

Minnesota South District Mission Prayers April-May 2014

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.mnsdistrict.org, and by e-mail subscription. To subscribe, e-mail gae.ash@mnsdistrict.org and put "Mission Prayer Subscription" in the subject line. For MNS District mission information, contact Rev. Dr. William Utech, Assistant to the President for Missions, 952-223-2151(direct line), or william.utech@mnsdistrict.org.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for all Your goodness to us, and especially at this time when we rejoice in the knowledge of Christ's victory over death. Help us to understand and appreciate more deeply all that the resurrection means, and may we show in our lives the joy which belief in Christ's promise brings, and so draw others into the experience of Your love and its power to change lives; for His dear Name's sake. Amen.

Almighty God our Father, we have seen You in the evidence of changed lives and in the growth of Your Church from eleven men in Jerusalem to a world-wide fellowship which has spread through time and space. We have seen present day missionaries leave all and follow You. We have seen lost and bitter skeptics changed into compassionate, caring Christians. We have seen the burning joy of men and women who have undergone great hardship, and yet remained faithful to You. We have seen all this, and still we sometimes wander and wonder if You are real... So, Father, we ask that by the power of Your Holy Spirit, You would prove Yourself again and again and again to us this Easter season. Make the person and work of Jesus so vivid and vital and visual to and in us that we must exclaim: "Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!" Amen.

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
- Vicars NomTsa Vang & Yia Lor, Neej Tshiab (New Life) Hmong, Robbinsdale
- Vicar Toua Vang, Our Saviour Hmong, St. Paul
- Vicar Vue Lee, King of Kings Hmong, Roseville
- Rev. Yia Vang, St. Stephanus, St. Paul, and Hmong Mission Facilitator, MNS District
- Rev. Francis Stephanos, Mekane Yesus Fellowship, St. Paul
- Rev. Demelash Oumer, Emmaus Oromo Ministry, St. Paul
- Rev. 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
- John and Mariam Gayed, People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO), Rochester
- Deaconess Luz Guerrero, Metro Hispanic Outreach/CSP
- Rev. Derek Broten, Woodbury Lutheran-Oak Hill campus
- Rev. David Larson, Church Planter-South Minneapolis
- Rev. Tom Braun, Church Planter -St. Peter, MN
- Rev. Darren Scruggs, Hosanna Highland, Mankato
- DCO Kurtis Smith, Franklin Center & LINC-Twin Cities
- Rev. Tom Park, Hmong Ministry, Bethlehem, St. Paul
- Rev. Monte Meyer, St. Peter, Vernon Center
- Vicar Chad Kirchoff, ReDO fitness
- Long-Term and Career Missionaries from the MNS District:
 - Virginia Faye Taff-Lagergren, Uganda
 - Jack & Cathy Carlos, Guinea
 - Rachel Cassada, Guinea
 - Coral Rose, Pretoria, South Africa
- The Staff of the Minnesota South District:
 - Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, President
 - Ms. Lucille Clemmensen, District Treasurer
 - Mr. Kurt Fuhr, LCEF Vice President
 - Rev. Dr. William Utech, Assistant to the President for Missions
 - Dr. Phillip Johnson, Assistant to the President for Mission Formation
 - Rev. Fred Hinz, Assistant to the President for Mission Formation (Regions 3&4)
 - Rev. Dr. Mark Noren, Executive Asst. to the President
 - Mr. Sean Martens, Director of School Services
 - Support staff: Gae Ash, Julie Bigler, Linda Bradford, and Debra Connolly
 - LCEF Staff: Maria Hendrickson, Jocelyn Polley, Dick Swedean

Prayer Requests From Our Missionaries:

- Pray that the 250+ mission outposts and their members and friends in the MNS District will grow in their efforts to be intentionally engaged in the Mission of God in creative and unique ways throughout the year.
- Ask God to give you opportunities to introduce your Friend Jesus to others, and that you will notice and take advantage of these opportunities.
- 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
- 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, asking the Holy Spirit to prepare them to receive the Good News of Jesus, and to give you the opportunity and courage to share that Good News.
- Pray for mission zeal, stamina, wisdom and discernment for all of our mission workers, especially for our district missionaries:
- Rev. Francis Stephanos, Evangelical Mekane Yesus, St. Paul:
 - 1) This May we have a plan to do evangelism in the Twin Cities. Please pray so that our mission to bring people to the knowledge of Christ may be successful.
- Rev. Demelash Oumer, Emmaus Oromo (Ethiopian) Ministry, St. Paul:
 - 1) Give thanks for the March 2014 nationwide meeting for Oromo speaking Lutheran Church held in Iowa. Pastors and leaders came together from 7 states. It was a time of blessings, prayer and planning.
 - 2) Pray for a new group established in Worthington, MN.
- Rev. Lusienie Fofana, Christ Evangelical Ministries, St. Paul:
 - 1) Pray for Caroline Moore, Rose Brewer, Julia Marsh & family, Eugenie Morris, Tee Fofana, Wilma Ward and Mohammed Konneh
 - 2) Give thanks to God for Bethel Lutheran, St. Paul. They are truly a Bible believing church with love.
- Rev. Yia Vang, St. Stephanus Hmong, St. Paul:
 - 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to give true faith to the people we will visit in April and May.

