



PRAYERLINES

SEPTEMBER 2006



| *sharing Jesus, changing lives*



'Maria Christina Gomez Cross' from El Salvador

PRAYERLINES

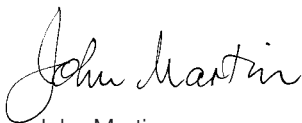


“Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused.” Charles Haddon Spurgeon

One reason why it's helpful to keep an intercession list is that it keeps you working at prayer. Even so there comes a point where

it's not possible to express the depth of what's on our heart. It's here that the Spirit comes to our aid to make meaningful those inarticulate groans. As I write this I'm painfully aware of the situation in the Middle East. So many of us have prayed so long for the place and people and in times like this our prayers are apt to be in the form of groans. Here's yet another invitation to discover more about prayer and how it works.

Thanks again for your many letters. We are heartened that the vast majority who contact us say what a blessing **MISSIONUPDATE** and **PRAYERLINES** are proving. Thanks as well to our friendly critics. It's very hard to produce a resource that will suit absolutely everyone all the time. Let me assure you that we read all your letters and emails carefully and will keep working hard to refine and improve what we offer each month.



John Martin

CMS Head of Communication

Email john.martin@cms-uk.org or ring 020 7803 3311.

WEEK 1

3 – 9 SEPTEMBER

WEEKEND FOCUS

GOD THE ENERGISER

Read Isaiah 42:5–9

Christians have always seen this passage as a mandate for mission, but think how wide this mandate is. It's holistic. It goes wider than Gospel preaching. It's good news for prisoners, for the environment and much more.

The Servant has two mammoth missionary tasks: to be “a covenant to the people” and “a light to the nations”. The Servant can only succeed through the empowering of the Spirit of God (verse 6a). To engage in mission, however, is to be vulnerable. The Servant must utterly depend on being led by God's hand and sheltered in the safety of God's keeping (verse 6b).

As you pray this week, remember to ask God that holistic work will provoke curiosity about what motivates our people in mission. Pray that God will empower and protect on every side.

God of illumination, you call us beyond our imagining, to tasks beyond our powers.

Empower our service and enlighten our worship, that we may know and proclaim the light of the world.

Joy Tetley

From *Prayers Encircling Our World*, SPCK

M

Since spring, the CMS events team have been busy sharing about setting people free from addiction at various festivals and conferences. They wish to thank all those who prayed for these events. Praise God for all the good contacts that were made.

T

The Church Relations team is grateful to have found and hired two new Deputation Facilitators, who will play an integral role in setting up opportunities for CMS speakers to engage with churches who share our passion for mission.

W

After a two-month summer break, **AUDIOMISSION**, the CMS CD and podcast is back, featuring timely interviews with people in mission worldwide, news, testimonies and inspiring faith reflections. Pray that people will continue to tune in and be challenged.

T

Praise God for all the churches that have responded enthusiastically to CMS's Share the Light Advent programme (see **MISSIONUPDATE**). Pray that this programme will enable people to reach out and make a difference in others' lives this Advent.

F

The nine directors of CMS have a great responsibility as they make important decisions concerning the Society's present and future direction. Pray that God would grant them wisdom, especially as the move to Oxford draws closer.



CMS ENCOUNTER Israel/Palestine group. Photo: CMS

WEEK 2

10 – 16 SEPTEMBER

WEEKEND FOCUS

GOD THE CHOIRMASTER

Read Isaiah 42:10–13

Do the opening words of the passage seem familiar? They should be. They turn up several times in the Psalms (eg Psalm 96). This may well have been part of a great temple liturgy welcoming home exiles from Babylon.

It's back to a theme we've encountered in earlier chapters. God's rule is supreme. The pagan potentates of Babylon are no match for the rule and power of God. All glory belongs to God alone.

Can you think of places and situations in today's world where mortals mistakenly think their power is supreme? Pray for CMS people as they engage these powers.

*Holy Spirit, think through me,
till your ideas are my ideas.*

Amy Carmichael

M

Praxis visits give Christians aged 25 or older a chance to spend a couple of weeks experiencing a different culture and expression of Christian faith. There are several Praxis visits this month; the team leaders would appreciate prayer for all participants.

T

The Praxis trip to Kenya is led by Bryan and Liz Wadland and is visiting St Andrew's college in Kabare. They will also travel to the Marsabit area as an encouragement to Christian workers following the tragic death of Bishop William Waqo.

W

The Praxis visit to Burundi had to be cancelled due to insufficient funds. Please pray for all the people involved, including the hosts in Burundi, as they are of course disappointed. We hope that this trip might be rescheduled before too long.

T

Mission Movement Northern Team leader Ian Smith and his wife Carol will lead a Praxis visit to Rwanda. Pray for physical and spiritual health for them as they visit Kigali, Shyogwe, Shyira and meet up with CMS mission partner Meg Guillebaud.

F

Bridget and Peter Nightingale are heading for Zambia at the end of September for a six-month placement with St Andrew's Parish, Livingstone, in Lusaka Diocese. Bridget will be involved in health work while Peter will be in pastoral ministry.



