

PRAYERLINES

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2021






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The call in action

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OCTOBER 2021

F 1 OCTOBER // GLOBAL

Mission associate Andrew Leake (until recently a mission partner in Argentina) has recently taken on a new role helping Compassion in their response to climate change globally. Pray for wisdom and discernment of the first steps as he develops a strategy to engage people where they are.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 2–3 October

GUIDED ALONG UNFAMILIAR PATHS

By Eric and Sandra Read, equipping churches in holistic mission and demonstrating natural farming models in the Philippines

On a few occasions early last year (pre-COVID!), God brought to our attention Isaiah 42:16: “I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.” Little did we realise how much things were about to change – for all of us. Our new venture, of inspiring people to care for the environment through opening up our farm to the public, has certainly put us

on an unfamiliar path, but it does make the farm a much more integral part of our ministry. The income will also enable us to start the next plan of day camps for children and youth.

Pray for God to continue guiding Eric and Sandra along these unfamiliar paths, turn the dark to light and make the rough places smooth. Pray for the Lord to bring people to join them, and for God’s sustaining grace.

M 4 OCTOBER // BRAZIL

Daniel and Sarah Brito Medeiros serve with ReVive, a charity working with children who have survived abuse, trafficking or exploitation. Daniel and Sarah ask for prayer for the children at ReVive to know Jesus and be transformed by his love, and for God’s Spirit to be poured out in local churches.

T 5 OCTOBER // HONDURAS

Earlier this year, mission partner Steve Poulson married Lindsey (nee Kalk), and they are now in the UK, connecting with link churches, family and friends and for training. Pray for them as they prepare to return to Honduras together to mentor and create safe spaces for at-risk children and young people to grow.

W 6 OCTOBER // GUATEMALA

“Pray for people who come to our home for time apart to meet with Jesus and know how much they are loved by him,”

Conversations in advance of the Lambeth Conference,” write mission partners Fiona and Joel Kelling, who are working to support and strengthen Christian communities across the Middle East. Pray also for the church and community mobilisation work Joel is coordinating between the Diocese of Jerusalem and Tearfund.

T 23 NOV // EGYPT

Mission partners Joe and Sarah, serving with an Episcopal school in Egypt, ask for prayer for Christian colleagues to be witnesses to Christ through their love and care for the students, around 90 per cent of whom come from the majority religion.

W 24 NOV // SPAIN/N AFRICA

A couple serving in Spain and North Africa, sharing Christ with everyone, especially Muslim people, ask for prayer for wisdom to disciple their children in the love of the Lord. Please pray for wisdom as the family continues to work around changing travel restrictions as well.

Th 25 NOV // THE BASQUE COUNTRY

Local partner Daniel Scott has sold over 1,000 copies of his book of poetry in the Basque language, Euskaldun, sharing the good news with many people. Pray for this book to continue to reach people with the gospel, and for local people to take charge of the church following Daniel’s return to his home country of Argentina.

F 26 NOV // LEBANON

Local partner Tamar Dawood is a youth leader who hosts and produces videos

that tell young refugees’ powerful stories of how God has revealed himself to them and changed their lives. Pray for God to use these touching stories to draw more people to him.

WEEKEND FOCUS 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

M 29 NOV // MADAGASCAR

Please pray for the Diocese of Toliara, a very young diocese created in 2013. Pray for more integrated and holistic discipleship, for God to raise up new leaders and for local partner Florent Lahitody as he coordinates discipleship programmes and equips Christian leaders to disciple others.

T 30 NOV // SOUTH AFRICA

Caroline and Dick Seed, training Bible teachers through George Whitefield College, ask for prayer for the development of Theological Education Development Services as it moves into a closer relationship with the college and expands the range and scope of its training. Pray for the Lord to raise up suitably qualified people to take this work forward.

