M 1 FEB // UGANDA

Malcolm Pritchard promotes spiritual development and a faithful understanding of the gospel through his role at Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College (AJLTC) in Gulu. As staff at AJLTC work to secure legal title to the land and government recognition of the college, pray for a path through bureaucracy to approval.

T 2 FEB // MADAGASCAR

Mission partners Derek and Jane Waller are now resettling in the UK after their time making disciples in Toliara, Madagascar, and earlier service in South Sudan. Pray for them as they settle into a different life in the UK and for those they have said goodbye to in Toliara.

W 3 FEB // UGANDA

Neil and Sue Browning arrived in Moyo in October last year and have begun their roles as a surgeon at the local government hospital (Neil) and as a lecturer at Kajo-Keji Christian College (Sue). Pray for them as they settle into the local community and learn the language.

FEBRUARY 2021

Th 4 FEB // RWANDA

Praise God for local partner Josias Nkusi’s news that CMS-Africa’s youth training programme manuals have been translated into Kinyarwanda, paving the way for effective ministry among the youth in this country. Pray for Josias as he seeks to launch the training in Kigali, starting with the parish that he leads.

F 5 FEB // AFRICA-WIDE/UK

Mission partner Ann-Marie Wilson is founder and executive director of 28 Too Many, a charity working to end female genital mutilation (FGM). Pray for Ann-Marie and the team as they look to get 28 Too Many on a sustainable footing this year.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 6–7 February

BLOOM WHERE YOU’RE PLANTED

By Garry Ion, who has now returned to the UK after spending 25 years helping churches in Africa to undertake building projects

In Uganda, I had a fridge magnet which said, “Bloom where you’re planted!” I was reminded of this when a sunflower popped up unexpectedly in a garden urn I planted shortly after I returned from Uganda. At first, I thought the seedling, growing among the begonia plants that I had planted intentionally, was a weed. I nearly pulled it out, but thankfully my parents recognised it to be a sunflower, so we left it to grow.

Call it a sign, a gift from God, and probably a snack a frustrated bird dropped, it reminds me of God’s enduring love. As Bishop Francis de Sales put it over 450 years ago, “The love of God has been poured into our hearts by his Spirit dwelling in each one of us, calling us to a life of devotion and inviting us to bloom in the garden where he has planted and directing us to radiate the beauty and spread the fragrance of his providence.”

Pray for God’s guidance as Garry chooses to bloom where he is planted and considers his next steps.

M 8 FEB // THAILAND

Jason and Tracy Day serve in Chiang Mai, where they are called to share the love of God in whatever situation they find themselves. They ask for prayer for the Thai people with regard to the loss of the tourism industry, which has had a massive impact on the livelihoods of so many.

T 9 FEB // SOUTH ASIA

Mission partners fighting human trafficking have recently begun tutoring local children from abusive backgrounds. They ask for prayer that each child will continue to experience Jesus’ love and learn to walk with him, and for a part-time tutor to help with the work until schools open again.

W 10 FEB // SOUTH EAST ASIA

Mission partners B and M are currently in the UK and trying to return to South East Asia, where B is a teacher and networker and M is a teacher. Following the birth of their third child in September, pray for them as they settle into life as a family of five.

Th 11 FEB // TAIWAN

Today is Chinese New Year’s Eve, the most important family reunion day of the whole year in Chinese culture. Catherine Lee, based at St John’s University in New Taipei City, asks for prayer for open hearts, open minds and for Christians to have courage to share the gospel.

F 12 FEB // SOUTH EAST ASIA

Pray for mission partners A and L navigating family life during this strange time. Pray for those in A’s Celebrate Recovery groups to continue to make progress and for L to be able to make a real difference in her work of special educational needs provision and counselling.
By Jason and Tracy Day, called to share the gospel of Christ through their roles as OMF personnel manager (Jason) and child protection officer, housewife and mum (Tracy) in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Last year, I (Tracy) finally finished Level 1 of the Thai course I started the year before. I’m really pleased, but still have a very long way to go! I would love prayer for a new brain!

As I was finishing, I learned that the Thai word for “disappointment” is “pid wang”, which means “a wrong hope”. In many ways, disappointments are natural and to be expected in life, but the challenge for me was the realisation that in so many situations, my hope has been in the wrong place. But as Robert Critchley’s song so beautifully reminds us:

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

Pray for Jason and Tracy as they place their hope in Christ and trust him for every aspect of the future.

