



# Prayer Monthly

*December 2020*

## MISSION AFRICA AND COVID-19

Although our office staff are continuing to prioritise working from home at this time, our office answer-phone is regularly monitored, and post can still be sent to the office – please do get in touch, via these means, if necessary. Alternatively, email [info@missionafrica.org.uk](mailto:info@missionafrica.org.uk), or any of our individual email addresses (these can be found on the Mission Africa website).

We will NOT be sending out paper prayer letters, or other updates, by post at this time – as a result of our current reduced staff capacity. This has been in effect for many months, and will remain so until further notice, unless otherwise informed. Instead, 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 (get in touch, and we can arrange this).

It is impossible to anticipate anything in these troublous days, but let us pray that we can resume normal operations soon.

## POINTS FOR PRAYER

### Africa

❖ We return to an all-too-familiar theme in our prayers for Africa; levels of violence (especially Islamic terrorism) are spiking. In the very recent past, we have seen the spectre of tribalist separatism causing violent clashes in Ethiopia, and parts of Nigeria being convulsed with anti-police rioting and general lawlessness. We ask supporters to pray for peace in Africa, and that God would deal with the underlying causes of violence – religious intolerance, tribalism, corruption and criminality. Obviously, these are issues that bedevil the entire world and will do so, as the whole of creation cries out for redemption until Christ returns. However, in the immediate present, we look to God to alleviate the sufferings of Africa. In particular, we ask that God would

regenerate the hearts of sinful human beings, and turn their ways to righteousness and justice.

- ❖ Please also continue in prayer for Africa, as it responds to COVID-19. Pray for good leadership, and wisdom regarding restrictions. Pray for medical staff, and other key workers – that they would be rejuvenated in strength, entering 2021. Pray for schools and colleges, as many now reopen for the next academic year.

## Burkina Faso

- ❖ **Ana van Brakel** – Ana asks for prayer that she would wisely balance online teaching, her work at her sending church, and her continuing development of French children’s material for Burkina Faso. She gives thanks that she has been able to find students and is enjoying the experience.

Ana also asks for prayer for the Bible school in Gaoua. Pray that they will be able to find support for the students, and for completing the new library. She asks for prayer for the Director of the Bible school – that he will enjoy good health, as well as wisdom in developing the school. She gives thanks for the progress that has been made at the Bible school so far.

Please thank God that He has sustained Ana during 2020, and please pray for good rest during the Christmas period. Pray that God’s protection would be over her, and the ministries that she is involved in, over the next year.

- ❖ **Jeremy Nash** – Praise God with Jeremy, for people who have a heart to help others through the study of the Scriptures. Thank God for centre committee members in all of the centres; and for the course markers, and those who actually teach the children and mark their homework. May God raise up more labourers for this ministry.

Pray for God to help the children understand His love for them, that He can be to them a loving Father, and be with them all the days of their life. May many children come to faith and know the forgiveness of sins, and the peace and joy of knowing God.

Pray for the new President and government to govern wisely, and for the security forces to deal effectively with terrorist threats.

## Chad

- ❖ **David, Lucy and Sophie Morrison** – Pray for the Morrisons, as they launch a weekly kids' club in one of the red-light areas. Pray for guidance in the programme, good relationships with the children, and inroads with the women in the area.

Pray for TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission – whom David and Lucy work under)'s annual conference in Chad. Pray that it would be a productive and refreshing time for all involved.

Linked with the annual conference, David and Lucy are asked to take a day of prayer and vision, to reflect on the past and coming year. Pray for close communion with God, a renewed vision, and ears to hear what the Lord is saying.

## Kenya

- ❖ Continue to pray for **the PCEA (Presbyterian Church of East Africa)**, as they elect a Moderator, and for **Dr Rebecca Dodds**, as she prepares to go to Kenya for short-term service in early 2021.

- ❖ Pray for the Mission Africa **projects at Kikuyu (The Wee School, and the Thogoto Home for the Aged)** – The school is still closed (due to COVID-19, amongst other reasons), and our partners at PCEA Thogoto Parish ask for prayer that it would soon re-open. Two gifted children continue to be sponsored by Mission Africa, who have graduated from The Wee School, and moved up to high school.

At the Home for the Aged, plans are moving ahead to build a second dormitory. About £5500 is still needed to complete this, and we would be grateful for prayer that this sum would be raised.

## Nigeria

- ❖ Pray for the **UEC (United Evangelical Church) National Conference**, held at Eket, 7th-11th December. Pray for peace and unity in the denomination, and give thanks to God for the leadership of national Chair of Conference, Rev. Samuel Ebukiba. Give thanks that 63 new ministers will be ordained at this Conference. Pray for ongoing efforts to reunite the church with those who have broken away.

- ❖ Continue to pray for **the Ogbonna family and friends**, as they prepare for the burial of Iris on 14th December. Pray for God's comfort upon them at this time.

- ❖ Please pray for the children on Mission Africa's **Child Sponsorship Programme**, who begin their new academic year on 7th December.
  
- ❖ **The Gaiyas** – The Gaiya family give thanks for love and support shown throughout the year of 2020. Their testimony is that the Lord has been faithful and good. Pamela asks us to pray for the many Bibles and books that are going out from ACTS during the month of December. Let us ask the Lord to bless His Word and bring glory to His name in the distribution of all good Christian literature.
  
