

**CHURCH
MISSION
SOCIETY**

Prayerlines

Dear praying friends,

Since starting my role at Church Mission Society I've been adjusting to a longer commute in the car. One of the things I've really enjoyed doing with the time has been to listen to the audio version of HTB's Bible in One Year (BIOY) every morning.

I regularly hear encouragements for us, such as references to the importance of the church being an outward-focused community – something that CMS has sought to be throughout its history. Reflecting on Acts 2, Nicky Gumbel wrote “The church should be filled with a love for the world. They were an outward-focused community performing signs and wonders (v. 43). ‘The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved’ (v. 47). The Spirit-filled church will be an outward-looking church.”

What was true for the early church and even the Israelites is not new! I'm often reminded of Archbishop William Temple's line that church exists primarily for the benefit of its non-members. But an outward-focus for the church and Church Mission Society is as important as ever today.

So, let me close with a more recent prayer from the BIOY on the same theme:

“Help us, Lord, never to become inward looking or self-indulgent. May everything we do as individuals and as a community be outward focused in order to bring blessing to the world – proclaiming your salvation day after day.”

Yours in Christ,

Alastair Bateman
Chief Executive Officer

1 OCT (T) EGYPT

New mission partners Joe and Sarah Harvey are still settling into their location; please pray for their young family to find their place in the local community and to see how they can best serve through Joe's role as a teacher at a local school and Sarah's skills as a nurse.

2 OCT (W) UKRAINE

Mission partner Alison Giblett is involved in church planting alongside local partner Valery Alymov. Over the summer, Alison and an experienced team from Kiev have been serving eight villages in mission, helping to establish healthy churches through holding large concerts and developing relationships with people. Pray for their efforts to have a lasting impact on the people in these villages and for people to begin a lifelong relationship with Jesus as a result.

3 OCT (Th) MIDDLE EAST

A couple sharing the gospel in a majority Muslim context ask for prayer for two new followers of Jesus, Harry and Eddy. Eddy came to faith after members of a local church prayed for his mother who had been in a car accident and has himself since found freedom through Christ from a drinking problem. Please pray for both of these men as they grow in their faith.

4 OCT (F) ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Local partner Rami Fellemon is dedicated to walking alongside people on their faith journey, answering questions, reading the Bible and praying with people as they grow in faith. He asks for prayer for the discipleship team at Jerusalem Evangelistic Outreach, the organisation he leads; for God to give them discernment as they disciple others and that the words they use will not be from them but from God.

WEEKEND FOCUS

5–6 OCT (Saturday–Sunday)

Creation Care: Birds of the Air

BY IAN ADAMS, MISSION SPIRITUALITY ADVISER

In this edition of Prayerlines we begin a new series of prayer exercises exploring the theme of care for creation. Taking seriously Jesus' instruction to look

at the birds of the air (Matthew 6:26), make time this weekend to get outside and look up into the sky – and to reflect prayerfully on what you see.

In God's grace, how might what you see be a gift to you today? And how might you help to care for the birds of the air where you are?

Creator God

Thank you for the birds of the air, and for their gift to the world.

Help me to take the actions required to better care for them and for all your creation, and to do so with faith, with hope and with love.

Amen.

Email: ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org

7 OCT (M) KENYA

Local partner Meshack Okumu is equipping the church in Kenya for holistic, transformational ministry through CMS-Africa's Samaritan Strategy training programme. Please pray for Meshack as he follows up with groups that have been through the training and as he plans training programmes in new areas. Pray for trainees past, present and future to be empowered and encouraged to put into practice everything they have learned.

8 OCT (T) SOUTH AFRICA

"We have discovered that the first year in a pioneering situation can seem overwhelming when looking at the needs and trying to match them with what can be reasonably done," write mission partners Caroline and Dick Seed, who are training Bible teachers in key theological institutions across Africa. They ask for prayer for "a much clearer understanding of where we should both focus in the second year. Pray that we will be steadfast and unmovable as we seek to work out the Lord's call to engage in training for theological education in Africa."

