

PRAYERLINES

DEC 2021 – JAN 2022



Church Mission Society
Watlington Road, Oxford, OX4 6BZ

T: +44 (0)1865 787400
E: info@churchmissionsociety.org



The call in action

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“THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US”

Dear praying friends,

At my local church, we've recently been reflecting on the nature of Jesus as one person, with two natures – both human and divine. It's so easy to take this for granted at Christmas. But the Bible offers us a rich, full-colour portrait with great depth, as to how glorious this truth is.

There are many examples of his divinity – “the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14, NIV), we see this in his resurrection from the dead and the new life offered and we are reminded in Philippians 2:10 that “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow”. We also see his humanity throughout the gospels – in his tears, his tempting, his wounds. In the Mark 4 passage we have dwelt on in recent times we see both his tiredness (Mark 4:38) and

his divinity as he commands the wind and the waves to be still (Mark 4:39).

At Christmas, we see both his humanity and divinity in the Christ-child. He was born as a baby, into humble beginnings. He understood what it was to suffer. And yet he was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20), fulfilling the prophecies (e.g. Luke 1:67), to be the saviour of the world (1 John 4:14).

As we hear the familiar passages of Christmas again this year, may we look in with wonder again at Jesus' humanity, knowing he understands us, and his divinity: he is the saviour of the world.



Alastair Bateman
Chief Executive Officer

DECEMBER 2021

1 DECEMBER (W) UGANDA

In refugee camps, people are finding peace in Jesus as they connect with the word of God through local partner Sam Malish's trauma healing work. Pray for the many men, women and children who need healing from the trauma of war and conflict, and pray for God's strength and encouragement for Sam as he encounters heart-rending stories on a daily basis.

2 DECEMBER (TH)

Mission partners Chris and Suzy Wilson recently moved to Addis Ababa to focus on peacebuilding. Pray for Chris and a team of Ethiopian church leaders who are seeking to equip churches to pursue peace in conflict-affected regions in Ethiopia. Pray for Suzy as she homeschools their three children, and for them as they seek to make wise decisions in challenging situations.

Sotto, running a three-year leadership training course for Jigsaw and overseeing the implementation of Jigsaw's three-year strategic plan.

27 JANUARY (TH) SOUTH ASIA

Pray for a local partner and his wife who are planting a church. COVID-19 has made it difficult for the couple to foster church community over the past couple of years – pray for God to work through even these difficult circumstances, and for the church to be able to meet together to worship and be church family together face to face.

28 JANUARY (F) SOUTH ASIA

Please pray for mission partners E and R: Pray for wisdom for R in her role with Asia-CMS of supporting people already in mission across South Asia, and in finding and selecting new people to support. Pray for E to find good ways to connect with his students through his theological teaching, which continues online for the time being.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 29–30 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

31 JANUARY (M) TANZANIA

Christine and David Torrance are preparing to move to Tanzania and begin language training this summer before settling in Kondo, where David will teach at Kondo Bible College, and they will both focus on local discipleship and community involvement. As Christine and David spend the next few months preparing, pray for God to prepare the ground for the work he wants them to do in Kondo.

God and ask the question, “How is my heart?” So, as I sat below the towering pines, listening to the gentle trickle of water from the fountain, looking out across the lush green grass and beyond to the distant mountains, I asked God, “How is my heart?”

My initial thoughts were of happiness and excitement; I’m living in a season of new beginnings and experiencing a lot of joy. I had to dig deeper, so I breathed deep and gathered the courage to ask God to show me if there was anything in my heart that should not be there. In that place of vulnerability God helped me see the fears and doubts that at times take root in my heart. Fears about whether I am good enough. Doubting whether I can actually do the work I feel called to and worries about failure. Gently, God asked me to surrender these doubts and fears and receive his peace. I was reminded of a conversation I recently had about how our lives are not our own, but rather God’s, how it is not about me, but him. His peace filled my heart in that moment and the above passage from 1 John came to my mind, encouraging me to rest in God’s love, where fear cannot be. I don’t need to worry whether I can do this, because the One who can is the One who called me. He is the One who equips me and gives me peace and strength.

Pray for God’s peace and strength for Azaria as she continues to surrender her doubts and fears, and rest in his love.

24 JANUARY (M) SOUTH ASIA

Mission partner F is currently in the UK, preparing to return to South Asia in February and resume her work of equipping people to become effective witnesses for Christ through theological education. Please pray for her as she prepares to leave and as she settles back into life there after six months away. Pray for wisdom for F in prioritising the different demands on her time that are likely to come up after her having been away for so long.

