

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Monthly Newsletter of Ustick Baptist Church

Reaching and equipping all ages for a lifetime of following Jesus

ELDERS CORNER

Pastoral Search Update

The book of James is filled with practical advice for dealing with everyday life as a Christian. Suffering, sickness and challenges cause believers to drop to their knees in prayer, as James advises. The *"prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* (James 5:16). The New Living Translation makes James' meaning clearer to modern Bible readers: *"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."*

As our search for our next lead pastor continues, your prayers are vital. Our people have been praying for almost a year now, asking for God to lead us through this process. Your prayers are "producing wonderful results," but not in the way we expected right now. As a result of our prayers together, God is leading the Elders to pause the search for a time to wait on Him and His leading. We believe there are several reasons for this.

- After interviewing our original group of pastoral candidates, God clearly told us "these aren't the men."
- As we have sought to take the next steps, God has revealed work He wants us to do first.
- As we sought counsel, we have been advised to allow time to pass between Pastor Greg and our next Lead Pastor, as statistics show that 70% of the time, new pastors who follow long-term pastors are at that church less than two years.
- As we sought more counsel, we have been advised to shore up some areas in our church that need to be updated or amended before the new pastor arrives.
- We have come to recognize some in our church are going through a mourning period with Pastor Greg's leaving and need time to process it.

- The original plan we felt led to consider and follow last year has been changed by the pandemic, and these things listed here. We believe God is clearly showing us a different way He wants us to proceed. Pastor Greg described our original plan last year as "guiding the ship safely into the harbor, mooring it securely and exiting gracefully." What we didn't anticipate was that before the new captain takes the helm, the ship needs some repair work, needs to be restocked, the crew needs time for leave and rest, and the passengers need preparation time to adjust to a new captain.

Some of that work has already started. We are working on clarifying our statement of faith. We recognize there are changes that need to be made to our constitution to allow us to meet and vote through online meetings if necessary, allow time for rest for those voted on by the congregation, to reconsider some outdated ways of doing things, and other 'structural' work.

We also have come to recognize that Pastor Greg was doing the work of two men. When Pastor Greg came to our church in 1988, there were just over 100 members and he was the sole full-time employee. Before the pandemic, we had an average attendance of 425, with a full-time staff of five pastors and leaders, plus two part-time staff. The job isn't the same one Pastor Greg inherited 32 years ago. The way the captain is expected to manage the crew and ship needs to change to relieve some of the burden from our next Lead Pastor.

These things take time, and we believe God is leading us to take intentional time to work on these things. Counsel we have sought from experienced church leaders, our Vanderbloemen consultant and those in our own congregation have advised we pause our search, bring in a transitional pastor for a finite period of time to lead our church and staff, provide vision, direction and mentoring during this interim time, and help us with some

of the heavy lifting this work will require. Your dedication to prayer and conversations with the Elders are helping shape this direction.

The transitional pastor serves two main purposes: to help provide a healthy transition between pastors, and to help strengthen a church between pastors leading to greater effectiveness in ministry. Another purpose is that churches need to be reminded that we are not dependent on a pastor, but on God Himself. There is a natural healing process that takes time and can't be done with a new pastor already in place.

Author Cam Taylor writes, "Times of pastoral transition are windows of opportunity. For a congregation that seizes the opportunity, it can be a transformational turning point toward greater health and mission effectiveness. Welcoming a new pastor to a healthy, functioning, spiritually renewed congregation is a goal worth pursuing."

God is leading us to seize this opportunity and pursue this way forward. We are compelled to give God time to go before us and show us how He wants us to continue with our search. By the time you read this, the Elders will have met again to discern more of what God is doing in our church, and how to proceed. We will update you further by email and Sunday morning announcements in the coming weeks. We continue to ask you to pray because your prayers are producing wonderful results!

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The Time Leading to Easter

As we enter the month of March, we are in the season of Lent, the preparation time before Easter, or Resurrection Sunday. The season of Lent reminds us of the reason Jesus was sent by God to suffer and die for the sins of all people. Our sin and desperate need to be made right with God before He can accept us is why we reflect on our sin, our need to repent of our sin, and the incredible mercy God shows us through the work of Jesus' death on the cross. Because Jesus died to pay for our sins and rose from the dead, believers in Him have been promised that He will raise us from death and give us a place in heaven to live with Him forever.