9 OCT (W) DR CONGO

Local partner Jean Bosco Tshiswaka works with street children and children at risk in Lubumbashi, rehabilitating and reintegrating children into their families and offering children food, lodging and basic schooling through the Kimbilio centre. Please pray for the many children in the area in need of help (over 4,000 children visited the centre during 2018); for hope in the darkness and for wisdom for staff at the centre to know how best to help each one.

10 OCT (Th) UGANDA

The special care baby unit at Potter's Village children's medical centre has recently been full to overflowing, despite having been enlarged earlier this year. Mission partner Nicci Maxwell, currently the only doctor at the centre, reports that cots, bathtubs and even desk drawers have been dragged into service as the staff work together to accommodate every baby that comes in. Praise God for the excellent staff team and pray for Nicci as she seeks to support, encourage and teach them.

11 OCT (F) TANZANIA

Festo and Grace Kanungha, providing quality education to children in Kilimatinde, report, "In the Singida region where we are based, and the neighbouring region of Dodoma, the harvest has failed. We are very concerned that there will be serious hunger among the poor and middle classes. Please join us in praying to our God of the harvest, whose storehouses never run dry, to provide through his miraculous ways. Pray that no family would go hungry this year and that nobody would die through a lack of food."

WEEKEND FOCUS

12–13 OCT Saturday–Sunday

God gave the growth

BY DEREK AND JANE WALLER, MAKING DISCIPLES AND ENCOURAGING YOUNG CHRISTIANS IN TOLIARA, MADAGASCAR

Earlier this year, we decided to plant some young trees and to try growing some vegetables and flowers. So we explored the local nurseries, found a supply of "muck" and our garden began. Every evening sees us out with buckets, watering with the help of our young neighbours, Katerina and Marina. As well as being fun and good exercise, there is something profoundly gospel about creating a garden in a dry place – "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom..." (Isaiah 35:1).

As we've planted our garden, we can see parallels with our attempts at the kingdom work of growing disciples. We've been here close to two years, over half our expected period of three years. We have completed three-day Rooted in Jesus training conferences in all 10 parishes.

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6). In this hot windy place, we dare not

neglect to water our young trees daily. Our hope is that eventually they will find the water that lies below the ground and flourish on their own, but for now they need our help. Similarly, our experience here and across the parishes is that one concentrated training period is not enough to establish discipleship groups. Many of those attending have no experience of leading small groups and, though most can read, they are not used to books. Transferring the lessons in the book into lively group learning is a challenge. Like our young trees, these leaders need time and nurturing if they are to grow.

Praise God for the work Derek and Jane are investing in the lives of so many young Christians in Madagascar. Pray for God to bless their work and give the growth that only he can give.

14 OCT (M) READING

Valerie Cuffe-Adams is currently studying on CMS's pioneer mission diploma course and would value prayer for balancing her studies and her work as a specialist study skills tutor at Reading University. Please pray for Valerie to grow in her understanding of God's love and faith, to be more effective, sensitive and creative with others as she follows her call to share Jesus and pray for unexpected meetings with those who have little knowledge of faith.

15 OCT (T) LUTON

UK pioneer Luke Larnar is based in Luton with his wife Jeni and their young son Jared. Please pray for Luke as he enters the second year of his ordination training and aims to complete his master's degree. Luke also asks for prayer for the various local groups in Luton trying to support communities to tackle violence affecting young people, and for the work of the St Mary's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, which seeks to support unity and harmony among the highly diverse population of Luton.

16 OCT (W) READING

UK pioneer Carol Atkins runs Reading Family Support Hub, providing help, support and prayer for any family who needs it. Please pray for wisdom, strength and energy for Carol and the others running the hub, and for their actions to make a real difference in the lives of families in Reading.

17 OCT (Th) OXFORD

In August, Cathy Ross took up her new role as principal of CMS's pioneer mission leadership training (PMLT) centre in Oxford. Cathy was previously director of the PMLT's MA programme, combining this role with teaching elsewhere,

and we are delighted she is now full time with CMS. Pray for Cathy; for vision, guidance and blessing as she leads the training, which gives pioneers a theological grounding for the outworking of their many different calls.

