

## OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

▶ **MMK Rally** – If you didn't receive information about the MMK Rally yet, or haven't registered, please contact Shirley Long at Church Center (1-800-866-7581 or 717-866-7581) by February 27<sup>th</sup>. The rally is Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, for children ages 5-11 and will be held at the Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown, PA.

▶ **Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** is the date of the **Self Denial Offering**. This is one of only two offerings taken denomination-wide that is designated for Global Ministries. We do not get any of your ministry fund monies, so we must depend on your generosity to provide monies for our international churches, office expenses (such as publications and postage), and salaries. Bulletin inserts and envelopes were mailed to our churches in mid/late February, so please let us know if you haven't received yours.

▶ **The Delaware Region Mission Brunch** will be held on **Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** and will be hosted by Hope Community Church at 7974 Claussville Road, Fogelsville, PA. The brunch will begin at 10 and end by 11:30 A.M. This brunch is open to anyone who would like to learn more about the missions program of the E.C. Church. GMC Director Rev. Randy Sizemore will be bringing updates from our international churches and our EC missionaries. Please make reservations by February 27<sup>th</sup> so we can know how many to plan for. You can find directions to Hope Community on their website at [www.hopcommunityecchurch.org](http://www.hopcommunityecchurch.org).

▶ **Ken Sears** was able to return to Ukraine early in February. He had to delay his planned return after spending the Christmas holidays in TX with family, due to some health issues. Ken was anxious to get back because he only has one semester before coming back to the USA in June for a furlough until the end of this year.

▶ Retired missionary **Rev. Jack Murray** had to be hospitalized in mid-January for an unspecified illness. He is recuperating, but was still in rehab as of this writing (Feb 4<sup>th</sup>) because he was unable to walk without a walker. Please keep Jack in prayer for a full diagnosis of the problem and a full recovery. Get well wishes can be mailed to Jack at 11998 Rough and Ready Road, Rough and Ready, CA 95975 or email to [jmmissions@gmail.com](mailto:jmmissions@gmail.com).

▶ **Jim and Joan Farr** are in the USA for vacation/furlough during this month. Most of their time will be spent with son Jamie and family in FL, but they may stop by PA to visit extended family as well. They are not taking any speaking engagements through the GMC office.



GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION  
OF THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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## BODY BUILDING

Open any magazine and you'll see close to a third of it dedicated to fitness articles. The cover will entice you with ways to drop 10 pounds in a week, how to flatten your stomach, how to feel younger through a new diet, etc. America is a nation of over eaters that want to get fit – without too much effort.

But anyone who does try to stay in shape will tell you it takes time, determination, and discipline. There is no easy way to keep fit. That applies to the Church as well. As the Body of Christ, we are to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The Apostle Paul, in his first letter to the church at Corinth, gives them a 'pep talk' on what they should look like and how they should work together. In chapter 12, verses 12-31, Paul instructs the members of the church how to work together to reach their full potential. Verse 27 specifically says "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (NIV) In verse 26 he points out that if one part of the Body suffers, all parts suffer. Conversely, if one part does well, the entire body benefits.

These are very familiar verses, and as relevant today as when they were written. Each individual church is part of the larger Church, that is, the Body of Christ. In each body, Christ has gifted people through His Spirit to "prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12-13, NIV)

This kind of growth doesn't come quickly or easily. But it is an attainable goal, and one we are instructed to aim for. If each of our local church bodies works at becoming healthier, we will be able to impact the communities around us. And if the local bodies of Christ work together towards becoming the whole Body of Christ, we will impact the entire world for Him to whom we claim to belong. May it ever be so!

–Pat Strain

MARCH PRAYER CALENDAR INSIDE

FACILITATING MISSION WORKERS  
EMPOWERING NATIONAL CHURCHES  
ENGAGING THE LOCAL CHURCH

# EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE



# MARCH 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Pray for the <b>EC Church of Nepal</b> as it continues to grow despite antagonism from militant Hindu groups	2 <b>Chris &amp; Deb Bowers</b> – serving in WA as training instructor for aspiring missionary pilots	3 Please keep our <b>Mexican EC pastors</b> in prayer. One was carjacked before the holidays.	4 <b>Randy &amp; Chris Amberman</b> – working with Navajo church leaders and youth in NM	5 <b>Brian &amp; Missy Wagner</b> – teacher and administrator at Rift Valley Academy, Kijabe, Kenya	6 – <i>David Dick</i> 	7 – <i>Joan Farr</i>  <b>MMK Rally</b> at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown PA. For children ages 5-11
8 <b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> <b>Self Denial offering</b> helps to cover our international churches and office costs	9 <b>Randy &amp; Carla Sizemore</b> – safe travels from IL for a week of meetings in PA	10 <b>Global Ministry Commission</b> meeting today. Pray for wisdom as matters are discussed.	11 Pray for the <b>national leaders</b> of the EC Church as they prepare for National Conference in May	12 Pray for the <b>National Ministry team</b> as they meet to discuss issues to be brought to National Conference	13 <b>BJ &amp; Rachel Whitaker</b> – praise that their church plant recently officially opened in Spain	14 <b>Delaware Region Missions Brunch</b> at Hope Community Church, Fogelsville
15 <b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> <b>Kurt &amp; Nancy G.</b> – training young people to serve in closed countries	16 Pray for <b>Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe</b> , church planters in Fuchinobe, Japan	17 – <i>Ron Anderson</i> 	18 – <i>Randy Sizemore</i> 	19 Pray for the <b>EC Church of Liberia</b> as it tries to regroup after the recent ebola scourge	20 – <i>Donovan Stoltzfus (1998)</i> 	21 <b>Ed &amp; Val Schubert</b> – working with disadvantaged children and women in Honduras
22 <b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> Pray for the <b>EC Church of India</b> ; its leaders, pastors and missionaries	23 <b>Ron &amp; Brenda Anderson</b> – church planting consultants in Spain	24 – <i>Marcia Hopler *</i> 	25 <b>Dan Dixon</b> – returning to the USA next month for 5-month furlough	26 – <i>Cheynece Schubert (2005)</i> 	27 <b>Gwen Melger</b> – retired missionary living in FL	28 Pray for the <b>EC Church – Japan</b> as it seeks to reach its people with the Gospel
29 <b>PRAYER NEEDS</b> <b>Ken Sears</b> – serving in Zaporozhye, Ukraine. Preparing to return to the USA for furlough in June	30 <b>Rev. Jack Murray</b> – still active in CA; recent health concerns	31 – <i>Kathryn Kunkel *</i>  – <i>B. Micah Wagner (2001)</i> <b>Gloria Smethers</b> – serving as a nurse at AIM Retirement Center in FL	<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b> March 8 – <i>David &amp; Conce Roof</i> March 22 – <i>Joe &amp; Wendy Toy</i> March 25 – <i>David &amp; Emily Hershey</i> April 4 – <i>Chris &amp; Deborah Bowers</i>		<b>APRIL BIRTHDAYS</b> <small>*DENOTES RETIREE</small> April 1 – <i>Mary Reimer *</i> April 4(2007) – <i>Abigail Farr</i> April 9 – <i>Dorothy Stermer *</i> April 12 – <i>Deborah Bowers</i>	