our missionaries, Kelvin and Elizabeth, and pray God will continue to lead them to make those difficult decisions that can have great results for the Kingdom!

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Cody Moore

📍 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary • August 14, 2022

In our missions prayer time today, we're going to pray for Cody Moore. Cody graduated from Leavell College, which is part of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. Leavell College helps students get their required college work completed so they can attend New Orleans Seminary.

During his college days, Cody served as president of Moon House, one of three house communities of students that guide fellowship and spiritual formation. After Leavell, he served a time with Refuge Church in the Bywater area of New Orleans. Now he is getting practical on-the-job training through a residency program in South Carolina. Next, he plans to return to New Orleans and continue his studies at New Orleans Seminary.

Our church supports New Orleans Seminary through our Cooperative Program giving, along with five other seminaries across the country. All six schools equip future pastors, missionaries and church leaders.

Let's pray today that Cody's studies will go smoothly as he follows God's call into full-time Christian service. And let's pray for New Orleans Seminary and the training they provide to tomorrow's leaders.

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Doug & Cheryl Derbyshire

📍 Southeast Asia • August 21, 2022

In our prayer time today we're going halfway around the world to the Asian nation of Thailand. We are going to pray for Dr. Doug Derbyshire and his wife, Cheryl. They have served in Thailand since 1992.

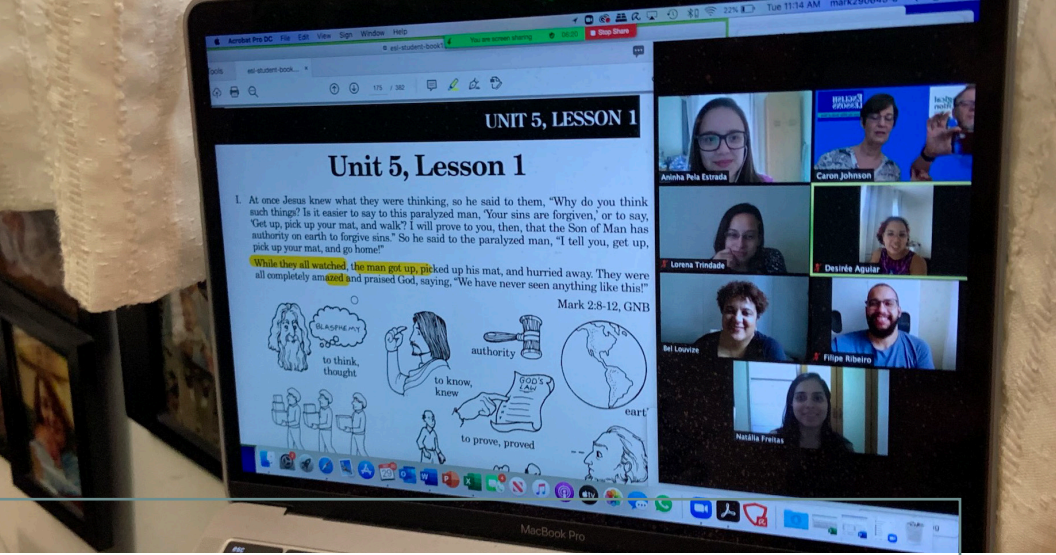
Doug is a physician at the Bangkla Baptist Clinic in the city of Bangkla. Along with the clinic ministry, Doug and Cheryl visit areas of the country with no churches. Thai medical staff and volunteers from the U.S. work with them to hold mobile medical clinics that treat many patients.

Along with medical care, Doug and others address spiritual needs by presenting the gospel. Doug says sometimes the people have never heard of God nor worshiped Him. He says being the first to tell them about Jesus is a burden.

Our church supports Doug and Cheryl over in Thailand through our Cooperative Program giving. They are “our” missionaries! Let's ask God to keep them safe as they travel and to bless their ministry with many patients who are healed of both disease and sin.

