



# Prayer Monthly

## October 2020

### Mission Africa and COVID-19

Supporters should be aware by now that Mission Africa has made the decision to furlough some 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. All furlough will come to an end by October 31<sup>st</sup>, but until then, the Mission Africa office will run at a reduced capacity. The Mission office is not continually staffed, as staff are working from home, as per government advice, but the answering machine is monitored.

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.

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 – Nigeria at 60

We join our Nigerian friends in giving thanks to God for 60 years of Nigerian independence. Pray that Nigeria might live up to its post-1978 motto: *Unity and Faith, Peace and Progress*.

Pray that all Nigerians, especially the political ruling class, would work towards a just and equitable society that benefits all citizens, not just narrow, elite sections of society. Pray for an end to ethnic and religious tension and hatred.

Pray that Nigerian Christians might know an end to persecution from various factions within the country. Pray that the right to practice and promote Christianity would be protected and that the true Church of Jesus Christ would thrive in Nigeria. Pray that our dear friends and partners in UEC, ECWA and COCIN would be greatly blessed as they faithfully proclaim Christ.

Pray that Nigeria will be speedily delivered from the existential threat posed by Islamist insurgency.

Pray that Nigeria would be a nation where the rule of law is respected, human rights honoured, education treasured, and healthcare provided. May it truly progress to become, as it is often called, the Giant of Africa.

Above all, we pray that Nigeria would rise to be a powerhouse of not only African Christianity, but world Christianity.

### Burkina Faso

- ❖ **Ana van Brakel** – Ana asks for strength, courage and patience as she awaits the outcome of her citizenship application. Pray that it would come through speedily, although in practical terms it could still be an exceedingly long way off. Give thanks that she can exercise an extremely useful ministry to women in her home church.

- ❖ **Jeremy Nash** - Pray for God's hand on Jeremy's planned trip to Burkina Faso (9th October to 9th November) particularly that Jeremy can obtain COVID-19 test results in a timely fashion to facilitate his travel. Pray for a productive quarantine period in Burkina Faso, followed by a helpful national conference that would be the foundation for an effective ministry this year, reaching even more children with the Gospel.

## Chad

- ❖ **David, Lucy and Sophie Morrison** – Due to an insurance issue, the Morrisons have not yet arrived in Chad. Please pray for wisdom for the office staff as they seek a resolution, and patience and peace for David and Lucy.

David and Lucy continue to value your prayers for the health of their co-worker Anne Hoyt. Unfortunately, things have not improved as anticipated and she has been advised to travel to the US along with her husband, Rich, for several months, to seek further medical attention and a full recovery.

With David and Lucy's (already lengthy) delayed return, and now Anne's departure for medical recovery, they ask you to pray for God's will to become clear for the ministry, and for God's protection and sustenance on all those whom the Acacia ministry serves during this time.

## Nigeria

- ❖ **The Gaiyas** – Give thanks for a generous gift that enables ACTS to supply a Pastor's Book Set to over 260 theological students. Pray for the logistics in arranging this Book Set; pray it will be an amazing blessing to those who receive it. Pray for a container of Bibles that is soon to be dispatched from the US. Give thanks for recent encouragements.

Pray for a time of refreshment for the Gaiya family during October break (12th-16th). Schools in Plateau State are reopening from 30 October. Thank God for good health and strength during what has been a busy time for Pamela, Musa and Gracie.

- ❖ **Sid Garland** – Sid Garland asks for prayer for Rev Luka Vandt, with his heavy responsibilities as Managing Director of Africa Christian Textbooks (ACTS). Give thanks that Luka's wife, Roseline, a lecturer at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria (TCNN) has been able to start her PhD course in pastoral counselling at St Paul's University, Kenya.
- ❖ Sid is also asking for prayer as he works to complete several writing projects – books, monographs and articles in the pipeline. He is also thanking God for the resumption of deputation meetings – some in person, some online.

- ❖ **The Ibias** – Samantha asks for prayer for FCS Abuja, as they continue to deal with the closure of schools in the capital city. Other states have already opened their schools or have announced opening dates; pray that the Ibias will see the resumption of schools in Abuja soon.