18 OCT (F) DAGENHAM

Please pray for UK pioneer Bill Miller, who has a passion to reach the local community for the gospel through performing arts. He asks that we pray particularly for the Becontree Community Gospel Choir which started in March as an outreach project, singing traditional and contemporary gospel songs. There is a core of 12 people, with more wanting to join in September. The group is a mix of church people and those from outside the church. Please pray for the choir: for Bill, for those currently attending, for new people and for conversations, especially those about faith.

WEEKEND FOCUS

19–20 OCT Saturday–Sunday

Wilding the church

BY PAUL BRADBURY, PIONEER HUB COORDINATOR AT CMS

The book Wilding tells the story of the Knepp Estate in Sussex, which, in the year 2000, embarked on a remarkable project to rewild. Arable farming, the traditional means of using the land, was ditched, staff made redundant, equipment sold off and the land left to nature. The land was renewed and regenerated in extraordinary and surprising ways, through very little except listening, learning and enabling nature.

The story of the Knepp estate might be read as a parable for the church in the UK. We use methods that in many contexts are no longer fruitful or sustainable, and others that are resource intensive and (if not mechanistic, then) programmatic. Like the owners of the Knepp Estate, we need to stop and deeply listen to our context. When our machines have stopped and the dust settled, we may just be able to discern the nature of the soil at our feet.

Isabella Tree calls her book Wilding because she is keen to point out that wilding is a forward-looking, surprising process. Rewilding implies a return to some previous wild state. A process that might be more like restoration than renewal. And it is wilding, not rewilding, that we must enable. The wild Spirit of God is not our utility to be employed for our aims and purposes.

Surprise was the constant experience of those at Knepp as species returned in unexpected numbers and

in unexpected places. Just as those at Knepp might have said, "Yes, that's a nightingale, but we never expected it to breed there!", we might then say "Yes, that's church, but we never expected it to look like that!"

Pray for God to break through where our methods are no longer sustainable and where we need to give him more space.

21 OCT (M) GUATEMALA

Mission partners Mark and Rosalie Balfour ask for prayer as they prepare to move into more pastoral ministry: "The reality is that violence and death are never far away from the everyday lives of most of the people we know in Central America and this carries an emotional and mental cost. We believe Jesus is calling us to a pastoral ministry that supports and encourages others working in difficult urban contexts within Central America, with Jesus at the centre."

22 OCT (T) PERU

Paul Tester is developing the mission work of CMS in, to and from Latin America. Paul has seen God draw people together and form a small mission community specifically to pray and seek God's leading for CMS in Latin America. Please pray for continued clear leading from the Holy Spirit for this group as they follow God's call. As Paul's role involves lots of travel, pray for his wife Sarah and their daughters while he is away, and pray for Sarah's ministry through Sunday school at church, with Venezuelan immigrants and with friends in Lima.

23 OCT (W) BRAZIL

Working in Rio de Janeiro, mission partners Jess and Mark Simpson serve through various forms of social outreach in addition to Mark's role as chaplain of Christ Church Rio. Jess and Mark are very aware of young people's need for something better in this environment where teenagers very easily become entangled with gangs, many are in and out of jail and teen pregnancies are common. Please pray for them as they seek a project coordinator to facilitate this work; for God to raise up the right leader for this task and for favour among the local community.

24 OCT (Th) ARGENTINA

Mission partners Andrew and Maria Leake work for social and environmental justice among marginalised indigenous communities in Argentina. They write, "Please pray for the ongoing refurbishment and construction work of our diocesan retreat centre. We have now completed a

new dormitory wing, including two wheelchair-friendly bedrooms and toilets. We are currently developing proposals to reconstruct and expand the main meeting hall. We are also raising funds to build a wheelchair friendly woodland reserve and nature trail, all geared towards teaching about creation care."

25 OCT (F) BRAZIL

Local partner Thiago Oliveira asks for prayer for wisdom and discernment as Vineyard Floripa (the church led by mission partners Jimmy and Katia Rocks) moves forward. Thiago is in the process of planting a church in Santa Monica as well as leading the youth group at Vineyard. Pray for growth for both of these as Thiago plants seeds and allows God to do the work of bringing people into his kingdom.

