

# THE MESSENGER



## *Sharing Eternal Hope in a Chilean Hospital Ward*

BY ELIZABETH EALEY



### *In a global pandemic, how do you bring people hope?*

Who would minister to the suffering, sick, and dying, when visitors are not allowed in hospitals? These questions burdened one Chilean woman named Rufina. Rufina was studying the book of Acts through a leadership program led by SAMS Missionaries Russ and Heidi Smith in Temuco, Chile. Through Acts, God showed Rufina that He uses people out of their comfort zone. She began asking God to push her. She said, "With Acts in my hand and the pandemic raging around me, I found myself praying ... that God would take hope to the hospitals."

Little did she know that God would answer both prayers by sending her to the hospital as a patient. Rufina said in her shared hospital ward, "all the people in the room were crying. They were suffering from different sicknesses." Rufina began to share the gospel and pray for patients and staff by name.

Rufina's expected two-day hospital stay for gallstones extended to six weeks when the doctors found cancerous tumors. Rufina knew she had a purpose for being in the hospital, so she did not ask God to take away the sickness. Like the disciples in Acts, she asked that "in this sickness God would give her courage to speak of Him." Those six weeks gave Rufina an opportunity to share the gospel with ten people! A few came to Christ for the first time. Others returned to Him, including one woman who later died in the hope of Christ. Several people experienced emotional and physical healing. One atheist woman refused Rufina's prayers initially, but left the hospital believing God exists! She continues to have phone conversations with Rufina.

After running tests, the doctors planned an exploratory surgery to find Rufina's cancer. The night before the surgery, a church member called her and prayed for healing from the cancer. The surgery showed the tumor was gone! The doctor kept Rufina for more tests and another surgery, but still found nothing. Later, that same doctor, who had rejected spiritual conversation, said, "Don't give any thanks to me. Give all the thanks to God!" God had sent Rufina to the hospital to bring hope, and now He brought her safely home.

*Elizabeth Ealey is an Anglican writer in Pittsburgh who enjoys sharing God's Word and stories of hope.*



*Russ and Heidi equip Latin Americans to spread the Gospel at home and globally.*



*Rufina shares what God has done in a video call after her hospital stay.*





# Growing Grace in San Lorenzo

BY KATE ULRICH

**A** Honduran reporter once said that San Lorenzo was a village forgotten by man and God. Yet God had not forgotten. He used this report to inspire a Honduran priest to reach out to this isolated mountain community of subsistence farmers. Missionary Jeannie Loving went along and began to serve the people in the name of Christ in 2008. A church formed. Jeannie began to dream that this spiritual community would have its own building.

God opened the door for other projects first. Jeannie coordinated construction of a playground and a community center made of ram-packed earth. Several groups began to use this center, including a kindergarten and the new church. Eventually, Jeannie fixed up a simple house so she could be rooted in the lives of the people.

Hunger arising from crop failure is a regular occurrence in San Lorenzo. The villagers raise crops for their daily food, usually without surplus to sell. Jeannie was eager to help them farm successfully. She applied her experience as an organic gardener to train farmers. Jeannie started a demonstration farm where she shows how to develop rich soil through composting. People receive seeds and seedlings.

Jeannie saw the community's hunger for God, too. She organized Bible studies with the help of fellow Christians gifted in teaching. People have attended those studies enthusiastically. Jeannie says that "their greatest spiritual need is one we all have: to forgive. It is by forgiving that you are forgiven. We need a lot of forgiveness."

When the Diocese of Honduras approved construction of the church building, Jeannie's decade-old dream began to be realized. SAMS Missionary and Architect Jack Melvin designed the building with input from the community. Jack shares that Edil, a member of the church and the chief contractor, "is a true craftsman, who puts love into his work." Construction proceeded quickly in spite of a pause

due to the pandemic – and with no electric tools! The current priest, Father Victor, who serves three churches, preaches and leads Holy Eucharist every two weeks. Jeannie says "He is very pastoral. He sends all the vestry members daily encouragement, stories, and Bible passages." *Iglesia Santa Maria Magdalena* now has its own space in which they can serve the community, thanks to generous Senders who caught the vision God planted in Jeannie's heart.



