



Daily Prayer Guide



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

Psalm 2:8

December 2008

Our daily prayer requests can be found on our
MBMS International web page: 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.

“God’s voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding.”

Job 37:5

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.

e: annz@mbmsi.org
p: 604.859.6267

December 1-6

Monday [1]: Binational MB Conference Meeting

As leaders from the US and Canadian MB Conferences and ministries gather today and tomorrow for meetings, **pray** that the Holy Spirit would be present and would guide discussions and decisions. **Pray** that these meetings will be marked by unity, humility and worship. **Pray** for the safe travel of each of the participants as they head to Denver. **Pray** that this will be a time of mutual encouragement and **pray** that each leader will return to his or her ministry passionate and energized about what God is doing in the broader MB community.

"I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment." I Corinthians 1:10

Tuesday [2]: Badouin & Marie-Brigitte Nsulunka South Africa

The Nsulunkas have been in the process of registering their church plant in Durban for many months with the Social Development Department of South Africa. **Praise** the Lord that this process is finally complete and they have received their certificate of registration and their certified constitution. **Pray** that this new certification would pave the way for church growth. This month, Badouin will be traveling to Cape Town to work toward planting an MB church. **Pray** that God would open doors before him and that he would raise up strategic leaders in Cape Town for ministry there. **Pray** for the Nsulunka's children, Priscilla and Joel, as they are engaged in some important examinations at school this month.

"...preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching." 2 Timothy 4:2

Wednesday [3]: Jim & Francine RESTRICTED

Jim & Francine are preparing to return to Asia this month after spending several months in North America. **Praise** God that these months have been encouraging and refreshing, and that God has orchestrated many new relationships with individuals and churches who are interested in coming alongside their ministry. **Pray** for inspiration from the Holy Spirit and for their hearts to be readied for the transition back to Asia. They report that they are encouraged to hear that children in their neighborhood continue to stop by their house and look forward to seeing them again soon. **Pray** for soft hearts and a hunger for Jesus.

"And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward." I Kings 13:7

Thursday [4]: Wendy Eros Japan

Wendy has been serving the MB church in Japan as an ESL teacher for 2 years. In her work, she is often the first relational bridge that her students have to a Christian. In this strategic role, **pray** that Wendy would have great favor with those in her classes,

and abundant opportunity to talk about her relationship with Jesus. **Pray** that her students would be eager and adept English students, and also very curious about Wendy's faith. **Pray** for continued strong relationships between Wendy and the churches she serves, and **pray** that Wendy will be able to articulate why Christians celebrate Christmas in a way that her students will be able to understand.

"He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and rampart." Psalms 91:4

Friday [5]: Samir & Lewiza RESTRICTED

Samir and Lewiza are involved in many media ministries, reaching out to Arabic speaking people in North Africa and the Middle East. They also support a network of house churches in North Africa, providing training and discipleship. **Pray** that many people would come to saving faith in Jesus as a result of watching Samir & Lewiza's satellite television programs. Their team includes individuals from North America and North Africa. **Pray** for unity, continued vision and effective communication as the team works together in spite of their geographic and cultural distance from one another. **Pray** that the church leaders in North Africa will continue to be effective in ministry in the midst of challenging political circumstances.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

Saturday [6]: John & Evelyn Wiens Ukraine

John & Ev continue to study the Russian language and Ukrainian culture as they settle in to long term ministry in Ukraine. **Pray** that the Lord will provide them with many relationships with neighbors, community members, seekers and fellow believers. **Pray** that John & Ev will be a real encouragement to the six churches connected to MBMSI and that they will have growing vision for ministry and engagement in Ukraine. **Praise** God that the gospel is taking fresh root in people's hearts and lives in Ukraine after many years of the suppression of religion, and **pray** for all of the pastors, church leaders and missionaries who minister in this context. **Pray** that Ukraine, the birthplace of the MB denomination, will continue to be a place where many people encounter Jesus.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Luke 4:18

December 7-13

Sunday [7]: Blaine & Michelle Warner Burkina Faso

Blaine & Michelle are currently on Mobilization in North America as they prepare to return to Burkina Faso. For the past few months, Blaine & Michelle have been visiting a number of churches and individuals who are part of their support team, and today they are visiting Heritage Bible Church in Bakersfield, CA. **Pray** that these connections will continue to encourage them and that Blaine & Michelle will be able to call the people they meet to consider how God is calling them to engage in

global mission. Blaine & Michelle are planning to return to Burkina Faso in January to assist Phil & Carol Bergen in administration and developing a literacy program as they work on translating the Bible into Nanerige. **Pray** that the church that has been started in this last year would continue to grow and that the unbelievers who attend each week will embrace Jesus as Lord.

