

Missionary Prayer Requests for December 2025

"THE MAN OR WOMAN WHO PRAYS OFTEN HAS AS MUCH TO DO WITH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MISSIONARY ON THE FIELD, AND CONSEQUENTLY WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS or HER LABORS, AS THE MISSIONARY"R.A. Torrey

**Volodia and Oksana
To Ternopil, Ukraine UA**

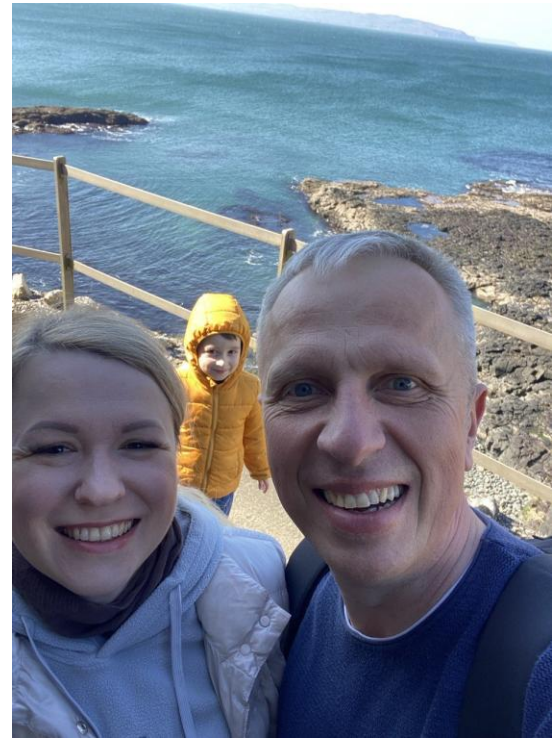
This month, Volodia's missions newsletter is very different from the usual list of praises and requests. I am including it below. I thought it was important to include, with minor corrections for English, as it was written by him.

Dear Friends,
This will be a rather unusual beginning for a prayer letter. I found it hard to hold thoughts together after what happened in Ternopil in the early morning of November 19. Some of you might have already heard the news of the Russian cruise missile attack on our city, killing 31 confirmed cases, injuring 94, some of them are in critical condition in hospitals, and 13 are still missing. The work on the damaged sites continues. It wasn't by accident, but a well-planned attack of at least seven cruise missiles on civilians to convey a message of fear and terror from the aggressor.

My friend, a pastor from the US and former professor at Kyiv Theological Seminary, who lived in Ukraine for several years, in response to this attack, wrote: "One could argue that this is a strategy to wear down the Ukrainian determination to maintain its independence. But to many of my Ukrainian friends, it increasingly portends a far more horrific prospect. Genocide. The erasure of Ukrainian culture, language, and ultimately Ukrainian identity. Those who think that there is hope for a peaceful settlement with Russia are naive. My friends have been living through this war for over 3.5 years. They understand that a "peace settlement" may end the kinetic warfare, but it will not stop Putin's endgame. The war will continue, not with the explosions of missiles and drones that leave behind the carnage of dead bodies and mangled lives— but a subdued people who, over time, simply disappear."

The third day of mourning after 19th November is today. We cry out to God for His protection these days, as His people were in the time of Ester. Tomorrow is Holodomor Memorial Day, a day of commemoration for the victims of the man-made famine in Ukraine during Soviet times (1921-23, Holodomor, 1932–33, 1946-47). What a land - beauty and dreadfulness, "breadbasket of Europe" and its "bloodlands", the land that witnesses the great deeds of God and acts of devilish evil, the land of much prayer and need of grace for its people to come to the redeeming knowledge of God's goodness and grace.

Recently, I have been reading "Life in Christ: Studies in 1 John" by Martyn Lloyd-Jones for my Sunday preaching preparations, and the idea of assurance has occupied my mind in a particular way. What a great blessing those who believe in the name of the Son of God have. We cannot know what the immediate future might bring us, as no one was able to tell where and how many of the Kh-101 missiles would land in Ternopil, but we know the great and ultimate end. As a matter of fact, it is not the end, but rather a glorious beginning for those who believe. In a way, through the means of faith, assurance takes root in our hearts. "Blessed assurance... a foretaste of glory divine" is what we most urgently need under the present reality of life here in Ukraine or in any other place. The war, which goes on, might differ in intensity or character, but not in nature. Spiritual warfare is what we all face; we are to have proper ammunition for it, and not least important, the inner



courage to continue in the good fight of faith. Christian assurance in this case is of crucial importance — praise God for this virtue. The Lord will continue to work in and through his church in any place, and the ministry of the Gospel truth prevails

Thank you, dear Friends, for keeping the people of this land in your thoughts and prayers.

