



# GLOBAL PRAYER

JUNE 10, 2018

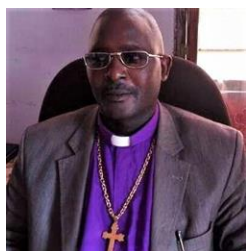
## **China -- Underground and Official Churches Targeted**



As of the end of May, almost 100 house churches in the central Chinese province of Henan have been shut down. Along with those closures, authorities have taken action against the official Three-Self Patriot Movement churches, demanding that all crosses be removed from their buildings. According to a member of an official church, after orders were received to remove the crosses, they chose to remove them on their own, rather than face demolition by government crews. "No one dares defy the orders," he stated.

For house churches not yet closed, officials have ordered that any religious decorations be covered or removed. If this is not done, the symbolic emblems will be removed forcibly. Churches have also been forbidden to allow the singing of hymns. Guards are posted at some locations to keep members out, and authorities are not allowing more than five people to meet together at a time without permission. Since changes were made to the "Regulations for Religious Affairs" in February 2018, the government has tightened its grip on religion. As church members face pressure from governing authorities, pray that they will look to their divine Master for guidance and strength. Also ask the Lord to grant Henan's church leaders wisdom and the ability to stand firm in their faith, despite calls to compromise. May the unwavering faith of these Christians demonstrate the grace of God to all those around them.

## **Tanzania -- Church Faces Order to Close**



A Pentecostal church in Kisauni, which is located in Zanzibar (a semi-autonomous region of Tanzania), has been facing pressure from local Muslims about its presence in the community. The annoyed community members lobbied the local authorities, who complied and issued the church a notice of closure. The complaint was that the services were too loud, even though the church did not use loudspeakers, as customarily done at the local mosque. In fact, the congregants had not faced any problems until their new building was completed in February. Despite the order, a decision was made by the church leadership to resist the closure, as

demonstrated by the filing of an official objection and the continuance of worship services. On May 6th, police officers walked into the service and arrested the lead pastor, **Bishop Daniel Kwileba Kwiyeza**. When his daughter attempted to intervene, she was also taken away. Both were released later that day with no charges. This is not a unique situation in Zanzibar. In January 2018, a bulldozer arrived and destroyed a church in Zanzibar Town without warning. Additionally, in March, authorities ripped down a temporary church structure in Kiwengwa. Please remember the churches in Zanzibar, as they face these difficulties. As for the recent notice of closure in Kisauni, pray that God will mediate on behalf of the church members and leadership, granting them wisdom in the process. May Christians throughout the country serve as agents of God's love and peace to their neighbors -- including those who oppose them -- through their consistent witness of Christ.

## **Vietnam -- Sentences Upheld**



A 12-year sentence against Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton was upheld under appeal on June 4th, along with the sentences of three other human rights defenders. He was previously imprisoned in 2011 on charges of "anti-state propaganda," and had been kidnapped and beaten in February 2017. Arrested again on July 30th, 2017, Pastor Nguyen was convicted in April 2018 of "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the government." As part of a group called The Brotherhood for Democracy, he had been involved in supporting prisoners and their families, as well as advocating for democracy. Many organizations and governments around the world have been working on behalf of the pastor and his colleagues.

Despite these pleas, the Vietnamese appeal court upheld the original sentence, meaning that he will not be eligible for release until 2029. Please remember to uphold Pastor Nguyen in your prayers. Also pray for his wife, Nguyen Thi Lanh, and their two children.

## PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES

Mike and Renee Delorenzo – AIM (working in Atlanta)

Jonathan, Jodi, Jessica, Joshua, Joseph & Josiah Thar – Taiwan

The Sterns – Argentina via International Teams

C&MA: Carolyn Thorson – Gabon; The Wendels – Latin America; Westergrens – Spain; Cheryl P – Germany; Brian W – Malaysia; The Iversons – Taiwan; Dee Krueger – Guinea; M M – Israel; T & K – Bosnia; Livingstons – Ivory Coast

Muhotas in Kenya, Abba's House

The Churo School

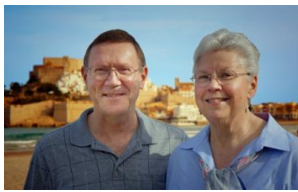
The Gideons

## OTHER MISSIONARY FRIENDS OF CANAAN

Beryl J. Pierce, Major, Salvation Army (Kinzi Wass Pierce's mother-in-law) – Zambia; **Christon & Kinzie Pierce** – Salvation Army—waiting for an assignment; **Kirk & Janis Reynolds**, Navigators (Kowalski) – Chicago Regional Ethnic Ministry; **Steve, Heather, Austin & Evan Webb** (Leonard & Linda Webb's son) – Thailand; **Jeff & April Davies** – Captivated Praise; **Vincent Mekubo** pastor & teacher of orphans in the Kissi-Kingoris area; Ann Baenziger (Dr Garnet Harris' daughter)—Ireland.



### **Raymond & Mary Ebbett – Spain**



We are down to our last three weeks in Spain! Lord willing, we fly back to the States on Friday, June 29th. We continue to covet your prayers during this time of transition, with packing, final goodbyes and lots of details to handle, as you can well imagine. During the final week of April, we were tremendously blessed by a special farewell at our 2018 Field Forum, the annual gathering of all our international workers in Spain and Portugal. Including children and guests, we were some 76 people. It was a wonderful week in

many ways and we are so grateful for the privilege of having served here in Spain these past 25 years. The Field Forum also marked the official “passing of the torch” from **Raymond to Tim Westergren**, who was elected to serve as the new field director. Pray for Tim as he leads a growing field of some 38 international workers, with more on the way! Once we arrive stateside, we will be based in the Atlanta area for at least 12 months. We are thrilled to be living in the Stone Mountain area, where once again our home congregation, the Lilburn Alliance Church, is making a furnished home available for us during our Home Assignment year. What a blessing! Even though we are concluding our ministry in Spain next month, we are not retiring until July, 2019. During this upcoming year we will be traveling a lot and ministering in Missions conferences in churches. In short, we would very much appreciate your prayers during this coming year, as we promote missions and the work in Spain in particular.

### **Some updated specific prayer requests for us include:**

- Grace and strength to get everything done in these next seven weeks.
- Safe trip back to Georgia on June 29th, as well as the shipment of our belongings by ocean freight.
- Get new GA driver's licenses promptly, as well as buy a car.
- Attend the Home Assignment Ministries Seminar for C&MA missionaries (in Colorado Springs), July 14-18. Visit with Mary's family afterwards.
- God's guidance for this “next chapter” of our lives and ministry, especially after we conclude our responsibilities with the C&MA mission in July, 2019. We have no firm plans beyond that point and are trusting the Lord to confirm for us His direction for what lies next.

Yours for the spiritual greening of Spain,

Raymond and Mary

# CANAAN COMMUNITY CHURCH PRAYER CONCERNS JUNE 10, 2018

## SPOTLIGHT FAMILIES FOR WEEK OF JUNE 10 – JUNE 16, 2018

Pray for one another.....

✠Greg & Julie Mitchel ✠ Bob & Sherry Mitchem ✠ Paula Murphy  
✠ Recent Visitors: Chris & Kelli Destremps

### PRAISES

Praise God for Chris & Kelli Destremps' decision to become part of Canaan's family in September as our first resident/intern!!

