



Prayer Book

Praying Without Ceasing



The Council for World Mission (CWM) is a worldwide partnership of 31 Churches, committed to sharing their resources of people, skills, insights and money to carry out God's Mission.

AFRICA

FKJM - Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar
UCCSA - United Congregational Church of Southern Africa
UCZ - United Church of Zambia
CCM - Churches of Christ in Malawi
UPCSA - Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa

CARIBBEAN

GCU - Guyana Congregational Union
UCJCI - United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

EAST ASIA

HKCCCC - Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China
GPM - Presbyterian Church of Malaysia (Gereja Presbyterian Malaysia)
PCT - Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
PCS - Presbyterian Church in Singapore
PCK - Presbyterian Church of Korea
PCM - Presbyterian Church of Myanmar

EUROPE

CF - Congregational Federation
UWI - Union of Welsh Independents
URC - United Reformed Church
PCN - Protestant Church in the Netherlands
PCW - Presbyterian Church of Wales

PACIFIC

CUNZ - Congregational Union of New Zealand
KPC - Kiribati Protestant Church
UCPNG - United Church of Papua New Guinea
PCANZ - Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
CCCS - Congregational Christian Church in Samoa
EKT - Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu
NCC - Nauru Congregational Church
UCSI - United Church in Solomon Islands
CCCAS - Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa

SOUTH ASIA

COB - Church of Bangladesh
CNI - Church of North India
CSI - Church of South India
PCI - Presbyterian Church of India



OUR VISION

“Fullness of life Through Christ,
for all Creation”

OUR MISSION

“Called to partnership in Christ to
mutually challenge, encourage,
and equip member churches to
share in God's mission”

GENERAL SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Prayer is the joyful awareness and conscious acknowledgement that God is interested in the praises we offer, the petitions we make and the total surrender of ourselves to God so that we may better understand



and respond to God's will. Throughout this volume our sisters and brothers are in prayer, prayers that are meant to be an offering to God as well as a means of inspiration and encouragement to the reader, like you, who will take the time to engage these pages.

Since prayers need not be offered publicly, public prayers, such as these contained in this prayer book, are meant to call us to collective examination of our attitude towards, and our approach to God. In this examination we call to mind who God is and all that God is doing, has done and is committed to doing for us. The character and activity of God, which find expression in all aspects of life, can inspire and bless us beyond measure. However, given some of the personal challenges we encounter along life's journey, we sometimes fail to see and experience God at work.

Intentionally, therefore, the prayers in this volume come in the form of stories, reflections meditations and utterings to God, all pointing to how each writer encounters and experiences God. The hope is that the account of each person will serve to bless

you, the reader, and invite you into conversation with God and with your sisters and brothers around you. We encourage you to read this volume along with your devotional or as a devotional in its own right, allowing each reflection to speak to you on the appointed day.

CWM is a community of narratives. The over twenty-one millions of us from some forty different countries around the world, who make up the organisation, represent a variety of social locations and, accordingly, we all contribute to the diversity and richness of the narratives that define us. Our narratives tell of our hurt, our healing, and our hope and of God's interventions, even interruptions, aimed at restoring confidence and propelling us along the journey of life. So in this prayer book, our songs, our lament, our celebrations, our agonies and our aspirations are all prayers to God, prayers that sing praises, seek freedom and stand in solidarity with each other. It is a book that bespeaks our spiritualities of challenges encountered and overcome by God's grace.

I welcome this production, and express sincere thanks and appreciation to the Reflection and Research team of CWM as well as all the contributors for making this possible. I take pleasure in commending this first volume to you, with the hope that it will enrich your faith and strengthen you along the path of your spiritual pilgrimage.

Shalom!

Rev Dr Collin I. Cowan
General Secretary of CWM

PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Reflect
& Research



While the Thessalonian Christians were fretting over the coming of the Lord in the light of their departed ones, Paul in his

letter to the Christians in Thessalonika to “pray without ceasing” (1Thess. 5:17). The encouragement to pray was accompanied with the call to hope since their belief is grounded in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (cf. 1Thess. 4:13-14). In the act of praying, one hopes that God listens and answers our prayers. Moreover, prayer is not only a personal and intimate encounter with God but it is also a communal act. In other words, Christians are asked to continually lift each other up in prayers. And this first quarter of CWM Prayer Book (Jan-Mar 2014) seeks to connect our member churches and their entities and partners-in-mission in prayers of thanksgiving and intercession. They share their spiritual journey through their stories of struggles, hopes and aspirations that beckon us to lift each other in prayers in every place and at all times. It is a call to all of us to pray without ceasing.

The production of this volume would not be possible without their contributions for which the Reflection and Research Programme Area is indeed grateful and thankful. Moreover, a word of thanks and appreciation is fitting to Mr. Santono Yap, Ms. Shireen Lim and Ms. Sharon Chua for their support and assistance in putting this volume together.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

Tan, Yak-hwee (Rev. Dr.)

Programme Secretary, Reflection and Research

January 2014



Wednesday, 1st January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 8; Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Revelation 21:1-6a

2
0
1
4

January 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2014						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

by findingnana@findingnana.com

Occupy our calendars

Our times are in your hands:

But we count our times for us;

we count our days and fill them with us;

we count our weeks and fill them with our busyness;

we count our years and fill them with our fears.

And then caught up short with your claim,

Our times are in your hands!

Take our times, times of love and times of weariness,

Take them all, bless them and break them,

give them to us again,

slow paced and eager,

fixed in your readiness for neighbour.

Occupy our calendars,

Flood us with itsy-bitsy, daily *kairoi*,

in the name of your fleshed *kairos*.

Amen.

(Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth. Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*)

Ms. Parfaite Rasolonjanahary is a Partner-in Mission from Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) to Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC) for more than 18 years now. She served 14 years in the Solomon Islands with the United Church in the Solomon Islands (UCSI) from 1994-2007 and from 2008 onwards in Kiribati on Kiritimati Island with the Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC). God called her to the mission from the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) to serve as a dentist, along with her husband Samoelijaona who serves as a teacher. Parfaite's dental missionary work began at Helena Goldie Hospital in the Solomon Islands which continues in the Hospital of Kiritimati Island with KPC.



Her work consists mainly to alleviate people's oral and dental problems and whenever possible, to prevent those sufferings. She teaches pupils in the schools the proper way of brushing teeth so that they will have good and healthy teeth in the future. She considers this as a big achievement because people in remote places have direct access to dental services. This is what she says of her dental work: *"I often find it a challenge to convince patients that extraction is not the best solution and there are times when I do not have the appropriate instruments and the adequate medicines. Then again, I find my reward in the job accomplished and joy in the smiling faces of people leaving the clinic. Every morning at the beginning of the working day I allocate time to meet God with prayer to commit the day and the work into His hands."*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for she may always have good health to carry out the mission God has entrusted her to do.
2. Thanksgiving that their children could complete their respective studies. And also that their son, Vonjisoa ('Vonjy') was able to visit them for two Christmas holidays and also the visit of their daughter, Rify Hasinjanahary and grandchildren, Lenny and Aina Remes in 2012.

