

## MISSIONS GRACE VCF PRAYER AND PRAISE BULLETIN • FALL 2020

### JOSEPH and MICHELE (Muslim World)

We continue to celebrate the completion of Joseph's dissertation. It has generated a lot of excitement both among Christians and Muslims. At least a few hundred people have requested a digital copy to read. Our friend, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar sent his congratulations and is arranging for it to be translated into Arabic so that he can read it. As Joseph has shared it in its current form with colleagues and Muslim religious leaders around the world, he has received much encouraging feedback. Here are some highlights from their remarks:



*"Congratulations to a masterful work that you should publish as soon as possible."* -  
Dissertation advisor

*"I've already read some bits of your thesis and I'm enjoying it immensely... This looks like a work of incredible scope. I'm so grateful that you've written it. Yalla for the publishable book. We really need accessible works that make the Trinity understood and exactly where the distinctions lie."* - Fellow colleague and scholar of Islam

*"You have wisely interacted with some leading Muslims over these issues...it will be a game-changer for many."*

-Fellow colleague and scholar of Islam

Joseph has been approached by a few different interested publishers for publication in both English and Arabic, so please continue to pray for decisions related to these opportunities. **Pray** also for wisdom about future books including books similarly addressing Islamic concerns about the Person of Christ, about the Cross and Atonement, about Scripture, and about Church and Umma.

### JOSÉ and FIONA (Asia)

Praise for the ability to stay in the country 3 more months.

Protection against new and increasing scrutiny.

Provision for ongoing expenses.

An outpouring of the Spirit on all meetings and safety for all involved.

Successful back surgery and healing for José.

### BRAD and LISA (San Diego Studios--Missionary Training Center for work among Muslims)

*We are now several months into Studio #8! Twelve interns (and eleven kids) have joined us for three months of study, team life, and outreach to the local community.*

*Brad is busy handling logistics and teaching peacemaking, Lisa is teaching spiritual formation and helping out with the children's program, and each of us is mentoring two interns. We love how our interns are leaning into their training, and we are quickly bonding as a community.*



***Praise God for this awesome group of new cross-cultural workers! Pray that they would learn and grow in the ways He has for them as they prepare for a lifetime of service. Pray that they would be Good News in word and deed to their Muslim neighbors.***

Lisa recently found out she has breast cancer. She has had surgery and it was confirmed that there is no lymph involvement. Her final treatment will be radiation. Pray for her as she begins treatment, for strength and minimal side effects.

Land was purchased for Lisa and Brad to begin building a home. Pray for wisdom and the resources to complete the project.

### **STACY DAVIS and Family (Africa Inland Mission)**

We had to cancel our summer trips because of Covid. **Please pray** for a virtual mission trip we are planning for Nov 30-Dec 5. Pray for it to go well in terms of technology and for God to use it to increase people's heart for missions.



Pray for new workers on open teams in Europe: Malta, Belgium, and France.

Praise for the way our teams are finding creative ways to engage with diaspora and refugees in their communities, with food outreaches, zoom ESL classes, and Bible Study. We are hearing from many of our workers that people are more open to deeper conversations because of COVID.

We are so grateful for prayers for Adam. He's at school in Colorado and doing well.

Please feel free to share this opportunity with anyone you think might be interested. Learn more and register here: <https://aimint.org/us/project/virtualmissiontrip>

### **DAVID and HEIDI (Wycliffe Bible Translators, Peru working from Texas)**

Praise

**1. Despite the pandemic (or because of it), God is at work and the East Apurímac Quechua translated Scriptures are being used to bring people to Christ and strengthen believers.**

A leader from one community said: "During this pandemic and quarantine time, many people have been seeking God. We could not open the church because the authorities did not allow us to do so, but even so, we have been meeting quietly in small numbers, because many came to my house and to the homes of other leaders so that we could talk to them about the Bible. Of several who have been seeking God, eleven people were baptized, affirming their faith in the Lord. Before the pandemic, we who congregated in the church were about 50; now we estimate that when the services reopen, we will be about 100."

Yesenia, part of the audiovisual ministry team, has been able to sell 1,714 Quechua New Testaments during this quarter! She has also delivered and monitored 504 'Messengers' and



201 'Proclaimers' (digital devices) with the Quechua audio New Testament. She has also distributed more than 2,500 brochures and books.

