



CHRIST CHURCH PARBOLD SEPTEMBER 2021 PRAYER NEWSLETTER



ENCOURAGEMENT.

Corinth, Beirut and Parbold.

In September last year our Harvest Appeal was to help with relief in the aftermath of the huge explosion that resulted from illegally stored fertiliser, that devastated a large part of Beirut. More than 200 people were killed, over 7 thousand injured and some 300,000 left temporarily or permanently homeless. This happened at a time the country was already struggling with the Covid pandemic.

I was interested to listen to the Radio 4 Sunday service on the first of August this year which was broadcast from Beirut, marking the first anniversary of the disaster. What is the current situation in the city and the country at large? Tragically the only phrase to describe it is to say it has gone from bad to unbelievably worse. There is no functioning government. Pre-existing corruption has resulted in complete economic meltdown. Pharmacies and hospitals cannot get vital drugs. The cost of basic foods has virtually doubled. Power outages occur regularly. Transportation is hampered by fuel shortages.

What could the churches say in these circumstances? The service involved different denominations in hymns and prayers in their ancient languages but it was the speaker (in English!) who gave an amazing and humbling message. Using the words of St Paul to the church in Corinth** when he described his many difficulties, she quoted, *"We are hard pressed on every side but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair.....struck down but not destroyed"*.

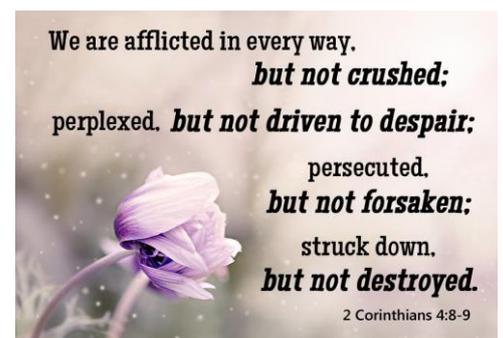
How could this be? The answer comes in the next lines of Paul's letter. Like Paul these Christians believe that despite their dire situation they have the life of Jesus and what is more their calling is to reveal that life. That is what the churches in Beirut are striving to do. Not in words only but in down to earth practical actions.

As I prayed about what God was saying to us in Christ Church the one phrase from Paul's letter that kept coming to me was *"that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our body"*. As life moves on from the past 17 months which have caused many people to identify with these words - hard pressed, perplexed, struck down, I believe God is calling us as His body to increasingly reveal the life of Jesus in our community and beyond.

Let us pray and listen for God's prompting as to what this means in practice then act!

Brian McGucken

**2 Corinthians 4:8-11



MERCY RESCUE TRUST

Hi Everyone



Just want to say a big thank you to all who have been praying for Raheem. Although he still has no diagnosis he really is making good progress. He is now able to come off his oxygen for short periods of time. Please continue to pray for him, that he will continue to improve and will soon be able to come off oxygen completely.

Yasmin affectionately known as Mina has settled in well but can be quite a handful and can become quite disruptive at times, so needs lots of supervision. She now attends a special school 4 days a week which she enjoys. Mina's communication ability is very poor for which she attends speech therapy once a week, also one of her legs is affected by muscle atrophy for which she is having weekly physio. Jedidah would love to find a sponsor/s for her, if anyone is interested then please contact me.



Currently we have 20 children in home care that is they are with their families supported by Mercy Rescue, we continue to pay for their schooling which includes fees, uniforms, books both text and exercise and boarding fees for those in secondary education.

Along with the children we support in home care there are 7 children with members of staff in the community and 6 babies at the centre. Mercy Rescues aim is that every child should have a forever family and we thank God that 3 families are being processed for fostering. Please continue to pray that more

As Jedidah prepares to go to Switzerland for a break later this month to meet up with her Mum and brothers pray that all goes well.

Thank you all for your continuing support and prayers
Barbara

MINI UPDATE ON THE RICE CART PROJECT (BONG SONGHA)

Thank you so much to everyone for your continued prayers and support for this project - we know Joko and Karen are always so blessed and encouraged. The Rice Cart project has struggled during Covid and a lot of small businesses in Phnom Penh have had to close, but Praise God, they have managed to keep the project going. They are temporarily selling the food online until the Covid restrictions are lifted.

