

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

- ▶ Congratulations to **Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe**, who welcomed daughter Wakana on February 21st. Their older daughter Kanae was excited to become a big sister! Please keep the Abes in prayer for good health for everyone.
- ▶ Please keep **GMA Associate Rev. Ted Rathman and Bishop Bruce Hill** in prayer as they spend a week in NE India towards the end of this month. ECCI (EC Church of India) is holding their National Conference during the week of April 21-27, and this year they will be electing a new General Director (their equivalent of a bishop.) It will be a very full schedule, as both Ted and Bishop Bruce will be speaking several times. Please keep them in prayer for safe travels, good health, and stamina.
- ▶ Also keep **Rev. Kaitinkap Vaiphei**, the outgoing General Director in prayer, that he may sense where God would have him use his gifts to continue to grow the E.C. Church of India.
- ▶ Keep **Jim and Janet Stahl** in prayer; many of their trips for this year were cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus. Pray that they won't be too frustrated by this turn of events and will be able to find other venues for teaching Biblical story telling until they get the all clear to resume their travels to Asia and Africa.
- ▶ Sad news – Through the help of our local postal carrier, we were able to learn that retired missionary **Gwen Melger** passed away – in 2014! We aren't sure what's been happening to the mail since then, but it has only been returned recently. Please remove Gwen from your mailing and prayer lists.
- ▶ Please be in prayer now for the men whose names will be submitted to be our next bishop. Pray for them to seek God's vision for the EC Church to move forward and be a relevant force in today's society.
- ▶ Be in prayer for all our **EC missionaries** and other missionaries who are currently serving in parts of the world affected by the coronavirus. This includes much of Asia, parts of Africa, and even western Europe. Pray for their safety, their health, and fortitude to continue to minister as God allows.
- ▶ Congratulations also to **Rev. Tomoyuki Abe**, now a missionary candidate. Tomoyuki will be serving with OMF International in France, ministering to Japanese expatriates in that country. His wife Jessica is on staff at the church they attend.
- ▶ **Brian & Missy Wagner** are interested in purchasing a home in Lancaster County, PA for an investment, and to provide a home for their children, all of whom are now living in the USA. If you know of anyone who is selling, perhaps you could give their information to the Wagners. Their email is bwagner@rva.org, and Brian's phone is (717)842-0284. Brian and Missy are returning to serve at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya in July, so there is a time element.
- ▶ Congratulations to **Rev. Gene Stevenson**, one of our newest missionary candidates. Gene is a teacher and administrator at Indian Bible College in Flagstaff, AZ. This school provides a biblical education for Native Americans who want to go into ministry. Gene, his wife Beth and their family relocated to AZ last year; they are originally from eastern PA. Gene was a youth pastor at Palmyra First and lead pastor at Frackville Trinity.
- ▶ **Dan Moury** will be going to the Philippines later this month into mid-May to film a scripture dedication. Please keep him in prayer for safety and that all equipment arrives with him and in good working order.



GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMUNITY
OF THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE

APRIL 2020



Japan

The EC Church of Japan was founded by the late Rev. Dr. John Masuda and his wife Machi in 1962, when they returned to their home country as church planters, after getting their education in the USA. Currently we have two established churches and one church plant in Japan.

The Kyodo Grace Church, which is our flagship church, is located in the suburbs of Tokyo. It is now pastored by Rev. Ken Sudo. The other established church is the Sagami-hara Grace Chapel, located outside of the Tokyo suburbs and pastored by Rev. Nobuo Abe, the Chairman of the EC Church of Japan. The church plant is Ebina City Grace Garden Church and is pastored by Rev. Yoriyoshi Abe. His wife Emiko is worship leader. The Abes just welcomed their second daughter, Wakana, in late February.

Even though Japan is one of the most advanced nations in the world, it is still part of the 10/40 Window. This region of the world, 10 degrees latitude by 40 degrees longitude, is referred to by missiologists as the least reached nations for the gospel. Although Christianity has been present in some form in Japan for over 400 years, only about 1% of that country's population call themselves Christian, and those who are evangelical Christians are even fewer.

Please keep the EC Church of Japan in prayer as they try to reach out to their respective communities and be examples of God's love and grace. Several members of our Japanese EC churches will be attending our National Conference-USA at Messiah College in late May. We hope all who attend will take time to greet our Japanese brothers and sisters.

