



Pray For Us Calendar

The following prayer requests were submitted to LCMS World Mission by your coworkers in the Lord's mission around the world.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution.

VIETNAM - Jan. 1-15 *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod began work in Vietnam in 1995, serving through projects that provide humanitarian assistance and educational services. The Vietnamese Government recognizes LCMS World Mission as a non-government organization.*

Remember LCMS work in Vietnam when you pray:

1. with thanks for the people of Vietnam, whom God has created beautifully. Pray that they would see the great love their Creator has for them.

2. with thanksgiving for the great progress, economic and political, that Vietnam has made in the past decade, but also pray for the long road ahead, especially for those who still suffer in poverty and disease.

3. for LCMS World Mission volunteers, Michael Tan, James Rush, Melanie Dunn, and Carl Myrhe, as they teach English in universities. Pray that they would form significant and meaningful relationships with their students while providing a valuable service. Also, pray that they will be a model for teaching methods, so that Vietnam can improve its teaching methodology. Pray that God will raise up more long-term volunteers for future years, so that LCMS World Mission can expand its service to the Vietnamese people.

4. for the Engelbrecht family (Ted, Jacqueline, Chloe, Manu, Nadia, and Yung Ting), career workers in Vietnam

and Southeast Asia. Praise God for their service, and ask God to continue providing strength, perseverance, and vision for this work.

5. for the Cima family (J.P., Aimee, and Celeste), career workers who just arrived in Vietnam in September 2007. Give thanks for the ways God has already begun using them, and ask God to continue to equip them for long-term service.

6. for our Vietnamese partners at the National Institute of Nutrition (Dr. Ngu, Quyen, and Nga), that God would continue to use them powerfully as they plan and implement LCMS World Mission projects. Give thanks for their commitment to and love for LCMS personnel and work in Vietnam.

7. for the establishment of the first Lutheran international school in Vietnam, a project that is moving from the planning to the implementation stage. Pray this school would be a wonderful blessing to students from Vietnam and all over the world.

8. for those who have suffered from flooding in Northern Vietnam in August 2008. Many lost homes, rice storage, and rice fields. They will feel the loss for months as they struggle to have enough.

9. for LCMS World Mission relief efforts for those affected by flooding—that the rice provided would be a blessings to the people and a bridge to further relation-

ships. Give thanks for the ongoing partnership of LCMS World Mission and LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

10. for the smooth construction of communal health stations in Phuong Xa and Tam Cuong communes. These stations are supported by the LCMS, and will provide thousands with access to basic health care. Give thanks to God for the stations that have already been built through help from LCMS World Mission.

11. for a project in development—the establishment of a "drop-in" center for migrant workers from rural villages who come to work in the city, but are exploited and mistreated. Pray for Hai and Thanh, two Vietnamese colleagues, who will be leading this effort.

12. for the poverty alleviation projects, including a microcredit loan program to provide cows for poor rural families. Pray that God would use this program to raise the standard of living for these families.

13. for short-term LCMS groups, that they would be a blessing to those with whom they interact, and that God would provide more groups to come and serve the people of Vietnam.

14. for God to provide support for all volunteers, career workers, and projects—through prayer, encouragement, and financial contributions.

15. that God would give the entire Vietnam team humility and patience as they seek to serve Him. Pray that God would use them in His ways towards His purposes, and pray that they would have the courage to follow. Pray that even their seemingly small efforts will have a big impact in His Kingdom.



Involvement Ideas



- To offer a gift in support of the humanitarian and educational work in Vietnam, send a check made out to LCMS World Mission and designate Vietnam - "Project 819-99201."

- Learn more about LCMS work in Vietnam on the LCMS World Mission Web site. Go to www.lcmsworldmission.org/asia and click on "Vietnam."

- Interested in serving as a short-term volunteer in Vietnam or another country in Asia? Go to www.lcmsworldmission.org/service to learn more. Or, call 1-800-433-3954 and ask to speak with a placement counselor.



LCMS WORLD MISSION

www.lcmsworldmission.org

TRANSITIONING MISSIONARIES - Jan. 16-23 *Every year, missionaries complete their service on the foreign mission field and return home to the United States to serve in new capacities. Whether a missionary has served for one year or 20 years, it greatly impacts their life and provides a crucial contribution to God's work in a specific area of the world.*



Remember transitioning missionaries as you pray:

16. for their "reverse culture shock" upon returning to the United States, which may not initially look or feel like "home." Reverse culture shock is often more challenging to deal with than returning missionaries anticipate, since they do not always expect to feel its effects.

