

Global Strategy Praises and Prayer Requests—May 2023

- 1—United Kingdom:** Praise God for the encouragement that Egan Road Church is to their community in Birkenhead, UK, as they share the love and hope of Jesus Christ. Pray for their upcoming community event celebrating the coronation of King Charles III.
- 2—Japan:** Pray for Terence & Christy Van Dam, special assignment missionaries to Nichhi Kunitachi Church of God in Tokyo. Pray for the personnel changes in Terence’s work assignment at the Christian Academy in Japan missionary school. As new personnel bring changes, pray for patience and understanding.
- 3—Paraguay:** Give thanks and keep praying for Project Bread, a program offering small loans to people in ministry with small entrepreneurial endeavors, which currently benefits five families. Pray and give thanks also for Project Rest, which gives full-time pastors the opportunity to get away for a weekend to rest and be refreshed. Four families have benefited from this in the past two months.
- 4—East Africa:** Praise God for the successful gathering of Church of God leaders that took place in April at Kima International School of Theology in Kenya. It was a time of reconnecting leaders from Kenya, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Tanzania—through worship, prayer, networking, and sharing updates from each country.
- 5—Peru:** Tropical Cyclone Yaku battered the northern and western parts of Peru in March. Praise God for the generosity of donors that enabled the Church of God Disaster Relief fund to partner with national leadership and the InterAmerican leadership team to provide immediate assistance to 102 families and 9 churches in the wake of the disaster. Recovery and rebuilding efforts are ongoing.
- 6—Ukraine:** Pray for Beate Tohmé and Valentine & Irmgard Schuele from the Church of God in Germany, and Global Strategy missionary Daniel Khim as they travel in Ukraine to visit churches and encourage project partners this week. Through the support and partnership of the Church of God in the United States and in Germany, \$550,000+ has provided food, shelter, power, clothing, and other essentials to those most in need.
- 7—Global:** Praise God for the life and vitality that missionary kids bring to their parents’ ministry. Pray for the health and well-being of our missionary kids—physical, mental, emotional spiritual. Pray for their parents, that they might have peace of mind, as well as the needed wisdom for parenting in cross-cultural contexts.
- 8—Egypt:** Nate & Stacy Tatman, regional coordinators for Europe and the Middle East, are in Egypt to support Dr. Latif Ramsis, who provides leadership for the Church of God in Egypt. Pray for Dr. Latif and for the congregation he pastors in Alexandria, as their church building is currently undergoing reconstruction.
- 9—Pakistan:** Praise God For the growing audience of the CBH program in Pakistan’s national language of Urdu; the program is named Chasma Hayat, meaning “River of Life.” As of mid-April, more than 50,000 people are following the program on Facebook, the main channel of distribution.
- 10—Belize:** Praise God for the love, compassion, and commitment of visiting teams, which are preparing and raising funds to serve and join Christians in Belize in the kingdom of God. Pray for the partnership of God's people between North America and Belize.
- 11—Malawi:** Pray for the church in Malawi as the country continues to recover from the aftermath of the massive cyclone that devastated the southern region of the country, affecting many people in the church.
- 12—Dubai:** Pray for the planning that is going on as the Asia-Pacific and Europe-Middle East regions collaborate to plant a church in the city state of Dubai. Representatives from the regions will meet again the third week of May for continued planning.
- 13—Costa Rica:** Thank the Lord for healing and sparing the life of Pastor Raúl Davis, who lost consciousness while suffering a pre-heart attack in April. Pray for the intense pressure his congregation is facing from new neighbors who throw rocks and verbally assault church members during services.
- 14—Mother’s Day:** On this day in the United States in which we honor mothers, we remember and thank God for all of the women across our lives who have nurtured and shaped us. But pray especially for God’s provision for mothers—mothers stretched too thin, mothers raising families in the midst of violence, mothers who experience food insecurity as a daily threat.



15—Lebanon/Syria: Pray for the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the earthquakes in February. Praise God for the relief work being done in Syria through Church of God contacts in Lebanon. Relief supplies continue to be taken into Syria to serve those in great need. These earthquakes near the border between Turkey and Syria have only complicated the pre-existing humanitarian crisis in Syria.

16—West Africa: Pray for the leaders of the Church of God in West Africa as they seek opportunities to implement some of the new ministry ideas acquired at the recent regional gathering in Côte d'Ivoire.

17—Philippines: Praise God for the work in the Philippines through the ministries of the two assemblies, one led by Charles Viray and his sister Marlene Viray for the First International Church of God and one led by Ed & Ivy So for the First Church of God in the Philippines. The ministries continue to experience growth and baptize new Christians.

18—Bolivia: Pray for missionaries Paul & Kattia Jones as they regularly make a two-day trek to serve the Church of God in Tarija. Give thanks for the exciting ways that the Lord is moving in that congregation.

19—Global: Pray for daily provision, compassion, security, and justice for people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes. Current estimates put the total globally at 103 million, of whom 53.2 million are displaced internally, 52.5 million are refugees, and 4.9 million are asylum-seekers.

20—Germany/USA: Praise God for the incredible work and dedication of Kelley & Rhonda Philips, missionaries in Germany. Pray for them as they begin a one-year home assignment in the USA in June.

21—Burkina Faso: Pray for Pastor Emmanuel, leader of the Church of God in Burkina Faso. Islamic insurgents control large sections of the country and seek to destabilize the government and society.

22—Sri Lanka: Pray for the Church of God in Sri Lanka as they adjust to the departure of missionaries Peggy and Steven Beverly for home assignment in the USA for the next six months. Pray for Rev. Chrisantha De Silva as he continues to take on greater leadership in the church.

23—Paraguay: Give thanks for national leader Daniel McDonald, who was recently re-elected as the national president. Pray for the entire leadership team that will work together to serve the Church of God in Paraguay.

24—Global: Pray for peace. Scripture calls us to pray for peace and to live at peace with one another and with our neighbors. In this world of conflict, of war, of violence, we long for peace, the peace with justice that brings shalom to all people. Pray for the work of the Spirit to this end.

25—Spain: Praise God for En Mi Lugar church in Madrid, Spain, pastored by Alejandro & Carmen De Francisco. A small team is leading the church while the De Franciscos are on home assignment in the USA through September. Pray for the congregation as they continue to share the love and hope of Jesus Christ with their community.

26—Congo (DRC): Pray for Pastor Noel Barumwete as she leads the church in the Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly as the church continues to serve refugees in Goma fleeing the fighting along the border with Rwanda.

27—North America: Praise God for the hundreds and thousands of partners—churches, groups, and individuals—who walk alongside Global Strategy. Without their partnership—whether it's in prayer, in financial support, or through encouragement—our participation in the ministry of the global church would not be possible.

28—Dominican Republic: Give thanks for Pastor Yaruani Reynoso, who was recently elected as the national president for the 15 congregations of the Church of God in the Dominican Republic.

29—Memorial Day (US): Today we honor and remember those who have died while serving in armed forces. Pray for those families who today are grieving a loss. And pray for the grieving families of the many civilians who have lost their lives in armed conflicts across the globe.

30—Global: Pray for the mental health of our global personnel. The pressures of living cross-culturally can be intense at times for missionaries, not to mention the stress of living a world away from the networks of friends and family. Pray for a healthy balance to family life and ministry and for resilience when life is difficult.

31—Japan: Pray for Tamagawa Church of God as they continued the search for a pastor, a search that has been ongoing for two years. Mike Wagner, who is on the search committee, indicates that the search for a qualified pastor has been difficult.