Also keep them in prayer for opportunities to reach out to all the tourists who will be visiting Tokyo for the summer Olympics in July. Barring a major spread of coronavirus, the games are to be held as planned, and the world will be coming to Tokyo. What a great opportunity to share Christ with the world!

Pat Strain



FACILITATING MISSION WORKERS
EMPOWERING NATIONAL CHURCHES
ENGAGING THE LOCAL CHURCH

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>BIRTHDAYS May 4 – Nancy G. May 4 – Conce Roof May 5 – Valerie Schubert May 6 – Carolyn Miller * May 6 – Jamie Farr May 13 – Cassie Wells</p>			<p>1 – Mary Reimer *</p> <p>PRAYER NEEDS Pray for the EC Church of Nepal, that they may stay firm in the face of discrimination and even persecution</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Gloria Smethers – serving as one of only two fulltime nurses at AIM Retirement Center in Clermont, FL</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Pray for Chaplain Juliana Leshner, serving as National Director of Veteran Affairs Chaplaincy</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Rev. Joe Toy – Open Air ministry in greater Philly and Camden areas as well as special public events</p>
<p>5 – Abigail Farr (2007)</p> <p>PRAYER NEEDS Jonathan & Kathy Wilson – bible translators with the Binandere people in Papua New Guinea</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Les Cool, Kingdom Extension Associate and his work with our churches and church plants</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Rev. Jim & Bonnie Bound – retired EC missionaries still actively ministering in Vermont</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Dan & Mary Lynne Wills – support ministry at JAARS Center in NC; some health issues</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pray for the EC Church of India as they receive a new leader at this year’s annual conference, held later this month</p>	<p>10 </p> <p>“Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior” – remember the price paid for your sins</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pray for those whose hearts are being stirred by the Spirit to consider missionary service</p>
<p>12 – Debbie Bowers</p> <p>Christ the Lord is risen today! Hallelujah! </p>	<p>13</p> <p>Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus – serving at Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya – praise for Janice getting good reports from doctors</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Tomoyuki & Jessica Abe – visiting USA in July. Currently preparing to minister to expatriate Japanese in France. Jessica is on staff at church.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Ed & Val Schubert – working with at risk children and families in the capital of Honduras as well as their hometown</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Cassie Wells – working with Disciple Makers on the campus of Cedar Crest College in Allentown, PA; lingering health issues</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pray for the EC Church of Latin America, that they may continue to impact regions beyond northern Mexico</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Rev. Ken Sears – preaching, teaching and administrating in Ukraine at Zaporozhye Bible College</p>
<p>19</p> <p>PRAYER NEEDS Pray for the EC Church of Liberia, that they may be a strong influence on the culture of this land still shattered by war and disease</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Dan Quigley – working with at risk children and youth in the capital city region of Nicaragua</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Rev. Ted Rathman and Bishop Bruce Hill leave for India and the ECCI Annual Conference – pray for safe travels & good health</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Jim & Janet Stahl – training native speakers to tell Bible stories accurately in oral societies</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pray for the persecuted church, especially in India, as the Hindu government openly persecutes Christians throughout the country</p>	<p>24 <i>Jared Farr (2008)</i> <i>Elijah Hershey (2024)</i></p> <p>Art & Mary Ellen Davis – retired EC missionaries still actively ministering in Kenya</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pray for the EC Church of Japan, that they may grow in numbers and influence in their own country</p>
<p>26</p> <p>PRAYER NEEDS Rev. BJ & Rachel Whitaker – church planters in Alcora, Spain – praise for a good men’s winter retreat</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Rev. Robert & Bettina Schaeffer – counseling with LIFE Ministries in NY, pastoring in St. Clair, PA</p>	<p>28 – Junia Hershey (2011)</p> <p>Rev. Ted Rathman & Bishop Bruce Hill return from India – pray for smooth flights and stamina to jump back into busy schedules</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pray for whoever is the newly elected General Director of ECCI; he will be in charge of our largest EC church – over 40,000 members</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Brian & Missy Wagner – finishing up year of deputation soon, preparing for return to Kenya in July</p>	<p>*DENOTES RETIREE</p>	
<p>ANNIVERSARIES April 4 – Chris & Debbie Bowers</p>						