

Global Strategy Praises and Prayer Requests—December 2022

1—Global: Christmas is a story of displacement—of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem; of God from heaven to earth, from immortal to mortal; of shepherds from field to town; of Magi from the Orient to Bethlehem; of a family warned of death escaping to Egypt. This month, let us draw near to the millions upon millions of displaced people in our world, let us lift their cause to our God, who draws near. Pray that God will have mercy!

2—Congo (DRC): Conflict has boiled over yet again on the borders of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Uganda. Intense fighting has caused many to seek refuge in Uganda and unaffected areas of the DRC. More than 430 Church of God individuals have descended on city of Goma seeking protection. Pray for the Church of God in Goma, DRC, as they house and care for these people newly displaced.

3—Costa Rica: Lift up Anay Palacios, wife of retired pastor Arturo Laitano. Anay was recently diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and has been hospitalized for serious kidney problems that have appeared in the midst of her chemotherapy treatments.

4—Bulgaria: Praise God! Agape Faith United, a ministry to international university students in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, celebrated its very first baptism in November. We are celebrating with Pastor Kenneth Moorikang and this ministry to university students.

5—Korea: Pray for the new chairman of the Asia Pacific Conference, Rev. Gwibyeong Moon of the Mokpo Soon-sung Church of God, Mokpo, Korea. Rev. Moon has just started a two year term of service to the Asia Pacific Conference in this capacity. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity to the leading of the Spirit.

6—Haiti: Praise God that health continues to be improved and that lives continue to be changed throughout this time of crisis in Haiti. Pray that the rumor of a Christmas truce proves true. Pray that hope and peace prevail.

7—Kenya: Praise God! Kima International School of Theology (KIST) has received formal accreditation. Recently, 19 students graduated with ministry degrees, 27 graduated with degrees in computer systems, and 80 students graduated from the program of Theological Education by Extension administered by KIST.

8—Honduras: After years of faithful teaching at the Samuel Raymond Christian School and working with the local community on the island of Roatán, Sarah Hunnicutt is concluding her missionary service this month. We are grateful for all the ways she poured into the families she served. Pray for Sarah as she enters a new chapter.

9—Ukraine: As the war in Ukraine drags into the winter months, pray for families as they struggle with the basic needs of warm clothes, food, and heat. Given the damage to the power grid, many are dependent on generators and other means of heating their homes. We praise God for the provisions made possible through churches in the United States, Bulgaria, Germany, and Hungary to help those in need.

10—Global: Today is Human Rights Day. We cry out to God today for those deprived of their rights. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19 NIV).

11—New Zealand: Pray for missionaries Kris and Megan Gilbert, who are raising their financial support while ministering to three well-established house churches in the Te Atatu neighborhood of Auckland, New Zealand. Pray for partners to walk alongside them financially and in prayer.

12—Uganda: Pray for protection and wisdom for missionary Kaitlin Smith and the many medical personnel ministering across Uganda, where there is a significant outbreak of deadly Ebola. Currently, there is no approved vaccine for this variant.

13—Latin America: Pray for the Torgeson family as they travel from Costa Rica to Colombia, England, and Spain from mid-December to mid-January to spend time with loved ones and ministry partners, visit churches, and participate in Global Strategy's RC meetings in Madrid.



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14—United Kingdom: Praise God for the new partnership between a local youth organization and Egan Road Church of God in Birkenhead. Pray that the resulting Youth Hub will provide a place of belonging, hope, and encouragement for youth throughout this community!

15—Philippines: Praise God for the fifty-five years of ministry of the Church of God International in the Philippines. The 55th anniversary celebrations were held on in November to celebrate these many years of service.

16—Global: Pray for all our global personnel around the globe, who are celebrating this Christmas season far from family and friends. Pray for their children. Praise God for the faithfulness of these men and women, and pray that they experience the presence and encouragement of the Father in this holiday season.

17—Malawi: Praise God that plans for ministry are coming to fruition. New construction at the ministry center in Blantyre is moving forward, and a grinding mill is nearing completion, which will assist the church there with local sustainability.

18—Honduras: Give thanks that Kiana, the kindergarten student on Roatán who fell gravely ill a few months ago, is back in class. She cannot walk yet but has begun crawling, and her fine motor skills are coming along nicely.

19—Latin America: Give thanks for the new InterAmerican leadership team that was elected during the convention in September. Please pray for Esteban Zapata (president, Honduras), Mónica Fischer (secretary, Argentina), and Alberto Martínez (treasurer, Chile/Perú) as they take on new challenges and continue to provide excellent leadership in the region.

20—Haiti: The words “peace on earth” have grown in meaning this year in Haiti, but that statement resonates more currently. Pray that the Prince of Peace, the hope of mankind, who entered the world in a stable long ago, prevails amid the chaos of Haiti and beyond.

21—Global: On this shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, the darkest night of the year, praise God for the light of this season: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned” (Isa 9:2, NIV).

22—Zambia: Lift up Hope Ndao, who is experiencing heart issues. Hope is the daughter of Mailesi Ndao, the national leader of the Church of God in Zambia.

23—Belize: This nation took a direct hit from Hurricane Lisa in early November. While the initial damage did not appear as bad as feared, the longer-term impact of electrical outages and crop damage just before harvest is creating additional challenges. Pray for those affected and those working to help them, including missionaries Alfonso and Elizabeth Ayala.

24—Europe & Middle East: Praise God that so many young leaders in the region were able to attend the 3WLN (Three Worlds Leadership Network) event last month. 80+ participants represented 14 countries in Europe and the Middle East. Friendships were created and strengthened as the participants learned about each other’s cultures, ministries, and experiences over these last few years.

25—Global: Today, we celebrate the messiness of a human birth, of the displacement of God from heaven to earth. We celebrate the obedient faith of a young woman and of her husband, of a family displaced by circumstances beyond their control. May we allow ourselves to be displaced to draw near to the God who drew near to us.

26—Sri Lanka: On this Boxing Day, pray for Sri Lanka. Economic mismanagement has brought the island nation to near collapse. The most vulnerable are hit the hardest. Missionaries Steven and Peggy Beverly have helped to put together a weekly feeding program for over 500 children. Pray for the pastors as they connect with families in their villages and give children at least one nutritious meal a week.

27—Ukraine: Our Ukrainian Church of God brothers and sisters have these specific requests: Pray for Pastor Andrei’s return to Ukraine with humanitarian aid, for the Lord to give Ukraine peace in a supernatural way, and for the leaders of the churches in Poltava, Zavodskaya, Kamenka, Lyuboml, and Mikhailovka.



28—West Africa: In the wake of the successful All-Africa Assembly in June of 2022, plans are currently underway for regional gatherings across the continent. Pray for the African church leaders planning and preparing for the upcoming West Africa gathering in February 2023.

29—Middle East: Pray for leaders of the Church of God in the Middle East as they strive to reach young people with the good news in an increasingly secularized and fragmented environment. Praise the Lord for their creativity! May they be encouraged in their efforts.

30—Bangladesh: Praise God for the 75 years of ministry of the Church of God High School in Lalmonharit, Bangladesh. 75th anniversary celebration services were held on the October 30 with Jim Lyon, general director of Church of God Ministries (US), speaking.

31—Global: It's New Year's Eve. As midnight strikes, 2022 is displaced by 2023. None of us knows what displacements, what reversals, what detours, what celebrations, what successes await us in the new year. But we know that our God is faithful, that our God draws near to us and sustains our hope. And for this, give praise!



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