Mission partners Phil and Sylvie Good are working alongside churches in Beirut with refugees and helping to develop a school for refugee children. Pray for good relationships between Phil and Sylvie and the communities they serve, and for more opportunities to share the gospel message.

“Please pray that persecuted 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,” writes mission partner Ulsen, who supports and advocates for persecuted Christians.

Mission partners Joe and Sarah are teaching English and training teachers in a local school, and Joe is now also responsible for leading a small international community group as well as the Sunday church meetings. Pray for peace and unity in these groups, which struggle with divisions and tensions.

Pray for Fiona and Joel Kelling to resolve baby Nora’s residency issues and return to Jordan this month to continue supporting the diverse Christian communities of the Middle East. Pray for ongoing church and community mobilisation work with the Diocese of Jerusalem and Tearfund.

Pray for boldness for a mission partner couple sharing the gospel by inviting people to their home and reading and discussing the Bible together. Pray for more people to come (restrictions permitting) and for God to touch the heart of each person who visits.

We are called to lovingly present to all people the full gospel message (God as both loving and holy) and yet it is God who works in their lives. God is the only one who can touch hearts. We do our part and he does his. As followers of Christ, we want to take this opportunity to humbly encourage you to really take to heart Ephesians 5:15–16: “Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”

Pray for God to open up opportunities and lead this couple to the people whose lives he is working in as they step out in faith.

David and Shelley Stokes are expecting to return to the UK this month after serving for 10 years in Northern Argentina, mainly with Wichi-speaking congregations. Pray for them in this period of adjustment, and especially for assistant bishops Mateo and Crisanto as they continue to develop their ministries against the backdrop of COVID-19.

Local partner and pastor Anderson Sanchez tragically lost his friend Don Cancho to coronavirus, but still saw God at work. As a result of the love the church showed Don’s family, they decided to follow Jesus. Pray for Don’s family in their grief.
W 24 FEB // GUATEMALA

Working with young people at risk through Street Kids Direct, mission partner Azaria Spencer asks for prayer as she navigates connecting with link churches and supporters during her time in the UK over the next few months. Pray for guidance as Azaria prepares for the next chapter in Guatemala.

Th 25 FEB // ECUADOR

Sharon Wilcox comes alongside people with learning disabilities, teaching life skills and helping people work towards independence. She asks for prayer for the new president and government of Ecuador to tackle widespread corruption in the country as well as develop more support for people with disabilities.

F 26 FEB // PARAGUAY

Pray for Bev Richardson to continue to listen, pray, hear God’s voice and be led by his Holy Spirit as she supports a local church leadership team, building relationships as she discipless and teaches in the chapel and at Colegio San Andres in Asuncion.

MARCH 2021

M 1 MAR // UGANDA

“Please pray for SPLASH Dance Company to find somewhere new to meet to support each other and spread our message of inclusion,” writes Helen Kisakye, founder of the troupe, which works to change attitudes towards people with disabilities through their performances.

T 2 MAR // DR CONGO

Local partner Jeff Sikabwe is involved in CMS-Africa’s training as well as mentoring and advocacy. Jeff writes that he and other Christians were able to demonstrate God’s love by sharing food with their neighbours during difficult times last year. Pray for this generosity to open people’s hearts to the gospel.

W 3 MAR // SOUTH AFRICA

Last year, Caroline and Dick Seed, based at George Whitefield College, began offering training and qualifications through e-learning as they resource key theological institutions across Africa. Pray for theology lecturers who are now implementing what they learned.

Th 4 MAR // KENYA

Over the past year, local partner and pastor Kenneth Ambani Buluku has been working with farmers, aiming to improve agricultural yields and incomes over three years through a seed sharing programme. Pray for the local community to catch the vision for working together and to all reap the rewards.

F 5 MAR // ETHIOPIA

Chris and Suzy Wilson, working at a theological college in Gambella, write, “Please pray for lasting peace in Ethiopia and for an end to violence between different ethnic communities within the country. Pray for wisdom for those ministering in this complex, divided context.”

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 27–28 February

OBSTACLES AS GIFTS?

