

Mission Matters for Prayer

“I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer” Ps. 17.

Please continue to pray for issues in past editions as God leads you. Please also use the Methodist Prayer Handbook. Thanks to those who contributed items. You may also find the Spirit prompts you to pray for a partner in a way not mentioned here, do so! Numbers help select an item to pray for, eg pray for “2” on 2nd, 12th, 22nd of the month See AMC websites for further information.

For paper copies see Mission board in AMC vestibule.

1 Methodist Homes (MHA)

www.mha.org.uk/about-mha/chaplaincy-and-spirituality/

see also Heart and Soul Magazine.

Please pray for Methodist Homes as it faces the challenge of the ongoing issue of the Covid-19 Coronavirus.

Firstly, At the time of writing the news is full of the Pandemics "second surge" toward the winter period, and, Care Homes of all kinds, plus all the staff, including MHA homes and staff need prayer at this time as they were just getting back to "normal" after the first bout of the Pandemic. Now they have to raise their game again as winter approaches.

Secondly, please pray for the staff and volunteers of MHA, as they too have to cope with a new way of working in the office in Derby and in the field as they go about their work and support all aspects of the MHA organisation.

Finally, pray for the financial support of MHA, as they, as with all charities, have taken a big hit in the amount of money that is donated. For example, the shutting of churches and chapels impacted on the "donating" on MHA Sunday.

2 Phakamisa, S Africa

www.phakamisa.org/

- Staff are divided into small groups so that they can work safely.
- Still running workshops, but everyone is taking work home to do rather than studying in church buildings.

- Wandering Schools are not open, due to safety concerns.
- Specific prayer requests are for the safety of the office, the health & safety of all their staff, students & Gogos and for guidance during the search for a new director to replace Thokozani.

3 Mambabu, Kailahun District, Sierra Leone

<http://www.thepatrioticvanguard.com/kailahun-district-takes-the-lead-in-reducing-maternal-and-child-mortality>

We continue to thank God for the Mambabu programme and for its life-changing work amongst the village people of Gbangbama, Bendekor and Gbandoma. We pray for God's continued blessing on this work.

We pray for the village children and their families, thanking God for the Education project which enables about 120 children to attend school or pre-school. At this time, we remember in particular those moving up from primary to secondary school this year, facing new challenges at school whilst learning to live away from home during the week.

We rejoice with the villagers that the new road from Bendekor to Nyandehun is now usable, providing better links to neighbouring communities and opening up new opportunities. We thank God for the success of the project so far, for those who have worked tirelessly to achieve it and for the generosity of Mambabu supporters.

Together with the villagers, we thank God that, after early concerns and a period of quarantine, they have not been badly affected by coronavirus. We pray now for a period of stability.

In a place where people have very limited access to modern healthcare, we hold before God all those who are worried about their health and life prospects and those concerned for family members who are unwell. We pray in particular for those who need our special prayers – for Fatorma James in Gbangbama suffering from bronchitis, for Miata in Gbandoma suffering from severe pains and also for Pa James, an elderly blind man in Gbandoma who has become very frail. For all of them, we pray that they may know ‘the peace of God which surpasses all understanding’.

4 Christian Aid

www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/prayer/prayer-diary.aspx

Loving God, come now and make us into a global neighbourhood, looking out for each other through struggle and crisis. Reaching out to strangers who become sisters and brothers, shape us into a caring community, strengthening each other through every challenge standing together until justice comes for all. In your name we pray, Amen

5 The Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy

<https://www.ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk/>

Pray for the agricultural community and the work of the DRC:

Please pray for:

- The agricultural community to find the help they need
- All bereaved families in the farming community
- The impact of climate change
- Those feeling isolated in the agricultural community
- Farmers under TB restrictions
- The support to be in place to help farmers adapt and navigate a new payment system as we leave Europe.
- The DRC team as we seek to support the farming community and celebrate in worship together

And give thanks for:

- The DRC team and new team members, Alison Ball and Louise Latham.
- The opportunity to take worship online
- The DRC news which reaches over 900 farms
- Doors opened to connect with farmers across Derbyshire

6 Patna Partnership, N India

Pray for:-

- our Christian brothers and sisters under persecution. Christians generally, and pastors in particular, struggle to cope with the anti-conversion law and the violence that they experience in some areas.
- Also for them all in this pandemic which is hitting India hard
- for the prayer group that has been formed and is being used

7 Open the Book

www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/

Whilst our local teams have been unable to go into our schools, we are keeping in touch with them. At present, most whole school assemblies are not taking place and we are missing our planning meetings and visits.

But:

- Online trainings are happening
- Zoom Q & A sessions are available
- A few teams are going into schools
- Open the Book is going from strength to strength in Ghana
- Training is happening in Kenya and Albania
- Some teams are live-streaming assemblies to class bubbles
- Please pray for these and for all the Open the Book staff, volunteers, and the pupils, staff, governors, and all the families that we reach out to.

8 Jonathan and Isabel Hill, Zimbabwe

www.isabeljonathan.org/

Contact with Jonathan and Isabel is difficult, items below were mostly taken from a letter received from them in April, but certainly still current:

- As everywhere, things are not normal. We are in 'lockdown' and trying to find new ways of doing whatever we did before.
- Schools are generally closed and Jonathan is putting material online for the children.
- Their church in Bulawayo is now live-streaming Sunday morning services online and Jonathan is trying to redesign the website to make it more of a place to find worship resources.
- Isabel is trying to monitor volunteers in rural areas; no substitute for visiting, but people are being dissuaded from travelling.
- Isabel helps destitute people from her office in Bulawayo by giving them food from time to time, but that's now impossible. Many children around the district are struggling to pay school fees.
- Susannah's graduation ceremony is supposed to be held in July...
- Stephen and Tony are not going to work at the moment until some sort of normality returns.
- Jonathan's Mum continues to recover well from her hip replacement, but like many others, she is frustrated by not being able to go out.

9 ACE Youth Trust

<http://www.aceyouth.org.uk/?LMCL=gub2dB>

We continue to thank God for the work of ACE, in particular the relief and pastoral support provided this year to young people and families struggling with life under the restrictions of Covid-19. We pray for God's continued blessing upon this work.

We thank God for the dedication and enthusiasm of all who work with ACE and for their commitment to help the disadvantaged young people of our community, praying that God will continue to call, inspire and equip such people in this service. We thank God too for the generosity of those who contribute money and other resources to enable the work to continue.

We pray for all the young people supported by ACE and for their families – holding before God all those struggling with loneliness, those confronting mental illness or incapacity and those suffering breakdown in relationships and feeling trapped in unhappy situations. We pray for the light of God's love in their lives, for healing and for hope.

"Father God, bless our young people, we pray, and use us to show them your love."

10 Junior Mission for All (JMA)

www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/junior-mission-for-all/

- JMA and Methodist Mission has been supporting families in rural Ethiopia.
- Please pray that the effects of deforestation and climate change can be overcome so that the difficulties of hunger will be a thing of the past.
- Assistance is being given in helping people to grow new types of vegetables. One good result already is that these new crops are nourishing families and enabling the children to go to school and to be able to concentrate because they are no longer hungry.
- In the UK there is support for young people's involvement in environmental issues. Pray that we will all care for creation in the best way we can.
- Please pray for our own JMA members to remain connected with World Mission and to have a heart for others - in prayer and action.
- Please pray too for Ruth, Liz Hibberd and Lorraine Hawkins as they lead our JMA.