



Prayerlines

1–5 JUNE 2020

MON – AFRICA/UK

Please pray for Ann-Marie Wilson, founder and executive director of 28 Too Many, as she campaigns to end female genital mutilation (FGM) in the countries where it is still practised. Pray for God to use Ann-Marie in new ways as she cannot travel as usual at the moment.

TUES – OXFORD

CMS pioneer student Sophia Popham is a daughter, wife, mother, home educator, experimenter and vicar’s wife. Please pray for guidance, support and trust as she continues her studies and discerns what God is calling her to in her local community at this time.

WEDS – BIRMINGHAM

Ruth Radley connects with sick children and their families as part of Birmingham Children’s Hospital’s multi-faith chaplaincy team. Pray for her during this very difficult time when more families than usual are suffering and she will be called on to give even more of herself.

THURS – OXFORD

Please pray for the CMS staff as they have adapted to changing work circumstances. Pray for those juggling extra responsibilities with children or neighbours needing care; those finding home working lonely; those working harder than ever to keep everything working (especially the IT team).

FRI – SOUTHALL

Kailean and Kim Khongsai work in creation care in West London, including the Wolf Fields land transformation project. They ask for prayer as they plan to move from A Rocha’s UK centre (where they have lived for ten years) to their local church, St John’s Southall.

WEEKEND FOCUS

SATURDAY–SUNDAY 6–7 JUNE

PROVOKED INTO DOING SOMETHING NEW

BY JONNY BAKER, DIRECTOR OF MISSION EDUCATION, FOLLOWING A RECENT TRIP TO CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

I loved this street art of a quaking church in panic mode. I am sure it was terrifying to experience the 2011 earthquake in Christchurch when many buildings fell down. Even now, there are buildings being repaired and many empty pieces of land where buildings once stood.

Christchurch Cathedral was seriously damaged. While you wouldn’t wish a disaster on anyone, the earthquake was a provocation and an opportunity for creative thinking. And the church did get creative. A Japanese architect, Shigeru Ban, designed Christchurch’s Cardboard Cathedral.

Church buildings all over the world have been off-limits because of coronavirus. We are having to reimagine how to be church, to connect and encourage community, worship, discipleship, mission.

Churches everywhere have been provoked, interrupted from business as usual. What are the creative and imaginative opportunities for churches? When the crisis is over, will we go back to business as usual or will we inhabit the new in an ongoing way?

Pray for churches in the UK and across the world to see this season as an opportunity rather than a barrier. Praise God for creative new ways of doing church coming out of this time, and ask God for more.

8–12 JUNE 2020

MON – ARGENTINA

Some local police have been making things difficult for indigenous communities who depend on fish from the

river and honey from the forest. Pray for local partners Mateo Alto and Crisanto Rojas who act as intermediaries between their culture and the dominant surrounding culture.

TUES – BRAZIL

Rosie and Stu Bayford, working with at-risk girls in one of ReVive's safe houses (but living elsewhere) have continued their work from afar. Pray for creativity and fresh ideas for Rosie and Stu and for the girls to know the joy of the Lord even during strange times.

WEDS – PERU

A church pastor, local partner Anderson Sanchez, wrote last year that he expected 2020 to be a time of strengthening the church's ministries, encouraging more Bible studies in homes and winning church members' families for Christ. Pray that his church is able to grow in their faith and in number.

THURS – GUATEMALA

Please pray for Mark and Rosalie Balfour, for wisdom to know how to practise pastoral care for workers at Street Kids Direct and other frontline urban ministries. Pray in turn for those working with Street Kids Direct; for them to know how to support the most vulnerable people at this time.

FRI – URUGUAY

Please pray for strength, encouragement and wisdom for local partner Mechi Tarragona as she seeks to train church members and leaders and build church community. Pray for the church's message to be made clearer and more audible by the difficult situation the country is facing.

WEEKEND FOCUS

SATURDAY–SUNDAY 13–14 JUNE

A PLACE OF PRESSING

BY LEVI SANTANA, WHO, WITH HIS WIFE DEBORA, HELPS PEOPLE IN POVERTY AS WELL AS TEACHING AND EQUIPPING THE LOCAL CHURCH FOR MISSION IN GOIANIA, BRAZIL

During this pandemic which threatens not only human life, but also the economic and political systems we have devised, our expectations of a happy, healthy and affluent life are rapidly vanishing. In times like these, it can be difficult to pray, or to see what prayer will actually achieve.

But in Jesus' darkest moment, in Gethsemane, he prays. The word Gethsemane is believed to mean "oil press". The place where olives were brought, stacked up and pressed by a heavy beam. The more pressure, the more oil. Do not the current times feel like we have all been stacked together and placed under a huge beam?

