

*Prayers for
Mennonite Education
January 2021*

This month we want to especially remember parents and families in our prayers. As we all know, the hardships from COVID-19 are far reaching, from sickness and death to job loss and economic difficulties. Families with young students are especially impacted as they juggle jobs and childcare with the rigors of online learning, particularly for students who are pre-readers. Many grandparents find themselves helping fill the gaps, but parents without the safety net of extended family close by are scrambling and making hard choices between keeping a job or staying home with their children. Some of these parents are the very teachers and administrators that we depend on to keep our schools functioning.

Daily prayers for January 1 – 31, 2021

1. **Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** As the new year begins, pray for Lancaster Mennonite faculty, staff, students and families as they continue to live with the realities of the pandemic. Pray for wisdom, strength and patience for each person.

Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana: Please pray for parents and families of students as they resume a school routine after the holidays. Pray that students will approach a new semester with energy, will stay healthy and engaged academically.
2. **Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for Goshen College students who will return to school this month.

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania: Pray for all to realize the hope that comes with Jesus in this new year, and every day.
3. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for teachers as they continue to find the best ways to support students at the start of a new semester

Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas: Please pray for the families of Hesston College students as they work to keep their homes and communities safe and COVID-free in anticipation of their child's return to campus.
4. **Mennonite Early Childhood Network:** Pray that churches and schools will offer support for families with young children during these stressful times by making aids available like "Building Faith" www.BuildingFaithFamily.com written by Daniel and Talashia Keim Yoder. Each month a Bible story is explored with suggestions for faith practices, an extra segment of activities for young children, additional resources and more.
5. **The City School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** Please join us in praying for our school as we continue to reimagine education for teachers, students and families during this time of COVID-19. Pray for creativity and grace.
6. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** We pray that our school community would celebrate the true spirit of Christmas throughout the year, and experience the hope it brings in spite of the distractions.

MEA's Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH): Pray for the SeBAH and four other Anabaptist institutions: Semilla, Guatemala; CEA, Mexico; CBT and SBMC, Colombia, that come together to respond to the Biblical educational needs in Cuba.

7. **Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please pray for Hesston College's off-campus students, who juggle the demands of getting an education and the responsibilities at home during a particularly difficult time.

Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania: Give thanks that Head of School Klementina Shahini is recovering from COVID-19. Pray that her lungs will heal and physical therapy will strengthen her.

8. **Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** EMS students, K-12, are scheduled to return to in-person learning on January 11. Pray for the teachers who are also parents of school age children as they adjust, once again, to new demands and schedules. Help them to know they are doing "enough" when the demands seem endless.

Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania: Pray for our faculty as they continue to work to be effective teachers while managing the increased expectations.

9. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for safe travel and good health for all as BC students begin to return to campus from Christmas break and prepare to start the spring semester.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Pray for families of EMU students who struggle with food insecurity. The longer winter break stretches the resources of college student families who are feeding more people for a longer period of time than normal.

10. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Semester Two courses begin this week — most of them online or via videoconference. Pray for students and professors as they enter into a second semester with limited in-person contact.

Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: The second academic quarter ends on January 15th at LMS. Please pray for both teachers and students during the final week of this quarter.

11. **Mennonite Education Agency:** Please join us in praying over the Search Committee for the new Executive Director/CEO. Pray for the committee Chair Dick Thomas as he gives leadership to the group, and pray for the candidates who are thinking of applying. Ask God to send us the right person.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: We give thanks to the families that follow our guidelines and understand the importance of keeping our entire school safe and healthy.

12. **Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa:** We continue to meet on campus for in-person classes. We are grateful for this opportunity and we take very seriously the challenge in front of us. As we strive to engage our students and nurture our community in safe and meaningful ways, we ask for prayers of guidance as we work together to navigate our situation. May the things we do be embraced as a positive example for our students and their families.

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania: Pray for the search for a new principal at Kraybill.

13. **MEA's Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA):** Pray for IBA students at Manantial de Agua Viva Study Center in Omaha, Nebraska, who are studying the course "Peace and Justice in the Teachings of Jesus." Pray for the tutors, Jose Guerra and Yanira Perez. May God's wisdom and guidance be with them as they teach the weekly classes. Pray that this course may be of many blessings for the students.

Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania: Pray for wisdom for the administration and board as they set tuition and salaries for next year. Pray they will have clarity on what is needed for the Shalom community.

14. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray that EMU students and families remain healthy as they prepare to return to campus for the spring semester.

Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania: As Albania manages the pandemic, please pray that the school can remain open and that God will use this time to do extraordinary work through ordinary people for the Kingdom. Pray that people will realize that they need to turn their eyes on God and Christian Education.

15. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** We give thanks for the ingenuity and creativity displayed by our faculty in adapting to the rapidly changing landscape, and for steady leadership.

Freeman Academy, Freeman, South Dakota: We ask for prayers for health and wellness as COVID-19 continues to increase in South Dakota.

16. **Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** Please pray for the tech support staff, which includes IT, parents, teachers, and principals, that technology can be a helpful tool and not a source of stress.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Pray for those who are teaching students in person, keeping up with those who out for short-term reasons, and providing full support for distance learners. The load is immense and the exhaustion deep. Pray for perseverance through the winter into a more hopeful spring.

17. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Pray for the families of Bluffton students, faculty and staff. Pray that they provide the needed support that their family members need to succeed in college/teaching and pray for the university community as we reciprocate that support to our extended Bluffton family.

Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana: Pray for parents and families of GC students, as many face hardships and uncertainty in this time.

18. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Ana Parra, director of student engagement, and student leaders as they organize Bethel College's Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities, and for special speaker Chris Singleton.

Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana: Pray for the GC community as they celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with virtual discussions, speakers and workshops.

19. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for our Bluffton University students as they return to campus today and begin classes tomorrow. Watch over their health and well-being as they continue their educational journeys.

Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio: Pray for teachers and administrators with school-aged children as they navigate times of remote learning for their children and teaching for the parents.

20. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for AMBS students and employees who are juggling work, seminary studies and/or family responsibilities — especially in this unpredictable time of COVID-19 in which schedules, realities and needs are constantly shifting.

Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania: Please pray for parents who are helping their children deal with the disappointments of athletics and other extracurricular activities being postponed or suspended.

21. **Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** Please pray for the grandparents who take on parental roles for their grandchildren.

22. **Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** Pray for families who are feeling cut off from fellowship with their families and church groups.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Pray for student athletes at EMU as they prepare to participate in athletic events and undergo regular testing to keep them safe and healthy.

23. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Thank God for the careful work of BC student Emma Beachy, who is joining a project to rejuvenate the Memorial Hall carillon by choosing and researching hymns, and sharing her research with the campus community.

24. **Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** Please pray for our families that are struggling because of COVID and how it is impacting their lifestyles.

25. **Freeman Academy, Freeman, South Dakota:** We ask for peace and hope to settle on all of the wonderful constituents and young families that connect with us.

Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio: Pray for parents as they support their children in times of uncertainty, loneliness, and stress. Pray that students stay healthy both physically and emotionally.

26. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for God's Spirit to guide the hiring processes for several open faculty and staff positions at AMBS, and give thanks for the contributions made by employees who are transitioning into retirement or other work settings.

27. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Tony Hoops, athletic director, Josh Booth, assistant AD, and coaches at Bethel College as they juggle schedule changes (many of them last-minute) and all it means to play sports in a pandemic.

28. **Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** A virtual Winter Open House is scheduled for today. Please be in prayer for prospective families as they consider whether LMS is a good option for their children.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: We give thanks for the new families who have joined our community and for all who have welcomed them.

29. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for our student-athletes as they compete in the winter athletics season and prepare for spring conference play. May they stay physically and emotionally fit and healthy during this time as they work to become student leaders on and off of the field.

30. **Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa:** During this unprecedented time, we are thankful for our community of families. We pray for health and safety for everyone as we work together for the betterment of our community. Help us to be mindful of the anxiety and loneliness this time creates in us and may we look to God for peace and hope

31. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** We pray for healing for members of our school family who have been affected by the virus, and protection for all those who have not.

MEA's Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA):

Pray for the 38 volunteer tutors for IBA that had been teaching this year in the 30 study centers. Give thanks to the Lord for their work and pray that they continue to be an important instrument for this ministry. May God bless them as they give of their time and contribute to the training of new leaders. May IBA continue to be a blessing for Mennonite Church USA.

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. 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.

To subscribe to this monthly publication, please contact Jolene VonGuten, JoleneV@MennoniteEducation.org.
Phone: 574-343-1310 • Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872 • www.MennoniteEducation.org