



MISSIONARY PRAYER GUIDE | MAY 1-31, 2024

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O Lord, you preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. - Psalm 36: 5-7

A solar eclipse, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and gentle rains have crossed our skies in Iowa this past month. Throughout all kinds of weather, our Lord is faithful and cares for us. His love is priceless and unfailing. We may find refuge in the shadow of His wings. Thank you for your prayers of hope and encouragement for our St. Mark's missionaries!

We pray that during each event many will discover ways to share their testimony of God's great love that reaches to the heavens! May God's great faithfulness be amazingly evident to our missionaries as they serve each day! May many find refuge in the shadow of the wings of our Lord! You are also encouraged to choose one of our missionary families to focus your prayers on throughout the month. Use the scriptures or prayers given for each of the alternate days to pray for your special missionary family.

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayers. | Peter 3: 12a
The prayer of a righteous man or woman is powerful and effective. James 5:16b*

OUR ST. MARK'S MISSIONARIES

• Milton Castillo	Central American Lutheran Society (CALMS)	Panama
• Brian Dregits	Eight Days of Hope	Home on Wheels
• Daniel and Shannon Ginn	Wycliffe Bible Translators	Sentani, Papua, Indonesia
• Scott and Paige Heemstra	Navigators	Iowa City, Iowa
• Bryan and Robin Jahr	Eight Days of Hope	Home on Wheels
• Alex and Tricia Ludvicek	Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)	Nabire, Papua, Indonesia
• Jeanjean and Kristie Mompremier	United Christians International (UCI)	Haiti
• Luke and Allyson Sloterdyk	International Mission Board	Nairobi, Kenya
• Gabe and Madisyn Smith	Youth With A Mission (YWAM)	Louisville, Kentucky
• Mark and Maki Wolter	Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society	Kyoto, Japan

Wednesday, May 1, 2024- Jeanjean and Kristie Mompremier

The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace. Psalm 29:11

What a joy it was to welcome Jeanjean and Kristie on Sunday! To God be the glory for all the amazing blessings that are happening in Haiti! Praise God for a beautiful university graduation which finally took place! So many were blessed! Jeanjean and I (Kristie) have been in the USA talking to many people and churches about UCI/Haiti. We have been traveling a lot, but it has been a blessing. We enjoy the time together and we are re-energized by sharing how God is working. We have also received such a marvelous response.

A partner church packaged over 158,000 meals for Haiti that we will use for our school lunch program. We will be packaging some different types of fortified meals in Des Moines and hopefully getting other churches excited about this possibility. The container with meals should be delivered in May.

Prayer requests:

Please pray for the Council of Ministers for the Haitian government that was successfully installed yesterday. May they bring peace to Haiti through fair elections of new leaders. Traveling mercies as Jeanjean and Kristie travel around the Midwest, the west coast and the east coast. We anticipate that the airports in Haiti will open up soon to make it easier to travel back to Haiti.

Thursday, May 2, 2024 - Mark and Maki Wolter

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

We are enjoying the nice weather these days as well as some holidays built into the Japanese calendar. Yes, we have been enjoying various mission teams coming to visit. They often provide a fresh jolt of energy to our mission - especially in recruiting new people. :) It is always fun to meet more Christians here, especially since they are so rare in Japan! Hopefully, someday we will be able to host Faith Life Lutheran as well!

Please pray for our first Youth Camp that Maki and I will lead next weekend for the youth of our church. 23 people, including 15 kids and 8 staff will be joining us for the two days - Friday and Saturday May 3 and 4. Friday is a day off this week in Japan. Several of these kids have not yet professed personal faith in Christ. We are praying for them to know God's love in Christ and to be saved.

Please pray for church leadership as we continue to grow in numbers. We need wisdom as leaders in how to share responsibility and leadership as more ministry opportunities continue to come!

