

PRAYER NEWS

Ireland



CROSSLINKS
God's Word to God's World

January - March 2009

- 1.** Give thanks for this New Year. Pray for God's blessing upon Crosslinks this year. Pray that through everything that we do we might bring greater glory to our Lord Jesus.
- 2.** In January we hope to implement all the changes arising from the internal review over the last year. Please pray, as the staff in London settle into new roles and ways of doing new and familiar tasks, with new reporting structures, that Crosslinks core activities will be served better by these changes.
- 3.** Dean and Paula Finnie with Joel and Eli continue to live and work in Somerset West, South Africa. Please pray for the home-based care team in Chris Nissen Park, which continues to do a sterling job amongst great need.
- S4.** The work in Ireland is facing further change with senior personnel moving on. Please pray for the rest of the staff (Val Ellis and Pam Smyth in Belfast, and Hazel Coulter in Dublin) as they continue, and as plans for the way ahead become clear and new appointments made.
- 5.** The current Church Partnerships Team (Alan Purser, Tim Houghton, Rob Mullock, and Ib Owolabi, with apprentices Simon and Lindiwe Banda) are seeking to renew partnerships with many churches for existing mission partners, and developing new partnerships for new and existing mission partners, and the other means of mission (SMILE, NEXT, BEST and projects). Please pray that they will have grace and sensitivity as new contacts are made and new relationships developed.
- 6.** The current Mission Personnel Team (Jo Sayer, Krista Potts, Chris Padley, and Ian Marden), have lived through a major change of personnel with Chris and Ian being

less than six months in post, and with a new SMILE Co-ordinator being appointed with Chris Jennings' departure in December. Please pray for this team as it renews itself, gains the knowledge required, and seeks to support all Crosslinks current means of mission.

7. The current Mission Resources Team (Giles Rawlinson, Peter Gordon, Martin Brown, Mark Gillespie, Karen Jefferys (on maternity leave), Mariana Joseph, Lynda Blake and Peter Cottingham) will be overseeing any physical moves associated with the internal review changes. Please pray that they will have the patience, sensitivity and skill to carry out all the necessary additional tasks while maintaining their own current roles.

8. Pray for strength for Andy Lines, Crosslinks Mission Director as he faces many challenges this year. Pray that he may be increasingly released to represent Crosslinks at various levels. Pray that the Lord might continue to preserve and support Mandy and the kids.

9. Brian Blacoe Pray for Brian as he seeks to represent Crosslinks through public engagements. Praise God for his willingness and pray that his role will be a blessing to him and not a burden.

UGANDA

10. Please pray for Dan and Rosie Button working at Uganda Christian University (UCU). Pray for their work with the students in theology, that they would be a blessing and encouragement to them and their colleagues. Pray also for continued good health and safety on the roads, and their children Abigail and Alex.

S11. Pray for Dr Olivia Banja the new Dean of Theology at UCU, for wisdom and energy for the many demands of this role. The students are doing placements in their home dioceses this month – please pray for positive experiences for them that would help equip them for their future ministry.

12. Please pray for Dan Button and Amos Turyahabwe as they lead the Foundation Studies Department, overseeing all 7000 students taking the Christian Foundation courses. Pray that non-Christian students especially would be impacted by their courses in Old and New Testament.

13. The university held a mission recently with Nigerian Bishop Ben Kwashi as the speaker. 174 students committed their lives to God. Pray for these new believers, and for the ongoing work of the university in training godly men and women for leadership in Uganda. Pray for Stephen Noll, the vice-chancellor, and also for the fund-raising for a new and much-needed library.

(Northern Ireland Serbian Christian Network meeting)

14. Pray for Steve and Gwyn Smith, and their children Joshua and Matthew, for Steve's work with Advancing Ministries of the Gospel, and his teaching at Kampala Evangelical School of Theology. In particular give thanks for the "Teach the Bible" course being run by AMG at Kampala Baptist Church, as the new curriculum is being used and is being well received.

15. Craig and Claudia Smith, with Leo and Bethany, arrived in Kabale in August. Pray for them as they continue to settle in, for wisdom as to the roles they should take up in the National Teacher Training College, local church, and community. Please pray especially that their work permit difficulties would be resolved very soon: they have temporary permits until January.

16. Please pray for wisdom and protection for Archbishop Henry Orombi who has taken a strong stand for biblical truth as a leader in the Anglican Communion. Pray for him and his wife Phoebe, for Bishop Joel in Madi-West Nile, and for the many other godly bishops and ministers in the Church of Uganda.