Friday, 3rd January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22

The **Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA)** was formed through the union of The Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa (PCSA) and The Reformed Presbyterian Church in South Africa (RPC). Both former denominations are started by the Church of Scotland - the former came into being in 1897, at its first General Assembly held in Durban through the amalgamation of a number of different congregations established by Scottish settlers in Cape Town, the Eastern Cape and Natal. The latter was founded by the Missions Committee of the Church of Scotland with its base mainly in the Eastern Cape. In 1897, the Scottish missionaries felt that the predominantly Black church was not yet ready for incorporation into the PCSA, therefore they formed a separate denomination called the Bantu Presbyterian Church. Later this was changed to the Reformed Presbyterian Church and union with PCSA was finally achieved in the year 1999.



UPCSA's vision is to be a reconciled community of Christians who exercises a prophetic witness to Christ. And their mission is to proclaim the Triune God in Southern Africa through bearing witness to the saving love of Jesus Christ, building vital and reforming congregations for worship, ministry and discipleship, and proclaiming the Kingdom of God through unity, justice, peace and love. In order to work towards this mission, UPCSA has set some mission priorities to facilitate the process, such as evangelism, development of missional congregations, and engaging in reconciliation and stewardship. The Church also holds itself accountable to its congregations for these priorities, by reporting its progress to the denomination through its General Assembly.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray that the congregations of UPCSA continue to bear witness to the saving love of Jesus Christ through preaching and action.
2. Pray that congregations of UPCSA passionately engage with the mission priorities set forth by the Church such as, evangelism and stewardship.

The **Congregational Federation (CF)** is a federation of independent or Congregational churches formed in 1972. It came into being following the apportionment of the assets of the former Congregational Union in England and Wales. The object of the Federation is the advancement of the Christian faith. As such, the Federation have programmes and resources designed to enhance knowledge and skills for worship, service and mission. An area is related to ministerial and lay training called the GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Programme.



The GIFT Programme is a one-year programme that seeks to explore the Bible, faith in Jesus, and practical discipleship and mission. The programme is conducted through distance learning and three weekends of learning and fellowship at the local as well as the national level. The GIFT programme could be taken as a stand-alone course or the first stage to the Foundation Degree in Practical Theology. The Foundation Degree is accredited by the University of Winchester which includes four weekends a year and access to online learning. It is preparation for lay people for Christian discipleship, or for a variety of ministries.

The GIFT course introduces key themes in the Christian faith and making them relevant in the life and mission of the church today. Therefore, Christians are equipped to serve God more effectively in their local congregations and also that their personal lives in Christ are built up.

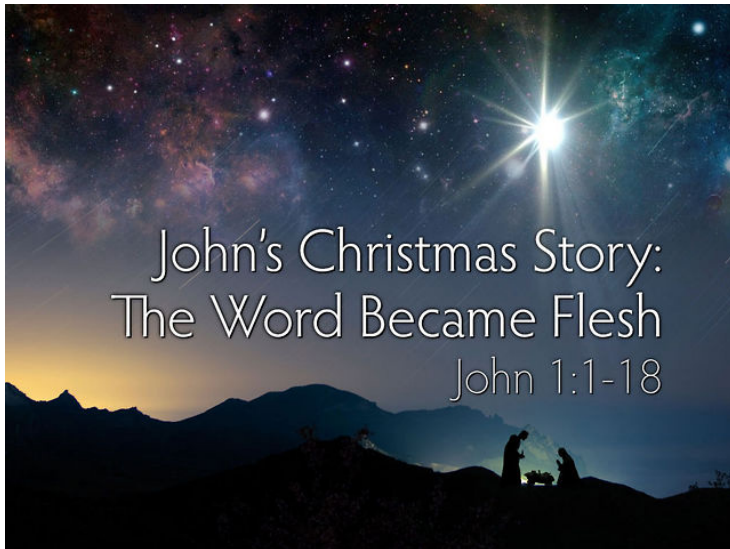
Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for those who attend the GIFT Programme that their personal lives in Christ be deepened and service in the church enriched.
2. Pray for the instructors and facilitators of the GIFT programme that God grant them wisdom and knowledge in their teaching.

Sunday, 5th January 2014

2nd Sunday after Christmas

Bible Readings: Psalm 147:12-20; Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1: (1-9)10-18



Prayer

Lord Jesus, You came to earth to dwell amongst us,
Full of grace and truth,
To reveal the glory of the Father.
May we witness the Word Became Flesh in our thoughts,
speech and actions.
Amen.

Monday, 6th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12



Rev. Z. John Colney is a Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church of India (Mizoram Synod) to Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW) and is currently serving as a Mission Enabler in Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, which is located in Ebbw Vale, Wales. Ebbw Vale is the largest town and the administra-

tive centre of Blaenau Gwent County borough with a population of 24,422 people, which has a high rate of unemployment in the country as a result of the closure of mining and steel industries that was once prominent in the region. Also the County, Blaenau Gwent has the highest level of severe child poverty in Wales, as revealed by statistical data according to a report by Save the Children. Rev. Colney's ministry is aimed at developing the spiritual life of the church and to enable the church for outreach and witness in the community. He also helps in nurturing the fellowship through worship and appropriate meetings in the Church. He is joined by his wife Lalhmingangi Chhakchhuak, seven year old daughter, Malsawmsangi Colney and five year old son, Malsawmkima.

Rev. Colney was prepared to encounter a difficult culture when he and the family came to Wales in 2006 but with the help of God and support from God's people, they were able to settle sooner than they thought. He knew that in order for him to identify the needs of the people of the community, he designed a questionnaire with the help of a developmental organisation. Moreover, he participated in voluntary work by serving an individual family for many months. In so doing, he learned about family life in the local community and to effectively serve them.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving for God's continual blessings on John and his family;
2. Pray for Rev. Colney's ministry in the church and also outreach and witness in the community.

Tuesday, 7th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21

Mr. Sonny Mwambe, a Partner-in Mission from United Church in Zambia (UCZ) to Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC) has been a Christian from his childhood days. He was an active member of Church before he took the step of missionary service with Kiribati Protestant Church in 2007. Though he had some theoretical missionary orientation, little did he expect that his missionary's journey would face a number of challenges, such as food, dressing and the way of life in Abaiang, an island which is about 60km north the capital of Kiribati, Tarawa.



