

**CHURCH  
MISSION  
SOCIETY**

# Prayerlines

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## Th 1 OCT // SOUTH ASIA

This year, B and K moved to a new area and settled into new roles related to fighting human trafficking, before turning their focus to food relief after the pandemic hit their country. Pray as God takes them in new directions and they continue to adapt.

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## F 2 OCT // NEPAL

Andrea and Andrew Young have continued to offer pastoral care to United Mission to Nepal from the UK during lockdown, including developing a UMN staff care group. Pray for them as they prepare a group of Nepali staff to become “listeners” to staff who are going through difficulties.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 3–4 October

## HEAVENLY RIVER

By Ian Adams, mission spirituality adviser for Church Mission Society

As we focus on imagination and mission in this issue of The Call we pray this weekend with a line from the canticle Song of the Heavenly City (based on Revelation 21–22).

*I saw the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

Take some prayerful time outside in your city, town or village. Reflect on how you see this place. Look for signs of the heavenly river that is already running through this place, bringing life and restoration.

*Gracious God*

*Help me to see this place with renewed love; and when I see the “river of the water of life” give me imagination and courage to enter its flow.*

*Amen.*

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## M 5 OCT // GUATEMALA

Mark and Rosalie Balfour provide pastoral support for Street Kids Direct workers in Central America. They ask for prayer to know how best to support and love friends and church family who have lost loved ones as a result of the virus.

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## T 6 OCT // CHILE

Local partner Gabriel Parra, church planting in Playa Ancha, Valparaiso, asks for prayer for the church missionary communities to continue to be active, fervent and winsome. Pray for more people to join these communities and for them to become a firm base for planting churches.

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## W 7 OCT // BRAZIL

Pray for God to continue to use Daniel and Sarah Brito Medeiros to build friendships among local church leaders as part of their calling to minister to local children who have suffered trauma and abuse. Pray for God to use friendships to open doors into churches so Daniel can advocate for adoption of children into loving families.

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## Th 8 OCT // SPAIN

Latin American local partner Noel Diaz is pastor of a small congregation in Zaragoza. Earlier this year, Noel and his team started sharing daily audio devotionals through WhatsApp and email, and hundreds of people have signed up. Pray for God to meet powerfully with each person listening to these audio devotionals.

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## F 9 OCT // PERU

Paul and Sarah Tester, leading the development of CMS's work in Latin America, ask for prayer for the building of community among CMS people in mission in the region and for continued sensitivity to the Spirit's leading in the shaping of CMS's mission in and from Latin America.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 10–11 October

## GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT

By Nick Drayson and Catherine Le Tissier, currently in the UK. As diocesan bishop, Nick oversees 150 churches in Northern Argentina, while Catherine coordinates the Mothers' Union in the Province of South America.

**We read in the Bible that St Paul had a pretty scary life: shipwrecks, stonings, persecutions (2 Corinthians 11:26–28), and the like, but his faith in his loving God was such that he was able to say, in Philippians 4:11, “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.” Now that is quite something!**

We are all learning to be content, and for sure, it is a lot easier for us right now than for many others! For us it is, in a way, a time of “plenty”, of reuniting with our family and friends, and enjoying being in England. We are grateful for the little things and trying not to get stressed over what we can't control.

The weeks and months are passing by, and we can't help but remember that for “everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”.

So we will make the most of this season, grateful for this time, mindful of those who are suffering, and relying on God's purposes. “For godliness with contentment is great gain.” (1 Timothy 6:6).

**Pray for** the many near and far who are learning to be content in a wide variety of circumstances.

## M 12 OCT // KENYA

Local partner Kenneth Ambani Buluku had to stop theology evening classes for lay pastors as a result of the pandemic. Pray for Kenneth as he explores the practicalities of moving training online to help more church leaders transform their communities for the glory of God.

