



IPC MESSENGER

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FEBRUARY - MARCH 2026

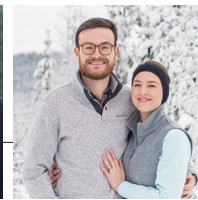
Partners IN THE Gospel

World Missions Conference 2026

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 1



CLAUDE
MCROBERTS
Keynote Speaker



SETH & ZOE
MILLER
Church Planters, Idaho



JOSE & YESSINA
BARRIAGA
Peru Mission



RALPH KELLEY
Covenant College



SARA BROWN
Covenant College

Dear Congregation of IPC,

This year's Missions Conference theme is "Partners in the Gospel" from Philippians 1:3-5: "I thank my God for you in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." The Apostle Paul writes these words thanking the church he had founded well over twelve years prior. They had sent him a care-package by the hand of Epaphroditus, remembering him in his time of need (while under house arrest in Rome). The church partnered with Paul by supporting him with money, encouragement, prayer, and people.

And this is the way the Christian missionary endeavor has proceeded from the beginning. Jesus sends out the 72 (Luke 10), two by two with instructions about how to handle the hospitality of those who provide for them (partnering with them) along the way. The Great Commission envisions no lone-wolf super apostles, but rather a true co-mission as it is given to the eleven disciples as a collective (partnered) in the mission. In the book of Acts, Paul is continually gathering the giving of the churches, or being sent by the churches that are so partnered. He is carrying and sending greetings between continents and nations, peoples, tribes, and tongues.

Just the logistics of all the partners illustrates the point: missions means partnership.

This is why we hold the church missions conference every year. No doubt, there are many other important things to be doing as a church (like worshipping or growing in our sanctification or serving one another), but the commission to witness to the ends of the earth is one of the church's primary responsibilities. We are partnered in the gospel, and we must be.

This year we will hear from our partners in Peru, Chattanooga, Idaho, and others more locally. And thus, we will be doing what the church has always done: gathering, singing, praying, preaching, reporting, giving, sending, and going (and of course, there will be much good eating as well). I hope you will make the IPC Missions Conference a part of your yearly calendar, that you will not miss it. So many things vie for your time, energy, money, focus. This thing though—this emphasis on missions—is essential to our earthly Christian calling. It is what the church has done and been from the very beginning: “Partners in the Gospel.”

Sincerely in Christ,
Tim Shaw

Schedule

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 1

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

5:45 PM *Dinner (Free)*
6:45 PM *Program in Telfair Hall*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

5:45 PM *Dinner (Free)*
6:45 PM *Program in Telfair Hall*

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

8:00 AM *Men's Prayer Breakfast*
11:00 AM *WOC Luncheon*

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

9:00 AM *Combined Sunday Schools*
10:00 AM *Morning Worship*
5:30 PM *Evening Worship*
6:30 PM *Dinner in Fellowship Hall*



ALEX SUTHERLAND

One of churches in the New Testament that the Apostle Paul addresses who seems to be in a strong, healthy condition is the church at Philippi. While many of the churches that Paul addresses have particular problems to be addressed, the Philippian church receives commendation from Paul as he gives thanks for them

and describes his prayer for them. When he identifies why he joyfully remembers them in his prayers, he says it is because of their “partnership in the gospel from the first day until now” (Phil 1:3-5). The question that might then come to our minds would be, in what way were they partners in the gospel? Certainly, these were

not all Christians who were ministers, missionaries, or regular attenders of short-term missions trips. It seems fair to understand that their partnership in the gospel did not necessarily consist in active gospel preaching or proclamation. I believe that we can identify from the rest of the letter that they have partnered in gospel ministry by providing for Paul's needs and also by their prayers. Paul identifies in Philippians 1:19 that he is confident that his imprisonment and difficult situations will turn out for his deliverance and the good of the ministry through their prayers.

One of the problems that we as Christians can experience as we think about our involvement in the work of the church is that if we are not ministers or missionaries who plant churches or go to foreign countries then we are not really involved in gospel ministry. Yet, the Apostle Paul's encouraging words to the Philippian church give us a paradigm of what partnership in the gospel means and how prayer is a central feature of that partnership. One of the central ways that we see in the Bible that we can be intimately involved in the work of Christ around the world is through prayer. This is why in the book of Colossians Paul asks the church to pray for God to open doors for the preaching of the gospel and that they would pray that Paul would make the mystery of Christ clear as he preaches it. The fact that Paul, under the inspiration of the Spirit, asks for these kinds of prayers in relation to the ministry shows that the church's prayer for the ministry is a central part of the work of the gospel. In other words, to pray for Christ's kingdom on earth is to be involved in missions and to be partners in gospel ministry.