25 JANUARY (T) SOUTH EAST ASIA

Please pray for James Pham, a local partner sharing Jesus with people. James writes that after a year of praying for a particular minority group and trying to reach them with the gospel, six individuals from this people group have accepted Jesus. Please pray for them to be strengthened in their faith and for the people group as a whole to know God as not just the God of other cultures, but as their God who knows, cares about and loves them.

26 JANUARY (W) MALAYSIA/ PHILIPPINES

Kate and Tim Lee have relocated from Kuala Lumpur to Cumbria, where Tim will continue as a mission partner working for Jigsaw Kids Ministries Philippines and Jigsaw UK. Pray for Tim’s work of mentoring Jigsaw Philippines’ new director, Jeanette

3 DECEMBER (F) KENYA

Local partner Kenneth Ambani Buluku is passionate about providing theology training for lay pastors, but during the pandemic he has turned his hand to more immediate local needs in Kibera. Over the past few months he has been helping local farmers raise chickens, which are in high demand these days. Pray for this venture to be a success, and for everyone to have enough to eat this Christmas.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 4–5 December

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR STRENGTH

BY LYNN TRENEARY, WHO SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE AND STRENGTHEN PEOPLE IN THEIR FAITH THROUGH HER ROLE AS AN ENGLISH TEACHER AT CHAIMA CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE IN MARIDI, SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan is facing very difficult times. The climate is causing famine and floods. The economic situation is not good. The health situation is appalling. The civil war is flaring up all over the place. Travelling by road is like playing Russian roulette. You don’t find many foreigners venturing into South Sudan these days. For such a long time our hope for the country has been in the future, but that hope is fading.

And yet, and yet, and yet. The joy of

the Lord is in this place. The Lord is here in power, bringing hope where there is none to be found in the world. Bringing joy where there is little but sorrow. Bringing love and peace in a battle-torn country. Maridi is a glorious example of somewhere we see God at work when we look with our spiritual eyes.

I’m always learning how to be closer to God through the attitudes and behaviour of my friends here. Theologians and scholars may have their place but give me the singing and dancing of the children, youth and adults. Some of us have nothing to give but our hearts. We don’t have high education, we don’t have money and plenty, we don’t even have wisdom and knowledge, we are unable to fix anything and we are tired, but I remember Jesus telling us which are the most important commandments. Love God and love your neighbour. This I see in action.

Pray for Lynn and the people of South Sudan to continue to find their strength in the Lord in very difficult circumstances.

6 DECEMBER (M) BIRMINGHAM

Mission partner Ruth Radley is connecting with sick children and their families as part of the Birmingham Children’s Hospital’s multi-faith chaplaincy team. She writes, “There are still tight restrictions surrounding what we can and can’t do, since our patients are already very vulnerable, so we need to continue to protect them as best we can. Please pray that we are able to have fun and

COVID-safe celebrations in whatever we are doing!"

7 DECEMBER (T) OXFORD

The CMS staff team is looking for new people to fill a number of different roles. As we advertise, interview and prayerfully consider applicants, please pray for God to provide the right people and to lead us in our decision-making.

8 DECEMBER (W) CORNWALL

After so much time apart earlier this year, praise God that Festo and Grace Kanungha and their children are all together for Christmas. Pray for Festo and Grace as they build relationships with people who are warm to faith, to know when to take those conversations deeper. Pray especially as they seek to make the most of the Christmas season and share the love of Jesus with children and young people in Liskeard.

9 DECEMBER (TH) CUMBRIA

Mission partner Garry Ion writes, "Please pray for the groups who attend Men's Shed through the week. Most have been referred to us by mental health services in Carlisle, and they are often struggling with depression and isolation in the home and community. Please pray for fellowship and creativity with Christ at the centre of all we say and do." Pray too for Garry and the team as they develop the carpentry

workshop while keeping safety a priority.

10 DECEMBER (F) OXFORD

Please lift up CMS's senior leadership team and pray for God to guide their every step as they make decisions. Pray for unity and for them to hear God clearly.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 11–12 December

EMBRACED IN SILENCE

BY ANDREA CAMPANALE, A MISSION PARTNER BASED IN KINGSTON WHO TEACHES ON THE CMS PIONEER COURSE AND FINDS CREATIVE WAYS TO CONNECT AND SHARE JESUS WITH PEOPLE WHO WOULD DESCRIBE THEMSELVES AS "SPIRITUAL" RATHER THAN "RELIGIOUS"

It is sometimes said we have 151 operations going on in our heads at the same time! For many of us, it's dreams, desires and expectations that rule and divide our minds. So how do we escape the constant mental activity and come to a place of peace, stillness and contemplation?

