



# PRAYERLINES

JUNE 2007



| *sharing Jesus, changing lives*



'Huling Sala Salo' (A Last Feast) by Jose V Blanco, Philippines

# PRAYERLINES



“It is a tremendously hard thing to pray aright, yea, it is verily the science of all sciences.”

**Martin Luther**

We continue to work hard at fine-tuning **PRAYERLINES** in response to your feedback as part of a wider project to strengthen prayer in the CMS community.

You will notice we're trying to include more prayers and resources and fine-tune the Weekend section.

I'm incredibly excited about the launch of our web-based PrayerSpace ([www.cms-uk.org/prayerspace](http://www.cms-uk.org/prayerspace)). CMS members can now view daily requests on the web and receive it weekly by email. If you're not on email, why not arrange for someone near you to run off a copy for you. In time, members too will be able to directly contribute prayer information online.

Keep praying.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Martin, CMS Head of Communication

Email [john.martin@cms-uk.org](mailto:john.martin@cms-uk.org) or ring 0845 620 1799

# WEEK 1

2 – 8 JUNE

## WEEKEND FOCUS

**Saturday: Read Isaiah 63:10–14**

**Sunday: Read Isaiah 63:15–19**

### God who remembers

In our first passage Isaiah revisits an old theme. Was exile a failure on God's part or a judgment? There is no either/or answer. In the midst of acting in judgment on ancient Israel God always remembers how he is their salvation too. So justice and mercy meet. That's how God sees our world today and takes forward his mission. Consider offering a prayer of thanksgiving on this theme.

Our second passage is a prayer. Quite a disturbing one. Like a cry of a child who thinks her parent has forgotten she exists. Sometimes we get frustrated that it seems to be taking so long for things to be put right in our world and our prayers can seem like that. Consider praying for situations in our world where things seem stuck.

Also pray this weekend for:

- Governments and leaders of nations
- Peace and justice in the world

*Lord, help me to mean every 'Amen' I pray.*

*Amen*

Prayer from Uganda

**M**

The China Christian Council will hold a Chinese Bible Ministry Exhibition with the theme “A Lamp to My Feet, A Light to My Path” in Cologne, Germany from 6 to 10 June, highlighting the remarkable growth of the church in China over the last 50 years.

**T**

The CMS centre in Seoul, South Korea is embarking on a membership and fundraising drive to develop a network of people involved and engaged in mission in North East Asia. Pray for our small staff team as they reach out to partners and associates.

**W**

Pray for CMS in Singapore as work is being undertaken to further explore the best way of developing joint work with Action Love (the CMS partnership with Asian Outreach). Pray for the board of Action Love as they deliberate the next steps.

**T**

Praise God for a good start to an Action Love partnership project with Asia Evangelistic Fellowship in the Philippines, wherein first-generation Christians in leadership received valuable and vital training from 25 to 30 March this year.

**F**

Further training through this partnership is planned – with the first group of 30 trained leaders implementing the course in six further regions, tentatively scheduled for late June, with the aim of equipping another 200 church planters.

# WEEK 2

9 -15 JUNE

## WEEKEND FOCUS

**Saturday: Read Isaiah 64:1–6**

**Sunday: Read Isaiah 64:7–12**

### God who moves

Our first passage has been grist for the mill of many an intercessor. We needn't assume that Isaiah didn't think it possible that God might tear the heavens apart. Faith says it's possible and it often happened in the story of ancient Israel. Can you think of something that would make you implore God to rend the heavens and get on the move?

Our second passage offers a powerful spiritual lesson. As intercessors we need to be ready for God to deal with those parts of our lives that don't measure up. Maybe this is a time to take stock and invite God to do his work on us.

Also pray this weekend for:

- Those who work for reconciliation
- Lives wrecked by war, civil unrest, flood, drought

*Good and Gracious God, you sent your Son to call all people to become his disciples. Inspire us to grow as followers of Christ. Send us to boldly reach out, invite and grow into Jesus and the community that bears his name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

Bishop Jon V Anderson ELCA

**M**

Yesterday, 10 June, Ian Smith, CMS North Team Leader, officially took up his new role as Director of Mission for CMS Ireland. Pray that Ian will be able to steer CMS Ireland with sensitivity and vision as our partner society grows in strength.

**T**

Pray for good and lasting results from the Episcopal Church of the Philippines' *Releasing the Chains* Bible study programme, which was led by CMS mission partner Lee Proudlove and Fr Feli Balangui of the ECP, 22–24 May in Baguio City, Luzon.

**W**

The 28 participants in *Releasing the Chains* are all key lay leaders within their dioceses. The aim is that participants will go and begin Bible study groups in their churches, and enable others to do the same within each diocese.

**T**

Praise God for the Philippines Bible Society's willingness to donate up to 60 Bibles to any church that begins a new Bible study. Pray as our staff explores how we can follow the progress of the programme over the coming year.

**F**

On Sunday, 17 June, CMS, along with a number of groups, will be involved in The Amazing Grace Festival on the waterfront in Liverpool, which will incorporate a memorial service for the 1.3 million slaves who died at sea during transatlantic slavery.

# WEEK 3

16 – 22 JUNE

## WEEKEND FOCUS

Saturday: Read Isaiah 65:1–7

Sunday: Read Isaiah 65:8–10

### God who reveals

In our first passage we encounter one of the great truths about the character of God. Self-revelation goes hand in hand with who God is. This confounds normal human wisdom. Remember this bit of doggerel: “How odd of God to choose the Jews...” Pray that people today will hear his voice and respond in faith and discipleship.

