

► Congratulations to **Rev. Joel Copeland**, who recently retired from almost 20 years as the Chief of Chaplain Services at the Lebanon, PA VA Medical Center. Prior to his service in the Veterans Administration, Rev. Copeland pastored at the E.C. churches in Myerstown and Rexmont. He continues to fill pulpits when needed and was back at Rexmont until a new pastor was assigned.

► **Gloria Smethers** enjoyed some well deserved and much needed vacation time last month. She spent the last week of July and early August in Wyoming, visiting her sister and brother-in-law. Gloria enjoyed the wide open spaces, sleeping in, and some fishing with her family.

► A group which included **Bishop Bruce Hill, GMC Associate Rev. Randy and Carla Sizemore, Jerry Virtue, Mike Reinders and Rev. Carlos Kelly**, went to Mexico at the end of July to celebrate with the newly recognized E.C. Church of Latin America National Conference. They were also there as Rev. Elias Martinez stepped out of the role of field leader, and the newly elected Superintendent, Rev. Juan Zuniga, was installed.

► **Joe Toy** will be in London, England from August 3rd – 17th for the World Athletic Championship Outreach. Keep him in prayer for safe travels and good opportunities to share the Gospel. **Reminder:** the school supplies for Joe are due August 7th.

► **Jamie & Anita Farr** and their family also headed to PA for several weeks in late June through early July. They combined some deputation with down time to see family and friends. Anita and three of the children headed back to FL in early July, but son J.J. got to stay with grandma for another week while dad Jamie did some work, deputation and also helped out some friends before the two of them flew home. Busy summer!

► **Bettina Schaeffer** will spend some time in Italy with her family this month. Ciao, Bettina! Have a great trip!

► **Ken Sears** is also on the move this month, with a trip to England to attend the meeting of the Dorothy L. Sayers Society, and then on to Texas to spend time with his parents. He will return to Ukraine on September 8th.

► **Ed & Val Schubert** and daughter Cheynece finished an all-too-brief two months in the USA with friends and family; they returned to Honduras on July 5th. While in the USA, Cheynece had to have some oral surgery. The Schuberts give praise that all went well and Cheynece did not have a reaction to the anesthesia.

► Although **BJ and Rachel Whitaker** could not hold an English Camp in Alcora, Spain as they had previous years, they welcomed a team from our Cressona church and had an American Fair downtown. There were activities and opportunities to speak English with a real American! The team also helped out at the ministry center and led some English classes with young adults.

► We wish to express our sympathies to **Jerry Virtue** and his family on the passing of his wife Nancy in early July. Jerry is a member of the GMC Board and was chairman of the Western Work Team Committee for years. When her health allowed, Nancy often accompanied Jerry on work teams, especially to Mexico, where her cooking and sewing skills were put to good use.



Jim & Janet Stahl

Jim and Janet Stahl both were raised in Bethlehem, PA. Jim was originally a member of the Olivet E.C. Church, and when that closed, he moved his membership to Emmanuel E.C. Church. Janet is a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem.



The Stahls work as Bible Storytelling coordinators with the Seed Company, which is part of Wycliffe Bible Translators. Since 2007, they have helped language communities use their storytelling techniques and traditions, as well

as Bible translation principles to tell Bible stories. The Bible storytelling effort started as an experiment in Papua New Guinea, as a catalyst to Bible translation, and has grown to a movement in more than a dozen countries around the world. Lives and communities have been transformed when people connect their stories with the Biblical stories.

Most recently, Jim and Janet trained Bible storytellers from 4 Kenyan languages along with some West African observers. Our partners in Kenya would like to become a hub for Bible storytelling in their communities and in neighboring countries.

Janet spearheads a movement to include women in Bible storytelling, which has become known as Esther Bible storytelling initiative. In some situations, women were not included in church ministries, and Bible storytelling has given them a vital opportunity to serve their communities.

Previous to their time with the Seed Company, Jim and Janet lived and worked in Vanuatu, in the South Pacific, for 15 years, training translators and literacy workers for many languages spoken there. For several years they lived on the north-east part of Epi Island.

EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



AUGUST 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS September 3 (2012) - Laura Whitaker September 13 - Gwen Melger*		1 PRAYER NEEDS Pray for Rev. Juan Zuniga , newly elected head of the EC Church of Latin America	2 Ed & Val Schubert - working in Honduras with women and children, many of whom have been victims of abuse	3 Gloria Smethers - nurse at AIM Retirement Center: returning from a family visit to Wyoming	4 Joe Toy - open air ministry in London for World Athletic Championship Outreach until August 17 th	5 EC Alaska Work Team leaves for 2 weeks at Camp LIWA near Fairbanks - pray for health & stamina
6 PRAYER NEEDS Brian & Missy Wagner - in the USA to visit family and get Hannah prepared for college	7 Ken Sears - leaving Ukraine tomorrow for one month visit to family in Texas - traveling mercies	8 - Sierra Farr (2010)	9 Pray for Rev. G. Abraham Powell , bishop of the EC Church of Liberia, as he works with our 36 EC churches	10 Jane Heck - retired and living in Ohio; teaching Spanish	11 BJ & Rachel Whitaker - church planters in Alcora, Spain - busy summer schedule	12 Pray for Rev. Nobuo Abe , Chairman of the EC Church of Japan as the churches reach out to their community
13 PRAYER NEEDS David & Conce Roof - recently returned from a trip to southern Brazil for their annual conference	14 Jonathan & Kathy Wilson - translators with WBT-SIL in Papua New Guinea. Working with the Binandere people.	15 - John Miller *	16 Tomoyuki & Jessica Abe - church planters at the Fuchinobe Community Church in Japan. Need new facility as they have outgrown old one.	17 - Katelyn Bowers (2012)	18 Pray for Rev. Kaitinkap Vaiphei , General Director of the EC Church of India. Pray for unity of purpose and direction among the presbyteries.	19 EC Alaska Work Team returns - pray for traveling mercies
20 PRAYER NEEDS Pray for Christian teachers that they may impact their students' lives as they live their faith	21 Barbara Erb - retired but still serving in Surinam when needed	22 Pray for all the children who made faith commitments at summer camps, that they may be mentored and grow	23 Pray for Rev. Th. Janga , leader of the EC churches in Nepal. Personal safety and also safety for Christians.	24 Pray for our EC-USA denominational leaders as they plan for fall meetings and programs, as well as next year's budget	25 Chaplain Noel Blancaflor - Deputy Wing Chaplain for the 2 nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB in LA	26 Pray for our MK's going back to boarding schools or starting college
27 PRAYER NEEDS Jim & Janet Stahl - training native speakers to tell Bible stories accurately in their own tongue	28 Cassie Wells , missionary candidate - preparing for ministry with Disciple Makers	29 Robert & Bettina Schaeffer - serving with LIFE Ministries in NY and PA	30 Remember to send in VBS monies to help the Literacy for Liberia project	31 Pray for the persecuted church worldwide, especially in Syria	*DENOTES RETIREE + DENOTES CANDIDATE	
ANNIVERSARIES August 3 - Jim & Bonnie Bound * August 13 - Jonathan & Kathy Wilson August 18 - Roy & Sue Haglund August 22 - Robert & Bettina Schaeffer						