



College Church

Proclaiming the Gospel

PRAYER GUIDE

DECEMBER 2023

1 PRAY FOR: Pastor of Discipleship **Josh Maurer** and Admin. Asst. for Discipleship Ministries **Mary DeMoss. Dick Albright**, TLI, U.S.—the teams teaching in the Dominican Republic, Serbia and South Asia this month, and the teams preparing for eight venues in January; the pastors and church leaders in TLI workshops to become better equipped to shepherd their churches; Dick as he mourns the loss of his wife, Roslyn; his plans for a series of overseas trips in 2024. **Curt** and **Karen Cole**, Avant Ministries, U.S.—the Avant missionary applicants they coach and counsel through the process; the safety of Avant’s missionaries in sensitive locations; praise God for Curt and Karen’s trip to Central Asia for Avant’s church planting summit.

2 PRAY FOR: Those experiencing grief or loss: Dick Albright, family of Freda Davis, family of Jean Jordan, Joe Maurer, Ray Smith. **Scott** and **Jenny Hawkins**, ISI, U.S.—strategic follow-up of participants in the fall outreach events: 115 plus people in Supper Clubs, 80 from a pre-Thanksgiving celebration program, 100 participants in Holiday Hospitality and a “tree decorating” study break early this month, with 75 expected. **Greg** and **Debby Nichols**, GEM, Czech Republic—their Christmas outreaches—Brunch with an Author and Lessons in Carols—for Ukrainians; the Ukrainian families to whom they minister, who are making decisions about staying in Czech Republic or returning to Ukraine; God-honoring life balance during the Christmas season.

3 PRAY FOR: the adult choir and choral composer Dan Forrest as they present “Light Beyond Shadow” this evening as Advent begins. **Ongoing health needs:** Danny Arciaga, Kathy Balc, Brian Bauer, Roger Beyer, Bert Bunn, Roger Burgess, Jan Burton, Ron Chiodras, Shawn DeMoss, Carol Denning, Jean Dusek, Jim Edwards, Sheri Fuller, Ed Hollatz, Amy Johncola, Brian Smidesang, Seth Walter. **Missionary health needs:** Nathan Beck, Julianna Gieser, Jim and

Nan Green (retired), Rick McKinley, Marjorie Okoro, Muriel Stilwell (retired). **Michael Walker** (mid-term 2024), TCCL, UK. **Melissa Warner**, Thailand—her needed visa to continue language study through August before going to work as a child therapist; praise God that the Thai language and culture learning has gone well; thank God for opportunities to build relationships and practice Thai at her church. **Hanoi Bible College**, Vietnam.

4 PRAY FOR: those in **Grace Groups** to experience mental and emotional resilience at Christmas. **Mike** and **Carol Beth**, Asia—Mike's continued recovery from back surgery: physical therapy, blood clots to dissolve and resolution to the numbness in his foot; sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading and wisdom from the Word as they minister and care for those in the body in their city and throughout Asia; their adult children in Asia and Colorado to grow in their love for the Lord, delight in his Word and desire to share his love with others; their coffee shop friends, Lek and Apu, and their daughter, Indy, to open their hearts to Jesus. **WOL Bible Seminary**, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

5 PRAY FOR: **Karen Bradley**, WBT, U.S.—the demonstrations in Madagascar to end and peace to prevail; the teams there as they diligently translate Scripture; Karen as she attends the workshop in January; her family to faithfully serve the Lord, and remain close though living far apart; many, especially in the Middle East, to find salvation in Jesus.

6 PRAY FOR: College Group—the students as final exams begin; God's peace to calm anxious hearts and his hope to fill them during Christmas break. **Jim** and **Lynette Hatcher**, GEM, Austria—Jim as he meets with the elder team at the Kagan Church and sees this as probably the single most important ministry the Lord is asking him to step into.

