



Prayer Monthly

July 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 are able to resume normal operations by September.

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. We have some hope that we may be able to do a “paper” mailing in late July. Until then, please pass this email on to your non-digitally connected friends!

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

Points for Prayer

Africa – In general terms, the rate of Covid-19 infections and deaths is rising, although the numbers still seem – to many observers – too low to be an accurate reflection of the scale of the pandemic. Our missionaries report that many people are not taking the risks sufficiently seriously, whilst others, through economic desperation, are forced to disregard social distancing and other safety measures. Others have embraced malformed theologies that teach that Christians will not get the disease. In reality, the situation is still very serious and requires our constant prayer. Meanwhile, the grim security situation that we have previously highlighted has not markedly improved, though there are some signs that the various Islamist terrorists in Nigeria are currently on the defensive – though tragically, this had led them to attack more soft (civilian) targets. Let us pray for the defeat of evil and the emergence of a peaceful settlement following this Jihadi insurgency.

Burkina Faso

- ❖ The **Evangelical Protestant Church** – Henoc Sib, President of the Church, writes: ‘Let us pray for the peace and security of our country Burkina Faso in the face of Jihadist attacks in the north, Sahel and east of the country. Burkina Faso must hold general elections next November so that there can be peace. Let us also pray for the churches in the department of Loropéni which suffered violence in April. May the Christians have the courage to profess their faith. Let us also pray that God will give us the necessary money to rebuild the 10 places of worship destroyed.’
- ❖ **Ana van Brakel** – Ana asks for patience as she awaits for the outcome of her citizenship application. Pray that it would come through speedily. Give thanks that she is able to exercise a very useful ministry in her home church. She is also looking into online teaching opportunities to make the most of her time at home. Pray that these would be successful.

Chad

- ❖ **David, Lucy and Sophie Morrison** – The Morrisons request prayer for the preparations for a new discipleship counselling course being run by Acacia in the next few months. Pray for God's guidance and spiritual protection for all involved.

Please pray with the Morrisons as they start to put things in place for their return to Chad. Pray for the practicalities, as well as spiritual refreshment and clarity for the next season.

Kenya

- ❖ We give thanks to God that our friends at PCEA Thogoto report that the house built as an income generating project for the "Wee School" has been completed and is rented already. The school itself has not yet been able to resume functioning – pray that this will happen speedily.

Details are sketchy, but we are reliably informed that Revd Peter Kania, Secretary General of the PCEA, is unwell and admitted to hospital. Pray for his speedy recovery.

Nigeria

- ❖ **The Gaiyas** - As the reported cases of Covid-19 in Plateau State continue to rise, pray for the Lord's hand of care and protection on the Gaiya family. Thank God for good health and strength during lockdown days. Pray that Musa, Pamela and Gracie will be refreshed physically and renewed spiritually during these summer months.

Pray also for protection for the Gaiya family in light of a deteriorating crime situation in their area, with robbery and kidnapping very much on the rise.

Covid-19 has underscored the economic uncertainty that many face in Nigeria. Continue to pray for the work and ministry of ACTS. Pray for God's goodness and favour on ACTS. Pray that the sales from the recently received container will be blessed. Despite the challenges, pray that much more Bible-based literature will go out into the hands of many pastors and Bible college students. Pray for the Management of ACTS to know God's wisdom.

- ❖ **Sid Garland** – Sid asks you to join him in praying for the ACTS book shops as they struggle to cope with / recover from lockdown measures in Nigeria and Kenya and as they seek to develop more use of internet, social media and digital resources. Sid also asks us to give thanks to God for the resumption of container shipments and also the return to ACTS HQ of a valued staff member who is able to assist him with ordering books and also handling specific customer requests.
- ❖ **The Ibias** – Samantha asks for prayer for one of the Abuja based FCS volunteers and his family, as he lost his wife during childbirth; they also have three young children left behind. She was really committed to the work of FCS. Pray for comfort for the family and the FCS family.

Samantha also asks us to pray for FCS as they continue to think of new ways to reach students with the schools closed. Pray for inspiration!

- ❖ **Katie Morrison** – Katie asks for prayer for a number of nurses who were appointed to work in Holley Memorial Hospital. Pray that they will quickly adapt to their role, as well as be a shining light of Christ to those they care for.

Katie gives thanks to God for a Muslim lady who gave her life to Christ in the theatre after a successful C-section. A complication arose so that most people thought she and her baby would not survive. Please continue to pray for this lady, that her faith would be strengthened each day.

Katie continues to ask for prayer regarding her future. Pray for wisdom and clear guidance in how God would lead her.

- ❖ **The Ekanems** - Praise God that Godwin's health has improved. He will return for follow-up appointments in August. Pray for continued protection against Covid-19; many people don't take the disease seriously.

Pray for Gail as she prepares teaching notes and exams for her courses at William Wheatley Theological College. The students hope to do exams early this month.

Pray for Gail who continues to home-school Angel and her two cousins. Pray for Ekaette and Aniedi as they continue to await their return to their 3rd level Institutions.

Focus on Revd Prof. Patton Taylor

Patton has completed four years of regular twice-yearly visits to Nigeria to teach in PACT and WWTC (UEC Theological Colleges in Nigeria supported by the Mission). He had hoped to continue travelling to Nigeria to build on that foundation. Pray for guidance as to when this will become feasible once again. Meanwhile, he has been maintaining supportive contact with both Colleges (in his role as Visiting Professor) and also with many individual students and others with whom he has developed a close mentoring relationship. Lockdown has meant real hardship for many student families and Patton has been able to channel relief funds for food, medicine, and other essentials, thanks to the MA Emergency Fund. He also has been using his time at home to work on authoring text books for use in Nigeria in the future.

Both Colleges are currently closed because of the pandemic, with little information from the federal government as to when higher-education Colleges can reopen. Meanwhile they are doing their best to maintain contact with students, to facilitate the submission of assignments, and to help students prepare for eventual exams - but most students don't have access to the IT facilities needed for any structured online learning. The situation has also brought severe financial stringency for the Colleges and as a consequence to the staff. Pray for the Provosts and staff of the two Colleges as they grapple with this situation. Pray also for early resumption of normal College life.





The new Clinic at PACT is now completed and staff interviews will be conducted this weekend. Hopefully the Clinic will be able to open its doors very soon, working under the close supervision of Dr Emmanuel Abba, the Medical Director at nearby Holley Memorial Hospital, and initially with the support of Victor Akoh (MA-supported medical student based at HMH). This will be a tremendous asset for medical care of the College community (where up to now even the most basic medical care has been beyond the affordability of many). It will also be a significant mission-outreach into the local town (Ankpa) and district. Pray for speedy progress towards opening of the Clinic and for real encouragement and blessing in the development of this project.

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 very 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 many 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.
- ❖ Give thanks for the success of the Mission Africa Conference on June 13th. We expect to continue making more use of videos and video conferencing in the future, even after the pandemic has passed. See the box below.

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

Dr Paul Bailie

The Mission Africa June Conference was held by Zoom and was exceptionally well attended. You can 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 going to pause for the summer, but we will still have monthly Zoom prayers. Details of these meetings will be sent out in a separate email – please join us if you can.