The Scriptures also teach us that prayer is not only a central part of gospel ministry but that it is an effectual means in the Lord's hands for causing the work of the church to be fruitful. Another problem that we can fall into is in thinking that when we pray for Christian missions we are in a sense doing the least that we can. We can be tempted to think that there are so many other important things to be doing for Christ and prayer may seem like the least we could do. When we think about what the most exciting and impactful things are we can do for the mission of the church, prayer may not often be at the top of the list. Yet, the Scriptures teach us again and again that prayer is powerful and the Lord uses prayer to accomplish his sovereign purposes, and this is especially true of our prayers for Christian missions. As we have seen already from Philippians 1:19, Paul is confident that the Lord is

going to use his circumstances of imprisonment for his good and the good of the ministry – and the means that He is going to use to accomplish that is the prayers of the church. Prayer is a powerful means used by Christ in the building of His church on earth. When we pray, we are not doing the least we can for Christ but in some sense the most important thing we can do.

So, places in Scripture like these in Philippians ought to remind us that it is our duty to be partners in gospel ministry, and particularly to be partners by prayer. Prayers for the work of the gospel, both here and around the world, should be at the forefront of our prayers as a church, families, and individuals. When Psalm 128 speaks about the blessings that come to the man who fears the Lord, it interestingly not only speaks about personal or family blessings, but also that one would see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of one's life (Ps 128:5). The fact that the prosperity of Jerusalem, a type of the New Testament church, is part of the blessings a righteous man receives implies that the health and flourishing of the church should be at the center of our hopes, desires, and expectations in the Christian life. So, because the state of the church should be at the top of what matters to us it should therefore be at the top of our prayers. Isaac Watts summarizes this best when he wrote, "In general we must pray for the church of Christ, for Zion lies near to the heart of God and her name is written upon the palms of hands of our Redeemer. The welfare of Zion should be much upon our hearts; we ought always to have the tenderest concern for the whole church of God in the world. His church he values above kingdoms and nations. Therefore, if we distinguish degrees of fervency in prayer, we ought to plead with God for his church more earnestly than for any nation or kingdom."

Every Christian is called to be a partner in the gospel ministry that Christ has established in His church. This is especially important for us to think about as we have our church missions conference approaching and thinking about what it means for us to be partners in the gospel. And certainly, our partnership in the gospel entails many things, but the foremost of them is that we pray for the kingdom of Christ in all the world. May our time with the missionaries that we support and hearing about their ministry encourage and remind us that perhaps our greatest contribution to the cause of Christ and the work of such ministers, missionaries, and church planters around the world is our prayers. •

PSALMS & HYMNS OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY

(Year 1-10)

PSALM 67

Based on the Book of Psalms, 1871,
and The Psalter, 1912

- ¹ O God, to us show mercy,
And bless us in Thy grace;
Cause Thou to shine upon us
The brightness of Thy face;
- ² That so Thy way most holy
On earth may soon be known,
And unto every people
Thy saving grace be shown.
- ³ O God, let peoples praise Thee;
Let all the people sing;
- ⁴ Let nations now be joyful;
Let songs of gladness ring;
For Thou wilt judge the peoples
In truth and righteousness;
And o'er the earth shall nations
Thy leadership confess.
- ⁵ O God, let peoples praise Thee;
Let all the people sing;
- ⁶ For earth in rich abundance
To us her fruit will bring.
God, our own God, will bless us;
Yea, God will blessing send;
And all the earth shall fear Him
To its remotest end.

TUNE: MISSIONARY HYMN 76.76.D
("From Greenland's Icy Mountains")
Lowell Mason, 1824

(Year 11-15)

MORE LOVE TO THEE, O CHRIST (#649)

Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, 1869

More love to thee, O Christ,
More love to Thee!
Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee;
This is my earnest plea:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to thee, more love to Thee!

Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best;
This all my prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Let sorrow do its work,
Send grief and pain;
Sweet are Thy messengers, sweet their refrain,
When they can sing with me:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Then shall my latest breath
Whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise;
This still its prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

TUNE: MORE LOVE TO THEE 6.4.6.4.6.6.4.4.
William H. Doane, 1868

MARCH

(Year 1-10)

ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED (#254)

Isaac Watts, 1707; Alt. 1961

Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die!
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I!