The answer is simple: silence. I used to hate it! For most of my life I have done everything I can to avoid it. The silent treatment was used as punishment. To be quiet and alone was terrifying, as it was inextricably linked

18 JANUARY (T) BRAZIL

After over a year in the UK, short-termers Rosie and Stu Bayford were able to return to Brazil in September and are thankful for friends and neighbours in Recife who have welcomed them back so kindly. They ask for prayer for wisdom and clarity as they settle back into working with children at ReVive, who have suffered abuse and trauma, and for their work with a project putting surplus food to use in the community.

19 JANUARY (W) ARGENTINA

Crisanto Rojas and Mateo Alto, area bishops in northern Argentina, write that many church pastors and elders have passed away in recent months and there is an urgent need to train new leaders and ordain new pastors to care for many churches. Pray for God to raise up the leaders needed for the Wichí, Chorote and Toba communities.

20 JANUARY (TH) PARAGUAY

Bev Richardson supports a local church leadership team, building relationships as she disciples and teaches in the chapel and at Colegio San Andres (CSA) in Asuncion. She writes that she has met a pastor and missionary from Ecuador, and they have decided to go forward as a couple and continue to serve the Lord together in Latin America. Bev writes, "We are prayerfully discerning our next

steps before God and with support from CMS and our churches. We would value your prayers for wisdom and discernment as we trust in God to reveal his will, purposes and plans, and for his timing to be together in the future."

21 JANUARY (F) CHILE

Gabriel Parra, planting a church in Valparaiso with his family, asks for prayer for his church planting team. Pray for each of the team's 15 members to have a heart for the Lord, and for new people coming in to be open and ready to receive God's love.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 22–23 January

PERFECT LOVE DRIVES OUT FEAR

BY AZARIA SPENCER, WHO WORKS WITH STREET CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK THROUGH STREET KIDS DIRECT IN GUATEMALA

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.

1 John 4:18

Recently, I sat enjoying the fresh Guatemalan air in fellow mission partners Mark and Rosalie's beautiful garden. The Street Kids Direct Guatemala team were together for a team retreat. Our director had invited us to take some time on our own with

14 JANUARY (F) ISRAEL

Mission partners Jennifer and Kevin Cable, being a Christian presence in the Middle East and preparing to reopen the historic Anglican Church in Jaffa, St Peter's, ask for prayer for renovation works at the church building and grounds. Pray for God's hand on every aspect of the renovation and restoration; for God to prepare the building to once again be a house of worship for him.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 15–16 January

KINGDOM HOSPITALITY

BY M AND T, WHO LIVE IN SPAIN AND WORK TO TRAIN AND SUPPORT THOSE LIVING MISSIONAL LIFESTYLES THROUGHOUT NORTH AFRICA

Hospitable spaces give people permission to be themselves and open up the possibility for connection and growth. Hospitality can happen anywhere – at a picnic in the park, sharing a flask of coffee on a hike, around a meal table and, yes, even over Zoom!

When was the last time you remember being invited into a hospitable space, where the lack of judgement and sense of affirmation caused conversation to flow and deepen, so that people became all of a sudden more vulnerably honest

about their lives, their fears and their hopes? Can you remember the sense of togetherness you felt and the way this invited you, in some unspoken way, to feel connected with others on this journey called discipleship?

These are the moments we love to facilitate, our job being simply to provide the “container” for connection to be possible. Sometimes the container is a mealtime, and sometimes it's a debrief process, or a leadership seminar, or a hike with some reflective pauses. We've come to think of these things less as “programmes” and more as places of encounter, where we create space for people to become more aware of the Spirit of God and to hear the Spirit's invitation to them.

Pray for M and T as they seek to create hospitable places of learning and refreshment for missionaries, and particularly, spiritual formation for leaders.

17 JANUARY (M) URUGUAY

Local partner Mechi Tarragona is training church members, training and working with leaders and building community alongside running a mental health centre called the Soul Institute. Pray for people to meet powerfully with God through the gatherings held at the centre, and for the small community growing around the Soul Institute.

to abandonment and shame. In silence, I was left with the critical voice in my head recounting my shortcomings until I felt utterly rejected and dejected.