"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy". I Corinthians 4:1-2

Monday [8]: Robert and Marlene

RESTRICTED

Robert and Marlene are currently in North America, connecting with individuals and churches that support them, during a season of Mobilization in North America (MINA). Praise God that lives are being transformed in the Central Asian country where Robert and Marlene serve. Pray that churches will be established and that new believers will have an opportunity to grow and be disciplined. As Robert and Marlene spend time in North America, pray that they will experience rejuvenation, a reignited vision for ministry, and that their support team will have renewed excitement about the ministry in which they are participating from a distance.

"I will tell of your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise your Name." Psalm 22:22

Tuesday [9]: Russ & Marj Speiser

France

Pray for Russ & Marj, who are involved in a church plant and also evangelism across Europe through the creative arts. **Pray** that as they travel, they would be able to remain rooted in the love of Christ and that their joy and passion for the Lord will be contagious. **Pray** that many people will come to know Jesus as a result of their music, videos, teaching and other projects. **Pray** that God will continue to give them favor as they cross national and cultural boundaries throughout Europe and that they will continue to witness the fact that the gospel of Jesus transcends culture.

"Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name." 2 Samuel 22:50

Wednesday [10]: Lead Team Summit

The MBMSI Lead Team will begin three days of meetings today. **Pray** that as they discern future ministry direction the Lord will speak with clarity. **Praise** God for the wonderful team he has brought together, and **pray** that this team will continue to grow in love and unity. **Pray** for Randy Friesen (General Director), Ray Harms-Wiebe (Global Program), Selwyn Uittenbosch (Finance and Administration), JP Hayashida (Operations and IT), and Paul Dyck (Member Care) as they provide oversight and leadership to the ministry of MBMS International. **Pray** that their families will remain strong, and that these leaders will continue to be encouraged by all that the Lord is doing.

"May the God of peace....by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ..." Hebrews 13:20-21

Thursday [11]: Ricky & Karen Sanchez

Thailand

If you have had the privilege of meeting Ricky & Karen or hearing them speak, you know that this is a high-energy couple who are passionate about Jesus, committed to sharing His love and power, and excited about the things that they have witnessed God doing in Thailand. As they spend this month doing Mobilization in North America, **pray** that God would continue to orchestrate strategic meetings and relationships as they challenge people to engage in ministry. **Pray** also that they would be refreshed and rejuvenated as they connect with family and friends, and prepare to return to The Life Center church plant and the Abundant Life Home orphanage for children with HIV/AIDS in Chonburi.

"Just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please men, but to please God who tests our hearts." I Thessalonians 2:4

Friday [12]: Laurence & Leona Hiebert

Japan

Pray that the church that the Hieberts serve in Toyota City will be a dynamic presence in the community, and that people will be drawn to Jesus as a result of what they see in the lives of the Hieberts and others from the church. Most people the Hieberts know work as engineers, designers, managers, assemblers, or parts manufacturers. They are committed to their work and have little interest in spiritual things. **Pray** that God will break into these people's hearts and lives, as He has done with "Mr. N" and his family, "Mr. Y" and Ryou. **Praise** God that He has given these men new life and **pray** that He will continue to give them strength to live a life of faith.

"Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other." Deuteronomy 4:39

Saturday [13]: Greg & Becky Ouellette

Thailand

Greg & Becky serve with the Operation Second Wave team in Phuket which has recently become involved with weekly women's prison ministry in their city. **Pray** for Lek, Tong, Sao and Benz who, through English lessons and Bible teaching are expressing real interest and hunger to know more about God. **Pray** that these four women will be the start of a significant transformation in the prison and that many inmates will choose to follow the living God. **Pray** for their marriage, and that their children, Caleb, Emma, Luke & Silas, would connect well in the community around them.