## T 13 OCT // UGANDA

Tom and Verity Clare write that they are learning of a great deal of brokenness, family breakdown and addiction in Arua. Pray for Tom, a GP, as he takes part in the community's fight against gender-based violence, and for Verity as she looks after their four sons.

## W 14 OCT // SOUTH AFRICA

Based at George Whitefield College in South Africa, Dick and Caroline Seed provide training and curriculum consultation for Anglican theological institutions across Africa and beyond. Having run training online during the pandemic, pray that courses will be able to run in person in 2021.

## Th 15 OCT // DR CONGO

Jeff Sikabwe, local partner in Kinshasa, writes that CMS-Africa's training is yielding life-changing results. Following a CMS-Africa course, a local man started raising chickens and growing vegetables, which helped his family survive during lockdown food shortages. Pray for this training to change more lives.

## F 16 OCT // UGANDA

Helen Kisakye, dance advocate, focuses on changing attitudes towards people with disabilities and now also teaching children about their rights through dance via video tutorials. Pray children will have fun as well as take away important lessons.4

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 17–18 October

## DOUBLE THINKING

By Malcolm Pritchard, serving at Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College in Gulu, northern Uganda

Double thinking is critical to glimpsing Africa. Thinking once, I'm grateful for the new fence around campus. Thinking twice, the land survey says the actual boundary is 150m beyond the fence.

We know that when aid is “given” there are hidden agendas for donor and recipient. Typically, aid reaches those it is meant to relieve but a little. Throw in some famine, floods, locusts, diseases, corruption, violence and a handful of bad “isms” and Africa is the worst place on earth. But of course it is not. Good news doesn't sell so well.

There are young people in Gulu praying for the nation every day – or every night. They add members to a cell group chat and it's a prayer meeting just as many of us are having via Zoom. The daily allowance starts at midnight.

That's when they begin to pray. The sad stories are never the whole story.

Thinking about such stories against the background of all that's going on, I think about Jesus, who had time for each person but also challenged the wider system, the world's way of organising things. In many countries not only are personal stories being told but background injustices are also being exposed. To follow Jesus means not only thinking about each person's story, but working to see the Kingdom of God put things right, on earth as it is in heaven. And that is always cruciform in shape.

**Pray wisdom for** Malcolm and willingness for the Church to challenge worldly systems, to work for the Kingdom as well as for each precious person.

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### M 19 OCT // BRISTOL

Pioneer James Fox-Robinson is developing an app to help self-supporting people (such as people in mission) fundraise and communicate better. Pray for this app as it goes through coding, design and testing, and for it to make a real difference to people in mission.

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### T 20 OCT // SOUTHALL

Kailean and Kim Khongsai, working in creation care, are struggling to find enough volunteers due to the pandemic having caused fear and anxiety. Pray for courage and wisdom as Kailean and Kim navigate and explore new ways of working within A Rocha and the local community.

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### W 21 OCT // AFRICA/UK

"Following a challenging health year, I have been experiencing complications and a couple of falls. Please pray for my health and mending bones and confidences alike following recent new diagnoses and complications," writes mission partner Ann-Marie Wilson, working to end female genital mutilation (FGM) in Africa.

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### Th 22 OCT // CORNWALL

Pray for Festo and Grace Kanungha. Grace is currently in Cornwall while Festo is in Tanzania awaiting a visa. Pray for Festo's visa to be granted and for their children as they settle into a new school in Cornwall.

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### F 23 OCT // POOLE

Pioneer Rachel Dismorr, an outreach pastor, asks for prayer for those who attended her church's online Alpha Course to feel at home in the church community, to form good friendships and continue to grow in faith.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 24–25 October

## MAKING THE CRITICAL DIFFERENCE

By Paul Bradbury, pioneer hub coordinator at CMS

I wonder if coronavirus might tip the Church into a new structure and a new way of operating. In the context of the Church already struggling with issues of decline and sustainability, already under pressure and in disequilibrium, COVID-19 may well be the event that makes the critical difference.

