



# Prayer Monthly

## August 2020

### Mission Africa and Covid-19

Supporters should be aware by now that Mission Africa has made the decision to furlough most UK staff under the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Staff will remain employed by Mission Africa but will not carry out work for the Mission for the period of their furlough. Mission Africa will review this regularly, in line with Government advice, but for the foreseeable future, the Mission Africa office will run at a limited capacity. It is impossible to anticipate anything in these troublous days but let us pray that we can resume normal operations by September or October.

The Mission will NOT be sending out paper prayer letters and other updates by post until further notice – all communication will be by email or other electronic means.

Until then, please pass this email on to your non-digitally connected friends! Please encourage others to sign up for these emailed prayer and news updates.

The Mission office is not continually staffed, but the answering machine is monitored.

## Points for Prayer

### Africa

- ❖ Little has changed since our last monthly update. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to rage; infection rates are extremely high indeed. We hear credible reports that hospitals in major cities are not coping well, given the numbers of people requiring treatment. Despite this, lockdown measures are being relaxed in Kenya and Nigeria – pray that this is not a premature step. Pray for the pandemic to be graciously halted by God's sovereign hand.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Islamist terrorism remains a vast problem across the Sahel region, including Burkina Faso and Nigeria. There is growing evidence that disparate terrorist groups are joining forces, posing an ever-greater threat to beleaguered security forces. Pray for the defeat of the evil of terrorism. Pray for the persecuted Christians who are suffering at the hands of Islamists.

### Burkina Faso

- ❖ **Ana van Brakel** – Ana asks for strength, courage and patience as she awaits the outcome of her citizenship application. Pray that it would come through speedily, although in practical terms it could still be an exceedingly long way off. Give thanks that she can exercise an extremely useful ministry to women in her home church.

### Chad

- ❖ **David, Lucy and Sophie Morrison** – David and Lucy thank God that Sophie has now received her passport. Please pray that practicalities (including her visa for Chad and another appointment at the heart clinic due in the early autumn)

can be arranged to aid an early return to Chad. Please pray for courage and God's peace and guidance for David and Lucy as they prepare to return to Chad with a baby.

Acacia Centre, N'djamena - At the minute, the discipleship counselling course for vulnerable women is set to begin in August. This may change, especially dependent on the health of Anne Hoyt, who has been suffering from fatigue recently. Please pray for God's healing and guidance.

## Kenya

- ❖ Last month, we noted with concern the critical illness of Revd Peter Kaniah Kariuki, Secretary General of the PCEA. During the last week of July, we received the terrible news that he had died from Covid-19. This is a crushing loss to his family, friends, colleagues, and the whole church. He was a great ally of Mission Africa and a personal friend to the Mission Africa Chief Executive. Give thanks for his life and witness. Pray for comfort for his family and friends. Pray for the PCEA as the church reels from the shock of this event. Pray also for his successor, Revd Dr Robert Waihenya.

## Nigeria

- ❖ **The Gaiyas** - Pamela continues with her ACTS work mainly from home. Pray for wisdom in relation to advertising; it is vitally important that people know what great books are available to them through ACTS. Pray the Management Team will know God's leading and guiding as they meet online fortnightly.

Musa is busy in his office of Research and Development at the University. Pray for daily protection and good health.

August 5th sees Gracie starting a new school year (distance learning for Quarter 1 since schools are still closed). She is now in 5th Grade, her last year in Elementary School. Continue to pray for Gracie as she grows and develops.

Remember the pressing needs of Hillcrest School as well – Hillcrest urgently requires qualified teachers and a qualified nurse.

- ❖ **Sid Garland** – Sid is asking for prayer for ACTS, negatively affected by Covid-19 restrictions and closure of Bible Colleges; pray that sales will improve through a new initiative to advertise books online.

Sid also asks for prayer for wisdom for him and for ACTS in various writing and editing projects; also, pray for wisdom in getting the rights from western publishers to print important titles in Nigeria.

