

PRAISE & PRAYER
January 7, 2026
First Mennonite Church

PRAISE:

Father, thank You for the spiritual gift of encouragement, which is a priceless treasure You have given us. Whether through spoken words, written notes, presence in hard times, or simply listening, this gift reflects the heart of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for giving us the right words and actions to encourage others, and help us be aware of opportunities to be a blessing.

Pray for our workers of the week: Brian & Noelia Fox.

- We **praise** God for a busy but fruitful December. We had a lot of activities because of the Christmas season, but we also saw God work in many ways. I was able to participate in a week-long evangelism campaign that took place here in Burgos and the surrounding towns. I travelled one day with a retired police officer who now goes around Spain sharing the Gospel in police stations, fire stations, military compounds, and anywhere else he can find an open door. I accompanied him and was praying while he shared the Gospel in three different places. Please **pray** for Luis, who prayed a prayer of repentance and for Sergio, who is now seeking the Lord. We have a small group that meets in the town they are from, and we are encouraging them to join this group.
- Please also **pray** for some other young men I am discipling. Alex, who came out of a drug rehabilitation center a few months ago, started seeking the Lord but is having a hard time. I meet with him weekly and we study the Bible together. And **pray** for David, a young man who became a Christian a couple of years ago and now wants to get baptized. He has been off and on since becoming a Christian, but now seems more serious about growing in his relationship with Jesus.
- Finally, continue to **pray** for the marriage course we are doing once a month on Saturday evenings. We are thankful for the many couples who signed up, and **pray** that God would use this course to strengthen their marriages and to grow in their faith.

Pray for 5 unspoken requests.

CHURCH: Bill Beachey is assisting with maintenance at Freedom International in the Dominican from January 3-February 7. **Pray** for the meat canner coming on January 23-24.

Persecuted Church: Somalia is one of the most dangerous places to follow Jesus. The Islamic extremist group Al-Shabab targets anyone they suspect to be Christian. **Pray** that the small number of believers would find shelter and safety.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Hospital: Roger Von Gunten (was scheduled to have a heart stent procedure today at Lutheran Hospital)

Swiss Village: Jane Velasco (recovering from knee replacement surgery); Twyla Sprunger (recovering from a recent illness); Joanne Balyeat, Linda Page's mother (in rehab, pray for strength); Diane Von Gunten (had hip surgery on Friday after a fall and is recovering in rehab)

Home: Matvii, son of Andrii and Inna (is home; **pray** for him and his parents they adjust); Mike Liechty (recovering after a hospital stay for pneumonia); Suanne Sprunger (pray for strength and healing as she continues treatments)

FOR THOSE WHO ARE A PART OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

- Brayden & Wendy Gilbert
- Brad & Debra Linthicum
- Ted & Gretta Beitler
- Danielle Alberson
- Norman Sprunger
- Curt & Lori Sprunger
- Andrea Morales
- Craig & Lora Sprunger
- Grant, Jess, Ben & Lilly Meyer
- John, Renelle, Isaac, Christian, Hannah, Lydia, Clara & Miriam Stauffer

PRAYER:

Lord, our world is filled with discouragement, loneliness, and fear. While all believers are called to build each other up, those gifted in encouragement have a Spirit-empowered ability to speak life, restore hope, and strengthen faith in ways that leave lasting spiritual impact. We pray that You equip us with Your Spirit's power to be a beacon of hope, to comfort those who are weary, and to challenge others to grow in their faith. Empower us to uplift others, and motivate them in ways that leave a lasting spiritual impact.

Please phone Praise & Prayer items to the church office, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 589-3108; or Jim Schwartz, 525-0124