

Please join us in praying for our Mission partners....



## Lesotho

Pastor Edward is travelling in and out of Lesotho. The Lesotho and South African governments are keen to keep the borders open for economic reasons but they have a third wave of corona virus and the numbers are increasing quite rapidly. One woman in the church died last week. There is no vaccination programme. The food parcels are really appreciated. When they announce them in church people are really excited. Edward says "You can see the relief in their eyes". It has made a lot of difference to a lot of families.

Currently no children are allowed in the church as they don't understand social distancing but they have recently started to serve food to the children, some of whom have had a hard time during lockdown and are quite traumatised. It is winter now and getting very cold Edward is looking at the possibility of buying a tent for them to meet in.



Edward and Mpho are slowly adjusting to life without their children, both of whom have settled well into university and are working very hard.



Sandwiches and fruit kebabs for the children

Please pray:

- For the water project in Muela. To remove the stumbling block of local bureaucracy so the school can have adequate water to meet daily needs and start a vegetable growing project with the children.
- For church growth and for opportunities to open up so that they can reach areas that are difficult at the moment. It is snowing in the mountains and which makes the roads very dangerous.
- For the safety of the church team as they spread the gospel
- For the completion of the church building project
- For Edward to find the right tent for the children to meet in.

We are in an exciting season of development despite some of the challenges faced this year. We are expanding our trustee, advisory and volunteer support base and taking on a new member of staff in Uganda to develop some of our community initiatives.

The money from the St. Nic's Harvest Appeal is being used to start both a goat and a piggery project (slightly delayed due to Ugandan elections), to complement our ongoing family-strengthening work. We have celebrated our first harvest on our newly acquired land and as a special initiative, we have been delivering hampers to over 100 families most hit by COVID.



The children in our care are also doing well in their ages and stages with Trust finishing primary school, and Solomon starting an Uber business! Please pray for the children in our sponsorship programmes that they would remain motivated despite disruptions, and for wisdom as we make changes and step out in faith in many areas.

*Midias is a mother of four children from Rwakabengo cell. She does casual work to survive such as digging, weeding and cooking for people. She is a widow: her husband tried to murder his whole family by trapping them in the house and setting it on fire. They managed to escape so he hung himself alone in the property.*

*Midias has struggled since with her grief and to provide for the children. They move frequently due to being unable to pay rent. She has worked hard to pay school fees for her first born who has completed a nursery teaching course and is looking for work. Her son has managed to finish high school but she has not yet found the money to pay for the secretarial course he would like to do.*



*"Convey my heartfelt gratitude to those people who have sent us this package. My children are so blessed to receive it! May God bless you."*

Please pray:

- for those affected and challenged by Lockdown in the Biojemms family and in Kampala.
- that the hamper deliveries will support those affected financially/economically
- for the pig (and goats too) project to provide assistance to families in need.
- that the children in our sponsorship programmes would remain motivated despite disruptions, and for wisdom as we make changes and step out in faith in many areas.
- for Sian to know when to next travel to Uganda.



# Miriam Dean Fund

The UK media has been full of the severe escalation of the COVID pandemic in India. We asked our Partners about their recent experience.

In Kerala at Mannackanad, Sr Rani tells us that the “situation continues to remain grim”. The second wave of the pandemic has stretched health care infrastructure to its limit. Many of the Special School’s students and families are affected, “they remain at home unable to go to hospitals since there is no place in hospitals”. Babu at AHM says that the “Theni District is one of the ten in Tamil Nadu that reported a high number of cases”. They went into a complete lockdown in May.



DEEPAM, with Sr Hilaria at the helm, is based in the same complex in Vathalagundu as the Leonard Hospital. Hilaria says “it is very painful to see the happenings around ... continuously hearing cries, loss, death ... going through tough times. The sisters, doctors and hospital staff members are almost working 24x7. There is a great need for ventilators, an oxygen plant, medicines ...”. We have heard that 4 of their community of sisters have died due to COVID and their Superior is in hospital.

St Nic’s and St Mary’s response and our own matched funding means that we are sending over £18,000 to Leonard Hospital. Others have also raised a further £20,000 to date.

Sr Dr Jacqueline at Leonard Hospital responded “ *I have no adequate words to express my overwhelming gratitude for the marvellous way you and your supporters are trying hard to help us and the COVID victims.... God bless you all for being His helping hands and reaching out to the sick and the needy*”.

