

23. Today, Mennonite Voluntary Service participants from Arizona, California and Colorado are beginning their five-day fall retreat in Salt Lake City, Utah. Pray for inspiration and renewal, as they worship and share experiences, so that they may return to their service assignments energized.

24. The Movement of Anabaptist Women Doing Theology from Latin America (MTAL) has been proclaiming the good news of Jesus, through writing and organizing worship events and seminars, across the continent for 20 years. Pray that their passion for mission and justice will continue to transform lives and societies. (p. 33)

25. Angela (Wenger) and Tomoki Yamanaka are associate co-pastors of the Asahikawa Gospel Church in Hokkaido, Japan. Pray for them and their four children as they offer their hands and feet for God's work and preach God's word. (p. 18)

26. Pray for a family that has been engaged in a sensitive ministry of church planting in France since 2015. (p. 24)

27. Mennonite Bible School offers biblical education to leaders and members of African Initiated Churches, in five locations, in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. Pray for wisdom, energy and protection during travels, as director Reuben Mgodeli and all the students work to strengthen the body of Christ in their communities. (p. 13)

28. Pray for the leaders of the seven congregations that are part of the Chile Mennonite Church. (p. 32)

29. Mark and Stephanie Bartsch have served in Japan since 2009. Pray for them as they lead an online house church and teach — Mark at a Christian school in Kobe and Stephanie at the preschool and university levels. (p. 15)

30. Praise God for the fruit that has grown from Mission Network's five-year commitment to partner with Holy Trinity Brussels' peace and conflict transformation program in Belgium. Pray for Jean-Bosco Turahirwa, who developed the program for his congregation, which has members who come from more than 45 countries.

31. Pray for Youth-Hope of Africa, an organization based in Côte d'Ivoire that helps youth through life-skills education, job-training and spiritual development. (p. 12)

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; **Web:** www.MennoniteMission.net



October 2024

Prayer Vine

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

Notice: *The page numbers in parentheses at the end of certain prayer requests indicate the 2024 Mission Mosaic page number where more information can be found on workers, partners and programs. Order your free copy at www.MennoniteMission.net/Mosaic.*

- 1.** Freddy Barrón and Margrit Kipfer Barrón request prayer for the 100 young people who attended the Bolivia Mennonite Church youth retreat last weekend. The retreat's theme was "Who do you follow?" Pray that their convictions to follow Jesus will be strengthened. (p. 29)
- 2.** Praise God for continually carrying Laura Schlabach through challenging situations in Mongolia, while she serves outside of her comfort zone on JCS International's three-person executive director team — which is looking for a third person. Pray that JCS will find a full-time executive director and that Laura will find time for rest and renewal. (p. 17)
- 3.** Today, students at the Mennonite Evangelical Theological Center of Asunción (CEMTA), in Paraguay, are beginning a two-day spiritual retreat. C. Paul and Hildi Amstutz have led these annual retreats for 13 years. Praise God that the seminary has decided to take leadership of the retreats and incorporate them into the curriculum. (pp. 34, 29)
- 4.** For many religious traditions, today is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis inspires those who feel God's call to protect Creation. Today is also the last day of the observance of the month-long Season of Creation, in which many nurtured hope in the face of ecological challenges. Pray that we may be faithful caretakers of the Earth that God entrusted to us.



