



BECCLES PARISH

ST MICHAEL'S & ST LUKE'S

MISSION FOCUS

PRAYER DIARY – SUMMER 2020

SUNDAY – CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

- Please pray for the Peace Centre in Bunia, DR Congo. Rev. Bisoke Balikenga helped to set the Centre up and now more than 400 extra families are seeking refuge from local violence as well as coronavirus and Ebola. The demands on the staff are huge and the resources are very small.
- Nevedita Jeevabalan is a local mission partner in Sri Lanka. Amongst other things, she heads up a child protection team which brings love, comfort and practical support to children who have been physically or sexually abused. In the capital city, Colombo, it has been estimated that one in every three children lives in a violent and abusive home. This is a side of Sri Lanka that tourists rarely see.
- During this coronavirus pandemic please pray for mission partners across the world, who are continuing their ministry to bring God's love to people who are often living in a climate of poverty, lack of medical care and many other challenges. Pray especially for Rachel Ullmer in Pakistan and Margaret Birch in Mozambique.

MONDAY – CATHERINE LEE

- Catherine says, "Taiwan's response to the coronavirus pandemic provides a beacon of hope in this dark world". The government has taken a very proactive role from the beginning and the wearing of face masks is mandatory in many public situations including **all children** in schools. The outcome has been that the spread of coughs and colds has dropped dramatically.
- Bishop Lennon Chang is now consecrated and installed as the new Bishop of Taiwan. Please pray for him and his family as he begins to lead the Episcopal Church of Taiwan in what are obviously very difficult and challenging times.

- St John's University has a labyrinth on the campus (unusual, but there you go!). In the late afternoon, when it is both quiter and a little cooler, Catherine often goes into the labyrinth and uses it as a time of 'walking prayer'. Please pray for her as she works to support the new bishop and strives to balance the many demands on her time and energy.

TUESDAY – THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

- Covid-19 has left some families struggling to feed and clothe their children. No parent should be facing financial ruin to provide for their child. Please support the Children's Society and also our own Foodbank who are working hard to provide much needed help and support for these families.
- Alice was six-years-old when her father sexually abused her. Later she was groomed and sexually exploited by a group of men. With the help of a Children's Society project worker Alice is now coming to terms with these traumatic experiences. Please give generously so that the project workers can support more children like Alice.
- Around four million children live in poverty in the UK, which can affect their spiritual, mental and physical well-being as well as their life chances. The problem is getting worse as more families spiral into debt. The Children's Society has a proven track record over 100 hundred years in fighting child poverty. Please support the work they do and pray for all their paid staff and their volunteers.

WEDNESDAY – CHRISTIAN AID

- Christian Aid Week, which is a massive fund-raiser, should have taken place 10-16 May. Obviously this did not happen because of the pandemic. Please pray that during the rest of the year ways will be found to raise the profile of and to financially support the work of Christian Aid across the world especially in countries which do not have the resources to cope with the spread of coronavirus.
- The Rohingya crisis in Myanmar has left many children without a family or home. Six-year-old Asha's home was burnt to the ground and both her parents and her three sisters were killed. She now lives with over 850,000 other

refugees in one of the world's largest refugee camps on the Bangladesh border. Please pray for and help Christian Aid support children like Asha.

- Millions of people have been evacuated from their homes in India and Bangladesh due to the devastating floods caused by Super Cyclone Amphan. Media coverage of the pandemic has taken attention away from this disaster. These people are also concerned about Covid-19 but they **can't** self-isolate. Please pray for all the organisations, including Christian Aid, which are currently dealing with this crisis.

THURSDAY – KAGERA

- Please pray for more clarity and openness about Covid-19 in Tanzania. The president, John Magufuli, has repeatedly played down the threat from the pandemic and refused to impose a strict lockdown, as many other leaders on the continent have. Because of this the full extent of the spread of the virus is not clear. Pray for protection from Covid-19 for the population of Tanzania.
- Kagera Christian Theological College (KCTC) reopened on 1st June. Please pray for all the students and tutors- that the precautionary measures in place, including hand washing and reducing the number of students per dormitory, will keep them safe from the pandemic.
- The Principal at KCTC has recently changed. Give thanks for all that Absalom, the previous Principal, achieved at KCTC over the years. Please pray now for Rev. Phocas Nsimiyana, the Acting Principal. Pray that God will guide Phocas and the Diocese as they seek to develop further the mission of the college. Give thanks also for the many practical skills Phocas brings, already being put to good use in maintaining the college buildings.

FRIDAY – RUKUNGIRI

- The Ugandan government has responded positively to the pandemic. Currently all public transport, shops (except food shops) schools and public places are closed and there is a 7pm-7am curfew. However, crowded city areas, refugee camps and inadequate water supplies often make social distancing and basic health precautions very difficult. Please pray for all our friends in Uganda.
- This year's project is to pave the whole of the school yard to reduce the muddy chaos that results after heavy rain. However, in true Rukungiri style, all the

paving blocks are being made at the Gables Vocational Centre using a recently purchased paver press. Please pray for this ongoing work.

- Rukungiri Orphan Partnership has gained a new trustee. He is Roger Farnworth who is team Rector and Borough Dean of Tameside. Roger and his wife Jo have known John and Alice for over thirty years. Please pray for Roger and Jo as they find new ways to support the work at Rukungiri.

SATURDAY – THE BIBLE SOCIETY

- In **Gambia**, West Africa, the 95% Muslim and 5% Christian population live peacefully together. But the country is poor and literacy rates are very low. The Bible Society team there is working to teach people of any faith how to read and write, using the Bible as the main text. Please pray for the people of Gambia and this work to raise literacy.
- In **Syria** the problems caused by the long civil conflict must be multiplied by the impact of coronavirus. George, the General Secretary of Bible Society there, asks for our prayers and support because, "with so many open doors and torn-down walls we will never have a minute to rest. The needs are only surpassed by the opportunities." Pray that the Gospel will bring hope to a nation that has suffered so much.
- **Good News Bible-Youth Edition.** This is the best present remarked a girl having got engrossed in her new copy. Your financial support and prayers will impact young people through this edition of the Bible, as they face challenges of county drug lines, climate change and financial uncertainty. Please pray for its wide distribution.

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