The Garden of Pressing places before Jesus a hard choice: Will he submit to the will of the Father or do something else? The Garden of Pressing shatters our expectations of a glorious king and reveals the anointing of the Anointed One is forged under pressure. The Garden of Pressing, the Holy Cross and the invitation to submission, is not what our minds perceive as liberation.

While we are threatened by a worldwide pandemic, let's choose Jesus' stance. It may require that we bend our knees, though.

Pray for Debora and Levi: for eyes to see God's hand in the difficult situations they are facing, and the grace to bend their knees.

15–19 JUNE 2020

MON – SOUTH EAST ASIA

A local partner was able to share Jesus with his community at Christmas through visiting families in their homes, giving gifts and telling them the good news. Now, with many facing difficult times and looking for answers, pray for the seeds sown at Christmastime to bear fruit.

TUES – PHILIPPINES

Eric and Sandra Read, equipping churches in holistic mission, write, “After lockdown, we are all going to find ourselves in a different world. Please join us in praying for wisdom, inspiration and God’s guidance as to how we respond to this in our work with churches and communities.”

WEDS – SOUTH EAST ASIA

Mission partners doing prison ministry write that prison conditions are so bad that prisoners with chronic health conditions are being failed and even dying due to a lack of healthcare. Please pray for strength, encouragement and wisdom as our mission partners do what they can.

THURS – THAILAND

Local partner Helen Avadiar works in Chiang Mai with Kingdom Multiplication Movement (KMM). Pray for her to be able to continue her work of counselling and sharing the love of Christ with survivors of human trafficking in new and creative ways during lockdown and beyond.

FRI – TAIWAN

Pray for Asia-CMS as they seek to help their partners on the ground respond to the needs of the most marginalised and vulnerable people affected by the coronavirus crisis in some of the poorest parts of Asia.

WEEKEND FOCUS

SATURDAY–SUNDAY 20–21 JUNE

GOOD SOIL, RECEIVING

BY IAN ADAMS, MISSION PIRITUALITY ADVISER FOR CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

This weekend, we pray with Jesus’ parable of the soils.

Other seeds fell on good soil...
(Matthew 13:8)

Soil’s main task seems to be to receive – rain, sunshine, nutrients – and then allow them to bring life-giving change.

Pray today, perhaps with an open-handed stance, that you may receive from God whatever you need to be the good soil in which the seeds of Christ’s mission can grow and flourish.

Gracious God,

Help me to receive from you all that I need at this time to be the good soil that you created me to be.

Amen

22–26 JUNE 2020

MON – UGANDA

Pray for David and Heather Sharland: for David as he finds new ways to serve struggling and marginalised farmers in the name of Creator God, and for Heather as she offers medical care to some of the most vulnerable people in their community.

TUES – AFRICA-WIDE

Regional manager for Africa Steve Burgess asks for prayer for protection for people all across Africa. Pray for resources to be available to be able to care for the sick as well as deal with the Covid-19 crisis and its after-effects (which could be wide-ranging and long-lasting).

WEDS – MADAGASCAR

Derek and Jane Waller, based in Toliara, are continuing as best they can with their work of making disciples and encouraging young Christians. Pray for encouragement for Derek and Jane as they turn their focus not only to God, but outwards in acts of kindness and generosity towards others.

THURS – UGANDA

Malcolm Pritchard, teaching at Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College, writes, “As many preach a message of repentance (2 Chronicles 7:13–15), let’s pray that a message of the God of love will draw us back to Jesus selflessly rather than be driven back... by images of a merciless god.”

FRI – SOUTH AFRICA

Caroline and Dick Seed, resourcing key theological institutions across Africa through George Whitefield

College, ask for prayer for priorities in work at this time when so many colleges across the continent need support in online teaching.

WEEKEND FOCUS

SATURDAY–SUNDAY 27–28 JUNE

BENDING, NOT BREAKING

BY HELEN KISAKYE, A DANCE ADVOCATE, HELPING TO CHANGE ATTITUDES TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN UGANDA THROUGH SPLASH DANCE COMPANY

Today I wish to share a message of encouragement with you from the Bible. In Psalm 16:8 it is written, “I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.” This is indeed a time where we are shaken but let us remember that we will not be overcome.

I also wanted to share the image above of the vibrant tree (created by Emma Lou from my church) bending in the wind but not breaking. The image of the tree is a powerful image that speaks of lasting hope when all around is darkness. Let us remember the light we have within that continues to glimmer boldly despite everything.

There is so much information about washing hands, which is imperative at this time, but let us also remember to creatively use our hands to bless others from afar. In 1 Corinthians 4:12 it is written, “We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it.” How can we use our hands today to share, care and bring a little love? You might be the only person who reaches out to someone who needs it today. We will get through this and we will get through it better together.

