



## CHRIST CHURCH PARBOLD SUMMER 2021 PRAYER NEWSLETTER



### SUMMER ENCOURAGEMENT.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those that love God. To those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8 v28



Sometimes it's hard to see good things when we have been facing the ups and downs of the last 15 months of lockdown and Covid19. Everyone has experienced this time differently – from frontline NHS and care homes staff to those having to self-isolate alone at home. As we are hopeful that restrictions will ease gradually and safely, it is important to consider just what has come from this unprecedented time.

So a few thoughts and reasons to give thanks:

- A real sense of community rising up to meet the needs – vaccination centre volunteers, those getting shopping for the housebound, neighbours checking on each other's well-being, Foodbank giving vital lifelines to those in need.
- An appreciation of workers who, in the past, have been taken for granted – Bus and train drivers, Bin men, shop workers, cleaners and support workers in hospital and care homes.
- The bravery and resilience of all NHS staff and Care Workers with wave after wave of infections and hospitalisations
- The resourcefulness of teachers giving lessons not only online but also in schools for key worker children.
- The expansion of the church countrywide as closed churches have moved to online streaming of the gospel. Certainly in our own church family, the hard work of learning "on the job" to get services out via the internet and extra notices and phone ins has been amazing and well done to all involved, it is really appreciated.
- A renewed love of nature as we have been going on walks in the local area – the changing seasons and a quieter, slower walk of life during the lockdown and time to experience God's presence in the solitude.

These are just a few things that I think we should give thanks; and be encouraged to continue to with these positive attitudes of caring and sharing – I am sure you could think of more.

Please continue to pray for Sue and all the leadership team at Christ Church as they seek God's will to build up our church life in the coming months.

God Bless,  
Lin.

*May you be a blessing to every life you touch,  
and the Spirit within, that life-giving water,  
be a gift of refreshment in love shown and shared  
with all who are thirsty along the road you travel.*

## **NEWS FROM EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST**

The latest briefing from Embrace refers to the new dimension to the ongoing conflict between the Palestinians and Israel, which is the upsurge of violence between Israelis and Palestinians living together within the land of Israel. ( Fact: 21% of the population of Israel are Palestinians with Israeli citizenship).



Embrace partners in Acre and Nazareth in Northern Israel talk of fear on all sides. People are afraid to leave their homes. People from one part of the community are being told to boycott businesses from the other and young people are losing their jobs because of their ethnicity.

Our partners say they can only pray for a solution that allows everyone to live together peacefully. They, and we, join Pope Francis in his prayer *'that Israelis and Palestinians may find the path of dialogue and forgiveness, be patient builders of peace and justice, and be open, step by step, to a common hope, to coexistence among brothers and sisters. Please join us in this prayer.*

*Brian McGucken*

## **NESW FROM MERCY RESCUE TRUST**

Hi Everyone



Jedidah has asked for prayer for two children, the first is Raheem who has been at Mercy Rescue about 8 weeks. From birth Raheem has had breathing difficulties and was in the local hospital for about 4 weeks on oxygen, very expensive treatment, plus the need to have a carer 24/7 as no personal care is given by nursing staff. Raheem returned to Mercy Rescue but has continued on home oxygen. He has been seen a paediatric consultant at a hospital in the next largest town Eldoret, where he underwent more investigations but nothing

proved conclusive. He is soon to return to Eldoret as an in-patient for more in-depth investigations, again very expensive, plus a member of staff will be away from their own family for the time he is there to care for him. Please pray for Raheem and keep him in your thoughts.

Yasmin is now 7 years old she came to Mercy Rescue as a premature baby in 2014, since she was just a few months old she has been with she has been with a family who they had hoped would be a forever family. Sadly a few weeks ago the family returned with Yasmin to Mercy Rescue, saying that due to her having autism they can no longer cope with her.

Jedidah has explained to the family that to leave her at Mercy Rescue and walk away would cause Yasmin a lot of trauma. Jedidah and Sally are liaising with the family to see if there is anyway of Yasmin staying with the family. Yasmin is quite introvert and speaks very little, although Sally says that she can talk and will tell you what she wants, but can be very disruptive. Please pray for a good outcome for Yasmin and for Jedidah as she works with the family.

Thank you for all you support. God Bless

*Barbara*



## NEWS FROM EDUCAID

These are difficult times for us all here in the UK, and, as we learn from the newspapers, radio and television, even more difficult in other countries.

However the work of Educaid to promote good citizenship through high quality education continues unabated. A key role for EducAid is the education of females, and through them, the next generation. The photograph demonstrates the importance EducAid places on this work.



I have not been able to visit Sierra Leone for some time, what with Covid restrictions on travel, my advancing years, and the fact that I am out-of-date and maybe have little to offer. However, I remain a very keen supporter of EducAid, albeit at a distance. I am in constant contact with Miriam, or Doctor Miriam as she is now known, the Country Director, and receive regular updates on the work of EducAid in Sierra Leone. EducAid has been working in Sierra Leone for some years now, and many of the former pupils/students have graduated from Makeni University and Universities around the world.

The news that I found most heartening recently was the news that former students, having graduated with degrees, return to Educaid to offer whatever help they can. It is wonderful to know that these people, often struggling themselves, still remember, and appreciate the efforts of those who enabled them to learn in their younger days, and supported them throughout their degree based studies.



It is important that these graduates offer their support to present day learners in EducAid, but this does not mean that Educaid does not need the continuing support of sponsors such as that provided by the Church. I know that they are all very grateful and fully appreciate your continuing support. Support to EducAid truly helps them to help themselves as demonstrated by the former pupils/students returning to help as and when they can.

