

**CHURCH  
MISSION  
SOCIETY**

# Prayerlines

Dear praying friends,

I'm writing this message for our August–September issue of Prayerlines a few weeks ahead of publication. One thing we can be sure of is that the future is uncertain – we don't know what the world is going to look like in a few weeks' time. What will the daily coronavirus infection rate be in the UK and in other countries? When will we and our brothers and sisters all over the world come out of lockdown? And how will life be different as a result of the global pandemic?

One thing we do know that Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians, "if one part [of the body] suffers, every part suffers with it" (1 Cor. 12:26a NIV). And we know that, unjustly, the pandemic and economic fallout have impacted poorer members of the global community here

and overseas disproportionately. Earlier in that passage, in verse 13, Paul celebrates that, "we were all baptised by one Spirit... – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free"; regardless of our cultural and social differences. And we know that a vision of heaven in Revelation 7:9 is a "great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."

We are blessed to be part of a community that, however imperfectly, is praying for and working towards this.

Yours in Christ,

Alastair Bateman  
Chief Executive Officer

## WEEKEND FOCUS

**Saturday–Sunday 1–2 August**

### REIMAGINING THE NEW NORMAL

**ANDREW KHOO, VICE-CHAIR OF ASIA-CMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**During lockdown, many of us have wondered what the new normal will look like.**

Perhaps we first need to ask what the old normal was like for us. Was it perfect? If not, was it acceptable to us?

Perhaps we had carved out a "comfortable compromise" with everyday life which didn't impose too many challenges on us; an arrangement where we could get along without too many concerns.

Were we concerned about the refugees and undocumented migrant workers who inhabited the grey area of the informal economy, with its daily-rated and low-remunerated wage? Did we care about the poor and the marginalised; those who did not have enough to eat, and who are dependent, to a large extent, on some form of food support and supplement? Did we think about those on the front line? Not just medical workers, but those we relied upon to stock the shelves of the supermarkets and convenience stores; those preparing food for and delivering

our takeaways; those who kept our streets clean and collected our garbage, come rain, shine or disease?

Hospital cleaners suddenly became singularly important. The first became last, and the last was considered first. People who were often taken for granted suddenly served a critical need.

Will the new normal involve a permanent re-evaluation of people in these categories of work? Or, after a while, will we forget?

Will we allow the characteristics of the old normal – distance, disconnection, disenfranchisement, dislocation – to return? In both private faith and public fidelity to the gospel, will reimagining the future move us and those around us from emotional helplessness and emptiness to spiritual empowerment?

In the words of Archbishop Justin Welby, "Re-imagining enables re-evaluation of current societal challenges and the re-ordering of priorities for each stakeholder."

**Pray that** as the world transitions to a new normal, we will carry with us a new appreciation for those who are often considered last.

### 3 AUGUST (M) ETHIOPIA

Chris and Suzy Wilson, on the staff team at St Frumentius' Theological College in Gambella, write that earlier this year, Chris's New Testament ethics course highlighted to them how much progress those graduating this year have made and how capable they are. Pray for these students as they go out to lead churches in their communities and encounter

ethnic conflict, corruption and domestic violence.

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## 4 AUGUST (T) SUDAN

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Local partner Hassan James, assistant bishop of Kadugli diocese, has been giving weekly talks on the radio on how to be a peacemaker and build relationships transcending racial, ethnic and gender boundaries. Pray for more people to listen to the programme, take its message to heart and sow seeds of peace throughout the area.

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## 5 AUGUST (W) UGANDA

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Nicci Maxwell, providing paediatric and neonatal medical care at Potter's Village in Kisoro, is in lockdown in South Africa at the time of writing. Pray for the staff at Potter's Village as they deal with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic in the months to come, including increased levels of malnourishment due to widespread loss of income.

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## 6 AUGUST (TH) TANZANIA

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Praise God for the team of artisans at the Neema Crafts Centre in Iringa, who halted production of their normal popular craft items in order to make PPE to equip Tanzania's frontline workers. Ben and Katy Ray, directors of Neema Crafts and CMS mission partners, are proud of their team. Pray for Ben and Katy and the team as they don't know when tourists will return to Neema's café and guesthouse.

