

7 Mamba-bu, Kailahun District, Sierra Leone.

Thank God for the progress made in constructing water wells in Bendekor and Gbangbama and that everyone engaged in the arduous and hazardous work has remained safe and free of serious injury. Pray that the projects there will conclude safely and successfully.

Pray for the villagers and the work team in Gbandoma who have suffered repeated setbacks and disappointments in seeking a suitable site for a well and that alternative arrangements for providing fresh water for the village might soon be found. Thank God for the commitment and hard work of all those giving their time, effort and ingenuity to seek a way forward and we trust in God that a good solution will be found.

A prayer of thanksgiving sent by Matthew, the Mambabu project leader in Sierra Leone: 'We thank God for the life of Yawah Sellu and for her healing. Our hearts hold a prayer that carries her so close to God's loving heart. We pray that her healing will continue to be permanent. God Almighty, we ask you to bless and comfort her so that she may find glory in your name. We pray for her family and for all those who in diverse ways have contributed to her healing.'

8 Methodist Homes (MHA)

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

Give thanks in prayers for the 75th Anniversary that MHA celebrates this year, and pray that the events that celebrate this will be blessed and that the mission statement of MHA, "Bringing quality to later life" will always be at the forefront of the services that MHA gives the elderly.

Pray for MHA's 18,000+ people under its care that they may have the quality in life that they need in their latter days, and pray for the 7,000 staff, and volunteers that they will be given the love, strength and compassion to fulfil their role to give quality to those that need it to the utmost degree.

Finally, pray for the politicians, because so many governments of all persuasions have ignored, or put off decisions on elderly care. that they will grasp the nettle and they will make a concrete and lasting decision for the care of the ever increasing elderly population.

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

1 Jonathan and Isabel Hill, Zimbabwe

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

This piece from Jonathan of 21st August gives a few areas for praise and prayer:

"Hope you and all at Ashbourne are well. We have been keeping well over these last few weeks. Work at Thekwane is as hectic as ever. I have suggested to my Head of Department that I might like to have a slightly lighter teaching load next year. I think I took on too many classes this year. I have also been trying to write a textbook for O-level Statistics and progress is rather slow. There seems to be nothing available for the subject which is suitable for Zimbabwe. End of term was brought forward by two weeks to allow for the elections; most polling officers were teachers and many schools were polling stations. We will go back one week early, but there's a lot of work to catch up on, especially for the external examination classes, whose exams start in mid-October.

Isabel's job title has been changed by the Synod, from Child Care Coordinator to Social Service Resource Officer. Her work doesn't really change in essence, but it reflects the fact that she is not restricted to helping children, but she also does counselling, especially young mothers, and she also helps people in the city centre who pop in to the office for assistance of all kinds, including food.

We were both very happy to go on a week's retreat organised by the World Church Relations team of Methodist Church Britain. It came at just the right time! Sometimes you just need to get away for a while.

Stephen is writing his final examination today. He is rather nervous about it as he struggled a bit towards the end of the course. The results will be out in November. Both his and Susannah's graduations should be in December. Tony is busy at work too, putting in quite a bit of overtime just lately."

2 ACE Youth Trust

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

- 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.
- Thank God that new people continue to come forward, willing to commit their skills, experience and time to help the disadvantaged young people of our community. Thank God also for the generosity of those who contribute much-needed funds to enable the work to continue.
- Pray for those working to make a success of the new Friday Club, that it will grow and be a blessing to all. Pray too for volunteers and staff involved in the ACE Summer Programme and that the young people will benefit richly from the excitement, fun, encouragement, support and stimulation of the activities.
- Pray for the young people – 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."

3 Open the Book

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

We do appreciate prayer for Open the Book, both locally and further afield.

Praise God for:

- The opportunity to share our faith in this simple way
- All we have learnt whilst presenting the Bible stories
- Ideas for props shared by other teams in the Open the Book newsletter

Pray for:

- Teams in inner city multi faith schools
- Pilot scheme in Ghana
- Teams whose members are struggling with health issues or bereavement
- Anyone considering joining or forming a team
- Joy and Arthur, Helen, Sandra, Cherry, David and Margaret

4 Junior Mission for All (JMA)

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

Thank you for continuing to pray for our children and young people as they continue to Learn, Pray and Serve (the Junior Mission for All motto).

Our most recent JMA event had a Venezuelan flavour as we had 4 guests from Venezuela at our breakfast, including a young person. We give thanks that we had a fun and informative time of learning and sharing together. Through the national JMA giving and World Mission Fund a recent grant of £6500 was made towards medical and feeding programmes for malnourished and undernourished children in northwest Venezuela. Whilst the country is rich in resources there is a humanitarian crisis which impacts most on the poor and vulnerable members of society especially in relation to shortages of food, energy and medicine. This grant is enabling meals to be provided for 450 children, 20 elderly people and 22 pregnant women in Maracaibo. They will also have access to free over the counter medicines which are currently hard to buy.

Please pray for the continued work of JMA, the provision of support for the most vulnerable in Maracaibo and for the people of Venezuela.

5 Phakamisa, S Africa

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

Director Thokasani needs our prayers. She says: "I have too much stress this side. Phakamisa is in a big crisis. We are short of funding in such a way that some staff members are being retrenched and they are not coming back next year. We really need prayers for financial breakthrough. Can you also pray for me; I need God's strength to be able to deal with this situation. As a leader I need to be there for the staff and this is affecting me so much as I also know their backgrounds losing their job is too much for them.

6 Patna Partnership, N India

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

- Give thanks for the recent visit
- Pray for the Whatsapp prayer group that has been formed and is being used
- Pray for the people of Kerala affected by the monsoon floods
- Pray for Christians generally and pastors in particular as they struggle to cope with the anti-conversion laws.