



## Daily Prayer Guide



Ask of me,  
and I will make the nations your inheritance,  
the ends of the earth your possession.

Psalm 2:8

**April 2009**

Our daily prayer requests can be found on our  
MBMS International web page: [www.mbmsi.org](http://www.mbmsi.org)

*Thank you for praying! We believe prayer is the foundation of our ministry and you are a valuable partner in our vision of transforming lives in mission.*

### NEW FEATURE

Exciting stories of prayer are now included in the Daily Prayer Guide on the back of the calendar!

**“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will.”**

*Mark 11:24*

This Daily Prayer Guide is available monthly via email or post. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to this publication, please contact Ann Zauner with your email or mailing address.

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## April 1-4

### Wednesday [1]: Alfredo & Sandra Beltran

**Mexico**

Pray for Alfredo & Sandra as they serve the RETO church in Guadalajara by providing pastoral leadership to this young, growing congregation. Praise God for the Colombian MB Conference, which has sent this gifted couple to serve in a location where religion is a way of life but faith is sometimes hard to find. Pray that God will continue to sustain the Beltrons and give them vision for His plans in their city. Pray that their sons Daniel and David will continue to grow in their walk with the Lord, and pray that the relationship between the Beltrons and the Matthew Team will continue to be fruitful.

*"Thou art my rock and my fortress; for thy name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net which is hidden for me, for thou art my refuge." Psalm 31:3-4*

### Thursday [2]: MBMSI Board of Directors

**Winnipeg**

MBMSI's Board of Directors is comprised of men and women from the MB Conferences in the United States and Canada. These nine volunteers dedicate their time and expertise, providing oversight and strategic guidance to MBMSI staff and missionaries. Pray for the Board as they meet today and tomorrow in Winnipeg, MB. Pray that they will be attentive to the Lord's voice and filled with wisdom as they discern and set direction for MBMSI. Pray for each board member by name: Ike Bergen, Brent Warkentin, Beatrice Pauls, Bruce Enns, Lowell Stutzman, Leo Regier, Ruth Schale, Rick Reimer and David Marshall.

*"When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and they know his voice." John 10:4*

### Friday [3]: Cynthia Friesen

**Thailand**

Cynthia serves as part of the Operation 2nd Wave team in Phuket with the purpose of seeing God's glory revealed and His light shining so that no one is left walking in darkness. Pray for Cynthia as she connects with and serves a wide variety of people in her city. Pray that the Lord will continue to fill her with peace and joy along with vision for the ministry to which He has called her. Praise God for her obedience to follow Him to this challenging part of the world. Pray that O2W will be known for their unity and deep love for one another as they adjust to the departure of teammates Amber & Amanda Griffioen, who recently completed a three-year term.

*"For the Kingdom of God does not mean food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit; ...Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding." Romans 14:17, 19*

### Saturday [4]: Laurence & Leona Hiebert

**Japan**

Laurence and Leona have served in Japan for many years, and have made the decision to return to Canada while their children finish school. They wrote recently "Please join us in praying for understanding into what God's will is during this next season in our lives. In addition we ask that you pray for our

congregation and the Japan MB Conference as we make plans to hand over the leadership of the church to a Japanese pastoral couple. Pray for unity and courage to walk the path that God has in mind for our congregation."

*"For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you showed for His sake in serving the saints, as you still do." Hebrews 6:10*

## April 5-11

### Sunday [5]: Barbara Block

**India**

As Barbara ministers to children in the Kodaikanal International School and the Bethania Home for Children, pray that she will have the ability to understand their needs and the wisdom to know how to meet those needs. Pray that the students will learn truth about God as they study art with Barbara, and praise God for her gifts and obedience to use them in a way that glorifies Him. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless the relationships that she has with the community around her, and pray that this community will provide opportunities for her to both encourage and be encouraged.

*"And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship." Exodus 31:3*

### Monday [6]: Ken & Marilyn Fast

**Brazil**

Ken & Marilyn have served at Pan American Christian Academy in Sao Paolo for 30 years, and will be finishing their service with MBMSI and moving to the United States this summer. Praise God for their faithful service! God has used Ken & Marilyn in mighty ways, impacting the lives of their students, neighbors and friends in Brazil. Praise God that He has built a lasting legacy through them and pray for a smooth transition as they adjust to a new season of life. Pray for others to take their place at PACA, at Calvary International Church, in their neighborhood, and in the lives of their friends who still need to experience Jesus' love.