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## 7 AUGUST (F) UGANDA

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Tom and Verity Clare praise God for their timely arrival in Uganda just before lockdown. Tom (a GP working in the health department of Madi and West Nile Diocese) and Verity (homeschooling the children) ask for prayer for them and their four sons to shine God's light as they live among the people of Arua and learn from them.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 8–9 August

## SOUR-SWEET DAYS

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BY DEREK AND JANE WALLER, MAKING DISCIPLES IN  
TOLIARA, MADAGASCAR

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**"All my sour-sweet days/I will lament, and love." So ends George Herbert's poem Bitter-Sweet. These days feel more sour than sweet. We lament the human cost of the COVID-19 pandemic across the world including in Britain. In our impotence we watch and wait and lift those affected to the Lord.**

Curiously in these difficult days, we relish the sweetness that in more normal times we take for granted. The sweetness of a daily morning walk together. Soon after sunrise, we leave our compound and head into the sun. At once we are in the countryside and the freedom of open spaces. We admire the light on the distant hills and are fascinated by the strange trees adapted for our semi-arid climate. We pass at a respectful distance a few children on their way to school and even the odd ox-cart goes by – almost unchanged for centuries. It's a start to the day to savour. And these days of restricted movement and reduced activity have given us the opportunity to spend more time with those living close by.

Herbert's poem concludes, "I will lament, and love." What can we do to show our love for people here? How can lament overflow into love? The little opportunities we have during this time seem a long way from our programme of travelling to each parish to train leaders of discipleship groups. But we bring them before the Lord. We encourage you to do the same. Life is tough. But there is sweetness alongside the sour, and there are opportunities for love alongside lament.

Derek and Jane have since had to return to the UK due to the pandemic. **Pray for** Rev Florent as he continues their discipleship work in Toliara, and for Derek and Jane as they work out their next steps.

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## 10 AUGUST (M) BRAZIL

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After seven years of serving at Christ Church in Rio de Janeiro, Jess and Mark Simpson returned to the UK earlier this year and are preparing to join the staff team of a church plant in Cardiff. Pray for them as they settle into a new life in the UK, and for God to raise up the right people to carry on the work they were doing back in Rio.

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## 11 AUGUST (T) ECUADOR

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Sharon Wilcox, who offers life skills teaching for young people with disabilities, asks for prayer that people in Ecuador, especially her students, will be able to cope with the latest phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that their families will have sufficient means to support themselves.

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## 12 AUGUST (W) BRAZIL

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Evaldo and Rebecca Reid Rodrigues have been building relationships with the V8 community on the outskirts of Olinda and are now in contact with 50 different families,

whom they have supported during the pandemic. Pray for Evaldo and Rebecca to continue being a light in the city as they serve the V8 community.

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## 13 AUGUST (TH) BOLIVIA

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Praise God for the opportunities he has opened up for mission partners Andrew and Lisa Peart and their daughters to serve in new ways during the pandemic through baking bread for their neighbours. Pray for relationships built during this time to grow as a result of Andrew, Lisa and the girls' loving hard work, and that they will be able to develop their work of seeing people flourish and furthering God's kingdom in this community.

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## 14 AUGUST (F) BRAZIL

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Jimmy and Katia Rocks, sharing Jesus with others and church planting in Florianopolis, write that they have been coping well with lockdown as a family, adapting to online church and getting involved in running a church foodbank, taking regular exercise and making sure the children's schoolwork gets done. They ask for prayer for the church to come out of this time strengthened in their faith and eager to make the most of their time to reach those around them with the good news of Jesus.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 15–16 August

## WHEAT AND WEEDS

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BY IAN ADAMS, MISSION SPIRITUALITY ADVISER

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In this edition of Prayerlines we continue to focus on Jesus' parables in Matthew 13. Here we pray with the wheat and the weeds.

*And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" (Matthew 13:27 NRSV)*

As you pray, you might like to hold some mixed seeds in your hand. Allow this experience to open up the wheat and the weeds present in your life. Where did they each come from? What are they producing in you? What, in God's grace, will endure?

Gracious God  
Thank you for the good seeds of my life.  
Help me to be patient with the weeds.  
I choose to trust in your good harvest.  
Amen

Email: [ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org)

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## 17 AUGUST (M) NORTH AFRICA

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New mission partners M and H are preparing to return to their post in North Africa where M leads trekking groups and disciples local Christians while H homeschools their children, teaches first aid and shares God's love with women in their town. They ask for prayer to know how to bless their friends in North Africa in the aftermath of the pandemic.

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## 18 AUGUST (T) SPAIN

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Local partner Daniel Scott is building relationships and church planting in the Basque Country. He writes that in June, the community held their first baptism. Praise God for this milestone and pray that God will continue to work in the hearts of the Basque people. Daniel also asks for prayer for a venue for the church to meet together in town.

