

**CHURCH
MISSION
SOCIETY**

Prayerlines

Dear praying friends,

Life is full of distractions that capture our attention and fill up our time, rather than seeking out Jesus. “All the vain things that charm me most,” as Isaac Watts wrote in his famous hymn.

Christmas is a time of year where distractions can abound more than ever, despite Jesus being the reason for the season.

The buying of presents for the extended family usually occupies a huge amount of my emotional energy – not least as I am constantly drawn to buying presents that I would like to receive myself rather than focusing on other people and what they might really like!

The Magi in the Bible are famous for bringing presents too – gold, frankincense and myrrh. However, John V Taylor had a more interesting take on the story which

Cathy Ross recalls in *Imagining Mission with John V Taylor* (p. 126). “Taylor recalls the Epiphany story and those ‘mysterious representatives of other faiths’ who found their way to the Christ child with their particular gifts. Subverting a common approach to this story, he asserted that it was not in their great learning that they were wise, but rather in their question, ‘where is he?’”

This year, the coronavirus pandemic may bring different distractions than is typical this time of year. But whatever it is you might be distracted by this Christmas, my prayer is that you will find the time and space to ask, “Where is he?”

Yours in Christ,

Alastair Bateman
Chief Executive Officer

1 DECEMBER (T) SOUTH ASIA

“Please pray as we choose a safe time to fly home for leave,” write D and H, who are hoping to avoid the hottest part of the summer in South Asia. Pray for D, a rehabilitation physician, who is vulnerable and therefore having to shelter at home, and for H in his work of finance and fundraising for a major hospital.

2 DECEMBER (W) INDIA

Pray for E and R: E teaches theology and coordinates their church’s teaching, while R coordinates the staff team of their church. Pray for E as he continues to navigate online teaching, and for R as she offers pastoral care for Asia-CMS through this difficult time. Pray also for their family as they grieve for R’s father, who passed away recently.

3 DECEMBER (TH) THAILAND

Local partner Helen Avadiar-Nimbalkar is called to show Jesus’ love to women trapped in the sex industry, many of whom have been struggling to survive during the pandemic as they were unable to return to their home villages for support. Pray for Helen and her team as they provide food parcels and journey with those who are taking the difficult steps of leaving the sex industry.

4 DECEMBER (F) SOUTH EAST ASIA

K and T are working in South East Asia in church ministry, seeking to pioneer community work among marginalised people. Earlier this year, T arranged for cancer treatment for P, a woman desperately in need. Pray for P’s journey of recovery, as follow-up cancer care and pastoral care are less well-established in this part of the world.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 5–6 December

AT A CROSSROADS

BY REV VINOD VICTOR, CHAIR OF THE ASIA-CMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In Joshua 3, the leaders of the tribes of Yahweh affirm: “You have not gone this way before.” At the same time, in his interaction with the people, Joshua gives them three assurances: God will show you the way, God will do a miracle and God will continue to be with you.

The journey of missions has always been challenging in terms of travelling to people across the world. Church Mission Society, from its inception in 1799, has had pioneers of missions navigating their way through rough seas into unknown terrains and territories, with the love of Jesus as the core message of missions. No big wave deterred them.

Their faith and determination had manifold expressions in the fruits of mission engagement. Today we look back and thank the Lord for all the people who were part of the mission journey thus far, contributing in various ways – going, sending, facilitating, giving, praying, supporting, receiving and hosting.

We are now at a crossroads. The closing of borders, restrictions on people’s movements and lockdowns in several parts of the world may look intimidating on one hand, but on the other hand they open up an array of opportunities.

De-globalisation should be seen as an opportunity to increase the pace of indigenisation of mission and mission practices. It is an opportunity for deconstructing and reconstructing missional paradigms.

We will have to journey into a new normal. Physical distancing, masks and sanitisers will make way for a new way of life. How do we do mission then?

Pray for the worldwide Church as we deconstruct and reconstruct missional paradigms and seek to follow Jesus in new ways of doing mission.

7 DECEMBER (M) BIRMINGHAM

Ruth Radley is connecting with sick children and their families as part of the Birmingham Children’s Hospital’s multi-faith chaplaincy team. Ruth asks for prayer for Christmas at the hospital, as the staff do their best to make it special for the children, despite their being in hospital and amid all the COVID-19 regulations.

