

MISSION FOCUS

PRAYER DIARY – SPRING 2018

SUNDAY – CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

- Asia-CMS have a new leader. He is Rev Dr Chan Nam Chen from Malaysia and he comes with great experience of cross-cultural mission and leadership. Please pray for him as he works to bring different mission partners together.
- Rev Bisoke Balikenga is the National Youth Coordinator for the Anglican Church in Congo. Please pray for him helping to run a peace centre for women and girls who have been raped and abused in the inter-ethnic violence that continues to plague DR Congo.
- Michael Green spent many years working as a mission partner in the Middle East. He is now helping to support Syria refugees in Ipswich. Please pray for his work and for his visit to Beccles in July.

MONDAY – CATHERINE LEE

- Catherine asks for prayers for St James' Church, Taichung and its rector Rev Lily L.L. Chang; for the English/Chinese congregations, kindergarten, community service centre, counselling ministry and for their witness in the community.
- Please pray for all the churches in the Taiwan Episcopal Church, for those who preach each week and for their sermons to be challenging and inspiring.
- East Taiwan has been badly hit by an overnight earthquake. The last major earthquake in Taiwan took place two years ago in southern Taiwan. Then, as now, there was much destruction and many deaths and injuries. Please pray for all the organisations dealing with the disaster and especially for those who have lost family or friends.

TUESDAY – THE CHILDREN’S SOCIETY

- Give thanks that more than 13,000 young people were helped and supported by the Children’s Society in 2017. Of these, more than 7,000 were in the London and South East. Pray for continuing finance to help young people in 2018.
- A recent survey has shown that more than 47% young people have received intimidating, threatening or nasty messages on-line. Many of these children were under 13-years-old. It has been shown that there is a direct connection between intensive use of social media and mental health. Please pray for Children’s Society staff who deal with this problem on a regular basis.
- Pray for the campaign to petition the government to exempt young people who are leaving care to be exempt from paying council tax till they reach the age of 25.

WEDNESDAY – RUKUNGIRI

- Give thanks for the hard work of head teacher, Geoffrey, and all the staff at the primary school who continue to work so hard to make the school one of the finest in Uganda and one which continues to produce excellent examination results. Many pupils are now continuing into secondary education and with God’s blessing will become some of the future teachers and leaders in Uganda.
- Please pray for the Vocational Training Centre in Rukungiri and for all those students who are learning new craft skills there: pray also for their instructors and for all those involved in the upkeep of the centre.
- Please pray that, despite the ongoing drought in much of East Africa that the new deep borehole on the farmland will continue to provide a good supply of water (the previous shallow borehole dried up).

THURSDAY –CHRISTIAN AID

Mission Focus services at 10.30am:

13th May (St Luke's) and 20th May (St Michael's)

There will also be a special Christian Aid Service at St Luke's: 13th May 6.00pm

- Please continue to pray for what the UN has described as the 'humanitarian catastrophe' of Syria and especially for the 5 million refugees. Pray that there will be lasting ceasefire that will provide the climate needed for the peacemakers to do their work.
- Please pray for Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the world. The on-going civil war has caused 2 million people to be displaced from their homes and there are 10 million people needing water, food and healthcare.
- In NE Nigeria the Islamic terrorist group, Boko Haram, has targeted and attacked many Christian villages and displaced more than 2 million people. There is little media attention but we can support in prayer our brothers and sisters there.

FRIDAY – KAGERA

- We give thanks with admiration for the strength of character of the people of Kagera; for their great belief in the power of prayer, for their commitment to each other and their church and for their willingness to give with generosity when they have so little. In a country where we have so much, may we re-learn from Kagera the spirit of humility and gratitude, and reconsider our attitude to wealth and possessions.
- In the face of climate change we pray that improved agriculture will bring fruitful harvests.
- We ask God's blessing on the work of pastors and church leaders as they lead their communities.
- We give thanks for the Mothers' Union and other agencies who give support in Kagera.
- We pray for the recruitment of doctors and medical workers and for more plentiful supplies of medicines and equipment.

SATURDAY – THE BIBLE SOCIETY

- **Central African Republic (CAR)** – where war between rebel groups has raged since 2012. There are oil wells and diamond and gold mines but 90% of the people live in extreme poverty. The capital, Bangui, is controlled by the UN, but otherwise the country is lawless, with violence and kidnappings. The Foreign Office advised not to travel to CAR at all, but Bible Society work there. In the midst of the chaos, a group of women has started to teach reading and writing, using the Bible as their text, and offering trauma counselling; and people still want to buy Bibles. **Please pray for these brave and determined women, for their safety and success, and that the Bible will become the bedrock of hope and healing for this land.**
- Bible Society has a new president, Archbishop Angaelos of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of London. He is well known for his ecumenism and inter-religious relations and is internationally recognised as an advocate for religious freedom and human rights. He says,
" I am sincerely committed to the ecumenical life of the Church because I believe in it, and there is nothing that can unite us more than Scripture as we endeavour to be the Body of Christ, and light in the world." **Please pray for him in his work, and for Coptic Christians, many of whom suffer great persecution for their faith.**

Growing in
influence

Growing in
depth