

▶ **PLEASE NOTE** – Beginning in January of 2019, the Global Ministries Office will only be open three days a week, Tuesday through Thursday. We will maintain regular office hours which are 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Church Center hours will remain Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

▶ **Brian, Missy and Micah Wagner** will be returning to Kenya in mid-December after doing some whirlwind tours of colleges for Micah, and sandwiching in some family time in between. Keep them in prayer for safe travels and clear answers as to where Micah should apply to college.

▶ **Ed, Val and Cheyne Schubert** will return to Honduras on December 1st after a 3-month furlough in the USA. Val underwent three surgeries on her legs, all of which were successful, for which the family gives praise to the Lord. Keep them in prayer for a safe journey back to Honduras and for their work there.

▶ **The deadline for getting Christmas stockings to Joe Toy was December 1st.** Our apologies for not getting that information out to you sooner. However, if you want to join Joe in distributing the stockings, please contact him at oamphilly@aol.com or call his cell, 610-324-1671.

▶ **Jim & Joan Farr** will be returning to the USA later this month in preparation for retiring next year. They will be in PA briefly to be with extended family, then return in January for a few months. Please keep them in prayer, as this will be the beginning of a new season of life for them. The Farris intend to settle in Florida near son Jamie and family later in 2019.

▶ **Dan Dixon** has announced that, after 20 years, he will be ending his teaching tenure at Rift Valley Academy at the end of the current school year (July 2019.) Dan intends to return to the USA permanently, hopefully to teach or work in administration at a Christian School. He has currently applied to Cairn University to do the MA in Education Leadership and Administration.

This decision was not made easily or quickly. Please keep Dan in prayer during this time of transition. He will be considered on home assignment for up to a year, from August 2019 to July of 2020, unless he has a teaching position before then. This will impact his ability to speak in churches, but he is tentatively booking speaking dates, with the knowledge that he may not be residing in PA for the entire year. Please continue your financial and prayer support for Dan through July 2020 unless GMC notifies you that it is no longer needed; thank you.

▶ Keep **Ivy Limbert** in prayer as she is currently doing online courses for her MA in Education through Cairn University. Ivy teaches English as a Second Language at Black Forest Academy, in Germany. Pray for good health and stamina to keep up with a teaching schedule as well as the time needed to do her coursework.

▶ **Ron & Brenda Anderson** and **BJ & Rachel Whitaker** give praise that a one day conference among evangelical pastors, missionaries and church leaders in the region of Castellón, where Whitakers minister, had over 40 participants. It was held November 3rd and Ron was the main speaker. The focus was on a unified effort to evangelize the Castellón region. Pray for the Spirit to inspire and for zeal to move forward!



Where's the Lamb?

History tells us that most ancient religions practiced animal sacrifice as part of their rituals. Occasionally it was a calf or bull for a special occasion or if the family providing the sacrifice was well off. If the family was very poor, it was often a dove or a pair of doves. The most common animal used for sacrifices though, was the lamb.

In the story of Abraham and Isaac, as they follow God's orders to travel to a mountain top to sacrifice, Isaac makes an observation to his father. They have the kindling and the fire for the sacrifice, but take no animal with them. "Where's the lamb?" Isaac asks his father. Abraham's heart must have been breaking at that point, since he alone knew that the intended sacrifice was his beloved son. Instead, he answers "God himself will provide the lamb." (Genesis 22:8a) And God did exactly that.

The nation of Israel continued to make sacrifices for the individual and corporate sins of the nation, right up until the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. Most devout Jews still wait for the Messiah to appear, the Lamb of God. They, as many people today, don't understand or choose to ignore the scriptures that show that Jesus Christ is the long awaited Messiah. These people still ask, "Where's the Lamb?" "Where's the one who will redeem us from our sins?"

This month many people around the world will celebrate Christmas. For some it is just a holiday to gather with family and exchange gifts. They celebrate a secular Christmas, with Santa Claus, jingle bells and elves. Believers will celebrate the gift of a Savior, the sacrifice of a loving heavenly Father who sent his Son, his only Son, to take on skin and live among the creation that had turned against their Creator. Jesus was sent to show us what the Father's Love looked like, personified. He ate and laughed and cried with us, taught us about the Father, and ultimately died for us. As John the Baptist so succinctly identified him, "Behold the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29 NIV)

Where's the Lamb? This month we'll celebrate his coming as a babe in the manger; surrounded by animals which also might have been brought to Bethlehem to be sacrificed. As we gather with friends and family, enjoying a festive meal, let's remember to invite the Lamb to join us; after all, he's the real reason we celebrate. As we go through the season of Advent, rejoice in the gift of a Savior, but remember the price that was paid by the coming of the Lamb. Even his coming was a sacrifice; Jesus left his glory in heaven to come to earth and become one of us.

