



Prayer Monthly

November 2020

It is with great regret that we must inform the Mission Africa community that our dear friend Mrs Iris Ogbonna was called home to be with the Lord. Although we do not grieve as the world grieves, we are deeply saddened by her death, following a brief illness. We give thanks for a life of dedicated service to Christ, her self-sacrifice, her love and collegiality. She is with her Lord, enjoying perfect fellowship with Him eternally. Please pray for her husband, Rev. Rufus Ogbonna, and the family at this very painful time. Iris will be buried in Nigeria on 14th December. Her family have established an online tribute to her, which may be accessed here:

<https://iris-ogbonna.muchloved.com/>

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 (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.

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

- ❖ Pray for the continent of Africa, as they continue to respond to COVID-19. Pray for good leadership, knowing when to place and ease restrictions. Pray for medical staff, and other key workers, who continue to tirelessly work to protect and care for people. Pray for schools and colleges, as many begin to reopen for the next academic year.
- ❖ Pray for Nigeria, and the anti-police protests that continue there. Pray that God would bring peace in this land.

Burkina Faso

- ❖ **Ana van Brakel** – Please continue to pray for Ana as she seeks UK citizenship. Pray for Ana as she takes a leading role in the women's ministry of her sending church.
- ❖ **Jeremy Nash** – Jeremy is in Burkina Faso as this Prayer Monthly goes to print. Pray that he would be kept safe and well in Burkina Faso, and that his plans to meet with those involved with his literature ministry would be blessed. Pray also for Jeremy, as he seeks the Lord's will for his work in England, during these especially difficult days.

Chad

- ❖ **David, Lucy and Sophie Morrison** – Pray for the ladies associated with the Acacia centre. Due to a number of factors, not least COVID-19, sales have been low recently and half of the women don't have outside work. Pray for creativity in business, and employment opportunities for the ladies. Pray for the Morrisons to get into a good routine of house visits, and even come to look forward to them. Pray that Sophie wouldn't be overwhelmed by all the attention and we can still manage to give her routine in the midst of the spontaneity that this ministry requires. Pray that the Morrisons would draw ever closer to God, as they face the challenges of ministry and the frustrations of everyday life in Chad.

Kenya

- ❖ Pray for our friends in **the PCEA (Presbyterian Church of East Africa)** – the election of a new Moderator of the General Assembly is soon to take place. Although similar in some ways to the Moderator of the General Assembly, of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland or the Church of Scotland, the PCEA Moderator is usually in office for 6 years and carries much more executive authority than would be the case in the UK and Ireland. It is absolutely essential, then, that the PCEA get their choice correct. Sadly, as the painful public record will attest, in recent years, some of the Moderators have brought division and controversy in their wake. Pray that the next Moderator will – like the current PCEA Moderator – be a leader who is focused on the spiritual growth of the church and witnessing to Christ in an increasingly secularised Kenya. Regrettably, as Kenya gains in prosperity and rapidly modernises, it has adopted many of the worst vices of the godless western world. Pray that God will raise up the next PCEA Moderator to lead the church in single-hearted devotion to Christ, and to His glory alone.

- ❖ **Rebecca Dodds** – Rebecca is a qualified doctor from Scotland. She has recently been accepted for short-term service in Kenya. She hopes to proceed to Kikuyu Hospital, Kiambu State, in late January or early February 2021, God willing. Pray for her as she prepares to go.

Nigeria

- ❖ **The Gaiyas** – Pray that the Gaiya family would know the Lord's sustaining hand throughout this month. Security, both in the area in which they live and also at the ACTS (Africa Christian Textbooks) HQ, is a very real concern and much prayer is needed.
Give thanks for the recent container of books which safely arrived at ACTS.
Pray for Gracie, as school reopens (on 2nd November, Tuesdays and Thursdays).

- ❖ **Sid Garland** – Pray for the safe release and shipping of a container of a great variety of Bibles, Study Bibles, and selected books from the USA. Several seminaries have special consignments in this container. Pray also for another container, that is due to leave this month from Revival Movement Association (NI).

