

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS MISSION FIELDS

This was my first time traveling overseas representing Advent Christian General Conference as Executive Director and India and New Zealand were great places to start. Although this article is about New Zealand, it was so exciting to see how God continues to work in India and the revival that is happening in the churches. It has deepened my commitment to pray for all those faithful pastors striving to share the gospel throughout India.



Jeff Walsh and Steve Lawson

After six days in India, Jeff Walsh and I headed to New Zealand. Missionaries Jeff and Penny Vann picked us up at the airport Tuesday night and delivered us to our wonderful hosts Jim and Glenise Burge, parents of the late David Burge, who was the former pastor of the Takanini Community Church in Auckland. It was a blessing to have such a comfortable place to call home while we were in New Zealand.

Our first day (Wednesday, January 18) in Auckland was a catch-up day. Jeff and Penny helped us get our feet on the ground, literally, as we took a hike in the countryside near Auckland. It was exciting to see the beautiful landscape, and spending time in the fresh air helped overcome jetlag.

Over the next few days, we spent time sightseeing and spending time with

Ernie Schäche (NZ Conference President) and his son Garry Schäche. Ernie and Garry, along with a team from New Zealand, had just gotten back from a mission trip to Thailand made before Ernie's trip to India. On Friday evening, Jeff Walsh and I participated in a mission prayer gathering. It was humbling to gather with these prayer warriors and pray for our AC ministries around the world. Ernie and Garry reported to the group about their work in Thailand and our trip to India. Jeff also gave an update on his role as ACGC Director of World Outreach.

On Saturday, we met with leadership of the two other churches in the Advent Christian Conference of New Zealand, Church of Christ near Thames, which is in a rural setting, and the Hamilton Church of Christ, which is in the largest inland city in New Zealand. During these meetings, we heard about the ministries of these churches and their desires for the future.

On Sunday, we attended the Takanini Community Church where Jeff and Penny have been assisting over the past year. I had the privilege of sharing from God's Word that morning. We had a great worship time together. Following the service, the Vanns, Jeff, Ernie and I enjoyed lunch at Garry's home with his wife and children. This was a great time of fellowship and hearing about the ministries in New Zealand and in their family life.

Our trip ended the next day with a final lunch with the Vanns and a goodbye at the airport with our dear friend and traveling companion Ernie. I hope to go back to New Zealand someday and spend more time fellowshiping with our AC brothers and sisters and enjoying the beauty of this country.

Submitted by Steve Lawson



Steve Lawson and Jeff Walsh with Leadership at the Church of Christ in Thames

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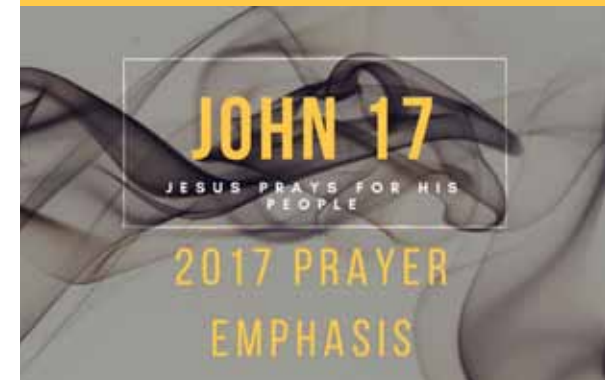


Prayer group meeting held at Ernie Schäche's home

# PRAYER & PRAISE

Prayer Emphasis Month

May 2017



"I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."  
(John 17:26 ESV)

Join in united prayer with other Advent Christians

Advent Christian General Conference



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# PRAY

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1. For Asia/Pacific Area Directors Jefferson and Penny Vann as they pack up to return to the U.S. in June. Pray for their travels to the Philippines to teach at Oro Bible College, attend the Philippines Conference's Biennial Convention and visit the Agape House ministry in Mati.
2. That our AC international ministry leaders will have adequate support for their ministry expenses.
3. That the Lord will bring forth interested mission candidates to fill the needed positions on the ministry fields.
4. For Director of World Outreach Jeff Walsh, our area directors and ministry leaders that God will fill them with wisdom and knowledge as they lead and direct their ministry work.
5. That our ACGC World Outreach Prayer Network will gain more prayer warriors.
6. For healthier churches worldwide.
7. For urban church planting, which is not without many challenges.
8. For the Philippines Conference's 9th Biennial Convention being held May 16 – 18 in Davao City. Pray for an encouraging and fruitful convention.
9. For God's guidance on our camps as they prepare for the upcoming camp season.
10. For our summer ministry team directors as they make preparations and hire team members for the summer.
11. That God would call a new generation of students into his service through our many camps and youth ministries.
12. For our veterans who are actively serving in our military and for the families of those veterans who sacrificed their lives for our freedom as we observe Memorial Day this month.
13. For the many Advent Christian college graduates this month as they seek employment and/or begin their careers.
14. For the team that is preparing for an evangelistic trip to Croatia in July. Pray for the team members' walk with the Lord, for God's direction in putting together programs and for the many beach-goers to be receptive to God's word of truth and love in Christ.
15. That our mission work will have an abundant harvest in 2017.

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# PRAISE

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1. God for ministries to orphans and underprivileged children done in the Lord's name in India, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines by AC outreach ministries.
2. The Lord for those who respond to the still, small voice of the Lord to support our outreach ministries financially.
3. The Lord that the ministry work in Burundi has 67 churches with plans to start a church this year in Bururi.
4. The Lord for the congregation at Adda Road Advent Christian Church in Andhra Pradesh, India, which has grown significantly in five years. They also have small outreach groups in nearby areas.
5. God for reports of exciting and encouraging Power of Camp celebrations at churches in our AC network.
6. God for the successful launch of our new Commission on Orphan Care.
7. God for the National Day of Prayer this month and for the many "prayer warriors" who regularly lift up the needs of our Advent Christian ministries.
8. God for the Advent Christian women of the Democratic Republic of Congo who are

becoming increasingly more active in church leadership roles.

9. God for the ongoing ministry of Berkshire Christian College as we celebrate the contributions of the institution on Sunday, May 7, 2017.

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## Please pray for the following ACGC Directors' and Coordinators' Activities

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**Meredith Broadway**, *Coordinator of Educational Ministries*

**Pam Buchanan**, *Coordinator of Women's Ministries*

- May 6, 2017: Pocahontas Conference WHFMS at Adria Community Church, N. Tazewell, Va.

**Matt Larkin**, *Director of Student & Family Ministries*

- May 13: Leadership Training Event, Florida
- May 18 – 22: Aurora University, Ill./ Jed Crouse Ordination, Baraboo, Wis.

**Steve Lawson**, *Executive Director*

- May 4 – 6: Alton Bay

**Justin Nash**, *Director of Communication*

- May 19 – 22: Natural Church Development Training, Baraboo, Wisc.

**Dawn Rutan**, *Director of Finance*

**Jeff Walsh**, *Director of World Outreach*