



CHRIST CHURCH DOUGLAS-IN-PARBOLD

JUNE 2017

PRAYER NEWSLETTER

HOW DO YOU PRAY WHEN YOU CAN'T PRAY?

The obvious answer would be, 'well just don't pray, take a break' but it's in the hardest of times that prayer is so vital.

We've all been through times when prayer seems hard – in times of illness or bereavement, looking after small children or an elderly relative, or maybe when we've just got so busy and so tired that we find ourselves dropping off as soon as we close our eyes to commune with the Lord.

There can be times when we're just not sure what to say or how to approach God – we're angry or hurt through something that's happened or ashamed of what we've done wrong. How do we pray?

The hard times are the times when we need to pray all the more but first be practical ...

If you're tired pray with your eyes open, go for a walk and pray, pray in the garden or whilst you're doing something. Get some sleep, rest with Him.

If you're angry or hurt don't cover it up, tell Him about it, ask Him to help.

If you're feeling weak for whatever reason remember that He knows and He cares. When a small child is upset we don't expect them to present a reasoned request, a good parent hears their own child's cry across a crowded room, knows what is needed and runs to answer.

Psalm 61 verse 2 has meant a lot to me over the years. The psalmist says; **'From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I'.**

Jesus is our rock (Psalm 18:2). No matter how far away we feel (even from the end of the earth), He will hear our cry and help us.

I'm not as strong as I'd like to be, not as faithful or as spiritual as I'd like to be, but I am slowly learning to simply take Him at His word.

When I can't pray and when my heart feels weak, I don't worry like I used to but I've learnt to **cry to Him and to know that He will lead me to the rock that is higher than I am.**

Sue



PRAYER NEEDS

- At such a time of national importance – please pray for the country as we go to the polls on Thursday.
- Give thanks for the prayer week “Thy Kingdom Come” and all those who visited the church and those who set up and organised the event. Pray that all were touched by the Holy Spirit and inspired.
- Please pray for Messy Church later this month. May there be enough helpers and many families enjoying the activities and hearing more about our wonderful God.
- Pray for all our young people as they finish exams and prepare to move on in their education. May they know God’s guiding hand in their lives.
- Please remember in prayer those of our church family who are sick – especially long term illness. Pray for healing and comfort and strength.
- Give thanks for all the great work that Freya Ross continues to do with the Junior Church and Soul action Café and pray for the right person to take over the position of Children’s and Young Persons Co-ordinator.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- **Vision 2026 course: Mon 5th June to Mon 3rd July 7.30pm**
5 excellent group sessions looking at 'Healthy Churches, Transforming Communities'. Some of our Small Groups will be running the sessions on their own meeting days plus there will be joint sessions held at All Saints Church, Appley Bridge each Monday to which everyone is welcome. For All Saints please contact Geoff – christchurchparbold.admn@gmail.com.
- **Evening ‘Refresh’ – Mon 12th June 8pm** A time of reflection and meditation at the Vicarage, 5 Tan House Lane, Parbold; Tea/coffee from 7.30pm. Contact: Graham gfairbairn@christchurchparbold.co.uk
- **Monthly Midweek Communion – Thurs 15th June at 10:30am** followed by coffee & cakes. All welcome.
- **Fri 16th June 2017 5:18 Celebration of Pentecost**
6.30pm 'Evening Prayer' with Rev John Mountain & the joint choir of Parbold and All Saints Appley Bridge
7.25pm 'Time Out' (a contemplative time of worship)
8.05pm Refreshments and Holy Spirit cake
8.35pm 'Encounter' with Parbold Praise Band and the Rev Canon David Banbury of Blackburn Diocese Eph 5:18 Be filled!
- **Soul Action Café – Next meeting 18th June 6.00pm – 8.00pm** For young people Year 7+. We will be looking at “Making a Difference” How we can make people feel more loved. Contact: J C jc@christchurchparbold.co.uk
- **Messy Church Friday 23rd June from 5pm-7pm at Parbold Douglas Academy.**
Messy Church is aimed at families and is a great opportunity to learn about God in a fun environment. If you are able to help in any way then please see Freya Ross at fross@christchurchparbold.co.uk or sign up on the sheet at the back of church.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER PROGRAMME

Over summer we are also looking for volunteers to run one off sessions for the youth. This could be an outside activity/game to make use of the playing field, a craft, or whatever session suits the talents you have!