So celebrate, but be humbled. The Lamb has come and lived among us, and through the Holy Spirit continues to live in all who believe in him and follow him. And whenever and wherever possible, share with others the Good News – the Lamb has come, and will return as a mighty King!

"The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, 'Look, the Lamb of God!'" (JOHN 1:35-36 NIV)

Pat Strain



EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE DECEMBER 2018



1
PRAYER NEEDS
Ed & Val Schubert – along with daughter Cheyence, finishing up a 3 month furlough which included 3 surgeries for Val.

2
PRAYER NEEDS
Cassie Wells – serving in campus ministry at Kutztown and Cedar Crest Universities in the Lehigh Valley

3
Pray for the **EC Church of India** – that the six presbyteries will work together to further the spread of the Gospel

4
John & Carolyn Miller – retired missionaries living in NY

5
Pray for **Kevin Henry**, Executive Director, who handles the finances and business matters of the EC Church - USA

6
– Sue Haglund *
Ken Sears – teaching, preaching in Ukraine. Pray for improved health and strength.

7
Pray for the **EC Church of Nepal** – praise for the many baptisms and new believers in spite of persecution

8
Joe Toy – open air ministry in greater Philly area – distributing Christmas stockings

9
PRAYER NEEDS
Pray for **Bishop Bruce Hill** as the next round of stationing moves will be coming up soon in the new year

10
David & Conce Roof – church planters in Brazil with OMS – wisdom for future plans and opportunities

11
Brian, Missy & Micah Wagner – returning to RVA in Kenya in preparation for Micah's final semester before graduating

12
BJ & Rachel Whitaker – church planters in Alcora, Spain with ECMI.

13
– Rev. Dan Moury
Pray for the **EC Church of Latin America**, that their vision to expand beyond Mexico can take root

14
Kitty Miller – retired missionary living in Lehigh Valley, PA and active in her church and community

15
Chaplain Juliana Leshner, chief of chaplain services for South Texas Veterans Health Care system- San Antonio

16
PRAYER NEEDS
Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus – working at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya; pray for Janice to gain strength

17
Pray for the **EC Church of Liberia**, that they may have an impact on the infrastructure of their country

18
Jim & Janet Stahl – training native speakers to tell Bible stories in their own language to their people

19
Pray for the **persecuted church**, especially in Saudi Arabia and many other Arab nations


20
Gloria Smethers – working as a nurse at AIM Retirement Center in Minneola, FL

21
Pray for all the men and their families who will go through the **Pastoral Assessment Center** next month

22
Jonathan & Kathy Wilson – translators in Papua New Guinea among the Binandere people

23
PRAYER NEEDS
The Christmas Missionary Offering helps our international churches and office expenses

24
Prepare your hearts and minds for the coming of the King, and share the true meaning of Christmas with your family

25

Christ the Lord is born today; Hallelujah!

26
Pray for our **missionaries who are planning home assignments** in the coming year; that all comes together

27
Robert & Bettina Schaeffer – working with LIFE ministries in NY and PA, pastoring in St. Clair, PA

28
– Janet Stahl
Pray for the **EC Church of Japan**, as they seek ways to impact their country for Jesus

29
Dan & Mary Lynne Wills – serving with Wycliffe at JAARS Center in Waxhaw, NC

30
PRAYER NEEDS
Pray for our **EC International Church leaders**, for wisdom and to know God's will for their respective fields

31
– Gloria Smethers
Pray for **new opportunities to share the Gospel** in the New Year!

ANNIVERSARIES
December 10 – Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus
December 12 – Randy & Chris Amberman

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS
January 2 – Jim Farr
January 3 – Lamar Stoltzfus
January 5 – Jim Stahl
January 8 – Celia Dick
January 10 – Dan Wills

*DENOTES RETIREE
+ DENOTES CANDIDATE