

## Prayer Requests – August 10 - CNH Mission Agency



### Loving our Neighbor

Otis Byrd shared this picture with me at our Synod's International convention in Milwaukee. In the picture, participants at a "Black Lives Matter" demonstration, a short walk from the convention center, are praying over one of Milwaukee's finest. Otis and several others went to this event. Our picture demonstrates the biblical truth that "all lives matter" to Jesus. We seek to share this truth with our communities in word and action.

However, when we quickly respond with, "all lives matter" when our neighbors are pleading with us that "black lives matter," we may be missing the opportunity to listen to the hurts and context our neighbors are sharing. We risk closing the heart of that neighbor God has called us to love.

Keith Haney, (a colleague in the Northern Illinois District), has been blogging around this subject for most of the summer. You may want to view his writings at <http://revheadpin.org>. A recent submission: "Sorry, You Are Just Not Black Enough" particularly hit a nerve. In the midst of his own struggle for acceptance within the African American culture, he explores the frustration, struggle for identity, and need for hope that stands at the center of the black struggle. Haney's closing words give a foundation on which to love each individual neighbor, valuing their unique and beautiful identity.

*"The pain of the past no longer has to haunt us. We have a new reality, a new beginning; that is not grounded or defined by human standards. Jesus Christ has given us our identity, and our citizenship is in heaven."*

Loving our neighbors in and through our love relationship with God is a work in progress, but thanks be to God who gives us the victory in Jesus Christ!

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7*

**Mike Lange** — CNH Executive Director, Missions

*Our mission prayer newsletter rotates through prayers for each of our CNH over-seas missionaries as well as a prayer for staff CNH leaders in the first section. We share 5-7 prayer requests monthly from the CNH mission field in each newsletter. (Archives on website).*

1. Valerie Stonebreaker, a member of Good Shepherd in Turlock and a career LCMS missionary, is a teacher, tutor, and care-giver in Togo, West Africa. Pray for good health and energy for her as she grows older. Pray for the Togolese church that the Christian faith being shared in and through them takes deep root in the people of Togo. Pray also for political stability in Togo.



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2. Pray for Bill and Marcia Swift as they seek to sell their home and make a move to Livermore, CA. Bill was one of the leaders who gave vision and energy for the formation of the CNH Mission Agency and now serves our District as the LCEF Vice President. Pray for perseverance, energy, and God's guiding hand on their lives.

### CNH Regional Missions

1. Thank God for the people of San Juan Valle de Fe, who offered a wonderful community outreach in Arvin, CA. Together with their mother church, they sponsored a Mariachi band outreach for the community, culminating on Sunday with two baptisms at their morning worship service.



2. Pray for Steve Roma and the people of Resurrection, Santa Clara, as they consider together a new chapter in the life of the congregation, ministry and outreach to their community. Pray that God would use them and Steve in powerful ways.

3. Ask that God would open doors for new mission starts in the CNH, that we would see and respond to God's heart for people who are yet to be gathered to the Gospel message. Pray especially regarding indigenous people groups in the Bay Area, the East Reno area, and new starts in the Fresno area.
4. Pray for the Lahu ministry in Visalia and especially the leadership of Pastor Soun See and Elder Kong See. Ask that God would multiply their energy and protect them from harm.
5. Pray for Vicar Moises Morales as he works with mentor Enrique Vallejo to sharpen his skills and plant the Gospel in the San Pablo Spanish-speaking community. Pray that the spirit would give him a heart of boldness and strength.



### Featured Mission Prayer

Please share this with your pastor and/or include in your regular church prayers. You are welcome to include it in your Sunday bulletin or monthly church newsletter.

**Ask that God would bless the work of our Hmong pastors and leaders and give them a unity in the heart of Christ for his people. Pray especially for Pastors Doua Xiong (wife Sue), Khai Lee (wife Kaying), deacon Thao Lee (wife Tia), and for the care of deacon Michael Lo (wife Suzie).**