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Caron Johnson

📍 American Peoples • August 28, 2022

In today's prayer time we're heading south — to Brazil. We're going to pray for Caron Johnson, one of our missionaries who serves there. Before COVID-19, Johnson was teaching English in several towns in Brazil. But travel restrictions meant she had to stay put for months.

Johnson did not quit — rather, she moved online and came up with a new approach to language learning. How about arranging for missions-minded Southern Baptists in America to teach English online to South Brazil Seminary students?

Brazilian Baptists have partnered with Southern Baptists for 140 years. Like Southern Baptists in America, Brazilian Baptists have a missions program that reaches many countries. If Portuguese-speaking Brazilian Baptists can speak English, they can communicate with many more people as they do missions.

Johnson's English classes are based on the Book of Mark, so the learning process is Bible-based. Her idea succeeded so well she has launched similar online learning system at a second Brazilian seminary plus at a language institute. Our church supports Caron Johnson through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for her now.

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Travis & Katy Cunningham

📍 California • September 4, 2022

Today in our mission prayer time, let's pray for Travis and Katy Cunningham, two of our North American missionaries who have planted a new church in California. Travis and Katy are serving in a place called Rancho Cucamonga. This is one of the many communities that make up Greater Los Angeles — where about 20 million people live. Less than 9 percent of the people are evangelical Christians.

Rancho Cucamonga is north and east of better-known Anaheim — where Disneyland is located — roughly 40 miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

Travis was born and raised in Rancho Cucamonga and says he did not hear much about Christianity before he was saved. In 2019 he was led to plant a church in the city, so people could hear the gospel. They called the new church Story Church. The church wants everyone know, live and share the one true story — about Jesus.

During COVID-19 days, they met in a park; some people living nearby heard the message and started visiting. Our church supports Travis and Katy through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for them.

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John & Nadine Overton

📍 Sub-Saharan Africa • September 11, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, we're going to Italy and pray for two of our missionaries our church supports through the Cooperative Program. They are John and Nadine Overton and they are based in Milan, in northern Italy. But John and Nadine are ministering to people from Sub-Saharan Africa.

In recent years thousands of Africans have risked their lives to travel to Europe seeking better lives. Many of them have made it to Italy. But life is hard for them — they are in Italy illegally and they cannot hold legal jobs. That produces homelessness and poverty. John and Nadine have located many such Africans and given them “dignity bags,” which have basics like socks, toothbrush and food. Of course they also share the gospel with the Africans they meet.

Later John and Nadine want to establish a welcome center for refugees that would provide Bible study, a safe space to live, and classes on how to survive in Italy. Let's pray for our missionaries now and ask God to help them be effective as they seek to minister in Christ's name.

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Kevin & Rebecca Gibbs

📍 Washington • September 18, 2022

In our missions prayer time today, let's pray for Kevin and Rebecca Gibbs, two of our North American missionaries in Seattle, Washington. Kevin was a student minister in Texas until a 2014 missions trip opened his eyes to the urgent need for evangelism and new churches across Seattle. Now in Seattle as missionaries, he and Rebecca have planted Discovery Church to address those needs. Discovery meets in a community center north of downtown and the harbor.

Our church supports Kevin and Rebecca through the Cooperative Program. That's also how we support the North American Mission Board that helped them start ministry in Seattle.

Seattle is a beautiful city, presided over by its soaring Space Needle. But because Jesus Christ is little known here, many people are left searching for hope and meaning. Discovery Church teaches members to answer such searching with the gospel.

Let's pray that, through Discovery Church, many people will discover salvation available only in Jesus. And let's ask God to send many more missionaries to this spiritual desert and carry the living water of the gospel.

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Justin & Camille Franssen

📍 Southeast Asia • September 25, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, we are going to pray for two of our missionaries serving in Southeast Asia. We won't be more specific on their location because of the security involved. We'll call them Justin and Camille Franssen. Our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving.

Justin and Camille work with refugees who have come here from Afghanistan, Iran, Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia. They are hoping to get resettled somewhere else in the world — somewhere safer than their home countries. Our missionaries have set up small groups, usually family groups who know each other. This is how they teach the Bible and introduce the refugees to Jesus Christ.