FINLAND

17. Pray for the Heeb family as they continue to minister amongst the International community of Helsinki. Pray that the Gospel may reach many ethnic communities and find its way back into communities abroad where the Gospel has not been preached.

S18. Pray for Jonathan as he assists Pastor Timo Keskitalo at IEC in preaching and student work. Pray for Jessica as she is involved with the music. Helsinki attracts a huge number of international students and working professionals, which makes for many opportunities to share God's Word in those communities. Pray that the Lord might equip and train many Godly leaders in Finland.

ZIMBABWE

19. The official inflation rate in Zimbabwe for July this year was a staggering 231 *million* percent. This means prices can change several times a day. The situation is complicated by a chronic shortage of cash, causing both individual hardship and problems for just about every organisation striving to keep to the letter of the law. Please pray for those who are suffering at this time.

20. The power-sharing agreement signed in September has made no impact as the key parties have yet to agree which party will be responsible for which cabinet positions. Please pray for a peaceful resolution to the situation.

21. Since August food aid has officially been allowed into Zimbabwe, however, it is estimated that by the end of the year, half of the population will be in need of it. Please pray for those responsible for administering this huge task.

22. Municipal water is no longer treated so the incidence of water-borne disease is on the increase. Power cuts are now often daily events and some areas have been without power and/or water for many months.

UNITED KINGDOM

23. Pray for John and Phyll Chesworth and Ida Glaser, members of the Solomon Academic Trust, promoting study and research on the Muslim-Christian interface. Thank God for their new base at the Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies, Oxford. Pray that the Centre in Oxford would continue to provide opportunities to make the gospel known.

24. Please pray for Marjolijn, working as a midwife in East London amongst a largely Muslim population. Pray that she would be given endurance to keep working among this community so that she can explain the gospel at every opportunity.

S25. Pray for Simon Dowdy and Mark Jackson as they speak at carol services at Grace Church, Dulwich. Pray that they would speak clearly about Christ's mission to save sinners and that many who are lost would hear the gospel and be saved.

26. Remember Phil and Louise Keymer and John and Flick Hindley working at the Plant churches in Manchester. Pray they would equip believing students to persevere and to speak the gospel over the Christmas vacation. Pray too for them as they attend the North West Evangelical Leaders' Assembly (25-26 January) that they would be refreshed for ministry.

27. Pray for Tim and Tanya Davies at Christ Church Central, Sheffield. In October the church doubled to two congregations on Sundays. Please pray for grace and patience as they continue to work out the practical implications - but above all for new life in Christ as they make room for more to come and hear the gospel.

28. Kola Ajomale is Youth Minister in Walsall. He runs a drop in centre with around 50 young people attending every week. Some of the older ones have started helping out at the centre, which is encouraging. Kola has been able share the gospel with many individually, and some ask a lot of questions. Pray for Kola and his wife Ada.

29. Pam Chandra lives and works in Birmingham with her three school-aged boys. She asks that we pray for them as they study, and that they might find suitable male role models to help them. Pray too for Pam as she meets and witnesses to many women in her community from Asian backgrounds.

30. In February Eli Caro Huayllahua finishes his course in Mission Specialisation at the Centre for Missionary Training in La Paz, Bolivia. It is a special event for the college as he is their first Peruvian student. While training Eli has also been looking after university groups in southern Peru. Now he will use his training to train others in university groups, his community, and in his church.

31. Pray for mission in your local church and for the churches in your city, town, village and / or surrounding area. Pray that the church might never get stuck in maintenance and ignore mission. Pray that we might all be faithful, Biblical, dynamic, imaginative and focused in mission.

FEBRUARY

NORTH AFRICA

S1. North African believers are often isolated. Pray for them, as they are often under pressure from family members, and from society in general. Many have little regular fellowship. Because of their faith, it is often difficult for them to get good jobs. Over the past year in Algeria it has become more difficult for Christians to worship freely and share their faith. Pray for Christians to know when to be bold.

2. Pray for Christian leaders in North Africa. They need great wisdom and discernment as they try to help and teach seekers and young Christians. They need to constantly model Christ-like lives - 24 hours every day!

3. Give thanks for radio and TV broadcasts that are the way many first hear the gospel. Programmes also provide teaching for isolated Christians. Pray for funds for production and transmission costs, and for inspiration for those planning programmes. Give thanks also for some excellent Christian web sites in Arabic.

