**December 2025**

The following prayer requests are from CBF field personnel who are the presence of Christ around the world. As a "prayer associate" committed to praying for CBF missions and ministries on a regular basis, you are a partner, colleague and companion. Thank you for your support!

**To think about:**

*"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."*

**-Henry Nouwen**

### Brittany and Casey Ramirez, Global Migration Partners, Baguio, Philippines

Please pray for our English Class monthly gathering that will be on December 19th. Once a month we gather for food, games, and community building. With the Christmas season we hope to have more opportunities to share about the meaning of Christmas and God with us.

Pray for a Chinese friend here who is facing family challenges. Pray that we can offer encouragement, hope, and friendship along this journey.

Pray for a Chinese family we met recently that is considering moving here. Pray as they make their decision and preparations. Pray our community can be a welcoming space for them as they make their home here.

Pray for our children, Juniper (10) and Finnley (6), as they perform in the school Christmas play. Juniper will have a lead role. Pray that this will be a fun and formative experience for them. We also give thanks for finding such a wonderful school that has helped the kids make friends and feel more at home here in the Philippines.

### Lita and Rick Sample, Ministry Among Internationals, San Francisco Bay Area, CA

On December 13th, we are coordinating our annual Afghan Christmas party complete with gifts, an Afghan meal, music, games, crafts, and a presentation about Christmas. We usually have several hundred Afghans participate. Pray for our volunteers who wrap gifts, prepare crafts and games, and mingle with the Afghan guests. Pray for our Afghan church members who will prepare and present a sumptuous Afghan feast. Please pray for our Afghan guests that they will experience the true meaning of Christmas.

Please pray for Manny, a young Afghan man whom we have known since he was a child. He is having foot surgery in December.

**Rick Burnette, Immigrant Farmworker Ministry, Immokalee, FL**

On November 12th, a bus load of Immokalee farmworkers was stopped by ICE and the Highway Patrol. Approximately 30 people, most being local women with children at home, were arrested. We are disturbed by the extraordinary use of force employed by law enforcement to subdue some of those arrested. Along with other local ministries and nonprofits, our network is providing pastoral care and food assistance while helping to secure legal aid. Unfortunately, many of those arrested have already been deported, with more expected to be removed. One local organization is driving the children of the deportees, who are U.S. citizens, to the Miami airport so that that they can travel out of the country with their mothers.

Thank you for prayers for my sister, Jeana Corbin, who had successful surgery at Duke to remove a benign brain tumor on November 4th. She is well on the way towards recovery.

We are also grateful for the recent involvement of a mission team from FBC Asheville, NC. They were a helpful presence during the time of the farmworker arrests in addition to helping tend our gardens and harvesting and sharing food, among other vital assistance they provided.

Finally, a local partner church, Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana de LaBelle has implemented two sessions of the CBF Strengthening Families initiative for participants in LaBelle. Strengthening Families is a trauma-informed, faith-based initiative to help parents in distressed situations to 1) Heal from trauma, 2) Strengthen core parenting capabilities, 3) Build secure attachment with their children, and 4) Integrate spiritual practices into family life. Continue to pray for Crestella, the Strengthening Families facilitator (and Primera member) who was trained by CBF, as she implements final session in early December.

Pray for Christmas outreach efforts at Misión Peniel to share presents and joy among our community's children.

Pray for the ministry of Providence Baptist of Cookeville, TN, one of our newest Global Missions Encourager Churches, and our partnership.

**Karen Alford, Medical Ministry, Togo, West Africa**

Pray for US politics and democracy around the world and for the de-escalation of violence, for safe and peaceful holiday celebrations.

Praise that one of my pediatric patients whose hand was amputated due to a malignant tumor received a hand prosthesis.

Praise for receiving funding to build a birth center.

Continued prayers for patients whose wounds refuse to heal.

**Jade and Shelah Acker, Ministry to Those Affected by War and Conflict, Kampala, Uganda**

Pray for the social workers at Refuge and Hope as they work alongside field personnel to have wisdom and guidance to give the limited amount of food bags to those in need.

**Eddie Aldape, Center of Hope, Almería, Spain**

Holidays are great segues to talk about what we celebrate. Pray that as opportunities arise to share we may be used as instruments for His glory.

**Janée Angel, Outreach to Arabic Speakers, Antwerp, Belgium**

Please pray for our annual Christmas celebration with the Arabic church. Many will come who do not know who Jesus is. Pray that they will have a clear understanding that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

**Jonathan Bailey, Ministry Through the Arts, Bali, Indonesia**

Pray for the many Christmas celebrations that will take place in churches across Bali, that the light of God’s love, expressed in the birth of Jesus, will truly shine.

**Tina Boyles Bailey, Arts Ministry, Graz, Austria**

Pray for Pastors in Austria to find rest and encouragement during the holidays.

