

May–June 2017

# INTERCESSOR

A PRAYER NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

## Living a Resurrected Life



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NAB Communications Writer

**W**ith Easter so recently behind us, it would be a mistake to forget that we are a resurrected people. We constantly live not just in the shadow of the cross but also within the shade of the empty tomb; grace and love and life flow out of both.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV). There is much hope in this verse. It speaks to our inherent desire and ever-present need for transformation. Every ugly duckling story echoes the truth found in this verse.

All of humanity recognize the failures in this world and the flaws within ourselves, and we know there must be a better way. What a majority of the world fails to understand, but that we as Christians have grasped onto with our very lives, is that this better way is found in Christ. It is only through Him that the old

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and infirm is recreated into something vibrant and alive. An excellent illustration of this is found in the lifecycle of the butterfly.

What makes butterflies unique among God's creations is something called a chrysalis. Rather than simply metamorphose from one form to another, a butterfly secretes itself away in a shell of its own making. This helps contain the transformation while the caterpillar's interior organs and tissues are digested by enzymes.

It is this goo, the remains of the insect's old body, that is reconstituted into the antennae, wings, legs, and body of a butterfly. The caterpillar is literally ripped apart and pieced back together through biological means in order to be formed into a beautiful creature of gossamer wings; this is similar to the process we go through spiritually when God works in us.

"Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives" (Galatians 5:25 NLT). If we are to live as new creations, this is the pathway by which we are changed.

Without a doubt, it is Christ who is the initiator and source of resurrection. He performs the difficult work of metamorphosis in our lives. God uses the little moments of our days to work within our inner beings, like a clockmaker who fiddles with the gears and mechanisms to refine each timepiece. Yet unlike the clock, we have an integral role in the final product, who we become as people. While God initiates, it is up to us to respond.

It is difficult to expect God to work in our lives, to use us, to speak to and through us, if we don't "follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives." Even the caterpillar, in response to internal and external stimuli, must make preparations before the transformation can begin. It is certainly not an easy task, though we often make it out to be more difficult than is necessary. It is as simple as knowing the Holy Spirit's voice, listening to His prompting and seeking His guidance, and following His direction.

This is the pathway by which we live as new creations. This is the way of the resurrected life. ■

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY



# JUNE 2017



# M

*Missional  
Engagement*

**4**

Pray for the Women's Ministry Leadership Team; pray that God would give them wisdom and a unified vision as they seek to partner with and encourage women's ministry across the NAB.

**5**

Pray for your pastors today after a weekend of serving, preaching, and giving to others. Ask the Lord to grant them precious time to rest in Him and with their families.

**6**

Pray for the NAB's Youth Ministry Leadership Team as they plan for the Gathering, NAB's youth conference July 16-21.

# I

*International  
Missions*

**11**

Pray for the spread of the Gospel in closed countries around the world, especially the NAB work in East Asia. Pray that God's favor and protection would be rich and His grace abounding.

**12**

Pray for the generation of young leaders in Russia; pray they would understand the role of discipleship and leadership development in the church context. Pray for protection for the believers in Russia.

**13**

Praise God for what He is doing at Mbingo Baptist Hospital and Banson Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. Continue praying for needs to be met in the different roles they seek to fill.

# L

*Leadership  
Development*

**18**

As many celebrate Father's Day today, pray for all of the men who work hard to support their families and play leading roles in the formation of Godly homes. Pray that God will encourage them. Pray for fathers who may be struggling, that someone will come alongside them.

**19**

Pray for regional ministers Dr. Jim Leverette and associate Dr. Terry Fossen (Alberta Baptist Association) and regional minister Rev. Chris Gorman (Northwest Region). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**20**

Thank God for Geoff Hartt and his work leading Hispanics for Christ. Pray that God continues to use this ministry to encourage Hispanic pastors and establish ministry hubs in underserved areas.

# E

*Ethnic  
Partnership*

**25**

Pray for the start of camp season at Crystal Springs Bible Camp in North Dakota. Pray that God would meet the campers, young and old, and use the volunteers and staff.

**26**

Pray for the students from Taylor and Sioux Falls Seminary, as well as international seminaries in Brazil and Russia. Pray for the Lord to direct their steps.

**27**

Pray for NAB church planters across North America. Ask God to give them energy and creativity as these planters seek to reach individuals who are far from Him.

## WEDNESDAY



**7** Pray for your regional minister today. Pray he is encouraged and challenged as he talks today with all of the other RMs on their monthly conference call. Thank God for the unity God has created among our regional minister team.