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## 19 AUGUST (W) MIDDLE EAST

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Earlier this year, new mission partner Ultan began a role in advocacy and development with Middle East Concern. He writes, "Please pray that Middle Eastern Christians' steadfast faith in the face of adversity will be of positive witness to others and that the Body of Christ will thrive across the Middle East region."

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## 20 AUGUST (TH) LEBANON

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Mission partners Audrey and Colin Gibson work with a Lebanese NGO that has a number of educational ministries. They write that the COVID-19 pandemic, which came on top of an ongoing economic crisis, continues to affect many aspects of life in Lebanon. Pray for the Lebanese people as they navigate a return to normal life.

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## 21 AUGUST (F) MIDDLE EAST

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Mission partner R, serving a family of four churches in a city in the Middle East, writes that her language lessons have become easier and more enjoyable. Pray for her to continue to make good progress with the language and for her language teachers to come to know Jesus.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 22–23 August

## BLOSSOMING OF PEACE

**BY ANNE PLESTED, TEACHING ENGLISH AND SUPPORTING THE TEAM AT BETHLEHEM BIBLE COLLEGE**

*He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain – first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."*

*Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." (Mark 4:26–32 NIV)*

The grain – so small and seemingly insignificant. The small seed that sprouts and grows – regardless of whether the man who planted it wakes or sleeps. It is not the grand gesture that bears fruit – but the planting and growth of a small seed. The amazing thing is that this happens (out of sight, underground) regardless of what the man does. He has played his part – the rest is up to our Creator.

Seeds are being sown here in this Land. I see hope in the little things – in the little happenings – going on at the grass roots among people and communities, in the hearts of good people who just want a life with true peace, in those who resolve to love. Of course, the "little" things in worldly terms are often the "big" things in the Kingdom of God.

This may not have international acclaim, but this is the place where reconciliation, healing and a change of heart can happen. Seeds sown and watered by prayer. Change, like growth, comes from the roots. This is what Jesus tells us about the Kingdom – and I like to hold on to Jesus' image of what the Kingdom is like. We can all have a role in building the Kingdom.

**Pray for** the peacemakers and those who seek peace, justice and equal rights in the Holy Land. Pray for a blossoming of peace in this place.

### 24 AUGUST (M) SOUTH ASIA

E is working in theological education and R is working with the local church in South Asia. Praise God that they have been able to help their church keep meeting together during lockdown through Zoom, doing sermons as well as putting together contributions from multiple church members. Pray for God to use the time the church has had in lockdown for his glory.

### 25 AUGUST (T) TAIWAN

Catherine Lee, supporting the church, chaplaincy and

kindergarten ministry of the Diocese of Taiwan, gives thanks to God for the faithful and loving support of all her UK link churches throughout the coronavirus crisis. Pray for churches in Taiwan, the UK and all over the world to sense more and more the global nature of mission and the opportunities for witness via online worship and prayer.

### 26 AUGUST (W) SRI LANKA

Local partner Russell de Alwis writes that earlier this year, Christian community development organisation LEADS ran a three-day child protection training programme for Sunday school teachers, which ultimately led to one of the teachers uncovering sexual abuse of a 15-year-old girl by her boyfriend, then informing authorities and helping the victim to access support. Pray for Russell's work of building the capacity of stakeholders to ensure child protection to lead to more freedom from abuse.

### 27 AUGUST (TH) SOUTH EAST ASIA

Mission partners B and M, working in education and church ministry, ask for prayer for their country during the current rainy season, which brings with it dengue fever and flooding. Pray for protection from natural disasters and disease, and for God to provide what people need when they need it.

### 28 AUGUST (F) MALAYSIA

Kate and Tim Lee are based in Kuala Lumpur, where Kate teaches at a local international school while Tim supports Asia-CMS and continues to nurture Jigsaw Kids Ministries in the Philippines. Please pray for Kate, Tim and their three children's physical, mental, and spiritual health and for guidance in the coming months.

## WEEKEND FOCUS

**Saturday–Sunday 29–30 August**

### WE CAN PRAY WITH HOPE

**BY JASON AND TRACY DAY, SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH EVERYONE THEY MEET THROUGH THEIR ROLES AS OMF PERSONNEL MANAGER (JASON) AND CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER (TRACY) IN CHIANG MAI, THAILAND**

**Recently, our language helper Maat's dad suddenly**

**arrived on her doorstep needing help as he was seriously ill. Maat writes: "Since 2011 when I became a Christian, my life has changed.** The first thing I prayed for was my whole family will be saved and know God's love one day. My father was the one who I continued to pray for. I always thought he would be the difficult person to become a Christian because I remembered he said to me: 'You were born to be Thai and you were born to be Buddhist'. But God can make everything possible!