ACE Class to Restart

To prepare our hearts for Easter, Bob Bishop will be leading a four-week series to restart our Adult Christian Education (ACE) classes titled "Getting Ready for Easter". This class will begin **Sunday, March 7** in the Activity Center between first and second services and start at 9:45am, ending at 10:20am. Since this will be a 35-minute class, it will promptly begin and end on time. Please join us as we offer a time to meet again!

Holy Week Services

We will be remembering our Lord's death and resurrection during Holy Week. On **Good Friday, April 3**, Pastor Ryan will lead our Good Friday service as we gather to focus on the sacrifice Christ made to save us from our sin. On **Sunday, April 5**, we will gather to celebrate God's promise of new life and Jesus' resurrection with our special Easter services at 8:30 and 10:30am.

New Men's Bible Studies Begin Soon

Two men's Bible studies will begin in March. One on Monday nights, beginning **March 1** and the other on Thursday nights, beginning **March 18**. **Please see page 9 of this newsletter for all the information on these.** We encourage the men of our church to invite a friend and study God's Word together.

COVID Watch

Your Elders continue to look for opportunities to adjust our response to the pandemic. We are closely watching the decline of new infections and the increased availability of the vaccine. As we see progress continue in both of these areas, and have good evidence for doing so, we plan to make changes to our protocols. We will send you notice of those changes as soon as we believe it is time to do so.

Elder Calls

About a month ago, the Elders let you know we are planning to call you and check in, see how you are doing through this time and ask if you need prayer. We continue to make these calls, but it is taking us longer than expected to reach all of you. Because of this, we have also enlisted the help of our Deacons to assist us with this. Please know we are continuing to call and will call you as soon as we are able. In the meantime, please call us if you need answers to questions and prayer. Our names and numbers are below.

Curt Goldgrabe
Elders Chairman



Curt Goldgrabe
208-921-8332



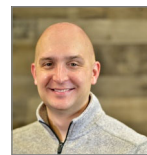
Tim Crimmins
208-954-7325



Mike Veit
208-860-4990



Jon Stadtlander
208-409-9614



Josh Lundberg
832-236-9862



Bob Bishop
208-921-7981



Care & Connections Ministry

Pastor Mike Beaudin

"But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it."
1 Corinthians 12:24-27

CARING for and **CONNECTING** with you at UBC!



Do you know who this is changing a flat tire for one of our Elders' car? The first one to contact me (in person) (sorry Tim Crimmins, our beloved Elder, you are not eligible this time, though we love you brother!) and give me the correct answer, will receive a gift card for it!

This brother in Christ, who is a long time member of our church, just saw a need and jumped in, or more accurately he knelt down, to help care for Tim. Thank you brother ...?!

How about you? Have you seen a need lately and just jumped in or knelt down with someone to help them in love and kindness? I would encourage you to do that as the Lord leads you.

Here is another wonderful example of caring for one another here at UBC. Our brother in Christ, Bill March,



who had hip surgery recently, is here with his "manly outdoorsman quilt" made by our UBC "Wrapped in God's Love Ministry!" Five guys from our Men's Ministry got to pay a visit to Bill and deliver this gift of love to him. Thank you ladies and men of UBC in caring for Bill. I also know others from UBC have got

to visit and encourage him during his recovery, thank you all and God bless!

As we continue to follow and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, please keep being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading to provide "the same care for one another", especially when we see them hurting, suffering, or in need.

Also if you want to make a difference and be connected more, you are welcome and invited to join the Prayer Warriors who meet each Sunday morning at 7:30am in Room 115.



Please continue to "care for one another and love on each other". How? Just pray for them, send a word of encouragement, serve them in love, and never forget that "we love because He first loved us". 1 John 4:19. Thank God we get to be members of Christ's Body!

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

James 5:16



Worship Ministry

Pastor Matt Beck

We are creatures of habit. If we don't find ways to remind ourselves why we do what we do, we're prone to just go through the motions, if not adopt some new underlying motivation altogether. Which can be especially dangerous in worship.

A couple of weeks ago, I talked to us as a congregation and said that "I don't want us to just go through the motions. I want our worship flowing from the heart as true Christian worship must. So many times 'There is a dynamic missing in our worship.' So that morning, we gathered together with just our voices and a guitar. I wanted us to be careful that we didn't lose our way in worship. "The way to get back to the heart is to strip everything away."

