



January 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, if necessary. Alternatively, email info@missionafrica.org.uk, or any of our individual email addresses (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

- ❖ 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** – Please continue in prayer, that Ana would balance her workload well. She is currently teaching online, completing work at her sending church, and developing children's material (in French) for work in Burkina Faso. Give thanks to God, that the online teaching has gone very well so far, and that students have been engaged. Give thanks also for Ana's opportunity to serve within her sending church. Please pray that Ana would find other opportunities for teaching, so that she can gain a more varied experience. Pray also that the Lord will give her wisdom, as she interacts within the church.

- ❖ **Jeremy Nash** – Many children are studying in the afterschool Explorers Bible clubs. There have been many encouraging affirmations of this ministry, with permissions from educational authorities. Pray for children to have spiritual insight as they study God's word, and for God to draw many to faith in Jesus and then to join a Sunday school. Pray for blessing in the schools where we run clubs – that academic results, and all areas of school life, would improve. Pray for churches to develop greater links and interest in their local primary school – that the involvement would be appreciated by the Headteacher and all the school staff.

Chad

- ❖ **David, Lucy and Sophie Morrison** – COVID-19 cases are starting to rise in the capital city. Pray for the numbers to stay low, and for effective but more reasonable preventative measures. Some of the Acacia women are struggling financially due to a number of factors. Pray for good and consistent work. Pray for wisdom as the Acacia team plan for how to provide for the women who are ready to do the next counselling programme, whilst they await Anne Hoyt's return.

Kenya

- ❖ Give thanks that our Kenyan partners, **the PCEA (Presbyterian Church of East Africa)**, have elected Rev. Thegu Mutahi as their next Moderator of the General Assembly. He is a well-known minister of the church, who has been serving in recent years as the Deputy Secretary General and as a theological lecturer at the Presbyterian University of East Africa. We congratulate Rev. Mutahi upon his elevation to this high office and pray that God will bless him as he prepares to take up this new role in April.

Also give thanks that the Presbyterian University was recently granted its full Charter by the President of Kenya, HE Uhuru Kenyatta. Pray that the University will stand as a beacon of the Gospel in a Kenya that is rapidly secularising.

- ❖ Please continue in prayer for **Dr Rebecca Dodds**, as she prepares to go to Kenya for short-term service in the coming months.

Nigeria

- ❖ **The Gaiyas** – The Gaiya family ask for prayer that they will know the Lord's goodness over their lives throughout this year. Pray also that they will have a real sense of His presence and sustaining power. Pray they each will know His grace to be sufficient for every situation. Pray for encouragements and progress in their respective work places.
- ❖ **Sid Garland** – Sid is asking for prayer for successful January sales for Africa Christian Textbooks (ACTS). He also gives thanks to God for granting Rev. Luka Vandí (ACTS Managing Director) an important breakthrough in the distribution of 250 subsidised pastors' book sets (including the Africa Bible Commentary Hausa edition). Pray that interest will continue, area by area, throughout the major denominations in northern Nigeria. Sid asks that we join him in giving thanks that Mrs Roseline Luka Vandí, a lecturer at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria (TCNN), has been able to get a Kenyan visa. This will allow her to travel to St Paul's University, Kenya, to continue her PhD studies in pastoral counselling. Pray that God will guide and provide for her over these next few years.

❖ **The Ibias** – Samantha asks for prayer for students – because of rising cases of COVID-19 in Nigeria, school resumption has been delayed by two weeks – pray that they will be able to resume on the 18th, as planned.

Samantha asks for prayer for the various retreats that are planned for January – pray that they will have great impact on the volunteers, be refreshing, and allow for planning for the year ahead.

❖ **Katie Morrison** – Katie gives thanks for the food share that took place in December, for those affected by leprosy at Holley Memorial Hospital. Continue to pray for wounds to heal.

Katie asks for you to keep praying for additional doctors at Holley. Another doctor has since left, leaving only two doctors. Pray that godly and compassionate doctors would join the team, and that the hospital would be able to accommodate the requirements.

❖ **The Ekanems** – Praise God for His marvellous help, as the Ekanems distributed Christmas boxes to over 100 children in the Uyo area last month. Also praise Him for the refreshing, joyful and peaceful Christmas holiday that the Ekanems enjoyed.

Pray for the children, who have returned to school. Their exams are coming quickly, because the term finishes at the end of January. Pray for Ekaette, as she resumes at the UEC College of Nursing. Pray also for Aniedi, as he continues to await resumption of his course at the University of Uyo.

Pray for Gail, as she resumes at WWTC as adjunct lecturer, and for Godwin, as he resumes at the national office.

Pray for continued protection against the second wave of COVID-19.

❖ **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 – Thank God that He has helped the College in all the events of 2020. 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 – As the College resumes on Monday 11th January, 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 a replacement official car and for rehabilitation of the entire School infrastructure.

Pray for staff and students, for unity, co-operation and dedication of their duties and studies.

Finally, pray that God will send His marvellous help from above this year 2021.

- ❖ **Brian Wilson** – Brian continues to prepare to go to PACT as soon as possible. Please pray for him, as he raises support (the situation being that bit more complicated because of COVID-19's implications for the church), and thank God with him, for the support raised to date. Pray that both it, and the work of sorting his new house, will be completed soon.

Scotland

- ❖ Several Scottish Prayer Group members do not have access to Zoom, making it challenging for them to engage with the Mission for prayer and information sharing. Pray that all of them will soon be able to access this facility.
- ❖ Pray for supporters around Scotland who feel isolated, lonely or cut off, due to COVID-19 restrictions and not having access to the internet or social media.
- ❖ Pray for Robbie Toop, the Mission's Scotland Mobiliser, as he contacts several churches to arrange meetings for the spring. Pray for creativity to find new ways in helping churches engage in mission.

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 the Mission. 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 next meets on Tuesday 12th January, God willing.

- ❖ 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 the launch night of the Mission's 2021 short-term teams, to be held on Tuesday 19th January, God willing. Pray for the planning and logistics of the event, that it would be well-attended, and that many would be interested in serving in coming months.
- ❖ At the beginning of January, Mission Africa said goodbye and thank you to Rebecca Kershaw in the Belfast office. Rebecca has worked with the Mission since May of this year, in an administration capacity. Please pray that God would guide her in her next steps, and that He would be glorified through whatever she does next.
Rebecca's role has been maternity cover work for Lauren Mornin, who has now returned to work. Please pray for Lauren during this transition period. Correspondence that was previously with Rebecca, should now be directed to Lauren (lauren.mornin@missionafrica.org.uk).
- ❖ 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 surgery for cancer. Give thanks to God that although the cancer is incurable, treatments are available to help her.
- ❖ Pray for wisdom, as the Mission 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 pages).

Mission Africa Announcements

2021 Teams Launch Night – Tuesday 19th January, at 8pm

This event is for anyone interested in short-term work or teams. At it, you will hear from people within the Mission Africa family, including those who have served with us before.

This year, there are several new summer teams that will be launched (serving in London and Northern Ireland). Information will be provided about these, as well as our annual Kenya and Nigeria teams.

Please contact Naomi Spence at naomi.spence@missionafrica.org.uk for more information.

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

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