**14** Pray for the missionaries your home church supports. Find a way to send them encouragement this week.

**21** Pray for regional ministers Rev. Dan Heringer (Central Plains Region), Rev. Terry Holley (Great Lakes Association), and Dr. Bob Krahn (British Columbia Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**28** Ask God to give wisdom to those who direct leadership boards affiliated with the North American Baptists. Pray for men and women who sit on the boards of the NAB, CIF, NAB Foundation, NAB Heritage Commission, Sioux Falls Seminary, and Taylor Seminary.

## THURSDAY

**1** Pray for NAB camps, all of which will see hundreds of students over the course of the summer.

**8** Pray for younger leaders in the NAB family whom God is developing for spiritual impact today in their ministries. Pray that God surrounds them with Godly mentors who invest in them deeply as spiritual leaders.

**15** Praise God for the Wagners who are excited to be in Romania. Pray for them as they continue to transition to a new culture and language while helping with summer ministry opportunities.

**22** Pray for the continued plans, preparations, and fundraising for the NAB on Mission Together (REACH) campaign.

**29** Pray for a time of refreshment and encouragement as VP of Ministry Outreach Norm Poehlke takes a sabbatical the next couple months.

## FRIDAY

**2** Pray for the children's ministry pastors and leaders at your church. Pray that God would encourage them and guide them through summer ministry opportunities. Take time to show them your appreciation.

**9** Pray for Cam Roxburgh, NAB VP of Missional Initiatives, as he works with various pastors and regional ministers on restructuring churches for mission.

**16** Pray for regional ministers Dr. James Renke (Upper Mississippi Region), Pastor Larry Burd (Atlantic Association), and Dr. David Ewing (Eastern Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**23** Pray for the Southern Association meetings happening this weekend in Texas. We also rejoice with one of their churches, Anderson Road Baptist Church, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

**30** Pray for Triennial 2018 plans, which are well underway. Pray that God would be in every detail as speakers and accommodations are secured for next July's conference.

## SATURDAY

**3** Pray for the youth pastor and youth workers at your church. Pray that God would encourage them and guide them as they plan for the summer and impacting youth through summer camps. Take time to show them your appreciation.

**10** Pray for NAB missionary Elsie Lewandowski as she is currently teaching summer school and preparing for a new school year with homeschooling families until she transitions to training teachers. Ask God to supply her with all she needs.

**17** Pray for regional ministers Rev. Rick Weber (Northern California Association), Pastor Ken Solberg (Saskatchewan Baptist Association), and Rev. Bob Klein (Southern California Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**24** Pray for the men's retreat at Pinecrest Baptist Bible Camp in Saskatchewan this weekend, that God would be made manifest in the lives of those who attend.



## SUNDAY

## MONDAY

## TUESDAY

# M

*Missional  
Engagement*

**1** Pray for those who graduated from Taylor Seminary yesterday. Pray that God would use their education for His glory. Ask also that God would grant these graduates a time of rest and celebration.

**2** Pray for the pastors who will be attending the Central Plains Region Pastors' Retreat in Kansas City, MO, this week. Pray that these pastors will experience rest and fellowship and that their hearts would be finely tuned to serving their congregations and communities.

# I

*International  
Missions*

**7** Praise God for the progress that is being made at Camp Falcon Rock in Romania. Pray that God continues to bring in the necessary resources. Pray also for preparations underway for summer ministry opportunities.

**8** Pray for NAB work in Cameroon and for the Cameroon Baptist Convention leadership and our partnerships. Pray also for Jeff and Sonya Kilmartin as they raise funds to enter the mission field there.

**9** Pray for the work being done by NAB missionaries in Japan. Ask God to bring much fruit to the ministry of the NAB missionaries in Japan—Yuri Nakano, Shan Reed, and Ken and Rachelle Johnson.

# L

*Leadership  
Development*

**14** As many celebrate Mother's Day today, pray for women around the world who nurture, support, and encourage families. Pray especially for mothers who care for children in the midst of painful and dangerous circumstances.

**15** Pray for the NAB Retired Workers' Retreat being held in Sumas, WA, this week. Pray that God would bless this time of teaching and fellowship. Praise God for this group of faithful NAB retired workers who have served people around the world.

**16** Pray for regional ministers Dr. James Renke (Upper Mississippi Region), Pastor Larry Burd (Atlantic Association), and Dr. David Ewing (Eastern Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

# E

*Ethnic  
Partnership*

**21** Pray for the international church today. Pray for those countries where religious freedoms do not exist and Christians are persecuted. Ask God to protect those who have followed His call to spread His word in these areas of the world.