- ❖ **Sid Garland** – Sid is asking us to join him in praising God for the shipping of literature containers from both the UK and USA; also for the Bible storybooks included in the UK container, for distribution to IDP refugee children. Sid also asks for prayer that ACTS would be able to purchase Bibles for these refugee children; also for God to grant a fruitful outcome of recent discussions regarding the supply of pastors' book sets for Presbyterian, Anglican and other denominations.
  
- ❖ **The Ibias** – Samantha asks for prayer for FCS students, as they finish for Christmas – pray that God would help them, especially as they study for their exams. Samantha also asks for prayer for the university students, whose universities remain on strike – pray that the issues are resolved soon, so that students can resume their schooling. Samantha asks you to thank God with her for 2020, and for sustaining her family through this unprecedented year! Please also pray that in 2021 she and her family will have a renewed vision, and passion for work that God has placed in their hands!
  
- ❖ **Katie Morrison** – Katie continues to give thanks for how well the new water system is benefiting the staff and children at Holley Memorial Primary school. Continue to pray for the education of the children and the training of the teachers. Financing of school fees will, no doubt, become more of an issue in the months ahead. Katie asks you to pray for wisdom, for the hospital management, regarding further developments of the hospital. Pray that they would be able to prioritise the need throughout the hospital.

- ❖ **The Ekanems** – Please pray for the UEC Conference (mentioned above).  
Pray for Gail's Mum, who is having a health challenge.  
Pray for the Ekanems to have a peaceful and joyous Christmas with their family in Nigeria, while they will miss their family in Ireland.  
Pray for WWTC students, as they begin their exams from 7th December.
  
- ❖ **Patton Taylor** – Give thanks to God for Prof. Taylor's ongoing connections with the staff and students of the Theological Colleges. At our recent Prayer Day, he gave numerous examples of the students that he has been mentoring and helping in very practical ways. Pray that he will be able to resume his ministry in Nigeria in 2021.
  
- ❖ **Theological Colleges** – Keep the theological colleges, and their staff and students, in prayer for 2021. This current year has been very challenging, with COVID-19 causing economic and educational challenges. Pray that 2021 might see some return to normality.
  
- ❖ **Brian Wilson** – Brian Wilson continues to prepare to go to PACT in 2021. Please pray for him, as he raises support (the situation being that bit more complicated because of COVID-19's implications for the church).  
He is also discovering contact with Africans in various ways. He has been asked, for example, to preach to African church leaders online. Pray for both wisdom and blessing in relation to such things.

## Mission Africa in General

- ❖ Please pray for God's protecting hand over all of those sharing the Good News of Jesus with the people of Africa, and that He will continue to provide the resources needed to do this.
- ❖ Mission Africa has, with great reluctance, had to downsize the Belfast Office and make Paul Grant redundant. We ask you to uphold Paul Grant – that God would guide his steps and use him to His glory in the days ahead.
- ❖ Pray that God will continue to raise up suitable people 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 that God would use our increased social media posting as a tool to bring new missionaries (short-term and long-term) to the Mission, and that it would continue to increase people's awareness of the life and work of Mission Africa.
- ❖ 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. Council next meets on Tuesday 8th December, God willing.
- ❖ Give thanks to God for Leslie Fleck, who has retired from Council after 30 years of service. Leslie will be continuing to serve the Mission through his prayer group.
- ❖ Give thanks to God that Very Rev. Dr William Henry has agreed to join Council. William has been very supportive of the Mission and we are delighted that he is joining us.
- ❖ Pray for the Chief Executive, Paul Bailie, especially that his health might remain good. Please also pray for his wife, Anne Bailie, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Give thanks to God that although the cancer is incurable, treatments to help her are available. She hopes to have surgery in December – pray that this might be successful.
- ❖ Pray for the preparation of a forthcoming edition of Dispatch. In all likelihood, the December 2020 edition will only appear in electronic format.
- ❖ Pray for wisdom, as Mission Africa plans for 2021, given the likelihood of ongoing COVID-19 travel restrictions.

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

**Rev. Dr W. J. P. Bailie, CEO**

**(Mission Africa Announcements on following page).**

## MISSION AFRICA ANNOUNCEMENTS

**December Carol Concert** – Monday 21st December, at 8pm

We would be delighted, if you could join us for Christmas readings and carols – link for Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88367921982?pwd=THpRVFpkYVV5SDF2ZVhoTVhpT2hCdz09>

Please note that this will be in place of December's Central Prayer Meeting.

**Short-Term Brochure** – The Short-Term Mission brochure is now available. For a copy, contact Naomi Spence at [naomi.spence@missionafrica.org.uk](mailto:naomi.spence@missionafrica.org.uk)

**Prayer Groups** – If you would be interested in joining a smaller prayer group, beginning in the new year, please get in contact with Rebecca Kershaw at [rebecca.kershaw@missionafrica.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.kershaw@missionafrica.org.uk)

These groups will meet, via Zoom, in addition to the Central Prayer Meeting, and will be supporter-led – they are open to all supporters, regardless of geography.

**Project Donations** – Council have decided that from the financial year commencing 1st February 2021, a charge of 5% will be applied to donations made to projects. This is to offset the costs of ensuring that project money and the projects themselves are correctly administered.

We note that 5% is much less than the charges applied by the vast majority of other charities.

If you have questions relating to this, please contact Rebecca Kershaw at [rebecca.kershaw@missionafrica.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.kershaw@missionafrica.org.uk)