Thanks to an unexpected windfall, we are also sending supplementary funds to all our Partners to help them respond to and recover from COVID.

In the midst of this crisis, the final stages of the Indian Government’s planned new regulations have been put in place to ensure that all “foreign contributions” are routed through the State Bank in New Delhi, and our Partners have had to open new accounts. This has caused some problems which are gradually being resolved.

## **Please pray for:**

- all our Partners in India, Kenya and South Africa, as they continue their work to support some of the world’s poorest through the pandemic;
- the doctors, nurses, hospital staff and sisters at Leonard Hospital; we pray that they find the strength to work the long hours needed and that they remain safe; may the funds that have been raised be used wisely and urgently to help alleviate the suffering of their patients;
- Sr Hilaria at DEEPAM, as they work to combat the spread in the villages and to help the children who have poor nutrition, health and safety;
- a speedy resolution to the problems in India with transfer of funds.

# Mark and Ruth

## Life Church, Middle East



Life Church in the Middle East continues to meet online. Mark and Ruth were delighted to both give a sermon there (from here!) last month. We continue in contact with the leadership and close friends, whilst appreciating the need for space to grow beyond us. On one Sunday we joined, we 'met' one lady who had just come to faith that week and two others were also ready for baptism. Praise God He has been adding people even in lockdown. Strange to be watching from the sidelines...

Mark's court case to get his entry ban overturned is waiting to arrive at court of appeal. Ruth's case was heard in local court last month and we await the judges' decision. We are prepared for a rejection but let's pray that God would surprise us! We will keep fighting the bans in court and believe we will be able to return to visit our friends one day...

In the meantime, Mark is enjoying working full time in computer programming and has been blessed by good contracts at the right time, especially important as we are looking for a house and mortgage. We have been house hunting in Northamptonshire

(situated between family members, good UK transport connections and close to airports for future travel - plus, dare we say it, you get more for your money than Berkshire!). It'll be hard to move again but we pray and trust that God will help us to get settled and make friends again. Meanwhile, we are so glad to be at St Nic's and with Joyce here near Newbury.



A recent online sermon

Ruth has started an 18 month Coaching course with OM. It's training her to walk alongside leaders working cross culturally, equipping them to be more personally healthy, alert to what keeps them stuck and able to help their team to grow. She has completed the initial training block and now has 3 guinea pigs clients she is working with. With online module work and assignments, it's approx. 1.5 days a week. Ruth doesn't like the feeling of being the trainee again - scary! But she's determined to keep going, praying that God will use her to encourage, strengthen others in the future.

Thank you for your Prayers and support – please keep on praying for us.

Our video resources continue to be received well and used in our local schools. Joni and the COINS team were particularly excited



about our Pentecost video assembly for primary schools. It was a great opportunity to raise the profile of other local Christian organisations.

We are currently working on a revised 'It's Your Move' offering for yr6 children transitioning to secondary school, with, most of the schools approached working with a COINS team member 'in person' this term and others using the Video.

The Kennet secondary school 'Connect club' is still meeting regularly and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and support of Revd David Taylor, Thatcham Baptist Church who helps Emma run inspirational, fun and caring sessions for the boys.

Please pray:

- praise the Lord for the response to our Pentecost assembly and the dedication and commitment of Joni, Emma and Kate, the COINS schools' team.
- thanks for our faithful supporters and volunteers.
- that all the schools approached in the Newbury area will join in 'It's Your Move' and for Joni helping Penny at Thatcham Baptist Church deliver 'It's Your Move' in Thatcham schools.
- Planning and preparation of new resources, including another *Look Through our Lens* for secondary schools 'Can God and Science Co-Exist?'
- Teachers, governors and leaders in schools as they seek to provide the best supportive educational environment for children and young people in current and changing pandemic circumstances.
- That children and young people locally will seek the security of the Father's love and find a warm welcome in local Christian community.

For more information contact [joni@coinsnewbury.org](mailto:joni@coinsnewbury.org) or COINSNewbury Facebook posts or chat to Siân Lupton.



# Count everyone in

We (Christine, Pete and Janneke) are especially busy writing and filming five sessions on Ruth for Virtually Keswick and we've been rediscovering the beauty of this book.

We are so thankful to our church family at St Nic's and to other supporters across the UK who have faithfully supported CEI during a period when everything has changed.