For more information or to get involved please contact
Freya: fross@christchurchparbold.co.uk

MERCY RESCUE TRUST

Update from Jedidah

This year arrived with a bang. We've already rescued 9 babies and placed 8 others into foster families. Over the holidays we were able to re-unite 3 children with their biological families under our Home Base Care program. We even have a possible two up for adoption in the near future. Things hardly ever come to a stand-still here in Kitale. On one occasion we rescued two babies at the same time. One, a newly born baby was found down a pit latrine and covered in maggots. He had such a heart-breaking beginning to life but now he is safe with us. Although he is a small weak little thing he has a fighter spirit in him and our prayer is that he gets stronger each day and will eventually find a family who will love him unconditionally. The other was a 4 month old baby girl who had been left on the road side. She arrived already very sick so we took her straight to the hospital where she was admitted but unfortunately she passed away the following day. A loss of a child is felt heavily among us all but we are always thankful to have been there in the first place.



Our Home Base Care program is growing. We now have 10 children who we have placed back with their biological families but are still supporting them through school and any other needs that may pop up. Daisy, the most recent one to be added to this program, has been with us since she was 3yrs old. She has now been reunited at 7yrs old with her Grandmother who has always loved her and wanted the best for her - but with nine other grandchildren to look after this was not possible when Daisy was small. There is a tendency here to believe that if you are poor the best place for your child is in a Childrens' Home where they could get a good education and a better future. Each story is different from the next but this program allows families to be reunited without having to worry how they will be able to afford to send their children to school. Our children, who we thought would spend their childhood growing up at the Centre can now live normal Kenyan lives with their own family.

THANKS

Thank you to all who sent in contributions to the newsletter. The next Summer edition will be available on Sunday 16th July and the deadline for items to be included is Thursday 13th July 2017. Please see Lin Milne or email stemilne@aol.com

EDUCAID UPDATE - 31ST MAY, 2017

In the previous Newsletter I wrote of the need to promote the education of women in Sierra Leone, with some details of the situation i.e.

34.1% of girls - under 19 years of age are married, divorced or widowed

88% of women - are subject to genital mutilation, with a 66% support for the practice.

In Sierra Leone - 73% of women think that domestic abuse is justifiable.

I listed some of the ways in which EducAid is working to promote the education of women and promised further details of some of the projects, and here they are !!

EDUCAID'S WOMEN'S PROJECT -WHY IS THE WOMEN'S PROJECT NEEDED?

EducAid has been working in Sierra Leone supporting high quality education to the most



vulnerable since 1994, and providing such education through its own schools (the only free secondary schools in the country) since 2000. During that time EducAid Schools have been consistently achieving among the best results in the country, in the public exams. Through the Women's Project has brought the proportion of girls attending the school from 5% in 2003 to 37% in 2013, and to an even bigger percentage in 2017. The Women's Project is also more than just getting the girls into school;

it is actually giving them the tools to actively participate, hold their own and complete school successfully.

The Women's Project addresses a significant problem of girls' genuine participation in education in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is a traditional society where girls' education is not valued by many families and accordingly not valued by many girls themselves. Worldwide it is clear that where women's education is disadvantaged, the whole economy and development is disadvantaged. In many projects and schools, the concern is simply about getting girls in to school but with no concern as to their ultimate achievement and real skills acquisition. This is because the traditional models of rote learning are rarely challenged and self-esteem issues are not addressed.

These are general problems across Sierra Leone but there is a significant increase in gender inequalities in the Northern Province, in which Port Loko District is located and where most of EducAid's activities are focused, e.g. whereas there are now female chiefs in other provinces, in the north there are none and the very idea is repudiated as ridiculous. Only through education and working with the communities and parents are these attitudes slowly changing.

EDUCAID'S WOMEN'S PROJECT

-HOW DOES THE WOMENS' PROJECT WORK ?

The aim of this project is to bring secondary school age girls with below secondary school academic standards into education through an accelerated learning/catch up programme so they can join mainstream classes in EducAid's schools with competence and confidence.

