

Prayer Requests – October 24, 2017 - CNH Mission Agency

Seeing the Tree Despite the Forest

As your representative for CNH District Missions, I try to keep a “big picture” perspective on the opportunities that come our way. This is the overall story of God at work in and around our CNH District. It’s important to keep the whole “forest” of opportunities and challenges in mind. However, most lately, I often find myself so overwhelmed by the immensity of the forest that I miss or minimize the tending, support, and celebration of the individual “trees” that make up the forest.



This prayer newsletter is devoted to the individual trees that make up the forest of opportunities, challenges, celebrations, and even heartaches. While there was a whole community of sheep, God’s love seeks each one, especially the one straying. While there are many sparrows, not one falls without our Father’s notice. Each hair is numbered. Out of the 11 remaining disciples, Peter is counted worthy of reinstatement (John 21). Do you see so many opportunities, tasks and challenges (the forest) that you are tempted to look past the value of the soul(s) God is placing before you today?

Dear Lord, I am often overwhelmed and distracted by the “forest” of opportunities you lay before me. Help me to pray, plan, and minister to the needs of your forest. Have me never overlook the individual “tree” you show me. Give to me a heart for the seed just planted, the new sprout thirsty for nourishment, and the mis-shapen branches needing pruning. Provide for each precious life and multiply the workers, all your royal priests, who will tend each tree in your forest. Amen.

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. Pray for Aaron Putnam, wife Sophie, and children as they engage in the full-time ministry of LINC Bay Area. Pastor Putnam transitioned into this position after serving at Good Shepherd in Hayward and launching this ministry part-time. Pray for impact upon missionary leaders, new ministries planted, and God’s transformation in communities.



2. Ask that God would bless the teaching and missionary ministry of Valerie Stonebreaker, LCMS missionary to Togo and member of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Turlock.

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CNH Regional Missions

1. Ask that God would bless the ministries of the individuals and congregations who find themselves with great opportunity to witness and respond in the wake of the Northern California wildfires.
2. Pray for the Kids Club ministries that are taking root in public schools and for our CNH congregations that are engaging in or starting these ministries. Pray for open doors, open hearts, and God's increase.
3. Ask that God would open even more doors for Hmong ministry in Merced, Fresno and Sacramento.
4. Pray for the wisdom of our LWML leaders who will be meeting this coming month to consider grants for the upcoming LWML grant cycle. Pray that those ministries presently committed to would be supported.
5. Lift up the people at Waikoloa Lutheran as they consider their vision, desire to call a pastor who can supply missionary leadership, and considerations around a possible building. Pray that they would grow in an awareness of how best to minister in their community.
6. Pray for the encouragement of Moises Morales, Luis Alvarado, Jose Cervantes, Isaac Schuller, Magdiel Fajardo, Eli Jimenez, Trinidad and Nellie Castaneda, Juan Vallejo, and those they minister alongside. Ask that God would continue to empower them to be faithful "bridge" people between the Gospel and Latino people around the CNH.
7. Ask that God would bless the efforts of Grace Lutheran in Grass Valley and their ministry to their high school population through the "Hangout." This ministry was assisted by both CEF and LWML grants.



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 Pastor Mark Duerr, new theology teacher, and the staff and students of Sierra Lutheran High School in Carson Valley. This lone CNH Lutheran High School has great opportunity to impact high school students and their families with a clear gospel message and a wholistic Lutheran community.



Pastor Mark Duerr, Pastor Aaron Putnam, Pastor Jed Maschke