Samantha also asks for prayer as Godfrey plans to travel for an FCS staff training and consultation at the end of the month; pray for safety for him, and also for Samantha and the children, who will remain at home.

❖ **Katie Morrison** –Katie thanks God for funds to support those affected by leprosy at Holley Memorial Hospital. Through MA / Friends of Ochadamu, we have been able to provide a very much needed food share and erect two water tanks in the colony areas, where they were struggling with water supplies.

Katie asks you to pray for the need of another Nigerian doctor to join the team at HMM. Pray that he will be a committed Christian and have a positive impact on the hospital.

❖ **Victor Akoh** – we give thanks to God that Victor (a long-standing friend of the mission and one of the people on our leadership development programme) has gone, at last, this week to Jos, to begin his clinical training. Pray that God would continue to grant him success in his studies.

❖ **The Ekanems** - The Ekanems praise God for His fatherhood over their lives.

Pray for the safety of Angel and her cousins, Akaninyene, Ediomu and Ifure, as they go back to school amidst COVID-19.

Pray for Ekaette (niece) - for God's grace, strength, wisdom and good health as she does exams and studies at UEC College of Nursing, Ochadamu.

Pray for grace for Aniedi (nephew), as he continues to wait for university lecturers to call off their strike and return to work.

Pray for Gail, who is currently editing a section of UEC devotional materials that are to be published and as she continues to teach at WWTC.

Pray for Godwin, as he continues to preach and teach in churches and to carry out various ministry activities.

❖ **Patton Taylor** – Pray for Patton Taylor as he continues to keep in close touch with the Colleges and maintains close contact with many individual students (and others) whom he mentors.

**Theological Colleges:** Pray for the Colleges as they struggle with the implications of Covid19 as the new academic year begins. Many of the students face financial hardship even more serious than usual because of the pandemic. WWTC has already resumed for the new session and PACT resumes this week.

Pray for the new Provost at PACT as he settles into his new role and also for the new Clinic there as it plans its community outreach programme as well as student welfare.

At WWTC, give thanks for over 30 years of service by Iris Ogbona who has now retired as Bursar/Registrar and for the College's ongoing staffing needs.

In Jos, pray for TCNN, badly hit by a COVID-19 outbreak among staff and others.

❖ **Brian Wilson** - Brian, a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, was accepted for service with Mission Africa in September 2020. Brian thanks God for the door that has opened to serve God in PACT. He has used his librarianship training before, also in a missionary context, in Woodstock School, India.

Brian is aware, however, of many challenges before going to Nigeria. Pray that he will know God's help both to establish a support base for going to Nigeria. Pray also that through practical and theoretical training (and, in other ways) God will prepare him for service and His glory in Nigeria. Pray also for other practical considerations (such as his house in NI) prior to his departure.

## 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 send 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 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 October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Pray for the Chief Executive, Paul Bailie, especially that his health might remain good. Please also pray for Paul's wife, Anne, who has had several health challenges for some time.
- ❖ Pray for the preparation of a forthcoming edition of Dispatch.
- ❖ Give thanks that Naomi Spence has been de-furloughed and has been planning for short term mission activities in the year ahead. Pray for wisdom as we decide what to do in 2021, given the likelihood of ongoing COVID-19 travel restrictions. Naomi recently had to go into hospital for a planned operation – pray for her full recovery.

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

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

### Central Prayer Meeting for October-

Wednesday October 21st, 2020

8:00 PM British Summer Time / West Africa Time, 10pm East Africa Time.

More details will be sent in a separate email. We are trying a Wednesday this time, to accommodate the many people who say they cannot manage Thursdays – though we recognise that this will now rule out people who cannot manage Wednesdays! More details to follow in a separate email.

**The London Conference** – this was conducted by Zoom this year. You can see edited highlights on the Mission Africa Group Facebook page (not the main page) or by following this link to You Tube:

<https://youtu.be/m23GzPJYeT0>

The **Mission Africa June Conference** - You can still see video of the event on our main Facebook page or on You Tube if you follow this link: <https://youtu.be/2pcYnxCOp9w>