



PRAYERLINES

FEBRUARY 2006



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The Masai Christ.

PRAYERLINES



**“More things are wrought by prayer
than this world dreams of.”**

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Prayer and mission are inseparable. Like love and marriage, “you can’t have one without the other”. Most significant mission movements began with the commitment of ordinary people to sustained prayer.

Welcome to the new monthly CMS prayer guide, replacing Prayer News. Being monthly it will be more current. Each week a simple exercise is offered to lead you into prayer, with five prayer requests for daily use or however you prefer.

I pray you will be encouraged and your sense of being part of the CMS community will grow.

Most of all may we together be filled with the fullness of the One who is “able to do even more than we can ask or imagine.”

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Martin".

John Martin
CMS Head of Communication

PS Please do tell me what you think of Prayer Lines.
Email john.martin@cms-uk.org or ring 020 7803 3311.

WEEK 1

5 – 11 FEBRUARY

PRAY WITH THE BIBLE GOD OUR REFUGE

Read Psalm 46

This psalm has proved very important to Christians in Pakistan after the 8 October earthquake, a disaster much bigger than the Asian tsunami. Write down your thoughts about:

1. How the psalm might resonate with events in Pakistan.
2. What the psalm says about God's power, care and provision.
3. Can you recall times when this has been true in your life?

Now use Psalm 46 as the basis of a prayer for Pakistan, our CMS people in mission and our Pakistani partners as they respond, offer practical care and seek opportunities to share their faith.

**May the everlasting Father himself take you
in his own generous clasp,
in his own generous arm.**

Amen

(A Celtic prayer)

1

The CMS SHARE programme places volunteers for up to two years to share skills and learn from another culture. Matthew and Polly Freer are settling into development and advocacy work with the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia in Lusaka.

2

Share participants Bill and Julie Templeton (with son Joseph) in Lebanon, as they cement relationships. Bill teaches English and Julie runs the nursery and kindergarten at the Evangelical School, Chouf.

3

Cathy and Paul Burgess from Kilmarnock, Scotland, with CMS Share in Gujranwala, Pakistan. Paul is in theological education and Cathy works as a nurse in a school dispensary.

4

Robin Dawson, with Share, in Central Asia. Robin is a civil engineer and previously worked as a construction supervisor in Lesotho and Papua New Guinea.

5

Simon and Zoe Fagg (Share) are in Nepal. After a year at the Butwal Technical Institute (BTI), they have moved to Kathmandu, where Zoe is involved in teaching English as a second language at Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC).



Dr Haroon Lal Din working in the earthquake zone in Pakistan. Photo: Phil Simpson/CMS

WEEK 2

12 – 18 FEBRUARY

PRAY WITH THE BIBLE GOD OUR PROTECTION

Read Ephesians 6:10–20

In the West, especially, we tend to forget that the enemies of our faith are invisible as well as visible and that unseen principalities are very powerful. All the more reason why we need to commit every detail to God and claim his power for people in mission and partners in vulnerable circumstances.

1. In what ways does this passage speak to the situation of the people and places we are praying for this week?
2. Try to think of ways where each item of armour might come into their own, both in your daily life and for our CMS people in mission and those they work with.

Now use the passage to claim God's protection for yourself and all those for whom you pray.

God, be a safeguard to all things.

May God grant that you may be fragrant with life.

May God grant you all you desire.

May God enable you to reach everything that you know or don't know.

My God, watch over us now.

And God said, "All right." Amen

(A Samburu prayer, Kenya)

1

Helen Fraser (Share) works as Registrar at the Alexandria School of Theology, Egypt. Helen was previously Personal Assistant to the Bishop of Egypt.

2

Jenny Noyelle (Share) teaching English in Kigeme, Rwanda, leading bible studies and helping in the bishop's office.

3

Carol and Roger Smith (Share in Pakistan), on UK leave. Carol's leg was broken in a car accident in late November. They work with Islamabad Christians Against Narcotics (ICAN), Carol in staff training, while Roger gives IT and web support.

4

Adrian and Fiona Munn have just embarked on a CMS Share placement in Lagos, Nigeria. Pray that they will feel welcome and settle in well into hospital work.

5

David and Sarah Hall, with their baby daughter Rebecca, are working with the Church of Bangladesh. David, a water engineer, is a consultant to its Social Development Programme, while Sarah is Education Adviser.



An ex-drug addict, helped by ICAN, now back at work. Photo: Phil Simpson

WEEK 3

19 – 25 FEBRUARY

PRAY WITH THE BIBLE GOD WHO TRANSFORMS

Read Romans 12:1–7

There are at least two prayer themes here. First, it takes us to the kernel of what living a Christian lifestyle is all about. Secondly, it reminds us that we are part of a community, that we need each other and people in the frontline need a lot of backup.

1. Use the passage to pray that people in mission you are focusing on this week will be renewed in their faith.
2. Pray that when they feel isolated, lonely or spiritually dry they will be strengthened along the lines set out in this passage.
3. Think of one thing you can do to encourage someone in frontline service.

**O Lord, help us to be masters of ourselves,
that we may be the servants of others. Amen**

(A prayer by Alexander Paterson, 1884–1947)

Please give special thanks this week for the invaluable contribution of CMS Regional Manager for the Middle East Barbara Shaw, who retires at the end of this month.

1

New CMS mission partner Dr Helen Brannam started work at the Church of Bangladesh's Bollobhpur Hospital in early January. She is continuing language training and has more orientation and training at Lamb Hospital.

2

Garri Kashuk (study partner, Russia) is working hard learning English and hopes to do a Master's degree in Human Rights next year at Birmingham University. Remember all CMS study partners, in the UK and overseas.