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree!
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
For man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my mine eyes in tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.

TUNE: MARTYRDOM C.M.
Hugh Wilson, ca. 1800
Arr. by Robert A. Smith, 1825

ABOUT *the* PSALMS

PSALM 67

Known as the "missionary psalm," we note the *breadth* of the psalmist's concern: "all *nations*" (v 2); "all the *peoples*" (v 3); "the *nations*" (v 4); "all the ends of the *earth*" (v 7). We note the *depth* of his concern as well: that God's "*way*" and "*salvation*" may be known (v 2); that God might be *praised* (vv 3-5). How does this come about? Through the prayer for God's grace and blessing (vv 1,6,7), which was answered in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PSALM 111

The 111th is a psalm of praise for God's redemptive works. It is also an acrostic psalm, each of 22 lines starting with the successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It makes wisdom themes the subject of praise. The virtues for which God is praised in Psalm 111 (e.g. vv 3, 4) are reproduced in the man of God in Psalm 112 (also vv 3, 4). God's works are "great" (v 2), "splendid," "majestic" (v 3), righteous (v 3), "gracious" and compassionate (v 4), powerful (v 6), true and just (v 7).

(Year 11-15)

PSALM III:1-4

Elements from Scottish Psalter, 1650

- ¹ O praise the Lord! With all
my heart
Thanks to the Lord I'll bring,
Where upright ones
assembled are
And congregations sing.
² The works accomplished
by the LORD
Are very great in might.
They are sought out by everyone
Who finds in them delight.
- ³ His work displays the majesty
And glory of His name,
And His enduring righteousness
Is evermore the same.
- ⁴ His works most wondrous
He has made
Remembered still to be.
Jehovah is compassionate
And merciful is He.

TUNE: ST. MAGNUS CM (89D)
("The Head that Once was
Crowned with Thorns")

*

BIRTHS

*Olivia Gentry Lay, born December 23, 2025, the daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Jackson M. Lay (Mary Elizabeth).*

*

*Theodore James Griffin, born January 9, 2026, the son of
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Griffin (Elizabeth).*

*

*Samuel Reagan Williams, born January 18, 2026, the son of
Mr. & Mrs. Reagan Williams (Catherine).*

*

*Monroe Elizabeth Mullinix, born January 27, 2026, the daughter of
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew M. Mullinix (Madeline).*

WEDDING

*Mr. and Mrs. Michael Patrick McGuiness were united in marriage
by Rev. Bob Dimmitt on Saturday, January 17, 2026,
at Independent Presbyterian Church.
Mrs. McGuiness is the former Miss Lindsay Vanderwey.*

*

MEMORIZATION ACHIEVEMENT

The following children completed their July–December 2025 Psalms and Hymns of the Month:

MIA BETANCOURT-GORDY

MINNA REYNOLDS

EVIE ESPINOSA

JAMES RODENBERG

FAITH ESPINOSA

LUKE RODENBERG

JOBE GEAR

ANNIE SHAW

MAISIE GEAR

GINNY SHAW

SARAH HAZELTINE

LEVI SHAW

HANNAH KATE HOWARD

MARY LAWRENCE SHAW

JANE BILLINGS JOHNSON

CADENCE SOUTAR

MARGARET MILLING

GEORGE TOLY



MANY OF THE 24 BABIES BORN INTO THE CHURCH IN 2025

A MOST BEAUTIFUL PICTURE

JANE BOATRIGHT

In a sermon that Sinclair Ferguson preached on Romans 12, he blew open our understanding of “a most beautiful picture of what the church is called to be.” He explains that “the gospel not only transforms us as individuals, but it transforms us to build us into a gloriously transformed community.” The grace of God in Christ doing for us precisely what we do not deserve and then blessing us with every spiritual blessing is the reason we bless others. When God transforms us, He moves us beyond ourselves. The Lord Jesus gave Himself for others who gave no good thought of Him, and having experienced this kind of giving, we understand that we are to give of ourselves. We understand that this giving is part of the whole picture of what it means to be a Christian.

So, moving beyond ourselves to serve and bless others is how we were made to live our lives in this new community of faith. It might be counterintuitive, but it’s

not without wonderful benefits. There is blessing for us when we bless others. Somehow, it adds to our lives to give to others. There is a different kind of fulfillment for us in giving. It widens our perspective and deepens our understanding. It makes dear friends out of strangers.

