

ROENSPIE FAMILY PRAYER UPDATE-

MARCH 2016

Here are our prayer requests for the month. For those of you who didn't receive our newsletter last week, please let us know! We will happily add you to our list.

PERSONAL- We are more and more aware of our need for a healthy prayer life as we face decisions and opportunities here. Would you prayer for all three of us (Jeff, Lilia and Gabe) that we would have an active and intimate prayer life? And that we could instruct Cassandra in the importance of prayer? She does her best to close her eyes and says "amen" very loudly when we pray now, so that's a start!

On March 27, we will celebrate 23 years of married life! Pray for our marriage, that God will strengthen the areas that need strengthening and that we will not take for granted the privilege that marriage is.

MINISTRY – I was so blessed to complete a two-week block of Harmony of the Gospels at Centro Educativo Cristiano in San Carlos. Please pray for the students I taught as they will graduate and return home in about a month. Pray that the beauty of the Gospels will stay with them. Please pray for us as we return in April to do a one day workshop on Literacy and the Bible.

This month we will teach a mini-seminar on evangelism for the youth of our church, emphasizing personal relationships in communicating the Gospel. Pray for understanding and courage, as well as open doors when we do our "practice" evangelism.

Pray for the on-going study that Jeff is conducting in Bahia de Kino. We are seeing the men respond to the challenge of Making Jesus our Model of Manhood. This is an interim course that is part of our on-going study in the Book of Mark. We are blessed to be offering this course and working with the Pastor and Assistant Pastor on various projects. Calvary Chapel Bahia Kino has become really strong in their conviction of teaching the Word systematically, and the fruit is evident in their congregation. At the same time, like in so many churches, there are several hurting marriages. Pray that the Lord would heal and protect those marriages as they struggle.

Please also remember the House of Grace Children's Home in your prayers. Right now, with the addition of a new born, Pedro is bearing more than his usual load (although he has to work to keep Zoila from doing too much). Pray specifically for godly volunteers to come alongside, for unity among the children, and clear direction from the Lord. Join us in praising God for his continued faithfulness of provision of funds at just the needed time. Recently an ophthalmologist visited and fitted 5 of the children for glasses. The change in their reading ability and attitude toward school is amazing! God is so good to meet the needs that we don't even know we have.

Please pray for Lilia as she balances homemaking, caring for a two-year old, and her active ministry there. That usually means, too, juggling who uses the car, as we both have ministry commitments. We are praying for an economical second vehicle, as Gabe is completing driver's training and has ministry and personal commitments as well.



LOCAL CONDITIONS – *Semana Santa*, or Holy Week, is a time of such strange contradictions. In the streets are the Yaqui Indian tribal dancers, raising money for a huge Easter celebration in their main pueblo. They fan out all throughout Sonora, and, dressed in their traditional *Fariseos* (Pharisees) costume, and they "do

penance” by wearing these masks and asking for money. It is terrifying to small children at first, as they approach the car with drums at full blast and shaking a can of coins. This tradition is a mix of Catholic and Indigenous traditions (and not very Biblical). On the other hand, most students and their families see it as a week of partying and vacationing (they call the first week *Semana Santa*, holy week, and the Second week *Semana del Diablo*, or Devil’s week- indicating that once the religious obligations are over, the attitude changes radically. It’s especially dangerous on the roads to Bahia Kino and Guaymas, beach resorts, where drunk driving is still quite common.

Add to the fear of Good Friday, and the lack of celebration of the Resurrection, plus the cults circulating in force with their version of the Cross, and Holy Week can become overwhelming. Pray that we can share the central truth of our faith – the resurrection- in the way the Lord would see fit.

Please also pray for the season of “ministry campaigns.” This time of year travelling evangelists tend to visit the Coastal areas with, again, a strange mix of biblical doctrine and counterfeit truth. The end result is that people are confused about the truth of the Word. Pray that the Lord will guard his sheep from these events, and that there will be discernment among the believers.

As always, thank you for praying for us and standing with us in the work. You bless our lives.

THE ROENSPIES