**22** Pray for pastors who are doing ministry in cross-cultural settings. Pray that the Gospel would unite individuals in the midst of varying cultural contexts

**23** Pray for the work being done at churches across North America to prepare White Cross supplies to be used on the field in Cameroon. Praise God for the faithful workers who give of their time to provide these resources.

**28** Pray for our NAB missionaries who are on home assignment. Pray that their connections with supporters would be strengthened during their time in North America. Pray also that they would be granted times of rest and connection with family and friends.

**29** Pray today for churches in US neighborhoods holding community events as a way to spread God's love as they remember those who died while serving in the US armed forces.

**30** Pray for the families of pastors today. Ask God for His blessings on marriages and on relationships between pastors and their children. Pray that pastors would find their families to be a strong support to them.

## WEDNESDAY

**3** Pray for those in your town or city whom you consider to be your neighbors. Ask God to open your eyes to the ways that you can serve those in your community.

## THURSDAY

**4** Pray for your nation and its leaders today as it is National Prayer Day. *Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet.* (Isaiah 58:1a).

## FRIDAY

**5** Pray for the regional ministers' retreat that begins today. Praise God for NAB regional ministers who tirelessly work to serve pastors across North America.

## SATURDAY

**6** Pray for churches in the NAB family that are preparing for summer schedules and programs. Pray that God would bless the events, groups, and conversations that will take place over the next few months

**10** Pray for NAB missionaries Ron and Jeannie Seck. Ask God to bless their work with Community Health Evangelism in Hungary reaching the Roma people.

**11** Pray for NAB national missionaries across the globe. Thank God for these faithful servants who have chosen to serve where God has placed them.

**12** Pray for the work being done by Lyndell Campbell-Réquia, NAB missionary in Brazil. Pray that she would be highly effective in her role as a seminary professor. Pray also for Brandon and Marci Jones who are currently fundraising to enter the mission field in Brazil.

**13** Pray for those who will be graduating today from Sioux Falls Seminary. Praise God for the diligence of these students and the education He granted them. Ask that God would give them rest and direction as these students celebrate and look to the future.

**17** Pray for regional ministers Dr. Jim Leverette and associate Dr. Terry Fossen (Alberta Baptist Association) and regional minister Rev. Chris Gorman (Northwest Region). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**18** Pray for regional ministers Rev. Rick Weber (Northern California Association), Pastor Ken Solberg (Saskatchewan Baptist Association), and Rev. Bob Klein (Southern California Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**19** Good Spirit Bible Camp in Saskatchewan opens their summer camp season this weekend with the first of three family camps. Pray that God would encourage and strengthen the families who attend.

**20** Pray for regional ministers Rev. Dan Heringer (Central Plains Region), Rev. Terry Holley (Great Lakes Association), and Dr. Bob Krahn (British Columbia Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

**24** Pray for NAB churches that will be participating in short-term missions trips this summer. Ask God to bless the efforts of these churches and to reveal His heart for the lost to those who will be serving.

**25** Pray for the staff of the NAB International Office as they serve the NAB missionaries and churches around the world.

**26** Praise God for NAB churches that share space and resources with churches of other cultures and ethnicities. Ask God to meet the needs of these congregations.

**27** Pray for the work being done by Bud Fuchs to reach and serve international students in Utah. Ask God to bring much fruit to Bud's efforts to bring the Gospel to these students.

**31** Pray for churches that are in transition because of pastoral or staff changes. Ask that God would provide the right individuals to fill these gaps and that ministry would not be hindered.

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# MAY 2017

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## INTERCESSOR VIA EMAIL

Receive the Intercessor electronically and enjoy benefits like faster delivery and forwarding capability. Email your name, address, and email address to [apedroni@nabconf.org](mailto:apedroni@nabconf.org) with "Intercessor" in the subject line.

# CHURCH UPDATES

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Baptisms

9

Decisions for Christ

96

New Members

17

Home Goings

4

Pastoral Staff Updates

## **Bethany Baptist Church, Richmond, BC**

*Baptisms:* 10

*New Members:* 18

## **Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA**

*Baptisms:* 3

*New Members:* 9

*Pastoral Staff Updates:* Larry Neufeld, interim pastor, concludes ministry May 2017. Philip Long, senior pastor, begins ministry June 1, 2017.