**Brooke and Mike, Theological Education and Hospitality, Waco, TX**

Each year, we host students and community members for "Christmas Saturdays." We gather to craft, play games, eat, and watch a Christmas movie. Please pray for the visitors and friends who will attend, that they will be encouraged to join our fellowship.

Christmas can be a time of tension in Indonesia. Please pray for safe and peaceful Christmas services.

**Carson and Laura Foushee, Ministry to Internationals, Kanazawa, Japan**

Pray for the Kanazawa International Baptist Church Christmas Party on December 14th. This gathering allows our community and other invited friends to play and enjoy various treats, but also to read the Christmas story. Some will hear the story of Jesus' incredible arrival in the world for the first time. Pray for all ears and eyes to be open to how God is at work in their lives.

**Jessica Hearne, Urban Farm and Food Advocacy Ministry, Danville, VA**

Pray for those in our neighborhoods who want to celebrate the holiday season with their families but may have to make hard choices about how to afford it.

**Scarlette Jasper, Rural Poverty and Family Ministries in Appalachia, Corbin, KY**

Pray for the churches, individuals, and families who are collecting and assembling Christmas Boxes for Appalachia. Pray for the volunteers who will be checking and organizing Christmas Boxes as they arrive in preparation for distribution. Pray for volunteers as they deliver Christmas Boxes. Pray for the 4,000 children, senior adults, and families who will receive the Christmas Boxes that have been collected and prayed over. Pray that those who receive them will feel the love of Jesus Christ and know with certainty that the Christmas Box they receive was put together by someone who wanted them to know they are loved.

Pray for those who are receiving emergency shelter and a hot meal through the White Flag Winter Relief Ministry. Pray that they can get stabilized and that the resources they specifically need are available.

Pray for those struggling with addiction. Pray that they will be able to take the steps needed for addiction recovery and that resources are available to them for recovery.

Pray for me as I minister to folks through mental health counseling.

Pray for my friend Bruce as he is ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church.

Pray for my son, Roger, as he celebrates his birthday.

Pray for the discord in our country.

**Karen Zimmerman, University Student Ministry, Waco, TX**

Pray for students who will be graduating at the end of this semester, as they look towards a future that sometimes feels uncertain.
Pray for students who are taking exams this month.
Pray for students who cannot return "home" for the holidays, or who have no home to go to, or whose home is not a place of safety and joy.

**Kirk and Suzie, Literacy and Translation Ministry, Southeast Asia**

O Lord, look upon the megacities of Southeast Asia, where commercial interests have taken the Christ out of Christmas, loudly celebrating the "Gift Giving Festival." May the believers in these great cities have opportunities to share the truth of Christ's incarnation with those who have never heard, and may Your peace come to many hearts.

**Jana Lee, Ministry to Displaced Persons, Larnaca, Cyprus**

Pray for public health teams, aid workers, and volunteers serving refugees in Cyprus. Ask God to renew their strength, provide resources, and give them wisdom in complex situations.

### Alicia and Jeff Lee, Agricultural Development and Ministry of Presence, Skopje, Macedonia

Pray for those across the country who cannot afford heating and may not have a safe place to sleep. Pray for us to hopefully begin construction on a new food bank warehouse.

### Matt and Michelle Norman, Senior Directors of Field Ministry and Leadership Development, Barcelona, Spain

Pray for Pastor Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church Sabadell as he juggles church ministry, other work (he is bi-vocational), family and his doctoral studies.

Pray that this Christmas season will be transformative for many in Catalunya and they will come to know God's deep love for them.

### Gennady and Mina Podgaisky, Ministry to Ukranians, Kraków, Poland

Please pray for the end of the war in Ukraine
Pray for a mild winter in Ukraine so that people can heat their homes.

### Annette Ellard, Ministry to Refugees, Louisville, KY

This Christmastide, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, remember that Mary and Joseph fled their homeland with baby Jesus to the relative safety of a neighboring country. Pray that displaced children—immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers—will find safety and acceptance across the United States and around the world so that they can grow to fulfill their purpose.

Pray for the Karen churches in Louisville and across the country as they go house-to-house caroling. Pray God will build up their community. Pray that as they share the hope, peace, love and joy of Christmas, their witness will be blessed and more will receive Jesus.

### CBF Global Missions Team

We pray for the ministries being done on the field and those who are in need of friendship, shelter, food, work, and to hear the Christmas story.