But having confronted my shame and let God replace it with unconditional love, I now seek out silence. In it I feel held and encounter the divine. Instead of rushing to fill the space, I am welcomed in, embraced and affirmed without having to perform or people-please. This is the wisdom of the mystics. In our media-rich world, the senses are constantly assaulted, making this type of spiritual practice ever more necessary. But it is not for the faint-hearted, for you will confront yourself before finding your way back to God.

Pray for yourself and others as we all seek to come away from a world where our senses are constantly assaulted to find space with God.

13 DECEMBER (M) THAILAND

Please pray for Jason and Tracy Day, based in Chiang Mai, where Jason is a personnel manager seconded to OMF, and Tracy is a child protection officer, housewife and mum. They ask for prayer for children in Thailand and across the world as they and their families struggle with schooling in this time of COVID.

14 DECEMBER (T) SOUTH EAST ASIA

Pray for a local partner who provides admin support for an online seminary alongside engaging with people through Facebook around topics of marriage counselling and singleness, reaching many people who are desperate for a listening ear. She asks for prayer for herself and her team to persevere in their service, even when things are difficult.

15 DECEMBER (W) TAIWAN

Mission partner Catherine Lee is based at St John's University in New Taipei City and supports the church, chaplaincy and kindergarten ministry of the Diocese of Taiwan. Over the past year, she has also been getting to know a group of 25 international students from Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) and Uganda, through a monthly service and fellowship. Pray for this fellowship to be a great source of hope for these students, for whom homesickness is a big issue at the moment.

16 DECEMBER (TH) SOUTH ASIA

A local partner supporting Christian groups across two states and providing biblical and healthcare training writes that the region where he works has, like many places, had a very tough year due to COVID-19. In addition, localised natural disasters have wiped out crops and

destroyed houses. Our local partner asks for prayer for new followers of Jesus in this region, where leaders have not been able to visit during the pandemic.

17 DECEMBER (F) ASIA

Please pray for mission partners B and M, formerly working in South East Asia in education and church ministry. As they seek a new placement within the region, please continue to pray for wisdom and discernment, and for God to open the right doors in his time.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 18–19
December

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

BY SUZANE CHRISTIE,
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER AT
ASIA-CMS

She was a grieving widow in need of a miracle; there were debts to pay, mouths to feed. God's grace found her and through his prophet, God multiplied what little she had into abundance and gave her hope. This story from 2 Kings 4 is not an unfamiliar one – teaching us about faith and God's miraculous power. I revisited this passage recently and a word I hadn't noticed before suddenly caught my eye: neighbours.

Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbours... (2 Kings 4:3).

They weren't integral to this story or the doctrinal teaching of this passage, but the widow's neighbours still played a part in her story; and however briefly, they were mentioned. It made me pause and consider this past year.

When Asia-CMS began relief efforts during the second wave of the pandemic that hit South Asia hard, we found ourselves facing the needs of many widows. Their circumstances were vastly different, but the grief and needs remained. And just like this widow in Scripture, God's grace found these widows too and gave them hope. Again, neighbours, or community, played a small part in their story.

Many of the pastors and mission workers who died from COVID-19 have left behind young wives – some pregnant and/or with young children and elderly parents, all of whom depended on them. Through the support of our donors and partners, Asia-CMS could offer a little reprieve, to help with the initial transition following the death of their loved ones. The journey is slow and their grief heavy, but they are not without hope.

Pray for Suzane and the team at Asia-CMS, for guidance as they reach out and offer hope to those they can.

20 DECEMBER (M) BRAZIL

Short-termer Evaldo Rodrigues, a lawyer, uses his legal training to promote fostering and adoption for children through ReVive, an organisation that supports abused, traumatised and at-risk children. Pray for God to give Christian families his vision

everyone is revealed to be light for the whole world. Jesus is a gift to all peoples, all places and all contexts. Our calling is perhaps first to allow this light to enlighten us, to make sure that we are not blocking the light in any way, but rather be filled with holy light. How might you be filled with the Christ-light today?

Jesus, true light enlightening all
help me this day
not to block your light
but rather to be filled with your light
in and for your world
Amen

Email: ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org

10 JANUARY (M) UKRAINE

Mission partner Alison Giblett asks for prayer for the Genesis ministry, which helps people grappling with addictions to receive God's healing, shed destructive habits and learn to rely on God instead. Alison writes that several of the Genesis trainers are exhausted. Pray for refreshment and fresh energy for the team, and for new trainers to step into the ministry.

