

Hamilton County
Baptist Association

March 7th, 2019



Pray for our churches of the week (March 11th-17th, 2019): Bethel Baptist Church (Pastor Darrell Coffman), and New Covenant Fellowship (Pastor Bernie Miller).

Just in case you missed the missionaries who were part of the NAMB week of prayer this past week, there will be information on them in our prayer letter.

- 1) Please pray for **Jorge and Rebeca Santiago** in Comerio, Puerto Rico. Through NAMB's Send Relief compassion ministry, Jorge received a pastor's resource kit including a generator. There were few on the island. "We suddenly could help people do basic things like laundry," says Jorge. "We helped re-open an elementary school that had been closed because of electricity. This created lots of gospel conversations." As Jorge shared Christ, people began to respond and, out of the adversity of a hurricane, One Church Comerio was born.
- 2) Please pray for **Philip and Jummai Nache** in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Minneapolis has more than 100,000 African refugees and immigrants and Philip has now started two churches in the Twin Cities. But he's certain God has even bigger plans. "We don't just want converts. The Great Commission is about disciples," he says. "So many of our people want to be trained. They want to reach out to their people and plant churches here in America and in Africa. Now, we have the opportunity to impact the world with the Gospel."
- 3) Please pray for **Rob and Lisa Warren** in Madison, Wisconsin. Rob and Lisa love college kids because they exist in a season of life where they can question everything and are often open to discussing spiritual issues. The family moved from Ames, Iowa to Madison to plant Doxa Church in the fall of 2018. "We couldn't wait to get here and get started. The amazing thing about planting in a college community is that we don't just make converts, we make missionaries. Many who accept Jesus and see their lives change in college, then graduate and share the good news to others in their workplaces and neighborhoods."
- 4) Please pray for The **Chinese Church Planter** in the Western U.S. Planting the first Mandarin-speaking, Southern Baptist church in a city where thousands of Chinese Americans lived was challenging. John* and his wife intentionally reached out to their community, but people were cautious for a long time. A breakthrough came with a coffee master and a concert pianist who both cried when they heard what Jesus had done for them—freely. "Some of our members left China for better lives. Some were brought overseas by their parents. They all valued accomplishment. They believed their worth was earned. Yet they all felt something was missing. They now know that real life is only found in Christ," said John*. *Name changed due to security concerns.
- 5) Please pray for **Muche and Diamone Ukegbu** in Miami, FL. The Ukegbu's planted The Brook Church which now has four city groups and is preparing to launch more. "When Diamone and I moved here, Miami broke our hearts. But we found something beautiful. Many look at this city and want to begin fixing the sin and depravity. But what we see here are people made in God's image, and we desire to tell them that."

- 6) Please pray for **Luis and Beatriz Soto** in West Valley Utah. Most Hispanics work two or three jobs in West Valley. When Luis sees hardworking men come to a weeknight church event, he knows they are serious about the Lord and hold potential to become new planters. "We need more planters to start more churches that can communicate truth," says Luis. "In a place where it seems like everyone is Mormon, it's easy to feel alone. But I know our church, the people we're sending out and the many who support us through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are part of something bigger. One day very soon, we're going to have Hispanic churches sharing the gospel all over Utah."
- 7) Update on **Henry Jacks**: he has recently gone through two chemotherapy appointments, and has more to come in the near future. Please continue to pray for him, because this is his third fight with this disease, and he is currently trying to fight it while also dealing with pneumonia. He would very much appreciate everyone's support.
- 8) Please pray for **Randy Mauritzen**, husband of retired HCBA employee Linda Mauritzen. He was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer and surgery is scheduled for March 27. Please pray for successful surgery with rapid recovery.
- 9) From **Nancy Clonts** on **Carol**: "She got back from the Cancer Clinic in IL last week. Unfortunately the chemo is no longer working so no more treatments for the time ~ hoping a trial drug might become available."
- 10) If you are like us, you have been sickened and saddened by the articles published by the **Houston Chronicle** concerning **sexual abuse** by clergy and volunteers in the Southern Baptist Convention. Some of you may be asking how can we respond and what can we do about this? We know that everyone is very concerned that we reach a quick and effective response to assist our churches in dealing with this situation. While we all know that each church is autonomous and that every church makes their own decisions concerning hiring staff and securing volunteers, there are things that the Hamilton County Baptist Association can offer our churches to assist in thoroughly vetting new staff and volunteers. I have asked Vicki Hulsey, Childhood Specialist from the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, to lead a seminar dealing with **Reducing The Risk of Sexual Abuse** for our local churches. She will be sharing how we can protect our children, youth and local churches in the hiring of staff and the enlistment of volunteers and developing policies and guidelines for the safe operations of our ministries. The date of the Conference will be in the evening of April 1 at 6:30 at the Hamilton County Baptist Association's office located at 4062 South Access Road, Chattanooga, 37406. Please plan on attending if possible and invite your church leadership to this meeting. Please put this on your calendar. See you on April 1.
- 11) Continue to pray for our partnering initiative with the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board called "**Reach Chattanooga**". We have started our three (3) year initiative that involves bringing in teams from around the state and country to help revitalize our churches that need it, plant some new churches, and reach the unreached people groups in Chattanooga. **Mickey Bane**, pastor of Middle Valley Baptist Church, is the Reach Chattanooga Coordinator, in charge of gathering teams from across the country for the church planting and revitalization requests made over the next 3 years in the Chattanooga area. Please contact him with anything you need at reach@baptistassociation.com.
- 12) Please pray for **Matt and Lindsey Lotspeich**, friends of the Association, who are in the process of planting a church in Poughkeepsie, NY. They look to serve the community there and share the love of Christ to an area that is really deprived. To learn more about their ministry, visit www.vrbcpok.org/vrbc-church-plant, or email Matt directly at mllotspeich@gmail.com.
- 13) Please be in prayer for **Rick and Greg** who are traveling through India and Nepal again to work with the existing ministries there to give them encouragement and help where it is needed.