



February 2021

Mission Africa Prayer Monthly



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. A better alternative is email info@missionafrica.org.uk, or any of our individual email addresses. These can be found on our website.

This month we will resume the posting of prayer monthly again. If you know of anyone who cannot receive it via email and hasn't received their paper copy, or if you have received both a paper copy and emailed version and would only like one, please let us know so that we can update our mailing list. Please do continue to encourage others to sign up for our 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

- ❖ Please continue to pray for the security situation in Africa. As has been the case for many years, Islamist terrorists ramp up their attacks at Christmas and into the New Year, for practical and symbolic reasons. Boko Haram and analogous organisations have recently been attacking both military and Christian targets. Pray that God might strengthen the hands of those who stand in the line to defend African nations from this growing evil.
- ❖ We ask that you also continue in prayer for Africa, as it responds to COVID-19. Pray for access to vaccinations. Pray for good leadership, and wisdom regarding the latest strain of the virus and vaccination logistics. Pray for medical staff and other key workers – that God would provide them with strength, as they continue to battle the virus in 2021.

Burkina Faso

Ana van Brakel:

- ❖ Ana gives thanks to the Lord that the online teaching is going well and that the reservation slots are filling quickly. She is thankful for opportunities of service within the church.
- ❖ Please pray also that the guidelines for acquiring British citizenship will not be changed during this time and for an extension of the deadline so that requests can be handed in for European citizens.
- ❖ Ana thanks the Lord for news from the Bible college in Burkina Faso. It is exciting to see so many more come forward for serving the Lord. Please pray that the students will use this opportunity to become equipped for every good work. Pray for the direction of the Bible college too, that they make wise choices with the limited possibilities available.

Jeremy Nash:

- ❖ Pray with Jeremy for God's guidance for the timing of his return trip. The aim is to distribute materials for the awards ceremonies through regional hubs. He would like to get a covid vaccination before he goes but this may delay him from his original travel date of 15th Feb.
- ❖ Pray for blessing when he arrives so that he can purchase and organise all the materials he needs to reach the places they need to go to in the required quantities. Praise God for all that He has been doing through the ministry: for children growing in their understanding of the gospel with some coming to faith and joining the Sunday school at a local church. Give thanks for those who have taught and marked the lessons for the children, that they will experience joy as they serve God in this way and especially as they see God change lives.
- ❖ Pray for God's hand on the nation. Covid-19 remains limited in the number of deaths but malaria is still the larger killer. Also, that the terrorists can be stopped and driven out so that people are able to move back to their villages and resume life as before. Pray that those in need (displaced from their land) would receive the food and other necessities of life to survive.

Chad

David, Lucy and Sophie Morrison:

- ❖ The Morrisons' colleague Anne Hoyt will now not be returning until November. They ask for continued prayer for wisdom as they weigh up whether or not to run the Acacia discipleship and counselling course in her absence.
- ❖ David & Lucy give thanks the lockdown in N'Djamena has eased, allowing them to restart ministry, particularly among children, and ask that you continue to pray that this ministry bears fruit.
- ❖ We are thankful to God that he is opening doors for Lucy to minister to new women. Pray specifically for one lady, Isabelle who has asked to do regular Bible study with her.

Kenya

- ❖ Pray for the PCEA Thogoto Parish School for Orphan and Vulnerable Children, known to us as 'The Wee School.' The school has been partially open to facilitate the KCPE (primary leaving certificate) class. We pray that the school will fully reopen in due course. Mission Africa is continuing to support two children who have graduated from 'The Wee School' who are now in High School.
- ❖ Give thanks for Thogoto Old Folks Home. Pray that planning and building work can go ahead to complete a second dormitory. There is currently a great need for more beds at the home. This building work will be undertaken by Mr Stu Ross and Thogoto Parish who are both partners of Mission Africa. Give thanks for these partnerships and how the Gospel is shared through them.
- ❖ Please continue in prayer for **Dr Rebecca Dodds**, as she prepares to go to Kenya for short-term service. She is due to travel on 5th February. Pray that all travel and visa plans go smoothly.

Nigeria

The Gaiyas:

- ❖ The Gaiya family have had mild Covid symptoms in January but are glad Musa has made a good recovery after testing positive. Thank God for His mercy over their lives.
- ❖ Pray for daily strength and many encouragements throughout the month of February in ACTS, at the University and for Gracie at school.

Sid Garland:

- ❖ Sid Garland is asking for prayer for expertise and people to help with the development of online retail for ACTS; pray also that sales of books, textbooks and Study Bibles through the shops will pick up with the re-opening of Bible colleges and universities; and that container shipments with eagerly awaited orders will arrive without further delay.
- ❖ Sid is giving thanks for opportunities for the opening of new ACTS branches; at the same time prayer is needed for Rev Luka Vandi and the ACTS Management Team to have wisdom to handle the closure of branches that are not sustainable. Pray also for Sid to know God's help with writing, ordering and Zoom speaking opportunities.

