



MISSION SUNDAY – 30th JUNE 2024

Today we are thinking about our mission partners overseas and local initiatives.

Welcome to our Mission Sunday leaflet for 2024. Here you will find updates from each of our mission partners, as well as information about our guest mission for this year, Open Doors. As you read these updates, I hope you will be encouraged by all that they are doing to share the gospel and to show the love of Jesus. Please pray for our mission partners and consider what you could give to support their work, using the form at the back of the leaflet. Thank you.

Deborah Swann Chair of Mission Committee

Open Doors

When you go to church you can be sure that the police aren't going to stop you, that you will return home safely and that the church won't be burned down. That's true for most of us in the UK but not for Pastor Laxman in India. His church was destroyed by extremists, he has faced false accusations, arrest and police beatings but is still determined to continue his God given ministry. We can read our Bibles freely and we probably own many but in N Korea owning a Bible is effectively a death sentence. Christians in Nigeria, particularly in the Muslim majority north continue to be terrorised by Islamic militants, stripped of their livelihoods and driven from their homes. Yusuf, aged 20, made a brave decision to follow Jesus; it came with immediate cost from his Muslim family who persecuted him relentlessly and forced him to leave home. All this may seem unreal to us in our society where there is religious freedom, but it is all too real for many of our brothers and sisters living in other countries.

However, there is hope. Open Doors was founded in 1955 by Brother Andrew who smuggled Bibles into Communist Europe. Today it works in 70 countries, supporting persecuted Christians, offering emergency relief, supplying Bibles and discipleship courses, running trauma counselling, leadership training and literacy programmes. Yusuf, for example, was supported by Open Doors local partners, who provided him with emotional and spiritual support.

As Christians we are part of a worldwide family; persecuted Christians are our brothers and sisters. Open Doors also works in the UK encouraging churches to be more aware of this and to pray. So it is fitting that Open Doors is our guest mission this year and we look forward to hearing more about the work on Mission Sunday.

How are our mission partners doing?

Ruth Guinness, with SIM (Serving in Mission) in Malawi

“Do you understand what you are reading?” This was the question Philip asked of the Ethiopian in Acts 9:30. The Ethiopian needed to understand the good news about Jesus from the Scripture, and Philip was able to tell him.



I love learning from the Bible myself and helping others to read with understanding, so that they grow and can help others. One of the most exciting things this year has been working with a colleague here in Malawi to develop a short course on the whole Bible story. We are running three pilot groups to see how this goes before refining it so that it can be used more widely. It's great to see a very positive response so far.

My role within SIM involves lots of meetings, but I love the 'hands-on' activities most. This has included teaching and preaching at my local church and the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi and giving on-going training for pastors.



Globally I encourage others in SIM who are involved in Theological and Missiological Education. I have a small global team, and we engage with partner organisations, produce a newsletter and help people find useful resources.

Join me in praising God:

- for the development of the Bible story resource
- for the small international team that works with me

Please pray for:

- the Bible story resources to be well used
- Church leaders and Bible College students here in Malawi to grow in their love and understanding of God and his Word, so that they can share it with others.

Thank you for the vital part you play in enabling me to do what I do, through financial support and prayer.

Ruth Guinness

Mission to Seafarers

With merchant ships coming under increasing attacks from rebel groups and pirates, as well as pressures from reduced manning onboard and faster turn arounds in port, the need for spiritual, emotional and practical support among seafarers has never been greater. And so it is good to know that the Mission to Seafarers is there for mariners of all nationalities and beliefs.

In all, the Mission provides support through over 200 Seafarers Centres in fifty different countries. These can provide not only a safe place ashore where mariners can relax and unwind but, more importantly, places where they can make contact with their families using the WiFi and SIM cards provided. For those who cannot get ashore, chaplains will often visit ships and help in whatever way they can.

Most people do not appreciate just how reliant our nation (and the world) is on Merchant shipping, in fact it is responsible for over 90% of the world's goods and fuels. And it is estimated that there are 1.89m seafarers across the world operating on 74,000 ships. These men and women spend up to nine months at sea away from family and friends (sometimes longer). There has never been a time of greater need for the work of Missions to Seafarers than the present, they desperately need our support.

Malcolm and Yanet Taylor with YWAM in the Dominican Republic.

Malcolm, Yanet, Patricia (10) and Samuel (8) serve together as a family with **Youth With A Mission** with a focus of ministering to families in the **Dominican Republic**. They are leading the ministry, **YWAM Series 23**, in the heart of the city of San Pedro de Macorís.



With a vision to see families restored both physically and spiritually, their mission is to model and teach the character of God and through their ministry opportunities, reconcile, restore, and raise up new generations of families committed to living according to God's designs and principles.

For many years the focus of YWAM's ministry in San Pedro de Macoris was the construction of homes for needy families. Over the last 13 years, more than 300 homes have been built along with a Church and multiple repainting projects. Their vision also includes refurbishing existing spaces in Churches for kids Sunday School classes. These projects are carried out with visiting mission teams or through sponsorship with local volunteers. This summer they have two teams coming to serve alongside of them and are praying for an expansion of this side of their work in 2024/25.

Core components of their ministry include the Marriage Course, pre-marital preparation, parenting advice, and leading conferences for couples, and young people. As a family they have spoken on multiple radio programs where they are sharing Godly principals for families.



This is combined with their established prayer sessions every month in the Provincial Government, National Police, at the Ministry of Women and other governmental agencies. Their BIG vision is to have a city-centre based facility, where they can run their courses, with classrooms for training sessions, counselling rooms, a TV recording studio, and much more.