## **Cornerstone Trinity Baptist Church, San Francisco, CA**

*Baptisms:* 1

## **Emmanuel Baptist Church, Valleyview, AB**

*Home Goings:* Lavina Heppner, age 74; George Urau, age 71

## **Esterhazy Baptist Church, Esterhazy, SK**

*Baptisms:* 1

*Decisions for Christ:* 1

*Home Goings:* Evelyn Wall, age 71

## **First Baptist Church, Minot, ND**

*Baptisms:* 14

*Decisions for Christ:* 4

*New Members:* 14

## **First Baptist Church, Wishek, ND**

*Home Going:* Freda Ketterling, age 103

## **Greenfield Community Church, Edmonton, AB**

*Home Goings:* Estella Stelter, age 84

## **Hawkwood Baptist Church, Calgary, AB**

*Baptisms:* 2

*New Members:* 4

## **Heartland Community Church, Medina, OH**

*Baptisms:* 13

*New Members:* 23

*Home Goings:* Steve Glaze, age 76; Tiffany Hauge, age 30

## **Heritage Baptist Church, Yorkton, SK**

*Decisions for Christ:* 1

## **Hope Fellowship Church, Kansas City, MO**

*Baptisms:* 4

## **Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, IL**

*Home Goings:* Wanda Yohnka, age 89

## **Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, West Kelowna, BC**

*Home Goings:* Bette Gifford, age 82

## **McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB**

*Home Goings:* Hildegard Tarnoky, age 81; Garry Alisch, age 79

## **Minnetrissa Baptist Church, St. Bonifacius, MN**

*Baptisms:* 6

*New Members:* 4

## **Northgate Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB**

*Baptisms:* 2

*New Members:* 4

*Home Goings:* Bertha Carlson, age 99

*Pastoral Staff Updates:* Stewart Carson, transitional pastor, began ministry March 5, 2017.

## **Steamboat Rock Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock, IA**

*New Members:* 1

*Home Goings:* Mike Luiken, age 59; William Smith, age 93; Verna Carlson, age 80

## **Steele Heights Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB**

*Baptisms:* 6

*Decisions for Christ:* 2

*New Members:* 4

## **Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church**

*Baptisms:* 4

*Home Goings:* Carol Wright, age 66

## **Summit Drive Baptist Church, Kamloops, BC**

*Pastoral Staff Updates:* Harry Bicknell, associate pastor, began ministry April 1, 2017.

## **Romanian Baptist Church of the San Francisco Bay Area, San Leandro, CA**

*Decisions for Christ:* 1

*New Members:* 10

## **Valley Baptist Church, Milbank, SD**

*Baptisms:* 2

*Home Goings:* Alice Mitchell, age 99

## **Whyte Ridge Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB**

*New Members:* 5



# Yuri NAKANO

NAB Missionary in Japan

Yuri Nakano has been serving in Japan for the past seven years. After a year in Kyoto gaining a stronger grasp of the culture and language, she joined the team at Komyo Christian Church from 2011 through 2014.

Upon coming back to the field after home assignment, Yuri was assigned to assist with the Kansai area churches without pastors, mainly Kongo Bible Church and Heijo Christian Church. Since last September, Yuri has taken on the responsibilities of interim field director until Paul Ewing comes back to the field from home assignment this summer.

Much of Yuri's work in Japan concerns partnering with the Japan Baptist Conference through planting churches, evangelizing, and discipling believers. At Kongo, Yuri leads two different Bible studies, one for mature Christians and one beginner's Bible class, and she is preaching once a month. She also leads Bible studies at the Heijo Christian Church in Nara Prefecture and provides pulpit supply once a month. Both of these churches are praying for Japanese pastors to come and lead their churches.

- Pray for her continued responsibilities helping to lead the NAB ministries in Japan these final months of the Ewings' home assignment.
- Ask God to provide her with opportunities to share the Gospel with her neighbors and invite them to church events.
- Pray that God would provide long-term pastors for Kongo Bible Church and Heijo Christian Church to better serve those communities.

To learn more about Yuri's ongoing work, go to

[nabonmission.org/missionaries/yuri-nakano](http://nabonmission.org/missionaries/yuri-nakano).



## Where is the Intercessor?

The Intercessor has become a bimonthly publication and three times a year the piece is published within *Onward* magazine. Please use the schedule below to guide you as you pray with us.

January & February - Intercessor  
March & April - Onward Spring 2017  
May & June - Intercessor  
**July & August - Onward Summer 2017**  
September & October - Intercessor  
November & December - Onward  
Winter 2017

*coming up next*



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