

August 2025



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Pastoral Insights by Pastor Barry



become all things to all people so all possible means I might save some." (1 COR 9:22)

Recently I was reading in 1 Corinthians (9:19-23)

where Paul shared that he became like a Jew to win Jews, a Gentile to speak into a Gentile's life or any number of other characteristics like the weak, or a slave, or those under the law, etc. He wanted to make a difference for the Gospel no matter what religion, tribe, or language they might have. But how would he know what a Gentile might be thinking or feeling? How could he understand a slave and what their challenges might be like? He had to learn and study their culture and their needs so that he might share the Gospel effectively, right?!

Three years ago I knew very little about Muslims. The first thing that I needed to do is learn and by doing so show that I care. Every time we meet as the GO Community we are learning about Muslims, tribal groups, and cultures in our world. This is an important aspect of our missionary call from God. One of my prayers for Muslims is that they would encounter "Isa al Masih!" That is, Jesus the Messiah. I now have a passion to pray Muslims because I know more about them and realize that many of them are not far from receiving Christ. Come learn with us on AUG 14th @ 6PM.



Prayer Requests from Central Asia

From our representative...

- Please pray for the remaining funds to complete the Camp and Retreat Center.
- Please pray for God's physical and spiritual protection for all of our children and especially Alex in the Ukraine.
- Please pray for the progress of the Camp and Retreat Center Project and especially for good relationships with the neighbors and the local villagers. Specifically, we need them to move their water supply pipes off our property and onto the side of the retaining wall. There has been some hesitancy with the locals.
- Please pray for our work with other missionaries whom we are helping to move from sexual brokenness to sexual wholeness through the men's program called Freedom Fight and the women's ministry called Women in the Battle.
- Please pray for Bear as he has been struggling with all his siblings moving away. We need to make sure he has the community structures, support and friendships he needs to thrive.



Report from Brazil Marie Evensen

Hello from Brazil!

I have great news! *My one year VISA was approved.* I can now stay in Brazil for a year and then renew for another year after that. This is a huge relief for me and a great blessing to know I can stay here for the long run. Amen!

God has put a particular family in the community on my heart. I met Joyce, pictured in the colored dress, about two months ago when her youngest daughter, Joselyn, was just nine days old. Joyce has three other children: Marcos, 18, Thales, 9, and Julie, 6.



I met her shortly after she separated from her husband due to his drug usage. In visiting her house, I became aware that she needed a functioning stove, repairs on her house and help with groceries. With the help of a local church we were able to deliver a stove and we have plans to help repair her house. God is great in how He connected us with Joyce in this critical time in her life to bring blessing and encouragement to her. I am hoping to connect more with Joyce on a personal level to hear more of her life story and encourage her in knowing God more. She has accepted the Lord, but struggles with walking closely with Him.

Prayer Requests:

- Safe travel to the US for two weddings and then back to Brazil, August 12th - September 19th.
- Continued language learning so I can converse more deeply with people God leads me to disciple.
- Health and safety in ministry.

Thank you so much for all the prayer, encouragement and support as I serve God in Brazil!

With a grateful heart,

--Marie



Kenya Highlights

Our students are wrapping up Term 2 on August 1st, and I am awaiting tuition fees needs as they resume classes for Term 3 on August 25th. Praise God our account will accommodate those needs!

Our mentor event on June 20th was successful. The students were encouraged and understand many fellow

Christians in the US are supporting their efforts and praying for them. This really gives them great motivation and a desire to perform well for their sponsors. One of our volunteer mentors, Eugene Mudogo, is currently enrolled Machakos University under our sponsorship. He is pictured here with one of our high school students during his recent mentoring visit. Eugene anticipates graduation with a



Teaching Degree in Geography and Swahili in October 2026. He invites anyone who can travel to Kenya to join him on this great day of celebration! Eugene joined Amani Fellowship as a young child in our program and now he is emerging as a young, successful, god-fearing man. What a joy to watch what God is doing. Eugene is just one example, God has many and so many more to come!