Praises:

1. Thank you very much for your prayers and support. Oleksij is much better now, it was hard for him to get out of his illness. Earlier this week we checked with doctors for one more time and got some further instructions for his recovery.

Prayer Requests:

1. Recently, considering new evangelistic opportunities, Oksana and I have had an idea of a Christian bookshop café. A place where people could come and pick up a good Christian book with an opportunity to read some in a cozy atmosphere with a cup of tea or coffee. Use it also as a place for book presentations or Christian open forums on occasions. It might sound weird to have anything like this in such a time, as now. However, we think this is the exact time. Such a place might work as a tool to recover, rethink or even heal a heart through the reading of a Christian book and conversations. We know next to nothing about bookselling or coffee, but that is the kind of idea that has occupied our minds for some time now. We pray and seek guidance from God in this.
2. Pray also with us that the Lord will continue to work in and through his church in Ukraine. Pray that the ministry of the Gospel truth dominates in all its activity, especially as Christmas approaches. That we will have wisdom and healthy courage to tell others about God's incarnation for the sake of the salvation of the soul. Reminding that Christ is the reason for the season! And let this message be proclaimed even at such a time as now.
3. Pray for pastors and ministers that they will get the necessary rest and find much strength in the truth of God's Word. Pray that those who desperately need physical recovery will get one. Pray for those who minister directly to the war-affected military or civilians that God will guide them in the work they do.
4. Pray that God will continue to raise faithful workers in these hard times. That through their ministry, many could see the reality of God's presence and the saving goodness of His Son. God is still God, and He is Good all the time.
5. Pray that God will protect us from all kinds of enemy attacks, drones, and missiles on our infrastructure or spiritual arrows targeting our souls. Pray that even in the midst of pain and suffering, our hearts will be protected and won't be hardened. Pray that the Lord will continue to heal the wounds of our nation.
6. Pray for our children, those who are called the children of the war. Those who lost the dearest to them, that they would be healed and be covered in the love of the Heavenly Father.
7. Pray for our politicians that they will act wisely and responsibly under the fear of God. Pray for our military... that the Lord will provide what is necessary for them to hold the shield.
8. Continue to pray for the end of the war in justice and ceasefire negotiations and long-lasting peace for our land. Also, do remember those of us who left Ukraine and are now scattered all around the world. For many of them, life is not at all easy. May the Lord meet them where they are and help them through difficulties.

Thank you again for your faithful support. With very warm greetings in Christ,

Volodia, Oksana and Oleksij

Knudsens

To Loja, Ecuador EC

Praises:

1. Praise God that David's Dad can come visit, bring presents, and help in lots of different ways. We are enjoying having him here!

Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for the different Christmas events. That God would use them and that they wouldn't be business that distracts from the reason for the season.
2. Pray for a couple we are mentoring together. Their marriage and Christian maturity have a long way to go. Pray that they would be diligent, that the Holy Spirit would be at work, and that we would have hope for them even though they are starting from such a low point.
3. Pray for wisdom as there are a couple of people interested in serving in Ecuador with SIM. That they and we would see clearly if they would be a good fit for our team and the ministries we are doing here.
4. Pray for the planning for the Loja Ministry Training Institute that we are dreaming about. That we would find the right people to talk to and know what the steps forward are and when to take them.
5. I've got a training to give (very much like Ron Moore's class, but the one-day version) this coming Saturday, and I preach on the 14th.

Thanks for praying for us!

**Serving Him by your prayers In Loja,
David, Diane, James, Lydia and Athan Knudsen**



LaMar & Joanna Salley

Costa Rica CR

Praises:

1. For all of our travels during the 2½ month mini furlough this year. In the course of that time, we were able to report to 9 churches in 5 states. LaMar was a guest speaker at a middle school 3 days retreat, and I had a few opportunities to speak with groups of ladies. We praise God for the time we were able to spend with our family and some very dear friends. I (Joanna) have found that these trips get a little harder on us as we get older, but to see all that God provided for us along the way, we can keep going.
2. We said goodbye to our stateside kids and grandbaby and flew back to Costa Rica on November 12 and we praise God for the smooth return. We were a bit worried with the government closed down still. Our daughter Alexa made an impromptu trip to Costa Rica and arrived the same day just



moments before our arrival. What a blessing it was to have her hugs to greet us and her laughter in our home.