The Ibias:

- ❖ Samantha asks for more open doors in schools and is thankful for the ones that have already been opened to FCS-FCT in public boarding schools, even during the pandemic (though under covid restrictions). Pray that schools will soon be able to resume their fellowships too.
- ❖ Pray with Samantha for the Valentine's Day Special Programme planned in schools, that it would impact the students and help them deal with their relationships.
- ❖ Samantha continues to ask for prayer for her family, she is so thankful for the protection God has given in every way and asks God would continue to have his hand on them.

Katie Morrison:

- ❖ Katie asks you to continue to remember those children who were connected with the Kingdom Kids Bible programme. Pray that they may continue to seek God in each aspect of their lives.
- ❖ Pray for each of the patients who come to the hospital for treatment. Many struggle financially. Pray also that the staff would reflect a Godly witness to those they care for.

The Ekanems:

- ❖ The Ekanems praise God for his continued goodness and faithfulness and for averting a security threatening situation in their neighbourhood.
- ❖ Praise God that Aniedi has resumed his education after losing a year as a result of strike by lecturers. Pray for their children's protection and well being as they begin second term at schools in February.
- ❖ Pray for God's comfort and strength for the UEC and the entire family of late Elder Air Marshall Nsikak Eduok (Rtd), Chairman BoT, as his remains are laid to rest on 27th February.

Patton Taylor:

- ❖ Give thanks to God for Prof. Taylor's ongoing connections with the staff and students of the Theological Colleges, in his role as Visiting Professor.
- ❖ Pray for the mentoring role that he has developed among many students, former students, and other young people in Nigeria.
- ❖ In particular, please pray for wisdom and guidance for Patton, as he responds to requests for hardship support and other financial assistance.

Theological Colleges:

- ❖ Please keep the theological colleges, and their staff and students, in prayer for 2021. Pray that this year might see some return to normality for them.

WWTC:

- ❖ Please pray for divine direction and help for them in 2021. Pray that the College will have appropriate funding and staffing, as it continues in its University affiliation project.
- ❖ Ask God to grant wisdom to Mr Okechukwu Ogbonna (Rev. R. O. Ogbonna's son), employed as the College's Registrar from January 2021.

PACT:

- ❖ Pray for the "Accreditation Exercise" – they hope to receive the National University Commission (NUC) soon.
- ❖ Pray for the recently appointed Provost, for wisdom and guidance. Pray for a workable proposal that can help the College be self-sustaining in years to come. Pray for staff and students, for unity, co-operation and dedication of their duties and studies.

Brian Wilson:

- ❖ Brian Wilson thanks God for His goodness during this time of waiting to go to PACT, Nigeria. He is thankful for God's help to raise support and also to get tenants for his home.
- ❖ Pray he should soon get a visa - the Covid-19 pandemic renders that impossible just now due to the closure of the Nigerian Embassy in Dublin. Pray God will use this period to

prepare him well for settling into PACT's life and work. Brian has had preaching opportunities in his home congregation and also regularly in a WhatsApp group to mainly African Christian workers.

Scotland

- ❖ **Robbie Toop** asks for prayer as he prepares material for churches still in lockdown who want to maintain their interest in and support for missionary work in Africa. Pray that as churches view the material God would move people to respond by praying for the work, contributing financially to the work, and that some will sense a call of God to the work.
- ❖ Pray that the support and prayer network in Scotland will be encouraged by what God is doing in Africa in answer to prayer.

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.
- ❖ Pray that God will continue to raise up suitable people to join Mission Africa. Give thanks to God for some recent applications and indications of interest in service. 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. Council plans to meet on 9th February.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Give thanks that an England Prayer Group has started up this month. This group will meet via zoom at 3:30PM on the first Thursday of each month. Pray that this time will be a time of blessing and numbers will grow over the months to come. If you are interested, please contact us or Jeremy Nash for details.
- ❖ 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 undergoing treatment for cancer. Give thanks to God that although the cancer is incurable, it seems to be slow growing and there are medical options available to help her.
- ❖ Give thanks for a successful Team Launch Night last month. We have two new home teams this year - Northern Ireland and London. Pray for wisdom and direction as we plan and prepare for these given the Covid-19 travel restrictions possibly making travelling to Africa limited.

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

January Central Prayer Meeting – Thursday 28th January, at 8pm

The Zoom link is: <https://tinyurl.com/y3m9q4y3>

February Central Prayer Meeting – Wednesday 17th at 7pm

The Zoom link is: <https://tinyurl.com/y3m9q4y3>

Short-Term Brochure – The Short-Term Mission brochure is now available. For a copy, please contact Naomi Spence at 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 touch with Lauren Mornin at lauren.mornin@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 Julie McConnell at julie.mcconnell@missionafrica.org.uk