

DAY OF PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES OF OPCRC: THURSDAY, APRIL 29

Jerry & Gloria An

China

Reframe Ministries

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Jerry serves as the Chinese Ministry Leader of ReFrame Ministries (formerly Back to God Ministries International). The ministry has a well-established team in China, a presence in Hong Kong, and a small team in Grand Rapids. They are leaning further into their posture as pioneer, think tank, and partner in Christian new media ministry.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the growth and development of our Chinese publishing ministry. Three books came out within the first quarter of 2021, and numerous other projects are in the pipeline. Pray for wisdom to discern which projects to engage; pray for the right people to staff this ministry and to partner with; and pray for effective reach and impact as these resources get into people's hands.
- Pray for me and our staff as we, like so many, continue to feel the weight of a global pandemic, racial tensions, and political uncertainties. Pray for renewed strength to continue to be faithful to this calling.

- Pray for our expanded fundraising efforts, specifically into the Chinese speaking communities across North America. Pray for Divine provision for every project, wisdom to discern our steps, and key partnerships with those

who share a passion for this work.

- Thank you for your continued prayers for myself and my wife, Gloria, as she battles depression.

- We have been one of the few Chinese ministries to intentionally speak into areas of conflict, because of our belief that it is possible to be Christian even while having difficult conversations. So we ran a series of articles on government and Christian nationalism on our popular WeChat channel in the wake of the recent U.S. inauguration, which garnered plenty of conversation on social media.

Roger & Carrie Basick

Reach Beyond, Chicago

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Roger is the Vice President of International Ministries for Reach Beyond. His role now consists of serving on the Executive Leadership Team and the Global Leadership Team, and overseeing the Regional Directors. Carey serves as Assistant to the Vice President, where she is in charge of logistics for the entire team and member care. They are pursuing ways to more effectively reach out to unreached and unengaged people groups around the world. Roger is also on the board of Family (formerly known as Focus on the Family Ireland) and serves in an advisory role for the broadcast and social media outreach.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for new Spotlight Club leaders for non-native English speakers (either in your local area, or via the internet). A free online training course provided.

- Pray over the summer internship opportunities with Reach Beyond for both media and healthcare initiatives around the world (<https://reachbeyond.org/go/internships>).

- Pray for the outreach of the gospel to hostile countries via social media.

- Pray for the training of radio announcers (including pastors who have never been on radio before) and new Christian media programs.

- Carey has been diagnosed with degenerative disc disease in her neck and surgery has been recommended. Pray for clear guidance in this decision and for pain relief for Carey.

Corey Buchanan
Chicagoland Prison Outreach
coreycpo@yahoo.com



Corey is the Executive Director of Chicagoland Prison Outreach, which involves overseeing the operations and programs. His hands-on ministry includes leading the Life Learning Program at Cook County Jail and discipling men who have been released from jail and/or prison.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the safety of our staff as we continue in-person programs.
- Pray for the spiritual development of our vocational students.
- Pray for a successful virtual banquet on May 18.
- Pray that God continues to give wisdom to our Board and Executive Director.
- Pray for a new Bible study program we are implementing with families who have a love that is incarcerated.

Miriam Cruz
Jalapa, Mexico
direccion.ejec@gmail.com)



Miriam Cruz Leyva is the Executive Director of "Life in Abundance of Mexico A.C." She leads a team and ministry that serves the people in the community of Jalapa. The ministry focuses at at risk children in areas of health, education, nutrition, and values programs.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the ministries' two newly added social intervention programs dealing with violence prevention against children in the family and the promotion of development of girls and adolescents at risk.
- Pray for continued developing relationships with other socially responsible organizations that will help them serve more children.
- Pray for the political and fiscal situation in Mexico as changes are limiting the action of civil society organizations.

Dave & Blanca Gifford
Resonate: Mexico City
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Dave serves as Team Leader of the Mexico field for Resonate Global Missions. He also teaches New Testament at the Reformed Theological Seminary in Mexico. The rest of his time is divided between preaching, mentorship and preparing Spanish resources offered online for free. Blanca runs an evangelistic kids club and an evangelistic youth club at the church they attend.

