

24. Mennonite Biblical Seminary of Colombia resumed classes last month. Pray for the beginning-year students — 15 who are studying in the three-year certificate program and six others who will be taking one class at a time.

25. Praise God that Sophie Lapp Jost was invited to a three-year pastorate with the Mennonite Church in Bammental, Germany. Pray for God's word and love to flow through Sophie, giving her the spiritual power to bridge cultural and linguistic differences.

26. Angela and Tomoki Yamanaka serve as co-pastors of the Asahikawa Gospel Church in Hokkaido, Japan. Pray for them as they juggle the demands of ministry with parenting four pre-teen children.

27. Bellarmé Ngalula and Mimie Kanku, a husband-wife team, are church planters in Bandundu for the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Democratic Republic of Congo. Pray for them as they are starting a second congregation while continuing to pastor their first congregation, The Lord's Reserve.

28. Mission Network requests prayer for Freddy and Margrit Kipfer Barrón serving the Bolivia Mennonite Church through youth ministries, pastoral care, and training church leaders.

29. Austin Roberts is serving with Youth With a Mission in Northern Ireland. Pray for him as he teaches and mentors young adults as they prepare to serve God around the world. Pray also that Austin will discern God's will for his future.

30. Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer are in the North America part of their two-way mission assignment. Pray for the children as they begin school (two in college and two in high school) and for Jane and Jerrell as they teach and preach. May they also have quality time with their aging parents before they return to Ecuador.

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September 2020

Prayer Vine

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



AUG-2020

- 1.** Service Adventure participants in the Jackson, Mississippi, unit begin arriving today. Pray that God will provide wisdom for Debbie and Rick Lee, new unit leaders, and for all as they transition into community living and learning.
- 2.** Praise God that no students, staff, or faculty of the Near East School of Theology were injured when last month's explosion rocked Beirut, Lebanon. Pray for the school's president, George Sabra, and necessary resources to repair the extensive damage done to the eight-floor building. Pray also for all who have lost loved ones and homes.
- 3.** Diana Cruz and Felipe Preciado request prayer for the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Benin since quarantine ended in June. Pray especially for protection of the children and staff at *La Casa Grande* and that the children will not fall behind in their education.
- 4.** This summer, DOOR launched Virtual Discover Experience, reworking the justice-based service-learning curriculum for digital presentation to accommodate youth groups adhering to COVID-19 restrictions. Pray for lasting transformation in those who participated and that they will find ways to practice what they learned about God and community engagement.

- 5.** During the months that Deb Byler has been confined to her home in Guatemala, she has written 12 study booklets for Mennonite women that are ready to be edited by a Kekchi woman, and she hopes to complete nine more. Pray that God's love will be communicated through these booklets.
- 6.** At the Paris Mennonite Center in France, Matthew and Toni Krabill help resource Anabaptist Christians to engage with issues of injustice and conflict. Pray that they would continue to draw on God's words to guide their ministry and that they will help others to be faithful to God's way.
- 7.** Laura Schlabach was given responsibility for overseeing the IT department of JCS in Mongolia shortly before the arrival of COVID-19. She helped new staff set up the computer system for remote access so people could work from home. Pray that the system will allow ministry to continue.
- 8.** Praise God for decades of Mennonite ministry in Botswana. Pray especially for Lionel Nkosi and his family as they witness to the power of God's forgiveness and love in difficult times.
- 9.** Service Adventure is exploring new ways of learning and service in face of the COVID-19 reality. Praise God that the units are opening and pray that God will show participants and their leaders how to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a time of crisis.
- 10.** Bekah York requests prayer for the people of Colombia as COVID-19 is expected to hit its peak this month. Pray for health professionals and adequate infrastructure capacity (hospitals and supplies) to meet the need.
- 11.** Pray for all Mission Network personnel whose ministry builds bridges of understanding God's abundant love and understanding between Christians and Muslims.
- 12.** Mennonite congregations in the Democratic Republic of Congo have launched awareness-raising campaigns to inform their communities about ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Pray for effective communication and that God will shield these brothers and sisters who have already experienced so much trauma in recent years.
- 13.** Petrus and Yuliana Handoyo serve in educational ministries in Cambodia. Pray for them as they share the good news of Jesus' love, especially among Buddhist students.
- 14.** Mennonite Voluntary Service units are beginning a new year of learning and service in Alamosa (Colorado), San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. Pray for hosting congregations and communities, unit leaders and participants. Pray also that participants will respond to needs in Chicago and in Aibonito, Puerto Rico. Late applicants are still welcome!
- 15.** Erwin Mirabal, president of the Mennonite Church in Venezuela, died last month. Pray for his family and the family of God who are grieving the loss of their spiritual leader and advocate who helped all in the community survive in the past years of desperate economic need.
- 16.** Pray for Mennonite church leaders in Burkina Faso as they walk with their communities through the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account three aspects of health: physical, economic and spiritual.
- 17.** Praise God for the ways David and Rebekka Stutzman adapted to the pandemic restrictions and continued their ministry in Germany, even though changes included missing time with family and churches in the United States. Pray that God will continue to provide wisdom, creativity, and financial resources for the Stutzman family.
- 18.** Pray for a couple who has served in Israel since 1980, planting seeds of peace among Messianic Jews and Palestinian Christians.
- 19.** COVID-19 has devastated communities and the economy of Ecuador. Pray especially for continued healing for José Manuel Guamán, president of *Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Ecuador*, the predominantly indigenous Mennonite conference in Ecuador.
- 20.** Christ Salvation Mennonite Church in Sierra Leone is distributing basic food supplies to its members in the urban areas around Freetown. Pray that this ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic will point toward Jesus as the Bread of Life.
- 21.** Janie and Neal Blough are bringing closure to 45 years of Mission Network ministry. Pray for them as they dedicate this month to putting all in order at the Paris Mennonite Center before beginning active retirement in France, which will include teaching and speaking engagements.
- 22.** Praise God for the spiritual devotion of churches in China and the mission workers who accompany them. Pray that God will provide all that is needed.
- 23.** DOOR's fundraising campaign, Open Doors, aims to raise \$50,000 for virtual youth leadership development rooted in faith-based values of service, inclusion, equity, empathy and justice. Pray for the necessary resources to grow this ministry.