

Prayer Requests – December 31, 2018 – CNH Mission Agency

Who will be at the feast?

Dear Mission Friends,

Before I began my third year at the seminary, my Uncle Bill, now deceased, gave me a communion set that had been my grandfather's when he was a new graduate of Concordia, St. Louis in the late 20's. It is still a treasured possession, although now in sore need of refurbishment. Hard use and the ravages of time have rendered it an unusable relic. Even as I write this, I plan for its new birth and return to use. One of the great pleasures in using that communion set was in reminding those who ate and drank from it, of the marriage feast of the lamb to which we would be welcomed through faith as our names are written in the book of life. Who is included in that meal? For me, I think of grandpa and grandma, Caleb, Millie and Vern, Uncle Bill who gave me the set, and of course, my father. However, I can't help but think of those who I had the privilege of sharing the Good News as they received the gift of faith, or even those whom God knows but are yet to be gathered. The marriage feast of the Lamb (Rev. 19) calls me to consider those for whom His saints on earth labor "while it is yet day" (John 9). I can't help but wonder: who will be at the feast? Whose heart is being called, even today? Which children/adults will become disciples through baptism and by teaching as they sojourn along the way? I look forward to seeing Uncle Bill at the great marriage feast of the lamb, but I can't help but be excited about and long to see many who yet seem far off. *Lord give me a heart like yours that your house and feast might be full!*

Many blessings!

Mike Lange
CNH District President

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 praise God for Charlotte Elliott, CNH District's Office Manager and Receptionist. Charlotte is retiring on December 31, 2018 after serving the District for 18 years. We thank God for her talents and for her gracious and welcoming spirit.

2. 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 EECMY (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. Thank God for the progress made in opening a new campus and pray that her work might continue to be blessed.

CNH Regional Missions

1. We thank God for the ministry at **Trinity, Watsonville**. This revitalized mission congregation has both a bilingual and a Spanish-language worship service. Virtually all fellowship and outreach emphasis are intentionally bilingual. The vision is: *"two or more people groups but one congregation."* Praise God with them that they are not only a church of multiple cultures but once again multiple generations.

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2. Pray for **Berhanu Kumalo**, a “tent-making” evangelist, who engages weekly in crossing boundaries to the poor and the strangers among us with the life-giving message of the Gospel. Berhanu works alongside Town and Country Lutheran in Sacramento and St. Paul in Woodland as an evangelist in the community. He and his wife Miheret head up Mercy Holistic Ministries (a non-profit for mercy ministry). Monthly mass feedings and on-call readiness are the hallmarks of this mission. They recently celebrated a Christmas feast and party with the homeless of Sacramento.
3. Generation gaps are a real challenge among the Central Valley’s Hmong people group. Pray that God will continue to bless the Hmong Language School, featuring interactive Bible curriculum, snacks, and crafts, to help bridge the divide. The outreach, headed by Pastor Doua Xiong, conducts schools at **Redeemer, Fresno** and **St. Paul, Merced**. Lay leaders assist witnessing to the Hmong families. Hmong communities of worship are integrated in the life of both congregations.
4. We give thanks to God for the **Hispanic ministry** throughout the CNH District, which continues to grow. Jose Cervantes is helping to grow the ministry at Trinity, San Jose and St. Paul, Mountain View. Other Hispanic outreach opportunities are held at San Juan Valley de Fe (Arvin), First Immanuel (San Jose) and St. John’s, Napa.
5. The revitalization at **Messiah, Ewa Beach**, including outreach to the preschool, has generated the amazing blessing of routinely welcoming over 50 children to “keiki” events during Advent and Lent. These mission events have enabled a re-start of Sunday School with 15-20 kids per week in newly refurbished classrooms. Praise God!



6. **Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs:** Aaron (St. John's, Napa) and Reuben (First, Yuba City) and their teams have ministered to thousands of people who were impacted by the horrific Camp Fire in Northern California.

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.)

Praise God for our Lutheran Christian educators who play a unique role in discipling and encouraging our youth. Pray that they would be equipped, encouraged, and rise to the missionary task of connecting with both students and parents the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank God for educators of the year, David Gaudi, Heather Klemp, and Alice Huele.