- 2) Pray for King of Glory and South Shore Trinity to open their doors for new Hmong ministries.
- 3) Pray for the outreach at Hmong Village.
- Vicars Johnny Vang & Yia Lor, Neej Tsiab (New Life) Lutheran, Robbinsdale :
 - 1) Thanksgiving for keeping His faith, grace, and Word at Neej Tsiab
 - 2) Pray for the health and wellness of the congregation
- Vicar Vue Lee, King of Kings Hmong, Roseville:
 - 1) Pray for the Hmong people in the twin cities as over 75% of them are still not yet Christians.
- Vicar Chong Toua Vang, Our Saviour's Hmong Lutheran
 - 1) Give thanks for the many blessings from God for the Hmong Ministry
 - 2) Pray for continued blessings and growth in Christ.
- John Gayed, People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO), Ethnic Friendship Center, Rochester:
 - 1) Pray for the Qatari family that the Holy Spirit may work faith in their hearts as they meet with Christians.
 - 2) Pray for wisdom and protection from the evil one.
- Rev. Darren Scruggs, Hosanna Highland, Mankato:
 - 1) Give thanks for the two baptisms in March!
 - 2) Pray for our ministries as we continue to shape and introduce different elements of worship.
- Kurtis Smith and Sue Hewitt, Franklin Center, Minneapolis and LINC-Twin Cities:
 - 1) Thank God for the anonymous donor whose gift allows us to secure a DCO intern and for others who have committed to support the mission efforts this coming year in Minneapolis. Pray for this trend of involvement to continue onward and upward.
 - 2) Pray for the connections being made with the many immigrants in South Minneapolis, particularly among Somalis in the neighborhood immediately surrounding Trinity First. English classes are growing. May God's Word flourish and grow in the hearts of those not yet in love with Jesus.
 - 3) Uphold our various leaders, staff, and their families as we serve in spiritually challenging South Minneapolis and work together to follow God's clear plan for ministry. Pray for health among families, as this is often where the enemy attacks.
 - 4) As Jesus said, "The harvest is large, but the workers are few. So ask the Lord who gives this harvest to send workers to harvest his crops." Pray for long-term, consistent workers to labor with us in relational ministry here in this community.
 - 5) Give thanks to God and pray for our DCO intern, Chris Zemple
- Vicar Chad Kirchoff, ReDO fitness:
 - 1) Pray for the leadership at Peace Lutheran, Hutchinson
 - 2) Pray for my church family at Peace
 - 3) Pray for my church family at St. John's, Plato
 - 4) Pray for Pastor Clint and Fit4Life
- Rev. David Larson, Church Planter-South Minneapolis:
 - 1) Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as we continue to put the plant's 2014-15 budget together.
 - 2) Pray for the Lord to raise up several new allies in South Minneapolis as we aim to launch a total of 4 new Gospel Communities by the end of 2014.
 - 3) Pray that the Spirit would work through our diligent efforts with our neighborhood associations and block clubs to engage our neighbors and show them the love of Christ through our words and actions.
- Rev. Simon Dup, Sudanese Lutheran Mission Church, Albert Lea:
 - 1) Pray for Simon as he recovers from surgery and an infection..
- Rev. James Ruey, Sudanese ministry in Mankato:
 - 1) Daily prayers for Sudanese churches and communities in North America.
 - 2) Pray for the congregations in South Sudan to keep them safe during these crises.
- Rev. Tom Braun, Church Plant, St. Peter Mission
 - 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to richly bless the new families Rev. Braun is instructing in their homes every week.
 - 2) Pray for the Holy Spirit to heal the divisions at Our Savior's, Mankato
 - 3) Pray for Beautiful Savior, Plymouth, as they consider working with this new church plant.
 - 4) Pray for the Lord's blessings on new contacts being made in the St. Peter Community.
- Rev. Thomas Park, Bethlehem Hmong:
 - 1) Pray for Bethlehem Lutheran Church.
 - 2) Pray for Rev. Park that God would strengthen him at this difficult time and help him to be a faithful pastor.
- Rev. Monte Meyer, St. Peter, Vernon Center:
 - 1) St. Peter's desires to be a church with a regional impact, rather than merely a 5 mile impact. We pray for opportunities to break down traditional church barriers which exist in small town/rural areas.
 - 2) Thank God for the financial ability to support a full time sole pastor for the first time in decades. Thank God for the support of the MNS District and pray that congregation keeps financially strong and giving during the leaner summer months.
 - 3) Pray for our planning of VBS in the summer that it may be strong on outreach.
 - 4) Pray that God would raise up musicians among us to help improve the quality of our worship music.
 - 5) Thanksgiving for all the powerful blessings in outreach God has given the people at St. Peter's. To God be the glory!

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,
 For our offenses given;
 But now at God's right hand He stands
 And brings us life from heaven;
 Therefore let us joyful be
 And sing to God right thankfully
 Loud songs of hallelujah.