

## Note on Covid-19

As we are sure you are aware, we are experiencing a time of deep global uncertainty. Many are unwell and many will become unwell. Through all this, Mission Africa continues to strive in its goal of bringing the Good News of Jesus to the people of Africa, reaching the unreached, loving the unloved and discipling new believers. We would greatly value your prayers in the weeks and months ahead as we assess how best to share the Gospel with those in need.

### Staying safe

Following updated advice from the UK government, Mission Africa is suspending its meetings and events with immediate effect. We have postponed our Scottish and Belfast conferences in anticipation of holding something later in the year. We are asking our Belfast based staff to work from home where possible. The office will remain operational in all of its functions but will not be manned continuously. Whilst we normally warmly welcome visitors, we ask that you do not visit the office until further notice and communicate with us by email and telephone.

Echoing the recommendations of Presbyterian, Methodist and Church of Ireland denominations, we are recommending that our prayer groups do not meet in person, in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. As a practical expression of loving our neighbour, we all

must do all in our power to limit the transmission of this disease.

With a number of nations temporarily closing their borders and with the current UK Government advice to avoid overseas travel, with heavy hearts we have made the decision to suspend our short term programmes for the foreseeable future. The safety and well-being of our team members and short-termers is of highest concern to Mission Africa. We are working with travel partners to rearrange flights for anyone currently in the field and to cancel any existing bookings. We have already contacted anyone due to travel in the next few months.

### Praying faithfully

We encourage all our supporters to explore alternate methods of prayer and fellowship such as setting up a telephone or SMS prayer chain or WhatsApp group. Prayer remains vital at this challenging time, so we urge you to find ways to continue upholding Mission Africa before the Lord.

Finally let us take comfort in knowing that we follow a God who loves us and cares for us, who has promised to go with us wherever we go. Take comfort in knowing that the very name of Jesus means God saves. In these troubling times, let us make an effort to be a light in the darkness, let us become known for our bold, compassionate desire to show the love of Jesus to those around us.



## Prayer Monthly April 2020

### 1st April

Ana van Brakel thanks the Lord for passing the Life in the UK test last month. She asks that you pray the rest of the paperwork will go smoothly - her earliest appointment with the embassy is not till the beginning of May.

### 2nd April

Ana also asks that you continue to pray for the security situation in Burkina Faso, as well as the situation concerning the coronavirus. That the Lord may protect the people as many of them will not be able to attend hospitals or clinics for needed care.

### 3rd April

Pray with Samantha Ibia. Like many, the coronavirus has affected her work life, as the schools have been closed. Pray with Samantha for the FCS students as they are at home.

### 4th April

Pray for FCS as they try and look for safe ways to reach their youth and encourage them.

### 5th April

Pray for the Ibias as a family, that God would keep them healthy. Pray for Godfrey, Hepzibah and Melki.

### 6th April

Pray for the Gaiya family that they'll stay well during this time of uncertainty.

### 7th April

Pray with Pamela for wisdom, peace of mind and calmness of heart. May the Giayas continue to know and prove the faithfulness of a great and powerful God who has everything in His control.

### 8th April

Pray for the Ekanems as they remain in Nigeria. Pray for safety and health for all the family. Pray also for wisdom and grace to respond to those around them who may need assistance.

### 9th April

Pray with Gail for Nigeria as cases of coronavirus rise. Pray for wisdom for political and spiritual leaders as they lead the people in these unprecedented times.

### 10th April

Baby Morrison is due this month (11th)! Lucy and David appreciate your prayers for a safe delivery for both mum and baby and as, God-willing, they settle into life as a family of three.

### 11th April

Please pray for "Fiona," one of the ladies linked with the Acacia centre. Pray for divine wisdom and courage as she currently faces challenging family issues with both her husband and a couple of her children.

### 12th April

Please pray with the Morrisons for the Chadian population during this current pandemic, for whom the idea of social distancing is at best unthinkable and at worst impossible. The drastic measures taken by the government, while probably necessary, pose unprecedented difficulties for the vast majority of Chadians who live hand to mouth.

### 13th April

Pray for the Mission Africa Council as they aim to meet virtually. Pray that the technological solutions would be sufficient to provide a good meeting. Pray that God would bless the council in the decisions that they make at this difficult time.

### 14th April

Pray with Sarah Morrison for wisdom for the hospital management at HMH as they make decisions regarding preventive measures for the virus.

### 15th April

Unfortunately, due to the current situation, the children's and youth ministry at Holley have stopped for now. Please continue to pray for the children and youth that they would continue to grow in their understanding of the Bible, especially during these uncertain times. Pray that they would lean on God.

### 16th April

Katie and Sarah pray for good health and well-being. Pray for endurance in this situation and a sense of peace as they look ahead to the next few months.

### 17th April

Sid Garland is thanking God for sustaining ACTS through the years and that a Bookselling and Publishing Consultant from Media Associates International was recently able to have an encouraging third visit with the ACTS Management Team.

### 18th April

Pray with Sid Garland for the impact of the Coronavirus epidemic the work of ACTS. The majority of ACTS bookshops are in Bible Colleges and seminaries across Nigeria and Kenya, which are now closed.

### 19th April

Sid asks for prayer as he continues to work from home. The cancellation of his speaking engagements and plans to travel to Nigeria gives him more time for several writing projects alongside preparations of book orders and a book catalogue. Pray also for Jean as she recovers from a dislocated / broken shoulder.

### 20th April

Please pray with Jeremy Nash for protection for Burkina against terrorism and COVID-19. May God use all that is happening to accomplish his purposes and bring people to faith and that the Church would respond with wisdom and compassion to the situation it is facing

### 21st April

Pray that God will bring success to Jeremy in applying to trusts in the UK to fund important work in Burkina Faso that will be severely limited without the funds: helping displaced students continue their education and in extending the Explorers Club ministry.

### 22nd April

Pray with Jeremy for those studying God's word through explorers clubs, that many will come to faith. Interruptions continue through terrorists related school closures and now also COVID-19, may wisdom be granted in using the opportunities still available.

### 23rd April

Pray for those working on the front line to deal with the coronavirus crisis all around the world, and particularly in Africa. Pray for wisdom and global partnership. Pray against tribalism and nationalism, but for a uniting of humanity.

### 24th April

Pray for nations with underdeveloped healthcare systems that they won't be overwhelmed by the influx of COVID-19 cases and that other vital services such as HIV/AIDS care, malaria treatment and accident and emergency facilities will be able to continue.

### 25th April

Pray that the poor and vulnerable will be able to get and afford treatment when needed. Pray that those who lose their income will not go hungry.

### 26th April

Pray for Christians and churches around the world that we will make an effort to be a light in the darkness, let the Church become known for our bold, compassionate desire to show the love of Jesus to those around us.

### 27th April

Pray for the Mission Africa Office staff as they deal with working remotely. Pray that they would be able to carry out their duties effectively.

### 28th April

Pray for the Mission Africa Prayer Groups who will be unable to meet. Pray that they would be able to maintain their fellowship remotely, and that God would preserve these groups until they are able to meet again.

### 29th April

Pray for Jeremy Nash and Robbie Toop, our England and Scotland Reps. Pray that even though they can't get out to promote the work of Mission Africa physically, God would still be using them for His purposes.

### 30th April

Pray for our partner organisations and churches in Africa, that God would continue to use them to spread the Good News of Jesus in this challenging time.