WEEKEND FOCUS

26–27 OCT Saturday–Sunday

Nehemiah: a godly example

BY AZARIA SPENCER, WORKING WITH STREET CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK IN GUATEMALA CITY

Recently as a women's Bible study group we have been studying the book of Nehemiah, with the help of a study guide and video series by Kelly Minter. Reading Nehemiah again at a new stage of life, living in a different context, with a new group of friends to discuss it with, I am learning so much.

A few insights have really spoken to me from Nehemiah's story:

God placed something on Nehemiah's heart to do, and Nehemiah was obedient. How beautiful that God spoke to Nehemiah in this way. It challenges me to want to be ready to listen to what God places on my heart.

How often does God place things on our hearts? Are we ready to listen? Do we always obey?

Nehemiah always prayed first. Repeatedly we see him turning to prayer before asking advice, before trying in his own strength. He prayed first, demonstrating dependence. This reminds me of how God wants us to seek him first and his will.

Do we pray first, before asking a friend, before going it alone?

Nehemiah was faithful and obedient. Even after facing trial after trial and very serious threats and challenges, he stayed true to God's call. And God was faithful to him. God softened the king's heart and provided the way. God protected him and the Israelites.

How often do we place all our trust in God and continue

even when we face setbacks and trials?

Nehemiah humbled himself and didn't use his position or his rights to benefit himself. He made sacrifices and acted for God and for the people.

Are we willing to humble ourselves for God, or even for others?

Please pray for Azaria as she seeks to listen to what God is saying, place all her trust in God and be willing to follow him no matter what.

28 OCT (M) INDIA

Please pray for people in mission at Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore, where a new 1,500-bed hospital is due to open in January 2020. Please pray for all the necessary planning and administration; for God to provide the right staff as well as all the practicalities that go into running a hospital of a high standard.

29 OCT (T) THAILAND

Jason and Tracy Day are based in Chiang Mai, where Jason is a personnel manager seconded to OMF, and Tracy is a housewife and mum as well as being child protection officer for OMF. They ask for prayer for all people in Thailand. Christians in various locations in Asia are facing increasing opposition and persecution. Please pray that God will continue drawing people to himself, despite – or even through – this hostility.

30 OCT (W) NEPAL

Local partners Gautam and Sushma Magar devote their time to training women in church leadership and running Jesus-centred marriage and parenting training courses. They encourage people to live beyond perceived cultural, traditional limitations of caste and gender. Gautam and Sushma ask for prayer as they plant churches and equip and send Christian leaders into the most unreached parts of Nepal.

31 OCT (Th) CAMBODIA

Please pray for mission partners A and L, who are building relationships, helping people find emotional healing through Celebrate Recovery (A) and teaching, with a special focus on children and adults with special educational needs (L). In Cambodia, children with special educational needs are often hidden away out of shame, or parents hope they will be “fixed” by going to school. Please pray for doors to be opened for teachers like L to use their training and gifting so that children can be affirmed for who they are and learn in ways that work for them.

1 NOV (F) INDIA

Mission partners E and R are helping people to get to know God better through their roles of teaching theology (E) and coordinating the staff team at their church (R). A former student of E's who completed a new, interactive youth ministry course recently reported he has started a youth programme in a church that has previously struggled with youth work, and 20 young people are attending. Please pray for this student and for others like him to have a godly, deep and lasting impact on the young people they are working with.

WEEKEND FOCUS

2–3 NOV Saturday–Sunday

Creation Care: Lilies of the Field

BY IAN ADAMS, MISSION SPIRITUALITY ADVISER

In this edition of Prayerlines we continue a new series of prayer exercises exploring the theme of care for creation. As encouraged by Jesus, look out for the lilies of the field wherever you go today and tomorrow (Matthew 6:28). Enjoy what you see, give thanks for the flowers and be prepared to learn from them!

There's a balance required here. We are encouraged not to worry about tomorrow or ourselves; we are also called to care for God's creation, and to safeguard creation's tomorrow.