Friday, May 3, 2024 - Milton Castillo

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord. Psalm 89:15

The St. Mark's Team was a great blessing to the Las Perlas community, to the students, parents and people in the community. It was a great experience of mission and service for everyone.

Pray for Jeovanny who needs surgery and it has been difficult to find someone who can treat him. I recently visited friends and brothers in faith, the Ávila family. Pray for them and the vocation to serve that God has given them.

I'm traveling to see the young people who box with Jonny Boxer. I will deliver donations of sports equipment donated by you. Thanks for your generosity. I am going to share the Gospel with them.

Panama will have elections next Sunday, May 5. Pray that we have peaceful and transparent elections.

Saturday, May 4, 2024 - Bryan and Robin Jahr

In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. Proverbs 16:9

Wow! It's been the craziest time lately. We are currently deployed in Nebraska after the tornados struck. Please pray for these folks as they have been delivered quite a blow. Pray for us and the teams here for opportunities to share the love of Christ and the good news of Jesus with them. Pray for strength and endurance to press on for us as well. Thank you and God bless all the St Mark's mission team for your continued prayers and support.

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:2-6

Monday, May 6, 2024 - Alex and Tricia Ludvick

Show me your ways O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:4-5

May the Lord guide the Ludvick family, Alex, Tricia, Jackson, and Benayah, on His new path as they return to Iowa with a new workplace and community. Bring kindred spirits into their lives to encourage them and befriend each one of them. May your hope, O Lord, fill each day in this time of transition. May they recognize that your presence Lord is showing them the way, teaching, and guiding them.

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 - Daniel and Shannon Ginn

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth their words to the ends of the world. Psalm 19:1-4

It has been a long month of OneStory and Translation workshops and a busy time at school. Here's a short list of prayer requests:

Daniel is wrapping up a OneStory workshop this week. Then he and the team will spend a few extra days trying to finish up some stories from previous workshops. Pray for stamina since he has been attending workshops for 4 weeks straight now. Also pray for accuracy in translation and in recording and transcribing recordings.

This is the last month of school for the teachers and students at HIS. May is always the busiest month of the school year. There are many events and celebrations, as well as assessments, tests, and projects to finish up. Pray for endurance and joy in the celebrations and in the goodbyes.

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 - Luke and Ally Sloterdijk

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song, Psalm 28:7

Always so good to hear from you! Psalm 36:5-7 is an encouragement to us as well. The rains have been intense here in Kenya and have led to lots of flooding throughout the city and beyond. God, however, is in control!

Our new co-workers, the Ballard family, are doing great and the kids are adjusting well! They had a few weeks to set up their house and get settled in Nairobi. Now they are in the swing of things! They've officially finished their first week of their "new normal" rhythm of language and culture learning.

May is going to be a big month for us! We will oversee numerous summer teams coming through Nairobi. We're leading a team of six national interns who will help with the summer teams. I am full blown third trimester - so we have lots of baby prepping left to do. We'll have our normal responsibilities of leading our team of missionaries too! We need the Lord to do it all because without Him we are nothing!

Pray that the Lord would be in all the logistics of the planning. May His name be shared throughout Nairobi by interns and summer teamers. May this sweet baby girl continue to grow and develop as we wait for God's perfect timing for her to join our family. Pray we would abide deeply each day as the Lord our source of strength. Thank you so much for praying!

Thursday, May 9, 2024 - Gabe and Madisyn Smith

The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway of life. I will advise you and watch over you." Psalm 32:8

The Lord replied, "My presence will go with you and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:24

Pray that our School of Ministry Development, a hands-on course designed to help students discover God's call on their life and equip them for the future. May the students maximize their learning during the last half of the lecture/classroom phase as they learn practical tools for ministry and grow in leadership ability. Pray for our upcoming summer missions trips and for guidance as specific locations are selected. Pray for good sleep and rest during this busy quarter!