"Nine years later, my dad welcomed Christ into his life with me during his crisis time. My dad had been very sick with HIV stage 2 for many years. He always kept his disease a secret and never let anyone know because he was afraid all of us will be ashamed and not accept him. Sam (my brother) and I took him to the hospital and found out about it. We were shocked but accepted what was happening. We told him that we will walk side by side with him and that he doesn't have to be afraid because God will look after all of us. For almost six months, we took him in and out of the hospital for treatment. The seed of God grew in his life. He asked God to heal him. He asked for God not to abandon him and to be with him all the time in his suffering. I can say strongly that my life has been healed with my dad as well."

Although Maat's father died, she continues, "Without God's grace, I could not imagine that we could pass through this suffering time. I strongly believe that my dad is now with God and God has welcomed my dad home. These are my last words with my dad: 'Daddy, I will see you again for sure in the heaven. If you hear God calling you home, please go. I love you. Until we see one another again.'

"I am still grieving for my dad but I want to bear witness that the most beautiful gift and treasure my dad has left for me is that he came to know Christ."

It is indeed a beautiful story that gives us all hope for those suffering and ill in the world. It has been a deeply painful and distressing time for Maat and her brother, but she is now back at work, able to smile and to share God's love with all she comes into contact with.

**Praise God** that we can pray with hope, recognising the devastation in the world, but knowing that Jesus suffers with each person as he holds out salvation to each one. Pray for Maat as well as Jason and Tracy as they continue to share Jesus with others.

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## 31 AUGUST (M) LEEDS

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Awais Mughal asks for prayer for all the people in the Seacroft parish, especially for comfort and strength for those who have lost loved ones, people who are lonely and disabled, and her family. Pray for Awais's English language class, for them to continue making progress despite not having been able to meet as a class during lockdown.

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## 1 SEPTEMBER (T) OXFORD

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Pray for wisdom and clear guidance as CMS leadership, staff

and trustees work together to discern where God is leading CMS in the future, as we clarify our vision and move forward with greater purpose.

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## 2 SEPTEMBER (W) SOUTHALL

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Director of theology for the global Christian environmental organisation A Rocha International, Dave Bookless, continues his work as part-time vicar of St Mary's Norwood Green. Dave writes that online church has produced a profound depth of spiritual engagement and pastoral concern as well as brought newcomers. Pray for these changes to be the start of a new season for St Mary's.

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## 3 SEPTEMBER (TH) GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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Pioneer Natalie Burfitt works in a new housing development in Gloucestershire on behalf of a developing diocesan project that uses sport to connect with children, families and young people. Pray for the contacts and relationships Natalie has made to grow in trust and mutuality, despite very limited contact over the past few months.

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## 4 SEPTEMBER (F) HULL

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Anna and Chris Hembury, sharing life with those on the margins in Hull, ask for prayer for their friend Louise. Louise, who was agoraphobic for a long time, had become a regular at community sewing collective Orts and Tuesday meals before lockdown cut her off from the connection she had worked so hard for. Please pray that the risen Jesus she wants to follow will find her, whether she is able to leave her house or not.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 5–6 September

## THE JESUS NUT

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**BY ANNA AND CHRIS HEMBURY, SHARING LIFE WITH THOSE ON THE MARGINS IN HULL**

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**We have been used to being givers and bringers of hope, the hope we have in Jesus. We have at times been innovative and ingenious in the ways we have gone about sharing our faith. That said, we have at times struggled to help people to connect.**

We are on a journey into the great unknown, but known

by Jesus. We are discovering how to engage; on the flip side one of the hardest tasks over the past few months has been discovering that it may be difficult to engage and being okay with that.

Like most people across the world we have had to deconstruct the way we live our lives. These are uncertain, unsettling times. Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is required.

During the Vietnam War, with so many helicopters in action, the nut which holds the rotor-blades in place gained the nickname “the Jesus nut”. There are no accounts of this nut ever failing. In recent years the term has become more generically applied throughout engineering (and many other occupations, from rock climbing to skyrise window cleaning!) to include any single component whose failure would cause catastrophic failure of the entire system. These components, having the most important role to play, have regular and rigorous checks.