*Creator God,
Thank you for the flowers, and for all plant life.
We pray for wise and bold decision-making by
humanity to ensure a flourishing tomorrow
for all creation.*

Amen

Email: ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org

4 NOV (M) UKRAINE

Local partner Valery Alymov grew up never having heard the gospel, but experienced God's presence and forgiveness after watching the Jesus Film. Now he shares Jesus with others, preaching the gospel, making disciples and planting churches in Ukraine and beyond. Please pray for the church

plant he leads, for them to continue to attract and draw people into relationship with Jesus.

5 NOV (T) MIDDLE EAST

Please pray for mission partners Nabil and Sarah Shehadi as they enable churches, schools and prisons in the Middle East to run Alpha and Marriage Courses. Pray for doors to continue to open as they seek to train churches and further develop contacts in Syria.

6 NOV (W) ROMANIA

Local partner Sergiu Bradean pastors a church in Constanta. Part of the church's ministry is providing weekly meals for poor families and elderly people, but a family in the church who were in charge of this ministry have left recently and the church hasn't been able to keep serving the community as well as they would like. Sergiu asks for prayer for a new person, couple or family with a passion for this ministry to join the church.

7 NOV (Th) MIDDLE EAST

Having fled his home country due to persecution because of his faith, local partner N runs several house churches in another part of the Middle East where it's also dangerous for Christians to meet together. Pray for safety as these house churches meet together and for more and more people to embrace the gospel through the testimony of these courageous Christians.

8 NOV (F) LEBANON

Mission partners Audrey and Colin Gibson work with children with special educational needs (Audrey) and as a fundraiser for various ministries (Colin). They ask for prayer for the 1.5 million Syrian refugees who are increasingly unwelcome in Lebanon. Please pray for love to drive out hate, for Christians to set an example and for God to make a way for Syrian refugees to have a home, whether in Lebanon, Syria or somewhere new.

WEEKEND FOCUS

9-10 NOV Saturday-Sunday

Loving the unwelcome

BY AUDREY AND COLIN GIBSON IN LEBANON, WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENT FOR VARIOUS MINISTRIES

“Foreign workers and their families are forbidden from loitering or being present on the main road day or night.” We were shocked to read about this banner, strung across a main road into the town, in one of the daily newspapers here.

We weren't the only ones and we discovered subsequently that this is not an isolated case. But it does illustrate the tensions here concerning the Syrian refugees, who were the main target. Most people agree that the refugees should return home and that their return must be voluntary. However, there is a divide, reaching to the heart of government, over whether it is safe to return now or not.

The Lebanese Foreign Minister said recently that up to three quarters of refugees could return. He also suggested that too much aid was allowing refugees to accept low wages and hence take jobs from Lebanese workers. With the economy here in crisis, this is a sensitive subject. Other ministers disagree and some NGOs say coercion is being used to speed up returns.

All this reflects wider divisions in government and the country on relations with Syria.

Yet, with snowdrifts outside, who would live longer than necessary in a makeshift shelter with no insulation? The refugees are not allowed to build permanent structures. It is also hard to believe that educated people would prefer low-paid jobs in Lebanon to better work back home. Many here unthinkingly label all the refugees as poor and uneducated which is certainly not true. For example, most of the young men who assist in our greengrocer's have university degrees.

How much of this prejudice arises from Syria's role during and after the Lebanese civil war? These events, still raw in many people's minds, have a lasting impact in many ways. A colleague of Audrey's, who also works in a pharmacy, told us that about 90 per cent of prescriptions are for stress or depression, often caused by these events.

Please pray for all those affected by this complex issue and for Lebanese Christians to have the courage and grace to speak up for all those who suffer and are in need.

11 NOV (M) RWANDA

Based in Byumba diocese, Rwanda, local partner Dismas Ngendabanga preaches the Word, develops teaching materials and puts in place strategies to help Christians become mature disciples of Christ. Please pray for God's blessing on his ministry; for hearts to be changed and people to be empowered through Dismas' ministry.