*".....Be strong and of good courage, and do it. Fear not, be not dismayed; for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished." 1 Chronicles 28:20*

### Tuesday [7]: Missionary Training Institute (MTI) Abbotsford, BC

Pray for the missionary candidates who finish eight months of training tomorrow. As they enter a season of mobilization, pray that God will give them many meaningful connections with churches and individuals. Pray that God will provide the support they need in order to begin their formal service. These missionaries will be going to countries like Thailand, Germany, Japan, and a new Restricted Access Country. Pray that God will use these next months to continue to prepare them for service. Praise God for raising up this group of

people who have been bold enough to answer His call, and praise God for the next group of missionary candidates who are already lined up to begin MTI in September, 2009.

*".....Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations...."*  
*Romans 1:4b, 5*

### **Wednesday [8]: Lead Team**

### **Abbotsford, BC**

As the Lead Team meets today, pray that God will speak clearly while they engage in discernment and decision-making. Pray for each Lead Team member by name-Randy Friesen, General Director; Ray Harms-Wiebe, Global Program; Paul Dyck, Member Care; Selwyn Uittenbosch, Finance & Administration; JP Hayashida, Operations, IT & Media. Praise God for the team He has assembled, and for the heart each of these men has to see lives transformed by the power of the Gospel. Pray for continued unity on this team.

*"Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually! Remember the wonderful works that he has done, the wonders he wrought, the judgments he uttered." I Chronicles 16:10-12*

### **Thursday [9]: Baudouin & Marie-Brigitte Nsulunka South Africa**

The Durban MB Church, pastored by Baudouin & Marie-Brigitte, recently opened a day-care in their church. Pray that the day-care will be a bridge between the church and the community, and that through this ministry many families will be blessed and will be introduced to Jesus. Pray that the Lord will grant vision to Baudouin & Marie-Brigitte as they serve, and pray that the Lord will bring spiritual revival to their church and their community.

*"Whosoever shall receive one such child in my name, receives me; and whosoever shall receive me, receives not me, but him that sent me." Mark 9:37*

### **Friday [10]: Blaine & Michelle Warner**

### **Burkina Faso**

Blaine & Michelle recently wrote, "the new church in N'dorola is a happening place. They still meet in the Bergen's courtyard on Sundays but during the week there are many other activities. There is a prayer group, women's Bible study, youth night, children's night, and children's Bible study which is like Sunday School. This is so different from when we left in 2007 and the church didn't yet exist. Please pray for the growth of this church in the knowledge of God's Word and for their love for one another." Pray that the Warner's transition back into life in Burkina Faso will be smooth and joy-filled.

*"We also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers." I Thessalonians 2:13*

### **Saturday [11]: Otto & Marjorie Ekk**

### **Portugal**

Otto and Marjorie have spent the past few months connecting with supporting churches, family and friends in North America and are returning this month to Lisbon. Praise God for the growth He has brought in the five church plants served by the Ekks and their team. Pray that friends and neighbors will continue to be attracted to and intrigued by the activities they see at the churches and that many of them will turn to Jesus. As the Ekks transition back into life in Portugal, pray that they will be able to reconnect meaningfully in their community.

*"And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord." Isaiah 11:2*

**April 12-18**

### **Sunday [12]: Jim & Marilou Nightingale**

### **Brazil**

Jim & Marilou are continuing to develop a training and retreat centre to serve the Brazil MB Conference. Praise God that programs and activities are starting to happen even while they continue to develop, repair, and build the facilities. Pray that God will give them vision for future programs and the boldness to move forward with innovative ideas. Praise God for the help they have received from a number of short term teams, including a TREK team, an ACTION: Generations team, and a church team who have all served by praying, doing physical labor, and engaging in relationships with Brazilian people.

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil." Ecclesiastes 4:9*

### **Monday [13]: Otto & Lidia Funk**

### **Peru**

Pray for Otto & Lidia as they serve the Peru MB Conference. This couple is committed to making God's love known, especially among youth and young adults. Pray that God will bless them with unity, wisdom and love as they serve as well as energy and health. Pray that God will continue to direct them with clarity, opening doors for them as they take steps of obedience and faith.

