



MONTHLY PRAYER UPDATE



Shoebox Gifts Result in New Churches in Malawi

Doors are widely opening up in spiritually dark villages in Malawi. Recently, following OCC shoebox outreach events, two villages in the Lilongwe region of the country witnessed the baptism of over one-hundred people total. These villages are hard to reach due to evil traditional beliefs and high illiteracy. At one OCC shoebox outreach event in November, over 400 children were invited including a village chief. A few days later, a children's ministry and bible study meetings were launched. Since then, two churches have been planted following the baptism.

In order to keep the village youth active, strong, and socially connected, new soccer teams have been formed using many of the balls that were included in shoebox gifts. PRAISE GOD!

One local pastor is very excited and sees another opportunity of establishing literacy and nursery centers to keep supporting the 5000 plus children in these villages.

Praying the Names of God

In the Bible, we are given hundreds of different names of God which all point to different facets of His perfect attributes and character. Proverbs 18:10 promises us, *“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.”* This verse is telling us that God’s character and attributes can always be trusted, and when we’re in trouble, we can find rest in who God is and who we are in Christ.

Using various names of God from scripture when we’re praying can be a very powerful way to focus our mind, will, and emotions on the promises of God for our situation. If you’re praying for a friend who is experiencing a season of loneliness, you can pray that God will be **Jehovah Shammah** for them, the God who is there (Ezekiel 48:35). If you are experiencing great anxiety and worry in your life, you can pray that Jesus will be the **Prince of Peace** of your thoughts and emotions (Isaiah 9:6). If you are heading into a difficult situation or conversation, you can call upon God as **Jehovah Nissi**, the Lord our Banner who goes before us (Exodus 17:15).

We know it is God’s desire that we know Him more and more each day (John 17:3). As we make an effort to learn and use more of God’s names, it gives us a greater understanding of His perfect character and it can help us pray with greater power and intentionality.

Operation Christmas Child International Prayer Requests: **Americas & Caribbean**

Week 1: May 1-7 **Brazil**

- Praise God for the progress we have seen in developing Regional Leadership Teams throughout the state of Pernambuco, Brazil!
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give His perfect wisdom and direction to the entire National Leadership Team as they head into an exciting new season of Kingdom evangelism and discipleship.
- Pray for the Lord’s strength and zeal for the Strategic Regional Leadership Team in Rio de Janeiro as they implement the OCC activities based on the 2018 planning.
- Pray that the Lord will help us communicate the vision and mission of OCC with zeal and passion for all of our new leaders as they begin training.

Week 2: May 8-14 Columbia

- Praise God for the children who received Christ as Savior & Lord last season and are now connected and active in churches in their region!
- Please join us in asking the Holy Spirit to prepare and raise up His specific choices for the open positions that remain on some Regional Leadership Teams.
- Pray that our teams will all be spending much time abiding in Christ and that this will overflow as they cast vision throughout the country for the ministry of OCC.
- Pray for a new level of supernatural unity among the churches in Colombia, and that the Holy Spirit will knit their hearts together as they work together on OCC events.

Week 3: May 15-22 Nicaragua

- Please join us in praising our faithful God, Jehovah Jireh, for providing two new Regional Leadership Teams!
- Please pray for the spiritual and physical protection of our National Leadership Team members and their precious families.
- Please pray for the Holy Spirit's direction, wisdom, and provision in the continued recruiting and selection of Prayer Coordinators, both national and regional.
- Please pray for all of our Gospel presenters and TGJ teachers that they would be powerfully anointed, filled with the Holy Spirit and staying close to Jesus each day.

Week 4: May 23-31 Paraguay

- Praise God for the National Prayer Network that was formed in each Region with believers committed to covering the ministry in prayer!
- Pray for the resources and extension of the Kingdom of Heaven in our country and for Ministry Partners who are Kingdom-minded.
- Please join us in praying for the children and family members who have believed and received Christ this past year that the Holy Spirit connects them to a local church where they can continue growing in Christ and be active in ministering to others.
- Please ask our Lord Almighty to cover the members of the National and Regional teams and their families with His power, protection, and peace as they faithfully serve Jesus and His children.