

Pray For Us Calendar

The following prayer requests were submitted to LCMS World Mission by your coworkers in the Lord's mission around the world. Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution.

DISASTER RESPONSE AND MINISTRY – JANUARY 1-31 The LCMS responds to immediate and long-term needs in the face of manmade and natural disasters, partnering with districts, partner churches and Recognized Service Organizations to reach out in mercy and love. These prayer requests relate to some recent natural disasters around the globe.

Remember the Lord's work in the the wake of natural disasters as you pray:

- **1.** for ongoing ministry in Peru, which suffered from an earthquake in August 2007. Give thanks that God has used this tragic event to open doors for witness and mercy ministry in Peru.
- **2.** for the people of Lunahuaná, a rural community that was devastated by the earthquake, and which has been served by LCMS short-term mission teams and long-term missionaries. Ask God to continue to provide the locals with basic physical needs, as well as spiritual nourishment.
- **3.** for those continuing to recover from the effects of the May 12, 2008, earthquake that struck the Sichuan province of China.
- **4.** with thanksgiving for the relief and education ministry provided to the people in Sichuan, through Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation. Relief included providing equipment and books for Chinese middle schools that were lacking the supplies needed to re-open.
- **5.** for those affected by Typhoon Morakot, which struck Taiwan and other nations in August 2009. It was the deadliest typhoon to strike Taiwan in its history. Give thanks for the ministry of LCMS missionaries in the wake of this disaster though devastating, it provided many situations for them to share Christ's love.
- **6.** with thanksgiving for the ways that God used LCMS missionaries and the China Evangelical Lutheran Church in Taiwan for witness and mercy ministry in the days and weeks following Typhoon Morakot.
- **7.** for the people of Haiti, which is still suffering from the effects of a powerful earthquake that struck in January 2010.

- 8. that God would use The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti and its leaders and members to bring hope to the suffering by showing Christ's mercy, and to continue witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their homes and communities.
- **9.** with thanksgiving for the homes, orphanages and churches that have been constructed in Lutheran "villages" through the "Building Homes and Hope in Haiti" program in the aftermath of the earthquake. Give thanks for the permanent housing this has provided for many families.
- 10. for ongoing post-disaster ministry in central Chile, which was struck by an 8.8 magnitude earthquake on Feb. 27, 2010. The Confessional Lutheran Church of Chile (IELCHI) visited affected families in small towns where less governmental aid was received and provided both physical and spiritual care to those in need.
- **11.** that the Lord would continue to strengthen and build upon the relationships that were started in Chile following the earthquake and that through the witness of IELCHI pastors and members, more Chileans would come to faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- **12.** for families in Myanmar who were affected by the very intense Cyclone Giri, which made landfall on Oct. 22, 2010. Give thanks for the generosity of LCMS World Relief and Human Care donors, who provided funds for food packages to be delivered to more than 400 families in rural villages.

- **13.** for the ongoing mission and outreach of the Lutheran Church of Myanmar. Its mission director recently noted that the church plans to place a missionary family in Rakhine State, a new area for the church, and the area where the food packages were distributed following the cyclone.
- **14.** for those affected by the February 2011 earthquake that struck New Zealand, as they recover and rebuild, as well as the Lutheran Church of New Zealand, as it ministers to those in need.
- **15.** for the continued relief and recovery efforts in Japan following the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster. This calamity has opened doors of ministry in Niigata, where a congregation of the Japan Lutheran Church is present, and where effects of the nuclear crisis are most sobering.
- **16.** for the ministry of Japan Lutheran Emergency Relief, a joint effort between the Japan Lutheran Church, the West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church and others. Pray for the Lord to guide this group as its members continue to assess needs and make decisions about the use of resources.

Involvement Ideas

- View photos from the
 Disaster Response
 Conference that was held
 in October 2011. Visit
 https://picasaweb.
 google.com/LutheranMOSynod/2011
 InternationalDisasterResponse
 ConferenceForLutherans.
- Keep up to date with the latest disaster response news and information on the Mercy Blog at http://mercyforever.lcms.org.
- Read disaster stories from the Synod's official newspaper, *Reporter*, on its website at **www.lcms.org/reporter**.
- Read the January 2012 issue of *The Lutheran Witness* for special disaster relief coverage and highlights. Articles are also available online at **www.lcms.org/witness**.



Photo:

Students at Nan Ba Middle School in Sichuan, China, greet visitors from Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation, who brought funds for school supplies.



