

Missions Coordinator Report 2024

This year I continued to share monthly mission posts on fb for the women of the Midwest Presbytery, hoping to connect you with missions and prompt continued faithfulness in prayer for many who are actively serving overseas. I did not have as much time as I had hoped for reading and study but did enjoy updates from our denominational missionaries as well as other missionary friends. I always find their updates to be encouraging as they prompt me to be intentional with my interactions with others, hoping to share the Hope of the Gospel!

As I write this report I am reminded of the generations of faithful women who have come before us who have set such godly examples of prayerful and generous support of missionaries, and especially our women missionaries. I have had several email exchanges with Bridget Carroll, Melissa Hanna, and Ms. B; while there is much joy in serving our Lord where they have been called, there is also much hardship and sorrow. Our missionaries need our prayers and support! If you are not yet receiving prayer updates, please consider asking to be put on a specific missionary's mailing list so that you might receive their personal updates for prayer. These can be quite eye-opening and will help to make this a life-habit!

Last year I challenged you to consider that though you might not be personally called to serve overseas, you might be raising a child who will. As my son continues to consider this call on his life, I was prompted to read missionary stories for that same part of the world that he desires to serve. It has been encouraging to read of men and women who dared long ago to go and pave the way for the work my son might be called to! I also had the opportunity to visit briefly with a missionary mom who told me it is difficult to send your children. I can relate! But she previously had challenged me that often missionaries do not stay long-term because of parents' lack of support. I certainly do not wish to be the reason my child fails to follow God's calling on his life! I have realized that even when my children were young, I was mindful of this possibility, and while I wanted to keep them close, I always sought to encourage them to seek the Lord FIRST. I must continue to entrust them to His care and wherever He leads them is best:

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. . . .

We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

-2 Corinthians 5:11, 6:3-10

Have you identified your CMA? Congregational Missions Advocates are excellent resources for supporting our missionaries in prayer. Our local WMF group has enjoyed covering these lists in prayer together. We have also continued to "travel the world" with *Dispatches from the Front*, learning more about missions around the world. One thing that has jumped out to me from this study is how Believers

around the globe are praying for the Church in America! They are concerned for us, but what a blessing to know that Christ's Body is so much bigger and stronger than our own little circles. Might we follow Christ's example as we recognize that time is short and the need is now:

Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."
-Mt. 9:36-38

By the grace of God may we be faithful workers to bring in the harvest.

Sarah Parnell

Recommended resources:

<https://www.rpglobalmissions.org/pray>

<https://www.rpglobalmissions.org/blog>

Men & Women of Faith Series

Christian Heroes: Then & Now