8 DECEMBER (T) HULL

Anna and Chris Hembury write, “Please join with us in thanking God for the breakfast club. We thank him for all those churches who provide cereals and funds to run the club, we thank him for the joy on the faces of all those families who have returned and for the privilege it is to share our lives and our faith in Jesus with them.” Pray for God’s blessing on their ministry of sharing life with people on the margins and helping them to connect with each other and God.

9 DECEMBER (W) CORNWALL

Pioneer student Amanda Evans, ministering to people on the margins of society, helped to set up the new chapter of

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in Falmouth, Penryn and surrounding areas. Pray for the CAP team as they connect with people in the area who are struggling due to the pandemic and who may be facing a difficult Christmas.

10 DECEMBER (TH) KINGSTON

Mission partner Andrea Campanale and others are trialling a monthly online gathering for those who would describe themselves as spiritual but not religious. Open to people in the UK and the US, SpiritSpace offers an opportunity for artists and poets to create Christ-inspired reflections, as well as providing one-to-one prayer ministry for this specific audience. Pray for Andrea and the team as they pilot and seek to refine this ministry in line with God’s will.

11 DECEMBER (F) SOUTHALL

“It is still very unclear what our new normal will look like. But let’s take it as an opportunity to start anew, and to make sure that our post-pandemic world is sustainable and just,” write Kailean and Kim Khongsai. As the couple build bridges among different faith communities through creation care with A Rocha, pray for God to reveal how he wants Kailean and Kim to be part of his renewal plan.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 12–13 December

ADVENT

BY IAN ADAMS, MISSION SPIRITUALITY ADVISER

Matthew’s version of the Nativity of Jesus is short and to the point. His contribution is vital, making the connection to past prophecy, and giving us a memorable phrase to dwell with and pray on...

“...they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” Matthew 1:23 (NRSV)

The idea that God is with us is potentially transformative. In these most demanding of times this is worth our deep attention. Whatever you are facing this Christmas season, try making “Emmanuel, God with us,” your simple, one line prayer today. See what happens.

Emmanuel, God with us...

Email: ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org



14 DECEMBER (M) LEBANON

Having finished their roles with the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development, Audrey and Colin Gibson are preparing to take their next steps. Give thanks for new opportunities that lie ahead and pray for them to establish new roles and develop good relationships with everyone they work with.



15 DECEMBER (T) MIDDLE EAST

As managing director of a media production company, local partner F is training young people to make short films using limited resources to effect change in society as part of his role of reaching out to Arab people. Pray for F and his team as they seek to raise up a generation of changemakers who are ready to tackle issues around religion, gender, ethnicity, society, politics and more through this powerful format.



16 DECEMBER (W) NETHERLANDS

“Since travelling to other countries has become impossible at the moment, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities to teach the different courses that were planned through the internet,” writes Berdine van den Toren-Lekkerkerker. Pray for Berdine and her mission education students in Africa and Asia to truly connect through these classes and for the courses to respond to the contextual needs and opportunities of each student.



17 DECEMBER (TH) LEBANON

Local partners Emil and Reem Bourizk, based in northern Lebanon, are serving local refugee families, some of whom don't know where their next meal is coming from and many of whom don't know Jesus. Pray for Emil and Reem as they seek to be a loving presence, especially over the Christmas period.



18 DECEMBER (F) ROMANIA

Due to the pandemic, local partner and pastor Sergiu Bradean and his church have had to change the way they do church and minister to people in Constanta and the surrounding area, continuing to proclaim the gospel in a world that has less and less hope. Pray for Sergiu and his church as they work to serve others and stay connected as a church family, through Zoom and meeting together where possible.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 19–20 December

WHY BETHLEHEM?



BY ANNE PLESTED, WHO HAS BEEN HELPING WITH ENGLISH LESSONS AND FUNDRAISING AT BETHLEHEM BIBLE COLLEGE, AND SHARING IN THE LIFE OF THE PEOPLE OF BETHLEHEM AND THE BIBLE COLLEGE

Living here, I am pondering – why Bethlehem? Why did our almighty and omniscient God choose to join us in our humanity in Bethlehem, taking on the humanity that he had originally created? Why Bethlehem for the birth of this vulnerable baby, who would change the course of humankind and the created world? There must be significance.