"I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly. May your love and your truth always protect me." Psalm 40:10-11

December 14-20

Sunday [14]: Trever & Joan Godard

Mexico

Trever and Joan provide leadership to the MBMSI Matthew Team, and Trever also serves as country leader for MBMSI ministries throughout Mexico. As they lead, **pray** for wisdom, grace and vision. One of the ministries that Trever and Joan are

investing in is the Matthew Training Center, a missionary training center that will train Latino people and others for missionary service around the globe. **Pray** for those now being trained at MTC, and **pray** for those who will be trained next year. **Pray** that Trever & Joan's daughter, Kenia, will continue to be a bright light among the youth of Guadalajara and that they as a family will experience joy as they serve in Mexico. As they spend time this month in North America, **pray** that they will be encouraged and refreshed.

"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant, I have chosen you and I have not rejected you'." Isaiah 41:9

Monday [15]: Otto & Marjorie Ekk

Portugal

The Ekks lead an emerging church in the outskirts of Lisbon and give leadership and vision for two more church plants along with other projects in Portugal. Today, the Ekks are beginning a few months of Mobilization in North America. **Pray** that this would be a time of refreshment and encouragement, and that their team in Portugal would remain strong during their absence. **Praise** the Lord that Bruno, a youth from one of their churches, has accepted the Lord. As he is mentored, **pray** that he will grow in his faith and draw closer to Jesus.

"He gives them security, and they are supported; and his eyes are upon their ways."

Job 24:23

Tuesday [16]: Victor & Marty Wiens

Worldwide

Vic and Marty are using their years of experience serving as missionaries in Brazil to serve as resource missionaries to the Portuguese-speaking world and to provide support to Latin American MB Conferences as they mobilize missionaries. **Pray** that Vic will have favor with church leadership as he travels, and **pray** that God will give him wisdom as he provides counsel in a variety of settings. **Pray** for safety for Vic as he travels and pray that he and Marty will remain closely connected while they are geographically separated. **Praise** God for this faithful couple who continue to be passionate about using their gifts to serve in the kingdom of God.

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart." Isaiah 40:11

Wednesday [17]: Kevin & Karlene Klassen

Thailand

Kevin & Karlene are a part of the Operation 2nd Wave team and have been living in Phuket for the past year. **Praise** God for the boldness and faith He has given this team to stand against tangible darkness in their city and pray for continued courage to proclaim the name of Jesus to people who have never before heard the good news. **Pray** for unity of purpose and vision among the O2W team and praise God for the lives that are already being transformed in Phuket. **Pray** that churches will continue to grow and be established in that city.

"For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies and give you victory." Deuteronomy 20:4

Thursday [18]: Melvin & Gudrun Warkentin

Paraguay

Pray for Melvin and Gudrun as they serve at the Indian Bible Institute in Yalve Sange, Paraguay. As Melvin teaches pastoral ministries to students, **pray** that God would give him insight into the types of training that these students need in order to minister effectively to their own people group. The indigenous people that the Warkentins are serving come from an animistic worldview. **Pray** that new converts would come to grasp the truths of a holy God who calls them to a life of repentance, faith and obedience, and that they would be able to live lives that reflect the love of Jesus.

"The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death."

Proverbs 13:14

Friday [19]: Jim & Marilou Nightingale

Brazil

The Nightingales are serving in Sao Paulo and are working with MB churches developing a camping ministry for children, young people, couples and families. Another component of this ministry will be a Pastor and Leadership Retreat Center. **Pray** for the team of six TREK participants who will be joining them in ministry through May, 2009. As the MB conference in Brazil grows and expands, **pray** that the Lord will continue to put godly people in positions of leadership and discernment. **Pray** that Jim and Marilou will be able to lead with integrity, vision, obedience and passion.

"If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." Romans 12:7-8

Saturday [20]: Sandra Plett

Mexico

Sandra is one of the first people to complete MBMSI's three-year Jornada program, and has made a commitment to serve longer term in Guadalajara as part of the Matthew Team. As she spends this month in Manitoba connecting with individuals and churches who are part of her team through prayer and financial support, **pray** that Sandra and her team will be mutually encouraged. **Pray** that God will enable Sandra to communicate the stories of life transformation that God has been orchestrating in Mexico with clarity, passion and joy, and pray for a smooth transition back to ministry in Guadalajara in January.