It's estimated that about 500 refugees from Afghanistan have committed their lives to Christ in the past five years. That response was through the work of Justin and Camille, other missionaries, and local believers. Since missionaries are not allowed in Afghanistan, this is a wonderful result.

Let's pray now for our missionaries, Justin and Camille, in their difficult ministry. Let's pray that thousands of homeless refugees will find salvation and refuge in Jesus.

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Mo & Susan Wildey

📍 Indiana • October 2, 2022

For our missions prayer time today, let's go to Indiana. We are going to pray for Mo and Susan Wildey. They're two of our North American missionaries who have planted Restore Church International. That's a new church meeting on South Seventh Avenue in Beech Grove, just southeast of downtown Indianapolis.

They also minister to people with addictions and address other community needs, even as they work on planting additional new churches. They partner with the North American Mission Board's Send Network and other agencies to make their ministry stronger.

Our church supports Mo and Susan and our missions board through our Cooperative Program giving. Mo and Susan moved into an apartment within the inner city, so they could be closer to lost people in the neighborhood. A week before they moved, two murders occurred in their complex.

Let's pray for our missionaries and ask God to keep them safe. But let's also ask Him to bring both healing and salvation to the people Mo and Susan are serving there in Indianapolis.

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Mark Chambers

📍 Northern Africa • October 9, 2022

In our missions prayer time today, let's pray for our missionary, Mark Chambers. Now, Mark serves in Northern Africa, but today let's focus on how he served in Oklahoma. Specifically, he went to a town called Guymon.

Guymon is in the rugged panhandle of Oklahoma, sorta due north of Amarillo, Texas. Turns out hundreds of refugees have settled in and around Guymon, mostly to work in the meat-packing plants there. Many of those refugees are from Northern Africa. So when First Baptist Church in Guymon wanted to learn how to reach those refugees for Christ, they called on Mark for help.

Mark and another missionary helped the church map out the areas where the immigrants live and figure out the best ways to meet their needs — including their spiritual need to know Jesus as Savior.

Let's pray for First Baptist Church today and all our U.S. churches which have immigrant populations that need to be reached. Let's pray for our missionary, Mark Chambers, as he serves in Northern Africa. We support him through our church's Cooperative Program giving.

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Ayman Ibrahim

📍 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary • October 16, 2022

In our missions prayer time, let's go to Louisville, Kentucky, to the campus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. We're going to pray for one of Southern's professors — Ayman S. Ibrahim. Our church supports Ibrahim and Southern Seminary through our Cooperative Program giving.

Ibrahim teaches our future Southern Baptist pastors and missionaries how to share their faith with Muslims. He also directs the Jenkins Center for the Christian Understanding of Islam. Ibrahim says there is a pressing need for Christians to reach Muslims for Christ — and that need continues despite the COVID-19 crisis.

He teaches his students to first become friends with Muslim neighbors. Muslims are usually open to talk about religious matters — and are often eager to tell you about Islam. Ibrahim says it is important to approach Muslims with a loving heart and a loving attitude. Don't attack Islam; just ask questions. Plant a seed about Jesus in your first conversation, he says.

Let's pray now for Ibrahim and his important ministry. Let's pray that through his work many Muslims will become followers of Jesus Christ.

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Lena Eckhart

📍 Europe • October 23, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, we're going to pray for one of our missionaries we'll call Lena Eckhart. She works somewhere in the United Kingdom, so that could be England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. We cannot be more specific, because Lena's ministry is with women who once were Muslim but have committed their lives to Christ.

Since their families are still Muslim, they must be secret Christians. If they were discovered reading the Bible, for example, they might be put out on the street, beaten or even killed.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the women could not read their Bibles or meet with other believers. When lockdown eased, Lena started meeting with five of the women at a shopping center. She trained them in how to go visit and disciple other Christian women in Muslim areas.

