

Prayer Requests – March 27, 2017 - CNH Mission Agency



Oh, brother!

Brothers! Its all about *bloodline, rivalry, support, love, safety, pride, aggression, and care*. Follow me? Brotherhood is complicated and yet, ... intimate. These two brothers have been fun to watch. All of the descriptors listed above apply. To complicate matters even more, the little brother is the elder and vice versa. Enduring four siblings of my own only accentuates my familial (brother and sister) fascination.

Five years ago, in an effort to be deliberately spiritually intimate with my Christian family and especially my fellow family of workers, I began inserting "brother" and "sister" intentionally. As I think back to this instinctive decision, I had these three hopeful purposes. 1) Foster a deeper intimacy around the blood-bought redemption that entwines us. 2) Offer and model loving Christ-made intimacy within the body. 3) Drop my own defenses in an effort to better be in and of the body of Christ.

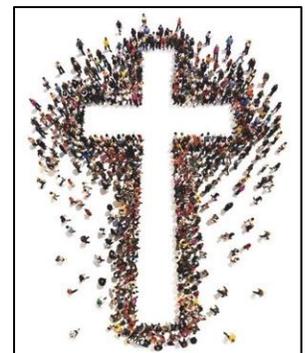
What have I learned? **Blood is important!** The blood of Jesus has been sprinkled liberally, making atonement for all who are under the cross. (*Loving those under the cross is often tough to do, but it isn't an option*). **Loving my brothers and sisters is essential** in an effort to be a lover of those outside the family. This familial love is the proving and refining ground that enhances my Christ-following vision of the world. We are hungry for intimacy under Christ. The family is **hungry for genuine love**. The majority of believers embrace and respond to the personal and familiar. I believe the rest are in need of these things, but may be unsure of how to receive, bruised and broken, or simply out of practice. We can't force family intimacy; however, in baptismal cross-mark, it is a reality. It's our bloodline. This faith family is complicated, but Christ-made intimacy intentionally applied contains healing balm for us and for the world, our Father, and "biggest brother" love.

*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 — Assistant to the President, CNH 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. Praise God for an inspiring Mission Conference, "Missionary People." (*You can access presentations from the conference on our website, www.cnh-lcms.org and our Vimeo channel <https://vimeo.com/user39175625/videos>.) Ask that God would move and equip us to embrace our calling to live as the royal priesthood who are God's missionary people.*



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2. Remember Valerie Stonebreaker, educational missionary in Togo in your prayers. Valerie, a member of Good Shepherd in Turlock, is part of our LCMS International Mission Team. Valerie asks that you remember in prayer and consider supporting the Mual Literacy Project. This project was originally begun through funding by the LWML CNH District in 2012. Literacy work will enable the Mual people to read the Scriptures in their own language.

CNH Regional Missions

1. Pray for the ongoing church-planting training for Dawit Bokre and Doua and Sue Xiong and their teams who will be working with the Five/Two team again in early April. Pray for fruitfulness, clarity, and a faithful missionary focus.
2. Pray for St. John's Lutheran in Napa and First Lutheran in Yuba City, who are blessed to offer a comfort dog ministry which open doors for Christian support and witness in challenging circumstances and times. Pray that the handlers would have insight and clarity as they have opportunity to share a clear gospel witness.
3. Thank God for the increase he has shown Moises Morales in San Pablo. Moises has been functioning as an area evangelist and has recently begun Bible study, catechism study for youth and adults, and held worship services.
4. Thank God for the beginning of LINC Bay Area Bible Institute, which works with indigenous cultural people to build leadership and theological and missionary acumen. We praise God that Pastor Greg Klotz has accepted the joint call to be pastor at Grace in Pittsburg and as curriculum director for LINC.
5. Thank God for the work of Trinidad and Nellie Castaneda at San Juan Valle de Fe. Ask that God would expand their work through training of leaders and opening doors in nearby communities. Ask that God would give them balance and health in their lives.



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 God to reveal opportunities to leaders and congregations within the CNH District to make new ministry starts for the sake of reaching and growing new people in faith. We pray specifically that God would give us eyes in areas already identified in the Bay Area, Fresno, and Reno/Sparks. We pray also for eyes to see new opportunity on Oahu where the opportunity is also very great. Help us to see our world with your eyes and join you in your mission, Lord Jesus.