### COMMUNITY PRAYER LIST

**KIDS CAMP!!!** The Family of Pastor Milton Hernandez, pastor of New Beginnings Church in Maywood IL who passed away on Thursday. **Ray Robertson** is undergoing hormone suppressant therapy. **Kathy Thompson's mom** is in hospice in the Boston area. **Natalie**, Millers granddaughter (13) is suffering from anxiety and panic attacks. **Pray** for God's guidance finding a resident intern to help reach millennials. **Pray** for families in crisis. **Health concerns: Kathy Thompson; Larry Nesbitt's dad; Bob Mitchem; Jim & Marianne Ash; Sue Neier; Kay Dlugos; Pam Miller;** Miller's granddaughter, **Natalie; Rita Bedwell's husband, Bill & step-daughter, Crystal;** Wass' daughter-in-law, **Vickie,** (Crohn's & ulcers); **Pastor Buddy Goss,** New Winchester Baptist, (diabetes, kidney & heart problems), his wife, **Phyllis. Dealing with pain: Vicki Kendall; Ray Robertson; Ann Nesbitt; Debbie Arney; Bob Mitchem; Sharon Doty; Mike Black; Rich Roth; Kay Dlugos; Claudia Wooden; Donna Draper; Ron Kowalski & Jamie Clark.**

### MILITARY PERSONNEL

Rob Skillern—stateside Ft Hood	Christopher Barger (Ron's grandson) –Iraq
Robbie Skillern—stateside	Andrew Schwarz – airborne/ranger school (Gruner)
Carlos Kline, USMC (Raley's grandson) Afghanistan	Todd (friend of Mike Anderson)
Daniel Wass, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana	Jared Holtane – Iraq
Brad Royer – Marine Boot Camp	James Myers – Jordan (Audrey Birtchman's great grandson)

### KEEPING OUR PARTNER CHURCHES IN PRAYER

#### **Putnam County Fellowship Cluster**

Fillmore Christian Church  
First Baptist Church  
First Christian Church  
Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church  
Greencastle Christian Church  
Greencastle Church of the Nazarene  
Greencastle Presbyterian  
Lifebuilder Community Church  
Peace Lutheran  
Sherwood Christian Church

### COLLEGE STUDENTS

Jaclyn Davidson	
Haley Purcell	Virginia Muhota
Olivia Benner (Roth)	Anna Simms
Claire Simms	Rachel Simms
Abby Schubert	Katie Schubert

### FRIENDS AND FAMILY CANCER CONCERNS

Claudia Wooden	Sue Neier (breast, bladder)
Rick Miller (bladder cancer)	Tracy Morehead (Rick Miller's sister)
Judy McEachern, Kathy Thompson's sister	Cheryl Roth (Rich's sister-in-law)
Bob Srstka, Medin (Anderson)	Bob Stern (missionary) leukemia
Avery (6) & Jeff (Marilee's gr grandtr & brother)	Sarah Dvorak (Jaclyn Davidson)
Dawn (Cindy Ware's stepdaughter)	Paulita Ream
Larry Dalton & Morgan Myers Audrey B	Gary, Chris Snider (Donna Draper)
Heidi, Linda, Joe, Aliza, Laura, April (Kowalski)	Heather (Pastor Kevin's sister)
Carolyn Ditto	Kelly (Collins) Thompson (Zac's mom)
Lucille (Kitzie)	Leanne (Mitchem's daughter)
Sue (Roth's daughter)	Carla (Sandra Runner)
Kay & Linda Robertson & Marylu (Robertson)	Kenny (Flater)
Ron Gilmore (Josh Sparks step-father)	Ray Robertson
Florence Dockey (Nicki Vance's grandmother)	Debbie O'Neal (Debbie Arney)
Keith King (Raley)	Debra (Thompson)
Mary Williams (HL resident)	Marianne Ash (skin cancer)

### 2018 BOARD & MINISTRY LEADERS

Pastor Kevin & Kathy  
Ray & Norma Robertson  
Mike & Sharon Black  
Mike & Dreama Doolittle  
Chris & Sarah Schubert  
Rick Miller  
Kim Hyten  
Bea Jones  
Greg & Debbie Arney  
Mike Collins  
Jim & Brenda Davidson  
Steve & Brenda Anderson  
Ron & Carol Kowalski  
Rich Roth  
Donna McGinley