

HNGR Parent Prayer Newsletter

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December 2010

Christmas Greetings from the HNGR staff



We join all of you in praising God for:

- . . .sending His Son. . .
- . . .the implications of Incarnation for our lives. . .
- . . .guiding your sons and daughters through their internship experiences. . .
- . . .bringing your sons and daughters safely home. . .
- . . .providing you with the opportunity for fellowship over the break. . .

Teach Us to Pray

In past newsletters, we have offered prayer requests for the interns out on the field, asking for God's watchcare and guidance as they adjusted to a new culture, confronted injustice and poverty, and 'became neighbor' to people with very different stories than their own. God has graciously answered these prayers, and we are thankful.

As HNGR interns are returning, however, we hear over and over again that "HNGR is not over" -- there are stories to carry and to share, experiences to reflect on, questions to ask, and new relationships to hold up to the Lord. We invite you to continue this journey with your student and the whole HNGR group, as they both celebrate God's gifts to them through their HNGR experience, and mourn the distance which now separates them from those with whom they shared life (some of whom are living in difficult circumstances).

We asked the HNGR interns to send us prayer requests for their host communities, and amidst wrapping up their internships, saying goodbyes, and traveling, a number of them were able to get back to us! We share their prayer requests with you, that you might continue to hold in heart and mind the people and communities that have played such a significant role in your sons' and daughters' lives these past six months.

Abby Anderson -- Ecuador -- "Pray that the peoples' indignation with violence and corruption would inspire not fear, but courage and righteous action. That we might have the humility to look at our own part within the oppressive structures and that we might have the unlikely hope to fight to overturn them."

Amy Betts -- Bolivia -- "Pray for the city of Cochabamba in the country of Bolivia, that God would provide rain (water for the city and for crops), that the cost of living would cease from skyrocketing, and that Mosoj Yan would continue to pursue honest means of ending their own economic crises. Please also pray for the street girls and working girls that I worked with, that they would come to know Jesus in a transformational way, that they and their families would be provided for (homes, jobs, food), and that their futures would be God-honoring and God-blessed."

Bourke Betz -- South Africa -- "Pray that my Kwethu Children's Village's new small business (a chicken farm) and vegetable garden add sustainability and vitality to the community. These two initiatives are currently being developed."

Remer Brinson -- Nicaragua -- "Father God, please protect 3-year old Ruthcita as she has an adenoid and tonsils surgery this month; provide for the boys-- Mario, Fernando, Yasmel, Juan Carlos, and Bartolo-- my street friends who do not have enough to eat or someone to get them to go to school; and guide me and my friends as we go through the Christmas season and return to Wheaton life."

Stephanie Christensen -- Jordan -- "I would greatly appreciate prayer for increased understanding of the Middle East in the Western world. I also pray for my friends and families back in Jordan, both Muslim and Christian, who face unemployment and the inability to feed their families. May God continue to provide for them in significant ways- showing them the generosity and mercy of His character."

Matt Coombs -- Cambodia -- "The prayer request that comes to mind is for my students: pray that the 9 of them in some way or another will meet a Christian who they will become close to, and that the person they meet may selflessly witness to them the beauty, excitement, and commitment of Jesus."

Chris DeBoer -- Uganda -- "Pray, simply, that the staff and administration at Kagando Hospital would passionately seek the will of God and guidance of the Holy Spirit in policy and regulation of the hospital, rather than other outside voices."

Savannah Eaves -- Peru -- Pray for Paz y Esperanza in Peru, that they would persevere in their work for peace and justice and not weary of doing good.

Allison Engel -- Kosovo -- Pray for Water for Life in Kosovo and for clean water for the people of Kosovo.

Sarah Gossman -- Philippines -- "Please pray for my host organization Samaritana as it continues to go through some structural changes--that any decisions made would be in the best interest of the women trainees in the program."

