

## Please Pray for our Mission partners... February 2022

### Lesotho



Edward feels the people are more resigned about Covid now and are less afraid and spiritually stronger. They had good Christmas services and

handed out lots of food parcels rather than giving toys to the children. There are many desperately hungry people. Their **prayer** is to meet those really in need and to help those who are anxious or depressed.

The new polytunnel is being installed. **Pray** that this project will be successful and they will soon be able to produce good food.

There is a huge influx of children coming to the church. **Pray** that they will have wisdom about how best to help them and keep them well.

**Pray** for the energy and resources to reach out with the gospel in this time of great need.

Please **pray** too for Edward and Mpho's student children who are at Mixed universities and are experiencing prejudice for the first time.

### Miriam Dean Fund



**We give thanks that:**

- funds raised for Leonard hospital have enabled much suffering to be alleviated;
- the COVID situation in India has improved

**We pray:**

- for Sister Hilaria at DEEPAM Hospital, where there is real concern about malnutrition amongst the children they care for, and that her ideas will address this successfully;
- that the special school at Mannacknad will soon be able to open more than one day/week;
- that as Omicron spreads in India, Kenya and South Africa, our Partners are ready and equipped to react.

### Biojemmss

This has been a year of development despite Covid-related obstacles. We have recruited two new members of staff to our family-strengthening department. The hamper project has been appreciated by the local community. The pig and goat projects have been solidly established and we have seen many people give their lives to Jesus through these outreaches! Our children have just returned fully to school since the start of the pandemic so please **pray** they will settle.

We now have 30 families assessed and waiting for an animal from our pig and goat projects. We are also paying half school fees to 30 children for nine months as their families' pig/goat projects have a chance to grow. The majority of these children have been removed from child labour.

We are discussing with trustees and volunteers in Uganda and in the UK what buildings (community centre/offices/facilities/playground) would be best and how to make them fit-for-purpose. We now need to involve local architects, sort out the planning and raise funds so please **pray** for wisdom and financial provision.

Quentin and Sian are also sorting out their plans: for their return to Uganda, and Sian's employment with Biojemmss so please **pray** for them.

### COINS



(Christian Outreach in Newbury Schools)

Before Christmas we were able to share 'The Christmas Gift' event with 19 schools and around 570 pupils in our area.

We had brilliant feedback from the schools and churches involved e.g., "Fabulous as always – great to look at the Nativity and its symbolism in depth." *Hermitage Primary school*. "Children engaged throughout and enjoyed the activities." *Fir Tree Primary*.

We also produced a well-received Advent Calendar with links to COINS resources and local church services.



*Emma performing her monologue as Mary at St George's church, Wash Common*

### **Please pray**

Give thanks and praise to God for Joni, Emma and Kate, our amazing schools' team and their continued creativity and enthusiasm for developing useful resources for teachers and pupils to learn about Jesus.

*Please pray for Supportive relationships and open doors with schools and teachers, as schools continue to be challenged by Covid.*

Please **pray** for assembly opportunities and in person clubs starting up this term, especially Kennet and Park House secondary and St Joseph's primary school.

*Please pray for wisdom around the planning and organising of 'Easter Eggsplored'.*

## **Count everyone in**



**Our vision is for every church in England and Wales to welcome adults with learning disabilities so that they can know Jesus and grow in him.**

What a year – or two – it's been! The verse that speaks of man making his plans but the Lord ordering his steps has reassured us as we've had to hold our plans lightly. Thank you, for your support and prayers:

### **Thanks**

- **Christmas** - the CEI Celebration, livestreamed from St Nic's and viewed 450 times on YouTube, was a joyful start to the season. Thank you to all who helped.
- **Festivals** - most 2021 conferences and festivals that cancelled invited CEI instead to film short engaging videos of teaching and worship. They reached more people than would normally have attended our on-site events. Praise God!
- **Bible reading** - our range of simple, accessible Bible reading notes continues to grow and the

latest is an illustrated booklet with 20 readings from the Psalms.

### **Please pray**

- **Confidence** – as COVID restrictions ease that there will be bookings for workshops and speaking in churches to inspire and equip people for ministry with adults with learning disabilities.
- **Makaton** –Janneke has run 4 enjoyable and successful Know & Grow Makaton workshops to teach simple signing for Christian vocabulary. Do pray for full validation by the Makaton Charity.
- **The future** – we're looking for people with a heart for disadvantaged people to know Jesus. Pete and Christine remain committed and passionate about this mission and ministry but need younger folk to share the work and take over the baton.

## **SAT 7**

Sat7 is an international Christian media ministry, bringing life-changing joy to the people of the Middle East and North Africa through powerful faith-filled television and digital media programmes.

Please pray for:

- **Pray** for Pastor Chalah, leader of the largest Protestant Church in Algeria. He, along with others, are undergoing court hearings and face up to 5 years imprisonment as government clamps down on Christian activity. **Pray** for God's peace and that the charges get dropped. **Pray** Algerian believers will respond to pressure with faith and perseverance.
- **Pray** for the SAT-7 Turk team as their studio in Istanbul was badly flooded badly on 13<sup>th</sup> January. **Pray** for protection of valuable equipment and that the broadcasting can continue under difficult conditions.
- Hamon from Iran said recently; "With your guidance, I decided to truly commit my heart to Christ and I have been going through teaching for new believers, it is so amazing how I am able to get answers to my questions. Also, I can't believe how my prayers are being answered. I am ever so grateful that you have helped me on this journey. I pray the Lord's blessings and perfect will for you."

- **Praise** God for the lives that have been touched and that God would continue to use SAT-7 to transform many more lives in 2022.