11 JANUARY (T) LEBANON

Mission partners Nabil and Sarah Shehadi are seconded to Alpha International and work to enable churches, schools and prisons in the Middle East to run their own Alpha and Marriage Courses. Nabil and Sarah write that over the past few months, Nabil has made new connections with

more churches in the Middle East. Pray for seeds sown through courses over the past year to take root and grow, and for Nabil's new connections to lead to people growing in their faith.

12 JANUARY (W) LEBANON

Audrey and Colin Gibson ask for prayer that the new Lebanese government formed in September might herald the beginning of improved stability for Lebanon and its people. As Audrey and Colin continue their creation care work with A Rocha Lebanon, pray that they can progress and complete the nature park they have been working on at Mekse so that wildlife and the local community can enjoy it as an oasis from the surrounding barren mountain slopes and agricultural land.

13 JANUARY (TH) MIDDLE EAST

Mission partners J and R write that one of the Bible translation projects J is working with recently had a major crisis when a colleague's son was too open about the fact his father had become a Christian and was working with foreigners. This news reached the local militia, and the family were forced to flee their town. Pray for this family, who are now safe in a new city, as they settle in to a new house, schools and jobs. Pray for J and this native speaker to do the translation well and for this setback to spur them on rather than discourage them.

4 JANUARY (T) DR CONGO

Patricia and Peter Wyard ask for prayer for continued vision, energy and joy for the coming year in DR Congo and for them to find the right balance between nurturing relationships and persevering with their projects. Pray for long-lasting fruit to result from Peter's work in Christian education in Aru diocese (especially through the discipleship course Rooted in Jesus) and Patricia's work in the hospital (especially in palliative medicine).

5 JANUARY (W) TANZANIA

Mission partners Ben and Katy Ray have a passion to show God's love for the most marginalised in Tanzania through providing training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Having done this at the Neema Crafts Centre for over 10 years, they are now hoping to expand this work across the country. Pray for Ben, Katy and their three children as they consider moving to Arusha this year.

6 JANUARY (TH) SUDAN

Local partner James Hassan is assistant bishop of Kadugli diocese, helping to train church leaders and young people, preaching the Word of God and serving the Church in a Muslim-majority context. James writes that the Rooted in Jesus discipleship course has been very effective, with reports of Muslims and followers of traditional African religions being healed

and turning to Jesus. Pray for people to continue to be drawn to the course, engage with it and, indeed, become rooted in Jesus.

7 JANUARY (F) UGANDA

Neil and Sue Browning have now been in Moyo for just over a year, where Neil is working as a surgeon at the local government hospital and Sue is lecturing at Kajo-Keji Christian College across the South Sudanese border via Zoom and Skype. Pray for Sue and her colleagues as they apply for multi-entry visas to be able to teach in person, and for protection, encouragement, strength and special grace for Neil, as he is the only consultant surgeon at the hospital.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 8–9 January

THE ENLIGHTENING LIGHT

BY IAN ADAMS, MISSION SPIRITUALITY ADVISER

Another beautiful image from the prologue to John's Gospel has particular resonance in the season of Epiphany.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:9 (NRSV)

The gift of the Christ-child is a gift for all. The true light, which enlightens

for placing the lonely in families and for people to commit to foster and adopt children.

21 DECEMBER (T) ECUADOR

Sharon Wilcox writes that the Orchid Project needs to find somewhere else to meet to continue her work of coming alongside people with learning disabilities, teaching them life skills and seeking to enable them to become independent. Pray for God to show her where he wants them to be, and that everyone will settle in well into the new location. Pray also for good relationships with the owners of their new location.

22 DECEMBER (W) CHILE

Local partner Christian Donoso and his wife Faby are training a church planting team and leading the planting of a new Anglican church in Concepcion. Pray for Christian, Faby and the team as they coordinate various face-to-face church meetings, and after having established many friendships through meeting online, pray for the church as they redefine friendships through meeting together in person.

23 DECEMBER (TH) PERU

Pray for good transitions for Paul and Sarah Tester and their daughters as they celebrate Christmas in the UK and return to Peru in the New Year. As Paul continues

to lead the development of CMS's mission work in Latin America, pray for CMS's ongoing consultations with indigenous church leaders in South America and for the growth of an indigenous mission movement in the region. Pray for the girls' school to reopen in time for the start of Peru's school year in March.

