

**24.** Tim Foley, Mennonite Mission Network's director for Europe, requests prayer for refugees coming to Europe. Pray that Anabaptist communities in Germany, Spain, and the United Kingdom will extend a warm welcome.

**25.** Susan Nisly, Service Adventure program director, requests prayer for students considering a gap year in which to explore new interests and to discern God's call on their lives.

**26.** Praise God for the Mexican Mennonite conference in Mexico City, *Conferencia de Iglesias Evangélicas Anabautistas Menonitas de México*, that reached out to their neighbor across the border, Mountain States Mennonite Conference. Pray for these two conferences as they pray for each other and build a sister relationship.

**27.** Last year, a devastating earthquake took the homes and loved ones of many people in Nepal. Pray for continued energy and vision from Mission Network partners as they offer hope and constancy in walking alongside those who have lost so much.

**28.** Annette and Paco Castillo, commissioned by the Mennonite Church in Burgos, Spain, are building a Christian community with children in Ivory Coast. Pray for miracles of transformation as the Castillo family loves and equips those who have suffered much to develop their gifts and use them for God's redeeming purposes.

**29.** Mission Network ministries in Europe offer an alternative community to the prevailing post-Christian society. Pray for seminaries in Bienenberg, Switzerland; Paris, France; Madrid, Spain; and Odessa, Ukraine; where mission workers are helping to train church leaders.

**30.** Linda Shelly, Mission Network's director for Latin America, requests prayer for respectful dialogue among Anabaptist churches with diverse theological understanding.

**31.** Pray for God's light to shine through new ministry initiatives in Turkey.

---

*Prayer Vine* is published monthly by Mennonite Mission Network.

**Elkhart office:** PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370

**Newton office:** 718 N. Main St., Newton, KS 67114-1703

**Toll-free:** 1-866-866-2872

**E-mail:** [Prayer@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:Prayer@MennoniteMission.net); **Web:** [www.MennoniteMission.net](http://www.MennoniteMission.net)



**Mennonite  
Mission  
Network**

The mission agency of  
Mennonite Church USA

May 2016

# Prayer Vine

*Connected to the true vine:  
Together, sharing all of Christ with all of creation*



C16-071/MAR-2016

**1.** Praise God for the Sister Care ministry of Mennonite Women and its partnership with Mennonite Mission Network in offering hope around the world. Pray for Noëlie Bananzaro, Nancy Frey and Claire Traoré from Burkina Faso, as they share what they learned in Sister Care sessions last month in Kenya.

**2.** Connie and Dennis Byler thank God for a home and job for an Iranian woman and her son settling in Spain. Pray for family members still imprisoned in Iran due to their faith in Jesus.

**3.** Pray for Mennonite Voluntary Service participants Nick Bouwman, Phonevilay Khammany, Jacob Smucker, Josh Storrer and Evra Zango work alongside two congregations in Elkhart, Indiana, to serve the surrounding community through Church Community Services and other organizations promoting peace and social justice.

**4.** In the land of Jesus' birth, an outreach team composed of Arab Christians and Jewish believers in Yeshua is setting aside their differences in order to share God's invitation to faith in unity and love. Pray for wisdom and courage for team members in the face of opposition.

**5.** Maria Helena López, a Colombian mission worker, serves as co-coordinator of *Iglesia Cristiana Anabautista Menonita de Ecuador* (ICAME), a conference of congregations in Ecuador. Pray for her as she bridges the division between Ecuador's citizens and Colombian refugees.

- 6.** Fritz Lagrada, an influential pastor of the Integrated Mennonite Churches in the Philippines, died in March. Pray for comfort and God's provision for his wife and three young children and the Mennonite churches he served.
- 7.** Janet Stucky, who recently completed an assignment at Bethesda Hospital in Benin, is transitioning to a position as hospital dietitian/infant-feeding coordinator for Mercy Ships, a floating hospital that will dock in Benin this summer. Pray for Janet as she adapts to this new ministry.
- 8.** Praise God for the new Centre for Anabaptist Studies in Bristol, United Kingdom, that has grown out of the ministry of the (now closed) London Mennonite Centre. Pray for the students as they learn about mission, theology, and Bible interpretation from an Anabaptist perspective.
- 9.** SOOP volunteers serving with DOOR Hollywood assist with building upkeep and hosting groups. Pray that volunteers, group participants, and the Hollywood community will become more aware of God's love in all their relationships.
- 10.** C. Paul and Hildi Amstutz are long-term mission workers serving in Paraguay. Pray for C. Paul in his ministry of providing spiritual and emotional assistance to employees in the workplace, and for Hildi as she facilitates spiritual direction and retreats.
- 11.** Laura Schlabach has served in Mongolia for more than two decades in the areas of finance, administration, and worker support. Pray for her as she divides her time between the JCS International office in the capital city and her travel to be a spokesperson for the needs of more remote areas.
- 12.** Colleen and Pablo Fast are regional coordinators of church planting, discipleship, and pastoral care through Project Amazon in Brazil. Pray for safety as they travel widely, and for wisdom as they help church leaders minister in about 30,000 villages without an evangelical Protestant church.
- 13.** Dan and Kathryn Smith Derksen praise God for the opportunity to work alongside Oscar Siwali, founder and director of Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency. Pray for them during these months of orientation and as they join in a ministry of holistic transformation in South Africa.
- 14.** In addition to Linda Oyer's ministries of teaching and spiritual formation, she is an author. This year, French Mennonites are planning to publish her most recent book on suffering, and how it can lead to death or to life. Pray that this book will bring healing and hope to readers.
- 15.** Many Mennonite churches around the world who host Journey International participants permit the Holy Spirit to move in powerful ways. Pray that North American youth will be prepared to experience the gifts of the Spirit and integrate them into their lives for a more robust faith.
- 16.** Last year, Palmer Becker traveled throughout Latin America for two months offering "What is an Anabaptist Christian?" workshops. Pray that the fruit from this ministry will continue to grow and multiply as people continue to share what they have discovered.
- 17.** Mary Beyler works with the Mennonite congregations in Japan; teaching, preaching, leading music, and serving on several conference committees. Pray for Mary's health and discernment as she continues to walk alongside and encourage Japanese Christians.
- 18.** Fils Fuisa recently finished his training in sustainable agricultural development in Benin. Pray for him now that he has returned to Congo and begins to work with the Mennonite churches in creating a vision for God's shalom that includes all aspects of life.
- 19.** Brian and Kelly McPhail are aided in their ministry to university students through the joyful antics of Elsie, who will celebrate her first birthday today. Pray for the McPhails as they live out Christian values in the fast-changing environment of urban China.
- 20.** Pray for Janie and Neal Blough who serve on the staff of the Paris Mennonite Center in France. They also share the Anabaptist vision through teaching in seminaries and community English classes, and as resource people in congregations.
- 21.** DOOR's three programs are entering a season of intense activity as many youth groups accept the challenge to "see the face of God in the city." Pray for them and for participants in the longer-term Discern and Dwell programs entering or completing their opportunities for learning and serving.
- 22.** The Bolivia Mennonite Church is beginning the implementation of a five-year plan to increase the impact of their ministry. Pray for them as they find new energy and new ways to reach their communities with the good news of Jesus' love.
- 23.** Pray for Mission Network personnel in Senegal as they encourage the growing numbers of those who commit to following Jesus in difficult circumstances.