When he first arrived in Abaiang, he was surprised when he was shown his housing (see picture) which became his home for the next four years. To the local people on this island (Abaiang), this house is considered to be a very big house. Sonny has a story to say about the house:

"This is a house made from coconut mid leaves as walls and roof covers made from pandanus leaves. Sometimes especially before I got used, I would feel as though I was outside, because even if you were inside, you could still see everything outside. Rats make homes in the thatch of the house. The house had many rats and one evening I went to my neighbour to ask for something I could use to kill them. I was surprised to be told that in this place they don't kill rats. It was actually a taboo. You could imagine what went through my mind. There is a belief that when you kill a rat, more rats will come and they will come and attack your home by eating anything in the house, including biting you when you are sleeping. So normally people leave some food carelessly so that rats will come and eat. Instead of people killing the rats, they keep cats, which do the job of killing the rats."

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving for God's protection and guidance upon Sonny and the family in the midst of the many challenges that they face.
2. Pray for good health upon Sonny and the family as they serve in God's ministry.

Ephesians 4:11-16



source: saltformation.com

“But to each one of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift...The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”

(Ephesians 4:7, 11-16, NRSV)

Thursday, 9th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 72; Micah 5:2-9; Luke 13:31-35

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ) was formed by early settlers in New Zealand in 1840.



**Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand**

It identifies itself as a bi-cultural church

within a multinational context, establishing links and seeking to build relationships with different people groups of various ethnical and national backgrounds. The Church has a committed partnership with the indigenous Maori people through their synod, Te Aka Puaho, and also created a Pacific Island Synod and an Asian Council to support a growing number of Asian congregations. These partnerships and connections, with support from CWM, eventually led to the appointment of an



Asian Ministries Coordinator, Rev. Kyoung Gyun from Presbyterian Church in Korea (PCK) within the church to develop their mission agendas. Rev. Kyoung Gyun's priority is to help migrant Asian Christian congregations find a home within the Presbyterian Church. He is also tasked with developing leadership in the next generation of Asian Christians in New Zealand.

The Church also embarks on a Going Global Project, jointly developed by the Church's Global Mission and Youth departments. It aims to facilitate cross-cultural mission experiences for the younger people from New Zealand with their partner churches in Asia and the Pacific, and deepening awareness of their respective mission context and provide mutual support in their respective faith journeys. Through this Project, the Church hopes to educate its younger generation in giving them a global perspective of missions.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit as the Church move to a deeper commitment to becoming a multicultural church; for effective new forms of mission to meet the challenges of sharing Christian faith in a largely secular nation.
2. Pray for the Church to continue to grow in their relationships with the different people groups, and for a spirit of unity to unite them in Christ, even as they come from different cultural contexts and backgrounds.

Ms Liantluangpuii, affectionately known as “TP” is a Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church of India (PCI) to Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (CCCAS). She serves as a missionary teacher in Kanana Fou High School, run by the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa. Her work in American Samoa concentrated mostly on teaching Biology and Marine Biology. Together with Mapuii and Rami, two fellow missionary teachers, they look after the Christian Club in the school.



“TP” has gone through happy and hard times in the school work but she is thankful to God for God’s never ending love and guidance through all those times. For example, the housing problem that they (TP, Mapuii and Rami) faced for 6 years has been solved. Before this solution, they did not have a house of their own but had to move from house to house, living in different houses. They prayed and God answered their prayers and gave them a nice house called “House of Hope” through their church leaders.

Another challenge that “TP” faces is with students, that is, to instil the value of hard work. With the help of God, the values of hard work have been instilled among the students. As such, the students are more aware of this value and try their best to earn good grades by hard work and do their tests and examinations with honesty and integrity.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for God’s provision of her needs and guidance as she carries out God’s mission in the school.
2. Pray for the students as they work diligently on their school work and to uphold the good values that have been imparted to them by the teachers.

Saturday, 11th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31

The history of the **Presbyterian Church of Malaysia (GPM)** can be traced to the 19th century. During those days, there were already many Chinese migrants, mainly from the Teochew speaking Swatow and Hockien speaking Amoy, Southern China to Singapore to seek a better life. In 1872, under the urging of the missionary of the London Missionary Society in Singapore and the Prinsep Street Church, Rev. J.A.B. Cook was commissioned by the Foreign Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of England to work amongst the Chinese in Singapore and its surrounding areas. In 1910, the Presbyterian Synod of Singapore and Johore was established, and changed its name to The Presbyterian Church of Singapore and Malaysia in 1968. Following the national boundaries that were drawn between Singapore and Malaysia, the church parted to form the Gereja Presbyterian Malaysia (GPM) and the Presbyterian Church in Singapore in 1975.



In 31 August 2011, Gereja Presbyterian Malaysia launched their 10-year Faith Plan, "Church Without Walls" (CWW). Taking the key verses of Colossians 1:10 and Matthew 28:19-20 as their mission, the "Church Without Walls" is a church-wide project aims to engage and mobilize everyone, to get people out of the pews into the community. It is to:

- a. Envision, strategize and execute plans to impact the community and the nation;
- b. Strengthen leadership and empower people;
- c. Reaffirm their values and distinctiveness;
- d. Modernize their stewardship and management approach.

As such, GPM has set up four strategic priorities: Church Growth; Kingdom Expansion, Impacting Communities and Nation Building. And these priorities are to be effected in six sectors of the society, namely, Government and Marketplace; Environment and Creation Care; Family; Healthcare and Social Needs; Media, Arts and Culture; and Education.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray that all the congregations will actively participate in the church-wide project "Church Without Walls" 10-year Plan.
2. Pray for the youths and young people to be trained to assume leadership of the church in the years to come.

Sunday, 12th January 2014

Baptism of the Lord, 1st Sunday after Epiphany

Bible Readings: Psalm 29; Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17



source: flickr.com

Prayer

Almighty God, we remember this day when Christ was baptized in the River Jordan as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, and You declared that Christ is your beloved Son. We pray that we, your children reborn of water and Spirit might well be pleasing to you in our speech and actions. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Monday, 13th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10: 44-48

The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) was established in southern Africa by the London Missionary Society (LMS) which started work in Cape Town in 1799. Within a few years, mission stations had been established throughout the Cape Province, in present-day Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. After the withdrawal of the LMS from the Cape, the churches it had established, together with the English-speaking congregations, formed the Congregational Union of South Africa in 1859. This church united in 1967 with the Bantu Congregational Church to form the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, incorporating the work of the two bodies in South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. A further merger took place in 1972 when the UCCSA was reconstituted to include the congregations of the South African Association of the Disciples of Christ.