*"But this thing I commanded them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people: and walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you." Jeremiah 7:23*

### **Tuesday [14]: Trever & Joan Godard**

### **Mexico**

Trever & Joan serve in Guadalajara, which was once the center for training and sending out Franciscan monks who eventually founded all the Catholic mission stations throughout Mexico and along the coast of California. From this strategic place between North America and the countries of Latin America, Trever and Joan believe God can redeem and restore His missional call. Pray with them that God will provide the place, the funds, and the people to make the dream of the Matthew Training Centre a reality. Pray also that the Matthew Team will continue to experience great unity and love for one another.

*"The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Deuteronomy 33:27*

### **Wednesday [15]: Operations Team**

### **Abbotsford, BC**

Pray for JP Hayashida as he provides leadership to the Operations Team in MBMSI's Abbotsford office. The Operations Team provides logistical and technical support to all aspects of MBMSI ministry. Team Members also include Mark Klassen, Ann Zauner and Joanne Toews. Pray that this team will find joy in their service as they perform tasks that are behind the scenes. Praise God for building a team of people who are committed to using their gifts and abilities to further the Kingdom of God. *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."* Ephesians 5:1, 2

### **Thursday [16]: J & F**

### **RESTRICTED**

J and F serve in a part of the world that is politically closed to the gospel, but they have had many opportunities to share Christ's love with their friends and neighbors. Over the past few years they have built relationship with a couple whose young son suffers from unexplained seizures. Pray that God will do a work of healing in this young boy, and that this entire family will recognize their need for Jesus. Pray that God will use J and F to encourage and challenge this family to put their faith in the Living God, rather than in idols and monks. *"That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick."* Matthew 8:16

### **Friday [17]: Kevin & Karlene Klassen**

### **Thailand**

Kevin and Karlene serve with the Operation 2nd Wave team in Phuket. They recently wrote, "One thing that I am often reminded of is how many people are praying for us. We can't thank you enough for this. I wonder how many decisions have been made easier because of peoples' prayers. How many tough circumstances would have been unbearable without your prayers. How many conversations about God have gone better than could be hoped for because people back home are praying? I know that we need to remember that it is all about the power of God and all to His glory. But don't forget that in His infinite wisdom, He has chosen to make our prayers incredibly powerful. Our prayers have an effect on the world around us. So please continue to pray and thank God for all that He is doing." *"I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge - even as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ."* I Corinthians 1:4-8

### **Saturday [18]: Wendy Eros**

### **Japan**

As Wendy teaches ESL in Nagoya, she interacts daily with students who do not yet have a relationship with Jesus. Praise God that many of these students have been asking questions about faith, and pray that Wendy will have the opportunity to teach them about the life-transforming grace and power of God. As Wendy

prepares to leave Japan in July, in order to participate in the MBMSI Missionary Training Institute, pray that a replacement will be raised up to fill her role in Japan.

*"For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."* Isaiah 55:12

## **April 19-25**

### **Sunday [19]: Member Care Volunteers**

### **Worldwide**

God has blessed MBMSI with a team of gifted, caring individuals who volunteer their time to encourage and support MBMSI missionaries with visits on the field. Ron & Betty Russell, John & Isabelle Balzer, and Frank & Esther Martens are all committed to using their gifts to pour into missionaries on the front lines. As these volunteers provide practical help, encouragement, prayer ministry and love, pray that God will use them to refresh, renew and revitalize our missionaries. Pray that these couples will be blessed with discernment, wisdom and grace as they minister. Praise God that he has already used these couples as agents of healing and encouragement for a number of MBMSI missionaries, and pray that the MBMSI Member Care team will be able to discern where their ministry is needed. *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God."* Colossians 3:16

### **Monday [20]: Russ & Marj Speiser**

### **France**

The Speisers are involved in a variety of creative ministries using the arts. They are based in France but serve throughout Europe and N. Africa. Pray that they will have abundant creativity that will enable them to communicate the gospel clearly and innovatively. Pray that God will keep them safe as they travel and that God will bless them with the ability to connect well across multiple cultural and linguistic boundaries. Pray also that God will continue to sustain and grow the church plant near Paris in which they are involved. *"Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, even I, will sing unto the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel."* Judges 5:3

### **Tuesday [21]: Rob & Judy Griffioen**

### **Thailand**

Rob and Judy provide leadership to the Operation 2nd Wave team in Phuket. Pray for them as they seek to be a strategic presence in this city that desperately needs Jesus. Pray that the team will have many opportunities to share the love of God in creative ways in their community. Pray that God will help Rob and Judy to transition as their daughters Amber and Amanda return to Canada after serving

alongside them for three years. Praise God for this wonderful family, and pray that they will continue to have close relationships with one another.

