



## Mission Partners Update

June 2024

For many years St Jude's has raised disciples who have heard a call from God to move to foreign lands to help spread His Kingdom. As a church, we also support the work of local ministries and other mission organisations. Within this update, you will find prayer requests and information from each of these mission organisations.

## Street Pastors



[www.streetpastors.org](http://www.streetpastors.org)

In the last twelve months, the new base at Central Methodist Hall has proved to be an ideal location, being within walking distance to our three main areas of patrol - the Barbican, North Hill and of course, the city centre.

The new training schedule for new Street Pastors is in the planning stage and so we are prayerfully hoping that new recruits would feel called to being part of this amazing ministry where answers to prayer can be witnessed immediately.

Along with paid agencies, such as the police, door staff, Safebus, CCTV and taxi marshalls, we are no less a player in the night-time economy of Plymouth due to our voluntary status, and are highly respected.

It is vital that we bring God with us into these areas of Plymouth at night where the physically and emotionally lost and lonely can be found. We continue to assist in varied situations from offering assistance to street sleepers, the confused, through drugs or drink - or those who have been thrown one of life's curveballs and just need a listening ear. Equally, our help is just as vital to the people celebrating who have just had one too many lemonades!

Our new patrol bags are proving to be waterproof and so saving a lot of inconvenience drying them out. Another fairly new addition to our armoury are mobile phone chargers which have proved invaluable many times as so many phones somehow 'die' on people when they most need them! This means that we can contact their nearest and dearest for a lift home should they need it.

We have recently begun patrols on a Saturday night in the Stoke area of Plymouth, as requested by the police - initially one a month until midnight - to bring some reassurance to the residents there and of course God's love and peace. We pray that this will be as successful as the roving patrols were many years ago in other areas of Plymouth, where change was evident following the implementation of these on a Friday night.

Plymouth Street Pastors are so very grateful for the support of St Judes, both financially and in prayer, especially recently as funding has become harder to access.

So, please pray for funding and new volunteers to join us, as some of us are getting a little older and a little less able. We pray that this ministry continues and adapts to the needs presented to us on the night-time streets, wherever God takes us.

## Sharing of Ministries Abroad



[www.somauk.org](http://www.somauk.org)

I'm writing to you from London Bible College (LST) where 35 people are still worshipping more than 4 and a half hours after the 90min service started, and showing no signs of stopping. God is on his throne and he is reigning.

I love the Spring in England. There are flowers blooming, trees budding, birds chirping and children enjoying the longer days after a wet, cold winter. I love the liturgical journey too. The tension of Holy Week, passion of Good Friday and triumphant celebrations on Easter Day. Then the waiting and wondering with the

disciples, the encounters with the resurrected Jesus, and his ascension - leading into the tarrying for the Holy Spirit's power that kickstarts the book of Acts. Whatever you have been through, Resurrection day and Pentecost keep coming round in the church calendar.

At SOMA we get to embrace the full liturgical year. We live as Advent people waiting poised for the Second Coming, and we revel in the Word made Flesh at Christmas time. But I am so grateful for lent, the season that reminds us that we are to fast as Christians because the Bridegroom has been taken away from us. For me all these moments in the year which remind me to reset are very precious. My question is how to carry the fruit of those resets forward?

That's often the question people ask when coming back from mission. How can I make a 'life-changing experience' truly 'life-changing'? How do I stop the glow of a mountain top experience from fading away?

One answer is to keep going back... return to great habits of fasting, prayer and mission work. Another is to keep going forward. Find new habits for a new season. How to discern which of these paths to take? The 'ancient ways' or the 'new thing'? I think the best answer is don't walk on any path that you can walk easily just by yourself. Look for the path and journey where you know you'll need to be hand in hand with Jesus to help you to journey faithfully through the trials and to walk by the temptations.

SOMA is a ministry that works when we walk hand in hand with the Lord Jesus. It is He alone who sustains what we do. Our big call is to be a community of prayer who join Him on his missions. Whether fasting or feasting let's make sure we keep shoulder to shoulder with him today.

Richard Moy  
National Director

## **Shekinah Mission**

[www.shekinah.co.uk](http://www.shekinah.co.uk)



We have been in our new home at Stonehouse Creek for a few weeks now and as the process of settling in continues we would appreciate prayer for wisdom and clarity as we seek to make the best use of our amazing new space and the many possibilities it presents. Our Annual Charity Ball is taking place once again on 4th May at Boringdon Park Golf Club and we would greatly appreciate prayer for the success of the evening and for the last minute arrangements to fall into place. As one of our cornerstone events, the Ball is more than just a celebration, it's a pivotal moment each year in our journey towards making a meaningful impact in the local community and provides much needed support that helps drive our mission forwards. Lord, thank you for your love. Open our eyes and ears so that we may experience more of You, That we may experience the depths of your love for us And that we might know and be loved by the Creator of all things. Amen.