Pray that the widows remain clear that the seeds we provided in March which they now successfully harvest, were provided by God and not be distracted by the idea that some wealthy people in America are responsible for this blessing. Help us all understand that all good things come from God. **Continue to pray** for our students and their circumstances in the village. Although they are blessed with opportunity for education, life is still very challenging as an orphan. Further, we as a board also continue to seek opportunities for development to help sustain our program and enhance our provisions for the children and widows. We wait on God to open doors and are willing to walk through them when called. Your prayers and support are powerful in this work, thank you!

Keep Praying for...

Team Naphtali -

1. Prays for Mr. A*'s wife who is also in evangelize but still does not want to believe, so that at the next meeting God touches her heart so that she wants to believe.

West Java—Home of the Sunda



PARI Prayer Request -

General - Pray for the staff retreat plan on August 19-21, may God help in the preparation and meet all the necessary expenses.

Barnabas Team - Pray for Pak N* plan to return to the Barnabas Team and stay at Mr. E*'s house in Jonggol.

Student Services - Pray for weekend students who are on semester break, so that the spirit of evangelize is still there, and for new students to be able to adjust, especially to learn the evangelistic pattern to be taught.

Lay Outreach - Pray for the outreach of secular students through Christian students who will be trained and reach out to their peers.

Amos Team - Pray for the 12 directions of focus of reach so that there are souls who are served and want to be fostered.

Training Center (TC) - Grateful for the TC that has taken place in July, may God help these 9 TC participants to be more called and affirmed in their service in reaching out to this neglected tribe.

Children Youth Ministry - Pray for the two new smart children to adapt to the new environment and school and pray that the children they serve can continue to be deeply rooted in their faith in Jesus Christ.

Caleb's Team - Prays for Active House Churches to be faithful in worship, grow in faith and multigenerational.



Mission Forum
Meeting
Thursday,

August 14th - 6 pm
Special Prayer Emphasis:

Praying for our Muslim neighbors!

See you there!

Nehemiah Team - Pray that our PPJ** Disciples, S* and A* can be role models in the movement

Daniel/Betani team - Pray to find key people, who can be processed to move in outreach

Professional Outreach - Pray that God will help in moving the hearts of professionals to have a mission burden.

Isaiah Team - Pray for the newly baptized A* so that his faith grows in Christ.

Joshua's Team - Prayed for Mrs. A*, Mr. U*, and Mrs. M* who have participated in PPJ** to have an impact in their respective areas.

Peter Team - prays for the pioneering of a new House Church in the P* area with Mr. W*.

Judah Team - Pray for the 3 PPJ** participants who participated so that they will be more enthusiastic and move more violently in strengthening House Church (HC) and planting HC.

Jehosaphat Team - Prays for Mr. D* Disciple who have participated in PPJ*, so that they will be more courageous to reach out to their friends and family.

Timotius' Team - Prays for Pak A* family who already believes that they wants to be baptized and is also in conflict with his wife because of economic problems can solve his family problems.

Gideon's Team - Prays that this year we can establish 2 more House Churches.

Paul Team - Pray for the follow-up of the parents of the K* members who have not believed, pray for the Training for Local Leader to run and especially Mr. G* can rejoin Mr. Y* and his friends.

Cornelius Team - Prayed for the discipleship process that was being carried out so that 4 could move and pioneer a new House Church. Pray for the 3 areas that are being worked on by the team and network. pray for a joint business plan to rent agricultural land for the funding of the House Church.

**PPJ is a Training for Leaders of House Church Networks.

*Full names are not used to protect the individuals on the ground.



X A spiritual world with spiritual weapons By David Platt

Imagine this: You wake up one morning, and as you look outside, you're surrounded. An entire army—horses, chariots, weapons—all closing in on just you and one friend alongside you. No escape. No defense. Everything in you starts to panic. But then your friend looks at you and calmly says, "Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." You'd probably stare at your friend and think, "What are you talking about? It's just us. There's no one else." That's exactly what happened in 2 Kings 6 as Elisha and his servant were surrounded by their enemies, and Elisha prayed:

Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!" The LORD opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire. 2 Kings 6:17 NLT

In this moment, Elisha's servant got a glimpse of the spiritual world and realized that the Syrian army that surrounded them was indeed outnumbered not physically, but spiritually. And in this moment when the invisible became visible, everything changed.