Prayer Requests

- Our good friend, Armondo, passed away of Covid. This has been heart-breaking. Please pray for his family.
- Please pray for conferences I am preparing for in April – on postmodernism and worldview for COMPA university ministry, and for the seminary: on books, reading, writing and publishing – in New Testament times and now.

Shelley and Guillermo Hernandez

Dominican Republic
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Shelley works with the Pathway to Jesus School serving 290 students. The mission of the school continues to be to provide an excellent Christian education to the students, giving each child and their family the opportunity to know Christ. Shelley provides the executive leadership to the Pathway to Jesus school. Shelley's role stateside involves organizing and training mission teams, raising funds for students who need financial support, teaching e-learning, and completing administrative work for the school.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for continued financial support as some churches have had to change their donations.
- Pray for wisdom as the school has had to go remote and electricity and technology resources are limited in the Dominican Republic. Many parents are not familiar with how to use a computer.

Chris and Naomi Langkamp

Lampstand Ministries
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Chris is the founder/director of Lampstand Ministries, a Christian outreach that serves the needy of Chicago by offering help to people by providing resources that address their physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs. Lampstand also supports a fellowship lunch on Saturdays called My Brother's Kitchen, a food center for the homeless, in both Chicago and Berwyn.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for us as we train the two next generations to take our place some day.
- Please pray for safety from violence, sickness, and spiritual attacks.
- Please pray that we are good stewards of God's blessings and manage them well.

Tim & Martha Lin
InterVarsity, Michigan
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Tim is the Regional Ministry Director for the Michigan Lower Peninsula (MLP) Region for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He oversees all of the ministries across the MLP totaling about 34 chapters with a team of 30+ staff and 2000+ students. InterVarsity strives to see students and faculty transformed by the power of God..

Prayer Requests

- Pray for student leaders and staff as they reach out to students and invite them to check out InterVarsity. With so many schools in virtual mode, this will be a difficult task, so please pray for perseverance.
- Pray for the continued follow-up and plans from the Ambition Conference held in January – that students and staff follow their plans to continue pursuing every corner of their campuses with the gospel.
- Pray for new staff to join our team. We are in urgent need of new staff especially in the Washtenaw County Area. Rejoice with us in that there have been a couple of new groups established even during COVID.

• Pray for Tim as he continues to try new things for differing college settings, encouraging his leaders and trying to raise support for the overall ministry.

Milton & Cynthia Massie

CRU, Chicago
milton.massie@cru.org)



Milton is the Executive Director of Cru Inner City, giving leadership to 11 staffed cities. Milton maintains his office in Chicago at the Agape Center and serves the local team leading various trainings and discipling inner-city pastors and ministry leaders. Cynthia is Development Coordinator for the Chicago Team, facilitating the discipleship training for the women ministry leaders, and she serves on Inner City's Executive Team. A Bible study video series is available, "Options Together – a Biblical Guide to Engaging American Poverty." The local ministry and a few partners are highlighted in this study. Visit rightnowmedia.org and search for "Options Together."

Prayer Requests

- Pray for their financial support.
- Pray for their family transitions. The Massie's son, Zach, and his wife, Toni, are moving to New Mexico. Their daughter, Sarah, is applying to grad school.
- Pray for staff and students in e-learning programs, discipleship training class, and the 'Know Your Bible' virtual hang outs.

Mike & Dawn Menning

Salt Lake City, Utah
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Mike is the Director of Great Commission Utah. They work primarily with three partner ministries and together in unity bring the gospel to an almost unreached people group – those who are or have lived in polygamy – with an estimated population of almost 100,000 people.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that God will give Mike and Dawn the wisdom, stamina, and know-how to effectively bring the gospel to the people in the polygamist culture.
 - Please pray for Dawn's health. Over a year ago she had a knee replacement. She still has much pain. Please join us in prayer of thanksgiving and praise God for our overall health.
 - Praise God for the great ministry taking place in the polygamist town of Colorado City, AZ, and Hildale, UT, due to the great ministry of my partners at Grace Reigns. Pray that God will touch the hearts of people to pay for the construction of a new church worship center, youth center, and a new thrift store.
- As I continue my work for Great Commission Utah on a part-time basis, please pray that God will raise up harvesters who will bring the gospel to the other polygamist groups here in Utah.