4. Give thanks for the work that it is possible for various ex-pat Christians to do in the "closed" countries of North Africa. Their presence is often a source of encouragement to national Christians. Suitable schooling for children is often an issue; one family we know is in urgent need of help with home-schooling.

5. Continue to pray that Johanne will be able to build strong relationships with everyone that she works with and ministers to. Pray that she will be encouraged daily. Pray for more and more people to be burdened for the country that she is working in.

ITALY

6. Chris and Lizzie Brown. Pray for Chris as he continues to study at Belfast Bible College. Pray for the couple as they face challenges and changes in the upcoming year and they settle into life with the birth of their first child. Pray for their preparations in moving to Italy. Pray that God will raise up all the support that they need.

7. John Paul and Susan Aranzulla John Paul is pastoring a congregation at the heart of the university town of Bologna together with being Biblical Studies lecturer at the Institute for Evangelical Training and Documentation in Padua. Pray that they may be able to win, build and send others for Christ

S8. University of Ulster, Jordanstown. Praise God for the ministry amongst International students this term. Please pray for those that have heard the Gospel and for the spiritual growth of the Christian International students. Pray for more students to be interested in reaching International students across Ireland.

9. In a changing and increasingly competitive world pray that many people will turn to God for answers in 2009. Pray that agencies like Crosslinks will be ready to equip men and women to teach the gospel effectively, with the love and the humility that Jesus exemplified.

TANZANIA

10. Please pray for Tim and Carol Derbyshire who are on leave in the UK. Pray for them as they visit partner churches and see family and friends. Pray for those who are teaching English at Msalato Theological College while Carol is away – for strength and stamina for them at this hot time of year.

11. Please pray for the rains to come and be plentiful in Tanzania during this rainy season, especially in the central region of Tanzania, which often suffers from drought.

12. Pray for Jane and Bob Hurley, working in Morogoro but currently on leave visiting churches. Pray for Frederick Chingwaba, Principal of Morogoro Bible College, as he leads the college and deals with the financial struggles that it is facing.

13. Pray for David Green working as an Associate in Tabora. Thank God for the new English-speaking service that David is overseeing at the Cathedral. Pray for David as he seeks God about what to do after he moves on from Tabora in March.

14. Thank God for the six students at Amani College in Iringa who are sponsored under the Crosslinks BEST programme. Pray for them in the final year of their study, that they will be motivated and disciplined in their studies. Pray for them as they are separated from their families and that they will trust God to provide for the needs of their families while they are away from home.

S15. Pray for the Kagera Technical and Christian Training Centre in north-west Tanzania which is also supported through the Crosslinks BEST programme. Pray for the Principal, Absalom Vyankende, that God will equip and sustain him in his many responsibilities and that the college will continue to grow under his leadership.

16. Thank God for Emmanuel Rubuye's study this term. Pray that he will be effective in putting into practice in Tanzania all that he has learned at Belfast Bible College. Pray for the youth of Tanzania. Please also remember to pray for his wife Elizabeth and daughter Gabby.

MYANMAR

17. Pray for plans for a School of Biblical Training (SBT) in Yangon next week. Pray for the team as they assemble and make final preparations; pray also for the possibility of doing some teaching elsewhere in the country.

18. Give thanks for the School of Biblical Training that took place in Thailand in September amongst Karen Refugees. Praise God for the enthusiasm and progress made in understanding and teaching the Bible. Pray for the church leaders who attended that they may continue to encourage each other and put in to practice what they have learned.

(SMILE Gambia team departs)

19. Pray for the preaching clubs that were formed at the last Myanmar SBT in 2007. Give thanks that at least two of them are continuing to meet, and pray that they may encourage each other and continue to develop their skills in preaching God's Word faithfully and relevantly.

20. Pray for Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo as he leads the Church of the Province of Myanmar. Pray that he will be able to persuade people to share his commitment to being led by the Word of God and that Crosslinks will be able to provide appropriate support to him.

21. Pray for Crosslinks Study Partner Simon Be bin Htu, who is Principal of Holy Cross Theological College in Yangon as we discuss the best way for him to progress his studies amidst his busy schedule. Pray for him as he seeks to introduce a greater emphasis on biblical preaching into the syllabus at the college.

(SMILE Thailand team departs; School of Biblical Training, Myanmar 12-16 January)

S22. Pray for the continuing efforts being made to bring about reconciliation between Emmanuel Divinity College, Mohnyin and the Diocese of Myitkyina. There appears to have been another setback. Pray for wisdom over how to move the matter forward again.