24 DECEMBER (F) ARGENTINA

Please pray for local partner Marcos Humacata in his work of training a team and preparing to plant a new church in a community where many families have been destroyed by violence and alcoholism. Pray for God to give Marcos and his team of 10 church planters an unwavering faith and to work powerfully through them.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 25–26 December

CHRISTMAS DAY, BOXING DAY

THE SHINING LIGHT

BY IAN ADAMS, MISSION SPIRITUALITY ADVISER

The prologue to John's Gospel contains some of the most beautiful images in the whole of Scripture. They also resonate with great promise and strength.

The light shines in the darkness, and the

darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5 (NRSV)

John's picture of the coming Christ-child as the light that shines comes as a great gift to us this day. Wherever you are today you might like to allow the lights that you see – on the street, in windows, on the road – to act as a bold reminder of the light that shines, a light that cannot be overcome, whatever we face!

*Jesus, holy child,
the light that shines in the darkness
shine this day I pray
on, in and through me
on, in and through your church
on, in and through your world*

Amen

Email: ian.adams@churchmissionsociety.org

27 DECEMBER (M) PLYMOUTH

Ruth Sayers, a church worker in the south west, walks alongside disadvantaged people and helps run a work club that helps unemployed people get back into work. Having been very limited since the beginning of the pandemic, pray for Ruth and the others running the work club as they look to get things up and running again and help as many people as possible get back to work.

28 DECEMBER (T) OXFORD

Pray for CMS's communications and fundraising teams to be empowered to communicate passionately about CMS's

work with our supporters. After almost two years spent out of the office, pray also for strong links to forge within and between the teams as they work out how best to serve together.

29 DECEMBER (W) UK/AFRICA

Based in the UK, mission partner Ann-Marie Wilson works to end female genital mutilation across Africa and the diaspora through the charity she founded, 28 Too Many. She asks for prayer as she works with the board to plan the next three years of research strategy and priorities, and as they fill vacancies and refresh team structure. Pray, too, for Ann-Marie's health.

30 DECEMBER (TH) BRITAIN

In his work of helping God's people bring the good news of Jesus to the whole of creation, mission partner Dave Bookless asks for prayer as he and others at A Rocha seek to sustain themselves for the long haul, and for the light of Jesus to shine through their cracked clay pots (2 Cor. 4:7).

31 DECEMBER (F) OXFORD

CMS has three pioneer modules starting on 11 January: Mission and Evangelism, Mission Theology in Global Context and Theological Perspectives: Community Development. Pray for students to engage with the topics and be challenged to approach the Bible, culture and their ministries with fresh eyes.

JANUARY 2022

WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday–Sunday 1–2 January

RESTORER OF BROKEN DREAMS

BY SUSANN HAEHNEL, VOCATIONAL
RECRUITMENT MANAGER AT CHURCH
MISSION SOCIETY

At the beginning of the year, many of us set new goals. However, this year, I encourage you to start by dreaming again. The last two years have been brutal. Many of us have been in survival mode, focused on simply getting through another day.

In recent weeks I have been reminded that God is the restorer of broken dreams, and reflecting on an easily overlooked story in Genesis 26, where Isaac is restoring the ancient wells.

Some of those wells had been there for years and needed uncovering: What God-dreams have been lying dormant and need to be uncovered in your life? What would it look like to uncover these dreams? The first step might be to share one of your buried dreams with someone you trust.

Isaac's slave dug a few wells that caused quarrelling and enmity. They then moved on: What have we been a part of, that we need to move on from? Maybe something you were involved with served a good purpose, but it's a new season and therefore time to set it

aside.

The story also speaks of God's promise that he is making a way for the Israelites and that they will be fruitful, and of a fulfilled promise after Isaac encounters God. What promise are you holding on to? Sometimes holding on to promises can be hard. Reminding each other of ways we have seen God at work can help boost our faith. How have you seen God move in your life and work things out for good? Isaac built an altar and dug a well. How can you mark and share with others what God has done for you and your community?

Pray for God to help us to uncover and reignite dreams for his Kingdom as we enter the New Year and as we try to come out of survival mode.

3 JANUARY (M) UGANDA

Mission partner Nicci Maxwell is caring for babies and children and their families at Potter's Village. As she trains and supports local healthcare workers and promotes them as the driving force of Potter's Village, pray for the local community to begin to see Nicci's role as a supporting one and local professionals as the heart of the medical centre.