The Church has been prominent in ecumenical church life in southern Africa, most notably in the national Christian Councils of the five countries where it is represented and playing a decisive part in the Church Unity Commission. Such responsibilities give rise to the need to develop quality leadership and credible ministers, which led the church to invest in its education. The first batch of qualified lay preachers, 108 of them, graduated under the stewardship of the UCCSA Leadership Academy at the historic Moffat Centre in Kuruman after a year of intensive training programme. Learners range from locals to as far as Zimbabwe. Rev. Dr. Prince Dibeela in his sermon to the graduates emphasized the need to serve with humility, and desist from self-aggrandisement tendencies.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for the work of UCCSA in Southern Africa, and pray for unity amongst the member churches of the Church.
2. Pray for UCCSA Leadership Academy as they seek to develop lay preachers for the congregations of the Church.

Tuesday, 14th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13



Mr. Joseph Kennedy is a Partner-in Mission from Catholic Church in India (CCI) to United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA), facilitated by Council for World Mission since 2002. He is currently working at the Moffat Mission, founded by London Missionary Society (LMS) missionaries two centuries ago. He felt blessed for the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of past LMS missionaries. His work involves, besides

assisting in the administration of the Mission, evolving and executing community development projects. He is also involved in fund-raising for the Mission from business entities, government and international funding agencies. Currently, he is managing a Renovation and Restoration project of the Mission.

Mr. Kennedy is convinced that his 'becoming' a missionary is not an accident but a purposeful divine incident. In his words, he writes, "I have felt the gentle and firm guidance of God over the past years at every cross-road of my journey. To me, being a missionary is a call to service and not a call for a gainful employment. A positive response to the Call to be a missionary comes with the willingness to be sent, no matter where, when and under what circumstances and conditions. 'Being sent,' is the scarier part of this whole missionary lifestyle because it is a journey into the unknown and the unfamiliar. The only way to face it is to go through it and going through it requires the inner spiritual strength that flows from God. Life as a missionary is not a bed of roses but a journey on an unbeaten path into the unknown."

Mr. Kennedy acknowledges that it is God's grace and strength that sustains him in this missionary journey and remarks, "it requires the inner spiritual strength that flows from God."

Prayer Request:

Thanksgiving to God for God's provision of grace and strength for Mr. Kennedy's ministry with UCCSA.

Wednesday, 15th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21

Holy and strong One,
In our weakness, we come to you;
Strengthen us, good Lord,
We bring a church weak in mission,
Wavering in faith,
Dwindling in numbers,
Fearful of outreach.
Strengthen us, good Lord.

We bring a world strained and stressed,
Broken by war and crime,
Discouraged by evil,
Distressed by violence.
Strengthen us, good Lord.

We bring friends in loneliness and heartache,
In weariness and want,
In fear and anxiety.
Strengthen us, good Lord.

We bring the sick and the suffering,
The pained and the despairing,
The forsaken and the betrayed.
Strengthen us, good Lord.

(David Adam, The Open Gate. Celtic Prayers for Growing Spiritually)

Rev. Charles Chua is a Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church in Singapore (PCS) to Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW), serving as a mission enabler in the Church since December 2002. His wife, Molly and their daughter Annabel join him in Wales. Rev. Chua's ministry is multi-faceted in the Welsh English-speaking congregations. He preaches at church services, conducts the Holy Communion, and also leads bible study groups. His outreach work includes service and witness in the community.



Rev. Chua's ministry has since witnessed people coming to know the Lord, through the love and care shown by the church towards people in the community, as well as bible study sessions. Rev. Chua leads weekly bible study for mostly the elderly people of the congregations whilst Mrs Chua also helps to lead bible study for the International students. Rev. Chua remarks, "It is so wonderful to have altogether, old and young, about 70 to 80 studying the bible every week! The Lord Jesus continues to teach us more about Him and His Word and the fullness of His Spirit, He is amazing!" Rev. Chua is thankful to God for sustaining him and his family in his missionary service in Wales. He writes, "Although it is very hard work, we would not exchange it for anything else! We never cease to marvel at God's faithful loving grace, strength, protection and favour upon us!"

Rev. Chua and his family are grateful to Council for World Mission, Presbyterian Church of Wales, the two Swansea churches: Argyle and Rhyddings Park Presbyterian Churches and Tabernacle Gorseinon, Presbyterian Church in Singapore, their home church in Singapore: All Saints Presbyterian Church and the many faithful prayer partners who have supported them in different ways while they minister in the needy Wales.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for God's provision and sustaining power for Rev. Chua and his family in their missionary service in Wales.
2. Pray for the Welsh congregations that they continue to be faithful in their witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Friday, 17th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5

The London Missionary Society began its missionary work in today's Papua New Guinea in 1871. Several groups of Christians from the Pacific islands came to work with the mission which expanded through the Papuan mainland, such as the Australian Methodist Church, now the Uniting Church in Australia. In 1962, the London Missionary Society, together with the mission of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand and other mission body, formed the Papua Ekalesia which was the largest single church in Papua at that time. A further union took place on 19 January 1968 when the Papua Ekalesia, the Methodists and the Union Church of Port Moresby together established the United Church in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. In 1996 the general assembly of the United Church in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands (UCPNGSI) resolved that the existence of one united church covering two independent countries should no longer be maintained. Thus, the **United Church in Papua New Guinea (UCPNG)** came into being as an autonomous church on its own.



The vision of UCPNG is to teach, preach and live the Good News of Jesus Christ in her faith, life and witness; in loving and caring ministries through the united participation of the people of God until he returns. The following are some of the mission goals in the light of its vision and which we could keep the Church in prayers:

- Enhance the teaching and proclamation of the word of God
- Encourage members to be prayerful and live Christian lives, expressing Christian faith in life and witness
- Provide health and education and other social services to the community
- Promote continuous communication among her people
- Promote, encourage and provide opportunities to enhance participation by all
- To be good stewards of resources
- Continue and maintain ecumenism and partnership in mission with partner churches

Saturday, 18th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11

The Union of Welsh Independents (UWI) is a voluntary union of 430 congregational churches, the majority of which worship through the medium of Welsh, a language spoken by 19% of the population of Wales. Welsh congregationalists number about 24,000, and the number of serving ministers is about 80.



Throughout their history there has been a strong emphasis on effective preaching of the gospel, and educating and empowering church members who have always been known for their strong social conscience. The Union is a free and voluntary body. Its aim is to help, as far as possible, to make churches “fellowships that will be free to serve Jesus Christ”. Today it acts as a forum for discussion, seeking to encourage the churches to face the myriad challenges of the 21st century.



Currently the Union is implementing a mission strategy known as ‘The Welsh Independents’ Development Programme’. Its main emphases are developing individual church programmes, development of new leadership roles, outreach, providing resources, education and training and the development of local ‘county’ church unions.