7 PRAY FOR: GriefShare—those whose grief is fresh to know God's presence. **Steve** and **Mirian Cox**, WOL, Brazil—the new building to be ready for the coming school year, with housing for students and staff; funds to purchase a 2021 Nissan Kicks to replace their old car with its costly repairs. **Jonatán** and **Teresa Simons**, SIM, Colombia—God's protection on those at risk to increasing in-country violence; the Colombian church to pursue holiness, forgiveness, unity and peace; spiritual protection; wisdom for Jon and Teresa and the kids as they feel stretched with more ministry opportunities than time or energy.

8 PRAY FOR: STARS Family Services (SFS)—strong year-end giving to the matching grant to support the residences and services SFS provides.

Brian and **Warrie Blackburn**, Mercy Ships, U.S.—the Global Mercy crew as they serve the people of Sierra Leone in the coming year; adequate staffing for the Global Mercy and the Africa Mercy, both fully in operation in 2024; Brian and Warrie as they parent Addison and Alyssa, now 15 years old.

9 PRAY FOR: Outreach Community Center, Carol Stream—the **Christmas Store** today; the parents and grandparents who come in to see Jesus' love in the volunteers and Outreach staff; thank God for generous donations. The **Women's Monthly Gathering** this morning to deepen relationships with other women and with Jesus. **Tim**, N. Africa. **Jim** and **Julianna Gieser**, Student YMCA, South Africa (mid-term 2024)—their time in Wheaton through mid-January; rest and opportunities to be encouraged and encourage others; praise God for a full year of ministry on campus with the Student YMCA Christian Study Center; thank God for growth in students and good attendance at some new programs as the academic year ends.

10 PRAY FOR: The children's choirs' Christmas program, "At the Name of Jesus," to point people to him; Pastors of Visitation **Bruce Main** and **Roger Burgess**, Women's Ministry Associate for Care and Visitation **Joan Engeseth** and Admin. Asst. of Congregational Care **Christy Chiodras**. The **Hospitality Committee**—thank God for opportunities to serve the church. **Sara** and **Manu Klopfenstein**, YFC, France—their inner-city ministry team to be refreshed; God to provide the needed resources, notably volunteers, for various activities; their four concerts based on Christmas carols, as the gospel is shared.

11 PRAY FOR: Mom2Mom—the birthday party for Jesus this morning; young children to discover the newborn king. **Dan** and **Beth L**, SIM, U.S.—Beth as she cares for her mom (Muriel Stillwell), especially when Dan travels; the logistics for a January chaplain trip to encourage their SIM Nigeria team and a March trip to Ethiopia and Kenya; the expansion of God's kingdom with all the global challenges and conflicts; SIM teams serving in many of these places.

12 PRAY FOR: Church family serving in the military—Andrew Aldridge, David Curlin, David Elsen, Hannah English, Wesley Hanna, Oliver Hsu, Derek Johanik, Jake and Tiffany Johanik, Peter Johanik, Ben Lemp, Christopher Martis, Howard Mill, Rachel Patrick, Sarah Powell, John Stough, David Tebbe, Luca Warren, Joshua Wiltgen, Douglas Yates. **Chad** and **Leanna Wiebe**, SEND, Ukraine—God's provision as they wait for the opportunity to be able to return to Ukraine; safety for Leanna's family who have stayed in Ukraine

throughout the war. **Jeff** and **Marilyn**, Asia—God’s provision of trainers to equip church workers to lead Scripture-based trauma healing groups; planning meetings for new Bible translation starts to be fruitful; his Word to build his church through the Scripture Audio Player ministry.

13 PRAY FOR: **Thad** and **Joy McAuley**, GEM, U.S.—college interns who will serve across Europe this summer; wisdom and discernment in discipling relationships. **Women’s** and **Men’s Bible Studies**—thank God for the study in the Book of Acts; thank God that *the* Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

14 PRAY FOR: **Robbie** and **Lauren Becker**, ECA, Colombia. **Center for Applied Christian Ethics**, Wheaton. **Daniel**, Forman Christian College, Pakistan—God to grant relief for the people of Pakistan; wisdom to adjust his work routine where needed; praise God that Daniel has been at the college five years and the first Old Testament students have completed their M.Phil. studies; thank God for the blessings of good health and friendships. **Trivelius Institute**, Sofia, Bulgaria.