By Ian Adams, mission spirituality adviser for Church Mission Society

This weekend focus follows on from the article on page 24, Mission with Imagination: Seeking the Place of Prayer.

Life is challenging! And it can seem as if we are forever meeting new obstacles. But could it be that those barriers can, in God’s imagination, become gifts opening up new possibilities? As you enter prayer today, take paper and a pencil, and prayerfully make a note of the obstacles that you face at this time. Put that paper aside, or perhaps in the recycling. Now, take a new sheet of paper, and at the right time allow something new to be written....

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Jesus prevent me redirect me and open my imagination to follow your call.

Email: ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 6–7 March

YOU BELONG HERE

By Tom and Verity Clare, in Arua, Uganda, where Tom practises medicine in the local Lugbara community and Verity currently focuses on looking after their four sons.

Like anyone, we have hard days and easier days. After a particularly stressful week of home-schooling the boys, I (Verity) was walking to the local market one evening. I had a few good chats with some of our shopkeeper friends along the way, and just had a feeling
of affirmation from God saying, “You belong here.” The constant shouts of “Mundu!” (foreigner) remind us that we are different, and that won’t change, but we can still belong.

A few minutes later, in conversation in Lugbara with the market ladies, they told me they’d given me a Lugbara name – Ayikoru, meaning “joy”, because I’m apparently always happy when I buy from them. I was hugely humbled but also laughed a little inside as my behaviour over the week at home had been quite the opposite of joyful. God has his timings though and it was another affirmation of our belonging here.

In John 1:14 we read how “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us”. The combination of God’s majesty and humility always blows me away. It leaves me humbled that God, who made the whole world, has given us “the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). At the same time, I’m challenged that just as Jesus came to bring God’s love and light to a world in darkness, as his children, we are called to do the same.

**T 9 MAR // BRITAIN**

As director of theology for global Christian environmental organisation A Rocha, Dave Bookless is helping God’s people bring the whole gospel to the whole of creation. Pray for wisdom for Dave in prioritising, in knowing when to say no and in finding co-workers to share the load.

**W 10 MAR // ROMSEY**

Fiona Jenvey is an ordinand with Romsey Abbey, which has strong links with a retreat centre. Pray for Fiona’s work of ministering through online services alongside looking to develop contemplative services in Romsey Abbey and a ministry of Christian art, and one day run her own retreat centre.

**Th 11 MAR // PLYMOUTH**

Church worker Ruth Sayers asks for prayer for the churches’ Restock Your Larder programme; for families to have the courage to come forward for help. Pray, too, that the work club is able to fully open up so Ruth and others can support those who are looking for work.

**F 12 MAR // WORCESTER**

Pioneer Sarah Jayne Hewitt is a full-time lay missioner in the Deanery of Evesham alongside her research around engaging rural churches in missional entrepreneurship using their current resources and context. Please pray for peace and headspace to hold together ministry, studying and preparing for a bishops advisory panel this spring.

**M 15 MAR // SPAIN**

Sarah and Felipe Yanez ask for prayer for the food banks they work with as they continue to provide essential food to families in Alhaurin de la Torre and Malaga. Pray for opportunities to share the hope that Christ gives us, especially in uncertain and economically challenging times.

**WEEKEND FOCUS**

**Saturday–Sunday 13–14 March SEEKING THE PLACE OF PRAYER**

By Ian Adams, mission spirituality adviser for Church Mission Society

This weekend focus links to the article on the right.

You do not pray alone. As you pray, countless others are praying across the world. Many are praying near you today. Prayers of praise, of thanksgiving and of yearning. Some will be praying with great confidence. Others will be praying in desperation.

Is it possible that part of your mission might be to pray alongside others, particularly those who doubt if their prayers are being heard?

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Jesus guide me to the places of prayer and to the people of prayer – that I might pray with them and that together we might find you waiting for us.

Email: ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org

**M 15 MAR // SPAIN**

Sarah and Felipe Yanez ask for prayer for the food banks they work with as they continue to provide essential food to families in Alhaurin de la Torre and Malaga. Pray for opportunities to share the hope that Christ gives us, especially in uncertain and economically challenging times.

**T 16 MAR // NORTH AFRICA**

Mission partners who returned to their post in North Africa in October ask for prayer for God to lead them to the people and families he is already working with as they lead trekking groups, disciple local Christians, homeschool their children and teach healthcare and first aid.

