

Minnesota South District Mission Prayers

January 2012

Use these prayers and prayer points to lift up our District missions to God's throne of grace on a regular basis, knowing that God promises to hear and answer the prayers of His people. Use them for your own personal prayers, for corporate worship, Mission Committee meetings, staff meetings, small group Bible studies, etc. Adapt these prayers as you wish to meet your needs.

Mission Prayers are published monthly, and are available via the District's website, www.mns.lcms.org, and by e-mail subscription. To subscribe, e-mail debra.connolly@mnsdistrict.org and put "Mission Prayer Subscription" in the subject line. For MNS District mission information, contact Rev. Dr. Peter Meier, Assistant to the President for Missions, 952-223-2151 (direct line), or peter.meier@mnsdistrict.org.

Heavenly Father, as we make a new beginning in this New Year, we give You praise and thanks for the new beginning Your Holy Spirit has made in us, giving us new birth as Your beloved sons and daughters. Grant that through the preaching and teaching of our mission outposts, and through the personal sharing of individual missionary-members, more of our friends and neighbors will be reached with the saving Gospel and come to an enjoyment of the new life You give in Jesus Christ!

O Holy Spirit, as we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord, grant that the revelation of Jesus Christ as the only Savior of all nations would be clearly made throughout our communities in the Minnesota South District, and throughout the world, with the result that people will be connected to Jesus and come to know Him personally as Savior and Lord, to the praise and glory of His holy name.

Lord Jesus, as You were baptized by John the Baptist, and began Your ministry on this earth, be with all Your baptized people in our Minnesota South District, that each may see himself or herself as missionaries, actively engaged in Your mission – to seek and to save the lost, for Your glory's sake we ask it.

Lord of the nations, Your desire is for all nations to know Jesus Christ as the only Savior from sin and death. We pray especially for **Reverend Francis Stephanos** and the **Evangelical Mekane Yesus Fellowship** in St. Paul. Continue to bless them as they reach out to many more Ethiopian immigrants in the Twin Cities and Suburbs. By Your Word and through the outreach of Your Church, encourage and strengthen Ethiopian believers everywhere, giving them boldness to share their faith with their friends and neighbors.

Holy Spirit, You gather Your Church together around Word and Sacrament, and through these means, You nourish and strengthen Your people. By Your Word and Sacrament, strengthen the missions of our Minnesota South District. Equip those who attend our missions to be missionaries, sharing their hope in Jesus with their friends and neighbors. We especially ask Your blessing for all those involved in **Hispanic outreach**, that they might be encouraged and renewed during this Epiphany Season. Remind them, and us all, that just as the Father sent the Son into the world to redeem all people, so Jesus sends His people into the world to bring the redemption story to all people.

Pray for our Missionaries and Mission Outposts of The Minnesota South District:

- Over 130,000 missionaries/members of LCMS Congregations in The Minnesota South District
- 245 LCMS Mission Outposts/Congregations & Schools in The Minnesota South District
- Deacon Johnny Vang, Neej Tshiab (New Life) Hmong, Robbinsdale
- Deacon Toua Vang, Our Saviour Hmong, St. Paul
- Deacons Vue Lee and Leng Vang, King of Kings Hmong, Roseville
- Vicar Lusienie Fofana, Bethel Liberian, St. Paul
- Rev. James Ruey, Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Mission Church of Southern Minnesota, Mankato
- Rev. Simon Dup, Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Mission Church of Southern Minnesota, Albert Lea & Austin
- Deacon Kueh Deng & Rev. Tom Braun, St. Matthew's Sudanese, Worthington
- Rev. Francis Stephanos, Mekane Yesus Fellowship, St. Paul
- Rev. Martin Teigen, Hispanic Outreach, SW Minnesota
- Deaconess Luz Guerrero, Metro Hispanic Outreach/CSP
- Rev. Patrick Simmons, New Creation, Shakopee
- Rev. Ben Griffin, theAlley-Midway, St. Paul, MN
- Rev. Michael Grannis, The Refinery, Norwood-Young America
- Rev. Monte Meyer, Campus Lutheran Chapel, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Rev. David Kind, University Lutheran Chapel, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- Long-Term and Career Missionaries from the MNS District:
 - Katie Lane, Peru
 - Virginia Faye Taff-Lagergren, Uganda
 - Jack & Cathy Carlos, Guinea
 - Andrea Herman, Guinea
 - Rev. Jake & Michelle Gillard, Uganda
 - Rev. Dr. Fungchatou & Kalia Lo, Cambodia
 - Darrell & SueZann VanLuchene, Indonesia
 - Coral Rose, Pretoria, South Africa
 - Andrew & Stephanie Jones, Frankfurt, Germany
- The Staff of the Minnesota South District:
 - Rev. Dr. Lane Seitz, President
 - Ms. Lucille Clemmensen, District Treasurer
 - Mr. Kurt Fuhr, LCEF Vice President
 - Rev. Dr. Peter Meier, Assistant to the President for Missions
 - Rev. Dr. Mark Noren, Executive Assistant to the President
 - Mr. Michael Zimmer, Assistant to the President for Missional Formation
 - Support staff: Gae Ash, Julie Bigler, Linda Bradford, and Debra Connolly
 - LCEF Staff: Maria Hendrickson, Judy Mueller, Jocelyn Polley

Prayer Requests From Our Missionaries:

- **"Transformed for His Mission"** Ask God to continue His transforming work in the lives of our people and congregations in The Minnesota South District, so that they will see their place

in God's mission, and be moved to partner with Jesus in carrying out His mission.

