



# WAY2PRAY

## WESTERN GREAT LAKES DISTRICT

### May 2020

Josh & Heather Erickson (Tristan, Treven, Lincoln, Eliana, Jackson) - Europe

We are the Erickson family and we are currently in Albertville, France learning French as we prepare to go to Senegal this summer. Our lives have changed since the Coronavirus hit France as we've been on a strict lockdown since March 16th, which has proven challenging for our language learning and homeschooling the kids in our apartment.

#### **Praise**

We praise God for a yard during this time.

#### **Request**

Please pray for us that God would open the doors for us to effectively learn French despite the current situation and open the doors to Senegal as the borders are currently closed.

Michael & Lia Strand (Simeon, Lydia, Benjamin, Karis, Aiden) - Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Praise God** for health and provision during the corona virus.

**Praise God** for technology to allow continued opportunity to minister (local church, outreach to a migrant family), and for our kid's schools to continue online.

**Pray** for diligence in study, when every day seems nearly the same at home.

**Pray** for our eyes to be open, and our tongues ready to speak (especially in Bosnian!) to those around us, giving the reason for the hope within us.

**Pray** for our kids to taste and see the Gospel, even and especially in the midst of the pandemic, that they would grow in loving God and loving neighbor during this time.

Sam and Jen Stemple (Jordan, Noelle, Matthew, Katrina) - BFA

**Please pray** for our school during this time of crisis and pandemic. BFA is a boarding school for International Workers serving around the world. Due to travel restrictions only half of our 107 boarding students we are able to make it "Home" to where their parents are. 50 students are still here at school without a planned date to be reunited with their families. Of those that are still here in the area 5 are CMA International Workers Kids (MKs) Travel restrictions have made it impossible for these students to travel home during this time. Pray for peace during this time and for limited travel to open up (at least by June) allowing students to return home.

**Pray** also for our Black Forest Academy and the effects this virus will have on our school. We are fully aware that this virus is affecting everyone around the world, but it will have some major effects on International Work around the world. Giving in general will be on the decline and the CMA is already feeling the effects of that at the National and International level. That will directly impact the ability of some to send their children to BFA. Support raising will also directly effect our staff (which are all missionary status) and our ability to reach capacity in our staffing here at the school. Continued Travel restrictions will effect those that can make it here financially, but might struggle to get here through travel. All the unknowns that we are all facing will cause our school to go through its own difficulties and we need your prayers, as well as your continued financial support to missions around the world.

**Pray** for us as a family. It is hard to be on opposite sides of the ocean from our adult children and from our "older than us" parents. We are thankful for the "time" we have been given to be a family here in Germany, but do struggle to go through all these things apart from extended family. Pray that we can be a light to our German neighbors and that we, like all of you, can be physically distant but socially engaged with our world.

S & K - Europe

**Pray** for the ongoing adjustment of our 3 kids. German school has not been easy linguistically, academically, or socially. They get discouraged often.

**It's a challenge** to consistently converse with busy Berliners even without social distancing. Now we are attempting to make language progress from home. Nearing the one-third to halfway

point in formal study, we are so encouraged by how much we can already communicate. From here it's a bit like slogging through mud, especially with reduced resources. Pray for encouragement and motivation!

**Pray** for the House Church Network. It's the main German-language Alliance work in Berlin. While gorgeous church buildings can be found in every town and village, they are relics of a time when the Church embodied politics or community reputation. There are (and were) few or no actual believers. House church is definitely not the only model, but we believe God is using it in this era in Berlin to present Jesus only, and the Church as Family. The first (currently only) church is anchored by our Alliance team IWs, but God has brought a few already believing Germans. Pray for those partnerships to lead to multiplication as they share their faith! There are also some non-Christians sporadically attending that even we language students have been able to connect with and invite. The salvation of not-yet-believers is the core of any church growth. So inviting to church isn't enough; we need to do the hands-on work of exploring the Bible and life together and letting the Spirit do the heart work. Please pray for those meetings to increase and bear fruit as we learn German.

**Though we** have months of language study still ahead, join us in praying about life after language specifically in 2 ways: 1. Network well with other solid organizations and churches in this city full of disconnected missions efforts. 2. Find our Meaningful Impactful Presence. What can we do to love Germans in a way that they understand, that is self-sustaining, that creates Jesus conversations with a wide and consistent group of non-Christians.