Please pray that the right location is found for the rice cart as they have been required to leave the location they were at due to the landlord's requests. Also, please pray for the young men who are working at the rice cart, for their hearts to be willing and open to hear about Jesus, and wisdom for Joko as he oversees and mentors them.

(Nigel and Beth)



NEWS FROM ANDREW FANSTONE IN BRAZIL



Hope all is well with you and the families of your church.

We have just come back from a couple of weeks holiday as a family here in Brazil and despite all the care we had to take from Covid had a great time together and fun memories formed.

During the holiday we felt so thankful for Gods goodness and also so grateful for your support as a church in prayer and finances.

We just wanted to send an email to say Thank you so much, it really means a lot to us and is such a blessing.

We are still not sure if the children will be back at school in August and so ask for continued prayer for them and also for the health in general of the family. God has been so gracious so far, for none of us or the missionaries have been infected with Covid, even while we continue with our work on the streets and slums. We would also ask for prayer for wisdom and guidance. We have many opportunities before us and we would value prayer as to hear God clearly about the right strategies and way to move forward.

Thank you very much

Many Blessings from Brazil
Andrew and Claudia

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for the situation in Afghanistan, that those who are vulnerable will be safe from persecution. And for those refugees now making their home in the UK. May they feel welcomed and cared for.
- Pray for all our charity links home and abroad for the Lord's blessing and provision.
- Give thanks as the vaccination process goes forward that so many are now being protected from Covid19. Pray for wisdom for the leaders about those who would need a third booster jab and if older schoolchildren should be offered vaccination.
- Please continue to pray for our NHS staff and Key Workers that their workloads will be manageable and the Lord will strengthen and bless them.
- Remember especially our local schools and all the teachers and staff as they return for the new school year.



DATE FOR THE DIARY

Muddy Church Sunday 19th September 9.30 on the church field.

Raising Faith: short online sessions for parents (& grandparents) who want to help their child grow in faith. Six online Thursday evenings 23rd Sept to 7th Oct 8pm-9pm. The sessions are video based so if you can't make any you can catch up at home. For more info & to book a place contact Rev Sue: susanktimmins@aol.com.

Junior Church and Little Fish starts again on Sunday 26th September more details in the notices.

A LEAP OF FAITH

It has been wonderful to watch the Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo – I am an avid armchair athlete!

The other day I switched on the TV and saw a lady athlete wearing a blindfold standing alone at the end of the race track. She raced down the track and, as she land on the white board she leapt into the air and landed in the sandpit beyond, she was taking part in the women’s visually impaired long jump. (The winning jump for women was 4.74 metres (over 15 feet in old money!) I was amazed, how could she do that!



Then the commentator explained that over to the side of the track a chosen guide, who knew the athlete and trained with her, was calling out instructions and then telling her when she was to land on the board and jump! Those watching are asked to be quiet so that the guide can be heard. The level of trust in the guides was wonderful to watch, they still didn’t know when they would land in the sand. The commentator said “This event is the bravest one ever in the Paralympics”.

St Paul often mentions that our Christian life is like an athletic event (1 Corinthians ch 9 v24) which we must train for. He also says in 1 Corinthians 13v 12 that “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known”.

So we can learn a lesson from this Paralympic event. We cannot see the future, what will happen, but God has given us the best Guide ever – His Holy Spirit. His purpose is to guide us where we cannot see the way ahead and tells us where we are and when we need to make that leap of faith, knowing that we can trust Him completely. We just need to listen quietly and hear the words of our loving heavenly Father, Son and Holy Spirit for our future. Remember the promise of God in Jeremiah 29 v 11 – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”

Lin

PARISH TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN.

- a) Anyone who has a prayer need can phone his/her request to Brian and Frances McGucken (01257 462058) between 6pm and 6.30pm any day, or for urgent needs, at any time. A team of people is on hand to pray immediately for your need.
- b) If neither is available to take your call live - please do not use the answer phone for this purpose - but contact Lin Milne on 463523 or John Mountain on 463919.

Your prayer request will be treated as confidential – unless you state otherwise

THANKS

Many thanks to all who contributed to this month’s newsletter. The next edition will be one for Sunday 7th November and if you want anything included then please contact Lin Milne (email: stemilne@aol.com) – the deadline is Thursday 4th November.

A FINAL BLESSING

May your day be filled with blessings like the sun that lights the sky, And may you always have the courage to spread your wings and fly!

