

## 8 Jonathan and Isabel Hill, Zimbabwe

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

Jonathan and Isabel sent me a report recently of which this is a brief summary (see full article in February Connections).

With the situation in Zimbabwe we and a lot of Zimbabweans are amazed by how God seems to be silent and inactive when things appear to be not improving. Zimbabwe is in crisis, economic and social. Everything is collapsing. We really need our fellow Christians to help us lift up our hearts to the Lord for help. Prayer requests:

- Pray for our **leaders** to rule with fairness and not to put their personal ambitions above the needs of the people.
- Pray for a stable **financial system**. Prices in the shops have gone up dramatically in recent months.
- In times like these, orphaned and **vulnerable children** get exploited because of their innocence. Pray for their protection.
- Pray for the Zimbabwe **Council of Churches** to have the courage to intervene in what is happening in the country which oppresses the citizens.
- Pray for the **health system**. There is a continuing shortage of essential drugs and often hard cash (in US dollars) is demanded by the pharmacies for medicines. Now doctors have gone on strike.
- Pray for the **cholera outbreak** to be contained.
- The **rainy season** has delayed, but our God is a wonderful miracle worker who provides, so pray for the rain and a bumper crop harvest.
- All goes well at Sunday School, but we could do with more helpers.
- Pray for the feeding scheme that we are operating at Thekwane Primary School. Isabel is glad that she can make a difference.
- Now Stephen has his master's degree pray for his job hunting.

We also have much for which to **give thanks**:

- ✓ People in Zimbabwe are resilient and resourceful in a crisis.
- ✓ The shops are mostly well stocked.
- ✓ With the exception of the much publicised riots in Harare after the Harmonised Elections, Zimbabwe is peaceful.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary, January 2019  
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## 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. Please also use the Methodist Prayer Handbook. Thanks to those who contributed items. You may also find the Spirit prompts you to pray for a partner in a way not mentioned here, do so! Numbers help select an item to pray for, eg pray for "2" on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

### 1 Mambabu, Kailahun District, Sierra Leone.

We thank God for the Mambabu programme and for its work amongst some of the poorest people in the world, for the life-changing work of its projects and for the new hope and confidence fostered in the community. At this time we thank God especially for the progress made in constructing water wells in the three villages. May the obstacles encountered in construction can soon be overcome.

We also hold before God the children and young people of the villages and their families in the daily difficulties and challenges of their lives. We pray too for those who work tirelessly to guide, support and educate them for no reward, other than the joy of seeing them grow and learn.

Finally, please will you pray for Matthew and for all those with responsibility for guiding the Mambabu programme into the future, as they approach a time of review and of planning for the next phase of development.

### 2 Open the Book

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

We give thanks that more schools are inviting teams to share Bible Stories with them, that more volunteers are coming forward to take the Bible Stories into schools. We pray:

- for guidance for teams as they plan which stories to share
- for guidance for teams as they prepare how to present each story
- that the staff and children may understand and that they too may come to know Jesus
- for all Open the Book volunteers, locally, nationally and internationally

### **3 Patna Partnership, N India**

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

Pray for:-

- the use of Whatsapp
- the prayer group that has been formed and is being used
- the people of Kerala affected by the monsoon floods
- Christians generally and pastors in particular as they struggle to cope with the anti-conversion law and the violence that they experience in some areas.

### **4 Methodist Homes (MHA)**

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

Pray that the standard of elderly care by MHA will never falter, and that it will continue to fulfil its mission in bringing quality to later life.

Pray that the year-long consultation with the government department for social care for the elderly will not get bogged down in the present chaos. Also that the Green Paper that will result from this consultation will be a world beater for this nation in its care for the elderly in general.

Pray that MHA will continue, in this uneasy and unsure economic and political climate, to have the ability to pay the real living wage and the vision to press ahead with the goals they have set for the staff and those under their care.

Pray too for all the staff, those paid, and all the volunteers that make MHA the leader of elderly care that it is today that it may continue in the future.

Tom Parkinson Ashbourne Circuit MHA Representative.

### **5 Junior Mission for All (JMA)**

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

Junior Mission for All (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.

In November we were learning about life as a missionary in Mozambique. Please pray for the people of Mozambique who are generally very poor and have many struggles:-

- May Mozambique with its many cultures and languages be shaped by God's transforming love.
- May the country's ability to produce a diverse harvest, from mangoes to maize, encourage people to produce the fruit of God's Spirit.
- May the Government's aspirations towards greater health, wealth and happiness spur Mozambicans to seek the fruits of peace, love and joy.
- May there be an end to violence and lawlessness and an ability to overcome past conflicts.

### **6 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 pray for God's continued blessing upon this work.

We thank God for the dedication and enthusiasm of all who work with ACE committing their skills, experience and time to help the disadvantaged young people of our community and we pray that God will continue to call, inspire and equip such people in this service. We thank God too for the generosity of those who contribute much-needed funds to enable the work to continue.

We also pray for the young people themselves – holding before God all those struggling with loneliness, bullying, disability, mental illness; 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."

### **7 Phakamisa, S Africa**

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

News of Phakamisa's future is sad. And Thokozani has had family problems too which can't have helped her concentration on the job. Thokozani writes:

Things have been hectic this side. Some staff members have to be retrenched due to funding shortage. Five staff members are not coming back next year, and for those who are left behind it is not guaranteed for how long the organization will be able to pay them. It's very sad **please keep us in your prayers.**

Next year I am visiting UK in April; the dates are not confirmed as yet because I've not done my bookings. Thank you so much for the support you've given us.