It’s time to check our Jesus nut is on tight.

**Pray for** Anna and Chris as they deconstruct, examine and reconstruct, and encourage others to do the same.

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## 7 SEPTEMBER (M) SOUTH SUDAN

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Towards the end of last year, Lynn Treneary helped set up home groups throughout Maridi diocese as part of her role of encouraging and strengthening people in their faith and teaching English at Chaima Christian Institute. Pray for local Christians to grow in friendship and faith through these groups.

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## 8 SEPTEMBER (T) DR CONGO

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Patricia and Peter Wyard have had to return to the UK as a result of the pandemic. Patricia is a palliative care doctor teaching and supporting medical staff. Peter teaches students preparing for ministry and offers training in Aru diocese. Pray for Peter and his students; Peter had spent a long time preparing to teach his latest course, and lockdown has meant having to adapt his teaching and create written and video content rather than teaching in person as planned.

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## 9 SEPTEMBER (W) SOUTH SUDAN

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Local partner Samuel Malish, serving God through children’s ministry with the mission agency ACROSS, has recently been able to help provide digital audio players to families in refugee camps, which include biblical teaching for children. Pray for God to reach these children through this teaching, for them to understand the gospel and begin a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

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## 10 SEPTEMBER (TH) TANZANIA

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Mission partner Heather Johnstone, who works to empower the most disadvantaged women and children in Mara through the Rehema Project, asks for prayer for all the Rehema women, that God will enable them to be resourceful in providing for themselves and their families.

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## 11 SEPTEMBER (F) RWANDA

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Catriona and Steve Bennett, both working at Gahini Hospital, write, “Steve continued to lead the English-speaking service at the cathedral pretty much solo for the two months before schools and churches were closed and felt a good connection with some of the students there. Pray for wisdom regarding the continuation and form of this service.”

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 12–13 September

## SMALLEST OF SEEDS

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BY IAN ADAMS, MISSION SPIRITUALITY ADVISER

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**We continue to focus on Jesus’ parables in Matthew 13. Here we pray with the smallest of seeds.**

*It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches. (Matthew 13:32a NRSV)*

You might like to pray with some seeds in your hand. What might be the small seeds that you are sowing – or could sow – at this time? What might the tree look like? Who will be the birds making nests in the branches?

Gracious God,

Thank you for the seeds that you are giving me to sow. Help me to sow lovingly with intention, in faith.

Amen

Email: [ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org)

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## 14 SEPTEMBER (M) PERU

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Anna Sims has continued to lead prison ministry throughout

the pandemic, despite visiting being much more limited than usual. Please pray that both she and the inmates she has invested so much time and prayer in continue to grow in their relationships with God, depending on him to meet their needs and trusting him in the uncertainty. Please pray for wisdom for those making decisions regarding running the prison service.



## 15 SEPTEMBER (T) HONDURAS

Steve Poulson asks for prayer for Proyecto Alas, one of the mentoring projects he oversees. Street Kids Direct is looking for a full-time coordinator for the project who can eventually become director of Proyecto Alas. Pray for the right person for that role; someone who really has a heart for street kids and the skills to manage such a project.



## 16 SEPTEMBER (W) PERU

Pat Blanchard is leader of Shalom church and director of Shalom Rehabilitation Centre for children and adults with disabilities. This year began with a lament for the death of Rev Luis Villalobos, one of the local Anglican pastors, and this was of course followed by the pandemic. Pat asks for prayer for Luis' wife Teofila and a group of emerging leaders who have stepped up to lead the church.



## 17 SEPTEMBER (TH) BRAZIL

Andy and Rose Roberts founded ReVive, a charity dedicated to restoring lives and renewing hope for abused and exploited girls in Olinda. They write that one of the girls in their safe house is going through the adoption process with a local family. Pray for this to be her forever family. Pray for more families, especially within the church, to catch the vision for adoption and be moved to adopt a child themselves.



## 18 SEPTEMBER (F) ARGENTINA

Andrew and Maria Leake share the happy news that indigenous groups have won a human rights case that has been going on for more than 30 years. Pray that this marks the beginning of a season of wrongs being righted for the indigenous people of Argentina.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 19–20 September

## SLOW-GROWING FRUIT



**BY ANDREW AND MARIA LEAKE, ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE FOR MARGINALISED INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICTS IN ARGENTINA**

**For those whose missional calling is to Bible translation and environmental advocacy and action, results only become clear over long periods of time. If we just look at what we have done recently, especially bearing in mind recent travel restrictions, it would be easy to despair.**

We get the sense we are doing nothing. Yet, looking back over 30 years of service, first with Tearfund, then SAMS, CMS, and more recently Compassion International, it is abundantly clear that the fruits of our service, combined with that of many other people and organisations, tend to come over the long haul.