23. Pray for the continuing relief work in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis. The Church of the Province of Myanmar has several teams who travel regularly to affected areas to provide medical help and assistance with materials for rebuilding. Travel to these areas takes up to three days by boat and on foot; pray for safety for the teams in this ongoing work that may have to continue for months if not years.

INDIA

24. General Elections will be held in India within the next few months. Praise God for this remarkable democracy where every adult citizen has the right to vote. Pray for a peaceful election process and that, at this time of turmoil in the world, God will provide a government that is stable and committed to preserving and protecting the rights of all citizens.

25. In the past few months more than 50,000 Christians have been displaced from their homes and several people killed and injured in anti-Christian violence in the east Indian state of Orissa. Pray that the Christian community may be able to respond to violence with the love and forgiveness of the Lord Jesus and that the government will protect all those who are persecuted and displaced.

26. Praise God for the unity displayed by Christian leaders of all denominations in the wake of current persecution in several Indian states. Pray that Christians may continue to be able to share their faith with others by their words and deeds and that God's love and reconciliation may be shown in and through his people, the Church.

27. Thank God for those studying His Word in several Indian Bible Colleges and Seminaries through the Crosslinks BEST partnership scheme. Pray that the Lord will equip each one of them to be effective ministers of the gospel throughout India and that they may be able to share what they learn with others.

28. Praise God for more than 10,000 cross-cultural Indian missionaries who have left their homes to serve the Lord in different areas of India. Pray for Mr John Kirubakaran, Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB) and Rev Raj, Nava Jeeva Seva Mandal (NSM), as they lead these organisations to bring the Good News by word and deed to remote areas of India.

MARCH

S1. Thank God for the growth of the Church in North India. Pray for The Association for Theological Education by Extension (TAFTEE) and Kachhwa Transformation Ministries (KTM) as they seek to equip leaders of new churches in North India with knowledge of the Bible and with skills for ministry and mission.

2. Give thanks for the ministry of David and Angie Ball, Timothy and Jonathan, over the last 14 years in India with TAFTEE. Pray that Dr David Samuel, TAFTEE's Director, will have wisdom and strength as he seeks to develop ways to partner with Indian churches and Christian organisations to equip all God's people for the work of Christian service.

3. Pray for Crosslinks expatriate mission partners and associates in India in teaching and leadership roles. As in many parts of the world, it would not be wise to name them or give too many details of their work, but please pray that God (who knows all about them) will encourage and equip them for their gospel ministries.

KENYA

4. Doug Johnson has been invited by the African Institute for Contemporary Mission and Research (AICMAR) to work at its centre in Butere, West Kenya. AICMAR is a library, study centre, offices and conference rooms, and provides training and research

facilities for people concerned with ministry and applying the Christian faith to the lives of Kenyans today. Pray for Doug and his wife Ann, a primary school teacher.

5. Rob Martin is Suffragan Bishop of Marsabit, in northern Kenya. In December he called a meeting of clergy and laity to discuss the future of the local Church. Pray that as they begin to put these plans into practice that they will be guided by the Lord every step of the way.

6. Tim Wambunya is Principal of Carlile College, Kenya. The Commission for Higher Education has recently inspected the college with a view towards being granted interim university status. Tim is still waiting to receive formal comments from the inspectors and there is still much to be done – more reports, curriculum revisions and two more rigorous inspections. Please pray for this process.

7. Alison Talbert is attached to the Kenya Medical Research Institute/Welcome Trust Research Unit at Kilifi as a medical researcher and doctor. The unit provides all the children's ward services for the government district hospital whilst also running studies on common diseases such as malaria, pneumonia, HIV, and malnutrition. Alison studies cultural and spiritual beliefs underlying malnutrition as well as improving treatment guidelines.

S8. Noj and Mary Northway work at St Andrews School, Turi. Noj is Bursar there and Mary is the school doctor. Pray that the strong Christian influence of the school will continue to shape the lives of the students after they leave and take up key positions in Kenyan society.

(SMILE Uganda team departs)

9. Giles and Annie Roberts also work at St Andrews School, as Estate Manager and PA respectively. They say, "It has been a difficult year, largely because of the post-election violence and the impact this has had on Kenya. But we thank God for his faithfulness, wisdom and protection."

10. Next week Carlile College is running a Preaching Week in Nairobi (preaching from the Epistles). Pray for the team, including college Principal Tim Wambunya, Agnes Brough, Phil Sudell, and Greg Prior.