The main challenge for the Union at this time is to enable churches to witness more effectively in their communities. For this to happen, there must be a rediscovery of the spiritual gifts needed to fulfil the task, and heartfelt wish among church members to see others come to Christ.

Prayer Requests:

1. That the churches in Wales will be inspired and equipped by God to fulfil their mission
2. That the youth of Wales be led to Christ as their Redeemer
3. That God will raise both ministers and church leaders in Wales
4. That God will embolden church members and give them confidence through His Spirit to reach out to their communities
5. That the Union may serve both God and the churches faithfully
6. That Wales will experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Sunday, 19th January 2014

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Bible Readings: Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42



**you are my servant...
in whom I will
display my splendor.**

Isaiah 49:3

source: keelund.wordpress.com

Prayer

All praise and glory to God revealed in Jesus Christ who came to a world as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (cf. John 1:29). Amen.

With a view to Church Union in North India, a series of consultation was started in 1929. Eventually on the “basis of negotiations” prepared by a series of Round Table Conference, a plan of Church union was drawn up. A negotiating committee was constituted in 1951 by the Church bodies concerned. They were the Church of India (formerly known as the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon), the Methodist Church (British and Australasian Conferences), the United Church of Northern India and the Council of the Baptist Churches in Northern India. In 1957, the Church of the Brethren in India and the Disciples of Christ also joined in the negotiations. The plan reached its fourth and final edition in 1965 and, on that basis, the Church Union in North India was inaugurated on 29 November 1970 in Nagpur.



The Church of North India (CNI) is spread across whole of India including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, barring four southern states. The Church has grown to a membership of 1.5 million communicant members with 2,204 ordained ministers/clergy serving in 4,500 congregations/local churches. However, there is a disparity in the number of female ordained ministers (57) as compared to the male ordained ministers (2,153).

The Church as a United and Uniting together is committed to announce the Good News of the reign of God inaugurated through death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in proclamation and to demonstrate in actions to restore the integrity of God's creation through continuous struggle against the demonic powers of breaking down the barriers of caste, class, gender, economic inequality and exploitation of nature.

Mr. Alwan Masih, the General Secretary of CNI Synod requests prayers for the leadership and the various activities of CNI Synod:

1. Pray for the Office Bearers of CNI Synod, as well as the Bishops, Presbyters and the Congregations.
2. Pray for Theological Education Scholarships for B.Th., B.D., and M.Th. as the Church seeks to train the people for the ministry.

Tuesday, 21st January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4

Ms. Lalremtluangi Renthlei who is affectionately known as “Mapuii” is a Partner-in-Mission from Presbyterian Church of India (PCI) to the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS). She has been working as a missionary teacher



in Kanana Fou High School since February 2007.

Kanana Fou High School is under the establishment of Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS). Her main work is to teach at the school and also to help the students in any area of need.

American Samoa is a small island situated in the South Pacific Ocean. It has its breath-taking sceneries. The local Samoans are very friendly and would smile and greet her on the road even though she does not know them.

The education system is totally different from India where she comes from. At the beginning, they ('Mapuii' and fellow missionaries) were not told as to what the school expected of them. So, they observed what was going around in the school so that they would not make a fool of themselves. She writes, “The students are big and rowdy but friendly. I am not used to students who treat you more like a friend than a teacher. I was taken aback many times to the response I used to get from my students.” She acknowledges that God played a big part in helping her through all the challenges she faced in the beginning. And also admits that there are so many things that she still need to learn for someone like her, coming from a different cultural background.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for guidance and wisdom upon her as she teaches and impacts the lives of the students;
2. Pray for Kanana Fou High School for their upcoming accreditation exercise in April 2014.

Wednesday, 22nd January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17



source: fatherhumberto.blogspot.com



source: teatime-kiddies.blogspot.com

“

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

(Matthew 9:16-17, NRSV)

Thursday, 23rd January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24

The United Reformed Church (URC) is a member church of Council for World Mission (CWM). Congregational and Presbyterian churches were established in Britain in the 16th and 17th centuries, and they maintained their separate identities until recent years. The union between the Congregational Church in England and Wales, and the Presbyterian Church of England took place in 1972. In 1981 the Reformed Association of Churches of Christ was united with the United Reformed Church and in 2000 the Congregational Union of Scotland united with the United Reformed Church.



The United Reformed Church is exploring different ways to inspire their members to share their faith more readily. Currently, their Mission Committee is consulting people across the Church to get their comments on an evangelism project. Clearly, many people do not find this topic easy or comfortable. They have reminded themselves that most Christians in the United Kingdom (UK) would say that they come to faith because of meaningful relationships they experience as children. How might they enhance their work with children and young people? And they have welcomed the fact that British culture prizes authenticity and personal integrity, which are Christian values they do their best to embody. They hope that this work will not only enable their members to share their faith more openly that it will contribute to the ongoing discussions about evangelism that they have with their European Region partners.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the Church as they explore ways to inspire their members to share their faith more readily.
2. Pray for the Church as they seek to contribute to the ongoing discussions about evangelism with the European Region partners.

Ms. Patricia Elizabeth Jamison who is affectionately known as “Pat” is a Partner-in Mission from Methodist Church in Great Britain to Church of Bangladesh (COB) since April 2010. She is a Community Health Advisor with the Church of Bangladesh Social Development Programme (CBSDP). She is funded by the Bangladesh group and her lead sender is the Methodist Church in Great Britain. Pat is currently based in the southern region of Bangladesh in a very rural area. She lives in Jobarpar and visits seven other areas in the region. Each area has a community nurse and development staff. In her own words, she narrates some of her challenges:



“I find the Bangla language very challenging and still struggle to communicate effectively. I am glad to be able to attend an English speaking church while in Dhaka to help me spiritually. I also find corruption in the country very difficult. There are so many people struggling yet a big percentage of others are getting money dishonestly. I do try to see past it as there is nothing I can do. I do comment however especially when I know Christians have been involved.

Friendships with local people can be difficult. They are usually very superficial as they see foreigners as money. I have had to look beyond this and just try as best I can to befriend everyone. The local community has accepted me so well. As I am the only foreigner in the whole district I do stand out however I don't even notice the stares and comments anymore. I attend the local church, visit the local Christian primary school where I take class one a session per week and attend Girls Brigade Company in the girl's hostel every Saturday afternoon.”

Prayer Requests:

1. For Pat's future in Bangladesh, the staff she is working alongside and the many patients she comes across every day.
2. She tries every day to communicate in the local Bangla language and ask that we pray that she would become fluent so as to enable her to communicate more effectively.