As the Aramean army advanced toward him, Elisha prayed, "O LORD, please make them blind." So the LORD struck them with blindness as Elisha had asked. Then Elisha went out and told them, "You have come the wrong way! This isn't the right city! Follow me, and I will take you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to the city of Samaria. Elisha led this army straight to Samaria to be captured by the King of Israel! That's amazing. How did that happen? They saw the spiritual world, and they fought with a spiritual weapon. All he did was pray!

This is my question for you today: Do you believe that our prayers have power to affect the movement of armies in this world? Stories like this are all over the rest of Scripture. God makes it clear that there is an invisible, spiritual world around us that is just as real as the visible, physical world, but it is far more powerful. At this moment, there are glorious beings that would take our breath away if we could see them. Just ask Daniel in the Bible, who saw one of them and fell on his hands and knees shaking and barely able to breathe—and that was when he saw one of the good guys!

God tells us in Ephesians 6 that there are rulers, authorities, cosmic powers over darkness, and spiritual forces of evil at work in our lives and around the world at all times. There are evil beings all around us that would send the toughest of us terrified and trembling to the floor if we could see them. To most of us, what I just wrote sounds crazy. Most of us live with a worldview that explains most everything by what we can see, touch, taste, smell, or hear. To say that you believe in the existence of angels and demons is like saying you believe in dragons and elves. But God tells us in His Word that we live in a spiritual world, and that reality should change everything about the way we live.

I encourage you to read **Ephesians 6:10-20** and reflect for a moment on how you can engage the spiritual world with spiritual weapons in your life and in the world around you.

JUL 2025

PPJ is a Training for Leaders of House Church Networks. We gathered all the local leaders and aspiring local leaders from the Banten, Cianjur, Sukabumi, Bogor, and Jakarta areas. In this training, they are equipped with the fundamentals of salvation, God's Word, evangelism skills, and daily house worship fellowship. All in all 32 leaders from several districts in West Java took part in this training.

Susan was one of the local leaders Liz was mentoring. While selecting the local leaders in her network to participate in the PPJ training, Susan felt a sense of anxiety. Susan sensed that something might happen to her. She said, "I have a bad feeling, let's pray."

Indeed, during this one month, God allowed many problems to occur, and we continued to pray: one of the participants manifested during the training and had to be delivered; someone's child was led to do something inappropriate that ended up being a police matter; one of the staff lost his motorcycle (stolen from his house), and another staff member's house was flooded (the house is on a higher elevation than the road and there had never been any floods there before).

The participants studied enthusiastically. Some of them couldn't even open the Bible or were still not used to reading the Bible (because they were not encouraged to read their scriptures unless they learned Arabic). However, they slowly learned to read the Bible and meditate on God's Word on their own every day without the help of a mentor. The local leaders are now more enthusiastic about learning the Bible and are now able to convey the Gospel fluently.

Before the PPJ training all the participants had personal problems. However, after going through the training, they became more open. They used to feel inferior and had a low self image because of their past (using drugs, felt like trash, etc.) but praise God, they slowly learned that He saw that each person was valuable in His eyes. Their self-image is slowly being restored. While evangelising, they also witnessed changes in their own lives.

After the PPJ training, Santo drove the seven participants by car, a journey of about 250km. After dropping the participants off at their destinations, Santo returned home. About 3 km from home, Santo had an accident. The car hit a pole and was damaged car. Praise God, everyone in the car was safe. The car was a rental, and Liz had to help Santo resolve the issue.

We are grateful for God's presence and help during this one month. God opened their spiritual eyes and the hearts of the local leaders slowly transformed into hearts that are thirsty and hungry for God. They now have joy and peace and a restored self-image. God loves them and considers them valuable. Despite many struggles, God is faithful, and in His work, and our labour will not be in vain.



PRAYER



- Pray that the team will be able to plant five new congregations in the second half of 2025.
- Pray that the seven local leaders under team Abraham will be increasingly active and bold in outreach and that God will help them in all they do.
- Pray that the 32 local leaders who have participated in the PPJ will be more courageous in their outreach, and that the Holy Spirit will always guide their lives so that the Good News can be shared anywhere, anytime, and to anyone.
- Pray that the organisation's goal of planting 650 new house churches during the 2020 - 2025 period will be achieved by the end of the year.