

## January Update on December 2017 Missionary Letters

### **Craig & Shirley Colbert - International Friends/ Interface**

They have seen 7 internationals pray to receive Christ since August. They ask that we join them in praying for 18 more to come by June 2018. In December, all of the regular groups stop as they shift to the Christmas focus. Each group sponsors a Christmas party, which means 6-10 parties. They also organized a gingerbread decorating party where 48 houses were decorated with over 100 international family members coming for one of two periods. On December 15<sup>th</sup> they sponsored a Christmas dinner with the International Friends Center decorated and they showed the film "The Nativity Story" which depicts the events surrounding the birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary. Though most of the international students travel out of Columbia during the break, the Global Life Church still has services on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve with a special luncheon after the services. Pray for Craig and Shirley as they go on their annual personal spiritual retreat in southern Missouri January 2-5 to be with God in silence for 8 hours every day. Pray that they would hear from God. Pray for the 30+ international students as they are away on break and for their return on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your prayers and contributions. It does not go unnoticed and the Colbert's share with the students the amount of generosity of fellow believers who understand the importance in supporting this ministry.

### **Marty & Bev Zide - Midwest Messianic Center**

Thank you for the special Christmas gift. It was such a blessing and they are grateful to partner with you in ministry. Please pray for the Seder that will be held early next year as it is an excellent time to evangelize. Pray for a commentary on the book of Revelation that Pastor Andy Ferrier is working on to distribute among the Orthodox/Jewish community. Pray for the Lord to send a special couple to join the center in St. Louis. Prayer for this couple to develop their own outreach to the Jewish community and beyond as well as become partners with new churches and individuals. Your gifts and prayers are much needed and deeply appreciated.

### **Paul & Vicky Craine - Child Evangelism Fellowship**

They have had a blessed year of ministry. The Lord has opened new doors on Ft. Leonard Wood in their outreach to the military community in the Ozarks. The Kids Zone club runs between 20-30 children weekly and meets all year long. The majority of them are un-churched. Please pray that each lesson be taught with Biblical accuracy and spiritual enthusiasm. That God will direct them to those who can serve as committee members and those who can give to the financial needs. Vicky is scheduled to see a specialist concerning a vision issue. Thank you for your prayers and support of this ministry.

### **Todd & Julie Hendry - Avant Ministries Brazil**

November 25<sup>th</sup> they inaugurated their new church facility. The past five years, the church was meeting in a rented house, which was practical but they realized it turned some people in the community off as it didn't seem like a church. The new facility is perpendicular to their home. Todd subdivided the large area adding walls with studs and drywall. They have been concentrating on discipling some young believers

counseling them in their daily lives. The end of September they participated in a four-day counseling seminar that was classes from 8am-5pm. It was jam packed with helpful information that can be implemented into the ministry. This was the first of four modules that they would like to do every year. Please pray for the transition of the church facility, the children's school to go well during this busyness. Pray for spiritual growth and protection for the people of the church, that they remain faithful and close to the Lord. Pray for a pastor to be able to come and stand in the gap while they are on furlough the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the new year. And that the congregation will accept his leadership and thrive. Pray for the Unishow as they travel throughout the interior. Thank you for your prayers and support!

**Chris & Kristin Gadsden - CRU**

They are thankful for the gift sent last year. Their need is prayer in reaching students with the gospel, which requires financial resources. Taking all six of their team on a summer mission overseas turned out to cost more than estimated. This has drained their mission/conference fund, which covers traveling to and spending a week in Denver working at the regional student conference, plus any sort-term missions in the spring. In addition they unexpectedly lost several large donors this last fall, totaling more than \$550 in lost monthly support. They are asking for donations, either in one-time gifts or by increasing your monthly gift by 25%. Please pray for God to provide the funding to support them in their work with CRU.

**Paul & Anna Williamson - Wycliffe Bible Translators**

Paul and his committee have just finished translating the book of Luke into the Tama language. They have received messages of high praise from those who have received it. Your prayers were answered in the arrival of a Kohi translator, thank you! He has been working with Paul for over a month now. This man wrestles with the right way to express the stories of Jesus in his own language and his heart continues to be soft toward the message. We pray that as he receives some light that more and more would be given to him. More good news! After much prayer and effort by their team, they have six month visas in hand and it is relaxing to look forward to the Christmas season in west Asia without having to leave suddenly. The team is still undergoing a long, drawn-out tax audit with many negotiations. Our family's portion alone is \$21,523. The organizations director is diligent to learn the tax code and apply it to the personal income as appropriate to cover the fees. God is faithful in providing! Please pray about personally working alongside the Williamson family to help financially clear this assessment of back taxes. The enemy is working to wear us down, and at times we do feel like giving up. But this is not the moment to quit. Jesus loves us and we love Him. We want the dear people of west Asia to hear the gospel and come to know Him personally. So we take a deep breath and tighten our belts. If you feel led to help us in this financial challenge, please contact us at 1-800-WYCLIFFE and use ID 213453 for Paul and Anna Williamson.

**Jim & Lydia Johnson - Brazil Gospel Fellowship**

Great news in that Fabio mentioned he is interested in helping in Alto Santo if details of

support can be worked out! Pastor Raimundo is looking for help. Personal travel fills the calendar through the holidays and ministry travel has slowed down. Their home was broken into and the thieves went through everything. Pray for wisdom for them on how to proceed. In January they rejoiced in receiving a work team from Newton Bible Church to help with the Morada Nova Church building. In June they were able to move in, praise God! The first service was also a highlight as it was an installation service of Pastor Natanael becoming head pastor of the Morada Nova Church. A freshwater shrimp farm on the Maanaim campground has blessed them with some resources to help support the camp. Retreats and other events have continued to grow. The present project is a sports court. Pray for their travels back to Brazil on January 16 as they have been stateside since July. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

**Christopher Cone – President, Calvary University**

Would you give a gift to Calvary to assist in reducing student costs? Calvary is committed to making high-quality Biblical education accessible to believers who are willing to work hard to prepare for and engage in ministry. Your one-time gift, monthly support, or even adding Calvary University to your estate planning will help them fulfill their mission “to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and the world according to the Biblical worldview”. Thank you in advance for considering joining Calvary in this important work.

**Robert & Nancy McMurray – Bible Impact Ministries, Whispering Winds Bible Camp**

The beginning of the year Robert was anxious to get back to work after his open-heart surgery in October, but he realized he shouldn't rush it. In March they began traveled to churches in IL, KS and back to MO. That same month a tornado hit the campground and caused much damage, but praise God they were unharmed. In April they visited more churches and had their Spring Teen Retreat, Ladies Retreat and Work Week in which they repaired the climbing wall deck. April brought major flooding which closed the access road to the beach. May was a time to finalize plans for camp and begin the busy summer schedule. Rodeo camp was June 5-10. With six weeks of camp and a total of 201 campers plus 20 at family camp, there were 11 salvation decisions,, with many others expressing that they had made spiritual decisions during camp. They had 4 rental groups this fall and the Fall Teen Retreat was in November bringing in 40 campers and 6 counselors. What a blessing! Praise God for all who have supported them with prayers and finances. Their support level is currently at 45% of their recommended monthly support. Because of the special gifts they have received, they total was increased by about 15%. If you would like to begin supporting them, email them at [rnc41@hotmail.com](mailto:rnc41@hotmail.com).