12 NOV (T) AFRICA

Ann-Marie Wilson reports that 28 Too Many, the charity she founded to end female genital mutilation (FGM), is already over halfway to their long-term goal of publishing 28 country reports, as well as publishing 30 law and FGM reports. Praise God for this vital work which serves to influence influencers in the countries where FGM continues to threaten the future of thousands of girls, and pray for God to use the work of 28 Too Many to bring lasting change.

13 NOV (W) UGANDA

Local partner Samuel Malish serves God through Christian organisation ACROSS, running their children's ministry. Recently he has been involved in training people in trauma healing and running workshops for children whose parents have died, gone to prison or contracted HIV. Please pray for protection from compassion fatigue as Samuel constantly encounters heartache, and pray for God to multiply the impact of the trauma healing work in the way that only he can.

14 NOV (Th) ETHIOPIA

Chris and Suzy Wilson are working to provide excellent theological education to current and prospective church leaders from six different people groups at St Frumentius' Theological College, Gambella. They've been encouraged to see some friendships between students from different groups remaining strong even through frequent periods of ethnic conflict in the region. Please pray for strength and wisdom for Chris, Suzy and their young family as they follow their call in this difficult environment.

15 NOV (F) UGANDA

David and Heather Sharland support local healthcare and agriculture in Arua. Please pray for Heather in her work with six health centres, a hospital and a young people's Wise Choices programme. Please pray for David as he seeks to awaken a deep, godly concern about the destruction of the natural environment of West Nile and to encourage tree

planting to redress the balance. David and Heather also ask for prayer for people to come alongside them to share the burden of the work and to be mentored.

WEEKEND FOCUS

16–17 NOV Saturday–Sunday

Be still and know that I am God

BY DAVID AND HEATHER SHARLAND IN ARUA, UGANDA, WORKING IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTHCARE AND TRAINING

Life can be so full of busyness, noise and rushing about that we rarely slow down and soak in and appreciate the beautiful, small things in God's creation.

In April we had a short break to Ireland and it was wonderful to slow down, leave the stresses and busyness of life in Arua behind and enjoy. Many "ordinary" things struck us in a fresh and extraordinary way! The fields were so green, the cool breezes and frost so invigorating after a long and very hot dry season in West Nile. To walk in the rain and see so much new life! The beauty of a dandelion, swans flying over the road, primroses and daffodils, bacon, ham and sausages, Irish bread, apples and rhubarb. Ordinary things, but so very special!

In Arua, we are always amazed to see the transformation that happens with the early rains. How this dry dusty land becomes green, fresh and productive. Isn't that a biblical image of life transformed by Jesus and made productive and vibrant, through his Holy Spirit? This is surely what keeps us going in our work and life here, seeing lives freed from bondage to sin and drudgery and freed into a fullness of life that flourishes, whether that be a struggling small scale farmer, a teenage girl or an entrepreneur. That is what gets us out of bed each morning! Our Jesus is still active and busy here in West Nile.

In the midst of this we need to remember God has not called us to rush and hurry and hustle through our days. He has also called us to be still.

Pray that we give God the space to do what he can only accomplish when we are still.

18 NOV (M) BRADFORD

"In our area we are seeing small numbers of people from a Muslim background – mostly men – discovering the wonder of Christ's life. We give thanks for them, but long for many more, and especially for women to experience the rescue

which only he gives from many types of darkness,” write Joan and Nigel Bull. Joan leads the local Mahabba group, which mobilises and motivates Christians to love their Muslim neighbours. Pray especially that Muslim women would encounter Jesus as the local community reaches out to them.



19 NOV (T) IPSWICH

Please pray for Michael Green, serving among Middle Eastern people in the UK through evangelism and discipleship. Michael asks for prayer for more local Christians to get involved in outreach among the migrant community, and for the church to make the most of the opportunities that are opening up. Praise God that the local YMCA has given permission for a local church to use its premises for studies for anyone interested in the Christian faith.



20 NOV (W) SOUTHALL

Pray for Kailean and Kim Khongsai and their community creation care project, Wolf Fields. Pray for the project to continue to gather people and foster community, even over the winter months when being outside is less appealing.