W 17 NOV // PARAGUAY

Mission partner Tim Curtis is working with church leaders in the Chaco, developing study materials and promoting use of the Scriptures. He writes, “Pray for better connectivity and Wi-Fi for indigenous people in the Chaco. At present they are mostly not able to participate in Zoom meetings.”

Th 18 NOV // BRAZIL

Mission partners Jimmy and Katia Rocks, sharing Jesus with people through their church, Vineyard Floripa, write that they have a thriving women’s ministry and have launched a men’s ministry as well this year. As men and women find encouragement, accountability and community through these ministries, pray for the church to grow in Christlikeness.

F 19 NOV // PERU

Mission partner Anna Sims, currently in the UK on home assignment from her role in prison ministry in Peru, asks for prayer for women who have been released and returned to their passport countries during the last year, that they will continue to adjust and for healing of their relationships with their families, especially with their children.



WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 20–21 Nov

SOMETHING NEW OUT OF SCRAPS



By Anna Sims, involved in prison ministry in Lima, Peru, currently on home assignment in the UK

Earlier this year, trapped in my flat at the beginning of the incredibly strict lockdown in Peru, I decided to have a go at a patchwork quilt kit. I got a taste for the craft and as the pandemic raged on, I carried on sewing.

I relished the order brought to a chaotic stack of fabric through cutting straight lines and making uniform shapes. I love the different stages, the infinite possibilities of fabric scraps, colourways and patterns. My desire is to create something beautiful and coherent out of a mishmash of patterns and colours.

The more I make, the more God speaks to me through the process, gently whispering to me through the rough edges about the hidden and the celebrated, through the layers of pretty fabric and coarse but necessary wadding. He speaks to me of creating new things out of old scraps. Creating new things that have wonky lines or scars from the needle. He reveals final products that don’t look how I imagined them.

I give thanks to our loving creator who continues to transform us into something new and beautiful, no matter how many wonky bits we are in when we come to him.

Pray for God to use Anna’s time in the UK for restoration and to make something new out of what she offers to him.



M 22 NOV // JORDAN

“Please pray for Joel’s work helping facilitate one of the online Bishops’

write Mark and Rosalie Balfour, who host retreats at their home, Betania, as part of their role of providing pastoral support for Street Kids Direct workers.

Th 7 OCTOBER // BRAZIL

Please pray for mission partners Andy and Kati Walsh as they go through CMS mission partner training this autumn and prepare to join Jimmy and Katia Rocks in Florianopolis, where they will be involved in outreach through Vineyard Floripa and teach at New Wine discipleship school.

F 8 OCTOBER // ARGENTINA

“The Diocese of Northern Argentina has lost many older leaders in the past two years. Pray for equipping and accompanying of younger men and women for transforming mission in church and community,” write Catherine Le Tissier and Nick Drayson, who coordinate the AMARE women’s organisation and serve as primate of the Province of South America respectively.



WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 9–10 October
GUIDED ALONG
UNFAMILIAR PATHS



By Ian Adams, mission spirituality adviser at Church Mission Society

This reflection is connected to the article Love in the time of (not) belonging on page 26.

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1 (NRSV)

What if Paul’s bold declaration to the people of the churches in Galatia is also for you during this season in your life? What might that mean for you?

Paul is clear that the freedom for which we are made is not indulgent, but a freedom won for us by Jesus Christ, grounded in our belonging to him, a freedom for life and for mission.

As you enter prayer today, allow the idea of God’s gift of freedom to settle upon you. What might you need to let go? What might, in God’s grace, become possible?

Gracious God, thank you for the freedom that you are gifting to me in Christ.

Give me courage to let go of what is binding me.

Give me grace to step more deeply into your calling for me.

In the name of Jesus

Amen

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M 11 OCTOBER // S EAST ASIA

I and S are mission partners in training, preparing to lead an international congregation and offer teaching and discipleship. In their new context, where Christians are a minority and direct sharing of faith is not allowed, pray for God to use them to encourage the local community of Jesus’ followers.