Saturday, 25th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Luke 5:27-32

David Livingstone (1813-1873) was a Scottish Congregationalist pioneer medical missionary with the London Missionary Society and an explorer in Africa who encountered Lake Malawi in 1859. And it was David Livingstone's famous appeal, made at a great meeting in the Senate House at Cambridge on December 4, 1857 that led to the founding of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa (UMCA), who sent their first missionary expedition to Central Africa, arriving in Malawi in 1861.



According to Rev. Patrick W. Mputi, the General Secretary of **Churches of Christ in Malawi, CCM** has been going through a reconstitution process. This has not been easy going. Much of the time, energy and resources were spent in resolving discord and misunderstandings that have challenged the church. In addition, the new constitution which is still in its draft form poses additional challenge to the church. Rev. Mputi writes, "Our main source of encouragement actually is the Scripture and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our hope still, is that CCM once becomes a formidable tool of preaching the gospel of Christ in Malawi and beyond."

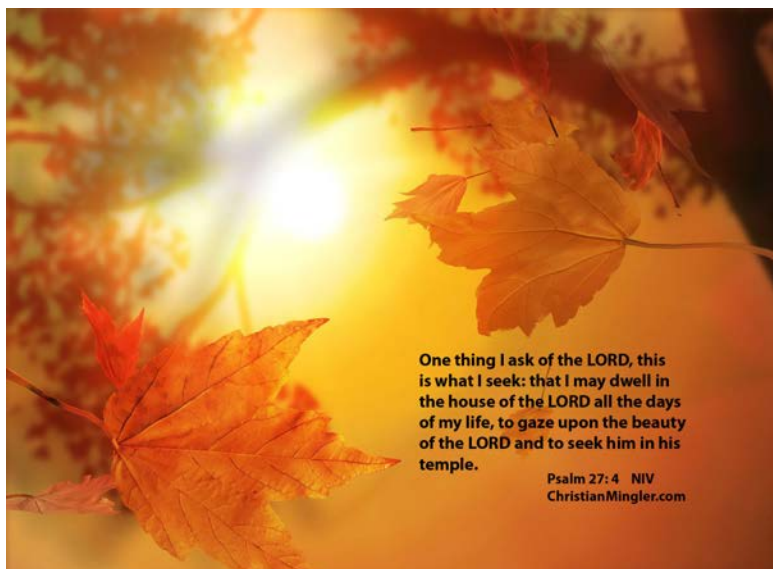
As a tool of preaching the gospel of Christ, CCM is much concerned of its future. Therefore, the following are some plans and objectives which call for prayers and concerns.

1. The restructuring and capacity building of the church through the installation of the systems of accounting and development in the church.
2. The strengthening of the grassroots through the process of decentralization to enable the people to stand on their own socially and economically.
3. That the spirit of love, understanding and fear of the Lord be instil in the entire CCM leadership and its members through worship, teachings and ministry in an orderly and responsible manner that is consistent with biblical Christian teachings.

Sunday, 26th January 2014

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Bible Readings: Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4: 12-23



source: christianmingler.com

Prayer

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the LORD, this is what I seek:

That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my
life,

To gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.

Amen.

(Psalm 27:1, 4)

Monday, 27th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14

Protestant mission work in Taiwan began in the year 1865 in Tainan, when Dr. James L. Maxwell from the Presbyterian Church of England (now the United Reformed Church) arrived on the island. Dr. Maxwell and his colleagues were soon accompanied by Rev. Dr. George L. Mackay from the Canadian Presbyterian Mission who began his mission work in Tamsui in 1872. Through these efforts of the British missionaries in the south and the Canadian missionaries in the north, a Taiwanese Presbyterian Church began to take shape.



The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) started to establish many modern institutions and facilities in Taiwan, such as the first school (including the first girl's school), the first Western hospital, leprosy treatments, and the first printing press in Taiwan. The Church also started to outreach to local indigenous tribes during the Japanese Occupation in the late 1930s, when foreign missionaries were expelled for a period, thus giving the church an early experience of autonomy. By the end of the war, 4,000-5,000 indigenous people were ready for baptism.

Evangelism continues to be an important cornerstone to the Church; an area that is consistently focused and emphasised upon. As PCT prepares to mark its 150th Anniversary with a missionary goal and strategy, the *One-leads-One* New Doubling Movement was launched in 2010. The basic guiding principles of this mission movement are "Identity, Commitment and Growth". Individuals, congregations, presbyteries and programme committees are all encouraged to engage in proclaiming the gospel and challenged to develop and implement six dimensions of Holistic Mission through their existing networks, which we could keep them in prayer for:

- Proclaim the Gospel
- Nurture God's Children
- Serve with Love
- Transform Society
- Care for God's Creation
- Gospel and Culture

Rev. Elizabeth and William Chirwa are Partners-in Mission from United Church of Zambia (UCZ) to United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) since June 2005. They serve in the Lowe River Charge, a rural community living dependently on subsistence farming. They are in charge of three congregations named Lowe River, Tooting Hall and Cascade United. They have made a great impact in the local congregations. Even though most of the workload in the ministry is carried out by ministers and pastors, Elizabeth and William have trained lay persons to lead and serve in various ministries such as being ushers, bible study leaders, and prayer meeting leaders. Elizabeth has the privilege to serve as the vice chairperson for discipleship and stewardship and has introduced intercessory ministry at the council level. The intercessory prayer ministry is conducted on every first Thursday of the month.

One of the events that the congregations look forward to is Good Friday when a big baptism service takes place by the riverside and witnessed by many people (*see picture*). In the face of challenges such as limited resources in terms of finance and personnel, Elizabeth and William have been encouraged by individuals who have shown practical care and support. On a personal note, Elizabeth has advanced academically with the completion of a B.A. in Guidance and Counselling and is currently pursuing a Masters in Counselling and Consulting Psychology. In her words, "this has been a dream come true since she had no access to University facility in her country." On the other hand, William has been commissioned as a lay pastor and thereby, enhancing his gifts and talents in the ministry. Furthermore, the exposure he gains as a member of the sub-committee of CANACOM (Caribbean and North America Council for Mission) is invaluable.



Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for the privilege to serve in Jamaica, a part of God's vineyard.
2. Pray for Elizabeth and William that God would grant them strength, grace and wisdom to do God's work.
3. Pray for Elizabeth and William seeking to equip the young people to Christian maturity and leadership in the church.

Wednesday, 29th January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2,8-13,21-26; Luke 1:67-79

O Love, I give myself to Thee, Thine ever, only Thine to be.

This day I consecrate all that I have or hope to be to Thy service.

Oh crucified Lord, forgive the sins of my past life;

Fold me in the embrace of Thy all-prevailing sacrifice;

Purify me by the passion.