*“He who plants and he who waters are equal, and each shall receive his wages according to his labor. For we are fellow workers for God; you are God’s field, God’s building.” 1 Corinthians 3:8,9*

### **Wednesday [22]: Robert & Anne Thiessen**

#### **Mexico**

Robert & Anne, serving in southern Mexico, wrote recently, “A few weeks ago our church piled fifty people into six cars and drove out twenty minutes to a graceful waterfall. Rodrigo stepped into the water, and he came up beaming.” Praise God for Roderigo’s choice to be baptized! Already, Roderigo’s action is challenging others in the community to think more deeply about faith and consider following Christ. Pray that God will continue to move in and through the church members, making Himself known both to and through them. Pray for God’s continued direction and inspiration of Robert & Anne’s ministry.

*“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: ‘Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name; make known his deeds among the nations, proclaim that his name is exalted.’” Isaiah 12:3, 4*

### **Thursday [23]: John & Evelyn Wiens**

#### **Ukraine**

John & Ev are currently hosting seven young adults who are serving with the TREK program. Pray that the TREKers will serve as a catalyst for new relationships to be built in the community, and pray that John & Ev will be blessed and encouraged. Pray that as John & Ev continue language study, God will enable them to understand and remember well. Pray that as they practice speaking Russian with their neighbors, God will give them many chances to share the reason for their presence in Zaporozhye. Pray that God will use John & Ev’s gifts in discipleship, teaching and hospitality to bless and encourage the growing church in Ukraine.

*“He came for a testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.” John 1:7*

### **Friday [24]: Ernie & Elfrieda Reimer**

#### **Lithuania**

Ernie and Elfrieda live in Canada and serve various ministries in Lithuania from a distance. Pray that God will continue to use them in significant ways as they encourage and support churches and ministries in Lithuania. Pray that God will give them strategic opportunities to share their wisdom with the next generation of Lithuanian Christian leaders, and praise God for their many years of service and experience. Pray that God will continue to call out and equip a new generation of Christian leaders for service in Lithuania.

*“I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations; therefore the peoples will praise you for ever and ever.” Psalm 45:17*

### **Saturday [25]: Samir & Lewiza**

#### **RESTRICTED**

Praise God for the exciting and effective ministry He has given Samir, Lewiza, and their team. As they continue to disciple and train believers and leaders throughout North Africa, pray that God will give them protection and favor. Praise God that He is drawing many people to Himself, and that He has placed bold leaders in strategic locations to provide pastoral care and discipleship. Pray for the safety of these leaders. As the larger team produces evangelistic satellite TV programs and training material, pray that God will grant them creativity and wisdom. Pray that God will continue to connect seekers with these programs and that many people will decide to follow Jesus as a result.

*“So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.” Acts 14:3*

### **April 26-30**

### **Sunday [26]: Spring Adventure**

#### **Abbotsford, BC**

A group of people considering pursuing a long term commitment with MBMSI will gather in Abbotsford today for a week of training and discernment. Pray for Al Stobbe as he gives leadership to this event, as well as the other staff and volunteers who will provide support through teaching, cooking, discerning and planning. Pray that this will be a time when God directs people with clarity and that each participant will leave the week with a greater commitment to serving God wholeheartedly, wherever He leads.

*“Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you; and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all men, as we do to you, so that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.” 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13*

### **Monday [27]: Sandra Plett**

#### **Mexico**

As Sandra serves on the Matthew Team in Guadalajara, pray that God will continue to bless her with unified and harmonious team relationships. Pray that God will place Sandra into strategic relationships where she has opportunities to share the Gospel and encourage people towards faith and discipleship. Pray that God will direct and guide the ongoing development of the Matthew Training Center, and pray that it will have a significant impact on those who are trained and that many missionaries from Latin America will be sent around the globe as a result of the MTC.