3. We praise God for the safe arrival of our 3 grandbaby (2nd grandson) Liam who decided to make his appearance 6 weeks early. He is absolutely perfect. He and his mama, Kayla, are doing well and were in and out of the hospital within 24 hours. I am happy to report that Matt's family of 4 now are doing great.
4. Since arriving back, LaMar has been able to preach each Sunday and has started a series on Jonah.

Prayer Requests:

1. LaMar's blood pressure has gone up in the last couple of months. After talking to the doctor and increasing his meds, we ask that you pray that it will help LaMar. Please pray for his health - as he juggles so much and carries so much on his shoulders.
2. Please pray for our GC2 missionaries: Alex and Alejandra in Italy - this will be their first Christmas away from family and Costa Rica. Pray for Erind and Karla in Albania. They are raising support to give backpacks with sweaters and gloves to the gypsy children they minister to
3. Please pray for our son Matt, Kayla, Hudson, and Liam as they travel to the states for the months of December and January. Pray for their health and time with their family.
4. Please pray for the activities we have coming. Pray for opportunities to share the Good News.
5. Please pray for our son Kevin and his wife, Stephanie, as they await the arrival of their 2nd baby girl. She is due to arrive the end of January.
6. Please pray for our daughter Alexa. She was let go from her dog training job, and is temporarily back at Chick-fil-A. We are praying for God's guidance during this temporary time. She would love to move back here, but she loves her life there in Nashville. Please join us as we pray for what is next for our beautiful Alexa.
7. Please pray for me (Joanna) and my brothers as we work with our Dad and his living situation. Being the only daughter, this is weighing on me for being so far away.
8. There is always an adjustment period after our return, putting our house back together, deep cleaning, but also mentally and emotionally.

As always, we can't thank our Lakes family enough for your prayers and encouraging notes. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day with our son Matt and his crew and his in-laws. We have so much to be grateful for. As we move into December, we pray for you all as you continue to minister in Walled Lake and surrounding areas. We praise the Lord for you.

LaMar & Joanna Salley

Timothy and Lisa Murdoch
Kitwe, Zambia ZM

Prayer Requests:

1. Please continue to pray for Mohamed. He is back in Sudan attempting to set up a place from which to serve as his family are in Uganda.
2. Please pray for a particular missionary family experiencing a challenging transition off of the field.
3. Please pray for a missionary team working through their church planting strategy.
4. Please pray for wisdom as we are working with a church in the States and in Africa concerning becoming a sending and going mission church.
5. Please pray for 62 students at Appalachian Bible College who have committed to serving God in missions. We will be discipling most of these students.



Thank you for your continued prayers.

Training the next generation of servant leaders in Africa for Great Commission Living.

Timothy and Lisa Murdoch

Joel and Misty Diffenderfer
ABWE, Japan JP

Praises:

1. In November, we ate dinner with the ABWE Kanto team and welcomed 2 new families to the field! Some of our organizational leadership was also there and we were able to spend time with them the following day.
2. Kai fell and hit his head the evening of Nov. 23rd and we were concerned about a potential concussion. He is doing well now, and we are really grateful.
3. We have had some opportunities to serve & show love to our friends in low-pressure, low-obligation (them feeling obligated to reciprocate) ways recently. We also received care when Kai was absent from school due to the potential concussion.
4. The first Charles Simeon Trust Workshop in Japan went well! Joel made some good connections and we're looking forward to continue building relationships.



Prayer Requests:

1. We are supposed to have a couple of the kids' friends and their parents over on Dec. 6th to make Christmas cookies. We are hoping this will be a good relationship/trust building time. But there is a high possibility it will be postponed because influenza has started going around the kindergarten. Influenza rates are really high right now; many schools have been closing because so many students are ill. Pray for health and that we can still have friends over!
2. There are 3 weeks left in Misti's language class term. Pray for growth!
3. With changes for the Japan team and law changes with Japan's government, there is a lot of admin work for Joel to do, so from January, he will increase work hours and Misti will decrease work (study) hours.
4. Pray for our spiritual growth, refreshment, and for contentment in Christ.

**In Japan,
Joel, Misti, Kai, & Fia**

REMEMBER: Alexander Timofeej and Sergei and Lena Mihailov in Kirovo-Chepetsk, Russia. Please also remember our missionaries in Lebanon and Cuba!

Pictures from Volodia's December Newsletter!

