

# Prayerline

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Issued on **Wednesday, 25 July 2018**

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**PORTUGAL** – James and Heather Cochrane write, “From 11 to 18 July we received a team from Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church in Dublin. The team comprised a mixture of Irish and Brazilians. It was a busy and encouraging week of activity mainly with the children/young people from a local social housing area. It was good opportunity to build upon relationships which were begun at Easter time in the estate. We were encouraged to have contact with 12-15 kids during a two day football competition and then for 5 of these kids to come to activities the following week at Comunidade Pedras Vivas (CPV) and in the park. As well as youth ministry, the team were involved in evangelism on the streets and taking part in the regular activities of CPV – prayer meeting, small group and our Sunday service. “

- Give thanks for the team from Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church their hard work, dedication and involvement with the ministry of CPV.
- Pray that the work among the young people in the social housing area will be established and that young people will come to Christ.

**MIDDLE EAST** – A wave of suicide bombings and shootings in southern Syria have left around 100 people dead and many more injured. ISIS has claimed responsibility for the coordinated attacks which is the worst attack on government held territory in Syria for some months.

- Pray for those in mourning and those injured in the recent attacks.
- Pray for the people of Syria as the conflict continues. Remember especially those who are living in ISIS controlled areas.
- Pray for a true and lasting ceasefire to come into immediate effect across all of Syria and for all efforts to bring a peaceful and just end to the conflict.
- Pray for our partner the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) and their relief effort and for funds to meet their increased commitments. Remember also the many other agencies involved in bringing humanitarian assistance to those in need.
- Pray too for all those who are displaced within Syria and who are living as refugees in other countries.

**KENYA** – A team of seven people from Newry Presbytery led by Rev Stuart Finlay are due to arrive in Kenya next Wednesday, 1 August. They will be travelling north to Tuum where they will be visiting Stephen and Angelina Cowan and leading the programme at the August youth camps from 7 to 17 August. The team is due back around 22 August.

- Give thanks for the team members and for their willingness to serve on the team.
- Pray for all travel arrangements to go well, and for safety for the team, especially for the long return journey by road from Nairobi to Tuum.
- Pray for good health for the team throughout their trip.
- Pray for the sharing of God's Word with the young people at the camps.
- Pray that the team members will be an encouragement to Stephen and Angelina.

Stephen Cowan writes, “Each day [in Kenya] seems to reveal another scandal of illegally imported sugar, or another land grabbing scandal. Against this continuous background, young people are seeking to prepare for the future, but are often looking in the wrong places to find role models.”

- Pray for Christian events that seek to give young people purpose in learning to live with patience and clarity.
- A secondary school student conference is due to take place in Maralal from 3 to 9 August. Pray for a real anointing of the Holy Spirit on the conference and also on the August youth camps in Tuum.

**EAST AFRICIANS in the UK** – Rev Edwin and Anne Kibathi continue to work amongst the East African expatriate community in the UK.

- Pray for wisdom and guidance for Edwin and Anne and encouragement in their work and witness.

- Pray too for the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) congregation in London, in which Edwin ministers.

**MALAWI** – Each year the leaders of the Scripture Union (SU) Movements in Southern Africa meet for training and ministry development. At the end of July, David McCullagh and Amon Chanika (National Director) will be travelling to South Africa to be part of this year's meeting.

- Pray this will be a time of encouragement and idea building for the work of SU in Malawi.

**PAKISTAN** – A general election is taking place today (25 July) in Pakistan. In the run up to the election, there were three deadly attacks on the political leaders and their rallies, in which around 170 people were killed and hundreds injured, many seriously. The Pakistan Movement of Taliban has claimed the responsibility for all those attacks. Today a bomb at Quetta has killed at least 28 people as they queued to vote.

- Pray for peace and calm in Pakistan over the coming days.
- Pray for the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, especially for its leaders at this time.
- Pray too for courage, strength and safety for the minority Christian community in Pakistan.

**NEPAL** – Peter and Jayne Fleming are settling into their new working and living environments. On 2 August, Jayne will begin teaching a class of 6-7 year olds from many countries including Nepal while Peter continues his role as Integral Development Advisor. The new Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC) school buildings are beautiful and everyone seems enthusiastic about the changes in spite of the extra travel to the edge of the city.

- Continue to pray for Peter and Jayne as they settle into their respective roles.
- Pray too for Joel Hafvenstein, Director of the United Mission to Nepal which seeks to serve the people of Nepal in the name of Jesus. Remember also those still recovering from the earthquakes in 2015.

United Mission to Nepal (UMN) has reported that while many Nepali farmers are happy with the monsoon rains, UMN is staying alert and concerned about the damage that too much rain can cause. There have been a few landslides and road blockages lately.

The big news recently in Kathmandu was the flooding in Bhaktapur and central Thimi areas. The torrential rain on 11 July caused large parts of this region to be waterlogged and overwhelmed for a few days. The flooding damaged many warehouses, industries and petrol stations located in Bhaktapur.

- Pray that this year the country won't suffer the same from floods, mudslides and landslides that took the lives of 143 and displaced 461,000 people in the Terai floods last year. *(To watch a video about UMN's Terai flood relief, please go to [www.umn.org.np/videos/762](http://www.umn.org.np/videos/762))*

**FORMER MISSION PERSONAL** – Sally Fleming (nee McAfee) who served as a PCI missionary in Malawi from 1963 to 1973 has sadly passed away. Sally served with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian at Embangweni and Ekwendeni.

- Give thanks for Sally's life and witness, and especially for her work in Malawi.
- Pray for her family circle at this difficult time.

**BIBLE SOCIETIES IN IRELAND** – Catherine Little from the Bible Society in Northern Ireland writes:

- The Bible Society of the South Pacific supports Bible mission work over a large geographical area, many different islands, people groups and languages. One people group who speak Havakinua from Vanuatu were recently displaced because of a volcanic eruption. This has disrupted plans for the distribution of the newly revised New Testament in Havakinua. Please pray for this group of people who have been relocated but still desire to have God's Word in their heart language.
- Please pray for the work of Bible Societies in places of extreme civil unrest. Just recently we have heard of situations in both Haiti and Honduras where there have been riots and road closures because of political unrest, rising fuel costs impacting on public transport and other social and economic factors.
- Recently The Bible App – You Version celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Bible Societies around the world work closely with You Version to supply the digital Bible texts for the app. In 2017 our records show that one in every 5 Bibles distributed happened online – how amazing is it that we can access the Bible in so many different ways. Please pray for meaningful Bible engagement through online platforms.