



Prayers for Mennonite Education February 2021

This month we want to especially remember computer and IT staff, who have been vital to many of the schools' online learning platforms. Where would we be without these clever individuals? We also want to remember the many teachers who have gained new skills in this area out of necessity. Together they have ushered in an era in education in which virtual and remote learning is the new normal.

Daily prayers for February 1 – 28, 2021

1. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for students at EMU as we experience Black History Month together and wrestle with the impacts of racism in our own lives and on our campus.

Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania: A new semester starts today at LAC. Please pray for students, faculty and staff as they continue learning and growing together.

2. **Mennonite Early Childhood Network (MECN):** Pray that parents and educators may carefully monitor the use of screen time for young children, heeding the advice of the American Academy of Pediatrics and others. May all remember that children learn best through guidance of active, self-directed play.
3. **MEA's Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA):** Pray for the IBA study center in Evangelical Garifuna Church, Bronx, New York, and its students who are studying the course, Intro to Bible Study. Pray for their tutor Lilian Flores. May God's wisdom and guidance be with her as she teaches this course. Please pray that the students will continue to be excited and that they do not lose interest as they study via Zoom in this pandemic time.

The City School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Please pray that the faculty and staff will be able to support the emotional needs of students through the computer platforms we have.

4. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray and give thanks for our IT staff at Bluffton University. Because of their dedication, we were able to quickly move to remote learning last spring, adapt to new realities this fall and continue to provide academic, spiritual life and student-life opportunities for our students. We thank them for their commitment.

Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale,

Pennsylvania: Pray for the Dock community, that we might be a light to the world, walking in the way of peace.

5. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for IT Director Brent Graber, M.A., and his student assistants as they maintain the seminary's IT infrastructure and provide technical support to students, faculty and staff who are studying and working from a distance.

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy,

Pennsylvania: We are thankful for the internet, Zoom and Google which provide user-friendly methods to do our work.

6. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please join us in giving thanks and praying for Peter Shetler, our IT/tech expert, who has been invaluable during the days of online learning and livestreaming.

Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas: Pray for head coach Joseph Gogus and the coaching staff for Bethel College cheer and dance as they host the Bethel Invitational today.

7. **Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa:** Hillcrest Academy is grateful to our IT support staff who have worked tirelessly to build our robust technological capabilities. We are thankful for their dedication to our school and pray for continued wisdom and endurance as they help us navigate the challenges associated with online learning, event streaming, and many other details.

Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Pray for administration, faculty and staff at Lancaster Mennonite School as they begin to prepare for the 2021-22 school year. Pray for wisdom and guidance as they consider innovative curriculum and future needs of students.

8. **Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania:** Give thanks for the 30 Chromebooks that were purchased for LAC in the States. Pray that God will open the way for shipping them to Albania. They are so needed now with online classes.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: Join us in giving thanks for those who have supported us through grants, which have allowed us to purchase additional technology for our students.

9. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for our student-athletes as they continue winter competition and begin spring athletic competition. Please include our coaches and athletic training staff as they remain dedicated to maintaining a safe and healthy competition landscape.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia: At EMU we are especially grateful for our information services teams who spent many hours this summer outfitting classrooms to allow students to attend classes either virtually or in person as health and safety allowed.

10. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** Pray for strength and wisdom for our faculty, who stretch themselves daily to accommodate both in-person and remote learners.

Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana: Pray for students at Goshen College as they have important conversations around race and culture during Black History Month.

11. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for participants in AMBS's new online short course, A Song Leader's Introduction to Voices Together, as they explore how to effectively teach and lead a variety of music using the new hymnal.

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania: We praise God for our teachers who have worked diligently to acquire the necessary technological skills and then freely shared with their colleagues.

12. **Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** EMS is blessed by the gifts of Mike Stoltzfus, director of operations. Thank God for his role on the leadership team and oversight of all aspects of IT, assuring K-12 students, teachers, and staff can access what they need to learn and support one another during the pandemic.

The City School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Please pray for the proper use and upkeep of the computers we are blessed to have. Specifically, please pray that our students will balance time management with their presence online, particularly on social media.

13. **Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** Please pray for Operations Director Nate Holton, IT Field Tech Clay Glazier and IT Volunteer Dan Jantzi who play a key role in supporting remote and in-person education at Central Christian School.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Pray for EMU students experiencing practicums and placements this semester that are different than they imagined. Pray especially for nursing students and student teachers as they navigate getting the experience they need while staying safe and healthy.

14. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for our girls and boys basketball teams, that they will finish their seasons successfully and in safety.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: QCS is thankful for the servant heart of our IT Coordinator who continuously works to make sure our technology is running smoothly.
15. **Freeman Academy, Freeman, South Dakota:** We are thankful for the gift to see another New Year. We uplift all who are mourning those who do not have the same luxury. Freeman Academy asks you to uplift our amazing staff and students for continued health of body and mind as we head into this second half of the school year. We especially are thankful for the talents given to our IT director, Nathan Schrag to keep our programs and computers up-to-date at a moment's notice.
16. **MEA's Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH):** We appreciate prayers for the students who completed SeBAH's Pastoral Ministry Program in December. We pray that the graduation ceremony scheduled for fall 2021 at Hesston College will be able to occur. We also ask for prayer for all current and new students who started in the January trimester.
17. **Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for Goshen College students who are tackling faith-related, socially relevant, contemporary issues in the C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest today.

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania: Pray for peace of mind and heart for our students during this turbulent time in the country.
18. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** Pray for our students, that they would have hearts and minds to seize their opportunities to learn, in spite of circumstances that are sometimes less than ideal.

Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania: Pray for opportunities to share the Good News in the Lezha community, especially to Roma group we have adopted since November 2019.
19. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Give thanks for the technology that allows AMBS to offer theological and biblical studies at a distance to students across the world and for the bonds that are created through these online courses.

Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio: Rejoice with us as we celebrate a successful Community Service Day. Students in grades K-12 did service projects with their families or in small groups. Donors sponsored them, giving more than \$20,000 over our goal in support of Fair Balance Tuition Fund that allows us to have variable rates of tuition.
20. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for our musical students as they creatively and safely rehearse the spring production.

Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas: Give thanks for the dedication of Bethel College nursing faculty and the junior class, who will creatively observe the lamplighting, which recognizes students' commitment to the program and their chosen profession, amid COVID safety protocols.
21. **The City School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** Join us in giving thanks for the technology we have to stay connected with our students, staff and families. We are grateful that each student has access to computers and our online platforms. We are grateful for our students' creativity and resilience and for our teachers' mindfulness about Zoom fatigue in this new virtual space. We give thanks that our school can allow students to lead breath prayers or take mental health breaks during their lessons.
22. **Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for student athletes, especially basketball, volleyball and indoor track athletes, who are navigating a tricky season due to COVID.

Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Pray for the coaches and student athletes at LMS who are competing with few spectators and many restrictions due to the pandemic. Pray for safety and good health for them and the teams they meet.

23. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for student leaders at Bluffton University. At the end of this month, Student Senate will host the Student Senate Presidential Debate during Forum. Pray for developing leaders on campus as they move Bluffton forward into a new year and new chapter on campus.

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania: Pray that the Lord would lead new students to our school and community.

24. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Brenna Haines, Ph.D., who manages online learning at Bethel College, including coordinating a virtual format for the college's first-ever May Term in 2021.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Pray for varsity basketball student athletes at EMS who are learning online during their season to lessen the potential of exposure of peers and teachers to COVID. Pray that they will enjoy healthy competition and grow close as a team.

25. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for AMBS Admissions Team members as they connect with prospective students who are exploring options for biblical and theological graduate study and discerning where God might be calling them.

Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Remember students, faculty and staff at Lancaster Mennonite School as this unusual school year continues. Pray that they can find inspiration and enthusiasm to keep going in the midst of uncertainty and disappointment of events and activities that will not happen this year.

26. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Say a prayer of gratitude for Bethel College IT coordinator Adam Haag, who along with all his staff has put in heroic hours to keep BC's academic programs functioning in the pandemic.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: Please pray for the success of our upcoming Science Fair, February 26 and 27, which will be held virtually.

27. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** We give thanks for our lower school students as they continue their learning in new ways this year.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Thank God for the flexibility and creativity of Andrew Gascho, EMS athletic director, as he plans COVID-safe skill building activities in lieu of regular season practice and play.

28. **Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** Pray for our community in a time of division as our school addresses racial justice.

MEA Executive Search Committee: Please pray for the members of the search committee, for guidance and wisdom. Please join us in praying that the right person will hear the call to serve the church in this role.

Mennonite Education Agency (MEA), is the education agency of Mennonite Church USA. These prayer requests were gathered from across all levels of Mennonite education, from early childhood – grade 12, undergraduate schools, graduate schools and seminaries, and MEA's Hispanic Ministries Education programs, IBA and SeBAH. By partnering with these schools and educational programs and helping them flourish, MEA works to ***strengthen the church through education***. Thank you for joining us in prayer for our schools.

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