## Transform Europe Now (TEN)

<https://www.ten-uk.org/>



Thank you to those who have given to our Spring Appeal, which seeks to raise funds for partner ministries that reach out to the marginalised and forgotten. Here is a story of once such ministry in Radovis, North Macedonia.

Sixteen years ago, our partner Robert Salamanov heard the gospel while in prison, said yes to Christ and it changed his life forever. Now, Robert visits the local prison and brings tracts and Bibles, hoping that prisoners will receive the Good News and go on to share it with others too. He writes that he knows how powerful the word of God is and that it can free the prisoners from any addiction.

### **Growing the Vision in Novi Sad, Serbia**

Christ Gospel Church Novi Sad has been thriving, since it opened its doors last December. The church celebrated Easter earlier this month, following Serbia's eastern calendar. Pastor Jovica Bacvanski was reminded that just over a year before, God revealed to him that he and his wife, Savka, should return to Novi Sad, Serbia and plant the church, after 23 years of leading Christ Gospel Church in Montenegro.

Many of our people never attended a prayer meeting. Now they learn how to talk to their Heavenly Father and they experience His love and receive answers to their prayers. Savka has started women's meetings and the women are delighted they can meet more than once a week and as a community.

The prayer meetings on Thursdays are well attended. Jovica shared, 'There is always need for another chair.' Many of our people never attended a prayer meeting. Now they learn how to talk to their Heavenly Father and they experience His love and receive answers to their prayers.

Despite the encouragement, Jovica and Savka urge us to pray for the young people so they 'catch the vision and receive fresh fire to love the Lord and their brothers and sisters.' Please pray for the young people and for this precious new church.

### **OMF in Japan**

[www.omf.org/japan](http://www.omf.org/japan)



Tim Walker really enjoyed his visit to St Judes in February. In March Tim and Miho were joined by 11 families at an Easter outreach event for the families of the Toddlers Group including Easter crafts, songs, a simple bilingual explanation of why Jesus died and rose again and plenty of time for refreshments and chatting. The Hope Church in Yamada continues to reach out to local children through the monthly "Joy Kids" club as well as other regular activities for adults.

We had a good Easter outreach event on 17th March (we like to get in early!) for the families linked to the Japanese parents and toddlers group. 11 families joined us and we met some dads for the first time. The children enjoyed Easter crafts, followed by singing and a bilingual gospel talk from us, where the meaning of what Jesus did through his death and resurrection was simply explained for the children and adults. Everyone enjoyed the teatime after this with the opportunity to chat and get to know one another.

Pray everyone who listened to the Easter gospel talk would continue to reflect on what it means for them and that some would want to explore the gospel further.

Thank you for praying for M, our Japanese friend, who was in Manchester to study English for nearly 9 months, until returning to Japan mid April. Your prayers are being answered as Tim was able to connect M with OMF colleagues ministering to Japanese returnees in Japan. M says he plans to attend their in person returnee café in Tokyo this month. They also run regular English conversation classes and offer Bible study opportunities online.

Miho was asked to attend the Global Returnee Focus Leadership Team meetings in Kendal at the end of April. She is not on the Leadership Team but was asked to attend as an observer and learned a lot while there (also leading one of the team devotionals). Leaders gathered from Europe and the US for several days of prayer, discussing strategic priorities, changes within our Returnee Focus field and various other important topics. Lots of needed changes continue to be implemented, to help us better serve East Asian returnees and - by God's grace - change the sad statistic that up to 80% of returnees don't continue to connect with Christians and church upon their return.

Miho co-led another Connect online meeting (for Japanese returnees who have believed or are 'seriously seeking') on March 30th. 5 people participated in a meaningful time exploring issues around the theme of identity. 2 of those who joined the meeting were recently baptised in the UK.

Judith Spear was very encouraged by an email from Satomi, a Japanese friend who had shown an increasing interest in Christianity ever since she was a student teacher but had never been able to go to church because the small towns where she lived and taught had always been too far from any. Then in May, having retired and moved to a large city, she was excited to tell Judith that at last she had found and attended a church!

## **Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support**

[www.dcrsc1.cfsites.org](http://www.dcrsc1.cfsites.org)



This year DCRS is celebrating 25 years of supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Plymouth. It was founded in 1999 by Sam and Isatta Kallon as a beacon of support for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants. The staff and volunteers offer advice and practical support, English language classes and activities which help people while they wait for decisions from the Home Office (a very lengthy procedure!) and to integrate into their new lives.