With Tearfund, we spent four years in Honduras. Our mission was to establish and develop a programme that would enable indigenous communities to secure legal rights to their ancestral lands and forests. We did what we could, but no land titles had been acquired by the time we left. Unbeknown to us, and some 23 years later, those claims we helped start resulted in the Honduran state ceding communal land titles to more than 10,000 square kilometres of jungle-covered territory in the region of La Moskitia. Some of our work even contributed to the creation of the Patuca National Park (3700 km<sup>2</sup>), something we did not consider even in our wildest dreams at the time!

A similar pattern has just occurred in Argentina. A struggle for indigenous land rights is only now yielding results after more than fifty years. This process, which began with initial land surveys conducted by SAMS mission partners Bishop Pat Harris and Kevin Bewley and was often led by Anglican missionaries, has just recently yielded a high profile ruling by the Inter American Court of Human Rights. This puts significant pressure on the Argentine state to provide not only land titles but also ensure the ecological restitution of forests degraded by cattle and illegal lumber extraction.

Bible translation is another of those tasks that requires a commitment to the long term. Andrew's grandfather started to translate portions of the Bible into Toba back in the late 1930s. Here again, these efforts, with support from SAMS and CMS, have yielded significant fruits only after decades of effort. The New Testament has been translated into Toba and Chorote, and the whole Bible into Wichi. Interestingly, the work around these tasks, which in the case of the Toba translation of the Old Testament are still ongoing, has also served to strengthen the recognition of indigenous languages and cultural identity within national society.

**Praise God** for Andrew and Maria's work in this vital area and pray for others like Andrew and Maria to continue to invest in this Kingdom work, despite not seeing results immediately.



## 21 SEPTEMBER (M) PLYMOUTH

Mission partner Ruth Sayers is involved in running a work club that helps unemployed people get back into work. During lockdown, many unemployed people in the area have been unable to claim benefits as libraries have been closed, cutting off their internet access. Anticipating greater need going forward, please pray that things will fall into place for the work club to open for an additional day per week.



## 22 SEPTEMBER (T) UK

Praise God for the way link churches across the UK have been supporting CMS people in mission around the world in new and creative ways during the pandemic. Pray for encouragement and inspiration for churches as they continue to support people in mission as everyone's circumstances keep changing.



## 23 SEPTEMBER (W) OXFORD

Praise God for the CMS international mission team, who have been working hard to support our people in mission during the pandemic through last-minute travel arrangements, prayer, and support via Zoom, phone, Skype and email. Pray for each member of this team to find the rest they need.



## 24 SEPTEMBER (TH) KINGSTON

Mission partner Andrea Campanale is part of the CMS pioneer teaching team and connects with people who would describe themselves as "spiritual" rather than "religious". Pray for Andrea as she develops and promotes online initiatives that have come out of lockdown, including reflective videos to help people connect with God through prayer and movement.



## 25 SEPTEMBER (F) OXFORD

Pray for the CMS communications team; for good internal communication and high morale as they work together to inform and inspire Christians in the UK about what God is doing through CMS people in mission.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 26–27 September

## 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](mailto:info@churchmissionsociety.org)



## 28 SEPTEMBER (M) SOUTH ASIA

Mission partner F, a theological education consultant, reports an excellent annual conference for theological educators was held earlier this year, with 60 participants from 25 institutions or organisations. Following stimulating input on creative teaching strategies, F asks for prayer for the faculty who attended to introduce more creative methods in their teaching.



## 29 September (T) INDIA

Praise God for Asia-CMS's recent partnership with the organisation Sahayak to get food parcels to 100 migrant labourer families in need during lockdown in India. Pray for Asia-CMS as they seek to respond to the needs they see in their region, whether through food parcels, theological training or caring for abused children among so many other activities.



## 30 SEPTEMBER (W) SOUTH ASIA

While her husband H works in finance and fundraising for a large hospital, D has continued with the work of opening up new ways of communicating for those who cannot speak. D and H ask for prayer for the speech therapists working on this research and for prayer for a good way to collect the data they need.



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