Eddy & Carrie Ramos

Dominican Republic
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Eddy and Carrie have begun a children's ministry in a neighborhood called Monte Adentro in Santiago in the Dominican Republic. This neighborhood has a reputation for crime and violence. The name of the ministry is Ministerio Esperanza y Gozo (Hope and Joy Ministry). "Now may the God of HOPE fill you with all JOY and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13) The prayer is that the ministry will be a safe place where children can come learn about Jesus and through which Eddy and Carrie can also evangelize to families and neighbors.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that the Lord will allow us to find a location to rent for the ministry.
- Pray that the Lord will provide people to help in the ministry and for provision for ministry costs.
- Pray for health and safety for the families we serve.
- Pray for God's protection over us as we serve Him.

Scott & Lisa Reese
Christ Cares, Chicago
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Scott serves as pastor and director of Christ Cares. His main responsibilities are ministerial in nature. His ministry serves the homeless and urban youth (basketball, Bible, after school). He organizes Bible studies, days of rest at local churches, and attempts to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the homeless.

Prayer Requests

- Personal praise and prayer: I recently celebrated 40 years of urban ministry. I'm grateful for the Lord's mercy and grace though these many years. I'm grateful that the bladder cancer I was diagnosed with last year is the non-aggressive type and I need to only monitor the situation. I'm also grateful that besides one exception (which was brought on by me loading up on coffee and energy drinks to get caught up on work), I have not had any issues with my atrial fibrillation. My wife continues to need prayer. The past three years she has struggled with severe anxiety, depression, etc. There has been some improvement the last two months, but most days are still really difficult.

- Please pray for us as we continue to make adjustments to minister during these days of Covid. We do have a weekly Bible study and lunch for the homeless and plan on opening up two more locations in the coming weeks. We are praying for wisdom to know when it would be OK to start picking up people in our van and bus to make it easier for them to attend our programs. We also are not sure when people would feel safe to start youth basketball and Bible programs back up.

- Next week we are starting a Christian-based NA/AA program (narcotic and alcohol help). We will meet at a physical location and we will also zoom it for those who don't have transportation or still don't feel comfortable in a group setting.

- We are grateful due to governmental funding – many permanent and temporary housing programs have been funded due to Covid and the homeless population (in the streets) has dropped. Unfortunately the poverty rate (families in need of food) seems to have greatly risen (by observation, we don't have official stats). Christ Cares has teamed up with the church Scott founded to help with a weekly grocery distribution in Chicago Heights (usually over 50 families). Of course we also endeavor to share Jesus as we distribute food. We also have programs to distribute food to formally homeless friends who now have housing but are still on the edge financially, as well as a program to deliver resources to empower urban churches to be the center of hope and help in their communities.

- We are grateful the Lord has been opening up some food sources, and we recently had another van donated to us to help with the picking up of the above-mentioned programs. We are thrilled with the additional van, however it seems what we really need is a box truck, so we are asking for prayer for God's guidance and provision.

Sergei Sosedkin
ReFrame Ministries, Russia
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Sergei serves with ReFrame Ministries (formerly Back to God Ministries) as a Russian Ministry Team Leader. He oversees staff, part-timers, and volunteers in Russia and Ukraine, producing radio messages and written articles as well as regular preaching in various churches. At its core, the ministry is about sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Requests

- Pray as they follow-up on the unprecedented response to programs during the COVID pandemic and the holiday seasons. Pray that they may be able to reach out and share the gospel with all those requesting comfort, support, and encouragement in the coming weeks.

- Pray for their staff and volunteers do outreach work with local churches in Eastern Ukraine. they have had opportunities to share God's Word and humanitarian aid with hundreds of destitute people in that area. And especially pray for the over fifty people who made a decision for Christ!

- Pray for Sergei and his wife, Olena, as they miss family and their colleagues in Russia and Ukraine as they are here in the States. Also, pray for them as first-time parents as they raise their daughter, Sasha.