*SAMS Mission Director Stewart got to help shovel some mud for the community center in 2010!*



*Jeannie Loving has been serving the families of San Lorenzo since 2008.*



More church photos:  
[samsusa.org/blog](https://samsusa.org/blog)  
Search for  
"Growing Grace  
in San Lorenzo"



# Sowing Gospel Hope



The McCall Family



Amanda Scott



Stephen and Debra Buckner



Jack Melvin



Veronica Flowers



Jeannie Loving



The Miller Family

## March 1-6: USA: Missionary Candidates

Lift up Missionary Candidates and their children as they discern the ministries and countries to which God is calling them:

**Darin, Katie, Brendan, Asher, and Elisa Hamlin**

**Eric, Liz, Zeke, and "baby" Larson**

**Wade, Chelsea, and Evelyn Weeldreyer**

## March 7-13: CENTRAL AMERICA: Honduras

Lift up **Suzy McCall, Amanda Scott, Stephen and Debra Buckner** in Tegucigalpa serving at LAMB Institute. Pray for protection of the community at the children's home from COVID-19. Pray for a vaccine to be made available. Pray for groups and volunteers to be able to return to Honduras, and for relative normalization of life and advancement of ministry.

Lift up **Jack Melvin** in Tegucigalpa as he oversees diocesan building projects while discipling and encouraging a rural community.

## March 14-20: CENTRAL AMERICA: Honduras

Pray for **Veronica Flowers** as she faithfully leads teachers and children at Holy Trinity School in La Ceiba. Give thanks for the laptops for online learning provided by Senders of Associate Missionaries **Mike and Betty Kaszer**. Give thanks also for the repair of the roof and restocking of the medical clinic through the generosity of these Senders.

Pray with **Jeannie Loving** that God would open doors for mission teams to come to the El Paraiso region this summer. Pray for their logistics, health, and effectiveness. Give thanks for the completion of the church building in San Lorenzo.

## March 21-27: CENTRAL AMERICA: Honduras

Pray for **Mike, Kim, Liliana, and Katherine Miller** in Florida. Lift up Hope of Jesus Children's Home as they seek to serve vulnerable children and their families with the love of Christ. Pray for protection from COVID-19 for the children and staff. Pray for the country of Honduras as it struggles to rebuild after the devastating hurricanes and floods.

## March 28-April 3: CENTRAL AMERICA: Belize

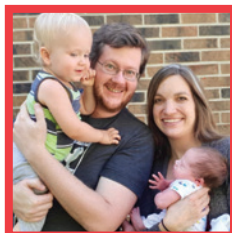
Lift up **David, Mary Beth, Austin and James Alenskis** in Indiana as David studies in a PhD program, further preparing to equip church leaders. Lift up the Anglican community in San Ignacio, Belize, as the leadership team prepared by David and Mary Beth serves the Lord faithfully through this transition.

## April 4-10: CENTRAL AMERICA: Costa Rica

Pray for renewed strength for **Eduardo and Hilda Monzon** in San Jose. Pray that the church will continue to make disciples faithfully.

## April 11-17: SOUTH AMERICA: Ecuador

Pray for **Roberto, Cameron, Graham, Liam, and Francis Vivanco** in Quito. Lift up Education = Hope as they help children in desperate and difficult situations. Pray that children would be able to learn and grow despite the limitations of virtual education. Pray for Roberto's ongoing music ministry at English Fellowship Church, encouraging and nurturing the Body of Christ.



The Alenskis Family



Hilda and Eduardo Monzon



The Vivanco Family

## Please focus on the following as you pray:

**Sunday:** for missionary to be used to share the Gospel

**Monday:** for missionary's own spiritual growth

**Tuesday:** for God's blessing for the diocese and bishop

**Wednesday:** for missionary's relationships with nationals

**Thursday:** for missionary's health, safety and family

**Friday:** for outpouring of the Spirit in missionary's church

**Saturday:** for God to raise up new missionaries

# Sowing Gospel Hope



Rusty and Tammy Firestone



Russ and Heidi Smith



The Hicks Family



The Benton Family



The Whitaker Family

## **April 18–24: SOUTH AMERICA: Bolivia**

Pray that **Rusty and Tammy Firestone** have a smooth transition to life, work, and ministry in the United States. Pray for God's kingdom to grow in the community of *La Trinidad Church* in Cochabamba, Bolivia, as they love their neighbors in word and deed.

## **April 25–May 1: SOUTH AMERICA: Chile**

Lift up **Russ and Heidi Smith** in Temuco. Pray for students and teachers of the Rural Bible Institute. Pray for the diocesan electoral college, including Russ, as they select a new bishop for the Diocese of Araucanía. Pray for *Reino de Dios Church* and other prayer and discipleship ministries.