More Than a Song

I want to challenge you as you come to our services each Sunday morning to be participants in worship, not consumers. To be ready to engage with God for yourself, from the heart, not just watch with your eyes. My prayer is that you will be able to gain a new perspective that worship is all about Jesus, and he commands a response in the depths of our souls no matter what the circumstance and setting.

That morning we sang the song 'The Heart of Worship,' and it had such a powerful message. "The heart of worship is not music and song, but heads and hearts in joyful awe of the real Jesus."

All About Jesus

The words of the song state it this way, *"When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come. . . You search much deeper within. . . You're looking into my heart."*

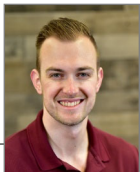
Good music, catchy beats, talented musicians, even the friends and loved ones with whom we worship — these are all good things and wonderful in the context of corporate worship. And yet, when we focus on them rather than Jesus, we are losing the heart in our worship. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman in John 4:24, *"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth"*. The essence of worship is not the many good externals, but heart and head. Spirit and truth. Our spirit, stirred by the Holy Spirit, in worship over true things about God, his Son, and his gospel.

The heart of worship is our heart, delighting in Jesus and expressing praise to him for the true things the Scriptures teach us about who he is and what he has accomplished for us. It is, then, "all about" Jesus, not us. It involves us, but we're at the periphery. He's at the center. He's the focus. It's his commands we consider first, not our preferences.

Coming Back

It is also a song of repentance and re-consecration, not just in worship, but all of life. Periodically, we all need a soul check. *"Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall"* (1 Cor. 10:12) We're so easily distracted from the main things — especially from the main person, Jesus.

Jesus is greatly honored when we bring ourselves, with the Holy Spirit's help, back to the heart of worship again and again.



Discipleship Ministry

Pastor Ryan Bear

February was a busy month for the Young Adults! To start the month, we went on a great weekend retreat in McCall, January 29-February 1. We had a great time enjoying the snow, activity barn sledding hill, building a snowman (it was the first snowman Cristianna had ever built!), and playing games. More importantly, our study was called “Asking for a Friend” where we tackled some of the toughest questions asked about the Christian faith. Questions ranged from the origin of evil, whether God commanded genocide and slavery, to discussing whether we are Christians simply because we grew up in a Christian home. We had great discussions as we dug into the truth and how to respond if others ask us these questions.

On Tuesday nights, we are continuing our study entitled “Love Handles: Getting a Grip on Life, Love, and Relationships.” February is the month of romance, so we are digging into singleness, dating, engagement, and marriage. We have been using a video series by Ben Stuart of Passion City Church D.C. and have been enjoying his messages. If you are a young adult please feel free to join us Tuesdays at 7pm! Call or text Pastor Ryan at 208-914-1241 for more info.

Our first **Adult Christian Education** Class in nearly a year is starting up on **March 7**. It will be a four-week class to help us get ready for the most important Sunday of the year - Easter! This will be a multi-media, interactive, live gathering structured to help you and your family prepare your hearts and minds for Easter and to fellowship together. The class will take place in the Activity Center from 9:45-10:20am, so you can still catch either the first or second service.





Jr/Sr High Youth
Pastor John Buren



For February being a short month we sure packed in a lot of ministry. Of course our biggest highlight was our all-youth winter camp that took place in the middle of the month. There was suspense right up to the moment we left. It happened to be the same weekend with our only big snow of the year. I received an email from the camp director the night before we were to leave informing me that if the avalanche risk was high in the morning, they could not host us. Well, being open to whatever the Lord had for us, I waited for the email with the avalanche report. I was pleased to read that Sun Valley received almost no snow and the risk was quite low. We met as scheduled and loaded up the trailer and hit the road (once we got to Mountain Home the rest of the drive was clear and nice). We took 39 campers (31 students and 8 adult leaders) and had a truly amazing time. Our theme was “Fix Your Eyes,” and we spent time worshipping, in the Word, and having fun all while keeping our eyes and hearts on Christ. I am thankful for the many prayers and help from everyone who pitched in.



February also saw us going through some very relevant topics on Wednesday nights, as we discussed what the Bible has to say about “Waiting Dating & Mating,” and as always our students navigated the topics with maturity and stellar Biblical insight. Each week we’re seeing more and more questions and discussions taking place.