According to Romans 12, we have many ways to express these new relationships: genuine love, brotherly affection, outdoing one another in showing honor, not slothful in zeal, fervent in spirit, rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, constant in prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, and showing hospitality. And as we know, there are many possibilities for involvement in our church. I think of the nursery with so many little blessings to take care of, as we need all who are able to contribute. But in our church, opportunities abound to for our church to become “a most beautiful picture of what the church is called to be.” •

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Jerry Campbell	5	Charlotte Laffitte	12	Forrest Williams	19	Ben Tucker
1	Ben Veatch	6	Frank Brannen	13	Will Cruzado	19	Bryan Wade
2	Paige Edwards	6	Yili Liang	13	Jack Jefferson	20	Beth Oliver
2	Della Gear	7	Pam Dykema	13	Evan McKee	21	Jason Helton Sr.
2	Shelly Madden	7	Gordon Hassing	13	Samuel Taylor	22	Sandra Helton
2	Glen Umberger	7	Gus Morgan IV	14	Emily Stevens	22	Helen Hudson
3	Sarah Brodmann	7	Josh Reid	15	Wyatt Nolen	23	Greg Harris
3	James Stevens, Jr.	7	Billy Tedder	15	Jim Woods	24	Holmes Morgan
4	Ethan Crowe	8	Charles Jackson	16	Kelly Chester	24	Thomas Nyce
4	Brian Finnegan	8	Jennifer Johns	16	Amelia Scharer	25	Judith Rushing
4	James Gray	8	Henry Nolan	16	Collette Siemens	26	Tevis Garnett
4	James Scott	8	James Van Grouw	16	Kris Warren	26	John Teasley
5	Pat Adams	10	Eric Reid	17	Paul Allen	27	Lauren Kenard
5	Lucie Allen	11	Emerson Ingram	18	Mark Nyce	28	Larry Smith
5	Hannah Jeon	12	Brad Fennell	19	Josh Espinosa Sr.		

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	John Glenn	8	Austin Stone	14	Melba Gibson	24	Michael Rustine
1	Ella Murns	9	Gracie Gergacs	14	Molly Howard	25	Rosie Bergman
1	Harper Tanner	9	Posey Helton	14	Susan Mullinix	25	Mary Brodmann
2	Jackson Biemiller	9	Med James	14	Mac Thompson	25	Derek Stoen
2	JoAnn Clayton	9	Louisa Laffitte	16	Bess Brunson	26	Amy Milling
2	Lauren Espinosa	10	Bellamy Fennell	16	Mary Beth Robison	26	Bobby Tanner
2	John Madden	10	Jackson Gift	16	Thomas Stone Sr.	27	Bella Robison
3	Paula Barlow	10	Jeffrey Klein	17	Heather DeMott	27	Peter Rodenberg
3	Bob Ellis	10	Rachel McCracken	18	Betsy Kelly	28	Jesse Allen
3	Judy French	11	McKay McCracken	18	Tyler McCracken	28	Camille Kim
3	Katherine Gobel	12	Emily Brown	18	Stewart Monroe	29	Will Black Jr.
3	Hampton Rushing	12	Henry Carter	19	Brandon Carter	29	Lorie Irish
3	David Wade	12	Margaret Helmly	19	Jim Scott	29	Emily Johnson
4	Christopher Barlow	12	Austin Oliver	20	Philip Dusek	29	Mae Nolen
4	Kathryn Brodmann	12	Laura Robison	20	Nancy Sullivan	29	Steph Tomlinson
4	Alice Jane Hogan	12	Frank Tilton Jr.	20	Justine Toly	30	Art Broadwick
4	Donna Parrish	12	Saundra Winge	21	Chance Cribbs	30	Stella Helton
6	Emma Toly	13	Matthew Barlow	21	Megan Jefferson	30	Frankie Longo
7	Claire Parrish	13	Leah Brown	21	Minna Reynolds	31	Peggy Campbell
7	Pat Rafferty	13	Jody Laing Jr.	21	Victor Rosenfeld	31	Linda DePue
8	Todd Fruit	14	Harriette Adams	23	Witt Hayes III	31	Annalyn Stone
8	Sue Greene	14	Bryand Cruzado	24	Ryan Brown		
8	Jimmy McIntire III	14	Stephen Gaylord	24	Rachael Eldridge		

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