Friday, May 10, 2024 - Mark and Maki Wolter

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

Please pray for our children: Noah, Taka, and Mia, to want to read their own Bibles and know the Lord well on their own. Sometimes it is a challenge for MK's (missionary kids).

Pray for Maki and me to be able to make more quality time for one another. It is easy to let ourselves get too busy with ministry. May the Lord direct the Wolter family to discover a balance in work, play, family, and rest.

Saturday, May 11, 2024 - Jeanjean and Kristie Mompremier

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Praise God! We have a sponsor from Canada that wants to help us put solar energy in the high school.

We have had several people step up to help us fund the expansion needed for the UCB satellite school. We are getting close to realizing our goal for this! We have 2 new churches that are considering partnering with UCI. We love getting more people excited about missions!

Prayer Requests

- Kerri, our daughter, will be graduating on May 11 from UNI! She will be graduating with honors with a psychology & community health, emphasis in women's health majors. She has an internship in public health in Waterloo and will be working with Haitian immigrants! Pray for Kerri as she begins this internship!
- Pray that we continue to find food to help people who are struggling to eat and also help people in Port-au-Prince. We are also distributing seeds for people to plant gardens as we are leaving the 6-month dry season and the rainy season is starting. It is always good to help people grow their own food.

Sunday, May 12, 2024 - Mother's Day

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother- which is the first commandment with a promise- that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on this earth" Ephesians 6:1-3

Monday, May 13, 2024 - Missionaries with Young Families

He tends His flock like a shepherd, He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young. Isaiah 40:11

Pray for our supported missionaries with young families. May they trust in you O Lord! Give each parent wisdom to make good choices with the use of their time with their children. Help them to know what to say "Yes" to and what to say "No" to each day. May they have caring and loving hearts to have great "face time" with their children- talking, singing, laughing, and playing with them. May they teach their little ones about you, Jesus, and the stories of the Bible. May each child know that Jesus loves them and learn to love Jesus too.

Pray for these children of our missionaries: Jackson and Benayah Ludvick; Noah, Taka, and Mia Wolter; Caleb, Titus, and James Heemstra.

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 - Scott and Paige Heemstra

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

Pray for our Navigator students as they disperse from the University of Iowa to go home, to the Navigator's Jacksonville Summer Training Program, or overseas. May they stay strong in the Lord and continue to grow in Him. May they continue to fix their eyes on Jesus as they spread the light and have opportunities to share their faith.

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 - Brian Dregits

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. John 15:4

Brian has asked us to pray this special verse that he may abide in Jesus. May the Lord bless Brian throughout his travels. May he be a light in his unit and with all those he meets sharing the hope of Jesus Christ as he serves with the Air Force, his new mission field.

Thursday, May 16, 2024 - All displaced people from Ukraine, Russia, and other places of unrest.

Let justice come in waves like water and righteousness flow like a river. Amos 5:24

So that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. Isaiah 2:4

Prayer by Alden Solovy was shared at a "Service of Remembrance for Holocaust Survivors" at Coe College:

God of compassion, put an end to the war in Ukraine and all wars throughout the world. Look with favor on the refugees, the homeless, the wounded, the suffering the starving and the newly bereaved. God of peace release the citizens of Ukraine from occupation of war. Grant them resilience and vitality. Give them comfort and hope. End this violence and suffering. For life renewed. For healing and building. For a better world.

Friday, May 17, 2024- Milton Castillo

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your way straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

I am preparing for a trip in June to Nicaragua where I will serve as translator for a group. Please pray that I can serve both the group visiting and the people of Nicaragua. I am also preparing for another group that comes to Panama in July.

May God continue to guide our steps and I also hope our decisions. That is why I ask for prayer for wisdom and decisions towards the mission of sharing about God's love to others in Christ. I'm blessed to be a partner in the gospel with St. Mark's Church and all of you. Thanks for your prayers.