Trained specialist staff undertake outreach activities in the communities around the schools, encouraging school age girls to come back to school and attend specialist classes in literacy, numeracy and self-esteem. These classes are run alongside the mainstream school so the girls start to feel themselves as part of the school community and indeed they are attached to the main school tutor groups for a number of extra-curricular activities. The girls thus meet other girls who are a couple of steps ahead of them and who can encourage them to

believe it is possible. They meet girls and boys with a common mission, to overcome their personal poverty through education and to become part of a community and national solution to economic deprivation through participation in many educational activities. In their own specialist classes, they gain knowledge and learning skills, leading to increased self-confidence so that when they enter the mainstream classes, after as long as they require the specialist support of The Women's Project, be it 2 weeks, 2 terms or 2 years, they are confident in their ability to genuinely participate in the learning and achieve success.

EDUCAID'S WOMEN'S PROJECT - MARONKA GIRLS' SAFE HOUSE

The Girls Safe House aims to address the issue of providing a high quality education for girls at an even earlier age, and so pre-empt the problems resulting from a lack of educational opportunity before low self-regard is allowed to become established.

The Maronka Girls' Safe House is a home for the girls who attend the EducAid primary school located in the village of Maronka.

It is a home where -

- respect, beauty, affection, order and love are the norm.
- the little girls attending EducAid Maronka Primary School can live.
- girls are safe: mentally, emotionally and physically.
- girls can learn to be women: strong, competent and confident women able to take their place in the building of 21st century Sierra Leonean society.

EDUCAID'S WOMEN'S PROJECT - GIRL POWER GROUP



The Women's Project has been very successful at getting girls into school but we still see a lot of underachievement due to low self esteem, low expectations and social and family pressure. To address these issues we now have a Girl Power Group, which teaches girls and young women about their rights and seeks to enable them to achieve as much as they are able, for themselves, for their families, and for the future of Sierra Leone.

EDUCAID'S WOMEN'S PROJECT - MENTORING WITH 'GOWOMAN'

'GoWoman' is a magazine available in Sierra Leone, Ghana and Liberia. It is a magazine designed to encourage African women to believe in themselves and to know that they can become anything and achieve their dreams and full potential. EducAid partners with 'GoWoman' to encourage its girls to see themselves as part of a broader movement in Sierra Leone, a movement to encourage girls and women to live up to their own potential but also to actively look for opportunities to help other women and girls.

The above is a summary of just a part of EducAid's work in Sierra Leone. The work is multi-faceted and on-going, with developments being introduced at the same time as the established roles are being consolidated and maintained. EducAid support learners at the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary stages, and, through the support of benefactors, is able to continue that support to University level for a few of the most able students.

I know that all Educaidians are appreciative of your support, and are committed to ensuring that every penny raised is used to the benefit of learners. The Trustees meet all the overheads so all donations are used to support the work of EducAid in Sierra Leone.

Pat Horn

PARISH TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN.

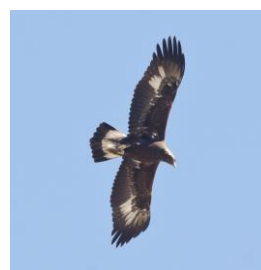
- a) Anyone who has a prayer need can phone his/her request to Brian and Frances McGucken (01257 462058) between 6pm and 6.30pm any day, or for urgent needs, at any time. A team of people is on hand to pray immediately for your need.
- b) If neither is available to take your call live - please do not use the answer phone for this purpose - but contact Lin Milne on 463523 or John Mountain on 463919.

Your prayer request will be treated as confidential – unless you state otherwise.

A SUMMER PRAYER



Creator God
who breathed this world into being,
who is discernible within
the harmony of nature,
the perfection of a butterfly's wing,
the grandeur of a mountain range,
the soaring eagle and humming bird,
thank you for this world
which you have created.
Thank you for summer sun,
which reminds us
that your creative breath
is still alive and active.
Thank you for the warmth of your love,
sustaining this world,
your garden



Courtesy of: http://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers_Summer.htm#ixzz4ipdUq7ul

OUT OF THE MOUTHS....



The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

After explaining the commandment to honour your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters. One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."