



CHRIST CHURCH DOUGLAS-IN-PARBOLD

JUNE 2020

PRAYER NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCTION

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” *Acts 1 v 8*

One of the satisfactions of being a church treasurer is being able to send our tithe gifts to other charities both at home and “to the ends of the earth” as an offering to the Lord’s work from Christ Church. We have always, as a church, chosen charities with personal connections and therefore able to know how and where funds are needed.

From that came the idea for this prayer newsletter, way back in 1994, to be able to let everyone know how these links are managing and share any prayer needs so we could join with them in prayer. Over the years we have been encouraged by sharing with many charities and seen how God is blessing them.

Now, as everyone says, the current worldwide situation is unprecedented and it is increasingly apparent that conditions vary widely from country to country. So I have been in touch with most of the charities we are linked with to find out how they are doing and assure them of our prayers. So this newsletter is mainly about them for you to read and pray for their protection and help wherever they are.

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” *James 5 v 16*

Also there is a list of their websites so you can bookmark and check them to get more information.

God bless,
Lin

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 7th June 3pm Thanksgiving and Remembrance. A live 30mins service of hymns, prayer and reflection which you can phone into or join online to remember those who have passed away. Details to join are in the notices

The Evangelical Alliance - 'The Coronavirus Conversations': 10am on Thursdays on YouTube and Facebook. Discussion and live Q&A sessions. Details on their website <https://www.eauk.org/resources/what-we-offer/videos-and-podcasts/the-coronavirus-conversations>

Luminous 2020 Women’s Conference ‘Faithful’: Friday 12th June 8pm and Sat 13th June - will now be online on YouTube and Facebook. Check the website for updates <https://audaciouschurch.com/luminous/>

Greater Manchester Prayer Gathering: Thursday 25th June at 7.30pm on YouTube and Facebook. A monthly event featuring worship, international speakers and inspirational stories. <https://www.facebook.com/greatermanchesterprayergathering/>



NEWS FROM ANDREW AT IRIS FORTALEZA



Thank you for your email. It was encouraging to get your email and know you are praying and thinking of us. Thank you very much!!

Yes things here in Brazil are not going so well. Not that things are going well anywhere at the moment but the sad thing here in Brazil is that the leaders and government are not leading well at the moment and so it brings more difficulties to the ongoing crises.

As a family we are doing fine. This week where we live they have just put in force stronger lockdown rules where you need proof of address and a declaration if you want to leave the house. This will be in place until the 20th. The difficult thing is with all things closed down the majority of people in the slum live from day to day on informal work and income and so find themselves unable to provide for their families. The government are trying to help but as you can imagine the safety net has very large holes in it and so many people go unattended.

We have tried to help those families in the slums we know with daily needs and provision and we also have a project going where we make face masks as it is mandatory to wear a mask when you go out. So obviously the poor have no way of getting these mask and so we have made over 4000 masks which we give out with a little pamphlet to tell people how much value they have and the message of the Gospel.

So if you could pray for us as a family during this time and the government and also the missionaries and the people we reach out to. Pray that many people in this time difficult time of shaking will come to a realization that there is a rock and stable foundation called Jesus upon which they can build their lives.

Thank you once again for all your generous support and prayers and please do send my love to everyone

Love from Brazil

Andrew and Claudia



FROM THE RICE CART PROJECT

I don't think there are any more prayer updates at the moment regarding the Rice Cart with it being in Lockdown. Continued prayer for wisdom & strength for Karen & Joko as they make decisions about when & how to re-open the Rice Cart would be great appreciated. They are so blessed & encouraged by the church's prayers & gifts.

Thank you so much for all your support.
Lots of love Beth & Nigel. Xxx

FROM THE MESSAGE TRUST

The Message Trust is looking at some staff returning to work in early June - I'm not sure if this will include me yet, we find out later this week. During lockdown, the bands have done a bit online and have seen quite a few young people respond to the gospel. We're hoping to carry that on and move most of our work and tours online - we're not sure what this will look like yet, but I'm excited about the new opportunities and all that God is going to do. It'll be a time for trying new things and making the most of the opportunities that arise.

That's about all I know at this stage - I'll update you more when I find out the plans!

Please pray for wisdom for the team as they plan the next few months and pray that we will all make the most of the opportunities in this strange season we're in - God is still on the move!

Thank you so much for checking in.
Judith Townsley

FROM EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST

A message from Embrace the Middle East CEO Tim Livesey:

Most of us will not have known a time more testing than the moment we are living through.

Although we have had to resort to home working, and have done so without fuss, we will continue to work as hard as we can to serve our partners and the marginalised and excluded they serve in this testing time.

We have been in intensive communication with partners over the past two weeks, including face-to-face meetings in Egypt, Palestine and Lebanon (consulting partners about our next five year plan Hope in Action 2021-25) just before borders were closed, and lock downs came into force.

One partner in Lebanon said he had never experienced a time as tense and troubling despite having lived through the 15 years of Lebanon's civil war. The Covid 19 epidemic has exponentially heightened the enormous strains already bearing in on the Lebanese economy and society. The West Bank and Gaza, hard enough places to live, are in complete shut down.

We will certainly need your help in the coming months to continue to support the witness and mission of our Christian brothers and sisters in the lands of the Bible.

With profound gratitude for your prayers and continuing support in these very difficult times.