## Travis & Becca Novy (Amelia, Lydia, Bennett, Tanner) - Europe

**Pray** for physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health for our family. We have been locked in our little French apartment since March 17. We are only allowed out once a day for either a short walk (2-3 people in the family max) or a trip to the grocery store (1 adult only). If we disobey we can be fined \$150 or more. Pray that we can keep close to Jesus and to one another.

**Pray** that we can learn French well despite the challenges of the Coronavirus situation. We are learning French at home while the children are also doing their schoolwork as home. It is difficult but His grace is sufficient!

**Pray** for our belongings and purchases to make it to the shipping container by the deadline, May 10. It's been a bit of a struggle with so many stores closed to arrange shipping for some of our large items.

## R & M - Asia

**Pray** for clear leading for when to return overseas and how to continue our ministry.

**Pray** as our children enjoy being home, seeing family, and making friends that their hearts would also be prepared for the calling on their family that will yet again uproot and replant them.

**Pray** for our business, tourism has come to a standstill and we do not know when it will resume. It is all for a purpose, so we continue to ask for a revival in the church that would sweep across the nation touching the lives of unreached peoples.

**We would ask you to pray** for provision for the Great Commission Fund for the fulfillment of the Great Commission. We recognize ultimately Jesus provides every cent needed to get this work done. Everyone is feeling the effects on the economy and in response the Alliance has made wise adjustments. History, however, tells us that it is times like this that the Church cries out and Jesus surprises Her with an impossible harvest in an impossible time. "With man this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible." Mt 19:26

## C&S Southeast Asia

**COVID-19:** At the time of writing, only 19 cases have been confirmed in our country and our lockdown is scheduled to end on May 3. Pray that the virus would not spread. Many people live too far away from medical services of any kind.

**While the virus** itself hasn't been as prevalent here as in other countries, many local people are facing economic hardships as a result of COVID-19. Certain sectors of our city are very dependent on tourism and will face little to no income for the rest of 2020.

**Pray that God** would give us insight on how we can be a light to and support local people as we learn what the effects of COVID-19 will be in our country. Pray that we will see and step into the new opportunities God opens for us in the coming months.

## Tony & Raeni Roos (Fayth & Hannah) — France

**We are starting** an online Alpha Course with our English participants. We currently have 6 people signed up.

**Pray** for the social impact that the confinement is having on those around us.

**Pray** for God to open doors during and after this crisis time for us to share His love.

**Pray** for clarity about the interns and short term teams that were scheduled for this spring and early summer.

**Pray** for continued financial support.

## S & W - Eastern Europe

**We thank** the Lord for the confession of faith in the maternity home a few weeks ago.

**Please pray** for the current resident in the maternity home as she should have given birth by the time of this publication. With the situation with the virus there are some concerns for the health of the baby and the complications that may arise in getting the birth-certificate.

**Pray that** the Lord would continue to guide our family in how to redeem this time and to

creatively serve others.

## Valary & Mally McLoughlin - France

**Pray** that during this time of confinement we are in, that we would connect with our neighbors even more. We are seeing our neighborhood coming together and we want to be the light of Christ to them.

**Pray** that we would grow deeper in the Lord during this season.

**Pray** that Mally and I would be proactive in reaching out to those who are alone during this time, especially those in our church.

**Pray** for my French tutor, Corinne, that as we meet over skype, we would have good conversations that are about the Lord. Recently, over the Easter weekend, she asked me to tell her about Good Friday and why we celebrate that!

## Don and Rachel Schaeffer (Donald & Elliot) - Japan

**Praise that** during the state of emergency in Japan, we can still continue our language study, albeit with different formatting.

**Praise** that He gave us a wonderful preschool for the boys to attend so that we can give more attention to our formal language study.

**Pray** that we would always be ready to give an answer for the hope and peace that we have to our friends and neighbors, especially amidst our current crisis situation. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give us boldness and faith to proclaim the gospel even if it might not be with perfect Japanese grammar.

**Pray** for our minds and hearts to grasp this language and culture not only for the present 'surviving' but for the long-haul of effective ministry here in Japan.

## Steve & Elizabeth Williams (Jude & Simon)- Africa

**We praise** God for making a clear path for our evacuation in mid-April. He moved mountains at the last moment! We also praise God that we have made significant progress in our Wolof study, despite numerous setbacks and taking on additional team roles. We are also thankful that we will be able to continue our studies while in the U.S. and even have some virtual classroom time with an instructor.