T 12 OCTOBER // THAILAND

Pray for local partner Helen Avadiar-Nimbalker as she walks alongside women trapped in the sex industry (see article on page 10). As there are many more women who need help, pray for this ministry to grow despite those who want women to remain trapped in the industry.

W 13 OCTOBER // AFGHANISTAN

Please continue to pray for Afghanistan – for safety, especially for women and minority groups, for those who have been displaced and for aid to reach those who need it most.

Th 14 OCTOBER // SOUTH ASIA

B and K, working to prevent human trafficking and encouraging the church to take action, write that desperation and suffering will be at an all-time high for many due to the last year, creating circumstances favourable to a trafficker. Please pray that traffickers and those who facilitate it will be exposed and their plans stopped.

F 15 OCTOBER // NEPAL

After over a year in the UK, pray for Andrea and Andrew Young as they prepare to return to Nepal and make the transition from digital to face-to-face pastoral care for United Mission to Nepal in Kathmandu, Tansen and Okhaldhunga.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 16–17 October

IMPATIENCE WITH GOD

By Andrea and Andrew Young, who are providing vital pastoral care for United Mission to Nepal in Kathmandu, Tansen and Okhaldhunga

Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants. Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. Psalm 90:13–14 (NIV)

There are times in our lives when we wonder why things are taking so long to change and we can become impatient with God. Like the psalmist, we want to shout, “How long will it be?” as we wait for the next stage in God’s plan. I guess for many this has been a common sentiment as we wait for the pandemic to end, or at least subside sufficiently for “normal life” to recommence.

While we have continued to work with friends and colleagues in Nepal via the internet, we have been longing to be able to return to Nepal and work face-to-face again. So, we have been waiting in anticipation of God’s unfailing love, and the day we will sing for joy!

Pray for Andrea and Andrew as they continually submit to God’s timing and his plan.

Th 11 NOV // WORCESTERSHIRE

Sarah Jayne Hewitt is a DTh research student at CMS and community missionary for Christ Church, Redditch, Worcestershire. She writes, “Please pray that God will shape the community needs assessment I’m undertaking with my new community so areas of pioneering and outreach can be readily identified.”

F 12 NOV // NORTH DEVON

Pray for the pioneer module Make Good, exploring missional entrepreneurship, being taught next week. Pray for participants to gain the tools they need to take their ideas from concept to the initial stages of a business plan.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 13–14 Nov

FOR FREEDOM

By Ian Adams, mission spirituality adviser at Church Mission Society

This reflection is connected to the article Love in the time of (not) belonging on page 26.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22–23 (NRSV)

Paul’s description of a life that is free is beautiful. And this life of freedom always has an outward momentum. It is not just for our benefit, but a gift to those around us, characterised by love for our

neighbours – a tender life.

Give space today to the fruit of the Spirit described by Paul. Reflect on how these things are taking shape within you at this time. Ask for the grace you need to go deeper into the freedom of Christ.

God of grace

I pray for a renewal of your freedom in my life;

grow this fruit of your Spirit in me;

bring me to a new maturity;

and so may your Kingdom come and your will be done.

In the name of Jesus

Amen

Email: ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org

M 15 NOV // BRAZIL/UK

In the process of moving to the UK, Becky Reid Rodrigues returned in July and it is hoped her Brazilian husband Evaldo will be able to join her after about a year. Pray for Becky as she works in the UK and Evaldo as he continues to advocate for adoption in Recife.

T 16 NOV // PERU

After several months in the UK, mission partner Pat Blanchard returned to Lima in July, where she ministers to over 100 children with disabilities and their families with therapies, workshops and pastoral care. Pray for wisdom for the future of the Shalom ministry and the children’s therapy centre.