Saturday ,May 18, 2024 - Peace in our World

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Matthew 5:9

From the Prayer of Peace by Saint Francis: Lord God of peace, hear our prayer! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace. Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred", and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother"; and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen

Sunday, May 19, 2024

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

Monday, May 20, 2024 - Bryan and Robin Jahr

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord. Colossians 3:23

Lord, be present to guide and direct Bryan and Robin as they reach out to people whose lives have been recently turned upside down by tornadoes. May they shine the light of Jesus as they care and work with all their hearts through 8 Days of Hope ministry.

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 - Alex and Tricia Ludvick

The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Psalm 32:8

May the Lord guide the Ludvick family, Alex, Tricia, Jackson, and Benayah, on His new path as they return to Iowa with a new workplace and community. Bring kindred spirits into their lives to encourage them and befriend each one of them. May your hope, O Lord, fill each day in this time of transition. May they recognize that your presence Lord is showing them the way, guiding, teaching, and watching over them.

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 – Daniel and Shannon Ginn

As the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

I Corinthians 3:5b-6

During the months of June and July, Shannon will be traveling to Nebraska to meet with a podiatrist to try to find some relief for her foot pain. Daniel will stay in Indonesia and continue to work on OneStory projects. Pray that we will be productive in these separate goals and that we will stay connected even when we are apart.

Thursday, May 23, 2024 - Marriages

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12
Pray for healthy marriages for our missionary families. May each couple find joy in their life together and keep Jesus central in their lives. May they respect each other and protect time to communicate well. May they be present with each other to listen, dream, pray, and plan. May they discover joy and blessings in each day they share. May they count their blessings together and thank you for each one!

Missionary Couples: Daniel and Shannon Ginn, Scott and Paige Heemstra, Bryan and Robin Jahr, Alex and Tricia Ludvick, Jeanjean and Kristie Mompremier, Luke and Ally Sloterdyk, Gabe and Maddie Smith, and Mark and Maki Wolter

Friday, May 24, 2024 – Luke and Ally Sloterdyk

You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence. Acts 2:28

Pray for God's wisdom each day to direct Luke and Ally to balance their ministry, family, and rest. Pray that the Lord would be in all the logistics. May His name be shared throughout Nairobi by interns and summer teamers. May this sweet baby girl continue to grow and develop as we wait for God's perfect timing for her to join our family. Pray we would abide deeply each day as the Lord our source of strength. Thank you so much for praying!

Saturday, May 25, 2024 - Gabe and Madisyn Smith

Pray for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel. Ephesians 6:19

Pray for completion of the preparations including many details for summer outreach opportunities with the YWAM teams this summer.

Pray for us as we lead these students in leadership. We have had it in our heart to really challenge them in having passion and zeal from the Lord. We would love to see that grow in their lives as well as God to continue to grow it in our own lives.

Sunday, May 26, 2024

The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. Jeremiah 31:3

Monday, May 27, 2024- Memorial Day

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust." Psalm 91:1-2

Tuesday,, May 28, 2024 - Brian Dregits

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. John 15:4

Brian has asked us to pray this special verse that he may abide in Jesus. May the Lord bless Brian throughout his travels. May he be a light in his unit and with all those he meets sharing the hope of Jesus Christ as he serves with the Air Force, his new mission field.

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 - Scott and Paige Heemstra

For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

This summer we will be preparing for the fall 2024 Navigators ministry on the University of Iowa campus. As we have a respite may we have time to reflect on the past year's work. May we seek the Lord's wisdom in ways that we should grow and direct the Navigators ministry in the next school year.

Thursday, May 30, 2024 - The Harvest

The Lord will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands and your joy will be complete. Deuteronomy 16:5
May the Lord plant "seeds" in St. Mark's children, youth, and adults to be open to opportunities to go into the harvest field and share Jesus all around the world.

Friday, May 31, 2024

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O Lord, you preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36: 5-7

May our Lord's love and faithfulness surround our missionaries as they serve around the world.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. - Colossians 4:2