ETHIOPIA

11. Thank God for all Karen Salmon's work at the Mekelle Youth Centre, Operation Rescue for AIDS orphans, with prisoners and starting Peer and Bible Education programmes in rural schools. Pray for wisdom and energy for her and her colleagues, Jon and Kristi, and that there will be fruit also from Bible Studies with MYC staff and the anti AIDS girls clubs. Pray for long-term mission staff at the youth centre to lead English, Computing and Sport.

12. Praise God for the visits of the Ballinderry and Knocknagoney teams and SMILE volunteers last year. Pray for other teams that will visit this year. Pray that we might all grow in our commitment to global mission and seek to do all that we can to encourage and care for Karen in her service for the Lord.

SERBIA

13. Rob and Patricia MacCurrach provide practical training and encouragement for the small number of evangelical churches in Serbia. They visit churches and train lay people and leaders in leading small groups, how to share testimonies, and how to work pastorally one to one.

14. Pray too for Chris and Lotta Stajnic who work with the MacCurrachs in Novi Sad. Their ministry also involves running Project Timothy, a training programme for church leaders and members. Praise God for the many opportunities they have had to encourage God's people in Serbia and Bosnia. Pray for more.

S15. Pray that God will bring together the right groups of people to go to Serbia this year. Pray for leaders for the team. Pray that God will use the English Camps there to challenge many young people about their need for a saviour.

IRELAND

16. Please pray for wisdom and strength as Hazel Coulter seeks to administer the Dublin office. Praise the Lord for those who continue to faithfully serve God in the Republic. Pray that God will raise up more and more workers for the harvest. Pray for a growing mission heart amongst God's people North and South. Pray also for Eddie, David, Andrew and Anna.

17. Please pray for Pam Smyth in the Belfast office as she oversees the financial administration in the North of Ireland. Pray for patience, diligence and competency as she works on the books. Pray for Robert, Hannah, Katie and Rachel.

18. Pray that God will send kids and young people to our Camps. The camps are a great way for children and young people to grow in their faith. Pray also for those that lead and all the resources, both financial and material, that are needed to run camps.

19. Please pray for the Ambassador Scheme that people would be ignited for God's mission and encourage others to participate.

20. Please pray for Val Ellis as she oversees the communications and events of Crosslinks in Ireland. Pray that Val might be able to keep the communication lines open between supporters and Crosslinks. Pray that she might also be able to manage Crosslinks events well.

21. Please pray for local churches across Ireland that they would love the Lord Jesus and participate in His mission.

S22. Please pray 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 for yourself, your parish and our mission partners

23. Please pray for those who kindly volunteer and offer to help with Crosslinks in Ireland. Pray that God might continue to raise up Gospel centred, passionate followers of the Lord Jesus across Ireland.

MOZAMBIQUE

24. Pray for Richard as he continues to work with One Challenge. OC provide workshops for church leaders throughout the country, with the aim of cultivating “healthy churches”. OC has provided training through the Association of Evangelicals in Mozambique, and assisted pastors and lay leaders, through workshops in a number of Mozambican provinces. Pray for Bianca and for the kids Myles, Anabel and Oscar as dad spends more time travelling throughout the country.

FAR EAST

25. Thank God for Jo’s visit to Ireland last year. Pray that we might continue to be prayerful and imaginative in our support of Jo. Pray for the 20 million AIDS sufferers in the country that she works in. Pray for a greater understanding and openness to deal with the suffering and stigma around AIDS. Pray that the church will find ways to reach out to those with AIDS

26. Pray for B for A and the work that it seeks to do with vulnerable women. Pray for a greater sense of urgency within the local church to support women trapped in prostitution. Pray again that Jo will find all that she needs to support this very needy ministry.

27. Pray for God to continue to raise up Godly and Biblically trained ministers in the country that Jo is working. Pray that the church may grow continually in depth as well as breadth.

28. Continue to pray for Matthew. Pray that the Lord might continue to help him as he seeks to learn the local dialect. Pray that he might find ways to reach many students, in sometimes very difficult and sensitive situations.

BEST

S29. Pray for BEST study partners SK and JS at Chandigarh Bible College in India. Pray that the Lord might help them to grow in the grace and knowl-

edge of our Lord Jesus. Pray for God's constant provision and guidance for them. Pray that God might provide more resources to support more BEST bursaries

30. Thank God for Irishlinks and ask him to use it to ignite, engage, equip and help people to endure in God's Mission.

31. Praise God for all that He has done in the last few months. Pray that God might continue to provide all the people and resources needed to bring His salvation not just to the ends of the earth but also to the end of our street. Pray that the Lord might continue to be glorified through everything that we do.

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