Bible College, asks for prayer for peace with justice and equal rights for all in the Holy Land. Pray for God to amplify peacemakers' voices, increase their influence and use them to effect change.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 6–7 Nov

LAYING DOWN OUR OWN PLANS

By R, who is working for a family of four churches in the Middle East involved in various ministries including church planting, outreach, youth and children's work, discipleship training, prayer events and strengthening local Christian groups

Can you think of a time when your plans and God's plans did not match up? What did you feel? What questions or doubts went through your head? Like many of you, my plans for this year seem to have been derailed. This has been another year of disrupted schedules, messed up plans and many strange happenings, resulting in many questions and some doubts.

However, it brings me great comfort and peace to know that instead, God's good and worthwhile plans are still being fulfilled. God says through the prophet Isaiah: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'" (Isaiah 55:8–9 NIV) It is this reality that helps me to rest in the

knowledge that God is in control, and I welcome his plans over my own. May we be able to submit to his plans even if that means laying down our own.

Pray for R as she continues to lay down her own plans and rest in the knowledge that God is in control.

M 8 NOV // MANCHESTER

Lee Higson, pioneer curate who took a module with CMS and is leading a church plant, is passionate about mission and discipleship, and runs a charity that uses kayaking, canoeing, powerboating, survival and bushcraft experiences to connect with men and women living primarily in areas of deprivation. Pray for people to connect with God through this ministry.

T 9 NOV // SOUTH LONDON

Pioneer student Hayley Humphreys and her church have a vision to open up their church space as a cafe and community hub, and potentially a project to repair bikes and give them to victims of bike theft. Pray for the team to meet others doing similar work who can offer guidance.

W 10 NOV // UK-WIDE

Pray for the online pioneer module Chaplaincy and Contemporary Christian Mission being taught this month. Pray for students to grasp the distinctive ministry of chaplaincy in mission and connect the course content with how God wants to use each of them in their specific situations.

M 18 OCTOBER // UGANDA

Mission partner Malcolm Pritchard asks for prayer during a time of transition for the diocese and Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College in Gulu, Northern Uganda, where Malcolm promotes spiritual development. Pray for the person of God's choosing to take up the post of principal at the college.

T 19 OCTOBER // RWANDA

Local partner Josias Nkusi coordinates CMS-Africa's activities in Rwanda, supports around 100 champions and trainers, and teaches on CMS-Africa courses. Please pray for their women's training and Financial Freedom for Families (F4), for people to enrol on the courses and engage with the content.

W 20 OCTOBER // DR CONGO

Short-termers Anthea and Martin Gordon, based in Goma, ask for prayer for all those rebuilding livelihoods, schools and churches following the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in May. Pray for Anthea in her work with Tearfund and Martin in his work as vicar general.

Th 21 OCTOBER // KENYA

Please pray for CMS-Africa staff member Lucy Ochieng, who lost her husband, Phillip, in July. Pray for comfort for Lucy and her two daughters as they grieve their loss and try to find a way forward.

F 22 OCTOBER // UGANDA

Mission partner Helen Kisakye is a dance advocate who is also involved in a crisis pregnancy group, offering help to girls who suddenly find themselves pregnant. Helen writes, "Pray that more girls in vulnerable situations will be reached through partnerships with churches in rural as well as urban settings."

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 23–24 October

NOT TO CONFORM, BUT TO BE TRANSFORMED

By Moses Bushendich, international director of CMS-Africa

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2a (NIV)

This verse inspired CMS-Africa's vision: Renewed mindsets, transformed nations. During the last year and a half, facing key changes including changes in strategy, changes in context and changes in personnel, our vision statement and the words of the apostle Paul have meant much more to me than ever before.

With the launch of the new CMS-Africa strategy for 2020–25 came the realities of COVID-19: restricted travel, restricted meetings, suspended church worship. This meant mission activities that usually depended on face-to-face meetings were

severely limited or stopped completely. CMS, our main partner, also engaged in a strategic review. At CMS, too, there were personnel changes and long-time friends and colleagues Paul Thaxter and Stephen Burgess retired. Within CMS-Africa, one staff member left and another lost a spouse to COVID-19.