"I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us – yes the many good things he has done... according to his compassion and many kindnesses." Isaiah 63:7

December 21-27

Sunday [21]: Robert & Anne Thiessen

Mexico

Robert & Anne are involved in a number of church plants among the Mixteco people of Mexico. **Pray** that they will have increasing opportunities to connect with their landlords and neighbors and pray that God would put people into their path who

want to know the good news of God's coming into our world. **Pray** that the Lord would continue to give Robert & Anne clarity of vision and discernment about the ministries where He would have them pour their energy. **Pray** that the Thiessen's presence in their community would continue to shine light in dark places.

"I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes."

Psalm 119:125

Monday [22]: Richard & Hazel Funk

Austria

The Funks are involved in teaching, preaching, counseling and mentoring in Salzburg and throughout the Mennonite Brethren conference in Austria. As they train and support people in leadership roles, **pray** that the Lord will give them great wisdom and discernment. **Pray** also that the MB conference in Austria would be used by God as a vital community of transformation in that nation, and that the leaders would continue to walk in humility, obedience and grace. **Pray** specifically for each of the MB churches in Austria: Vienna, Gmunden, Salzburg, Linz, Wels, Steyr.

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being." Ephesians 3:14-16

Tuesday [23]: Mark & Amy

RESTRICTED

Mark & Amy are church planting in South Asia. **Pray** that Kyle & Andrea, who will be interning with Mark & Amy for the next six months, will be able to adjust quickly to their new surroundings and that their hearts will be ready for what God has for them. **Pray** that these couples will experience unity as a team and that God will open up many opportunities for them to impact their friends and neighbors with the gospel. **Praise** God for the way God has enabled Mark & Amy to connect meaningfully with people in their community and **pray** that God will transform hearts and plant a church.

"No one is like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power." Jeremiah 10:6

Wednesday [24]: Amber & Amanda Griffioen

Thailand

Amber & Amanda Griffioen are participants in MBMSI's three-year Jornada program, serving with the Operation 2nd Wave team in Phuket. In a recent prayer letter, they wrote "We know Jesus is victorious and that He reigns. We really believe that the floodgates of God's spirit is going to burst open in this nation and in Phuket really soon. It's right around the corner. What a privilege and honor we have to join the commander (Jesus Christ) of the army, who has already won the victory against the enemy. Please join us in declaring this song over Phuket, Thailand, and the world. Join us in praising Jesus for all He is doing and is going to do in Phuket and in Thailand. Join us in singing this song out over Phuket, over Thailand, and over the world."

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Thursday [25]: Otto & Lidia Funk

Peru

The Funks live and serve in Lima, along with Jose and Esperanza Prada. **Pray** for wisdom as they spend much time and energy working with the young people of the church plant. **Pray** also that their team would have unity, and that they will be able to show love and support for each other consistently. As the Funks and Pradas minister in Lima, **pray** that the congregation would grow both numerically and in their commitment to Jesus. **Pray** for the MB Conference in Peru, who recently appointed a new leader, Pastor George Rodriguez from Trujillo.

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." Isaiah 12:3

Friday [26]: Phil and Carol Bergen

Burkina Faso

Phil and Carol are investing their lives in reaching the Nanerige people of Burkina Faso with the gospel. Praise God for the growth of a church plant that has started within this past year. **Praise** the Lord that several believers were baptized recently at the first baptism service that the new church has had. **Praise** God that he is working in the hearts and lives of Nanerige people. **Pray** that more people would come to know Jesus. **Pray** that as Phil and Carol are joined by Blaine and Michelle Warner in the near future, that there will be much mutual encouragement and that they would quickly be united as a team.

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus." Romans 15:5

Saturday [27]: Cynthia Friesen

Thailand

Cynthia serves on the Operation 2nd Wave team in Phuket. As Cynthia and her team take a bold stand against tangible darkness in their city, **pray** that she will be strengthened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit. **Pray** that she will continually lean on the Lord as she engages in ministry. God has granted Cynthia the opportunity to build relationships with many girls in her community. **Pray** that the truth of Jesus will penetrate their hearts and minds as Cynthia spends time with them. **Pray** that God will continue to grow her deep love for Thai people and culture. **Pray** that the O2W vision of "Jesus transforming communities through a holistic church planting movement in Phuket and beyond" will happen.