Remember the Lord's work in the wake of natural disasters as you pray:

- **17.** for the people of Japan, as they continue to grapple with this disaster and its effects pray that through suffering and confusion, the Holy Spirit would open Japanese minds and hearts to the truth and comfort of Christ's Gospel.
- **18.** for those who lost loved ones and suffered damage from the tornadoes that tore across Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia in late April 2011.
- **19.** for those in Joplin, Mo., whose lives have been changed by the May 22, 2011 tornado, which has been identified as the single-costliest tornado in United States history. Remember those who are mourning the loss of loved ones and/or are struggling to rebuild their lives after losing homes, jobs, vehicles and more.
- 20. for the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church and Martin Luther School, an LCMS congregation and school located in the middle of Joplin. Give thanks for the leadership and passion of the congregation's and school's staff and members, and pray that the Lord would continue to guide them as they seek to most effectively meet needs in the community in Christ's name.
- **21.** for the service of countless volunteers from LCMS congregations near and far who have traveled to serve alongside residents of Joplin, encouraging those who have experienced loss and providing many hours of physical labor to repair homes and businesses.
- **22.** for people across 13 eastern states who suffered effects from Hurricane Irene's landfall in late August 2011. Pray for LCMS congregations in the areas of affected families, as they continue to minister to them and support those whose homes suffered much damage from flash floods. In many cases, they do not have flood insurance.
- **23.** for those whose homes were lost or damaged in the wildfires that swept across central Texas in September 2011. Ask God to bless the disaster

- preparedness and volunteer training sessions that Synod and district leadership plan to offer in the Texas District.
- **24.** for the people of Minot, N.D., where nearly one-fourth of the residents are homeless due to the Souris River's spring floods that have damaged many homes beyond repair. Many families are now facing hard choices as winter snows begin.
- **25.** for Our Savior, St. Mark and St. Paul Lutheran Churches in Minot, which God is using to meet the needs of homeless families and others affected by the flooding. Pray for the Lord to continue to grant these congregations hearts of mercy and grace, and that He would sustain them as they serve their neighbors in love.
- **26.** for victims of flooding in Queensland, Australia, and for the Lutheran Church of Australia as it explores ways to respond to this crisis and reach out to those in affected communities.
- 27. for families who lost loved ones and whose homes were destroyed by the October 2011 earthquake that struck eastern Turkey. Ask God to grant hope and comfort to families who must now face winter's cold temperatures and snows while living in tents and other temporary housing.

- **28.** for both the victims of disasters and the volunteers, caregivers and workers who minister to them that the Lord would strengthen their faith in the midst of trials, and that as the situations in which they live and work fade from the news headlines, they would be strengthened by God's promises and His assurance that He is with them always.
- **29.** for the ministry of LCMS Disaster Response staff, including Rev. Glenn Merritt, the LCMS director of Disaster Response, and Rev. Edward Grimenstein, the manager of Disaster Response.
- **30.** with thanksgiving for the first-ever International Disaster Response Conference held in St. Louis, Mo., in October 2011. This conference provided Lutheran leaders from around the the world with an opportunity to encourage and learn from one another in their post-disaster ministries and laid the groundwork for the formation of an international Lutheran disaster response team.
- **31.** with thanks for the generosity of LCMS World Relief and Human Care donors, who have given a total of \$10.3 million towards disaster relief ministry since July 2009. Praise God for their gifts!



Missionary and personnel prayer cards may be downloaded from the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/prayercards.

- Jan. 3 Alissa Asmus, Macau
- Jan. 5 David Erber, Nigeria
- Jan. 8 Jack Carlos, Guinea; Monta Denow, Thailand; Tom Going, Southeast Asia; Michael Parris, Macau
- **Jan. 12** Dennis Denow, Thailand; David Lyon, Asia
- Jan. 17 Marva Ludgood, South Africa
- Jan. 20 Shirley Piepenbrink, Hong Kong
- Jan. 21 Robin McCoy, Thailand
- **Jan. 26** Michelle Gillard, Uganda; Emily Goddard, South Africa
- Jan. 27 Mary Garetson, Hong Kong
- Jan. 28 Jennifer Leese, Hong Kong
- **Jan. 29** Joan Koerschen, Asia; Krista Trump, Kenya

Military chaplains with birthdays in January:

Chaplain Curt Cizek, Lackland AFB, Texas; Chaplain Jason Dart, Japan; Chaplain Richard Malmstrom, Cherry Point, N.C.; Chaplain Harry Matelski, Long Beach, Calif.; Chaplain Peter Mueller, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Chaplain Paul Sherouse, Germany; Chaplain John Thomson, Guam; Chaplain Lynn Wilson, Camp Rapid, S.D.

Photo:

Some 80 Lutheran leaders attended the first-ever International Disaster Relief Conference in October.