If this is the case, I think we need to ask: What are faithful ways of being church that may well be more suited to the world that is to come? Has the age of digital church arrived? Will church affiliation be more blended than exclusive, a mix of digital and local, gathered congregation and neighbourhood presence?

The idea is to open up a conversation in which the creative presence of the Holy Spirit can be listened to. It is in the conversations and flows of relationships within the Church where the Holy Spirit mediates the presence of God and invites the Church further on in her journey. It is in the threshold places that the Holy Spirit so often speaks and shapes the future. Are we listening with ears to hear where the Spirit is leading?

**Pray for** the Church to tune in to what the Spirit is saying and be willing to humbly reevaluate methods and formats.

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### M 26 OCT // SOUTH ASIA

After seven and a half years working in South Asia as a primary school teacher and helping to train other teachers, mission partner R has retired and returned to the UK to live. Pray for her as she settles into church and community and begins this next chapter of her life.

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### T 27 OCT // THAILAND

Mission partners Jason and Tracy Day ask us to pray that in this time of economic instability and hardship, children would not be sold into the sex trade and young men and women would not turn to working the streets for money.



## W 28 OCT // SOUTH EAST ASIA

Working in South East Asia in education and church ministry, B and M are in the UK at present and are planning to return to South East Asia next month. Pray for wisdom as they consider the timing of their return and plan the next few months.



## Th 29 OCT // PHILIPPINES

Pray for inspiration and wisdom for Eric and Sandra Read and local churches as they look beyond food aid and seek to help people get back on their feet. Pray for churches to begin to share Eric and Sandra's vision for holistic mission through practising it during this difficult time.



## F 30 OCT // THAILAND

Pray for local partner Helen Avadiar as she disciples and equips believers in underground churches and unreached people groups in Asia. Pray for God to lead her to make the right connections and find the key people God wants her to invest in.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 31 Oct–1 Nov

## CONSTANT REASSURANCE AND CONSTANT LOVE



**By A and L, leading a Celebrate Recovery group and working in special educational needs provision respectively in South East Asia**

Lockdown hasn't been easy but we know we are blessed more than most here. We are fortunate enough to live in a very quiet part of the city where we can take the boys out for walks with little to no traffic (essential in a country without pavements). While it has been incredibly hard having three small children stuck in the house for so long, it has been wonderful to get to know our kids on a deeper level.

In May, our third son was born. This pregnancy had been more of a rollercoaster than we expected, but once again God's blessings shone through. In this pregnancy and time, God has shown that none is like him. From our very first scan there was the potential for minor complications that could lead to us not only using a different hospital but having to give birth in another country. This pushed us towards God in ways that little has before. Through constant prayer and listening we felt God's comfort and reassurance that all

would be okay, and it was. We had an incredibly smooth birth at the same hospital where our first two were born.

God doesn't promise that everything will be easy but he does promise to always be here for us and that message has been repeated to us over and over in recent months. Constant reassurance and constant love.

**Praise God** for his faithfulness to A and L through this difficult time. Pray for difficulties to always push them towards God.



## M 2 NOV // MIDDLE EAST

Mission partners J and R write that J's Old Testament translation work continues remotely, and that both J and R are doing language study online. Pray for good progress with the translation, that J will still find some time for language study and for R to progress with her studies.



## T 3 NOV // SPAIN

Felipe and Sarah Yanez's work with local food banks has become more important than ever during the pandemic, as so many in Spain are now unemployed. Pray for adequate provision for families in need, and for job creation to be a priority for the government.



## W 4 NOV // SPAIN/N AFRICA

M and T have had to adapt quickly this year as they couldn't run residential courses for workers in the nations of North Africa in the same way as before. Pray for wisdom as the situation keeps changing and they make decisions about staff and facilities.



## Th 5 NOV // MIDDLE EAST

Nabil and Sarah Shehadi, seconded to Alpha International, ask for prayer for Nabil and the Middle East team as they translate the various Alpha Course materials into Arabic and for Nabil as he trains churches online in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan to run them.