MERCY RESCUE TRUST

From the Trustees

We wanted to thank you for your ongoing support of Mercy Rescue Trust during this crisis and to bring you news of what has been happening at the rescue centre.

We wish you all well with lock down and hope each of you enjoys a silver lining or two. Thank you again for our vital funds which are so appreciated at this time



A note from Jedidah



We are certainly in different times right now. Kenya has really tried to react as quickly as they could however lock down is very difficult to enforce with most people living hand-to-mouth. Unfortunately Kenya is also dealing with swarms of locusts that have been attacking crops and we have been receiving abnormally heavy rainfall causing flooding across the country. All of this has been affecting our Home Base families. They are now having to provide more meals a day for more people within their home due to schools being closed and no work available.



Filda's family has her and her two younger sisters plus her 3 cousins who they live with and many more family members as is typical in a Kenyan family.

Mercy is in her final year at primary school and has important exams to take which will determine which secondary school she will get into. However with the schools closing this has made things hard for her and she is having to learn to be really self-disciplined with her revision. Mercy is the first baby we cared for and whom our charity was named after. We are so proud of all her achievements.



On a personal note I am feeling a little sad about not being able to travel to the UK. Una and I had been so excited to make that journey but on a brighter note I've never been more in contact with family and friends. I am praying that this situation doesn't last too much longer so that things don't get harder than it already is. Thank you to everyone who has reached out to check in on us. From the team here in Kenya we wish you well.



Many of you will remember praying for Alice who just over a year ago was a seriously sick baby she is now 15th months old and doing really well.

Take Care and God Bless

Barbara

THE OAKS – SKEM FOODBANK

Barbara is taking you foodbank gifts every fortnight to Skem Ecumenical Centre. They are very grateful and say they are short of single or small quantity toiletries and household products - also pet food. If you wish to give a cash donation online then the bank details are:

Account name: Skelmersdale and District Foodbank

Account number: 33703167

Sort code: 60 19 49

EDUCAID

As you would expect the Corona Virus threat has been taken very seriously in Sierra Leone in general, and by EducAid in particular. The memories and scars of the Ebola virus are all too recent. The strategies that EducAid have devised :

Firstly in the continuing care and education of pupils and students living in the Schools because they have no homes to go to, and no family to support them, or they live too far away. The effect on the EducAid Schools is –



From this



to this

Secondly in the continuing education of EducAid pupils and students not able to attend school due to the Virus, through the provision of

Lessons delivered by radio



Learning Materials



Miriam and Students preparing a radio lesson Preparing materials for use off-site.

Thirdly, in the role of education and awareness within the Community that EducAid fulfilled so successfully during the Ebola crises and is continuing to fulfil during the Corona Virus threat. EducAid’s staff and students take out the preventative advice to keep people safe; including the regular and thorough handwashing and keeping a safe distance from others. This role in the community is a vital part of the work of EducAid in limiting the damaging effect of the Corona Virus on remote communities with very basic or non-existent medical support.

In supporting EducAid you are supporting the meeting of both the long term and short term needs in Sierra Leone. As you will have seen, EducAid not only seeks support, but provides support, limited only by the resources available to meet the immediate needs, and the long term needs, of the population of Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Since Miriam, the EducAid Country Director in Sierra Leone, last visited the Church she has been awarded a Ph D by Durham University, so now it’s Dr. Miriam Mason-Sesay ! We can only hope that all the part time study that Miriam invested and the award of the Ph D will enhance further the influence of Dr. Miriam, and EducAid, in the development of Sierra Leone and on those responsible for the Governance of that country.

Pat Horn – 01257462008 or 07941577436

WEB LINKS FOR CHARITIES MENTIONED:

EducAid:

www.educaid.org.uk

Andrew Fanstone IRIS Fortaleza:

<https://www.irisglobal.org/locations/fortaleza>

Embrace the Middle East:

<https://www.embraceme.org/>

The Message Trust:

<https://www.message.org.uk/>

Mercy Rescue Trust:

<https://www.mercyrescue.co.uk/>



SUMMER FESTIVALS ARE ON-LINE THIS YEAR:

Keswick Ministries: 27th - 31st July Keswick Convention 2020 on the theme of 'Hope' will be on-line. Teaching, worship and seminars for adults, youth and children. Christopher Ash, Writer-in-Residence at Tyndall House, Cambridge will be speaking on 'Hope in Jesus' from the Psalms. Keswick Ministries is also introducing Keswick Convention podcasts and KesTalks. Check their website for details keswickministries.org

New Wine 'United Breaks Out': 30th July - 3rd August. A mix of online celebrations, featuring worship, teaching and prayer ministry for families, adults and youth - seminars, webinars, family activities. <https://www.new-wine.org/breaksout>

THANKS

Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of the prayer newsletter. I do hope you find this info encouraging and are blessed by it. There is a break over summer and the next newsletter will be Sunday 6th September. All items to be included to Lin Milne by Friday 4th September.

AND FINALLY

"Arithmetic and the Ark!"

Noah opens up the ark and let all the animals out, telling them to "Go forth and multiply!"

He's closing the great doors of the ark when he notices that there are two snakes sitting in a dark corner.

So he says to them, "Didn't you hear me? You can go now. Go forth and multiply."

"We can't," said the snakes, "We're adders."