In our second passage we get a lovely word picture that illustrates the love and patience of God. An old grape may have started to wither but God sees the good in it. Even in situations that are horrible, God is at work for good. Think of some situation that looks absolutely awful and pray for it in confidence that God is already working for good there.

Also pray this weekend for:

- Evangelists and indigenous missions
- The media and the arts

*Lord Jesus, Son of God,  
Have mercy on me, a sinner.*

The ‘Jesus Prayer’



Ram Prasad (week 3) washes the feet of a fellow missionary

**M**

Ram Prasad Shrestha, CMS co-mission partner in Nepal, writes, "It has been our...vision to send missionaries to...India to rescue and restore Nepali women who are sold to India and forced to be sex slaves." Pray that this would become a reality.

**T**

Pray for enduring peace and partnerships between Christians and Muslims in Indonesia, and for CMS partner Yayasan Bekarti Indonesia (Bless Indonesia Today) as they secure fishing boats to create a livelihood for 200 families of the Lata Lata people.

**W**

Also pray for these displaced Lata Lata people as they await resettlement. The situation in their home regions of Maluku and Sulawesi is not well known in the UK, however pray that CMS may have a continuing role in bringing attention to it.

**T**

Pray for all who contact CMS to explore their possible call to Africa. Remember the preparations for the short term mission team going to Gitega Diocese in Burundi from 28 June to 13 July. Their Briefing Day was held on 8 June at Keswick.

**F**

Anna and Chris Hembury, working with Youth for Christ in Hull, report that eight of the young people they've worked with for years are planning mission trips to Bolivia, Sierra Leone and maybe Romania. Their willingness to serve is an answer to prayer.

# WEEK 4

23 – 29 JUNE

## WEEKEND FOCUS

**Saturday: Read Isaiah 66:1–2, 10–11**

**Sunday: Read Isaiah 66:15–17, 22–23**

### God builds anew

With these passages we bring our Isaiah series to an end. Our first passage reminds us that we depend on God for absolutely everything. Our response must be humility, a contrite spirit and willingness to take God's word with utter seriousness.

The second sounds very much like the end of the Book of Revelation and there's a pointer here to help us understand more about the mission of God. Its ultimate end is that "all flesh" will come and worship. (v23) Here's our mandate for evangelism and the discipling of all nations. Pray for all who are working for this, especially in places where the name of Jesus is rarely heard.

Also pray this weekend for:

- The natural world and the earth's resources
- People in medical mission

*O Father, your power is greater than all powers.*

*O Son, under your leadership we cannot fear anything.*

*O Spirit, under your protection there is nothing we cannot overcome.*

A Kikuyu Prayer

**M**

On 27 June, from 2pm to 5pm, we'll be holding an open house at our new Oxford office so we can get to know our local neighbours, members and people from nearby churches and deaneries. Please pray that a good, meaningful time will be had by all.

**T**

Pray for the new Bishop of Jerusalem, the Rt Rev Suheil Dawani as he leads the church in Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. His number one prayer request was for the church's ministry of reconciliation between the three Abrahamic faiths.

**W**

Bishop Suheil Dawani of Jerusalem asks prayer for the Diocese's institutions – 10 schools, three hospitals, a clinic and five that cater for people with special needs. "They take our mission of love and caring and healing to the community at large."

**T**

Pray that the Diocese of Jerusalem will be a beacon of hope. Bishop Suheil Dawani: "As people of the resurrection we shouldn't be hopeless. We encourage others that the best is coming, not something we dream of, something we work towards."

**F**

Please pray for those who are preparing for the CMS sponsored climb of Mount Kenya this September, to raise up skilled leaders in Africa. Pray that the participants' friends and families would understand the worthiness of this cause and give generously.



The new Bishop of Jerusalem, the Rt Rev Suheil Dawani

## **MISSION BACKGROUND**

### **CMS IN RWANDA**

In 2002 CMS and Mid-Africa Ministry (formerly Ruanda Mission) came together as a single integrated Society. The Ruanda Mission began with two CMS missionary doctors, Arthur Stanley Smith and Leonard Sharp. Having worked at Mengo Hospital in Kampala, Uganda, from 1914 they began to do medical work and preach in eastern Rwanda.

In 1926 the Rev Harold Guillebaud baptised the first converts at Gahini. Many see this as the origin of a revival that broke out at Gahini in 1935–36 and spread throughout East Africa – even as far as India.

Rwanda has a population of nearly 9 million. The majority are Roman Catholics and the Anglican Church claims 1 million adherents. It was ruled by Germany from 1895 to the end of the Great War when it was taken over by Belgium. After World War Two it became a UN trust territory.

In 1962 a coup brought independence amid spiralling civil unrest. The 1994 Rwanda genocide left over 800,000 dead and both church and society in ruins. But the church with assistance from CMS among others is working to give hope to thousands of traumatised people, through rural development, medical work and education, as well as getting behind peace and reconciliation efforts.

# PRAYER FOCUS

## CMS IS MOVING TO OXFORD

**Thank you so much for upholding CMS Britain in prayer throughout this process. Our first day in the new office is 19 June, so if you're in the area, please stop by and visit us once we've settled in.**

Our new postal address and phone number are in operation from now and throughout the move period:

CMS, PO BOX 1799, OXFORD, OX4 9BN

Tel: 0845 620 1799

The physical address of the new office is:  
CMS, Watlington Road, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 6BZ.

From 19 June you can also telephone reception on 01865 787400 or fax 01865 776375.

Please continue to pray for all the practical details, especially during the critical period when the physical relocation is taking place, 11–20 June. During this time a skeleton team will be offering a very limited service to callers and enquirers.

PRAYER**LINES** is produced by the Church Mission Society,  
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Abide  
in my  
love

John 15:9