



## FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

In this issue we present some specific prayer requests from our ITEM field representatives. Please pray for these needs regularly over the next several months.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests for all the saints at all times.” Ephesians 6:18



**From Artis Celmins at Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary in Latvia**

Give thanks for several graduates of the Baltic Reformed Seminary (BRTS) who now lead church plants; please pray for the current and new students that they not only be called to serve, but that they also would be equipped, and that the Lord would lead them to break mission ground in new areas.

Please pray for the BRTS's project in Jekabpils, eastern Latvia, for Artis Celmins' ministry there, and for creation of a model that could be used in other places thus broadening the seminary's reach.

On a more personal level, pray for the health of Artis Celmins' youngest daughter Paula, aged 10. For the last 8 years she has received ongoing steroid treatment for a rare lung disease never before treated in Latvia. Pray that it will be possible to reduce the doses and intensity.

**From Edwin Singh in Bangalore and Chennai, India**

Pray that our pastors would continue to hold firm to the reformed doctrines and teach their congregations with passion and conviction.

We are in great need of new partnerships with the West so our pastors have the time and support to plant churches and strengthen the existing churches.

Personally I need your prayer for my church plant, Grace Reformed Fellowship. We do not have a permanent place to worship as we had to leave our place this past month.



**From Jon son Dethan in Timor, Indonesia**

Please pray for our mission work outreach here in Malang and Ngatang. Pray that the teaching of our young leaders through ITEM will go well in 2017.

Pray for our younger students who will be writing their national exams in a short time.

Please pray as we plan to do outreach in the village of Ponorogo on Timor Island to plant a new church there.

Please pray for my family, our children at school, and my wife, Mary-Lynn, who is teaching at the Christian kindergarten here in Malang.



**From Joseph Boddu at Grace Seminary, Andhra Pradesh, India**

Our vision statement states that we want to establish theological training that will bring reformed education to the pastors planting churches in semi urban and urban areas in the southern part of India.

We look to upgrade as we use experiences and resources in an effective way. Pray for the Lord's will, wisdom, and provision to put everything into practice for the growth of God's kingdom.

The Presbyterian Church of South India (PCSI) started around 2007 with 11 teaching elders (churches) and expanded to around 70 teaching elders (churches). We have been working with the churches to make them strong in doctrine and practice, training ruling elders last February and July and also this year through ITEM, and extending our ministry from Andhra Pradesh to Telangana, Orissa and Chattisgarh. But with much less support now from US Christians, our poor pastors struggle to go forward, but they are still committed to training and growing. Pray that we can find more help.

I (Joseph) left my secular job 6 years ago to focus on helping the PCSI grow, but the support received from US sources to replace the secular income has now ended, and I must find secular work to support my family and my children's education. With India experiencing job cutbacks and demonetization, it is very difficult to find bi-vocational work to help meet the immediate needs of my family.



**From Pau Gualmang at Reformed Bible Institute, Northeast India**

The Reformed Bible Institute in NE India is building its campus. So much of the work is done without any power tools. Pray for the safety of the timber workers.

Pray especially for political rest among the many tribes and pray for safety and open doors for Christians in an increasingly hostile Hindu environment.

Pray that more men from the US and Canada will want to travel to India to train the national leaders.

In the U.S. send to ITEM, PO Box 31456, St Louis, MO 63131 or through PayPal at [www.ITEM.org](http://www.ITEM.org). Email: [lwhesterberg@gmail.com](mailto:lwhesterberg@gmail.com). Phone 618-939-4836. Contributions to ITEM in Canada may be sent to ITEM, c/o Action International Ministries, 3015 A, 21<sup>st</sup> Street NE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2E 7T1.

**From Leana Kuznyuk at Kiev Regional Bible College, Ukraine**

Pray for the spring sessions at KRBC to have plenty of students. Pray for the students and for permission from their employers so they can attend KRBC and be present every day of each session.

Pray for the health of Vitaliy Tkachuk (Director of KRBC). He has high blood pressure.

Pray for peace in this politically tense and economically struggling nation.



**From Tom Smith at Mikhail Staurin Institute, Osijek, Croatia**

Please pray that the Lord continues to raise up young men in Croatia & neighboring countries who want to study the Word to serve the church here.

Pray for more financial resources for the Protestant Reformed Church in Croatia, the Institute, and for our churches in Zagreb and Karlovac.

Ask the Lord to bring more people into the Reformed church to be discipled.

**More Opportunities to Pray for ITEM**

1. Praise for Fritz Harms' teaching on Reformation Church History in Latvia in January.
2. Praise for Steve Lucas' teaching on Romans in Romania in January.
3. Pray for Will Hesterberg's and Mike McLaughlin's teaching on Genesis and Romans in Kenya from February 2 to 16.
4. Pray for John Lewis' teaching on Evangelism and Missions in Ukraine from February 6 to 10.
5. Praise for the generosity of ITEM's supporters (churches and individuals) who gave \$219,923 to the General Fund in 2016, 22% over 2015.

In our March issue we will give a full report on the returns on your investments with ITEM in 2016, so stay tuned.