

▶ **Jim and Joan Farr** are in the USA until the rest of the year, but they will be moving between PA, CA and FL among other stops and visits. No rest for the weary! There will not be any time for deputation during this trip. Please keep them in prayer for health and stamina, as they will be doing a lot of sorting and packing as they prepare for retirement and setting up housekeeping in the USA next year some time.

▶ **Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus** will be remaining in the USA at least through the end of this year, so that Janice can continue her treatments. They will continue to reside at the missionary apartments in Lititz. You can send notes of encouragement addressed to them at 38 E. Orange St., 2nd flr, Lititz, PA 17543.

▶ Global Ministries has given the green light to a special project for **Evangelical College of Theology** in NE India. **Rev. Dr. Lalrosiem Songate**, the President of ECT, has written about the many financial needs of the school. However, he feels that it is the responsibility of the presbyteries that make up the E.C. Church of India to support ECT, as it is the only school of higher education open to all of the tribes. He wants to make contact with various church and presbytery leaders, as well as other denominational groups who have students attending ECT, to encourage their spiritual and financial support. In order to do that, he needs a reliable vehicle. We have agreed to help them raise \$20,000 to meet this need. A letter with more details will be mailed soon, but we wanted to make you aware of this need. If you would like to help, please send a check payable to Global Ministries with the notation "ECT special project" to 100 W. Park Ave, Myerstown, PA 17067. Thank you!

▶ **Kurt and Nancy G.** will be coming east at the end of this month for a couple of weeks of deputation. They will be in the central PA area from June 25 through July 9th. The two Sunday mornings in July are already booked, but if you would like to have Kurt come and share with a small group, adult Sunday School, young adults or college & career class, or any other smaller group setting, he would be interested in doing that during the week or weekends. Contact the GMC office at 1-800-866-7584 or email to ecglobal@eccenter.com to book Kurt.

▶ **Kathy Wilson** arrived in the USA at the end of May and will be staying until close to the end of this month in order to be with her oldest daughter, Sarah, who is expecting her first child at the end of May. Since we are going to print in early May, we can't tell you anymore, just congratulations to Sarah and Brady, and also Grandma Kathy and Grandpa Jonathan! Jonathan will remain in PNG, working on the translation of the Binandere scriptures, but he'll be there in spirit.

▶ **BJ and Rachel Whitaker** are happy that a hectic month is over. Between the end of April and the end of May, one or the other of them was away from home for ministry related events for a total of three weeks! That's rough with two young daughters. But they got through it and are glad to all be at home and a family again. Miriam and Laura are very glad that Mommy and Daddy both are home!

▶ **Rev. Elias & Myrna Martinez** will be stepping out of leadership of the EC Church of Mexico this year. Pray for them as they return to full time pastoring, and pray for the newly elected leader, Rev. Juan Zuniga and his wife Rosalba.



Raising the Dead

In the classic horror novel *Frankenstein*, author Mary Shelley tells the story of a man so driven with grief at the loss of a loved one that he tries to recreate life artificially. The result, a creature cobbled together with the parts of various human bodies, is brought to life from a bolt of lightning, but is a hideous creature that his creator sees as a monster. The book ends with the creature and creator pursuing each other to their deaths.

Sometimes I wonder if we don't use the Dr. Frankenstein method to try to bring new life to our struggling or dying churches. We try new programs, we add (or subtract) praise choruses for hymns, we take out the pews for more comfortable seating, we get rid of the organ and have a praise band, etc. In other words, we try all sorts of artificial means to breathe new life into our church body. Please don't misunderstand me; there is nothing wrong with these methods in and of themselves. But it's unlikely that they will rejuvenate a church if there is no desire to change and grow. If you'll forgive the mixed religious metaphor, sometimes we use these ideas as a Hail Mary pass. (If you don't understand that reference, just ask any football fan.) ☺

In Ezekiel 37, the prophet writes that the Lord took him into a valley of dry bones and told him to prophesy to them. In verses 7-8, Ezekiel says, "... And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them." He continues in verse 9 " 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " (NIV)

Just as when Ezekiel stood in the valley of the dry bones, there is no life until the Spirit of the Lord breathes into the body. My adult Sunday School has begun a study on the Holy Spirit, and all of us in the class have been struck by how most of our evangelical churches do not put any emphasis on this person of the Trinity. Yet Jesus told his disciples that it was better for him to go, so the Counselor could come.

The Holy Spirit is often referred to as 'the Breath of God', and without breath, we can't live. By all means, use any creative method you feel might help re-ignite the passion in your church. Just don't forget to put it all before the Spirit and seek God's will for your particular church.

Pat Strain

EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



JUNE 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JULY BIRTHDAYS July 9 – Rev. Dan Dixon July 13 – Kurt G. July 15 (1999) – Hannah Wagner		ANNIVERSARIES June 15 – BJ & Rachel Whitaker July 14 – Dan & Mary Lynne Wills		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PRAYER NEEDS Gloria Smethers – serving as one of two staff nurse at AIM Retirement Center in Minneola, FL	– Hannah Moury (2002) GMC Vision Team leaves for visit to missionaries in NW USA	– Bonnie Bound * Rev. Ken Sears – teaching & administrator at Zaporozhye Bible College, Ukraine	Robert & Bettina Schaeffer – serving with LIFE Ministries in NY and PA	PRAYER NEEDS Joe Toy – open air ministry – safe return from Indy 500	Rev. Nobuo Abe , Chairman of the EC Church of Japan	Janet Baker – retired missionary in Lebanon, PA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
– Wendy Toy PRAYER NEEDS BJ & Rachel Whitaker , church planters in Alcora, Spain – some needed R & R and family time	GMC Vision Team returns from trip to NW USA	Pray for Rev. G. Abraham Powell , bishop of the EC Church of Liberia	Major Josh Metz , Brigade Chaplain for the 780 th MI Brigade at Ft. Meade, MD	Pray for Rev. Kaitikap Vaiphei , General Director of EC Church of India	Jim & Joan Stahl – training oral Bible storytellers in Southeast Asia	– Ed Schubert – Miriam Whitaker (2010) Rev. Elias Martinez and future leadership of EC Church of Mexico
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
– Melissa Wagner – David Roof PRAYER NEEDS Praise God for Christian fathers who set a good example for their children to follow	David & Conce Roof , church planters, Brazil – praise that the church building is almost finished	Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus – Janice's health as she continues treatments; remaining in USA through end of year	Ivy Limbert , candidate – pray Ivy's funding comes in so she can leave next month for training to serve in Germany	– Janice Stoltzfus Brian & Missy Wagner – teacher /administrator at Rift Valley Academy – preparing for brief USA visit	– Kitty Miller * Rev. Dan Dixon , teacher/coach at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya; summer break	– Rachel Whitaker Dan & Mary Lynne Wills – serving at the JAARS Center in Waxhaw, North Carolina
25	26	27	28	29	30	
– Beth Grimm PRAYER NEEDS Pray for Rev. Lalrosiem Songate , principal at Evangelical College of Theology, NE India	Eunice Wanjema , retired missionary in Kenya	Jonathan & Kathy Wilson , translators in Papua New Guinea	– Wesley Reimer * Pray for those churches and pastors who will receive new assignments next month	– Bettina Schaeffer Ed & Val Schubert – working with at risk women and children in Honduras	Pray for Tomoyuki & Jessica Abe and their daughters – church planters in Japan	*DENOTES RETIREE + DENOTES CANDIDATE