

**A message from our President, Inderjit Bhogal.**

**THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS** - I have been thinking about the new mantra: "light at the end of the tunnel" and the Christmas hope. There is promising news of vaccines that may help to prevent Covid-19 infections. We all welcome this good news and hope they will be effective and available to everyone. Light at the end of the tunnel?

The Christmas message however insists "the light shines IN the darkness" (John 1:5). These words express the vision and hope of a small band of Jesus' earliest followers. They were in a kind of lockdown (John 20:19). They were few, lived in fear, and wondered what the future held.

The Christmas story calls us to re-examine the way we speak of darkness. It insists that the greatest illumination is found where darkness is profound. Here we discern the light that enlightens everyone and everything, and learn that darkness and light are both alike in God (Psalm 139:12).

We are living in extraordinary times of illumination in the midst of our personal situations, local realities and global events. The key lesson being learned is that decisions are more likely to be correct if you start by focussing on, and asking, where the hurt is deep and who is the most vulnerable?

Not Caesar on a throne, armed to the teeth, but the helpless baby in the manger, soon a child refugee in Egypt and in danger, reveals the path to salvation.

Look here for the light that shines in the darkness, and enlightens everyone. We are called to point to this light, wherever we are.

**A Prayer:**

Holy God,

You are with us at all times and in all places,

And even when we cry with Jesus and the Psalmist, and others,

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.

To you are known all our hurts and all our hopes.

To you our hearts are open, and all our desires are known.

Uphold us in our brokenness by your grace and love.

Illuminate us, our place and our pathway, in the light and in the dark.

Strengthen us that we may reflect your light,

And reveal your presence and love. **Amen.**

**Methodists for World Mission (MWM)**

[www.mwm.org.uk](http://www.mwm.org.uk)

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Prayer requests for Spring 2021 should reach Irene by 8th March 2021 via email to [prayerandcare@mwm.org.uk](mailto:prayerandcare@mwm.org.uk)



**Methodists for  
World Mission**

# Prayer and Care

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**Methodists for  
World Mission**

**An update to the Prayer Handbook supporting our mission partners working across the world and in Britain**

**Please use with the Prayer Handbook (PH) – the days are highlighted - and copy for wider circulation and in church newsletters.**

Both paper and electronic copies are available as well as further information in prayer letters and on the Global Relationships pages on the Methodist Church in Britain website <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/global-relationships>. Contact the Global Relationships team or MWM if you need support to access further information.

**Prayers for all who have experienced sadness and loss:**

The families and friends of Mission Partners who have died recently. We praise and thank God for their lives of faithful and courageous service spanning many years in the past.

**Pray for the Global Relationships Team:** Conrad Hicks - Director; Andy Dye; Catherine Hickey; Sandra Lopez; Bunmi Olayisade; Barry Sloan, and the administrators Simon Bennett and Natalie Hastings.

Steve Pearce has left his role with Global Relationships; we are thankful for his immense contribution in all his work over the past 21 years with the team, and pray for him in all that the future holds.

**Pray for World Church Partners working in the U.K.** - All who leave their homes to share in the mission and ministry of the church here in Britain.

**Pray for many of our partner churches across the world,** where Covid-19 and climate disasters have added further challenges and distress to severely disadvantaged communities. The pandemic has impacted on us all and this affirms our precious gift of prayer that we offer to each other both near and far.

**MWM Conference 2021**

**Celebrating diversity:**

**mission together in the global village**

Save the date: **4th to 6th June 2021.**

**More details will follow nearer the time.**

## Mission Partners Prayer Concerns and Requests

**We pray for all our Mission Partners, whether or not they have sent in specific prayer request. Please use the Prayer Handbook for details.**

### **Keith & Ida Waddell - Zambia - PH Day 7**

Pray with us:

- We have been asked and have agreed to stay in our posts as Health and Education Secretaries until August 2021 to help the Church. Please pray for us as we undertake this extension and that the right people will be found to take over from us.
- Pray too for the new UCZ General Secretary as he settles into office, the new elected Bishops and those who were re-elected.
- As Zambia faces Presidential, Parliamentary and Council Elections next year, we pray for easy registration, without hindrance so that an accurate and complete election roll can be made with a free and fair campaign and transparent count.
- Our children and grandchildren: Ruairidh and wife Fiona, daughters Lucy and Cora preparing to move to Laos from Zambia next year. Pray for the persecuted Church there.
- Kirsten and husband Stuart in Glasgow, with children Iona and Euan. Pray for Kirsten's tearoom business and her employees,
- Gregor and Sarah, Maia and Elsi as they settle into the Parish in North Wales and Sarah as she starts a new job in special needs teaching.
- Catriona, Will and Madeleine in Lusaka. Pray for their jobs and livelihood in the midst of the economic downturn.

