

# MISSION PARTNER NEWS – September 2020

*with suggested days of the week for prayer*

## Cross Cultural Ministry

**Monday: R & L & family in the Middle East with People International (PI)**

- Praise God for the joy of being home after nearly 5 months away! A key Central Asian couple are coming here for medical treatment and will stay with us - pray for success in that and good input into their lives.
- Pray for our online Bible teaching: R teaches a different book of the Bible every 2 weeks to the leaders in a key Central Asian church and L will be teaching Revelation to her 2 groups of ladies who live locally. R also physically meets up with a young man to study Romans. Please pray for all these people as they teach others what they are learning, and that the church would grow in their love for the Lord and his word.

**Monday: Rachel Olney in Vienna with OM**

- Praise God that G, a Brazilian guitarist, will be baptised this month – pray for flourishing as he starts leading the Bible study group at the Music University, and for a greater evangelistic impact through the group.
- Pray for long-term fruit from the online courses I am taking (Multiplying Disciples and Ethnodoxology!) and for wisdom and flexibility (due to Covid-19 etc) in thinking ahead to outreach concerts and arts projects.

**Tuesday: Andy & Zsofi Oatridge, David, Reka & Emily in Hungary with Acorn Camps**

- Praise God for an encouraging time at Cornerstone's family camp (our new church) - the teaching Andy did was well received. Also for a new colleague at Acorn Camps, Szilard Tam, from Muswell Hill, North London!
- The CORE training course starts with a 24 hr event (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>); pray that all 12 student places will be filled and that the group bonds well. And pray as we form a team and plan for the youth work at Cornerstone.

**Tuesday: Marcus & Jen Watkins at Juniper Tree (JT) missionary retreat centre, Dolphin Bay, Thailand (JTDB)**

- JTDB will remain closed until foreign tourists - who make up 90% of their guests - can enter Thailand again without the need for quarantine. This will not be until sometime in (early?) 2021, so Marcus and Jen will fly back to the UK on 12<sup>th</sup> September to wait here.
- Praise God for completion of the swimming pool re-tiling; for the blessing of CCF's online services and homegroup virtual coffee; for the support of the managers of the JT in Chiang Mai which remains open.
- Pray for Marcus and Jen to use the time in the UK beneficially; for Jen's painful neck & shoulder; for Mark, JT's Thai assistant manager, overseeing JT in their absence; and for their staff without pay until JT re-opens.

*Wednesday: Training for Cross Cultural Ministry: Julian & Beth Baalbergen (at Cronulla Church, Sydney); Neil & Lucy Rogers (just back from Regent College, Vancouver); Sophie Ashelford (George Whitefield College, Cape Town)*

- **Julian and Beth:** praise God for giving clarity over which sending organisation to work with in Paris (France Vie) and pray for the raising of the necessary prayer and financial support to head there next year.
- **Neil & Lucy:** are temporarily based in Durham but will be visiting Sheffield soon. The plan is still to head to Central Asia at the end of the year to take up their new pastoral ministries at an International Church.
- **Sophie:** has been elected to serve on the Student Representative Council as the international rep for 20/21. - pray for humility unity and enthusiasm for the new SRC. Pray too for open borders so that Sophie and many others at college can be reunited, hopefully at Christmas, with their families.

*Thursday: Youth & Children's Ministry: The Oakes - Dan & Billie Thaw, Tom & Mez Clayton, Rob & Fiona Marsden, Ciara Long, Heidi Beatson, Meg Savage, Joel Hutton, Nat German. Yorkshire Camps – Kez Wroe*

- Although there will be no Oakes camps this autumn (hopefully resuming in the New Year) the team is busy refreshing the programme and premises, and preparing for a new Impact (Gap Year) Team to arrive in October. Pray for gospel motivation as they long to welcome children back into the building.
- Pray the dozen young people on the new Yorkshire Camps training team at Netherside Hall of which Kez will be part (starts 17<sup>th</sup>) – that they will bond well and form friendships of trust and encouragement.

*Friday: International Student Ministry - Stuart (OMF), Caleb Chen & Peter Longbottom (Friends International), Mengyuan Yue (reach Programme 2002-2021, Edinburgh*

- Give thanks for a potential female staffworker to join the Sheffield team, and for the opportunity to reflect and meet with people from the CU and churches to support them in their international ministry plans.
- Pray for connections with international students, including Christians, arriving in Sheffield this autumn - that they would be able to meet other Christians and receive Bible teaching and fellowship.
- Pray for Mengyuan who worshipped with us while at Uni here and has just moved from Sheffield to work with Friends International in Edinburgh for the coming year (starting on 7<sup>th</sup>).

*Saturday: **Student Ministry (UCCF) - Sophie Tresidder (Birmingham); Peter Johnson (Newcastle); Anja Lijcklama à Nijeholt (Cambridge)***

- **Sophie & Pete:** Pray for the new online Uni CU Impact Groups being launched across the country this month - ask the Lord to use them to deepen discipleship and expand mission in the student world; for freshers to join; for the returners as they lead; and for the rest of the CU to join in. Pray too for Sophie and Pete to stay fresh in ministry despite the restrictions they're now working under – Pete will be supervising 2 Relay Workers this year at Northumbria and Newcastle Unis.
- **Anja:** Praise God for time with family back in The Netherlands and for great housemates in Cambridge. Pray for clear communications with postgrad students across Europe, helping them connect their faith and academic work. Pray too for the financial support Anja needs to raise to cover her salary and ministry costs.

*Sunday: **Others - Alan Butler (WorldShare); Jonathan Norgate (2:19); Maisie Crossley (Edinburgh City Mission); Jonny Wilkinson (Samaritans Purse, Ethiopia); Dan Houghton (YWAM - Australia); Galeed House (Darnall)***

- **Alan** says - As summed up by one of the ministry leaders in India, "more people are going to die from starvation than from the virus". We are working hard to respond to the hunger (food security) for the poor and vulnerable. Please pray for more resources to help us in this work. Our ministry partner Free Evangelical Church in Lebanon is responding to the challenges of the Beirut explosion, helping to provide foodstuffs and basic shelter, and working from buildings damaged by the force of the blast.
- Give thanks that **Jonathan's** team are close to completing the two books being prepared for international outreach groups - 'So Lord Speak 2' and 'Start to Speak' will be proofread and sent to the printers this month, ready to be used by churches throughout the UK. Pray too for 2.19 as it makes the transition to being an independent charity.
- Pray for **Maisie** heading to Edinburgh this month and starting her gap year with Edinburgh City Mission – she'll be working for a team leader with another volunteer (both called Sarah). More details next month!
- Pray for **Jonny** as he flies to Addis Ababa in mid-September to work on a project providing health and shelter support for those displaced by conflict, and for **Dan** as he begins at a Bible School near Brisbane
- Praise God that Galeed House is ready to be used again and Amer has been able to get out into the community visiting and renewing friendships. Pray for wisdom in knowing how to manage reopening activities - Women's groups, Men's English and Kids Club.