With the month of March at hand I am excited to welcome spring and embrace the opportunities the month will afford us. Daylight savings time starts on March 14, and I am keeping my fingers crossed we’ll be able to take advantage of being outside, at least for part of our Wednesday evenings. Our lesson series for March is “Give It Up,” where we’ll focus on 4 things Christians should give up so they can embrace their faith all the more (Give Up Gossip, Give Up Laziness, Give Up Doubt and Give Up Your Talents). Our graphic has a monkey with his hand gripping a banana in a jar, but due to his grip on the banana he is stuck, trapped because he refusing to let go. Christians can find themselves in a similar situation. We could be more free if only we would let go of those unnecessary things we are holding onto.

On March 31, we’ll have what is arguably my favorite youth group night of the year, “Easter Bingo.” This is a night where we focus on the resurrection of Christ, and it’s also a great night to bring a friend to, as we will play round after round of Bingo, where students can win delicious candy prizes and other Easter themed treats. I’m looking forward to it!





Children's Ministry

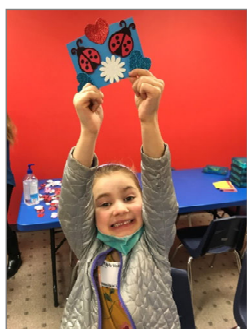
Angie Jacobson - Director

"Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other." 1 John 4:11

Thank you for your generous participation in our "Sharing God's Love in February". Thank you, Melissa Stadtlander, for delivering the snacks each week to different units at St. Luke's. We had the great opportunity to be an encouragement while providing snacks for the staff at St. Luke's. They greatly appreciated the love they were shown.



Thank you to all the volunteers who came out during the snowy **Valentine's** weekend to build relationships with a group of kids while their parents enjoyed a couple hours away! The kids had a great time of obstacle course, crafts, games and food art. It is so meaningful to see loving servants spend quality time pouring God's love into these kids! The volunteers, kids and parents had a fun and enjoyable time!





March 2021

Sunday Mornings

- ◆ Prayer Warriors 7:30am (rm 113)
- ◆ Worship Services 8:30 & 10:30am
- ◆ Nursery available for ages 2 and under (2nd service)
- ◆ Kid's Church: for ages 3-3rd grade (2nd service only) check in room 206

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April Newsletter deadline is March 31!						
	1 6:30P UBCKids Awana 6:30P Women's Bible Study (TMBS) 6:30P Men's Bible Study	2 9:15A Women's Bible Study (off-site)	3 9:15A Women's Bible Study	4	5	6
7 7:30A Prayer Warriors 9:45A Adult Christian Ed class	8 6:30P UBCKids Awana 6:30P Women's Bible Study (TMBS) 6:30P Men's Bible Study	9 9:15A Women's Bible Study (off-site)	10 9:15A Women's Bible Study	11 10A Quilters	12	13
14 7:30A Prayer Warriors 9:45A Adult Christian Ed class 12P Foreign Missions Comm. meeting	15 6:30P UBCKids Awana 6:30P Women's Bible Study (TMBS) 6:30P Men's Bible Study	16 9:15A Women's Bible Study (off-site)	17 9:15A Women's Bible Study	18 6:30P Worship Team 6:30P Elder meeting 7P Men's Bible Study	19	20
21 7:30A Prayer Warriors 9:45A Adult Christian Ed class	22 6:30P UBCKids Awana 6:30P Women's Bible Study (TMBS) 6:30P Men's Bible Study	23 9:15A Women's Bible Study (off-site)	24 9:15A Women's Bible Study	25 10A Quilters	26	27
28 7:30A Prayer Warriors 9:45A Adult Christian Ed class	29 6:30P UBCKids Awana 6:30P Women's Bible Study (TMBS) 6:30P Men's Bible Study	30 9:15A Women's Bible Study (off-site)	31 9:15A Women's Bible Study			

Adult Christian Education class

GETTING READY FOR RESURRECTION SUNDAY

begins Sunday, March 7

9:45-10:20am

in the Activity Center

for adults, young adults and youth

We will begin a church-wide mini-series to stress the importance of Resurrection Sunday. This is structured to help you and your family prepare your hearts and minds for Resurrection Sunday and to fellowship together.