17. for them as they seek God's plan for the next stage in their lives, whether it be employment in a more secular situation, another ministry position, a congregation pastoral position, or as a student. Ask the Holy Spirit to provide discernment and clarity as they decide how and where to serve God next.

18. that God would provide opportunities for transitioning missionaries that use the new talents and skills they were able to learn overseas—to His glory and their fulfillment as His children.

19. that the Lord would provide people

in the transitioning missionaries' lives who would truly be open to listening to their experiences and helping them to share about their mission work on a deeper level. Returning missionaries often struggle to find caring friends who want to know more about their work than the surface-level cultural differences of the people whom the missionaries served.

20. for missionary kids who are required to adapt, perhaps for the first time, to life in the United States after living in another country. "MKs" can feel lonely and out-of-place as they seek to make new friends and struggle with homesickness for their previous country of residence.

21. for returning missionaries to be enthusiastic and convicting mission advocates as they speak with and challenge other Christians to respond to God's mission in some way. As they

make presentations, send thank you notes, and talk with all of those who supported their service, they have the opportunity to invite other people to deepen their mission involvement.

22. that returning missionaries would keep their eyes and ears open as they are sharing about their service, so that they may identify good candidates for missionary service and invite them to prayerfully consider specific opportunities or to talk with a placement counselor. "Real-live" missionaries are often the best recruiters!

23. that the Lord would provide them with ways to continue communicating with the people in the fields where they served, with whom they undoubtedly built deep relationships. Pray also for God to provide ways for continued involvement in mission efforts in these areas.

LCMS WORLD MISSION OFFICE VOLUNTEERS - Jan. 24-31 *LCMS World Mission's St. Louis office benefits from the faithful service of 60 volunteers each month. They volunteer for an average of 130 hours per month. The estimated value of volunteer work is \$19.50 per hour or \$1.4 million per year.*

Remember LCMS World Mission office volunteers as you pray:

24. with thanksgiving for the many hours of faithful service that volunteers provide to LCMS World Mission every month. The approximate annual value of their services is \$1.4 million.

25. for volunteers as they assemble LCMS World Mission publications such as "Missionary to Missionary" and "Harvest News." These newsletters are able to encourage and inform many LCMS Christians.

26. for them as they assemble informational packets for Together in Mission, Mission Senders, and *Fan into Flame*. Pray that their service would continue to effectively link LCMS members with mission giving opportunities.

27. for their help with data entry, updating spreadsheets, filing, stuffing

envelopes, addressing envelopes for event invitations, writing thank you notes, making phone calls, and setting up file folders. May the Lord grant these volunteers a joyful attitude as they perform these tasks.

28. for their continued good health. May who donate their time are in their retirement years, and often face health challenges that can keep them from work. Ask the Lord to continue to keep them well.

29. that more people would be moved to volunteer their time to LCMS World Mission, either as office workers or other mission activists, and that through their work and support, more people would know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!

30. that the continuing dedication of volunteers to LCMS World Mission and its ministries would be an encouraging and motivating example of service to all of the LCMS World Mission staff and donors.

31. that they would be strengthened and encouraged in their own faith, just as they have strengthened and encouraged others through their service at the LCMS World Mission office.



Missionary Birthdays

Missionary prayer cards may be downloaded from the LCMS World Mission Web site at www.lcmsworldmission.org/prayercards.

- Jan. 4 Carl Kaye, Japan
- Jan. 5 Yuan Larson, Asia; David Erber, Nigeria
- Jan. 8 Gloria Chandler, Asia; Tom Going, Southeast Asia; Jack Carlos, Guinea
- Jan. 12 Dennis Denow, Thailand; David Lyon, Asia
- Jan. 14 Cindy Charlton, Japan
- Jan. 19 Grace Marie Cueto, Asia
- Jan. 20 Bob Pfeil, Kyrgyzstan
- Jan. 21 Nathan Showalter, Asia; Robin McCoy, Thailand
- Jan. 26 Michelle Gillard, Uganda
- Jan. 27 Mary Garetson Wehmiller, Hong Kong; Ashley Effken, Czech Republic
- Jan. 28 Jennifer Leese, Hong Kong; Raymond Dubert, Taiwan
- Jan. 29 Krista Trump, Uganda

Military Chaplains with Birthdays in Jan.:

Chaplain Curt Cizek, Whiteman AFB, Mo.; Chaplain Jason Dart, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Chaplain Ed Grimenstein, Afghanistan; Chaplain Richard Malmstrom, Dahlgren, Va.; Chaplain Harry Matelski, Long Beach, Calif.; Chaplain Peter Mueller, Fort Monmouth, N.J.; Chaplain Paul Sherouse, Andrews AFB, Md.