**2. We and the AIDIA translation team in Abancay, Peru have remained healthy and have made good progress on the checking of the translated East Apurímac Quechua Bible.** Most of the steps have been completed for the Old Testament, and we are now working through the New Testament.

Prayer

1. **For strength and wisdom for us and the translators and good progress as we continue checking and revising the Scriptures,** including many steps like key terms, parallel passages, cross-references, spelling checks, etc.
2. May the translated Quechua Scriptures continue to be used to bring people to Christ, plant new churches, and strengthen believers.
3. Protection and effective ministry for our children and their families serving around the world (Ecuador, Texas, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.)

### **BREATH OF HEAVEN CHILDREN'S VILLAGE (Zambia, Africa)**

Our mission is to provide a healing community where the children feel loved, secure, and where special care is given to their emotional, physical, educational, and spiritual development. We believe this is best accomplished in individual family homes of 12 children with a house mother and an auntie offering supervision and discipleship. In addition, these individual family units are part of a larger village community that acts as an extended family.



Our school, church, and medical clinic are an important part of each child's development and enable them to maintain contact with the surrounding community.

Our current need is financial to build the high school, medical clinic, and vocational school. The coronavirus and shutdown prevented us from having our two major fundraising events, the golf tournament, and annual dinner. Both events usually average around \$35,000 in donations. We had a virtual fundraiser in October but there was very little response. \$15,000 came in but \$10,000 came from one donor. It helped to pay for a deficit we had. But we were hoping to raise enough money for equipment for our new science lab that we just built and money for a classroom block and bathrooms. Pray with us as we continue to look to the Lord for His provision.

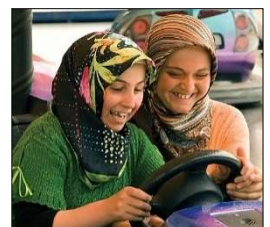
### **RON and RACHEL (Persian Speaking World via California)**

**Local - Rachel**

Pray for divine appointments each week while she goes shopping.

Praise from March 11th to October 21st Rachel has had:

- 232 Spiritual Conversations in an attempt to share the gospel.
- 200 people have received the JESUS DVD plus a tract or the JESUS Film Gift card if they didn't have a DVD player.



- Seven people have received Christ as their Savior from the countries of India, Poland, Mexico, China, Africa, and the U.S.! Praise God!!!
- We trust God that MANY MORE people, out of the 200 who received a JESUS DVD, will accept Christ after watching the movie!

### **International - Ron**

Pray for year-end projects in evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and leadership development in the Persian Speaking World.

- Praise - Ron had his first international trip in October since COVID started. He met with Persian Refugee leaders and Turkish pastors to discuss the persecution response, the need for Farsi Bibles, and the needs of Front Line Workers.

### **EDDIE and BETHANY (Cambodia)**

Pray for us as a church to be united in heart and mind to build God's kingdom here.

Pray for those getting baptized to live out their commitments.

Pray for wisdom for us as we create a family culture to raise our kids to honor God.



Praise reports. We had 8 people get baptized this week after taking courses to help them understand more about their faith.

We are restarting more village small groups because of the interest in growing in their faith.

### **JOEL and CINDY (Rainbow Transformational Ministries based in California)**

Rainbow Transformation Ministries is a non-profit organization that supports missions work and transformation projects in Africa and as well as events in the U.S. focusing on the love of God.

Pray for upcoming mission trips when COVID ends and for the Holy Spirit to bless all of their ministry endeavors.



### **SPONSORED CHILDREN in India and Zambia**

Ruchita	Born 2006-Success in school and good health
Ajith	Born 2005-success in school and good health
Melvin	Born 2000-Bless his time in college pursuing a career in agriculture.

For their walk with Christ to be strong and for blessing and favor for their future plans.



**HONDURAS VINEYARD MISSIONS PARTNERSHIP w/ Phoenix Vineyard Christian Fellowship**

From our Honduras team. This week (Nov. 2) Honduras got hit really hard by Hurricane Eta. The North Coast of Honduras is literally underwater. The airport we always fly in to is completely flooded. The Vineyard churches are okay and aren't in highly affected areas but there is flooding throughout the whole country. Completely devastating for the people especially with COVID.