This will be a multi-media, interactive, live gathering taught by one of our Elders, Bob Bishop. This will not be recorded, but handouts will be available on the church website.

March 7 The Reality and Centrality of the Resurrection

- How can we move from the sentimentality to the reality of Easter?
- Why is the resurrection the most important and substantiated fact of history?

March 14 The Resurrection Changes Everything

- What if Christ had not risen from the dead?
- What are the far-reaching effects of the resurrection?

March 21 The Present Power of the Resurrection

- What are the practical effects of the power of the resurrection?
- What does a life look like when empowered by the resurrection?

March 28 The Sure Hope of the Resurrection

- What do we know about Heaven because of the Resurrection?
- How does the resurrection give certainty to our hope of Heaven?

“WRAPPED IN GOD’S LOVE” QUILT GROUP

Our ministry makes lap quilts for those who are ill, having surgery, need encouragement, or just need to feel wrapped in God’s love. We also make baby quilts for Birthright. If you know how to sew and would be interested in making quilts (or learning how) we invite you to **join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month** 10am-2pm in the Fireside Room. You don’t need to bring anything but your lunch as we have all the supplies and equipment needed. If you know someone that could benefit from receiving a quilt (they do not necessarily have to be members of our church), please contact Ramona 208-895-8265 or Marguerite 208-340-4924.

MEN’S ADVANCE (RETREAT)

May 21-23, 2021
at Camp Pinewood.

Men, mark your calendars
and let’s plan for a great
time together.

GEMS

(GOD’S EVER MATURING SAINTS)

We will not be meeting until further notice due to no large gatherings with food at church. We will miss seeing all of you and would love to stay connected through emails of encouragements and prayer requests. Please email us at judyfossgreen@gmail.com or call us at 208-473-2080 for prayer requests, to chat, be encouraged, be prayed for, or to know you are loved. We look forward to when we can start up GEMS again, hopefully soon. *Lee & Judy Fossgreen*

TWO MEN’S BIBLE STUDIES STARTING SOON

1- Men, if you are available, we would love to have you join us for a Bible study, prayer and discussion on **Monday evenings, beginning March 1, 6:30-7:45pm**, in room 217A. We will be going through I Peter and discussing how it applies to our lives. No need to RSVP - come as you are able. Led by Josh Lundberg.

2- Paul’s Co-workers - a men’s 11-week Bible Study will start **Thurs., March 18, 7-8:30pm**, and be led by Ken Fredrick and Mike Veit. This study looks at the ministry partners of Paul and their example of engaging with each other in ministry and life. Men, come join us to connect with each other and learn from Paul’s Biblical example.

Study: Paul’s Coworkers

Time: Thursdays, 7-8:30pm

Dates: March 18 to May 27
(11 Weeks)

Location: UBC Fireside Room

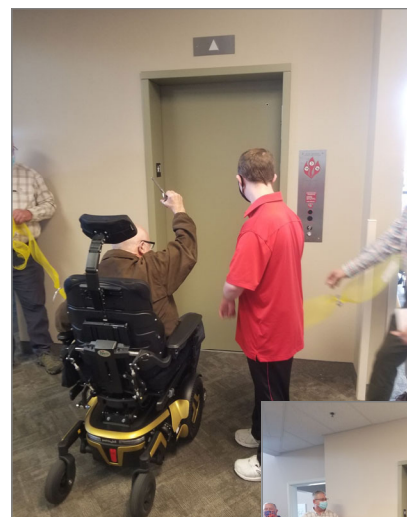
New Women’s Bible Study

New 7-week Bible study starts **Mon., April 5**. We will study *“Philippians: Shining with Joy”* by Steven Lawson. We have several meeting times and venues available: Monday Evenings (in-person), Tuesday Mornings (in-person & Zoom), and Wed. evenings on Zoom. Order your book from Amazon or through this link:

<https://ustickbaptist.breezechms.com/form/83a6e7444360467263628176>

If you are new to our studies, please contact Jana Smith at janagray41@gmail.com or 208-921-1850.

ELEVATOR DEDICATION SUNDAY, FEB. 21



Praising God
for His
provision
and
thank you
UBC for your
generosity!

FOREIGN MISSIONS

To engage the body of Ustick Baptist Church in the fulfillment of the Great Commission through cross-cultural missions.