Son of man, hallow all my emotions and affections,

And make them strong only for Thy service.

Eternal word, sanctify my thoughts;

Make them free with the freedom of Thy Spirit.

Son of God, consecrate my will to Thyself;

Unite it with Thine.

King of glory, my Lord and Master, take my whole being:

Use it in Thy service, and draw it ever closer to Thyself.

~ Cosmo Gordon Lang

(David Adam, The Open Gate. Celtic Prayers for Growing Spiritually)

The **Presbyterian Church of India (PCI)** had its beginning in the year 1841, with the coming of Rev. Thomas Jones I and his wife who arrived at Sohra on 22nd June 1841 as the first missionary of the Presbyterian Church of Wales (then Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Missionary Society). From Sohra, the ministry of evangelization spread to Sylhet, Cachar Plains, the Cachar Hills of Assam, the Lushai Hills (now Mizoram) and later on to Manipur and Tripura. As the missionary work made rapid progress, the Church grew in character and membership; the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Assam was constituted in 1926 as the highest Church Court having two constituent Assemblies: the Khasi Jaintia Presbyterian Church Assembly and Lushai Assembly. In 1968, the name Presbyterian Church in Assam was changed to the Presbyterian Church in North-East India (PCNEI), which was later changed again to "Presbyterian Church of India" in 1992.



The mission of the Church is as follows:

1. To pray and promote peace, justice and communal harmony in the country;
2. To eradicate poverty;
3. To build inclusive communities of women and men in the Church and the Society;
4. To protect the environment and to be good stewards of God's creation.

To realise and facilitate the mission of the Church, PCI has actively been organizing seminars on theological and social issues and promoting peace and justice. On the issue of ecology and environment, a Working Committee is entrusted to a) create awareness programme through media to make the people know and understand the threat on environment; and b) that the Church should take a serious concern on environmental issue by initiating a specific programme and action plan.

Prayer Request:

Pray for the mission of the Church as it seeks to be the 'light' and 'salt' in the communities, especially in their care of the environment.

Friday, 31st January 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-24

The history of the **Presbyterian Church in Singapore (PCS)** can be traced back to the work of the London Mission Society and the Presbyterian Church (England) Mission in South China. In 1829, Rev. Benjamin Keasberry came to Singapore to work among Malay-speaking people and subsequently started the Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church in 1843. In 1856, Orchard Road Presbyterian Church was established for Scottish residents. In 1881, the English Presbyterian Mission under Rev. John Cook's supervision organized the first Chinese Presbyterian Church at Bukit Timah now known as Glory Presbyterian Church. In 1883, he organized three other congregations: Prinsep Street Life Church, Upper Serangoon Road Bethel Church and Tanjong Pagar Church.



The Singapore Presbyterian Synod was formed in January 1902, and in 1968 the name was changed to "Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Malaysia and Singapore." After Singapore separated from Malaysia in 1965, the Synod decided in January 1975 to operate as 2 Churches namely the Presbyterian Church in Singapore and the Gereja Presbyterian Malaysia. With God's divine providence and grace, Presbyterian Church in Singapore has taken root in almost every part of Singapore with 35 member churches and 18,000 members.

The Church is in the process of constructing the Presbyterian Hub, an integrated network of facilities including worship, meeting and office spaces, as well as the new headquarters of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore. The Presbyterian Hub will thus serve as "a platform for the upholding and reinforcing of our Presbyterian tradition, liturgy and distinctive," states Elder Wong Pock Yeen, the Church's Executive Director.



Artist's impression of the Presbyterian Hub

Prayer Request:

Pray for the unity and spiritual growth of the congregations of Presbyterian Church in Singapore.

February 2014



Saturday, 1st February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 15, Micah 3:1-4, John 13:31-35



Rev. Dr. Roderick Hewitt is a Partner-in Mission from United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) to United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA). Having served in various leadership capacities in the UCJC and CWM, Rev. Dr. Hewitt embarked another missional journey of his life. He was invited by the United Congregational Church in Southern Africa (UCCSA) and was seconded to the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics, University of Kwa Zulu Natal, in Pietermar-

itzburg. He currently serves as Academic Leader and Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology, lecturing in Ecumenical Theology, Missiology and African Theologies in the Diaspora. In addition, he serves as the UCCSA Director for the House of Formation where some of UCCSA's ministerial students are based.

Rev. Dr. Hewitt writes, "Having completed three years of service I have been exposed to a context full of missional surprises. Firstly, one is surrounded by the rich Zulu culture in which the message of the gospel is communicate through infectious singing and dancing. Secondly with students from many African countries and beyond studying at the School, there is a diverse ecumenical environment that calls for nurturing spirituality that is built on qualitative listening and mutual reciprocity undergirded by Ubuntu. Thirdly, in a context where many persons are living on the margins and struggling to find the basic minimum to survive one is surrounded by many churches that major in communicating a prosperity gospel that fails to take seriously the needs of people as holy. Finally, the most urgent missional challenge surrounds the quality of leadership that is serving many local churches. The fast changing social milieu shaped by a post-apartheid generation of young people with no memory of the past sacrifices are demanding new standard of leadership that is competent, committed, compassionate and consistent."

Prayer Request:

Pray for Rev. Dr. Hewitt in his ministry with UCCSA in his teaching at the University and pastoral care to the students preparing for the ministry.

Sunday, 2nd February 2014

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Bible Readings: Psalm 15; Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12



source: Christianscience.com

Prayer

Lord, open our eyes and we shall behold your glory.

Lord, open our ears and we shall hear your call.

Lord, open our hearts and we shall know your love.

Lord, open our hands and we shall know your generosity.

Lord, open our lives and we shall reveal your glory.

Amen.

(David Adam, *The Open Gate. Celtic Prayers for Growing Spirituality*)

Monday, 3rd February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1:25

Mr. Donald and Mrs. Christi Samuel are Partners-in-Mission from the Church of South India (CSI) to Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS). Christi teaches Physics and Chemistry at Kanana Fou High School (KFHS). Donald is responsible for ministry courses of study at Kanana Fou Theological Seminary (KFTS), such as Youth Ministry, Leadership Formation, Pastoral Counseling, Ethics, Educational Ministry of the Church, Major World Religions, Psychology /Philosophy of Religion etc. He supervises students in writing their theses and academic papers. This is what they want to share:



"Doing the course on Foundations for Youth Ministry, a student of KFTS laments that, 'Kyla, a 11-years old girl, had lived through her child life in a broken up home. Her mother, addicted to meth for 20 years, has been trying to recover from it for almost two years. Kyla's dad was being court-ordered out of family. Kyla and her mom live in a cramped, dusty trailer park, riddled with stray animals, peeling paint, and long-broken windows. Kyla virtually relied on strangers to feed her while her mom used to sleep off drug binges. Neglecting yesterday's children will abandon tomorrow's future.' Children in American Samoa such as Kyla, sadly compromise their well-being, ending up in the same cycle of dysfunction as their parents."

