

MISSION PARTNER NEWS – February 2021

Cross Cultural Ministry

Monday: R & L & family in the Middle East with People International (PI)

- We are thankful for the opportunities that the Lord has given us for online Bible teaching. The men that R studies with continue with their problematic marriages - pray for a breakthrough! L has finished teaching through Revelation to her dozen ladies and will now start studying some Psalms, seeing how they point us to Jesus. Pray for the Lord to reveal himself to them more and more through his word. This month we will also be teaching a 'parenting teenagers' course to a group in the Remote City.
- We have 4 short term teams in mind for this year, only one of which is virtual at this point - pray that the 3 physical ones can go ahead! Pray too for wisdom with the small businesses project that we have started remotely in Remotestan -this month we have to choose which 8 or so women will qualify for a small loan.

Monday: Rachel Olney in Vienna with OM

- Praise God for S, a friend from student days here in Vienna, who has started to read the Bible - pray that God speaks to her heart as well as her mind, and for wisdom in answering her challenging questions. Also for Lisa, a young Dutch social work student and dancer starting her 10-week full-time internship with me (Covid-permitting) on 8th - pray that she grows in convictions, character and competence and that God gives us creativity in how to reach out through the arts and in other ways whilst she is here.
- Pray for some evangelism training I'm leading for ÖSM staff (i.e. the Austrian equivalent of UCCF) on contextualising the Gospel (11th – 12th). Praise God for the opportunity to give Bible verses and personal notes to my German students and pray God would open doors regarding a potential meeting point/centre for students, run by various Christian groups and churches.

Tuesday: Andy & Zsofi Oatridge, David, Reka & Emily in Hungary with ACORN

- Praise God for an encouraging ACORN "international" prayer evening in January with 60 British and Hungarian supporters gathered via Zoom to give thanks for the ministry and to commit 2021 in the Lord's hands. Thanks too for the CORE 24hour in January; although it had to be cut short and be on Zoom, the students were still keen to be better equipped to study a Bible passage and teach it to young people.
- Pray for teaching at the "taster" course day to introduce the ACORN year-long training (12th) and for potential students to be interested and sign up. Also, teaching at the "open day" for the ACORN Bible Training (new name for CORE) on 27th - pray that youth leaders and pastors would come and be inspired to practise expository preaching.

Tuesday: Marcus & Jen Watkins back in Sheffield whilst Juniper Tree missionary retreat centre, Dolphin Bay, Thailand (JTDB) is closed temporarily.

- Praise for good health and enjoying church services, Zoom coffee and homegroup. Also that Mark, our Thai assistant, is doing so well in our absence – JTDB probably won't open before December 2021.
- Pray for the Juniper Tree trustees as they seek new managers for the centre in Chiang Mai; patience in this season of waiting; wisdom to know when we might return to Thailand, and in supporting Mark meanwhile.

Wednesday: Preparing for Cross Cultural Ministry: Julian & Beth Baalbergen (at Cronulla Church, Sydney); Neil & Lucy Rogers (temporarily based in Durham); Sophie Ashelford (George Whitefield College, Cape Town)

- Julian and Beth: Praise God for upcoming opportunities to connect and potentially partner with individuals and churches over the next couple of months. Pray for wisdom in how to use our final months at the church in Cronulla to leave various key ministries moving toward a healthy sustainable state. Pray for wisdom, patience and clarity in taking our steps toward France (God willing this year).
- Neil and Lucy: We will wait in the UK until we've had the vaccine -give thanks that we can start our roles in the international church via the internet. Pray for resolution of Lucy's back pain; for us to wait patiently; to get to know the congregation; and the learning process of video-recording our part in the church services.
- Sophie: thanks to God for His wonderful provision of holiday and good rest; prayer for my family in UK suffering with COVID - for God to draw them closer to Him; preparation (mental and practical) for the new academic year beginning 8th Feb, most likely online again; for us to know how best to welcome new students; and in deciding which township church to join.

