



NEW YEAR HOPE-FILLED PRAYERS...

- **Wendy VanBeusichem** as she recovers from shoulder surgery. (1/4)
- **The Chile Mission** for their preparations for ministry to the young women at the House of Hope and the children in orphanages of La Pintana, Chile in April. (12/25)
- **Jeremy and Susan Beebout** have returned to Niger for a short trip to meet with their sponsoring organization while they served there. They are praying for clarity as they continue to seek the Lord's leading in their lives. (12/25)
- **Erica's** uncle and both grandfathers have passed away since Dec. 15. We seek God's comfort and grace for Erica and her family during this time of grief. (12/24)
- **Families** in need of extra support from the Lord—may His love surround them! (12/24)
- **Denise Wright's** friend **Karen** lost her sister this past Saturday and her brother just one month ago. We pray she will be comforted in God's love during this time. (12/24)
- **Brancy** and her husband are expecting a baby in June 2024. We pray for a happy, safe and healthy pregnancy. (12/24)

Please be
in prayer
for Pastor
Dirk and
Jashton
who are
planning a
ministry
trip to



N.E. India January 18-30, 2024.

*"If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I
settle on the far side of the sea, even
there Your hand will guide me."
Psalm 139*

In prayer we first hope *in* SOMEONE, not *for* something

What does your heart do with the words, "I know this year is going to be different. Don't give up hope"? Is it thinking, "Yes, finally, God is going to come through for me!" In a New Year there are things we wish will change and so we dream, we plan, we "hope." What changes for our hopes when all are put to prayer? Perhaps not much - if our prayers are just New Year's resolutions reformatted.

I believe that somewhere deep inside of us **we know prayer is more than a New Year's list**. We suspect prayer could be the critical factor between now and what makes life worth living but wonder if it's just a matter of laying our list before God, so he has something to do in our behalf. Deep down I believe we know prayer is not simply the hope that God will fix our problems or make them go away so we can get on with fulfilling our dreams.

My friends, **we must not make our first prayers this year be that God *do* something so much as that he help us first to know and trust *in* who he is - placing our hope in SOMEONE not on SOMETHING**. The psalmist instructs his struggling, thirsting soul: "*Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.*" (Psalm 42)

Yes, let's pray in 2024! But let's pray not just for something to happen, but first for our fellowship with God to deepen, and for his Presence to protect us from discouragement and guide us through whatever happens to solutions of his own all-wise and always-good choosing. *Happy New Year praying!!* - Pastor Dave