During my time here I have had the opportunity to learn much about the Church of the Nativity and how the life of this church evolved over the centuries. I am struck by the long involvement of the Franciscans. Francis himself, who first developed the idea of the Nativity scene around the crib, was a man of peace and reconciliation. He understood the power of love as shown through Jesus.

Towards the end of his life, Francis wrote the Canticle of the Creatures, where praise is given to the Creator through the creatures and which reflects the “oneness” of all creation. He talks of “brother” and “sister” when referring to creation. This is being “in relationship”, and more. It is being “one”. There is no “otherness”.

As I live in a place where there is division, as evidenced by the obvious physical presence of the separation barrier, I reflect on this spirit of oneness held by Francis. One with God – one with each other – one with creation. The love that brings oneness sees God, creation, my neighbour, the other, the enemy, as part of who I am. The love that drives out fear.

I have much yet to learn from this Land and its people, and from this town of Bethlehem, where the Prince of Peace was born.

Please continue to pray for peace, with justice, dignity and equal rights for all in this land.



21 DECEMBER (M) BRAZIL

Evaldo and Rebecca Reid Rodrigues, working with and campaigning for adoption and fostering on behalf of abused girls through ReVive in Recife, ask for prayer for their time in the UK over Christmas and their return to Recife in the New Year. Pray for a restful break and protection from COVID-19 while travelling.



22 DECEMBER (T) HONDURAS

Steve Poulson, whose role with Street Kids Direct includes mentoring young men, writes: "Praise God for one of our young people, Ever, who was accepted into the National Police Academy of Honduras and is now assistant to the course leader. We were able to baptise him with a local pastor the day before he went! Please pray for strength as he witnesses to his new friends and colleagues, and that he can continue walking with Jesus in his new surroundings."



23 DECEMBER (W) BRAZIL

Jimmy and Katia Rocks, sharing Jesus with others and church planting in Florianopolis, ask for prayer for their outreach on the beach among residents and tourists. Pray for them also as they build on their outreach to young people in the neighbourhood.



24 DECEMBER (TH) PERU

Pray for local partner and church deacon David Gonzales as he tends to the spiritual and physical needs of a poor, overcrowded neighbourhood in northern Lima this Christmas. Praise God for the generous donations that make this work possible, and for David's servant heart.



25 DECEMBER (F) CHRISTMAS DAY

Many in the UK and across the world can't be with their families this Christmas. For those who are alone this Christmas, pray for God to meet with them in a special way over this season. For those who can be with loved ones, pray for a new appreciation of family.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 26–27 December

2020: A WRITE-OFF?



BY ANDREW AND LISA PEART, WORKING TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES, SEE PEOPLE FLOURISH AND FURTHER GOD'S KINGDOM THROUGH HOSPITALITY AND RELATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA

It seems the world wants to write off 2020. We don't want to ignore the suffering and loss that has touched countless lives this year. But do we need to write it off completely?

Change has the ability to cripple us with fear or compel us to rethink the way we navigate and live our lives. What has been wonderful to witness in our neighbourhood, among fellow missionaries, at our children's school and in our own family, is the ability to flex and adapt.

These months of cabin fever have been equally testing and inspiring. As a family, we have become more thankful, especially to the Lord and consequently towards each other and our community. In this ever changing world, we are thankful for his constant, abounding love and compassion. Our prayer and family devotional time has taken on a new fervour and zeal, inspiring us to seek new ways to serve and pray for others, doing the same within our own family. One of my favourite family devotional memories of this lockdown led to an amazing time of prayer for each other, asking for more of certain fruits of the Spirit, something, we pray, continues. This lockdown has been an incredible time of refining and sharpening our vision for our family in mission as well as our own spiritual growth.

Please pray that Andrew and Lisa's family devotional time continues to produce good fruit and that their fervour and zeal to serve the Lord and pray for others remains.



28 DECEMBER (M) UGANDA

Praise God for local partner Judith Murungi's work this year as CMS-Africa's country coordinator in Uganda, responding to the changing needs around her. Pray for Maria, a widow with an adult son at home who requires 24/7 support, who has been dependent on CMS-Africa's support through Judith this year due to the pandemic. Pray for God to make it possible for Maria to support herself again.