- ❖ **The Ibias** – Samantha asks for prayer for the work of FCS – she remarks: “With schools still closed, we have been doing our meetings online where we can. Pray for those we've have not been able to connect with, that God will keep them safe and in the hollow of his hand!”

Samantha thanks God for the good health they have enjoyed as a family and asks that we would pray that God would continue to protect them from poor health.

- ❖ **Katie Morrison** – Join Katie in giving thanks to the Lord for various positive developments at Holley Memorial hospital. Some newly installed solar panels will help when electricity is down (which is often enough!) and a new borehole will help with further water supply through the compound.

Katie asks for prayer regarding the children's education at HMH. Schools are not operating and there has been no suggestion of when they might open. For some children, this is very bad news, as they were already struggling with basic academic learning and the loss of school time will further hinder their progress.

❖ **The Ekanems** - Praise God for continued protection and God's Providence.

Pray for Angel as she has had a lingering cold for some time now. Continue to pray for her legal application, which is with the authorities in Dublin.

Pray for Gail as she hopes to mark her students' exams on the Book of Revelation and also to resume home-schooling in the near future. Pray for all the young people and children as they continue to await resumption of schools in Nigeria.

Pray for Godwin as he does Mission and Church administration and preaches God's word as opportunities arise.

## Focus on Theological Education

**Professor Patton Taylor** keeps closely in touch with PACT and WWTC colleges and he reports as follows:

- ❖ **PACT** brought the students back for a week in July for exams so that students could complete the academic year and final-year students could complete their courses. Both the College and the students are struggling financially (even more than usual because of the lockdown); and a considerable sum of money was needed to subsidise student fees (without which they would not have been permitted to sit their exams.) The College is still hoping to operate their summer study programme, but this depends on a relaxation of federal lockdown regulations. The College is anxiously awaiting the outcome of a recent review of their validating arrangement with Kogi State University. Good news is that the new Clinic is on schedule to open its doors to the Community on 1 August.
- ❖ **WWTC** had planned a similar student-recall for an examination week but had to cancel at the last minute because of a tightening of the federal lockdown regulations. At present, Iris and Rufus are the only personnel on site: the Provost and the other staff members have moved for the vacation to their family homes and Emmanuel (the Student Dean) has moved to take up a new post as Secretary of a UEC Area Conference (after many years of faithful service and a significant contribution to the College). Significant site enhancements will be necessary before the College can make any further progress on a validating arrangement with Abia State University - but there are no available funds for this.
- ❖ Both Colleges need prayer since they face significant financial and staffing challenges, exacerbated greatly by the pandemic. Many students also are experiencing hardship currently. Pray also for Patton as he considers how best he can provide ongoing support for the Colleges in the future.

## Mission Africa in General

- ❖ Please pray that God will continue to provide the resources needed to continue the work of the Mission.
- ❖ Pray that God will continue to send fresh applicants to join the Mission. Give thanks to God for some recent applications and indications of interest in serving. Pray that those who approach us – often very tentatively – would receive from God a truly clear sense of His will for their lives.
- ❖ Pray for Council as they seek the will of God for Mission Africa in these troubled days. Pray that God will bless them with the special wisdom that He promises in His word.
- ❖ Pray for the Chief Executive as he takes on some unfamiliar duties. Pray that his health remains good.
- ❖ Pray for all the staff; especially pray for those who are furloughed, that they might not become discouraged or despondent.

Please be assured that we keep all our faithful supporters in our constant prayers. May God bless you and keep you, now and always.

Revd Dr WJP Bailie, CEO

The Mission Africa June Conference was held by Zoom and was exceptionally well attended. You can still see videos of the event on our Facebook page or on You Tube if you follow this link:

<https://youtu.be/2pcYnxCOp9w>

Our weekly Zoom prayer meetings are paused for the summer, but we still have monthly Zoom prayers. Details of these meetings will be sent out in a separate email – please join us if you can. The next prayer meeting will be on **Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, at 8pm British Summer Time (GMT +1).**