Pray for Helen as she seeks to use her hands to bless others.

29 JUNE - 3 JULY 2020

MON – SPAIN/MIDDLE EAST

A mission partner couple are praising God for the safe arrival of their third child at the end of last year and are now settling into life as a family of five. Pray that they will learn to shine Jesus’ light in new ways.

TUES – ISRAEL

Local partner Oleg Kligman, director of the Beer Sheva Rehabilitation Center, lives with and is available to his 14 rehabilitants 24/7. Praise God that he is changing the lives of these 14 men; pray for Oleg as he spends more time than ever at the rehab centre due to coronavirus restrictions.

WEDS – NETHERLANDS

Berdine van den Toren Lekkerkerker, who resources others for a life of mission through teaching, asks for prayer for the Anglican University of Congo’s house of prayer, a place of healing prayer. Pray for God to continue to pour out his healing even while the building is closed.

THURS – NORTH AFRICA

M and T ask for prayer to be people of faith who stir faith and hope among those in their circles of influence during a time of fear. Pray for them as they continue their work of preparing and supporting mission workers to serve in challenging contexts in North Africa.

FRI – JERUSALEM

Local partner Rami Fellemon, part of a dedicated team who walk alongside people on their faith journey, is very busy during lockdown, engaging with people through social media and answering questions about Jesus. Pray for Rami to have the right words to say to each person he encounters.

WEEKEND FOCUS

SATURDAY–SUNDAY 4–5 JULY

WHEN THE DOORWAY BECOMES A TUNNEL

BY PHIL AND SYLVIE GOOD, WORKING AMONG REFUGEES ALONGSIDE CHURCHES IN BEIRUT

Refugees usually see their current situation as temporary; they are on their way to a better future. It is like being in a doorway between past and future, but

over time the doorway becomes a tunnel. Most of our friends have been in this tunnel for four years or more, and in that time they have had to make a life in the tunnel.

Civil unrest and economic collapse seem to fill the news every day, putting us all in a tunnel with the bright future receding as the difficulties get bigger and the possible solutions diminish. Coronavirus has now been added to the load we must carry as if there weren't enough uncertainties to live with.

We are all living in uncertain times and despite the continual economic, technical and medical advances we have seen, it seems we have as much need of security as we ever did. We find ourselves praying to connect with the faithful God whose love is certain and where we find a security that is better than anything the world can offer. We need this security as we face the uncertain future because our job here is to testify to the people around us that our God is big enough and strong enough for them too.

Pray for continued opportunities for Phil and Sylvie to testify to those around them that God is with us and cares for us through times of great trial.

6-10 JULY 2020

MON – HONDURAS

The coronavirus lockdown made Steve Poulson's work of mentoring at-risk boys extremely challenging; pray for Steve and other mentors to find ways to continue to encourage and guide those they mentor through this time.

TUES – CHILE

Alf and Hilary Cooper are in Santiago, where Alf is auxiliary bishop and rector of Trinity Parish Church. Pray for them as they continue church online and seek to be as effective as they can through virtual Bible study, Sunday services, prayer and helping those in need.

WEDS – ARGENTINA

Nick Drayson, diocesan bishop, and Catherine Le Tissier, who coordinates the work of the Argentine branch of Mothers' Union (AMARE), ask for prayer as AMARE focuses on families this year. Pray for families to understand and live out how God intended family units to love and support each other.

THURS – PARAGUAY

Engaged with indigenous communities in Paraguay through pastoral visiting, forming small groups and discipling people, local partner Victor Gonzalez writes that many people have experienced the power of prayer over the past few months. Pray for people to press in to the power of prayer even more.

FRI – PERU

Paul and Sarah Tester, serving in mission development and children's ministry respectively, seek to "consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10). Pray for Paul as he supports CMS's people in mission across Latin America, and for Sarah as she supports local friends.

WEEKEND FOCUS

SATURDAY–SUNDAY 11–12 JULY

GOOD SOIL, GIVING

BY IAN ADAMS, MISSION SPIRITUALITY ADVISER FOR CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

We continue to pray with Jesus' parable of the soils.

Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold... (Matthew 13:8)

You are not responsible for the crop or the harvest; but if you commit to truly receiving whatever you need to be good soil, then grain will, in God's grace, come. As you been receiving, so you will find yourself giving. New life will emerge where you are.

Risen Jesus,

As I receive from you, so I pray will you enable me to give something of your resurrection life to those to whom I am called.

Amen

13-17 JULY 2020

MON – ASIA

A couple fighting human trafficking in a number of ways write, "The longer we are in this work, the clearer it is that these activities are all linked to the highest levels of society. We need to pray for those in high positions to repent and submit to Jesus."