15 PRAY FOR: **Keenagers**—the program plans for the new year. **Nathan** and **Vera Beck**, GEM, Czech Republic—Nathan as he recovers from his recent eye surgeries; Czech believers to grow in discipleship and gain a vision to reach all people with the gospel; joy for Nathan and Vera in this season of parenting.

16 PRAY FOR: Pastor **Curt Miller**, Missions Administrative Assistant **Kathy Bailey** and Missions Coordinator **Marilyn Papierski**, Ministry Associate **Esther Waldrop**—praise God for a meaningful missions and community outreach festival; God’s call on the hearts of people to serve in overseas ministry; give thanks for our global workers who serve the Lord.

17 PRAY FOR: The **STARS Christmas program**, “The Promised Child;” to be a focused, joyful program; family and friends to see Christmas in a new way. **Board of Missions** and Chair **Jim Tebbe**. **Charley** and **Cheryl Warner**, Barnabas, Ukraine—Irpin Bible Church’s outreach to those disrupted by war; new believers growing in their faith; the Ukrainian care team as it plans a retreat for Ukrainian missionaries; endurance during the winter months and an end to the war.

18 PRAY FOR: **STAMP teams** and the **STAMP Committee**—thank God for the completion of our first short-term trips since before COVID; the committee in the process of trip selections for 2024;

God to lead people to consider serving on a trip next year. **Paul Adams**, WP, U.S.—the Lord to fill them with his Spirit; faithfulness to him in all they do; praise the Lord for great developments in WordPartners' work among pastors in North Africa, Central Asia and other hard-to-reach places; the Lord to enable that work to flourish; thank the Lord for online opportunities to make disciples with some friends in Mary's home country; wisdom as they encourage them in the faith.

19 PRAY FOR: Missions Treasurer **Nate Peterson. Stephen** and **Karis Rigby**, Serge, Kenya—the Lord to strengthen Stephen, Karis and their children by his grace in adjusting back to Kenya amid new roles, a new school and a new house in a different part of town; their leadership to reflect Christ well.

20 PRAY FOR: **Hope Fellowship Church** (fourth church plant in Lombard), Pastor **Eric Channing** and the congregation. **Emmanuel** and **Adugna Tahear**, SIM, Wheaton—Emmanuel as he supports the work among the Burmese and Vietnamese churches; the people Adugna ministered to through dental compassionate outreach in impoverished communities in Ethiopia this summer; her medical/dental team to share the gospel; open doors and the Lord's provision for their medical/dental mission.

21 PRAY FOR: **Small Groups** and leaders—the small groups to care for and encourage one another in the gospel. The **Sanctity of Human Life Task Force** and **Caring Network**—staff and funds as Caring Network expands into Chicago; the Illinois law to close pregnancy centers and stop sidewalk counseling to be struck down; hearts to be emboldened to establish human rights for the preborn and reject abortion; pro-life ministries starting in two local churches.

22 PRAY FOR: **Greg** and **Faith Hurst**, SIM, Bolivia—the gospel to continue to sink deeper roots into their hearts and lives as a family; the people participating in discipleship groups in 14 churches, some who will be sent out on church-planting teams; wisdom in selecting 15–20 church planters to participate in a two-year “incubator,” starting in May 2024, to train and encourage church planters and their spouses.

23 PRAY FOR: **Holy Trinity Church** (Chicago) and Pastors **Jon Dennis** and **Kyle Edwards** (downtown and northside respectively) and congregations. **South Asian Friendship Center. Jake** and **Honah Finn**, OMS, Thailand. **John** and **Pam**, Africa—Pam and four other ladies as they completed an Entrust seminar in Kenya; God's continued work in their lives and as they prepare to pass this training to other church women leaders; their guests at the Retreat to

be refreshed and renewed; a CRU team as they go to a town in the south to launch a newly completed Jesus film; God to use this tool to bring many to himself.