Patricia and Samuel are growing up fast and have shown excellence in their schoolwork at the bilingual, Christian school where they attend. They are also active in a weekly radio program, football club, dance class and Church activities. The Taylor family serve as full-time, volunteer, missionaries and receive no salary for their work. We know that God has called them, as a family, to serve in mission, and a core part of their funding comes from Churches, individuals and families who partner with them, **in monthly and one time gift sponsorship** for their personal and ministry expenses.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Malcolm, Yanet, Patricia and Samuel.

For more information please visit: www.ywamseries23.org

Email: info@ywamseries23.org

Terekeka School in South Sudan by Mike Quinlan

The parish of Wareham has been supporting Christians in Sudan for over thirty years as part of the Salisbury Diocese partnership. Since 2005 this has been focused on the Diocese of Terekeka in South Sudan and on St Stephen's School. The school provides education at Nursery, Primary and Secondary levels to around 800 children. Although the school is private and charges fees (£12 to £30 per year) about 50% of parents cannot afford to pay.

Bishop Paul Modi is the Bishop of Terekeka and the chair of governors of St Stephen's School. We remember with great joy his visit with his wife Mama Edina to Wareham in August 2022. Bishop Paul told us in February 2023 that 48 pupils had completed their exams and obtained certificates at the end of their Primary education.



2023 was a difficult year for many in South Sudan due to drought. Bishop Paul lost 15 acres of sorghum cereal. In other years crops are destroyed by flooding and South Sudan is badly affected by climate change.

Bishop Paul wrote in August last year to say that the school is going well. However he goes on to say that Terekeka has been hard hit with the issue of cattle raiding and theft, which claims lives and properties due to there being so many guns in the hands of civilians.

We have been supporting the construction of a new classroom block with four classrooms to replace one of their mud-built classroom blocks. The total cost of this project is around £59,000. After sending some money in April, we received a report that they have decided to continue with the work of building, though the prices of building materials have increased considerably. It would be great to raise enough funds for them to complete this project.



South Sudan continues to suffer from communal violence, political instability, famine due to failure of harvests and flooding, which can be attributed to the effect of global warming. There is also a chronic shortage of medical facilities and access to clean water. About 70% of the population are illiterate.

Please continue to pray for South Sudan, for a lasting peace settlement and an end to tribal violence. Pray too for the Diocese of Terekeka, Bishop Paul Modi and St Stephen's School.

What about our local initiatives? How are they doing?

Not Just Sundaes, in South Street

Sadly Not Just Sundaes closed at the end of March as the café was not financially sustainable. The Trustees are trying to find a plan to reopen, but we don't have any details at this stage. There are ongoing costs for insurance and utilities and if you would like to contribute, donations would be most welcome.



The Wareham Blessing Fund

The Wareham Church Family Blessing Fund is now in its ninth year.

First, we would like to thank all those of you who, through your enormous generosity, has made the purchase of the following possible:

3 Cookers, 6 Washing machines and 10 Fridge/ Freezers, Shopping Vouchers for food to help 7 families, Gas and Electric top-up for 6 homes and help with the cost of emergency accommodation.

Part funding of a stair lift, a Sleeping Bag, a Mattress, a Sewing Machine, Pest control, a Shelter for a mobility scooter, a lightweight wheelchair, carpets, a mobile phone, beds for a family with a number of children who had been evicted from rented accommodation, and bunk beds for a growing family.

In all we spent approximately £11,000. Our referrals usually come from the Food Bank, Citizens Advice Bureau, Not Just Sundaes, Social Workers and individuals in the community.

A very BIG thank you to everyone who has supported the Blessing Fund during this past year.

Jean Dixon & Barbara and Steve Wells.

How can you help?

Firstly, please use the updates in this document to help you to pray for our mission partners overseas and locally.

Secondly, if you are able to give financially to support our mission partners, donations can be made through the online giving page <https://ladystmarywareham.myknowchurch.co.uk/giving> using the drop-down bar to select your chosen Mission Partner.

You can also use this QR code to access the giving page



If you would like to give to more than one, please use the 'Mission Sunday 2024' drop-down bar and send an email to Debs Barclay at parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk to let her know the amounts to go to each of your chosen Mission Partners.

If you are not able to give online, you can use the attached response form and put your donation (cheque or cash) and the form in an envelope marked 'Mission Sunday'. This can either be placed in the collection bowl or delivered to the Church Office, which is now open from 9am to 1pm on Mondays, Wednesdays Fridays. It would be helpful if donations could be received by Sunday 21st July.

If you would like further information about any of the people or organisations mentioned please also contact the Parish Office on 01929 550905 or Email: parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk

Thank you for supporting God's church in mission, both overseas and locally, during this challenging time.

This bulletin comes to you from the PCC's Mission Committee.

Wareham Parish Mission Sunday June 30th 2024

Partnership letters for news and prayer

(Please tick the appropriate boxes)

I would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail/hard copy from:-

Malcolm and Yanet Taylor with YWAM in San Pedro

Ruth Guinness with SIM in Malawi

Giving to our partnerships

Please fill in below the amount of your gift.

If you do not specify how you want your gift to be allocated, it will be divided equally for each partnership.

Please make your cheque payable to “**PCC of Wareham**”

- use a special envelope at the back of church to return it to the Office or place it in the Collection by July 21st.

I enclose £ (cheque/cash) to support the mission work of:-

St Stephen's School, Terekeka, South Sudan £

Malcolm and Yanet Taylor with YWAM in Dominican Republic £

Ruth Guinness with SIM in Malawi £

Mission to Seafarers £

Not Just Sundaes £

The Wareham Blessings Fund £

Guest Mission: Open Doors £

Full name.....

Address

Post codee-mail.....

Gift Aid?

YES/NO

If you are a taxpayer, by 'Gift Aiding' your donation, you increase its value by 25% at no cost to you.