Our church supports Lena, our brave missionary, through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for her now. And let's pray for these women who have risked everything to follow Jesus. Let's pray that many more Muslim women will decide to follow Him.

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Steve & Toni Chambers

📍 New York • October 30, 2022

Today in our prayer time let's pray for Steve and Toni Chambers, two of our North American missionaries planting a new church in New York City. New York is our biggest city — hundreds of new churches are needed. That's why our church supports Steve and Toni through our Cooperative Program giving to serve there.

They are serving on Manhattan, more specifically on the Upper West Side, between Central Park and the Hudson River. Like all New York, this area is filled with people from every part of the world and it's likely that about 96 percent of them are lost and do not know Jesus.

Steve and Toni moved from Alabama to plant Grace City Church. Along with worship services and home group meetings, they often meet on the street or in a park so they can start conversations with people. It takes time to know people well enough to share the gospel. Eighteen months of discussions helped one student accept Christ as Savior.

Let's pray for Steve and Toni — and that their church will reach thousands of New Yorkers for Christ.

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Jacob & Francine Zailian

📍 California • November 6, 2022

Today in our prayer time let's pray for Jacob and Francine Zailian. They are two of our North American missionaries who have planted a church in Sanger, California.

Sanger is east of Fresno in the central part of the state. Jacob and Francine planted Set Free Church to specifically reach the homeless, the addicts, the former prisoners and others who are often forgotten by society.

Jacob wants them to know God has not forgotten them. His life looked really messed up after drug dealing got him a stay in the Fresno County Jail. That was when he prayed for God to help him. He did. Jacob swapped drugs for Bible reading, accepted Christ as his Savior and later became a minister and missionary.

That background is why Set Free Church distributes food, clothing, furniture and the like to meet the needs people have. That includes meeting their need for Jesus. Through our church's Cooperative Program giving, our church is supporting Jacob and Francine as they minister in California. Let's ask God to keep them safe and productive as they do.

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Cowserts & Keys

📍 American Peoples • November 13, 2022

Does your family understand the importance of Christian missions? Today in missions prayer time, we want to pray for two of our Southern Baptist missionaries who have served in Brazil for more than 30 years. They are Guy and Elena Key.

But we want to thank the Lord for the tradition of missions behind Guy and Elena. Elena's grandparents, Jack and Grace Cowser, went to serve as our missionaries in Brazil starting in 1921. They traveled there by boat. The Cowserts established a publishing house, the first Baptist one to print Bibles in Brazil.

The Cowserts had a son named George. He and his wife, Hilda, went to serve as missionaries in Brazil in 1952. George served as pastor of 10 churches; Hilda worked with Brazilian Baptist women during their many years there. Back to Elena Key — she was daughter of George and Hilda. That's three generations of this missions-minded family that have served as missionaries in Brazil!

Now, remember that our church supports missionaries through our Cooperative Program — and the Cooperative Program supported all three generations of these fine folks. Let's pray now for Guy and Elena.

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Cade & Jenny Wheeler

📍 Europe • November 20, 2022

In our missions prayer time today, let's make it a time of thanksgiving because of what happened recently in the Caucasus area of far eastern Europe. Life has been very hard in this mostly mountainous area lately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic and a war that displaced thousands of people during the harsh winter. Despite all this, two churches helped set up a three-day retreat which included sharing the gospel.

By the last day, more than 125 people — everyone who attended — had come to faith in Jesus Christ! Our two local missionaries, who we'll call Cade and Jenny Wheeler, have served in this area for many years. But they have been stuck in the U.S. because of travel restrictions. The decisions for Christ were a wonderful validation of their years of ministry, of course. The churches have been ministering night and day to help people impacted by the pandemic and the war.

Our church supports Cade and Jenny through our Cooperative Program giving. Isn't it great to see how God has blessed their long ministry? Let's thank Him now.

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Guillermo & Claudia Hernandez

📍 Florida • November 27, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, let's pray for two of our missionaries serving in Miami, Florida. They are Guillermo and Claudia Hernandez. We support them through our Cooperative Program giving, because nearly 80 percent of the people in Miami have no faith in Jesus.