Ben & Christy Spalink

New York City

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As pastor of City Grace Church, which serves a multi-ethnic community in Lower Manhattan, Ben's responsibilities include preaching and teaching, discipleship, leading the community group ministry, coaching ministry team leaders, equipping the council, fundraising, communications, coaching other church planters, administration work, and oversight of the ministry. He is also the local missional leader with Resonate Global Mission. Ben's church is currently collaborating with another congregation and hope to enter into a full-fledge merger with that church in the 2021 spring.

Prayer Requests

- The merger with Grace Faith Church is complicated and slow. Pray for God to break down any barriers to a successful merger, and that the combined church would have a strong vision and missional focus.
- Pray for leaders and pastors to be encouraged in the Lord and filled with boldness in the Spirit
- Pray for continual leading as we adjust to the "new normal" and figure out what kinds of changes we need to make to our way to thinking about and doing ministry
- Give thanks for a successful in-person Easter gathering at a large rented space in midtown. We had a new family and a new college student visit.
- We are thankful for new community partnerships, especially with the homeless shelter immediately next door to our church.
- We are thankful to be doing ministry in a brick-and-mortar church building after having rented space for so long!

Larry & Ruth Spalink

Resonate, Japan

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Larry is the business manager for Resonate Global Missions in Japan. He is busy preaching and teaching, administering in the field, consulting with Japanese church leaders, and working with middle-high school students and young adults in church school programs. He is currently also involved in a ministry of worship renewal/enrichment, working to shepherd a couple of students into the ministry.

Prayer Requests

- One of our deepest and most important needs is for the work of the Spirit to break down the numerous barriers that keep people from really hearing and responding to the good news of new life in Jesus!
- A close second to that is for the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into this field! We are very eager to welcome new missionary families! Maybe it will be you!
- We are also extremely thankful when local folks devote themselves to do ministry! On March 2 I attended (virtually, of course) the graduation of Kobe Reformed Seminary. One of the new candidates is entering ministry as a "second career." Mr. Makoto Ishikawa's wife is also a very gifted person, singer and song-writer Yona Ishikawa. "She's quite something," he says! She just pulled off a wonderful concert and released a new album. I'm a big fan of hers, in case you can't tell! I invite you to add them to your prayer lists. I'm excited to see how the Lord will use them in the days and years that lie ahead!
- Ruth and I are waiting on our personnel office to try to arrange a schedule that will allow us to keep serving here in Japan through the end of 2022 without a 6-month time of home service (deputation). There is US government red tape that must be dealt with for this to happen. Can we ask you to pray for that also to be ironed out? Thank you!

Andy & Tine Vander Laan

Teach Beyond, Albania
avanderlaan@teachbeyond.org



Andy serves full time at GDQ International Christian School where he was serving as the high school assistant principal and high school Bible teacher. This school year he was to transition to the role of Dean of Students. Tine was also working at the school part-time on the finance team and helping with the schools accounting and bookkeeping. The Vander Laans are currently on an extended medical leave of absence from GDQ and TeachBeyond as they moved to Germany in order to get medical treatment for Tine who was diagnosed with a brain tumor. After various treatments and surgeries, the tumor is currently stable and the Vander Laans hope to return to Albania in June.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for health and continued recovery for Tine and that the remaining tumor may not grow or be slow-growing and will not need further treatment. She is doing much better, but still has some issues with her eyes.
- We are thankful that Andy has been able to remotely do some administrative work for the school in the past few months.
- Pray for the emotional, mental, and spiritual health of the high schoolers at GDQ as they have dealt with a lot of trauma (an earthquake, COVID, extended lock-downs) over the past couple of years.
- Pray for wisdom regarding their future in Albania as they consider leaving the school and potential future treatments for Tine.
- Pray for Jonas, Isabella, and Sofia, the Vander Laan children, as they continue to adjust to life and school in Germany and as they miss their home and friends in Albania.
- Thanks to Orland CRC for our financial support and prayers during this stressful year.