## What has encouraged us?

- At Zoom Coffee on Sunday mornings, at Encounter Prayer and in our Home group we are frequently asked how things are going and we doubt if most people realise how much their interest and concern means to us. Thank you!
- Our 'Emerging from Lockdown' Zoom Consultation for Friends with CEI (groups and churches) provided a safe place to share experiences, concerns and challenges.
- Our range of daily Bible notes has grown in the last year and they have been popular for helping people with limited reading ability to understand God's word.

## What has been less encouraging?

- Still not able to plan with certainty any training or speaking engagements.
- Some church groups may not re-open after Covid-19.
- Some families are struggling because day services have closed permanently and their adult child has nothing to do and nowhere to go.



Please pray:

- give thanks for the relevance of our 'Emerging from Lockdown' consultation
- thank God for steady progress on Know & Grow Makaton and pray that further pilots will soon be possible
- pray for the 5 video sessions for Virtually Keswick
- pray for the launch of Psalms (NirV Accessible Edition) and our partnership with Biblica and Living Breath Videos – that Psalms will be helpful to all who read/see/hear
- pray for wisdom and guidance as we look to the future for CEI. Our vision remains the same but our methods have changed!



# Bus of Hope

Thank you for your continued prayer and support. As the lockdown gradually eases, we are taking careful steps towards restarting our pre-COVID service in the community.

We would like to respond generously to the requests for the Bus to restart its regular Outreaches, but the reality is that during the pandemic, circumstances changed for a lot of us, and the number of BoH volunteers has decreased significantly.

So our biggest need at the moment is for more drivers and outreach volunteers - the more people we have, the stronger our community provision can be and the easier the load for the Outreach Teams. Please would you join us in our heartfelt prayer for new volunteers so that, regardless of the pandemic situation in September (BoH Autumn Term), we will have strong, passionate and community loving Teams ready for action - in whatever format that may be. Until then we will continue to support our communities the best way we can with the resources we have available.

For more information or to apply please contact [aga@busofhope.com](mailto:aga@busofhope.com).

Please pray:

- thanks for our online AGM and BoH Community Prayer Meeting
- and the provision of new garage for the Bus where it already has passed a thorough Safety Inspection and it's proudly called 'roadworthy'!
- for weekly prayer walks @ Turnpike between February and April 2021: a Jesus Disciple Centre (JDC) - YMCA - BOH Collaboration



## Tom Mawdsley

As well as the work and apprentice training at St Ebbe's, from September onwards, Tom will be serving part-time at St Laurence Church, Appleton, near Abingdon - a rural parish with a congregation of 40 people.

Please pray:

- for the ministry to the undergrad students - the students continue to meet together. It's been a challenging time particularly for freshers, so pray for wisdom and comfort for the students during times of uncertainty.
- for the men's ministry at St Ebbe's. They are reading through Mark. Pray that the Gospel message will 'sink in'
- for St Ebbe's outreach in the parish - they are running a children's programme for 8-11 year olds. 12 children come along.
- for energy!

# Newbury Street Pastors



Street Pastors have are back doing evening patrols on Saturday evenings and in May there was 15 hours of cover involving 15 Street Pastors, 153 lollipops, 1 pairs of flip flops and 2 bottles of water! They chatted to young people, helped some who were unwell, talked with those queueing outside venues and gave directions to a guy who was lost. While the street Pastors were out, others were backing them in prayer....

Please pray:

- For those on the teams to have wisdom and compassion as they meet and chat with those on the streets at night
- That there will be more people who will join in as prayer pastors, backing the street Pastors as they go out on shifts

## Bethany Wolak

"I moved back to Rock UK in Kent on Saturday 1st May and for the first few weeks have worked part time whilst being part furloughed. Then as the summer develops, we'll move back to full time as our schedule fills up. I'll be leading the groups in outdoor pursuits, whether that's school groups or church groups or charities like the Princes Trust. I'll also have slightly more responsibility in helping the new instructors settle in and leading sessions."

Prayer requests:

- for the lives we encounter, that we'll be able to spread God's love
- that everyone will be able to stay safe - that children re-discover a sense of freedom and fulfilment after lockdown
- for the instructors, for strength and perseverance and to stay focused on God.
- for me, that I'll remain strong in the Lord and make the most of my time here
- for Rock UK to have the funds to be able to provide bursaries for children who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend.

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CHRISTIAN BOOKS AND GLUTEN FREE CAFE

A big 'Thank you' from Shoemakers to all who have kept buying books, cards, CDs etc. etc. from us. We are glad to be open again and value your support.

**Please pray**

for all our Mission Partners....

Thank you...