Thursday: Youth & Children's Ministry:

The Oakes - Dan & Billie Thaw, Tom & Mez Clayton, Rob & Fiona Marsden, Ciara Long, Heidi Beatson, Joel Hutton, Nat German. Plus Jaz Heron, George Thaw, Ben Pereira & Rebecca LeCount (trainees/gap team)

- Praise God for our 'Refresh' Bible Week in January, which was a huge success. Praise for others joining us, including Yorkshire Camps and other gospel camp staff, and for ongoing financial needs being met.
- Pray for Camps and Residentials to resume soon, and for work implementing the Strategic Plan.

Yorkshire Camps – Kez Wroe

- Kez writes: we are doing some Easter short videos for Instagram and on the YouTube channel - memory verse videos and interviews and songs. Also aiming to hold camps on Zoom – pray that the gospel will continue to spread through our work!!

Friday: International Student Ministry - Stuart (OMF), Caleb Chen (Friends International), Meng-Yuan Yue (Reach Programme 2020-2021, Edinburgh)

- Give thanks for the 3 years that Peter Longbottom has served, on a part-time basis, in the Sheffield Friends International team - he's now stepping back from the staff worker role for family reasons but will stay involved in the ministry as a team member.
- Pray for Stuart's one-to-one online Bible studies with V and M, who became Christians while studying in Sheffield and returned to East Asia last summer - pray that they find strength in Christ to overcome the challenges they face as returnees. Please pray also that God might grant Beth a full and complete recovery from cancer and the effects of chemotherapy.
- Caleb: Pray for the planning of a Spring Festival special Zoom meeting (8th) and an in-person Easter Treasure Hunt walk in April, for opportunities to reach out to students and share the good news of Easter.
- Meng-Yuan: Give thanks for good contacts with international students over Christmas. Pray for the Christian students she's meeting with and discipling, and a Chinese girl who's shown interest in the Bible.

Saturday: Student Ministry (UCCF) - Sophie Tresidder (Birmingham); Peter Johnson (Newcastle); Anja Lijcklama a Nijeholt (Cambridge)

- Sophie: Pray for CU's as they prepare for online events weeks, for wisdom, creativity and boldness in their plans – the Uni of Birmingham's events week called STORY is Feb 15th-19th. This is my last year on staff so I need to start looking at jobs - pray that I would use my time wisely when not at work to do this.
- Pete: Pray for the Explore Groups beginning at Newcastle University and the build up to March missions, for wisdom in planning and students motivated to share Christ even in difficult circumstances. Pray for several students at Sunderland who are seeking, that this term they would put their trust in Christ.
- Anja: Pray for the 'Forming A Christian Mind' conference for postgrad students in the UK (26th-27th) with talks on an evangelical approach for relating the gospel and academic work. Pray for many students to sign up, and that the conference would help them hold fast to Christ amidst the pressures of academia.

Sunday: Others – Alan Butler (WorldShare); Jonathan Norgate (2:19); Maisie Crossley (Edinburgh City Mission); Jonny Wilkinson (Samaritan's Purse, Ethiopia)

- Alan writes: Praise that we've been able to appoint a Comms Specialist, Harriet, to join the team. Pray for WorldShare partners, the Evangelical Church network in North Macedonia whose long-standing leader Mirco died with Covid-19 – he leaves a wife and a network of 40 churches needing an inspirational leader.
- Jonathan says: Give thanks for the English classes that have continued online during lockdown including a group in Reading with people from Myanmar, Iran and Poland. Pray for the team as we look to make our English and Bible teaching materials more widely known among churches throughout the UK and beyond.
- Maisie writes: Praise God that I can still be involved with Edinburgh City Mission from a distance, and that He has given me lots of things to do with my time at home in Sheffield that feel really constructive.
- Jonny writes: Pray for me to settle into community here in Addis Ababa and find opportunity to serve through my church, St. Matthew's, in the midst of the pandemic. Pray for wisdom for the Ethiopian Government and peace as violent conflict continues in the region, and for the humanitarian crisis in Tigray where food supplies are critically low.