"Catch and Release"

Christ says, *"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men"* (Matt. 4:19). The vision of the Foreign Mission Committee is to "CATCH" mission-minded UBC members, family, and friends, prepare them for service, and "RELEASE" them with our financial support, prayers, and blessings to fulfill the Great Commission and *"make disciples of all nations"* (Matt. 28:19).

Part of the purpose of the Foreign Mission Committee is to keep you informed and up to date with what God is doing through Ustick Baptist Church to reach the world for Christ. We want to encourage you to be an active participant in missions through prayer. **Please pray for the missionaries we support.**

If anyone has interest, questions, comments, or suggestions about Foreign missions, please email the Foreign Missions Committee at missions@ustickbaptist.org.

Foreign Missions Committee

The Foreign Missions Committee (FMC) is comprised of dedicated volunteers who pray, serve, and provide missionary encouragement and financial stewardship for the resources used to support UBC Missions.

John & Wendy Dalrymple
Sharee McMahon
Robyn Bailey
Mary Gray
Keith & Karen Tucker
Scott & Christine Dykstra

Learn about the missionaries that we, Ustick Baptist Church, are supporting. In these days of modern communications and the Internet, we are limited in the information that we can publish. We want to share with all of you what is going on, so please invite us to your Bible studies, Growth Groups, Sunday school classes, ministry meetings, etc.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Due to the continuing impact of the global CV-19 pandemic many of UBC's foreign missionaries are in the US waiting until travel restrictions are lifted so they can return to the mission field.

Cassie



Cassie is leaving this week for SE Asia where she will be joining a Bible translation team. Cassie's field of expertise is indigenous sign language and this move will get her closer (geographically) to the rest of her team.

Jacob & Tara



Jacob is from Boise and he met his wife Tara while attending Moody Bible Institute. Jacob is an MAF Pilot-Mechanic and Tara has a BA in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

On the field—Jacob, Tara, and family are living in Senegal for the next 10 months or so, doing their language and culture acquisition. Once complete, they will be moving to Kinshasa to join the West DRC MAF team.

Pray that this will be a great time of preparation for the field.

Sam & Melody



Home furlough – Canada... Sam & Melody are still in Canada, awaiting travel approvals.

Please pray for their return to the mission field ASAP, pray specifically for Covid conditions to improve so that they can return to their work.

Dave & Donna



Dave & Donna have returned to Nyankunde and are settled into their home.

Please pray for health and safety as Covid is in the community and there has been some tribal conflict nearby. Also join us in asking for strength and wisdom as Dave is now serving as Country Director of the East DRC MAF team.

Foreign Missions continued...

Nathan & Annie



On Mission - France

Now settling into their new home,

Please praise the Lord for:

—Ben's good teachers and fast friends in his new school and his new therapy opportunities

—Nathan's work from home abilities, his good computer and work space in "Caeb's office"

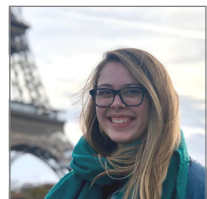
Ask the Lord for:

—Connections with other believers and neighbors,

—Visas, without they cannot travel outside France and return

—And support. They are short of the 100% level, and are trusting the Lord to meet the need.

Bri



On Mission - Paris, France for North Africa & Middle East

Bri is back in France and on mission again. PTL!

She said that the virtual ministry that she helps manage is reaching many more people now because of the Covid restrictions in her ministry region.

Please pray for:

—A visa, as there have been some difficulties in finalizing this,

—Her seminary class on the Old Testament,

—And for the Covid situation in France, if they go into another lockdown, that will make the projects more difficult to complete.

Gabe & Ali

We have begun support for a young family who have committed their lives to reaching the lost for Jesus in Asia. We are excited to share their story with you, but for security purposes, we will only be able to do so in person.

Short-Term Missions

All short-term missions have been cancelled or delayed until further notice.

Projects

Through MAF East Democratic Republic of Congo we continue to support various ministry needs in the Internally Displaced People (IDP) camp(s) in Bunia and nearby.

We are also in the early stages of determining needs that could be met by sending a container. The container shipment could meet the needs of individual MAF families, the CME hospital, or other ministry needs in the community. Please ask the Lord for discernment, wisdom, and guidance as we consider this.