TUES – CAMBODIA

Chhinho Saing oversees 32 house churches throughout the country and asks for prayer for more churches to be planted in the northern part of Cambodia. Pray for the gospel to continue to work in people's lives.

WEDS – NEPAL

Andrea and Andrew Young provide vital pastoral care to United Mission to Nepal (UMN) in Kathmandu, Tansen and Okhaldhunga. Currently in the UK, Andrea and Andrew Young ask for prayer as they discover new ways of caring pastorally for those in UMN through challenging circumstances.

THURS – INDIA

Shirish Suresh Suryawanshi uses his skills as a pastor and teacher to proclaim Christ in various private and public sectors of India. Pray for Shirish's students to use this time to assimilate what they have learned so they are well prepared to go and share the gospel.

FRI – PHILIPPINES

Local partners Kats and Kumar Aryal teach, mentor and coach students at the International Graduate School (IGSL) of Leadership in Manila. Praise God for IGSL's singles' conference where many felt affirmed and encouraged for the first time in a culture where their singleness means they are often belittled and marginalised.

WEEKEND FOCUS

SATURDAY-SUNDAY 18-19 JULY
EVERLASTING ARMS

BY JASON AND TRACY DAY, WHO ARE BASED IN THAILAND AND SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH EVERYONE THEY MEET. JASON IS A PERSONNEL MANAGER SECONDED TO OMF, AND TRACY IS A CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER, HOUSEWIFE AND MUM

"The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deuteronomy 33:27).

Moses wrote these words looking back over 120 years of God's faithfulness, as he was pronouncing his final blessing on the Israelites. For the last 40 years he had led them out of Egypt, across the desert to reach the Promised Land. The people had failed many times, but God had not. In his struggles as a leader, Moses came to know God, both as a terrifying and awesome God, but also as a trustworthy friend. He knew that the compassionate, caring and always-near God was his refuge. God's arms were underneath, carrying him along.

These last four months we have faced a number of health related personal/family challenges. In 2020 there will likely be more challenges to come, relating to finances and work. In the UK, friends and family face challenges, as does the whole nation. As we each walk these journeys, let's remember: "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Pray for encouragement for Jason and Tracy and boldness as they live out this truth.

20-24 JULY 2020

MON – SPAIN

Felipe and Sarah Yanez, helping to run a food bank in Malaga, have been working extremely hard as lockdown caused loss of many jobs and so many more people need food parcels. Pray for Felipe and Sarah to be able to share Jesus' love with people during this difficult time.

TUES – NORTH AFRICA

H, who does discipleship training for North Africans, writes that he and his young family have their own living space for the first time since he and his wife got married. Praise God for his provision of a flat for six months, and pray for more long term stability.

WEDS – MIDDLE EAST

A couple involved in Bible translation write that most of their team have left their location. Pray for J and his team as they continue Bible translation via Skype and do an online Hebrew course. Pray for R as she does language study online.

THURS – SPAIN

Pray for God to reach the hearts of the Basque people, who local partner Daniel Scott is working among. Daniel has recently written a book which speaks about Jesus and shares biblical values in the Basque people's own language and style of poetry. Pray that it will be published soon.

FRI – UKRAINE

Alison Giblett leads the Genesis ministry, which helps people grappling with addictions to receive God's healing, shed destructive habits and learn to rely on God instead. Pray for Alison as she trains new facilitators and for the facilitators as they support recovering addicts remotely.

WEEKEND FOCUS

SATURDAY–SUNDAY 25–26 JULY

SEND US A PRAYER

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

27–31 JULY 2020

MON – ARGENTINA

Many Bible translation projects are being put on hold for the time being. David and Shelley Stokes, serving indigenous churches in the far north of the country, ask for prayer for the Lord to open up the way for what he wants to happen this year.

TUES – PARAGUAY

Bev Richardson is preparing to return to Paraguay where she supports a local church leadership team and teaches in the chapel and at Colegio San Andres (CSA) in Asuncion. Pray for God to give her wisdom in setting priorities once she is back in Asuncion.

WEDS – GUATEMALA

Please pray for Azaria Spencer, who recently started up a girls' group as part of her work with street children and young people at risk. Pray for God to continue to guide Azaria as she builds relationship and ministers to these girls.

THURS – BRAZIL

Daniel and Sarah Brito Medeiros have been praying for God to use lockdown to transform the Church. Pray that Daniel and Sarah, and the Church as a whole, are able to be honest with ourselves, repent where necessary and receive God's love and forgiveness. Pray for us all to emerge transformed by God's grace.

FRI – PARAGUAY

Tim Curtis, currently on home leave in the UK, works with church leaders in the Paraguayan Chaco region, developing study materials and promoting use of the Scriptures. Tim asks for prayer for the older indigenous people as water supplies become scarce during the winter and amid coughs, colds, flu and coronavirus.



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