

Mission News – **November 2024**

(please try to use prayer guides daily)

MONDAY – Today, please remember and pray for our partnership in Ghana with **the Rt. Rev. Matthias Medadues-Badohu, Bishop of the Diocese of Ho, our Companion Diocese**. Those observing the average annual rate of change per year predict, by 2050, Africa will have the highest percentage of global Christians. Asia's share of the Christian population will also grow while all other regions' share will be in decline. Europe and North America will become an increasingly lower percentage of global Christianity. However, there is a "fly in the ointment"! Africa and Latin America remain under-resourced with theological schools. There is a growing need for partners to come alongside church leaders in growing Majority World Christian communities, including those in Ghana, with books and resources, training of pastors, and scholarships for theological education.

TUESDAY – It was a joy to have **Laurence & Peggy Epp (ReachAcross, Calgary, AB)** with us at the morning service on October 6th, our first in-person visit with these dear friends whom we have supported for many years. Thank God for the numerous Muslim families the Epps have befriended in the Calgary area and who are seeking heart-peace which is only found in Jesus. Pray many will attend their *ESL classes* (prepared for 75 and 91 showed up!) and *Ladies conversation class*, averaging about 50. More volunteers are needed so discussion groups can remain small. Laurence also continues to volunteer at a local cancer hospital helping Arabic speaking patients communicate with medical staff. Finally, please pray for Laurence as he has been asked to be on the "Search Committee" looking for a new ReachAcross Canadian Home Director. Pray God leads them to the person of His choice.

WEDNESDAY – **Tony Dickinson (Executive Director, Saint John Seafarers)** has sent us the following prayer requests for the mission: (1) Hurricane season is very active in the south. Prayer for the safety of seafarers would be appreciated. (2) Seafarers are often away from family for extended periods of time. Prayer for their families' well-being and their own mental health during times of isolation would be appreciated. (3) The Saint John Seafarers Mission is here to provide a home away from home for seafarers visiting at Port Saint John. Prayer for the Mission as we strive to do this are appreciated. Tony adds two updates as well, "First, we are looking for volunteers at the Mission to help us to create a home away from home for seafarers. Second, our Christmas box program is asking for donations of toiletries, treats, small games, gloves, and warm hats to give a Christmas gift to seafarers at our Port. Please email tonydickinson@sjseafarers.com or call (506) 635-1731 for more information.

THURSDAY – Please remember in prayer today **Hellen Adano and Family (Marsabit, Kenya)** whom we came to know and love when the Diocese of Eldoret in Kenya was our Companion Diocese for several years. Since the unexpected death of her husband, Bishop Andrew Adano in a plane crash (1996), Hellen has served as a deaconess at St. Peter's Church with a special ministry to other widows. Pray that Hellen can help them bring to the Lord - their questions; their shock; their resentment; their longings; their heartache; their future. Pray that she can guide them through practical decisions and adjustments, give healing to exhausted bodies and emotions, and soften the pain of loneliness with whispers of His nearness. He is the Love which conquered death and is able to fill empty, sad places and fill them completely; forever.

FRIDAY – **Rachel Vander Vennen community Leader, L'Arche Saint John)** writes "We've had a beautiful autumn season at L'Arche, from apple picking to our big annual fundraising gala, Building Community, in September. As we enter these early winter months, we are gearing up for a busy holiday season. Artists at Creative Connections are prepping designs for our annual holiday cards for sale on our website and at Uptown Sparkles, folks at McKim House are already

talking about "McKimmas," their Christmas gift-giving tradition, and L'Arche Connects is preparing for more growth of the program in the new year. We have been so blessed by the support from our community, and we hope to continue that into the holiday months, which is an important season for helping to reach our fundraising goals for the year. We ask for prayers for wisdom and discernment as we navigate growth, continued stability among our community members with and without intellectual disabilities, and ongoing financial support from those who believe in our mission. We are so thankful to the congregants of Stone Church who continue to journey with us to create a world where everyone belongs."

SATURDAY – Mark & Cherilyn Orr (Leadership Training Ministry or L5 for short) reports that "We continue to support projects in Uganda, the Amazon region, and the Balkans. Next week, **Anna** will be traveling to Ecuador to support the Amazon network and represent L5 at these meetings. The meeting will include indigenous leaders from all over South America. Please pray for Anna as she travels, as well as all involved in making this event a success." In addition to training, L5 also has three other projects: (1) **Assembli Design Partners**: This is a broad-ranging project involving 8+ partners around the world. Each of these partners needs support with communications, collaboration, and systems that enable them to scale and meet the complex needs of their region. (2) L5 also supports the **IPA (International Partner Associates)** in program development and a re-imagining of the partnering movement looking into the future. One focal point of this process is a gathering of 50 network leaders in Istanbul in December. L5 will help organize and lead this conference with new ideas and concepts. (3) **Individual Leader Coaching**: There are several individuals globally who are at the initial stages of developing missional projects and networks. We are working at a coaching level to help them get off the ground. Pray for God's blessing on all these endeavours.

SUNDAY – Deborah Edwards (Mission Aviation Fellowship Canada) writes: "I have important news to share. Due to recent changes in legislation in Ecuador regarding foreign pilots, I will no longer be able to serve there. Although this news was unexpected, I am confident that God's plans for my life and ministry remain firmly in place. In April of 2023, MAF needed to suspend operations in Haiti due to gang violence that made it unsafe and unsustainable to operate there. This was devastating to the many people who rely on MAF for safe, reliable transportation. During that time, MAF worked hard to modify its program so that operations could restart. I am very pleased to announce that due to the pressing needs in Haiti, I have been reassigned to serve there. I will be part of the team that restarts this vitally important program to meet the essential needs of the local church and Haitian people. Because of my background as a Flight Instructor, starting in my second year in the program, I will be transitioning into the role of Chief Pilot, with the Director of Operations overseeing me. I plan to depart for Haiti in January of this coming year (2025). We have a secure compound in a remote location and are working closely with a security company to ensure our safety and to monitor the situation." Please pray for Deborah as she completes her pre-field training at MAF-US headquarters in Indiana, her final step to prepare for service with MAF in the field. In addition, please pray for her full monthly support (presently at 92%) so she can leave for Haiti in January.