## **May 2–8: OCEANIA: Solomon Islands**

Pray for the ministry of **Jonathan, Tess, Avalyn, Cohen, Caeli, Judah, Immanuel, and Moses Hicks** as they settle into their home ministry assignment at Christ the King Anglican Church in Birmingham, Ala. Pray for deepening of Sender relationships, spiritual growth, refreshment and provision of friends for the children. Lift up Tess and baby girl due at the end of April.

## **May 9–15: OCEANIA: New Zealand**

Lift up **Guy, Summer, Isaac (Pirum), Quinn, Norah, and Addison Benton** in Wellington as they follow God's call into parish leadership. Ask God's Spirit to lead them and their colleagues in Better World as they mobilize young people for mission in an ever-changing landscape. May young people come to know Jesus. May the Bentons seek the Lord as a family on mission to advance His kingdom.

## **May 16–22: ASIA: Cambodia**

Pray for **Gregory, Heidi, Saeeda, Brynne, Aubrey, Ivy, and Madeleine Whitaker** in Phnom Penh. Pray that the Church of Christ Our Peace continues to grow despite challenges and pandemic restrictions. Pray that Cambodia can recover quickly from the side-effects of COVID-19, including worsened poverty and human trafficking. Lift up their family as their second daughter transitions to university.

## **May 23–29: ASIA: Indonesia**

Pray with **James, Nanci, Anna, George, Mary, and Della Long** for the people of Indonesia as they continue to struggle in the face of the pandemic. Pray for new ways to reach out with online ministries and additional aid for the poor and refugees in their community.

## **May 30–June 5: AFRICA: Madagascar**

Ask God to grant **Jacky Lowe** guidance to help women and children in Madagascar from the US while she undergoes surgery for breast cancer and recovers. Pray for her full healing. Pray for Senders to join her team as she looks to return to Madagascar in 2022.

Give thanks with **Todd and Patsy McGregor** in Stuart, Fla., for the fruit of their decades-long ministry in Madagascar. Pray for discernment for Todd in his ongoing discipleship and coaching role with the Society, and for Patsy in her ministry role in a local church. Pray for God's grace and provision in transitions for the Diocese of Toliara and the McGregors.



The Long Family



Jacky Lowe



Todd and Patsy McGregor



# Sowing Gospel Hope



Louise and Johann Vanderbijl



April Sylvester



The Nhial Family



Trent Pettit



Janine LeGrand



Jessica Hughes

## *June 6–12: AFRICA: Southern Africa*

Pray with **Johann and Louise Vanderbijl** in Villiersdorp, South Africa, that every country would recover from the effects of the COVID-19 virus. Pray for the Vanderbijl's discipleship ministry and thank God for electronic media that is helpful in this season. Pray for smooth publishing of Johann's book about the Apostle Peter.

Lift up **April Sylvester** as she ministers in Ndola, Zambia. Pray that Zambians would experience restoration in mental health through professional care and the hope of the Gospel. Lift up the board of the YANA Foundation in leadership transitions.

## *June 13–19: AFRICA: South Sudan and Ethiopia*

Pray for **Abraham, Daruka, Naomi, Mary, David, Emmanuel, Martha, and Anna Nhial** as Abraham ministers as bishop of the Diocese of Aweil in South Sudan. Pray that the diocese and the whole nation would experience God's peace and provision in the midst of the pandemic and ongoing political tension.

Thank the Lord with **Trent Pettit** for his ordination to the priesthood. Ask God to fill him with His grace and power. Pray for revival amongst the small parishes in Texas he serves. Pray that Trent would be able to return to Gambella, Ethiopia, to help theology students complete their educations. Pray for protection and health of churches in that region.

## *June 20–26: AFRICA: Uganda*

Ask God to grant **Janine LeGrand** wisdom and flexibility in Masindi with the changing needs of the people through the pandemic and economic devastation. Pray for stability, peace, and justice among the Ugandan government.

## *June 27–July 3: AFRICA: Uganda*

Pray for **Jessica Hughes, Mary Chowenhill, and Richard and Catherine Ranger** in Mukono at Uganda Christian University. Pray for their work serving the theology, business, and law departments (respectively), that God would use the university to send out Christian servants. Pray for the country of Uganda to experience God's peace in the midst of political transition.

## *July 4–July 10: EUROPE: Germany*

Pray with **David and Patricia Ayres** that Christ Church Berlin will grow in its mission to be faithful disciples who make disciples. May they see God's grace at work in their community. May they see the hardships and loneliness endured by so many in their city as opportunities to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God in Christ.