## F 6 NOV // UKRAINE

Local partner and church planter Valery Alymov writes that last winter's focus on discipling young people bore fruit earlier this year as they baptised five young people as part of a service in the forest by a small river this summer. Praise God for this growth and ask for more!

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 7–8 November

## HELLO DARKNESS MY OLD FRIEND

By Phil and Sylvie Good, working with refugees alongside churches in Beirut

I recently saw the heading Hello Darkness, which took me straight back to the first words of the Simon and Garfunkel song The Sound of Silence: “Hello darkness, my old friend/I’ve come to talk with you again...”

Here in Beirut we fear the darkness, not just because of our instinctive fear of the dark, nor because darkness reminds us we are alone. The darkness here reminds us that the paper castle we are living in is falling down around us and no one seems able to save it.

But when days are hard and conflict is all around, sometimes we long to return to our bed, pull up the covers and return to darkness. Our old friend where we can rest from the continual demands that surround us.

In the darkness there is a friend who is closer than a brother.

In the darkness, if we will allow,  
this friend can bring light.

Jesus comes in the darkness  
and scatters my fears.

Jesus is the light of the world;  
there is no darkness in him.

In my darkness I see my need for light, I see how inadequate  
is my own light.

In my darkness I discover how easy  
it is to accept the light of Jesus.

Hello darkness my old friend. For now I can see Jesus and  
receive his light.

**Pray for** Phil and Sylvie as they come alongside people who are still looking for Jesus in the dark.

## M 9 NOV // PARAGUAY

Bev Richardson, supporting a local church leadership team and teaching at Colegio San Andres in Asuncion, asks for prayer for the Anglican Church of South America. Pray for the church as leadership continues to transition to Latin Americans and for God’s vision for the bishops as they lead their dioceses.

## T 10 NOV // BRAZIL

Over the past few months, Agua Viva Anglican church in Recife has seen people returning who have been absent for a long time. Pray for local partner and rector Flavio Adair to lead the church in receiving new people, and for discernment and wisdom in this phase of revitalisation.

## W 11 NOV // ARGENTINA

After suspension of visits and training courses due to the pandemic, mission partners David and Shelley Stokes are now approaching their final months of service among mainly indigenous churches in northern Argentina. Pray for it to be possible to make necessary visits before they leave and for wisdom in timing.

## Th 12 NOV // URUGUAY

Pray for local partner Mechi Tarragona in her work of training and working with leaders and building community in Uruguay. Pray for her as she assembles a team of professionals who can together offer mental health workshops and one-on-one support to the community.

## F 13 NOV // GUATEMALA

“Praise God for his goodness, faithfulness, and constant presence,” writes Azaria Spencer, who works with street children and young people at risk through Street Kids Direct. Pray for Azaria as she spends time in the UK, visiting family, friends and churches from this month.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 14–15 November

## HEALING LEAVES

By Ian Adams, mission spirituality adviser for Church Mission Society

As we focus on imagination and mission in this issue of The Call we pray with another line from the canticle Song of the Heavenly City, based on Revelation 21–22.

*and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations...*

Look for opportunities to understand the nature of the

healing that is needed in the village, town or city in which you live. Reflect on how you might be called to be a leaf that brings healing.

*Healing God*

*Help me to recognise the healing that is needed here.*

*Give me to courage, as a leaf, to flourish – and perhaps to suffer –*

*so that, in the name of Jesus the Christ, healing may come. Amen.*

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## M 16 NOV // OXFORD

CMS pioneer student Sophia Popham is a daughter, mother, home educator, experimenter and vicar's wife. She asks for prayer as she and others develop the online church that has come into being because of coronavirus. Pray that they will be open and welcoming and offer a safe place.

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## T 17 NOV // DERBY

Out of her passion for Christian unity, CMS pioneer Liz Matthews has built Derby Christian Women's Network, a ministry for Christian women of all denominations, nationalities and backgrounds. Pray for wisdom and energy for the leadership team as they grow this ministry and its influence.