29 DECEMBER (T) TANZANIA

Pray for Stephen Hatch, maths teacher and head of the science department at St John's Seminary in Kilimatinde, which provides education from nursery school to Bible college. Stephen was promoted from chaplain's assistant to chaplain on his recent return to Tanzania. As part of this he has started an extra Bible study session for young people, helping them to explore what the Bible says about issues that affect them. Pray for the young people in this group to be open to hear from God through Stephen and through the Word.

30 DECEMBER (W) RWANDA

Catriona and Steve Bennett (an anaesthetist and surgeon respectively), based at Gahini Hospital, give thanks that the hospital is busier than ever helping people, and ask for prayer for their work to be a witness to God's love for the people of Gahini. Please pray for the Rwandan government as they set and adjust restrictions to manage the coronavirus pandemic.

31 DECEMBER (TH) TANZANIA

Heather Johnstone leads the Rehema Project in Mara, which seeks to empower the most disadvantaged women and children in the area. The pandemic has meant there has been no work for these women but through donations, Heather and the team have been able to give all the Rehema ladies the opportunity to start their own small business so they can provide for themselves and their families. Heather asks for prayer for success of the Rehema ladies' small businesses.

1 JANUARY (F) NEW YEAR'S DAY – UGANDA

"Pray that we can bring hope to communities," write David and Heather Sharland from Arua, where many are feeling a real despair due to loss of income and high demands on their resources. Pray for God to use both David in his agricultural role and Heather in her role of community health coordinator, to help bring hope during this dark time.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 2–3 January

ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES

BY DAVID AND HEATHER SHARLAND, SERVING STRUGGLING AND MARGINALISED FARMERS THROUGH AGRICULTURE IN THE NAME OF CREATOR GOD (DAVID) AND SERVING AS A COMMUNITY HEALTH COORDINATOR (HEATHER)

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

In 2020, we have all been united in a unique way as we have moved to a new and strange place: Covidland. We did

not have orientation or any preparation on how to live in this new land and we didn't even get our passports stamped. We have quickly developed a new language: lockdowns, social distancing, shielding, support bubbles, self-isolation, Zoom meetings... and have struggled with the health hazards of this new place.

The words from Isaiah remind us that we are called to place our hope in the Lord. When we trust and wait for God, he leads us in surprising ways to "soar like eagles".

Eagles can wait and perch, sometimes for days, before they catch a good, strong thermal wind to carry them to where they want to go next. Like the eagle, we also must wait with hope, listening for the Holy Spirit to whisper, nudge or direct us where to go next.

Many of us are waiting: for an answer to a prayer, for healing, for a birth of a baby, to go on leave or just for this pandemic to be over. Waiting does not mean wallowing or just sitting idle. In the waiting, God gives us fresh strength so we can soar at the right time.

Pray for us to use the time God has given us to allow God to renew our strength and be equipped to help birth new hope – be "midwives of hope" – in our communities.

4 JANUARY (M) SOUTH ASIA

During lockdown, local partner S has adapted his previously travel-focused ministry of working with local musicians and churches to develop local musical forms for Christian worship. Pray for his recent work of mentoring some young worship musicians as they created a YouTube channel to collaborate with others across their country and potentially across the world.

5 JANUARY (T) PHILIPPINES

Eric and Sandra Read, equipping churches in holistic mission and running a farm to demonstrate natural farming models, had to find new ways to minister to people during lockdown, adapting the church's meeting area so the church could start meeting again. Praise God that their Bible study group increased in number last year, and pray for God to continue to work through this difficult situation for his glory.

6 JANUARY (W) ASIA

Pray for Asia-CMS as they plan for the year ahead and 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.

7 JANUARY (TH) MALAYSIA

Kate and Tim Lee are based in Kuala Lumpur, where Kate teaches at a local international school. Tim continues to nurture Jigsaw, a charity working to improve the lives of children and families living in poverty in Manila, as it grows into a fully sustainable Filipino ministry. He also supports Asia-CMS as they develop their local partner programme. Pray for God's guidance as Jigsaw develop a three-year strategic plan.

8 JANUARY (F) SOUTH ASIA

Mission partner F is a theological education consultant equipping Christians to become effective witnesses for Christ. She asks for prayer for the many theology students who resumed classes late last year after a six-month break, especially third-year students who are now writing dissertations.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 9–10 January
ADVENT

BY IAN ADAMS, MISSION SPIRITUALITY ADVISER

There's a pivotal moment in Matthew's telling of the Christmas story that we perhaps most associate with the Epiphany season – the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

The star stops over the place where the child Jesus is. It is as if everything has stopped at the wonder of God With Us. Perhaps we can pray this Epiphany season for many such moments of wonder where we are.