## YMCA

We had to be creative in lockdown using social media and some outdoor work when permitted. Please pray for the proper restart of:

- **Space** – a place for young carers to be youthful and carefree, where there are activities and support and fun... and they can leave behind their home responsibilities
- **Fusion** groups – places where vulnerable teenagers can be themselves, where seeds of faith can be thrown out in conversations, games, debates and through chatting and listening, young people can grow in faith
- **Pray also** about the possibility of working with Berkshire Youth at the Waterside Centre which was successful in supporting the young people in Newbury before it closed for refurbishment
- **Pray** as we explore ways to rekindle the work that James did with the youngsters in the Clay Hill area of Newbury
- **Give thanks** for all the young people we are in touch with, and for our faithful Volunteers
- **Pray** for our Board and for new members

## Newbury Street Pastors



Newbury Street Pastors celebrate their 10th anniversary in March! And the Rev Les Isaac, the original founder of Street Pastors way back in Brixton, is coming to speak to

us. Fantastic privilege to hear him.

**Thanks** for our very committed board of trustees who 'manage' Newbury Street Pastors and who keep us funded through various initiatives to supply us with our essentials: bottles of water, flip-flops, lollipops and First Aid equipment.

### Prayer

We are still a little short of Prayer Pastors to support us when we are out on the streets on Saturday nights. We have two teams with St Nic's members in them that are currently without prayer pastors.

Prayer Pastors can do the whole shift or just the first part of the shift. They can be physically at the Baptist Church which is our nice warm base, or

they can pray from home available to phone calls from the Street Pastors out that evening. They can join with us at the Baptist Church at 10.00pm for our 30-minute Bible time and reflection led by a minister and then go back home to be available for phone calls. It could be a regular commitment every five weeks or you could offer two Saturdays per year, for example. There are lots of options

## SU St Petersburg Vera Zhuravleva



- Remember the ongoing work – regular groups meeting in the Bible Centre in St Petersburg, groups meeting on line, the weekly club of children and teenagers in Murmanskie Vorota.
- Give **thanks** that even though summer camps had to be cancelled, work took place among teenagers from the local village: **pray** that good conversations last summer would continue to bear fruit in their lives throughout the year.
- Give **thanks** for the opportunity to carry out repairs and extensions at the campsite in Murmanskie Vorota and **pray** that the long awaited gas supply would indeed be connected this summer.
- After the death of Father Anufrii, **pray** that God would bring a new priest who loves the Lord to the St Andrew's Centre in Volkhov (near Murmanskie Vorota)



The Newbury Action Group's activities have been largely curtailed during pandemic restrictions. However, we continue to pray for Bible Society worldwide, distribute the Word in Action magazine and support 'Bible-a-month' project etc. In 2022 we are hoping to have a stand at the forthcoming local 'Gathering' of Christians Together in the Newbury Area, hope to recruit much needed new members to our Group and plan to run some of our normal events to help fund and promote the work of the Society locally.

In particular, we support the work of the Egyptian Bible Society who have held online Bible competitions for teenagers and continue to work tirelessly to spread the Word of God.

Ramez Atallah, who leads the team, has requested **prayer** for more Bibles and that God's Word will touch the hearts of young people and that his dedicated team working long hours around the country will be strengthened and kept safe.

Bible Society are grateful to everyone at St Nic's for their ongoing prayer and financial support, particularly for the work in Egypt.

## BUS of HOPE



After the Christmas break, we are looking into 2022 with hope, excitement and willingness to follow God's plan for this year and the Bus of

Hope ministry so please **pray** that we will remain faithful and obedient and bold in responding to His call.

We're thankful for the renovation of the bus that took place last year and the collaboration with KCC Church that enabled new activities for St George's Community.

We **pray** that we will be able to get the Bus out on the road again this spring and that God will provide the finances, volunteers and drivers needed to make this happen. Please **pray** with us as we 'push doors' with regards to more Bus Outreach locations; in Thatcham, Greenham, Lambourne and Aldermaston - may God pave the way for where He wants us to go.

We are a registered charity so depend on donations and grants as our source of income. We need a minimum of £15,000 for one year's running costs. We have a fundraising project with The Good Exchange this year. (see: Bus Operations Costs 2021-2022 (thegoodexchange.com) . We have also launched an appeal to increase our regular monthly donations. **Please pray** God will move people to respond to these appeals.



Thank you so much for your interest in and generous support of Shoemakers over the years. We have made our way through various lockdowns, and the most difficult times we have ever experienced. We are now moving forward and are hoping to be able to run the café and to reach out to our regular customers.

Our main **prayer** needs at the moment are

- for customers to actually order through the shop and the website –its sales that keep us going! ([www.christophershoemaker.org.uk](http://www.christophershoemaker.org.uk))
- for volunteers to help us run it all.

So **please pray** for us!

## Mark and Ruth and Life Church, Middle East



Mark, Ruth and Life church send love to all at St Nic's

As Mark and Ruth begin to settle into Northamptonshire here in the UK, Life Church in the Middle East continues under the leadership of Ali and Dave. Join us in **praying** for refreshed energy and renewed amazement at Jesus as the church comes back together after time apart during Covid. We're also **praying** for new visitors; for some to come, find Jesus and be an encouragement for the older believers, spurring them on and helping them on their faith journey. Finally, for God's peace and comfort after the recent sad deaths (both unrelated to Covid) of Ali's mother-in law and the new-born baby of one couple leading our church plant.

May the whole church know God's closeness, love and care as they grieve.

## Please pray for our Mission partners...

If you would be interested in knowing more or personally supporting any of these missions please contact 'Outreach' via the church office.

## Thank you!