24 The two **Christmas Eve** worship services this morning and the three candlelight services this evening as we welcome Christmas morning.

25 **“FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD.” MERRY CHRISTMAS.**

26 **PRAY FOR:** the **Sanctuary lighting project** that begins today; safety of all involved; efficiency, as Lord willing, the project will be done in time for Passion Week rehearsals and services. **Living Hope** (formerly Christ the King Church, second church plant in Aurora), Pastor **Ken Carr** and the congregation. **Jon** and **Kathy Haley**, WV, Spain—the Lord to raise up Spanish workers and that the Spanish church will eagerly and financially send them out; the financial burdens of the theological institutions and the publishing houses they work with in Spain to be met; the health and salvation of their translator Beatriz; their neighbor, Ignacio, retired, alone, in debt and watching his adult kids make destructive choices, that he might come to a knowledge of the truth.

27 **PRAY FOR:** **Mihai** and **Tamara Lundell**, OCI, Italy— Tammy, in her role of Europe area director for One Challenge, to learn new procedures, care for workers and develop a vision with other leaders in Europe; Mihai as he leads in their local church, and other leaders to be affirmed by the congregation at its church assembly meeting in January; Tammy’s mom in Italy for Christmas through January (the holidays are difficult since Tammy’s father’s death in January 2022). **Rod** and **Kathy Duttweiler**, EM, U.S.—final plans for trips to West Africa for training and encouragement with ASDM; Kathy’s brother-in-law recently diagnosed with throat cancer; meetings with missions pastors in Memphis to encourage them to develop global and local outreach endeavors.

28 **PRAY FOR:** **New Covenant Church** (church plant in Naperville), Senior Pastor **Chris Castaldo**. Church Librarian **Lisa Kern** and library staff. **José-Pablo** and **Jane Sanchez**, Decisión/OCI, Spain—God’s help in the development of the Decisión Academy; opportunities to share the vision for the unreached towns of Spain; Spaniards to be mobilized to proclaim the gospel with cultural relevance. **Jake** and **Honah Finn**, OMS, Thailand—Cornerstone Counseling Foundation in transition with several staff and clinicians departing; new clinicians to join their staff; funds to cover their daughter’s school tuition

fees; praise God that Honah's extensive medical check-up revealed a small fiber neuropathy that, though not quite a fit with Honah's other symptoms, does rule out more serious diagnoses.

29 PRAY FOR: Director of Communications **Wil Triggs** and Creative Communications Coordinator **Kathryn McBride**. Pastoral Residents **Josué Alvarado, Matt Anthony, Felipe Chamy** and **Richard Moomjian**—thank God for our residents who are learning as they serve the church.

30 PRAY FOR: those who are homebound and in care centers: **Dorothy Anderson, Joanne Barnes, Vivian Borrink, Peg Carlson, Ruth Comfield, Patty Edmonds, Wayne and Barb King, Julia King, Marve Mayer, Ed Selander, Evey Setran and Forrest Zander** to remain steadfast in the Lord this new year.

31 PRAY FOR: Praise God for his faithfulness that is new every morning of every new year. **Stephen** and **Teri Pardue**, TeachBeyond, Philippines—the students who are coming and going through language school, that each person would feel supported in their times of transition to a new country, language and ministry; strength and joy for the months ahead, provision for their students and coworkers, provision for their ministry budget for the year. **South Asian Friendship Center**, Chicago.

MISSION ACRONYMS:

GEM – Greater Europe Mission	OMS – One Mission Society
ECA – El Camino Academy	TLI – Training Leaders International
EM – East Mountain Leadership Development	WBT – Wycliffe Bible Translators
ISI – International Students, Inc.	WOL – Word of Life
OCI – One Challenge International	WP – WordPartners
TCCL – Trinity Church Central London	WV – WorldVenture
	YFC – Youth For Christ

PRAYER CALENDAR COMPILER:
WANDA POOR



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