

8 Mamba-bu, Kailahun District, Sierra Leone.

*David Bale has asked for our prayers for this community.
See picture in November 2015 Connections*

We pray for all those involved in the water well project as it gets underway - for Matthew and his brother Moses as they organise the work, for the contractor and his staff and for the villagers contributing their physical labour and many others supporting the project in different ways. We pray for the safety of all involved and for the successful completion of the work before the rainy season arrives.

We thank God that Yawah Sellu has returned from Guinea and is recovering well from her long illness. We pray that she will continue to strengthen as she settles back into life at home and that she will soon be able to return to school.

We also hold before God the political situation in Sierra Leone as the country held general elections on 7th March.

9 Christian Aid

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/prayer/prayer-diary.aspx>

Christian Aid have 3 main campaigns running in 2018:

- Change the story. To encourage people to promote positive stories about Britain providing refuge for refugees. We believe we are all created equal with the image of God within us, we pray for a UK that refuses to turn a blind eye to the suffering of people seeking sanctuary.
- Climate change. To encourage banks to stop investing our money in fossil fuels. We pray for a better world, free from poverty and climate change. Where everyone has enough to eat, and can live without fear of their home being destroyed.
- Tax justice. To expose the scandal of tax dodging by multinational companies, so that developing countries can pay for essential public services. Jesus calls us to be light in dark places, exposing what the darkness hides. We pray for those standing up against injustice, and stand alongside them to lift the veil of secrecy in the international tax system.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary, March 2018 richard@richardodell.co.uk

Mission Matters for Prayer

"I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer" Ps. 17.

Please continue to pray for issues in past editions as God leads you, some key needs will continue for many years! You may also find the Spirit prompts you to pray for this partner in a way not mentioned here, do so!

Numbers help select an item to pray for, eg pray for "2" on 2nd, 12th, 22nd.

1 ACE Youth Trust

<http://www.aceyouth.org.uk/>

We continue to thank God for the work of ACE and that young lives are being changed through the care and support of ACE volunteers and staff. We thank God for the dedication and enthusiasm of all who work with ACE and for the generosity of those who contribute as supporters or donors.

We pray for God's continued blessing upon the work and for wisdom as ACE seeks to respond to changing needs. We pray that new people will continue to come forward, willing to commit their skills, experience and time to help the disadvantaged young people of our community.

Please pray for those young people - for those struggling with loneliness, bullying, disability, mental illness; for those in trouble at school or with the police, those with no loving home or family support, those in despair who see no future, those overstretched by their circumstances. "Father God, bless our young people, we pray, and use us to show them your love."

2 Patna Partnership, N India

<http://www.ashbournechurchestogether.org.uk/patna.html>

- For the presbyters in new posts, Francis and Daniel
- For Christchurch Diocesan School, Bhagalpur. They need improvements to qualify for accreditation as an examination centre, specifically an improved library and a re-equipped Chemistry laboratory.
- For Prithi as she has recently taken over as head of the school

3 Methodist Homes (MHA)

<http://www.mha.org.uk/about-mha/chaplaincy-and-spirituality/>

Pray for the work of the Chaplaincy Team as they have a lot on and are trying to recruit more chaplains, and the work with Dementia care, such as Music Therapy, which was recently the subject of a programme on BBC Radio.

Pray for Sam Monaghan, MHA's new Chief Executive. Sam said he's looking forward to going out and getting to know colleagues in more depth in the coming months through visiting as many of MHA's Care Homes and Schemes as he can.

4 Junior Mission for All (JMA)

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/junior-mission-for-all-%28jma%29>

JMA was created so that children would not be excluded from supporting and learning about the mission of the Church. It is also about sharing the insights of God's people all over the world with children in our churches.

Please continue to pray for our own young people to have open hearts to others and the work of mission and our part in it. Pray too for Ruth Mallard and Liz Hibberd as they carry responsibility for JMA.

Pray for the forthcoming India sharing event on Saturday evening April 28th.

Thank you for praying for Ruth, Joy and Christian Mallard during their trip to India in December, mainly to work with the Arunima Hospice and Cathedral Relief Service in Kolkata. Ruth says "I really valued your support while we were in India. It has been a positive and worthwhile visit."

5 Phakamisa, S Africa

<http://www.phakamisa.org/>

Following Anne Wills' visit to Phakamisa in November she asks for prayer for Nellie who is in charge of beadwork; teaching as well as orders and sales overseas. Her home was badly damaged by a neighbour's collapsed wall in the storms that hit the Durban area at the end of October. The neighbour hasn't money to pay for repairs, nor has Nellie. And no insurance. She needs replacement windows and repairs to the brickwork, costing nearly £2000. A substantial amount has been sent but it does not cover the total. She hopes to start repairs this March during the Easter holidays.

Thokozani is very concerned for her Phakamisa family at this time following severe storms and heavy winds off the coast of Durban. A large container ship was grounded in the port of Durban as well as four ocean liners. Several lives lost. Winds have swept through Pinetown area as well damaging homes and other properties. Thokozani is concerned for the many carers around Pinetown. One member of staff has lost a large part of her home.

6 Jonathan and Isabel Hill, Zimbabwe

<http://www.isabeljonathan.org/>

Pray for them, and for the new President Mnangagwa as the nation rises to new challenges.

Isabel is planning to set up an exercise class for women at Bulawayo Central Methodist Church. Please pray for the success of this ministry.

She is also trying to set up Kids' Clubs at Methodist Church locations throughout the District. These are to give a chance for orphans and vulnerable children to play outdoor games together.

7 Open the Book

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/>

Praise God for:

- 15,000 volunteer storytellers
- New teams being formed

Please pray for:

- Staff at the Contact Centre and Supporter Services at Bible Society who deal with all the Open the Book administration
- Open the Book Development Manager
- Training Development Manager and Local Trainers
- All who work behind the scenes making props
- For wisdom for a 10 year strategy plan
- For Joy and Arthur, Helen, Sandra, Cherry, David and Margaret