Bridget and Peter Nightingale, short-term workers heading for Zambia. Photo: CMS

WEEK 3

17 – 23 SEPTEMBER

WEEKEND FOCUS

GOD WHO LEADS

Read Isaiah 42:14–17

One of the great problems for the people of God in every age is the Creator's apparent silence. Here God speaks directly and acknowledges having kept silent, perhaps for too long. Could it be that it is because of God's silence that Babylon has been free to do its thing?

Maybe that would be denying that exile was an act of God's justice in the life of a people who have neglected to live God's way.

Look now at what God promises to do, especially verse 16. Is this a promise you might claim for yourself, for those you love, and for those for whom you pray?

*Lord, temper with tranquillity
Our manifold activity,
That we may do our work for thee
With very great simplicity.*
An unknown monk

M

In addition to praying for the Praxis trips, now is a good time to thank God for all of the Encounter trips that have taken place so far for Christians aged 18–25. We are especially grateful that the group that travelled to the Middle East in July were kept safe.

T

Pray for the students and leadership of St Francis of Assisi Theological College in Wusasa, Zaria, Nigeria and St Nicholas' Seminary in Cape Coast, Ghana as they begin a new academic year. Several CMS-sponsored students attend these institutions.

W

The Ghana Anglican Bishops' Vision Conference takes place in Accra between 24 and 30 September. CMS Africa Director Dennis Tongoi and other team members are attending this conference. Dennis is also visiting partners in Ghana soon afterwards.

T

Anglican Consultative Council members will visit West Africa to assess the future of the Province as Ghana prepares to become independent. Pray for the Archbishop and Dean of the Province who will host the team in Ghana and Guinea.

F

A new diocese, of Wiawso in the Western Region of Ghana, has been formed. Its new bishop, the Rt Rev Abraham Kobina Ackah and his team are seeking God's direction as they train personnel on the ground and set up their administrative structures.

WEEK 4

24 – 30 SEPTEMBER

WEEKEND FOCUS

GOD WHO LOVES

Read Isaiah 43:1–4

There's hardly a passage in the Bible that speaks more powerfully of God's great love for Israel. This love is unconditional and uncompromising. Its effect is to transform the place of the nation of Israel in world affairs.

A tiny, miserable and insignificant nation has suddenly become something very important, and that will change the whole course of history.

Christians have seen in this passage a metaphor for the action of God in their personal lives and in the community life of the Church. Fix in your mind the people in mission we are asked to pray for this week and make this your prayer for them.

*Creator, open our hearts
to peace and healing between all people.*

*Creator, open our hearts
to provide and protect for all children of the earth.*

*Creator, open our hearts
to respect for the earth, and all the gifts of the earth.*

From a native American prayer

M

The Archbishop of the Church of Nigeria, the Most Rev Dr Peter Akinola and the Episcopal Synod need prayer as they make decisions regarding their relationship with the wider Anglican Communion, and with the Episcopal Church USA.

T

A group from Liverpool University, led by Malcolm Chamberlain, will be going on an Encounter trip to Pakistan this month and will encourage and learn from Christian work taking place in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Peshawar.

W

A Praxis and an Encounter group are visiting Romania this month. They will both spend time with CMS partners Primul Pas and visit Sibiu and Zalau. The Praxis group are also learning about the work of mission partners Geoff and Gill Kimber.

T

CMS Asia Director Chye Ann Soh is grateful for the development of strategic partnerships with missions in the region. Please pray for Chye Ann as he seeks to develop 'business as mission' opportunities in Asia (see **MISSIONUPDATE**).

F

Praise God for Simon Na and Chris(tine) Kim's fruitful time in the UK this summer and pray that they would be able to apply what they learned about systems and processes in Britain to their own context in the new Seoul, Korea office.

PRAYER FOCUS

CMS IS MOVING TO OXFORD

This is a critical year for CMS as we plan the move of the UK offices from Partnership House in London to our new base in south-east Oxford in 2007. We value your prayers immensely and will keep you updated in **PRAYERLINES**.

This month, CMS would appreciate prayer for the next phase of the building works at the new CMS House. We are hoping for effective communications and a spirit of partnership between the main building contractor, the architects, designers and CMS staff.

In addition, wisdom is needed regarding how to best reflect CMS's ethical and environmental concerns in the facilities at the new building.

Also, as staff members begin to plan for the next year, they will have to cope with the task of relocating in addition to their normal tasks. Please pray that God would give us the strength needed to balance these concerns.

PRAYERLINES is produced by the Church Mission Society,
Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UU

Tel 020 7928 8681 Email info@cms-uk.org

Registered Charity Number 220297

Visit www.cms-uk.org



A PRAYER EXERCISE

KEEP A PRAYER JOURNAL

Some people find journal-keeping a way of getting more deeply into prayer. People who have struggled over many years to sit down to read Scripture, wrestle with it and pray (Martin Luther's time tested technique), find that writing a journal really helps.

A prayer journal is a way to order the chaos. It stops your thoughts racing in all directions. If we try to keep them in our head the chances are they'll get jumbled.

Use a small book, nothing too big. Some people find it helpful to keep it in their pocket or handbag. Date each entry. Jot down notes from your Scripture reading. Record thoughts that come as you read. Take time to review what you've written and use the journal to keep track of what's happening to your prayers.

**You
are the
light
of the
world.**

Matthew 5:14