21 NOV (Th) GLASGOW

Andrew and Faye Parfitt ask for prayer for Amir, one of the asylum seekers they have been working with. Amir is not recognised as a refugee, has no right to work and no access to any public funds. Please pray that God will continue to hold Amir up every day and give him hope through his church family who love him and support him. Andrew and Faye are finishing service with CMS at the end of this month; pray for clarity, stability and vision in this new phase of ministry and next stage of their lives.



22 NOV (F) BIRMINGHAM

Based at Birmingham Children’s Hospital, Ruth Radley ministers to sick children and their families as part of the hospital’s multi-faith chaplaincy team. Christmas and the lead-up to it is of course an especially difficult time of year for grieving families and those trying to cope with an impending loss. Pray for wisdom for Ruth; for guidance as she ministers to each family and for the right words to say to every person she encounters.

WEEKEND FOCUS

23–24 NOV Saturday–Sunday

When the deep stuff happens



BY ANNA AND CHRIS HEMBURY, SHARING LIFE WITH PEOPLE ON THE MARGINS IN HULL AND HELPING THEM TO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER AND GOD

“Chris, I need a favour! I’ve left me keys at me mam’s [12 miles out of Hull] and me bike’s knackered and low on fuel!” Chris has known Pete (aged 26) for well over 20 years, first through school assemblies and knocking about in the neighbourhood, then through our youth clubs and summer camps and latterly being a consistent support and wise sounding board through the ups and downs of adult life. Their friendship is mutual, both finding the same things funny and enjoying the simple pleasures of a motorbike ride out somewhere for a cup of tea and a lot of chat about nothing in particular.

The deep stuff happens when it needs to, with most conversations finding their way to God at some point. Chris is a reliable and consistent friend/accompanier/teacher/therapist/priest to Pete, but it often looks more like the oddest pair of blokes chuckling about farting jokes! The errand Pete asks Chris to help with is as much mission opportunity as it is rescue operation, a chance to hang out with Pete, to talk mostly nonsense and yet check in on the important stuff. And, over the 24-mile round trip, to allow Pete to bring God back into the frame – he always wants to.

Thank God for Pete and pray that he will come to know and trust Jesus as his constant companion.



25 NOV (M) URUGUAY

The Diocese of Uruguay is very small and struggling with various challenges. Called to build communities of faith in this difficult situation, local partner Mechi Tarragona and her husband, Daniel Genovesi, Bishop of Uruguay, are training and working with church members and leaders. Please pray for encouragement as they seek to bring God’s hope and new life to the people of Uruguay.



26 NOV (T) BRAZIL

Jimmy and Katia Rocks are sharing Jesus with people in Florianopolis through a church plant. Having moved into a building much better suited to their needs earlier this year, members of the church have been able to expand the church’s ministry and grow the congregation. Jimmy and Katia ask for prayer as they welcome and integrate the

many new people coming through their doors and seek to disciple people who have made commitments to Jesus at their Sunday services.



27 NOV (W) HONDURAS

Steve Poulson asks for prayer for more mentors for young people in Honduras, where he works with Street Kids Direct. Many young people in Honduras are growing up without parents and good role models and turn to gangs because they offer them a place to belong. Pray for more men and women to step up to offer friendship and a good example to follow so more young people have a better chance at a bright future.



28 NOV (Th) BRAZIL

Based in Goiania, Debora and Levi Santana provide a variety of services to help people in poverty as well as teaching and equipping the local church for mission. They ask for prayer for more local churches, volunteers and professionals to get involved so they can offer more services to more people, and for wisdom as they start their Philemon Project, which will look for ways to support people as they re-join life in society after rehab.



29 NOV (F) CHILE

Local partner Nicolas Fuentes asks for prayer for a more permanent church building for the authentic friendship-based church plant he is leading. Their current meeting space at the local university is getting cramped as they grow and this arrangement requires a lot of setup and pack-down every week. Please pray for a suitable new location to be found.

WEEKEND FOCUS

30 NOV–1 DEC Saturday–Sunday

Send us a prayer



As Advent begins, we invite you to write to us with a prayer request and we will count it our privilege to pray for you: info@churchmissionsociety.org



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