- Think of three people you know who are not Christian, or who are “disconnected” from Christ... Write their names down and pray daily for each by name.
- Pray that everyday actions of your life will reflect Christ’s saving work and transforming power.
- The Evil One desires to destroy God’s kingdom and derail the mission efforts of people and congregations. Pray that God would frustrate these schemes, while moving His kingdom forward
- Mission zeal, stamina, wisdom and discernment for all of our mission workers...
- Rev. Martin Teigen, Southwest Hispanic Outreach:
 - 1) Thanksgiving for the many years of service that Caroline Stade rendered to the Hispanic Mission by receiving and disbursing funds for it.
 - 2) Thanksgiving for the years of assistance rendered by Judit Esquivel who, before returning to Texas-Mexico, rendered a service to the mission in helping with the preparation of food.
 - 3) Prayer of Thanksgiving for the volunteers who teach Sunday School to the Hispanic children in congregations associated with the mission, that their important although often unnoticed labor would be recognized for the great part it plays in the work of the church.
 - 4) For those who have moved from the area, that they will find a congregation and will be faithful in their attendance there. Special petitions for those families who will look for a parochial school in which to continue the Christian education of their children.
 - 5) For those workers, pastors and laymen, who will be assuming a great role in the work of the mission in 2012
- Deacon Kueth Deng & Rev. Tom Braun, Sudanese Outreach, St. Matthew’s, Worthington:
 - 1) For our Sudanese families to understand the important mission of reaching out with Christ’s love to other Sudanese families in the community.
- Rev. James Ruey, Sudanese Lutheran, Mankato
 - 1) For Sudanese Churches and Communities and their leaders throughout North America, that God would keep our friendship strong in Christ, and make the Congregations that we serve grow strong in the Lord our God
 - 2) Ask God Almighty to give us safety for the vehicles which we drive to work and to church events
- Rev. Simon Ter Dup, Sudanese Lutheran, Albert Lea:
 - 1) Pray for the two families who have lost loved ones through tragic deaths, and pray for Girwath Joak who had the accident and is in the hospital.
- Vicar Lusenie Fofana, Christ Evangelistic Ministries, Bethel, St. Paul.
 - 1) Pray for Vicar Fofana for wisdom and understanding of God’s Word, and that God will bless this ministry
- Rev. Francis Stephanos, Mekane Yesus Fellowship, St. Paul:
 - 1) We thank the Lord for answering our prayer to find a Sunday school teacher with passion and energy. Pray that God would bless the 25 kids enrolled, and also the three young adults who are being prepared to help teach.
 - 2) Thanksgiving that in the month of November one child has been baptized and currently six more kids are being prepared for baptism.
 - 3) Praise God for the two young adults who have recently been confirmed and six young adults who are attending the confirmation class.
 - 4) Thanksgiving that the Lord of the harvest has caused our congregation to grow very quickly; we want to thank him for the grace and blessings he has given to our congregation and pray that he continue to give us wisdom and strength to lead his people according to his will.
- Deacon Johnny Vang, Neej Tshiab (New Life) Hmong, Robbinsdale:
 - 1) Thank the Lord for blessing our congregation for another wonderful month, and for keeping our congregation in the Word and in the Light. Ask the Lord to remain with the Neej Tshiab congregation in 2012 and let the Holy Spirit move all of us so that we can reach out to all of those who do not believe.
 - 2) Thank the Lord for Golden Valley Lutheran Church, for the assistance of Rev. Rex Rinne, who serves as mentor for both Yia Lor and me; ask God to bless him and GVLC.
 - 3) Thank the Lord for Redeemer Lutheran, for providing us a place of praise, study and worship.
 - 4) Praise God for Rev. Zong Yia and Rev. Blong Vang for their mission work as they continue to help most of our Hmong Church leaders in becoming more knowledgeable in the word of Christ. Also ask the Lord to watch over them as they continue to work overseas to bring the Hmong People in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam to come to know Christ.
- Deacon Chong Toua Vang, Our Saviour’s Hmong, St. Paul:
 - 1) For God’s continued guidance and support in the new year as we share the Gospel message to the East side neighborhood
 - 2) For the families that we visit and with whom we share our ministry, that they would know Christ and connect to His church.
- Deacons Vue Lee and Chou Vang, and their wives, King of Kings Hmong, Roseville:
 - 1) For Doua and Sue Xiong at the St. Louis Seminary. This is their first year away from home and family. It will be hard without the communal support that we Hmong are so used to have around and depend on.
 - 2) Pray for the Deacon Vue Lee as he struggles with the decision of what to do after school here at Concordia and where to go to seminary as also hoping to be able to stay and serve his congregation, God, and schooling at the same time, if God wills.
- Rev. David Kind, University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis:
 - 1) That God would bless our outreach efforts to internationals through the new TESOL program
 - 2) That the Lord would bring many students to faith through our ministry, and that He would draw many to join us in our life together at ULC
- Rev. Pat Simmons, New Creation Lutheran Church, Shakopee:
 - 1) For the start of Spanish worship
 - 2) For our Hispanic outreach
 - 3) For family health
- Rev. Michael Grannis, The Refinery, Norwood-Young America:
 - 1) Pray that all of us in this discipling ministry would be regular in our daily devotional practices and in pursuing lives of change through our weekly encouragements and challenges.
 - 2) Pray that God would use me this next month to raise up and strengthen those I am discipling so that they begin to engage people around them in this discipling relationship and that it would be lived out in their families as well.
- Rev. Ben Griffin, theAlley-Midway, St. Paul:
 - 1) That we, as a ministry, keep our eyes and goals realistically focused. It is easy to push for the goal that is five years down the road, and lose sight of how to get there.
 - 2) Prayers for the ministry teams that are forming at the Midway site; each ministry area will serve in different ways, and will serve the community as a whole constantly pointing to Jesus and our salvation through Him.

*“I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words...
Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shelter of your wings.” Psalm 17:6,8*