Over the past 18 months, change has been a constant. A renewed mindset is more real than ever before. We have all changed and are still looking to God for the new opportunities in each change.

Pray for God to help Moses and his colleagues at CMS-Africa not to conform but to be transformed and to transform through the renewing of their minds.



M 25 OCTOBER // LEEDS

Please pray for Awais Mughal, who has restarted face-to-face English language classes for asylum seekers and refugees. Pray for safety for all learners and for Awais, during language sessions as well as when connecting with women in other contexts.

T 26 OCTOBER // OXFORD

Pray for CMS's HR and health and safety teams as they help the senior leadership team navigate a gradual return to the office over the next few months. Pray for wisdom for how to best to support staff well-being in this season.

W 27 OCTOBER // IPSWICH

Mission partner Michael Green reaches out to and supports refugees, particularly

refugees from the Middle East, some of whom have come to faith in Jesus and face difficulties with their families as a result. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity for Michael as he supports people of different cultures facing a variety of issues.

Th 28 OCTOBER // KINGSTON

Mission partner Andrea Campanale, serving those who would describe themselves as spiritual rather than religious, writes that SpiritSpace continues to meet online on the first Sunday of every month, drawing together a small community of spiritual seekers from around the world. Pray for people to encounter God through these meetings.

F 29 OCTOBER // HULL

Anna and Chris Hembury are sharing life with people on the margins in various ways including through the sewing collective Orts, where people of all faiths and none share conversations, laughter and tears. Pray for the group to continue to encourage each other and grow in their knowledge of Jesus.



WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 30–31 October BUILDING WITH GOD



By Anna and Chris Hembury, who are sharing life with people on the margins in Hull and helping them to connect with themselves, each other, the planet and God

Hebrews 3:4 “For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.” (NRSV)

I (Chris) was surprised the other day to see one of my work mates strolling across the grass reading the Bible during our tea break. It was actually the same New Testament I had spotted a few months earlier in a run-down caravan on the building site where we were working. I had thought to take it, with a view to handing it on to someone, hopefully in a God-ordained Holy Spirit-filled moment, but for some reason I felt prompted to leave it be. And it seems God was already doing a

bit of forward thinking.

My work mate shouted over to me, “Hey Chris, what does this mean?” He had started reading the story of the widow's mite. We read through it together. I offered my thoughts about the widow and my friend offered his about the other characters, with a few expletives. I then aired the idea of taking the Bible and maybe giving it away. “No,” he firmly said, “I am going to keep it in the van.” That felt like a good day's work.

Pray for God to continue to use Anna and Chris in Holy Spirit-filled moments like this one.

NOVEMBER 2021



M 1 NOV // NETHERLANDS

Mission partner Berdine van den Toren-Lekkerkerker has spent the last 18 months teaching Christian leaders in Africa and Asia via the internet rather than in person. Pray that doors will open again, so Berdine can visit to teach and support students in their context.

T 2 NOV // ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Local partner Wilhelm Polikhronidi is the manager of a Christ-centred rehab centre in Be'er Sheva, helping former addicts restore their relationship with God and overcome their addictions with his help. Please pray for rehabilitants to grow strong in the Lord and ready for independent and healthy life outside the rehab.

W 3 NOV // NORTH AFRICA

Mission partners P and S ask for prayer as they settle into a new context in North Africa. Pray for divine appointments, a long-term home and a good internet connection. Pray for them to stay centred on Jesus in the midst of a disorientating situation.

Th 4 NOV // MIDDLE EAST

Local partner N asks for prayer as he and a team run English and computer courses for Muslim women and young people in prison. Pray for God to open doors for the team to share the love of Jesus, and for God to soften people's hearts so learners are ready to hear.

F 5 NOV // ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Mission partner Anne Plested, English teacher and fundraiser at Bethlehem