



PRAYERLINES

FEBRUARY 2007



| *sharing Jesus, changing lives*



'Lesser Brethren' by Margarat Tarrant

PRAYERLINES



“Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief but also by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things ‘above all that we ask or think’.”

Andrew Murray

In this issue of PRAYERLINES we take a break from our usual pattern. The reason: this month we are asking CMS members, supporters and friends to engage in a major prayer effort as we stand at the threshold of renewal in the life of the Society.

Canon Chris Neal, our CMS Mission Movement Director, writes Weekend Focus this month. I hope it will encourage you not only to intensify your normal prayer routine but also to gather together other people, have a heart for mission, intercede and wait on God on behalf of CMS. We resume our series on praying for mission with Isaiah next month.

It's a time to ask God for answers to prayer that transcend what we mortals ask or think. Let's not be timid in our expectations.



John Martin CMS Head of Communication

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WEEK 1

3 – 9 FEBRUARY

WEEKEND FOCUS

SHAPED BY CHRIST

Read Philippians 3:10

In a couple of weeks the community of CMS will be responding to a 'Call to Pray'. We will be praying for the world in all its brokenness, for God's people everywhere as they seek to make known his love in the midst of that brokenness, and for the global ministry and needs of CMS.

However, our first prayer must echo these words of St Paul: "It is only as we meet the risen Jesus that we will discover the courage to share his life of service and give our lives for the blessing of others, no matter what the cost."

*"May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by his power and love controlling all I do and say."*

Kate B. Wilkinson

M

Please pray that the CMS community will respond to our 'Call to Pray' (see the introduction and bookmark). Beginning with Ash Wednesday (21 February), on the first Wednesday of each month, we ask you to pray individually and corporately for four areas.

T

Together with others and on your own, please pray for (1) yourself, risking greater openness to God, (2) for CMS and its desire to be a community that truly lives mission, (3) for the Church worldwide and (4) for the world's need for peace and healing.

W

Please pray for the CMS team that works on facilitating short-term mission opportunities around the world, as it deals with the task of recruiting for 2007 mission experiences amid the increased activity surrounding the move to Oxford.

T

Paul and Barny's Church in Oldbury, West Midlands, is organising a 'Free for All' day of workshops and performance. The CMS Youth Team and Big Intent Theatre Company will be there. Please pray for the young people who will attend and for all the helpers.

F

On 11 February, CMS North Team Leader Ian Smith is leading a day at St George's Church, Leeds, on the theme of Christian stewardship within the call to mission. Please pray that his time there will be a blessing for all those who attend.



Short-term, lasting difference

WEEK 2

10 – 16 FEBRUARY

WEEKEND FOCUS

SHAPED FOR LIFE

Read Ephesians 5:1-2

To be a follower of Jesus brings with it all the privileges of being a child of God — and perhaps discovering he is the parent we never knew.

However, this relationship also brings responsibility. The whole of our life, both individually and as a community, is to reflect the life of Jesus. We are to bring the fragrance of his love and life to every relationship and circumstance. This means being alert to every opportunity, and allowing his Spirit to shape all our actions and reactions.

*“Wake up, sleeper,
and rise from death,
and Christ will shine upon you.”*
Ephesians 5:14

M

The Rev Dr Johnson Matthew, General Secretary of the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association in south India, asks for prayer for the 112th Maramon Convention, the largest annual Christian gathering in Asia, during 11-18 February. The convention usually attracts over 100,000 participants.

T

In Pakistan, drug rehabilitation work requires much sensitivity. Pray for the work of Islamabad Christians Against Narcotics, especially Share participants Carol and Roger Smith, and Aamir (its Director), Seerit (Social Worker) and Sara (Accountant).

W

Ibtida, the drug rehabilitation project in Karachi, continues to struggle to re-establish itself in the community. Pray for Monica (its Director) and the Rev Julian, who has considerable experience and understanding of the work.

T

Nigel Bull continues to oversee the administration of the Christian Hospital, Quetta. There is a need for staff development and training and to computerise more of the accounts. Pray for wisdom in providing support for effective medical services.

F

Joan Bull, Nigel's wife, supports teacher training and management of the diocesan school. The Principal retired recently and new arrangements are being made. Pray for the new Principal, and Joan's supporting role during this time.



Teachers being trained in Pakistan

WEEK 3

17 – 23 FEBRUARY

WEEKEND FOCUS

SHAPED FOR SERVICE

Read Philippians 1:1-11

Because these words are so familiar, we must not allow them to wash over us. They must be words that constantly provoke and even disturb us.

God's people around God's world are called to live to a different rhythm and a different set of priorities from the culture around them. It is the rhythm of the life of Jesus, the rhythm of service, which should mark our attitude to each other within the Christian community and all our dealings with those around us.

