



PRAYERLINES

MID-AFRICA EDITION | MARCH 2007



| *sharing Jesus, changing lives*

1**UK**

These mission partners begin UK leave and service in March: Bertha and Wim Schoonbee (Gahini Hospital, Rwanda), Ann Moore (Kisiizi Hospital, Uganda), Sheena McBain (Shombo Health Centre, Burundi).

2**RWANDA**

Jenny Noyelle says roofing sheets have arrived for the Lilette Honoré Memorial Centre in Kigeme and hopes it will be ready for use by Easter. “The Sunday School and so many other groups here need it.”

3

Jenny reports a wonderful service at the end of the Diocesan Council when five new deacons and two pastors were ordained. Three of the deacons are theology graduates – it is good to have better educated clergy entering ministry.

4

Caroline Seed at Kigali Anglican Theological College writes: “As our staff is increasing, so the need for transport is becoming more urgent. We have not been able to raise funds for a college bus, so please pray for a workable solution to this problem. ”

5

The biggest impression Veronica Maddeley, née Guillebaud, had on visiting Rwanda was the tremendous sense of purpose she saw in the people she met, determined to move on and not just dwell on the past. The church leaders were an inspiration.

6

Veronica continues: “My prayers are strengthened by an understanding of greater depth, so I am truly praising God as I hold up his servants in my heart to him that he will guide, encourage and inspire them to show forth his love and constancy in their daily lives.”

7

BURUNDI

In January, the Government of Burundi declared a national disaster because of famine and flood. Floods destroyed 1,301 houses in Bujumbura and people have died. Pray for lives being rebuilt.

8

Children in northern and central provinces have left schools because of the famine, with hospitals admitting many cases of malnourished children. Bridges have been destroyed, as have crops of rice, sorghum and vegetables.

9

The University of Leicester’s School of Psychology did a study on the levels of happiness of all countries in the world. Burundi came bottom! Please pray that the joy of the Lord will be many people’s strength, and that we will see this nation fully turned around.

10

Thank God that two imprisoned journalists have been released. They had been imprisoned for saying what everyone knew, and it had been a sign of how freedom of speech is being steadily eroded. Pray that Burundi is moving back in the right direction.

11

Of the five missionary families (not all CMS) in Burundi right now with children, two are going home because of serious health issues for their baby or child – a reminder of how tough life is. Pray especially for Lizzie, Simon and baby Zac Guillebaud.

12

Theo Mbazumutima, who works for Rema Ministries, his wife Christine and a German friend were robbed at gun point of their car, cash, phones and other valuables in Nairobi. Pray that God would heal them from the trauma and bring peace to their hearts.

13

Give thanks for showings of the *Jesus* film in remote areas, and pray that this will open people's eyes. Pray for wisdom for Lizzie and Simon Guillebaud, aware of so much poverty, and sometimes able to relieve that need through gifts from supporters.

14

Simon Guillebaud gives thanks that three friends cycled 1,056 miles in 10 days from John o' Groats to Land's End. It was tough, but Geoff, Steve, and Yves did it in September, and raised a massive £38,000 for a Youth for Christ orphanage in Bujumbura.

15

Sheena McBain watched a large mud-brick house take shape over several months on her journey to work at Shombo. The walls were finished before the heavy rains fell. "When I saw the house after my holiday, it resembled melted chocolate."

16

Fifty students from different secondary schools attended a Universal Chastity Education Seminar in December, a programme that aims to reach 18,500 students with the message that abstinence and faithfulness are the best ways to prevent HIV/AIDS.

17

DR CONGO

General Election results were accepted by both Joseph Kabila, the winner, and Jean-Pierre Bemba, the loser, who went to the inauguration ceremony and pledged to play a constructive role in opposition.

18

Pray for the president, Joseph Kabila, as he tries to sort out major problems within the country. Pray for the ministers and senators that together they will bring major changes for good. Pray particularly for the army that they will be properly trained and paid.

19

A CMS short-term group visited Aru Diocese in December. Praise God for the mobile phone link they had to services at St Mary's, Upton, Wirral – the first week from a village church and the second from Bishop Ande Titre at the Cathedral.

20

Give thanks for the ministry of mission partner Dr Francesca Elloway, who was honoured with an OBE at New Year for medical services to the Democratic Republic of Congo, after 12 years helping to run church medical centres in the Aru area.

21

Patricia Nickson met with Aru Diocese's Executive Council – marking the beginning of the Diocese's second year. The content, planning, innovative changes, and enthusiasm of the members made it a hopeful, colourful and very exciting occasion.

22

New Bishop Kasima of Katanga has worked in rural and war-torn areas of the north-east. This is his first time to live in a city, so as well as having to learn the job of bishop he is also having to learn how to use email and mobile phones. Please pray for him in this.

23

Praise God for the peace and reconciliation project in the war-torn Ituri region in the east. God has brought much blessing. Even soldiers have asked to be trained. Pray now that many more can be reached with the Gospel of peace and reconciliation.

24

Judy Acheson asks prayer for the printing of the Church's second youth study book, *Young people, with God let us rebuild our beautiful country*, that as young people use this book they will be challenged to follow Christ and serve him faithfully in Congo.

25

Eric and Sandra Read, with Peter and Atiyah, in Lubumbashi ask for prayer as they are submitting a funding proposal to potential donors for phase one of their grassroots community development programme. The budget for the first year is £20,000.

UGANDA

26

We give thanks for Kabale Diocese Water Department, which has been given an award by the Ugandan Ministry of Water and Environment for being the most outstanding NGO in the country in the Water and Sanitation Sector.

27

“The fear of the Lord – that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding” (Job 28:28). Let us pray steadily through this year for Uganda as preparations are made for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in November.

28

Much building work is being done for the Commonwealth conference, funded by Arab countries and China. Roads in and around the city are being reconstructed. Pray for true wisdom and understanding to emanate from the Conference.

29

Rugarama Hill, Kabale, is a busy place. At the bottom is the health centre where Chris and Polly Barton, Laurence and Dr Mairi Phin and their colleagues face many challenges every day. Pray for wisdom, strength and healing in the midst of pain.

30

Please pray for all the educational establishments on Rugarama Hill with at least 2,500 schoolchildren and students in four schools plus the Bishop Barham University College, where Mrs Mary Dutki has been appointed as the new University Secretary.

31

Chris and Polly Barton at the dental department at Rugarama give sponsored dental treatment at local primary schools. Primary schools in the UK can support this work through Dentaid's “Bright Bites” oral health programme (www.brightbites.org).

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Cover image: The community gathers to worship in a half-built church near Kabale, Uganda. Photo: Tom Sanderson