Pray for ACTS, that they would have the wisdom and funds to be able to supply Bibles and Bible storybooks to children that have been displaced as IDPs – refugees fleeing violence and persecution in their own country. Let us remember our brothers and sisters and their children in the Bassa tribe, who are over 2 million Nigerians currently unable to return to their ancestral lands.

- ❖ **The Ibias** – Pray for FCS (Fellowship of Christian Students) in Abuja, as they hold Sunday services with students. Many day schools have not yet returned to holding fellowship – pray that this would not allow FCS’s doors to be closed.

Pray for the health of the Ibia family, who have suffered one illness after the other in the past month. Pray for God’s protection over their lives and health.

- ❖ **Katie Morrison** – Please continue to pray for the running of Holley Memorial Hospital, and that it would continue to be a light in the community.

Pray for patients at Holley who require operations. Last month, there were twenty people assessed by the orthopaedic surgeon, but only two could afford to pay. With the increase in food prices within the country, people will begin to struggle more to pay for medical treatment.

- ❖ **The Ekanems** – Pray for Gail, as she teaches at WWTC (William Wheatley Theological College) – her courses are Theology of Missions, and 1 Corinthians.

Pray for Godwin, as he preaches, leads Bible studies, and cares for administration responsibilities.

Pray for Aniedi (Gail and Godwin’s nephew), who continues to wait for University resumption.

- ❖ **Patton Taylor** – Pray for Patton, who maintains contact with the United Evangelical Church Colleges as “visiting professor”, and, in recent months, has been maintaining contact in a mentoring role with many students, former students, and other young people of leadership potential within the Church. Patton hopes that he will be able to return to Nigeria sometime in 2021, God willing.

Give thanks that the Colleges have had a successful semester so far – despite COVID-19 restrictions, which has also led to real hardship for many of the students. Pray that God will continue to protect the Colleges from any outbreak of COVID-19.

❖ **Theological Colleges –**

The **WWTC** community is grieving the sudden passing of “Mummy” Iris Ogbonna, who had just retired from her role as Bursar. Her deep love and concern for staff and students alike will be greatly missed. The College asks for prayers for her husband, Rev. Rufus, and for the wider family circle in Nigeria and Scotland.

Pray for more grace to actualise the educational and spiritual goals of the College.

Thank God for His faithfulness in the lives of members of the WWTC community.

Pray for **PACT** (Peter Achimugu College of Theology), and for divine protection for both staff and students there.

Pray for a new vision for the College, under the recently-appointed Provost, Rev. Dr DF Anjorin.

Please pray that God would provide the resources necessary, for the smooth running of the College.

Pray also, for the staff of the newly-opened Clinic, as they seek to provide not only for College needs but also to build a mission-outreach programme in the local Christian and Muslim community.

❖ **Brian Wilson –** Pray for Brian, as he seeks the necessary support to go to PACT in the near future, God willing.

Pray also for him, as he seeks both to get his recently acquired house sorted and also to have everything officially sorted for going to Nigeria.

Pray that Brian would know God’s blessing in everything that he needs to sort and attend to.

Mission Africa in General

❖ Please pray that God will continue to provide the resources needed to advance the work of the Mission.

❖ 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 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 meets on 8th November, God willing.
- ❖ Pray for the Chief Executive, Paul Bailie, especially that his health might remain good. Please also pray for his wife, Anne Bailie, who has had several health challenges for some time.
- ❖ 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

Annual AGM and Prayer Day – Saturday 28th November, at 11am

This meeting will be by Zoom (link below), and will be a joint meeting for both the AGM and Prayer Day.

It will include very short AGM reports, as well as Missionary reports and times of prayer.

Please note that the Prayer Day will take the place of the Central Prayer meeting this month.

Link for Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88367921982?pwd=THpRVFpkYVY5SDF2ZVhoTVhpT2hCdz09>