*“Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal.” John 6:27*

### **Tuesday [28]: Office Staff**

#### **Abbotsford, BC**

The international office of MBMSI in Abbotsford is a hub of activity which supports ministries around the globe. Pray for unity and vision among the staff, wise decision-making, energy and joy. The Abbotsford Office is home to a number

of different teams: Operations, Media, Finance, Global Program, Member Care, TREK and DMI. Pray that these teams will all continue to work well together, and that the connection with regional offices will remain strong and effective.

*"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one." I Corinthians 12:4-6*

### **Wednesday [29]: Bob & Christine Davis**

#### **Thailand**

Praise God that Chris recently passed her Level One Thai exam, and pray that God will continue to bless her efforts as she studies this very difficult language. Praise God as well that on the day Chris passed her exam, she learned that her language teacher from her first year in Thailand has decided to follow Christ even though she comes from a strong Buddhist background and may face persecution from her family. Pray that God will give this woman the strength she needs in order to grow in her faith, as well as great joy in serving the King of kings. Praise God that He has drawn many people to himself through Bob & Chris, and the Bethel Church plant in Chachoengsao.

*"Let all who take refuge in thee rejoice, let them ever sing for joy; and do thou defend them, that those who love thy name may exult in thee. For thou dost bless the righteous, O Lord; thou dost cover him with favor as with a shield." Psalm 5:11-12*

### **Thursday [30]: Melvin & Gudrun Warkentin**

#### **Paraguay**

Pray for Melvin & Gudrun as they serve at the Indian Bible Institute and Yalve Sange High School. Pray that God will continue to enable them to connect meaningfully with their students so that they can challenge and encourage the next generation to be faithful, passionate followers of Jesus. Praise God for their faithful service over many years, and pray for ongoing strength and renewed vision. Pray that as Melvin & Gudrun seek God, He will continue to fill them with knowledge, creativity and the ability to teach well.

*"...I bow down my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man." Ephesians 3:14-16*

#### **Please also pray for:**

Robert & Marlene, Restricted  
Phil & Carol Bergen, Burkina Faso  
Jason & Andrea Edwards, Brazil  
Sandra Fender, Thailand  
Doris Goertz, Japan  
Melanie Humphreys, Lithuania  
Phone Keo & Chansone, Restricted  
Mark & Amy, Restricted  
Stacy Kuhns, Mexico  
Tim & Denice Kuhns, Brazil  
Murray & Faith Nickel, DR Congo

Saji & Bindu, Restricted  
Greg & Becky Ouellette, Thailand  
Andy & Carmen Owen, Thailand  
Liana Penner, Peru  
Jose & Esperanza Prada, Peru  
Ricky & Karen Sanchez, Thailand  
Jennifer Schmidt, Mexico  
Dave & Louise Sinclair-Peters  
Kevin & Wendy, Restricted  
John & Geri Ervin, Worldwide  
Vic & Marty Wiens, Worldwide  
Einer & Girsela Zuluaga, Panama

## **Prayer for the Nations**

### **Paraguay**



During the 20th century, Paraguay survived through dictatorships, wars with its neighbors, and military rule. It now functions as a democracy. The Roman Catholic Church has long dominated the spiritual and political life of Paraguay. Although the Catholic

Church speaks out against immorality and corruption, there is also much superstitious traditionalism present in the faith expressions of many Catholic Paraguayans. Most Paraguayan Protestants are in immigrant European or Korean communities and live isolated from the majority of the population.

#### **Please pray:**

- that there will be significant growth in the number of ethnic Paraguayans who turn to Jesus.
- that the Christian Bible schools in the nation will continue to develop a new generation of devoted Christian leaders.
- for MBMSI missionaries Melvin and Gudrun Warkentin, as they provide a biblical foundation for lay church workers among tribal groups.
- that as the Mennonite World Conference and many other related meetings take place in Paraguay this summer, many people in the city of Asuncion will have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

#### **CALL THE OFFICE IN YOUR AREA**

**1.888.866.6267 (Regional Office)**

**1.866.964.7627 (International Office)**

[www.mbmsi.org](http://www.mbmsi.org)