## December Birthday Calendar

*(CH)- Chaplain; (FP)- Field Personnel; (GSC)- Global Service Corps; (PC)- Pastoral counselor; (FPC)- Child of field personnel; (S)- CBF staff member*

1 Joseph Farry, Greenville, SC (CH)
1 Claire George, Richmond, VA (CH)
1 Amy Jacober, Phoenix, AZ (CH)
2 Daniel Attenberry, Owensboro, KY (CH)
2 Connie Beemer, Kirkwood, MO (CH)
3 Rosemary Barfield, Jeffersonville, IN (CH)
3 Ed Beddingfield, Buies Creek, NC (PC)
3 Rachel Gunter Shapard (S-Together for Hope)
3 James Heath, Dry Prong, LA (CH)
3 Andy Jung (S-North Carolina)
3 Shane McNary (S-Great Rivers Fellowship)
3 Gennady Podgaisky, Poland (FP)
3 David Wilson, Chapel Hill, NC (CH)
4 Jose Albovias, Louisville, KY (CH)
4 Elizabeth Richards, Emeritus (FP)
4 Myles Shipp, Gloucester, VA (CH)
5 Kenn Lowther, Columbus, OH (CH)
5 Chris O'Rear, Nashville, TN (PC)
7 Robert Wilder, Jacksonville, FL (CH)
8 Tommy Deal, Palmyra, VA (CH)
8 Edward Erwin, Chesapeake, VA (CH)
8 Shane Gaster, Deland, FL (CH)
8 Virginia King, Columbia, SC (CH)
8 Donald Kriner, Canton, GA (CH)
9 Julie Brown, Emeritus (FP)
9 Timothy Gregory, Reno, NV (CH)
9 Wayne Hyatt, Spartanburg, SC (PC)
9 Herman Meza, Rota, Spain (CH)
10 Beth Roberts, Chapel Hill, NC (CH)
10 Keith Stillwell (S-Together for Hope)
10 Gary Strickland, Sioux Falls, SD (PC)
10 James Williams, Montgomery, AL (CH)
11 Ron Handlon, Fort Worth, TX (CH)
11 Paul Kinney, College Park, GA (CH)

13 Rick Landon, Lexington, KY (PC)
13 Scott Lee, Snellville, GA (CH)
13 Frank Stillwell, Lexington, KY (PC)
13 Robin Sullens, Dallas, TX (PC)
15 Anna Anderson, Emeritus (FP)
15 James Close, Louisville, KY (CH)
15 Katie Fletcher (S-Together for Hope)
15 Sheree Jones, Winston-Salem, NC (CH)
15 Derric Stinchcomb (S-CBF Global)
16 Lee Ann Rathbun, Austin, TX (CH)
16 Chelsea Turpen, Addison, TX (CH)
16 Ina Winstead, Emeritus (FP)
17 Ian Dyke, Greenville, SC (CH)
17 Maria-Grace Khano, 2014, Belgium (FPC)
17 Buddy Presley, North Augusta, SC (CH)
17 Ronald Wilson, Northport, AL (CH)
18 Loris Adams, Indian Trail, NC (CH)
18 Joel DeFehr, Oklahoma City, OK (CH)
18 Elizabeth Nance-Coker (S-South Carolina)
19 Anna-Grace Acker, 2005, Uganda (FPC)
19 Bernard Morris, Chester, VA (CH)
19 James Palmer, Tampa, FL (CH)
20 Robert Brasier, Queen Creek, AZ (CH)
20 Melissa L. Dowling, Liberty, MO (CH)
20 Larry Glover-Wetherington, Durham, NC (PC)
20 Alan Willard, Blacksburg, VA (PC)
21 Lynn Hutchinson, Emeritus (FP)
21 Bethany McLemore, Roanoke, VA (PC)
22 Michael Mills, Fort Worth, TX (CH)
22 Sarah Wofford, Mooresville, NC (CH)
23 Frances Brown, Surfside Beach, SC (PC)
23 Alisha Damron Seruyange (S-Alabama/Global)
23 Robert Elkowitz, Cumming, GA (CH)
23 Steven Ivy, Indianapolis, IN (CH)
23 Hal Lee, Clinton, MS (CH)
23 Linda Strange, Denton, TX (CH)
24 Michael Carter, Dallas, TX (CH)
26 Freddy Hinson, Rocky River, OH (CH)
26 Jim Morrison (S-Church Benefits Board)
26 Haley Seanor, Birmingham, AL (CH)
26 Scottie Stamper, Charlotte, NC (CH)
26 Nicole Tota, Greenville, NC (CH)
27 Larry Austin, Fredericksburg, VA (CH)
27 Steve Clark, Emeritus (FP)
27 Jonathan Madden, Cincinnati, OH (CH)
27 Sean Roberds (S-Mid-Atlantic)
27 Solon Smith, Louisville, KY (CH)
28 Claudia Forrest, Cordova, TN (CH)
28 John Halbrook, Pound Ridge, NY (PC)
28 Thomas Holbrook, Berea, KY (PC)
29 Kimberly Miller, Winston-Salem, NC (CH)
29 Art Wiggins, Jacksonville, NC (CH)
30 Shay Crenshaw, Raleigh, NC (CH)
30 Revonda Deal, Emeritus (FP)
30 James Garrison, Arden, NC (CH)
30 Kenneth Kelly, Black Mountain, NC (CH)
30 Ramona Reynolds-Netto, Orlando, FL (CH)
30 Lex Robertson, Oklahoma City, OK (CH)
31 David “Tod” Smith, Farmington, NM (CH)