## *July 11–17: EUROPE: The Netherlands and Central Europe*

With **Kerry and Cynthia Buttram**, pray for new opportunities for Christ Church Amsterdam to get to know neighbors in the community. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue the ministry of reconciliation in their community.

Pray that **Steven V.** would be open to God's wisdom over his own. Pray for his Gospel endeavors in translating, opening a retreat center, starting an Anglican Eucharistic service, giving spiritual direction, and communicating with both those who know and those who do not know the Lord.



Mary Chowenhill



Richard and Catherine Ranger



Kerry and Cynthia Buttram



David and Patricia Ayres

# Sowing Gospel Hope



The Blaine Family



Jack and Mary McDonald



The Twichell Family

## **July 18–24: NORTH AMERICA: Mexico**

Pray with **Roger and Joanne** as they serve in Mexico. Pray for the churches and pastors affected by COVID-19. Pray for full recovery and health, that God's Spirit would sustain and move through them. Lift up their new bishop, the Rt. Rev. Steven Tighe, and all the Mexican deanery work of the Diocese of the Southwest.

Intercede with **Meredith** for her church: for wisdom, discernment and direction as they continue to search for a new rector. Pray for God's continued guidance and creativity in ministry.

## **July 25–31: NORTH AMERICA: United States**

Pray for **Jesse, Sarah, Clara, Adelai, and Ridley Blaine** in Denver, Colo., as they launch a church plant. As Sarah enters the new SAMS role of Mission Coach for inquirers, ask God to raise up "laborers for the harvest."

Pray with **Jack and Mary McDonald** in Blacksburg, Va., as they minister to international students at Virginia Tech University. May these students become seekers who come to Christ. May they be people of peace who go back to their home countries and make disciples of others.

## **August 1–7: NORTH AMERICA: United States**

Pray with **Nate, Erika, Henry, Annie, George, and Jack Twichell** in Pittsburgh, Pa., as they lead the Agape Year program. Lift up the Fellows as they follow God's next steps for them. Pray for the 2021-2022 cohort beginning in September, that God would prepare their hearts. Praise God for His grace and provision during the pandemic. Pray for God's continued care and guidance of the Twichell family and the ministry in challenging times.

## **August 8–14: Associate Missionaries (USA-based, globally-focused volunteers):**

Lift up to the Lord **Chuck and Beth Bradshaw** (theological and musical education in Uganda), **Mike and Linda Chapman** (ministry among Hispanics in the USA), **David and Lucy Chaves** (social ministries and discipleship in Kenya), **Matt and Sora Colvin** (theological education and medical ministry), **Bunny Cowan** (teaching ministry in Honduras), **Wayne and Nicole Curtis** (youth ministry in South Africa), **Kathy Decker** (communications and short-term teams leadership in Peru), and **Brian and Mary Jane Dennison** (educational ministry and discipleship in Uganda).

## **August 15–21: Associate Missionaries (USA-based, globally-focused volunteers):**

Lift up to the Lord **John and Ninfa Dixon** (Hispanic outreach on the Mexican border), **Cathy Donahoe** (health ministry in the Dominican Republic), **Chris Feuillade** (education in Chile), **Tom and Maryjane Furrer** (medical ministry in Nigeria), **Margarita Grachen** (children's ministry in Honduras), **Allen and Rachel Hill** (theological education), **Jason and Emily Hood** (pastoral leadership in Tanzania), **Mike and Betty Kaszer** (education ministry in Honduras), **Grant and Wendy LeMarquand** (diocesan development in Ethiopia), and **Frank and Shawnee Lyons** (youth ministry).

## **August 22–28: Associate Missionaries (USA-based, globally-focused volunteers):**

Lift up to the Lord **Richard and Martha Menees** (ministry in Africa), **Ian and Polly Montgomery** (short-term ministry in Peru), **John and Susan Park** (leadership development in Latin America), **Ana Reid** (social ministries in Honduras), **Vicki Robertson** (children's ministry in Peru), **Anne Schaffer** (Asia), **Maunette Tait** (education in Honduras), **Hunter and Stephie Van Wagenen** (hospitality and evangelism in Spain), **Jared and Abbi Wensyel** (church planting in Germany), and **Kym Winegard** (children's ministry in Peru).

## **August 29–31: SAMS Family**

Pray for SAMS home staff: **Denise Cox, Nita Dempsey, Julie Kirik, Howard McClellan, Kristen Parise, Dana Priest, Kate Ulrich, and Stewart Wicker**, as they support and encourage missionaries and the church here in the U.S. and globally. Pray for **Missionary Bridgers, inquirers and applicants** as they discern next steps in mission engagement.