SEPF2024

- 5.** Ben and Laurel Woodward-Breckbill are growing into their responsibilities as the co-directors of the Paris (France) Mennonite Center. Pray for them as they adapt to French culture and language. Pray also for Laurel, who is a teacher, and their children, Auden and Ludo, as they begin a new school year.
- 6.** Schyler Entz, Zing Bawi Ken, Hannah Lehman and Patrick Webb are participants in the Tucson (Arizona) Mennonite Voluntary Service unit. Pray for them as they extend the ministries of their host congregation, Shalom Mennonite Fellowship; bond as a household; and settle into their work assignments.
- 7.** Praise God for Martine Audéoud, Gary Wittig and their son, Samuel's, safe arrival in Côte d'Ivoire. Pray for them as they settle back into Abidjan, their former home. Pray for Martine as she begins a new academic year, Gary as he looks for teaching positions and the restoration of Samuel's health. (p. 23)
- 8.** Akiko Aratani and Ray Epp have served in Japan since 2007, working toward sustainable and regenerative agriculture. Pray for them as they conduct peace education workshops, provide biblically-based teachings on peacemaking and community life, and create a spiritual retreat center. (p. 15)
- 9.** The Association of Mennonite Evangelical Churches in France consists of congregations and their committees. Pray for these ministries, which serve Anabaptists in France and French-speaking Africa. (p. 26)
- 10.** Pray for the Colorado Springs (Colorado) Service Adventure unit participants — Elisabeth Daudey, Alea Sagert, Sadie Sherman, Hannah Smith, and unit leaders Christian and Leigha Stoltzfus — as they adjust to the routines of living, worshipping and serving together in a new community.
- 11.** Today, Mission Network board members gather in Akron, Pennsylvania, to begin three days of reflecting on reports and discerning future directions for the agency. Pray for God's Spirit to move and that board members will be open to the Spirit's guidance.
- 12.** From their base in Ghana, Matthew and Toni Krabill continue to support the Center for Justice and Peace in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in training French-speaking church leaders to be Christian peacebuilders. Matthew also teaches at the Sanneh Institute and facilitates Christian-Muslim relations and peacebuilding in West Africa. Pray for wisdom and patience as the Krabills cross cultural and religious divides. (p. 10)
- 13.** Anabaptist leaders of Latin America are preparing for the 500-year Anabaptist celebration, which will take place in Cusco, Peru, January 2025. Pray for the necessary resources for this event and for the Peace Summit, which will follow.
- 14.** Mission workers who have spent years in a media ministry in the Middle East ask for prayers that Christians will be protected, as they boldly share about the deliverance and abundant life that Jesus brings.
- 15.** Today, participants will embark on the first Just Peace Pilgrimage to South Africa. Pray for them as they immerse themselves in the country's struggle against apartheid for the next 17 days and as they wrestle with the church's role in upholding racial segregation in South Africa and in the United States. (p. 36)
- 16.** A professor of Islamic studies and Muslim-Christian relationships has committed her life to facilitating conversations and understandings between Christians and Muslims around the world. Pray for her as she travels. Pray also for her many friends, who work in difficult situations of war and other forms of violence.
- 17.** Lycée Miodi is a Mennonite high school in the Democratic Republic of Congo which prepares young women for leadership in their homes, churches and communities, through training in sewing and information technology. Praise God for the 13 students who graduated this year, and pray for them as they begin their careers and ministries.
- 18.** Alfonsina and José Oyanguren are engaged in multiple ministries, including teaching and accompanying Toba-Qom communities in Argentina's Chaco region. Pray that the Oyangurens will continue to be God's agents for transformation and that our Toba-Qom brothers and sisters will be able to live ever more fully into God's abundant life. (p. 30)
- 19.** Jae Young Lee and Karen Spicher live and work for peace from their home in the Peace Building in South Korea. Pray for them and all the ministries housed in the Peace Building — restorative justice programs, Grace and Peace Mennonite Church, and Circle Café and Bakery. (p. 16)
- 20.** Mission Network partners with organizations that respond to the needs of people fleeing violence and poverty on both sides of the English Channel, through Maria Skobtsova House in Calais, France, and Peaceful Borders in the United Kingdom, which helps people settle in the greater London area. Pray for both agencies as they work for immigration justice. (p. 26)
- 21.** Madina and Yaya Bengaly are missionaries, sent by the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso, to the Jalonké people of Mali. Pray for them and the small, but growing, church they have planted. The Malian village elders have commended the Bengaly family for the way they work at reconciliation. (p. 12)
- 22.** The Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand (AAANZ) gathers people who share a passion for Jesus, community and reconciliation. Pray for AAANZ members as they work toward a more compassionate world. (p. 21)