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## W 18 NOV // NORTH YORKSHIRE

"Pray for a greater openness for the new ways in which God is calling people from outside church traditions as well as from inside, to deeper relationships with himself and one another," pioneer student Tricia Frith writes. Pray for God to open up pioneering possibilities for Tricia and others in her rural community.

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## Th 19 NOV // OXFORD

Dave Cotterill, a CMS pioneer student, started a cafe social enterprise this summer, training young people to become baristas. Pray for God to work powerfully in the lives of these baristas and everyone they meet.

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## F 20 NOV // SOUTHAMPTON

Tammy Oliver is a pioneer ordinand, co-leading community development charity Monty's Community Hub (see page 14) among other projects. Pray for Tammy and those she works with as they develop a new social enterprise as part of their work.

# WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 21–22 November

## FRAGILITY IS NOT NEW TO EVERYONE

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**By Debora and Levi Santana, who were working with some of the most marginalised members of society in Goiania, Brazil, and have now returned to the UK to discern their next steps**

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COVID-19 has taken many lives and challenged our affluence with a reminder of our fragility. It has shocked the rich capitalist mindset which tells us, through coaching and right thinking, that we are unstoppable. Well, the lie has been exposed and the weakness of our global model revealed.

But in all honesty, only people whose lives were good before the pandemic feel everything has changed. Despair, fear, loss and uncertainty have always been the reality for those at the bottom of our cruel human food chain. And to them the gospel has always been good news in that it offers radical hope. Perhaps now we just relate more to their sense of loss and invisibility from behind our own masks and closed doors. Isolation and social distancing are not new to those who have always been invisible.

Through the incarnation, God in Jesus relates to us by experiencing life from our perspective. His relating to our experience of life meant he could redeem us. Maybe this pandemic is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk in someone else's shoes. To see and experience what they see and experience and then, from the vantage point of the cross, share God's love from a place of true humility.

**Pray for** Debora and Levi to be creative in finding ways to share God's love from a place of true humility in their new context.

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## M 23 NOV // JORDAN

Fiona and Joel Kelling, supporting the diverse Christian communities of the Middle East, ask for prayer for our particularly vulnerable Middle Eastern Christian brothers and sisters at this time. Pray for peaceful resolutions to conflict, new economic opportunities and for displaced peoples to be able to return home safely.

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## T 24 NOV // EGYPT

Joe and Sarah ask for prayer as they settle into life with their third baby, Melody. Pray for Sarah to continue to build good friendships, and for Joe to be a blessing to their

church as he takes on more church responsibility alongside his work of teaching English and training other teachers.



### **W 25 NOV // SPAIN/MIDDLE EAST**

A couple sharing Christ with everyone they meet have recently found new and different opportunities to share Jesus' love, particularly through delivering food parcels to families in need. Pray for God to work powerfully in the lives of those who are beginning to open their hearts to him.



### **Th 26 NOV // UKRAINE**

Alison Giblett writes that Ukraine's quarantine has been a period of spiritual growth for the church she is involved with as they continued to meet in smaller groups, giving more people a chance to lead and exercise spiritual gifts. Praise God for this growth and ask him to continue to bless this congregation.



### **F 27 NOV // ISRAEL/PALESTINE**

"We praise God for how he has opened the door for us in prison ministry," writes local partner Rami Fellemon, who offers guidance, answers questions, reads the Bible and prays with people as they grow in faith. Pray for salvation for those to whom Rami and the team minister.

# **WEEKEND FOCUS**

**Saturday–Sunday 28–29 Nov**

## **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)



### **M 30 NOV // RWANDA**

Local partner Josias Nkusi, based in Kigali, coordinates CMS-Africa's activities in Rwanda and supports around 100 men and women connected to CMS-Africa as well as teaching on their targeted training courses. Pray for youth, women, children and businesspeople to be transformed and equipped to be changemakers through these courses.



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