Inspired by the theme of Refugee Week 2024 which emphasises the significance of home as a place of refuge and safety and cherished memories a 25th Anniversary Event is being organised on June 22nd. It will invite everyone to celebrate the essence of "Our Home" through food, music, art and cultural exchange. Pray this will be a success and encouragement for all staff, service users, volunteers and supporters.

## **Mission Aviation Fellowship:**

The Rileys [www.ashfordvineyard.org/our-activities](http://www.ashfordvineyard.org/our-activities)



Written by Jo and Mike Riley

Jo and I say 'hi' from Exmouth where we're feeling very settled now. Jo continues her nursing work in the community and Mike continues to work from his office in the garden making fairly frequent trips to the MAF Office in Ashford and overseas when needed. Abi is enjoying working as a nurse in Derriford hospital after

qualifying last summer and Hannah, who turns 21 as I write this, is just coming towards the end of her degree in English in Bristol and hopes to start a teacher training placement in June.



The MAF work for Mike continues at a pace with his place on the Organisational Leadership Team keeping him busy along with his normal HR work for the Africa Region. Our staff in the programmes work tirelessly to bring help, hope and healing to those living in remote places and at a more strategic level we're looking hard at our plans for the future including technical options to help us operate in a fully sustainable way. We're also hoping to open another programme soon but it's a bit too early to say much about that at the moment so I'll keep you updated as that unfolds.

Recruitment continues to be a bit of a challenge for us so if you know anyone that might fancy the excitement of working overseas in one of our programme please let me know. As well as pilots and engineers we require people trained in IT, finance, HR, communications and so on. All of our vacancies and lots more useful information is available in our website: [www.mafint.org](http://www.mafint.org) As always, thank you for your on-going support of us personally in our work with MAF, this is truly a team effort and I can assure you that your prayerful and financial support is making a real difference in people's lives and, in many case, literally saving lives.

## Church Mission Society

[www.churchmissionsociety.org](http://www.churchmissionsociety.org)



Church Mission Society. [churchmission.society.org](http://churchmission.society.org) Aaron Stanbury

Aaron's first few months in Kenya have been something of a roller coaster new country, new culture, new language and new job. He mentions the culture shock of not being able to communicate with the locals and missing family and friends in Plymouth. He spent the first few months living with a Kenyan family and has had many new experiences.

Aaron is based in Nairobi where he works with ACK Christ Church in Westlands and with their programme Kids to Kids which gives education nutrition and spiritual guidance to children living in the local slums. At the moment he splits his time between three main things, a couple of hours a day studying Kiswahili with a tutor, finishing his TEFL course in order to be qualified to teach English and the rest of the time working with the church, where he has had the opportunity to lead services and preach.

He works mainly with the youth, helping to lead the youth service and the Kids to Kids programme. He has been asked to look into both to see how things could be developed and improved. Visiting the slums to encourage new children to attend the programme was an eye opener.

He asks us to pray that he may build long lasting relationships with the church, that the Kids to Kids programme will grow and provide for more children and that God will guide him as his work develops.



## **Church Pastoral Aid Society**

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

Jesus was clear that part of his earthly calling was 'to seek and to save the lost' (Luke 19:10). Those who founded CPAS in 1836 shared a conviction that a primary calling of local churches is to enable those who are far from Christ to be reconciled to him, and that CPAS could help resource churches to that end.

Christian witness today can feel like an uphill challenge since the narratives of contemporary culture often appear to be out of step with those of Scripture. Yet the gospel remains good news for all people.

CPAS continues its calling to work with churches and leaders to help them share the gospel afresh in each generation. Our current ministry involves the oversight of Venture and Falcon holidays, appointing evangelical clergy to our patronage parishes (**including St Jude's**), and training, resourcing and supporting leaders for mission and evangelism.

Looking towards 2025, our prayer and aspiration as a mission agency is to see:

- Every church a pathway to faith
- Every leader a catalyst for evangelism
- Every Christian a courageous witness
- Every child the chance to explore Jesus

## **Christmas Card Project**

Thanks to a very generous congregation, £635 was raised for our Christmas card project – the Angel Tree which gives parents in prison the opportunity to send a Christmas present to their children.

## **Christian Aid week**

Christian Aid week was celebrated in our normal services and in a Hub Community morning when £ 544.51 was raised.

**If you would like further information, please speak to a member of the Mission Partners Group – Liz Hardinge, Liz Hoskin, Judith Spear, Helen Foster, Debbie Grosch-Squance and Pete Hadden**

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