From these classrooms to successful degree level - congratulations to everyone involved.

And many thanks to the whole congregation from all the EducAidians.

*Pat Horn*

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Sunday, 13th June, 3pm** Afternoon Tea online. Finlay, Evie, Will, Eleanor and Alfie invite you to join them for an online church afternoon tea. You can join online or on the telephone as for our normal services. It will be a great opportunity to catch up and chat.

**Sunday 20th June, Family Service** Muddy Church on Father's Day 9.30-10.30am. An interactive church service outdoors for all ages

**Monday, 21st June 7pm** at Christ Church. The 2021 Confirmation Service, with Bishop Jill. More details in the regular notices.

## NEWS FROM ANDREW FANSTONE IN BRAZIL.



It is **20 years ago this month since I first arrived in Brazil** and during the past two decades God has been so faithful!! It hasn't always been easy but it has been so good. What Jesus says is so true: When you lose your life for Him and the gospel, it is when you find it. Or as David Livingstone once said "If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honour, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?" It has been such a privilege to serve the poor and broken here in Brazil all these years.

I remember arriving with a bit more hair and a bit less of a belly and the ominous start of being robbed by a street kid on my first day already seems a distant memory. Over the years, the more I learn, the more I realize I don't know and how much more there is still to learn. The more experience I gain, the more I realize how totally dependent I am on God and how I can't do anything thing without him. My heart still breaks for the broken and my heart still burns with love for God. This is the most important bar by which we must measure success. If we love Jesus more today than we did 20 years ago, then we are going in the right direction

We have just finished another successful missions school and my final lesson to the students was entitled: the top 7 tips that I learned from 20 years in missions. I won't bore you with them all but I told the students that they should enjoy the journey and not just be focused on the destination. Often we get stuck and so focused on our goals and building our projects that we forget to have fun and enjoy the journey on the way. In God's kingdom it's about relationships and not just efficiency, about people and not just projects. It's about embracing the journey and the people around you and not just about putting your head down so you can get to the destination as fast as possible.

I encouraged them that ordinary people can do extraordinary things through the power of the Holy Spirit but also highlighted the importance of ordinary people doing ordinary things with consistently and great love; it is this that also changes the world. The things of God's Kingdom come to us in seed form, just as in the natural world, all large oak trees start from small acorns. We would prefer God to give us ready grown trees that already produce much fruit in our ministry but he often gives us seeds so we can partner with him to nurture and water them and see them grow together. Many don't see the breakthrough because we don't persevere; we give up too soon. This younger generation seem to have been influenced by our instant fast food, high speed internet society where everything comes instantly and quickly with minimal sacrifice.

Last weekend I saw the fruit of some seeds that had been planted almost 20 years ago. I had the privilege to marry Claudio, a boy that used to come to our project when he was 6 years old. He had a hard life and unfortunately while he was still young his father was killed by a rival drug gang. This caused him to go off the rails himself and become involved in the vicious cycle of drugs, dealing and gangs. It seemed the seeds we planted many years ago were gone and stolen by the birds.



However over the last year he has started turning his back on the drugs and gangs (usually you can't leave the gang without them killing you, but with him, they have seen his change of life and so have allowed him to leave and start over) and moving toward a commitment with Jesus. Now wanting to live fully for Jesus, they wanted to get married.

The missionaries worked so hard all day to decorate and transform the missions base in to a beautiful wedding banquet. It was such a special day and many of his old friends and family who are still involved in the life of drugs came. It was a wonderful opportunity to preach the gospel and there was hardly a dry eye in the house as people experienced God's presence. Their names are Claudio and Fabilene, please keep them in your prayers as they continue to live in the favela with their 2 year old son. It is not always easy for them but pray that they will grow to be great oaks of righteousness by daily making the right choices and grow to produce much fruit and bring much shade for those around them.

If you could also pray for us as a family - For protection, good health, wisdom and guidance for the future. Also praying for the missionaries and all the work they do would be wonderful.

Thank you so much. Much love  
*Andrew and Claudia*

### SKELMERSDALE FOODBANK



## **NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE QUIZ**

1. In what city was Jesus born?
2. How many books are in the New Testament?
3. What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert?
4. Who were the first apostles called to follow Jesus?
5. How many people did Jesus feed with five loaves of bread and two fish?
6. Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby?
7. Paul was shipwrecked on what island?
8. What is the shortest book in the New Testament?
9. Matthew was a \_\_\_\_\_.
10. To what city was Saul traveling when he encountered a great and blinding light?
11. Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan?
12. After Jesus fed 5,000+ people with two fish and five loaves of bread, how many baskets were left over?
13. What tribe is Paul from?
14. What does Simon Peter do for a living before he becomes a disciple?
15. By what name is Paul of Tarsus known before he begins his missionary activity?
16. In the Gospel According to John, which of the apostles doubts Jesus's resurrection until he sees Jesus with his own eyes?
17. Who murders John the Baptist?

(Contact Lin Milne for answers: [stemilne@aol.com](mailto:stemilne@aol.com).)

### **OUT OF THE MOUTHS.....**

A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "because white is the colour of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today". After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"

During a Sunday school lesson, a child learned about how God created human beings. The child became especially focused when the teacher explained how Eve was created from Adam's ribs. Later in the week, the boy's mother saw him lying down on the floor, so she asked him what was wrong. His reply was priceless: "Mum, I have a pain in my side—I think I'm getting a wife."