**Our team** has had a difficult past year, starting with a car accident involving several members of our team (a Senegalese man was killed) shortly after we arrived in Senegal. Our boys' school teacher had to take a medical leave for several months in the fall and then another family's son had to be medically evacuated with his mom for a few months in December. Now, two families from our team are in the States and another is in France. Please pray for team growth and unity, especially when we are able to all be together, hopefully later this year.

**Pray** that our boys, Simon (15) and Jude (13), would find contentment and joy while living in Senegal and that they would grow in their love for the Lord.

## B & M - Europe

**Please pray** for our M. friends and for us to have "seasoned" conversations.

**Please pray** for J and A as they are doing school online. It's been 6 weeks now, although they had spring break last week. Pray for perseverance and motivation. Please pray for P who is completing his online studies through his university. Please pray for both M and I as they are actively looking for online work to cover their student loan expenses. M was working as an English language assistant in the public schools, but is no longer able to work now. He has a part-time online job as a graphics designer for a member care organization.

## M&L - Africa

**Praise God** that despite the fact that Senegal was one of the first African countries affected by COVID-19 it seems to be spreading slowly allowing the government and health services time to manage the situation.

**Praise God** that no one on our team, other CMA teams in the country or national partners we work with closely have been directly affected by COVID-19. A few people who were in the "at risk" category were able to get flights out of the country as a precaution.

**We are thankful** for the Christian and Missionary Alliance as a whole. We have good leaders who have been very proactive in dealing with the situation and we know we are not walking through this alone.

**Praise God** for the reopening of the only Christian hospital in Senegal. It was hit early with Coronavirus and a number of staff were infected, causing them to have to close. No staff have developed severe systems though and they are now getting back to work.

**Pray** that the Coronavirus would be contained in Senegal and not spread further. Pray especially for those working in government and health and leading the national response to this crisis. Pray for those affected economically by these things. Many people spend what they earn one day to eat the next day so missing work is very hard on them and their families

**Pray** specifically for Christian health workers and the few Christian health structures around the country. Pray for stamina for the staff and deep resources of compassion as many of them are taking extra risks and making extra sacrifices in this time.

**Pray** for our team that we would be able to fruitfully engage in kingdom work during this challenging time.

**Pray** for national pastors and evangelists who are also responding and don't have resources to easily take church online like many have done in more developed countries. Pray for protection

of these workers as well that they would not be affected by the virus.

## J & J - Middle East

**Praise God** that our Center contractor was given permission by the government to start the remodel project.

**The longer** we remain in lock down, the fewer responses we receive from contacts we made with locals. They need face to face time. Please pray that the Holy Spirit works on their hearts!

**Communicating** with the Center construction guys is a challenge (they don't speak the local language!). Please pray for patience and clarity.

## T&H - Middle East

**Praise God** that In the midst of the global pandemic, T&H were ordered to evacuate from Lorry. After some false attempts, they were able to exit the country before full lockdown and return to WI. Shortly afterwards, their daughter was able to join them. We rejoice that the family is reunited!

**Praise God** for good health, while Lorry begins its battle with Coronavirus and having traveled around half the world! May God grant continue good health, and also patience while enduring full quarantine.

**Praise God** for His presence in the midst of the members of the Church of Lorry! Church members have been in isolation mode for almost a month, yet they remain in good spirits. They are also using multiple means to in contact with each other: thank God for the internet and the ministry opportunities it provides.

**Pray** for the Church of Lorry members, as most of them struggle with the loss of their income due to pandemic lockdown. Most of them live day to day on minimum wage, yet even that income is now gone. Pray for God's provision to meet the members' needs. Also pray for the church, as there is less money for the church to operate on with the members out of work.

**Pray** for T&H to be able to return to Lorry in a timely fashion. It was difficult for them to leave, feeling like they were abandoning their friends and church family. They desire to return as early as possible, but not prematurely. Pray for wisdom and guidance from God for near future plans. Also pray for provision during their short term stay in America.

**Pray** for the growth of the church in Lorry and across Kurdistan, that God would use this difficult situation for His glory, bringing many into His Kingdom!

"WAY2PRAY" is a monthly publication from the WGLD Alliance Women's Ministry.  
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