Our missionaries moved to Florida from the Central American nation of El Salvador in 2007; Guillermo was a pastor there for many years. Their new church is Iglesia Bautista de Kendall — a community in southwestern Miami.

Guillermo preaches in Spanish and the church is reaching out to the many Hispanics in the Kendall area. But the church also has services in English. That's because young Hispanics in the United States usually grow up speaking mostly English.

Let's pray that Guillermo and Claudia will reach many Hispanics and others through their ministry there in Miami.

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Alex & Jess Garcia

📍 Europe • December 4, 2022

Today for our missions prayer time, we're going to London, England. That's where two of our missionaries — Alex and Jess Garcia — are serving. Our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving.

They have developed a unique ministry focused on sharing the gospel with people who are suffering from depression. Turns out, they have a lot of people to reach, because it's estimated about one in every four people in Europe struggle with depression.

Alex and Jess form what they call “well groups,” which are groups of three to five people. They focus on mutual prayer, accountability and renewing the mind through learning stories of hope in the Bible. They lead people to let go of their old identity and embrace a new identity in Christ.

Alex and Jess created this new ministry after they themselves went through a period of burnout five years ago — but trusted God to bring true healing in Him. Let's pray now for Alex and Jess as they lead people to healing that includes the eternal healing available only in Jesus Christ.

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Angela Dawson

📍 Southeast Asia • December 11, 2022

In our prayer time today, we want to think about some of the costs of being a Southern Baptist missionary overseas. We're going to pray for Angela Dawson, who serves in Thailand. Our church is happy to support her in ministry there through our Cooperative Program giving.

Before she returned to Thailand, she was told that if she went back, still as a single career woman, it was unlikely she would ever have a husband and family. It was a count-the-cost moment for her. She went back anyway.

After a while back in Thailand, she moved to another town and her new house was larger. Soon she found a new ministry by providing a home to teenage girls who had been abandoned by their families.

On their own, they started calling her "Mom." It was a good title, because Angela provided love and stability for their troubled lives. So far Angela has not found a husband, but God helped her become a Mom anyway! Let's pray for Angela and her household as she introduces Christ to her adopted daughters.

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Eric & Heather McDonald

📍 Africa • December 18, 2022

Today in our missions prayer time, we're going to pray for our missionaries, Eric and Heather McDonald, who moved to Africa in October 2020. Now, we know all our missionaries need prayer, but when we learn that Eric and Heather have seven children, we understand they REALLY need our prayer support!

Eric and Heather are from Florence, Alabama. Eric was an emergency room physician and Heather was a registered nurse. Both of them will be serving at the Baptist hospital in Kigoma, Tanzania. This is on the eastern side of Africa.

Medical needs are always urgent here. It's estimated upwards of 500,000 people live within five miles of the hospital. Let's pray for the Lord to keep all nine members of the McDonald family safe as they adapt to life in Africa by learning the language and getting to know the people around them. Our church supports Eric and Heather through our Cooperative Program giving.

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Eric & Anissa Haney

📍 Europe • December 25, 2022

In our missions prayer time, we're going to pray for Eric and Anissa Haney, two of our missionaries serving in Stockholm, Sweden. Sweden is like the rest of Europe — a challenging mission field because church planting is slow and difficult.

Eric and Anissa are trying something new: they're telling New Testament stories through music, narration and multimedia. The two have written the music of their new production, which they call "Stories of Hope." Their project was featured in the Stockholm Jazz Festival last fall, then released in a new album and online.

Eric saw posters advertising concerts on a wall in Stockholm — all dark and depressing. He and Anissa want "Stories of Hope" to light up that darkness with the power of Christ.

Eric and Anissa have served in Stockholm for 11 years. They have found people do respond to Bible stories, which most have never heard before. Our church supports Eric and Anissa through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray that, through their music and their witnessing, many will come to faith in Christ.

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