Gracious God, may we and the people we are with become conscious of your presence this Epiphany, and so may we all be overwhelmed with joy.

Email: ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org

11 JANUARY (M) BRISTOL

Pioneer student Jenny Bourne coordinates The Ark Bus, a ministry that shares God's love in practical ways in the

community. Jenny asks for prayer for the work of those on the fringes, finding God through the everyday, being curious and creative. Pray for spaces to breathe and find peace in a world that is challenging and confusing, for the love of God to be known, experienced and felt through daily interactions.

12 JANUARY (T) LEEDS

"Please pray for me and all the tutors at the English language project as we continue with our online classes this academic year. May the wisdom of the Holy Spirit guide us to meet the challenges of modern technology and help us support the new learners to the best of our abilities," writes Awais Mughal, who helps asylum seekers and refugees with language skills and connects with women from different cultural and faith backgrounds.

13 JANUARY (W) STOKE-ON-TRENT

Pioneer student Matt Richards, part of the chaplaincy team at YMCA North Staffordshire, asks for prayer for God to strengthen the community's spirit during this time, and for continued protection from COVID-19. Pray for wisdom for the leadership team, fresh energy for the staff and for the chaplains to build meaningful relationships through which the Holy Spirit might flow.

14 JANUARY (TH) OXFORD

Please pray for CMS's Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) team as they adapt the PMC journey to new circumstances, including shorter, more frequent sessions and much teaching online. Pray that churches' interest will be piqued and that a good number of churches sign up this year.

15 JANUARY (F) BATH

Kara Maylor, a second-year pioneer ordinand, asks for prayer for her Thank God It's Friday women's group, a space for women to walk and chat together. Pray that people continue to come to the group and for the Holy Spirit to be a powerful presence as the women walk and share.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 16–17 January

LOVE, PRAY, RELATE AND CREATE

BY ANDY MASON, FORMER CMS PIONEER STUDENT WHO NOW JUGGLES SEVERAL ROLES, INCLUDING MANAGING A DROP-IN FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS AND DEVELOPING A SCHOOL OF MISSION WITH SOME FRIENDS

Following a talk by Dave Male (a lecturer at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, at the time), the words *love, pray, relate and create* became my mantra for mission and ministry.

As an imaginative activist I am tempted sometimes to rush to the create stage without allowing God to do the work in my heart to *love* those I am working among. But love has to come first. Love was the motivating force that birthed the creation of the world, and it was because God so loved the world that he came and dwelled among us.

Often it is the deficit of love and fragility of relationships that causes our churches to struggle. I was asked at an interview what I wanted to “do” – to me, this felt like the wrong question. It is about forming those deep, durable relationships of love that seek God together and do what he says; relationships and community are at the core of the Church’s DNA. Jesus himself says, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35 NIV).

We can only build healthy communities which truly reflect Christ on a foundation of loving, prayerful relationships. What we do stems from who we are together. Often we can become a cosy, closed club, but love is always wanting to be shared. Agape (the Greek word for Christian love) is always yearning to be shared beyond the confines of the community, requiring us to constantly re-create as we reach out, partnering with the Agape God in his work of making us all new creations, where the old has gone and the new has come.

Pray for the Church to invest the time and energy to love, pray, relate and create, and build healthy welcoming communities that truly reflect Christ.

18 JANUARY (M) BRAZIL

Praise God that the new home for babies and young children at ReVive, a charity supporting children who are victims of sexual abuse, exploitation and neglect in Recife, is now open. Bearing in mind their long-term goal of finding loving homes for each child, Andy and Rose Roberts, founders and leaders, ask for prayer for the pioneering fostering service in the city and for their engagement with the local churches around fostering and adoption.

19 JANUARY (T) PERU

Mission partner Anna Sims, heading up the prison ministry team at Walking in Liberty, asks for prayer for wisdom as she and the team work out how they can best support foreign inmates in 2021 bearing in mind ongoing restrictions due to the pandemic.

20 JANUARY (W) BOLIVIA

In the Diocese of Bolivia, local leaders were stepping into leadership, allowing foreign pastors to step down, when the pandemic hit. Local partner Franklin Cuenca, who leads two churches in Santa Cruz, asks for prayer for encouragement for Bolivian leaders as they continue to step up, even during this especially difficult time.