**W 17 MAR // LEBANON**

Pray for Nabil and Sarah Shehadi, developing Alpha courses online in the Middle East. In this context, where many do not have access to a physical church community, pray for churches, schools and prisons to make the most of this tool for the salvation and healing of many.

**Th 18 MAR // SPAIN/N AFRICA**

Unable to support believers by visiting them due to the pandemic, local partner H has learned new ways of doing discipleship training for North Africans over the past year. Pray for a new Zoom community of Arabic speakers who meet
weekly; for God to strengthen each one through the group.

**F 19 MAR // MIDDLE EAST**

Mission partner R, working with a family of four churches, asks for prayer for local followers of Jesus to be ready, equipped and resourced to respond to pressing issues all around them and share God’s love with the city.

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**WEEKEND FOCUS**

**Saturday–Sunday 20–21 March**

“I BELIEVE IN YOU”

By R, who works with a family of four churches in the Middle East involved in church planting, outreach, youth and children’s work, discipleship training, prayer events and strengthening local Christian groups

My time in England last year was very blessed and memorable, especially as we welcomed Baby Theo to the family. He is officially my grandnephew, but he really feels more like a grandson. My family was grateful to have been together and I was doubly grateful to unexpectedly be able to spend so much time at home.

Baby Theo struggles to find his thumb. One day while looking for his thumb he looked so thoughtful. Of course, looking for a “lost” thumb is serious business! While striving with this serious business, he heard his mum’s voice; saw her face. She was saying, “Theo, you can do this!” The joy on Theo’s face was priceless. He forgot his struggle and was just overjoyed to see the face of the one who unconditionally loves him. To me it was a picture of God’s love for us. In our day-to-day striving and struggling, as we deal with serious matters of life, may we be able to see the smile on our Heavenly Father’s face saying, “I believe in you, you can do this!” Then we will have hearts full of joy and a renewed strength to deal with the serious matters and issues before us.

Pray for R to remember God’s confidence in her when things are difficult.

**M 22 MAR // PERU**

Pat Blanchard serves in Lima with Shalom Ministries, ministering to over 100 children with disabilities and their families with therapies, workshops and pastoral care. Pray for wisdom for Pat and others as they consider the future of the therapy project.

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**T 23 MAR // PARAGUAY**

Pray for Tim Curtis as he takes on more responsibility for the Anglican Centre in Rio Verde and as he continues to translate discipleship training materials into Spanish and Enxet as part of his work, alongside church leaders, of promoting use of the Scriptures in the Chaco region.

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**F 26 MAR // ARGENTINA**

“A year on from the start of the pandemic, indigenous churches have been especially challenged by restrictions on meeting. Pray for a deepening of faith and commitment as bishops, pastors and lay leaders adapt to the new normal,” write Nick Drayson (diocesan bishop) and Catherine Le Tissier (who coordinates the Argentine branch of Mothers’ Union).

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**W 24 MAR // GUATEMALA**

Mark and Rosalie Balfour, providing pastoral support for Street Kids Direct workers in Central America, write: “We want our home, Betania, to be a place where people can encounter Jesus and experience his love for them. Please pray for us as we manage the home and host people.”

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**Th 25 MAR // BRAZIL**

Daniel and Sarah Brito Medeiros are working in Recife with ReVive, a safe house for children at risk. They ask for prayer for unity among churches locally and across the country. Pray for pastors to catch the vision of building the Kingdom of God in partnership.

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**W 31 MAR // UK**

A fresh batch of CMS’s pioneer students and lay pioneers graduated and were licensed in December last year. Pray for them as they continue in their various ministries and share God’s love in a wide range of communities throughout the UK.

**WEEKEND FOCUS**

**Saturday–Sunday 27–28 March**

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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**M 29 MAR // WESTON-SUPER-MARE**

Pioneer Fiona Mayne, working on a new housing estate, asks for prayer for wisdom and discernment on the next steps in building a community cafe/church on donated land. Pray for more people to join her in this venture and for God to guide them clearly.

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**T 30 MAR // NORTH LONDON**

Jenny Robinson is an ordinand in her first year of training with CMS. Pray for direction and discernment for Jenny and her husband (a youth and family worker) as they determine whether their ministry should be within a traditional church setting or in the community.

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**W 31 MAR // UK**

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