Remember Ash Wednesday, 21 February, begins our 'Call to Prayer' (see week 1).

*"So let us learn
how to serve,
and in our lives
enthroned Him."*

The Servant King

M

Jane Jerrard in Pakistan has developed a substantial programme of teacher training and village schools in Sindh. Lillian Charles is its co-leader. Training of teachers from different religious backgrounds includes leadership training modelled on Jesus.

T

Please pray for the work of the Church of North India (see **MISSIONUPDATE**) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands region. Pray that its desire to construct new churches and repair ones damaged in the tsunami will come to fruition.

W

Pray for Bishop Enoch Kayeeye, the new Bishop of North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He writes: "North Kivu Diocese is a very needy one. There has been a lot of disturbance by the war, in which the church and the population lost a lot."

T

In Sudan, give thanks that mission partner Rob Watson has been able to run a successful month's training for church-school head teachers. These training courses are much appreciated and respected.

F

Pray for the resources to enable these courses to continue. Pray too for more Sudanese co-workers, who have the right training, experience and passion for education, to be able to work alongside Rob in order to develop and continue the training.

WEEK 4

24 FEBRUARY – 2 MARCH

WEEKEND FOCUS

SHAPED FOR THE FUTURE

Read Romans 8:18-30

In these verses, Paul sees the glory that will be, when the whole of creation is set free from 'its slavery to decay'. He encourages his readers to live in the light of that hope.

Frequently, though, we find ourselves so overwhelmed by the pain of the present moment that we fail to realise that part of our Christian discipleship is, in fact, to feel and share the pain.

As we do so, we can be confident of God's eternal purposes, allowing our whole life to be a signpost to that future.

*"Finish then thy new creation...
perfectly restored in thee."*

Charles Wesley

M

Pray for north-eastern Kenya, following the recent floods that cut off Garissa completely. Over the last five years, droughts have decimated livestock and villagers say that they are at a loss as to how to cope with the vicious transition from drought to flood.

T

Pray for Archbishop Justice Akrofi of Accra, Ghana, who celebrates 30 years of ordination to the priesthood. Pray for the Youth Evangelism and Outreach programme, in the Diocese of Accra, on which the Diocese of Jos, Nigeria, collaborates.

W

In Sierra Leone, the Diocese of Bo is celebrating 25 years since its creation. They ask for prayer for the Rt Rev Dr Sam Gbonda. Please also pray that God's hand would be at work in this area during the coming year.

T

From 26 February through 2 March, pray for the Church of England's General Synod, meeting in London. Ask that good decisions will be made and that there will be a strengthening of the resolve of the Church in its missionary calling.

F

In conjunction with this, please pray specifically for CMS staff elected to the Synod: Tim Dakin (General Secretary) and Ian Smith (North Team Leader), as well as CMS Trustee Kevin Ward. Pray that God would grant them wisdom in this responsibility.

A PRAYER EXERCISE

LENTEN PRAYER

During the 'spiritual audit' of Lent, keep returning to the challenges of its three traditional disciplines: prayer, fasting and giving. Someone has described these, respectively, as "justice to God, justice to ourselves and justice to others".

Prayer – Will we not just pray for a list of needs but also imaginatively enter into others' situations? Will we dare to spend time not asking but waiting, laying ourselves truly open before God?

Fasting – Are there things we need to spend less time doing in order that we can spend more time doing things with the flavour of God's Kingdom about them? How can we live more simply so that others might simply live?

Giving – Where is most of our time, energy and money invested? Does this reflect the priorities God has given us, or our own?

40 days with CMS

Daily thoughts and inspiration for prayer can be found throughout Lent at www.cms-uk.org
To learn how your church can hold a Lent service that marks the anniversary of the abolition of the British slave trade and raises awareness of CMS' Setting Captives Free 2007, contact Phil Evans on 0207 803 3377 or phil.evans@cms-uk.org

PRAYER FOCUS

CMS IS MOVING TO OXFORD

The latest prayer requests about the move of the UK offices to Oxford in 2007.

Trustees will have made a decision about the timing of the Oxford relocation at the Trustees' meeting in January. We pray for wisdom and clear thought for the managers who are involved in the detailed planning that will enable CMS to be ready to move at the appropriate time.

The UK Personnel Team is currently recruiting for many of the vacancies linked to the Oxford relocation. Pray that God will provide the right people for these vacancies, and that Personnel Team members will deal efficiently with their large workload and be able to support all existing staff effectively.

Please also pray for God's grace and blessing for those who are moving to Oxford and having to say farewell to colleagues, and also for those who are leaving CMS and will have to say goodbye to Partnership House.

PRAYERLINES is produced by the Church Mission Society, Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UU
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**As you
go,
make
disciples
of all
people**

Matthew 28:9