

## 7 Mambabu, Kailahun District, Sierra Leone

Father God, we thank you for the Mambabu programme and its life-changing work amongst disadvantaged people in Sierra Leone.

We pray for the men, women and children of Gbangbama, Gbandoma and Bendekor - remote forest villages in the Eastern Region of the country, where opportunities are few and survival is a daily challenge.

Thank you, Father, for the enthusiasm and commitment of the villagers who work there for the common good, for the care and dedication of the project's leaders and volunteers and for the generosity of supporters in Sierra Leone and in the UK.

Thank you, Father, that through Mambabu you have touched so many lives - that a generation of children and young people can now harbour hopes for the future because of the education they have received; that all villagers now enjoy the benefits of fresh water and better health; and that everyone can embrace a new sense of purpose in their lives, confident that change can and does happen.

We pray for your continued blessings upon these people, Father - for your healing in sickness, your reassurance in despair, your strength in hardship, your peace in the turmoil of life; and we pray that your love may continue to be shared freely in that small community. Amen. David Bale

## 8 ACE Youth Trust

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

ACE continues to support a large number of vulnerable young people, and is as busy as ever. ACE provides many types of support for young people, in particular groups, and also on a one to one basis.

The regular groups include two youth clubs (Wednesday Club and Thursday Club) to which particular young people may be referred. These clubs provide a safe space where young people can have fun, and also learn and develop in a number of different ways.

There is a club for young people who potentially may struggle with the transition to senior school. There are also separate boys and girls clubs (the A Team and Space for You) for those who are struggling in school in a number of different ways. The young people are taken out of school in small groups for a range of activities to help them address their particular needs and gain resilience.

A summer program has been set up to run through the school summer holidays. This involves a number of trips and activities, and culminates in a visit to the House of Commons.

A number of new volunteers have come forward recently, and please pray for them as they develop their skills and also relationships with the ACE young people. ACE greatly values the prayer support it receives, along with financial, volunteering and in kind assistance.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary May.'23 [richard@richardodell.co.uk](mailto:richard@richardodell.co.uk)

# 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! 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/](http://www.mha.org.uk/about-mha/chaplaincy-and-spirituality/)

see also *Heart and Soul Magazine*.

The new initiative of the "Later Life Hub", which has just been put on the MHA Web Site, is to give folks Information, tips, and advice on various aspects of later life, such as Finance, Health and Well being, Dementia and Memory Loss, On Line Essentials, Retirement and End of Life advice.

Also prayer needed for Rushden Park Care Home in Northamptonshire, which has just been rated as inadequate, and put into special measures, much to the chagrin of head office.

## 2 Open the Book

[www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/)

It continues to be a privilege to share Bible stories in the local schools and by making the stories interactive the pupils' attention is maintained. In this way it is hoped that many memories will be made which will be drawn on in the future years as the children mature.

### Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the ongoing spread of Open the Book into Primary Schools throughout this country and pray for the recruitment of more volunteers so that the aim of being able to go into every school may be achieved.
- Pray for the spread of the word about Open the Book amongst churches and that there may be a response to set up teams.
- Pray for the teams in other countries who are welcoming this scheme.
- Pray that the new book of stories which is arriving shortly may enthuse volunteers and pupils.
- Pray for both staff and children that they may be challenged by God's word.

### **3 Phakamisa, S Africa**

[www.phakamisa.org/](http://www.phakamisa.org/)

Our contact with Phakamisa began in 1987 - as did the District's contact with the project, largely promoted by our then Chairman, Rev Geoffrey Clark. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then ...

Another source of info. is the website - 'Phakamisa.org' - a worthy read and source.

Support has waxed and waned over the years, but largely has spread.

The original aim of the project 'to lift up those in need' stays intact so in a sense those original visions of help continue - with new needs added, not least after the floods.

PS A number of District folk continue to contribute with monthly direct debits, and have been doing this for approx. 35 years!

All good wishes Mary (Stokes)

### **4 Jonathan and Isabel Hill, Zimbabwe**

[www.isabeljonathan.org/](http://www.isabeljonathan.org/)

We have been in England for a year and soon after we arrived, Isabel was diagnosed with breast cancer. Since she only has visitor status, she is not allowed access to the NHS and so she was treated at Nuffield Derby Hospital. Isabel's Visitor Visa is a 5-year Multiple Entry Visa which only allows a 6-month maximum stay for each visit. We are still waiting for a back-up letter to, hopefully, obtain a visa extension. Prayer needed.

Many people in Zimbabwe are struggling to cope with the economic situation and this has a most severe effect especially on orphans and other vulnerable children who are often forgotten when people have their own problems to face.

We wish we could be back in Zimbabwe and back to work, but we need to make sure that Isabel makes a full recovery. Isabel's treatment will continue until September, she is doing well. Thank you for praying for us, and with us for Zimbabwe. It is really appreciated.

With all our best wishes, Jonathan and Isabel

### **5 The Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy**

[derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk](http://derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk)

**As a chaplaincy team, please join us in giving thanks for:**

- R who has made a good recovery after a nasty fall last autumn
- Contacts with farming families new to the DRC team, that we may support them in a sensitive way and open about our faith as appropriate
- The opportunities recently to support Plough Sunday services at Church Broughton and Hope, plus the Tractor service at Hartington
- Opportunities for the ordained chaplains to take weddings, baptisms and funerals for farming families, praying they would use the opportunities to share something of the love of Christ

**We ask you to join us in praying for:**

- D recovering from some complications after receiving a new knee
- Those farmers juggling farming duties alongside caring for sick relatives
- A family farming situation where they are weighing up their options should they decide to leave dairy farming
- The recently bereaved farming families we are supporting
- Strength for all the rural clergy often stretched across many churches with differing needs

### **6 Patna Partnership, N India**

<http://www.northindia-derbyshirechurches-partnership.org.uk/patnavisit07.htm>

The Indian Government is not making things easy for the Christian Church in India. Financial transactions in particular are extremely difficult, you need special permission to receive donations from abroad.

Please pray for the Church of North India which is going through a difficult time. The Moderator has been arrested and charged with corruption and he has lost the confidence of many of the Bishops.

Please pray for Bishop Francis and all the clergy in the Diocese and the work that they are doing.

Please also pray for St Luke's hospital, Hiranpur.