21 JANUARY (TH) CHILE

“We are seeing much growth in our church, our small groups, our Bible studies in Trinity Parish Church as well as wonderful church planting using Alpha,” write Alf and Hilary Cooper from Santiago, where Alf is auxiliary bishop and rector of Trinity Parish Church. Praise God for this amazing growth. Pray for Alf as he has taken on an extra role which involves liaising between government and Christians in Chile.

22 JANUARY (F) BRAZIL

Short-termers Rosie and Stu Bayford are based in Recife and support abused and vulnerable children through ReVive’s safe houses. They ask for prayer for a new venture based on reselling surplus supermarket stock cheaply to benefit the community as well as the environment. Pray for good conversations with local supermarkets and churches and for members of the community to take the idea and run with it.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 23–24 January

NOT A FIRST WAVE, BUT A TSUNAMI

BY PAUL TESTER, MISSION DEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR LATIN AMERICA

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

The arrival of COVID-19 in Latin America felt less like a first wave and more like a tsunami. Across the region, countries were hard hit by strict lockdowns causing economic suffering and yet Latin America continued to be the epicentre of the pandemic. Health systems have been overwhelmed. Here in Peru, with a population less than half that of the UK, at the time of writing there have been over 800,000 official cases of the virus. The death toll stands at well over 30,000 officially but government ministers recognise publicly that the real toll is at least 50,000. Numbers of new cases remain at high levels.

Very early on in the spread of the virus in Peru, our church congregation lost one of its most committed members to the pandemic. Many church members have since contracted the virus. We know many others here who have died. The strictest stage of the lockdown – when we were only allowed out for food shopping, to go to the bank or for medical care – lasted nine weeks. Restrictions were slowly being lifted but some were then reimposed as numbers rose. No one was allowed out on Sundays and children were only allowed out for very limited periods of time.

In the midst of suffering and challenge, it could be difficult to know how to respond. However, 1 Thessalonians 5:11 gives us a simple guide. In this verse, we base our encouragement of one another on our salvation in Jesus Christ and build each other up to do God’s will in the world around us. And so we seek to do that in our family, in our local church, in the community around us and with CMS’s people in mission across Latin America.

Praise God for this simple guide he has provided. Pray for Paul and his wife Sarah to be empowered to build up those around them and to encourage others to do the same.

25 JANUARY (M) UGANDA

Nicci Maxwell hopes to have returned to children’s medical centre Potter’s Village late last year following a COVID-imposed sabbatical of over six months. A year ago, she was acting administrator for the medical centre alongside her (already full-time) work of paediatric and neonatal medical care. Praise God that Potter’s Village has now appointed a brilliant new administrator, Idah. Pray for a great working relationship for Idah and Nicci.

26 JANUARY (T) TANZANIA

Ben and Katy Ray, providing training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities at the Neema Crafts Centre, ask for prayer as the Neema team navigates the dramatic effects of COVID-19 on the tourism industry. Pray that the team can find new markets for Neema’s products and for the livelihoods of their artisans to be sustained in the long term.

27 JANUARY (W) DR CONGO

CMS local partner Bisoke Balikenga, provincial youth coordinator for the Anglican Church of the Congo, offers counselling and reconciliation for displaced people in Bunia and runs a peace centre. He writes that he and a team are teaching young people and women to read and write, share Jesus with others as well as skills such as sewing. Pray for God to open up opportunities for young people and women as they step out in faith.

28 JANUARY (TH) DR CONGO

Give thanks that short-termers Anthea and Martin Gordon and their family have finally arrived and got underway with their work in Goma after a long delay due to COVID-19. Pray for Martin in his new role as vicar general of the Diocese of Goma, particularly as he connects with some of the more remote areas, and for Anthea, working with Tearfund in reaching the poorest communities in eastern Congo.

29 JANUARY (F) SOUTH SUDAN

Lynn Treneary spent several months in Scotland with family during lockdown, and has now returned to Maridi and her role as an English teacher at Chaima Christian Institute, as well as new roles as chaplain of the English service at the cathedral and administrative assistant to the bishop of Maridi. She asks for prayer for her to serve well in all three of her roles.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 30–31 January

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



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