Heather Grose -- India -- "Pray that the Christian community in Fatehpur would be unified and serving each other in order to be a witness to the majority Hindu and Muslim neighbors that they live and interact with each day."

Kevin Hughes -- Nicaragua -- Pray for the staff and work of Food for the Hungry in Nicaragua.

Apostolos Kalantzis -- Egypt -- "Pray that the current Christian/Muslim strife in Egypt would end."

Andrew Kinzer -- Tanzania -- "Pray for my host sister, Jackie, and her new baby son, Shawn. Praise God for good health and that he would continue to pour blessings out on that new family."

Chris Kohlbrenner -- Egypt -- "Pray for my host family as they deal with cancer; for my other Egyptian and international friends in Egypt; and for peace within the church, Egypt, and the Middle East amidst religious persecution."

Hilary Mulhern -- South Africa -- "Pray for the children orphaned or abandoned in South Africa, that they would find community and feel as if they are valued and belong."

Catherine Peele -- China -- "Please pray for Evergreen as they navigate some very difficult legal issues involving many of their projects. Specifically, the Yellow Valley Cheese company, which employs sixteen workers and about a dozen dairy farmers, has been unable to renew its license because of a new law that is going to shut down around eight other local businesses merely because of their small size. Please pray that God make a way for this and other Evergreen projects to continue in spite of excessive legal opposition."

Catherine Queen -- Peru -- "My prayer for Perú is that God will raise up positive role models within communities bounded by oppression that can raise up children who fight for justice and work against poverty."

Jennifer Ruppelt -- Nicaragua -- "Please pray for the new ministry, Vida Nueva, that reaches out to sex workers in Jinotepe. Pray for blessing as they begin several alternative income generating projects that will support many beloved daughters of God."

David Santoso -- Congo -- Pray for the formational work of the Congo Initiative in Kinsasha, Congo.

Stephen Six -- Russia -- "Please pray that I would remain faithful in praying for those I met in Russia and become more and more prepared to do anything that God calls me to do."

Kelly Smith -- Tanzania -- Pray for the International School of Moshi and the children and staff of Matonyok Parent's Trust.

Annika Turner -- Senegal -- "Pray that the members of the Church in Senegal would be filled with the conviction and incredible hope of their faith; that they would not maintain Church membership or employment with its programs simply because of tradition or a job opportunity, but rather have lives that are transformed to spread hope to others, and that they (and we in the West) would more fully understand the significance of what we claim to believe."

Elizabeth Wade -- Indonesia -- Please pray for the staff of World Relief in Indonesia, that the program would continue, and for compassion within the Western church for our Muslim neighbors.

Christine Williams -- Mexico -- "Please pray for the father of dear friend and co-worker at Vida en Abundancia Adriana: Mario is suffering from an aggressive form of colon cancer and was recently diagnosed. Adriana's family is in need of the Lord's wisdom and peace as very difficult decisions are shortly going to be made concerning his treatment and well being."

2010 HNGR Covenant

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Grant that we may...

Know thee more clearly,

God, You are good. As You redeemed children living in a broken world, we commit to pursue You in constant prayer and humility. We are not worthy, but we want to be more like You. Grant us Your peace which passes all understanding so that our faith may rest in Your sovereign hands.

Love thee more dearly,

As You first loved us, we desire to love our neighbors as ourselves. Fill us with Your strength, gentleness, and patience, that we may abound with joy at the assurance of Your resurrection. Let us rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn in order to serve as a living testimony to Your glory.

Follow thee more nearly,

You know the path that we take. Help us to daily deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow You. In all things give us grace to say, "Not our will, but Yours be done." Make us into one body after Your pattern with one faith, one hope, and one love which is over all and through all and in all.

Day by day.

**Lord in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.**

Amen.

"Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan --

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow
of death*

a light has dawned.

*You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as men rejoice*

when dividing the plunder.

*For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.*

*Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.*

*For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.*

*And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and
peace*

there will be no end.

*He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.*

*The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this."*

-- Isaiah 9/1-7