Mike & Victoria Van der Dyke

Resonate: Nigeria
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Mike serves in 3 different roles in Nigeria. He serves as an advisor to the CRC-N missions department specifically in the areas of personnel, administration, and strategic planning. He is the liaison between his mission and the 3 national church partners (Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria {CRCN}, Reformed Church of Christ for Nations {RCCN}, and Universal Reformed Christian Church {URCC}). His third role is as mission leader for all Resonate ministries in Nigeria. He seeks to teach, mobilize, and lead the CRC-N in partnership with her Nigerian partner churches and organizations in the proclamation of the Word of God and the development of the church of Christ in Nigeria.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the people of Nigeria and the government as they continue to struggle with COVID. As an underdeveloped country, it is difficult for many to get vaccinated. Plus, the stigma of vaccination alone has many complications.
- Pray for our colleagues, Ryan and Jody Faber, and their family. They have been delayed in their arrival in Nigeria because of COVID-19 and a mix-up with their visa applications. He is an instructor at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria and he desperately wants to teach in-person rather than virtually to his students.
- Pray for our work in discipleship and evangelism training. Classes have been less and with fewer attendees because of COVID. Pray that "workers" will come back to help with the harvest.
- Pray for people to have a heart for educational leadership in Nigeria. The ministry needs to replace their educational director in order to facilitate better Christian education throughout all of Nigeria.

Mike & Pretty Van Prooyen

Word of Life, Philippines
michaelvanprooyen@wol.org



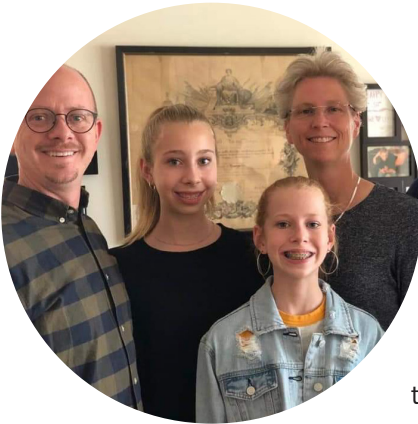
Mike serves as the Executive Director of Word of Life Philippines and the Indo-Pacific Region. The ministry is focused on reaching the youth of the Philippines with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Mike is responsible for overseeing the facilities/properties, finances, fundraising, and guiding the ministry into the future as they proclaim Jesus Christ all over the Philippine Islands. There are four ministries of Word of Life: (1) The Word of Life Camp; (2) The Word of Life Bible Institute, which has students studying the Word of God; (3) The Local Church Ministries, which is currently working with 50 local churches to help them build biblical effective Youth Ministries; and (4) The Word of Life Campus Ministry, which does evangelism and discipleship on the campus of the University of the Philippines.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for a fruitful and productive time while Mike, Pretty, and family are in the States this spring and summer.
 - Pray that young people will return in greater numbers to the camp as the pandemic restrictions lessen.
 - Pray for the effectiveness of their virtual ministries in the lives of young people throughout the Philippines.
 - Pray that the staff will stay strong and faithful during this time, and pray for wisdom for Mike in leading the mission in the Philippines and 12 other countries in the Indo-Pacific.
 - Pray for God's provision of financial needs as they face cuts due to the pandemic.
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Cliff & Cristine Wiener

YWAM, Perth, Australia
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Cliff and Cristine serve as members of the core leadership team of YWAM (Youth with a Mission) in Perth, Australia. Cliff and Cristine teach at several training schools on various topics preparing missionaries for their outreaches throughout Asia and Africa. They also oversee advanced music and worship training at their location for the raising up of worship leaders on the mission field and in the local church. Cliff is also a member of the core leadership team at YWAM Perth. In this role, he oversees the missionary training and outreaches. They have had to get more creative this year in offering more training via zoom.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers as YWAM reaches out to aboriginal communities in Australia.
- Praise for the zoom trainings that have reached far beyond their borders.
- Pray that Cliff and Cristine's children will really grab hold of God's call on their lives – that they will follow God with all their hearts.
- Prayers that Cliff and Cristine will be effective and God-glorifying in the training up of missionaries serving the Lord.