Give thanks for all **Senders** and their commitment to "make disciples of all nations."





# MEMORIALS AND HONORS

## Given by:

Mrs. Emily B. and Mr. David W. Powell  
Mr. Johnny and Mrs. Melinda Rudder  
Mr. James and Mrs. Marlisa Bannister  
Ms. JoAnn Rengers  
Mr. Terry and Mrs. Nita Dempsey  
Mr. David and Mrs. Diane Edelstein  
Mrs. Lucia Englander  
Mr. Steve and Mrs. Judith Spicer  
The Rev. Jon and Mrs. Dale Stasney  
Mr. Stewart W. & The Rev. Laura Wicker  
The Rev. David and Mrs. Gale Wilson  
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## In Memory of:

Miss Jacinta Achieng "Chichy" Amina  
Rev. Dr. Raymond Carl Ball  
U.S. Army SFC Zachary A. Bannister  
Mr. Daniel Bonasso  
Mr. Robert Bouterse  
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Mr. Dennis Mullins  
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The Rev. Erin Rath  
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Ms. Christina Herr  
Mr. Henry Ward  
Mr. Malcolm Nowlin

## In Honor of:

James Edward Alenskis  
All who serve worldwide to share Christ's Good News  
Mr. David & Mrs. Sarah Anderson  
The Rev. Jesse & Mrs. Sarah Blaine  
The Rev. Jesse & Mrs. Sarah Blaine  
Mrs. Lynn Bouterse  
Mrs. Elizabeth Bradshaw  
My Birthday!  
Yuscaran and Dagoberto Chacon  
Miss Jennifer Clarke  
Mrs. Carol and Mr. Bob Crawford  
The Rev. A. Kathrine Grieb, PhD  
Grandfather Hathaway  
Mrs. Marcia Hawkins  
The Rev. Allen and The Rev. Rachel Hill  
The Rev. Bob Hudson  
The Rev. Jessica Hughes  
The Rev. Jessica Hughes  
Jesus' Birthday  
Mrs. Lisa and Mr. Mark Johnsen  
Mrs. Sandy and Mr. Kevin Johnson  
Ms. Alana and Mr. Joshua Latham  
Ms. Flora Lee  
Lucian, Vaden, and Ross (our grandchildren)  
Mr. Howard and Mrs. Ann McClellan  
The Right Rev. Todd & The Rev. Patsy McGregor  
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Mr. Stuart Sylvester  
Mr. Charlie and Mrs. Vikki Taylor  
Dr. Johannes and Mrs. Louise Vanderbijl  
Mr. Hunter and Mrs. Stephenie Van Wagenen  
Mr. Roberto and Mrs. Cameron Vivanco  
The Rev. Laura Wicker

*Pray for God's guidance of these new Missionary Candidates!*



**Eric and Liz Larson**



**Darin and Katie Hamlin**



**Wade and Chelsea Weeldreyer**

# Sowing Gospel Hope



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## Join us for SAMS Family Midday Prayer



Thursdays on Zoom  
12-12:15 p.m. Eastern



Email

[prayer@sams-usa.org](mailto:prayer@sams-usa.org)  
for an invitation!



## Following Jesus Step by Step



Missionary Candidates Wade and Chelsea Weeldreyer are following Christ to serve His Church abroad. A pandemic is not an easy time to pursue a missionary call, yet Wade believes, "Missionaries and ministers have to keep going even during times of war, in times of sickness. We're taught in the scriptures to expect those times." Wade and Chelsea feel blessed by the theological and spiritual teaching they have received from their churches. God blessed Abraham in the Bible to be a blessing to the nations. Wade and Chelsea desire to carry on that spiritual legacy. They seek to share God and His Word through teaching, pastoral care, and hospitality. Chelsea explains what draws her to ministry in the Anglican church: "I like the idea of being rooted in the church and getting to invite people into your very identity and the fabric of who you are. I think that's pretty special, almost like inviting them into your home."

## Is God calling you to serve Him in global mission?



**Whether for a year or for a career,  
SAMS is here to come alongside you in discerning His call.**

For resources on discerning a missionary call and  
more information about the process—

To take part in a virtual discernment conference held in the evenings—

To engage with a mission coach for encouragement and growth—

Please contact Associate Director Denise Cox  
[denisecox@sams-usa.org](mailto:denisecox@sams-usa.org)