"May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17

December 28-31

Sunday [28]: Jason & Andrea Edwards

Brazil

Jason and Andrea are serving at Pan American Christian Academy (PACA) in Sao Paulo, and are also involved in a Mennonite Brethren church plant near the school. As Jason and Andrea engage in the lives of students, athletes and national workers on the PACA campus, they ask that we would "please **pray** that God will continue to work in each of their lives and that His Spirit will soften the hard places in their hearts so that in His timing each of them may come to know the wonderful Good News personally." **Pray** also that the church plant

Continued...

with which they are involved will grow and that many people will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus as a result of the ministry of the church.

"Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants." Deuteronomy 32:2

Monday [29]: Ken & Marilyn Fast

Brazil

For twenty years, Ken & Marilyn have faithfully served as missionaries at Pan American Christian Academy in Sao Paolo. This year marks their final year in Brazil. **Praise** God for this couple who have generously given so much of their time, gifts, energy and love to the students at PACA. Please **pray** that God will bring others to fill in and continue their various roles at PACA and at their church, Calvary International, after they leave Brazil. **Pray** that they will have the energy and focus to finish well as they continue to build into the lives of students this year through athletics and through tutoring. **Praise** God that the girls Marilyn is coaching in cheerleading are excited to grow in their walk with Christ.

"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:5

Tuesday [30]: Rob & Judy Griffioen

Thailand

Rob and Judy are the leaders of MBMSI's Operation 2nd Wave (O2W) team in Phuket, and have just returned to Thailand after several months of Mobilization in North America. In October, we prayed that the Lord would give them the ability to communicate well their vision for ministry. **Praise** the Lord for His abundant answer to that prayer, as this has happened in a wide variety of settings, through dozens of speaking engagements and many meetings with individuals and groups interested in mission. As they reengage in ministry in Phuket, **pray** that the Lord would renew relationships with their team and with neighbors and **pray** that they will be able to reengage easily in the Thai language.

"I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing." Ezekiel 34:26

Wednesday [31]: Bob and Christina Davis

Thailand

Bob and Christina Davis have been working alongside Louise Sinclair-Peters (Team 2000) and two Thai church planters at the Bethel Church plant near Chonburi. Ask the Lord to show them daily who and how the Lord wants them to serve. **Praise** the Lord that people have been coming to know Jesus. **Pray** that many more people will enter into relationship with the Lord. **Pray** that God will enable the Davis' and Louise Sinclair-Peters to provide rich discipleship for new believers. As they continue to learn Thai, **pray** for alert minds, sharp memories, and eager spirits. **Pray** that the Lord will continue to provide encouragement to them as they invest their lives in mission.

"By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night." Exodus 13:21

Prayer for the Nations

MEXICO



In a country where only 1-2% of Mexicans claim to be Christians, laborers, prayer, and financial support are needed to help guide many lost sheep to their Shepherd. MBMSI is working with indigenous groups, planting churches, and preparing missionaries that will be sent to the nations.

MBMSI has entered Guadalajara, Mexico with a strong missionary presence and a two-fold purpose. Alfredo and Sandra Beltran are leading a church planting team (RETO Church) targeting the middle class. Trever and Joan Godard lead the Matthew Team in discipleship and training Latin and North Americans for cross-cultural missions through the Matthew Training Center. Sandra Plett and Jen Schmidt work alongside the Godards on the Matthew Team. In the south, Robert and Anne Thiessen have been called to Oaxaca, Mexico, where they are working with the Mixteco indigenous people in training and church planting.

Please pray:

- That MBMSI missionaries in Mexico will have favor with Mexican people.
- That many people will come to know Jesus in Mexico.
- That many missionaries will be sent from Mexico to other parts of the world.

CALL THE OFFICE IN YOUR AREA

1.888.866.6267 (Regional Office)

1.866.964.7627 (International Office)

www.mbmsi.org