3

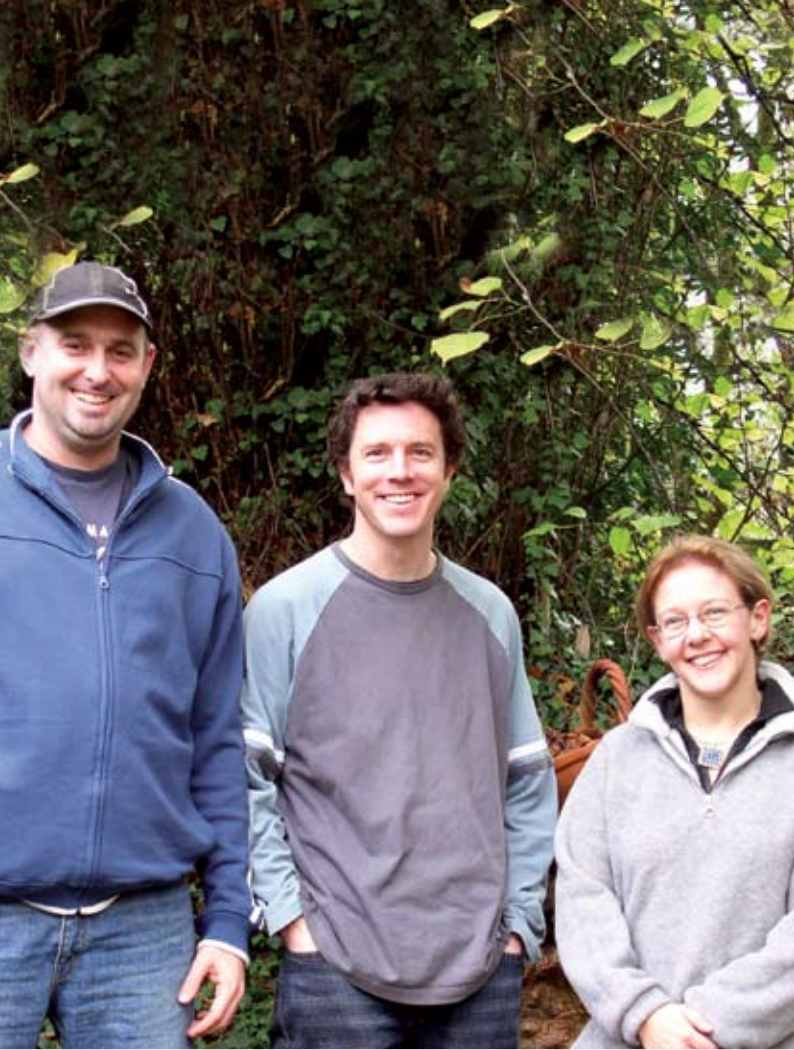
CMS Youth and Children's Team working with church links colleague Julie Whitfield are setting up cross-cultural partnerships between schools in the UK and others around the world. Several pilot schemes are underway throughout the country.

4

Pilot plans are underway for a schools pack to help young people and school communities know more about the global community and inspire a deeper sense of mission in British church schools.

5

The Youth and Children's Team are working on a youth podcast (a radio show you can download from the internet) with fast-moving sound-bites and hard-hitting stories to challenge and inspire young people in mission. Much work is needed to realise this project.



The CMS Youth and Children's team: Dave Pollendine, Mike North and Anita Matthews.
Photo: Anita Matthews

WEEK 4

26 FEBRUARY – 4 MARCH

PRAY WITH THE BIBLE GOD WHO COMFORTS

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3–8

God is a God of comfort. And because Christ has suffered we know that God is aware of the depth of human suffering. Most of the people and places we are praying for this week live with suffering and pressure. It's simply the on-going reality.

1. Use this passage to focus on God, the ultimate source of comfort. Thank him for the way his comfort comes to us.
2. Try to think of what it might mean for us, and the people in mission we are praying for, to share in Christ's sufferings?
3. Find out more about the contexts of their work. Ask God to comfort and strengthen them and be their sustaining source of hope.

Now that evening has fallen,
to God the Creator will I turn in prayer,
knowing that God will help me.

I know the Creator will help me. Amen

(A Dinka prayer, Sudan)

1

Courses at the Open Theological Seminary (OTS) in Lahore, Pakistan, are growing in popularity and enrolments. Freda Carey of CMS works alongside Principal Kaiser Julius and staff. Freda also helps at the United Bible Training Centre in Gujranwala.

2

Mission partners Joan and Nigel Bull return to Quetta Hospital in Pakistan at the end of April. Nigel has been seconded to Tearfund for earthquake relief work in the north-west territories, where there have been amazing opportunities for the Christian minority to serve people.

3

CMS partners the Development of Existing Resources (DOER) Trust (Rawalpindi, Pakistan) offer a growing range of services to the Church and Christian organisations, including helping the Christian response to the earthquake. DOER is led by Yousef Riaz.

4

In Sindh, Pakistan, there is growing co-operation between the Church and NGOs. Bishop Rafiq works closely in these ministries. Laura and Maurice Connor of CMS work with the Lower Sindh Rural Development Association in a pioneering water-filter project.

5

The Diocese of Gujarat (India) has many new believers of tribal background, despite the opposition they face. It recently celebrated 125 years of CMS mission there. Now mission partner Gautam Money is working on a new vocational training project.



Afghanistan

• Manshera

• Murree

• Peshawar

□ Islamabad

• Rawalpindi

• Gujranwala

• Lahore

• Quetta

The Punjab

• Bahawalpur

PAKISTAN

India

• Khipro

• Rattanabad

• Hyderabad

• Karachi

Arabian Sea

**See
I AM
making
all
things
new**