- Mubita leaving formal schooling and begins concentrating on acquiring life skills.
- Ellie having finished her first year in boarding at Chengelo Secondary School and returns for her second year.

### **Jenny Featherstone - Zambia - PH Day 7**

Items for prayer

- For Marita as she struggles with cancer and elephantitis.
- For the many Zambians who will feel the pinch due to the fall of the kwacha against the dollar.
- For Zambian hospitals as they care for their patients despite the government's fiscal difficulties.
- For Play4all as we hope to restart our main programme in 2021.

Items for praise

- For the good rains this year.
- For the faithfulness of Kabutu, a former student of mine, and his hard work to support the poor in the Kandabwe community.
- For Laurenz' continued support for the Play4all feeding programme.
- For the growth of the CADRO initiative in Choma and beyond.
- For Hans, who is settling in well with one of our play4all volunteers.

### **Claire Smithson - Kenya - PH Day 8**

- There is a doctors' strike in Kenya in all government hospitals. This is having an additional impact on the hospital's already over-stretched resources, as many patients now attending are unable to pay for the services. It is adding an additional burden to the staff who already took a pay cut when the

Covid-19 pandemic hit us.

- For Claire as she returns to Kenya

### **Angleena Keizer - Israel/Palestine - PH Day 15**

- For the high cases of people tested positive in Israel, West Bank and Gaza. Praying especially for the uncertainties of whether Palestine and Gaza can be supplied vaccines and the problem of not being able to store them in the right conditions.
- For continued good health and sensing God's presence whilst being separated from family during this season.
- For Angleena, back in lockdown and just coming out of self isolation after being in contact with three people who tested positive. She had a test and was negative, thank God. She does all she can to stay safe following normal guidelines and procedures. Love from Bethlehem.

### **Barry and Gillian Sloan – United Methodist Church in Germany – PH Day 26**

Please pray for:

- The work of INSPIRE in Chemnitz. During Covid-19 most of our events have had to be cancelled. This has been challenging in many different ways. Pray for the INSPIRE team, for good working relationships within the team, for new co-workers who are exploring joining our team. For the financial challenges that Covid-19 has caused for INSPIRE.
- The Evangelism conference taking place online on 29th and 30th January. Theme is "Church for such a time as this". (By the way - this conference is being offered in German and English - so if you want the access details to the zoom conference sent to you, just drop an email to [barry.sloan@emk.de](mailto:barry.sloan@emk.de))

- For wisdom and guidance for a new venture that Barry and Gillian are embarking on in order to reach more people with our story and faith. Covid-19 has meant that we have learned to connect even more online these days. We want to take this to another level by starting our new YouTube channel where we will share about our work and ministry and life here in Germany. The hope is also to reach non-church folk. Pray for us - as we haven't a clue what we are doing here!
- Thank you for being our partners in mission.

### **Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman, Kwame, John and Anna – Italy – PH Day30**

- As we pray for Grace, Daniel, Kwame, John and Anna, we pray for and give thanks for the gift of their new baby

### **Mission Partners in Transit - PH Day 31**

#### **Sharon and John Harbottle**

We give thanks to God that John is doing better than expected at this stage with the after-effects of the radiotherapy.

- Pray for John, and Sharon in her constant vigilant and great support, while trying to catch up with tasks delayed during the period of treatment and the fatigue which accompanies and follows it.
- We praise God that we have been in the right place at the right time to have this dealt with. His plans are amazing.

#### **Rachel Ullmer and Anne Baldwin**

We continue to hold Rachel and Anne in prayer as they settle back in Britain.