

Prayer Requests – May 10, 2017 - CNH Mission Agency

More or Less than Expected

Yes, that is what it looks like: a giant spoon filled with desert, cleverly designed and presented to impress the party of fifteen gathered to celebrate a graduation. Surprise, compliments of the restaurant. Way MORE than we expected.

But, oh no! What kind of desert is that? Banana cream? The graduate despises the taste of bananas! Now LESS than expected. Watching the face of the guest of honor as realization hit was priceless. The silver lining? This treat fed everyone *e/se* at the table.

Watching all of this, I couldn't help but think of how God has often blessed me with an abundance of resources. It's easy to become self-centered until God makes it obvious that these resources aren't for me. (Oh no! Bananas!) "Well, I guess this wasn't for me, but can I release the resources (the time, the ability, the talent, the finances) that I was given?" Sure, it's easy if I don't like bananas, but ... wasn't I supposed to get something? Generosity is not only about a giving sacrificial spirit; it is also about faith and trust. Does my faith remind me that God has cared and provided for me in various ways? Do I trust that His faithfulness will continue? Can I see past the immediate **ME** in this unexpected circumstance? Generosity or sacrifice are not formulas to manipulate God, but they are profound exercises of faith. Without expecting something for himself, the guest of honor assured the server, "everything is fine, don't be concerned." Five minutes later a smaller but personal tasty treat was subtly placed before him. *More, less, and so often, more* than we expect.



"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but overflowing in many thanksgivings to God." 2 Cor. 9:12-13

Mike Lange — Assistant to the President, CNH District's Mission Agency

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. We thank God for the work of those who have gone before us. Thank God for the life and ministry of President emeritus Walt Tietjen who recently celebrated 80 years of life!
2. Today we introduce a new international missionary. Dr. Haragwen Kinde is a missionary arranged by joint action of the LCMS Office of International Mission and Mission of Christ Network. Haragwen works with the EEMCY (Mekane Yesus) Lutheran church in Ethiopia to assist in developing a university system to train and develop the laity for vocational service in God's world.



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CNH Regional Missions

1. Pray for Pastor Trinidad and Nellie Castaneda, their family, and God's calling in their lives. Trini and Nellie presently work in Arvin, CA at San Juan Valle de Fe where the Lord is doing marvelous things. Ask for strength and wisdom in ministry.
2. In our Nevada circuit, we bring before you the revitalizing congregational work being done by Pastor Alex and Barbara Lissow in Chester and Greenville, CA. Pray for God's guidance as they shepherd the mission ministry there into the future.
3. Thank God for the increase and personal connections He has brought through the Hmong language school in Merced and Fresno. Ask that God would bless Doua and Sue Xiong as they evaluate mission strategy in both of these areas into the future.
4. Pray for vicar Muluneh Taye and his wife Liya and family as they relocate to Hayward to be closer to work at Stanford and Addis Kidan in San Francisco where he serves as vicar for Pastor Tesfai Tesema in the multi-lingual ministry there. Muluneh and Liya have two children.
5. Praise God for a successful Multi-Cultural Round Table. Ask for wisdom as we bring the discussion of reaching and empowering the 1.5 and 2nd generation immigrant populations into the prayers and practice of a greater number of God's people in the CNH.



Featured Mission Prayer

(Please share this prayer 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.)

Pray for the founding leaders of School of Young Leaders (SOYL), particularly Paul and V, two young men who are using their gifts to open doors for many others into disciple-making leadership. Ask that God would be with them and protect them. SOYL will host a 9-week disciple-making formal experiential learning experience in the Bay Area this summer for up to 20 young leaders (ages 19-24). Thank God for the efforts and sacrifice of Bethany Lutheran in Menlo Park, LINC Bay Area, and the CNH District's Mission Agency as they support and guide this work.