Prayer Requests:

1. Youth to be equipped as individuals and groups to relate and live the gospel values in daily life.
2. The current variety of youth programs at local churches, including music, sports and cultural events.
3. CCCAS's efforts to reach out parents and peer-groups of the youth (particularly in KFHS), towards bridging the gap between the youth and adults.
4. Youth Groups of the CCCAS to build more meaningful partnership with school teachers, governmental and non-governmental staff, towards nurturing youth leadership.

The history of the **Presbyterian Church in Korea (PCK)** started in 1884, when Suh Sang Ryun founded the Sorae Church, and Allen from the Presbyterian Church of North America arrived in Korea to start a medical ministry. Rev. Horace G. Underwood then came to Korea in 1885 to carry out his mission work. These efforts culminated into the founding of the Presbyterian Mission in Korea. By 1907, the All-Korea Presbytery (Dok Presbytery) was organized which united all the presbyteries in Korea as one, and the first seven graduates of the Pyung Yang Theological Seminary were ordained as pastors of the Presbyterian Church. In 1934, due to theological disputes and other causes, the Presbyterian Church divided into various denominations. The Church since then called themselves The Presbyterian Church of Korea as the Tong-hap group.



The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Korea was established on 1st September 1912. Based on the Bible and the constitution of the Presbyterian Church of Korea, they endeavour to spread the Gospel and carry out all kinds of ministry according to the Reformed Church tradition and ecumenical spirit.

The logo of the Church personifies the core message of PCK. The cross symbolizes Christ's work of salvation and therefore symbolizes Christianity, and the scroll represents God's Word and suggests the form of the Korean peninsula. The cross is coloured red to represent Christ's blood and the grace of God's salvation at the same time. The scroll is coloured green to present the hope and the will of the Church. The symbol portrays the hope and the will of the General Assembly to witness the evangelization not only of Korea but of the whole world based on the work of salvation through Christ's blood.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for God's faithfulness and love to the Presbyterian Church in Korea.
2. Pray that the Church makes an impact in the society in word and deed, through evangelism and social concern.

Wednesday, 5th February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13, 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26



source: wrcc.org

“ But woe to you who are rich.
for you have received your consolation.
Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.
Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.
Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

(Luke 7:24-26, NRSV)

After 18 years of negotiations, the **Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar** (known in Malagasy as **Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy eto Madagasikara [FJKM]**) was founded in 1968 through the union of three churches which arose out of the work of the London Missionary Society, the Paris Missionary Society and the Friends Foreign Mission Association. These historic links continue in a new sense of partnership in mission through the church's membership of CWM and Cevaa and Quaker Peace and Service. FJKM is the biggest Protestant church in the country.



On March 17, 2009, the democratically elected President of Madagascar, Marc Ravalomanana, was deposed by a coup d'état. At the same time, Pastor Lala Rasendrasina, the President of FJKM, was seized and detained briefly by the military as he and other church leaders sought to broker a settlement between the nation's president and his political opponents. Madagascar, one of the world's ten poorest nations, had enjoyed gradual but steady economic growth between 2002 and 2007/08. Since the illegal change of government in 2009, however, Madagascar's fragile economy has collapsed and many of the country's 22 million people have been forced more deeply into poverty. In the face of deep poverty and political instability of the country, FJKM continues and commits itself to witness to and for God at all levels of church life. A number of projects and programmes are being undertaken by FJKM that address women, development and education issues.



For example, under Dorkasy (Women's Division), Tabita is a development support service established in 1997. Its goal is to facilitate the development of human through the restoration of human rights, human dignity, justice and peace. It seeks to strengthen women's participation in the development process and in reducing poverty.

Prayer Request:

Pray for the projects of *Dorkasy* and *Akany Gazel*, both of the Women's Division, as they seek to better the lives of women in the church and society.

Friday, 7th February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18

The **United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI)** was formed following a historic ceremony held on the grounds of Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica on 13th December 1992. This ceremony marked the union of the Disciples of Christ in Jamaica and the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman. It also was another step in a journey to fulfill, what they believe is God's will for the life and witness of His Church. The journey began as far back as the 1880s when efforts were made to bring about union between the then United Presbyterian and Congregational Churches operating in Jamaica. The first complete step was made on 1st December 1965 when the Presbyterian Church in Jamaica and the Congregational Union of Jamaica became one Church, the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman.



Among the great contributions that have been made by all the antecedents in both countries has been the contribution to education at all levels and the witness of the Church in the social issues of the two societies. In Jamaica and Cayman the Church has engaged itself in the primary level of education and in so doing has helped to lay the foundation for the systems that exist today. Similarly the Church has engaged itself at the secondary and the tertiary levels of education. Testimony to these efforts are schools such as Knox College, Knox Community College, Oberlin High, Clarendon College, Meadowbrook High, Camperdown High, St. Andrews High School for Girls (in collaboration with the Methodists) In addition to these were two private high schools Iona High (now public) and the College of Preceptors (now defunct). In Cayman, the John Gray and George Hicks Schools were named after ministers of the Church as a witness to their efforts.

Prayer Request:

Pray for the contribution to education at all levels and the Church's witness to the social issues of the countries.

Ms. Lalengzami Chhakchhuak, affectionately known as “Maengi” is a Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church of India (PCI) to Congregational Christian Church of Samoa (CCCS). She serves as a missionary teacher in one of the mission schools of the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa (CCCS) since 2002. The name of school where she is serving is Maluafou College and is one of the biggest schools in Samoa. In 2013, the school has a student population of 1,300 and have classes from Grades 9-13. She teaches Basic Science, Chemistry and Biology whom God has given her wisdom to teach with confidence.



When “Maengi” reflected upon her missionary journey, she writes, “God has been faithful and has been my provider and if not for His guidance I know I would not be able to make it through.” She recounted that the first few years was quite challenging as she had to make many adjustments with many things such as food, climate, people, culture, the syllabus in the school etc. There is an incident which she will not forget, that is, when they (she and fellow missionaries from PCI) first arrived, their house was not ready and so they stayed with a pastor family. The pastor family used to feed the flesh of the dried coconut which is plentiful in Samoa to their pigs. Dried coconut is not bountiful where she comes from and in fact, is quite expensive. And “Maengi” loves eating them. She often hinted to them regarding the dried coconut in the hope that they would give her some. However, they always ended up giving her the tender coconut flesh. Finally, she asked them, “Can I eat your pig’s food?”

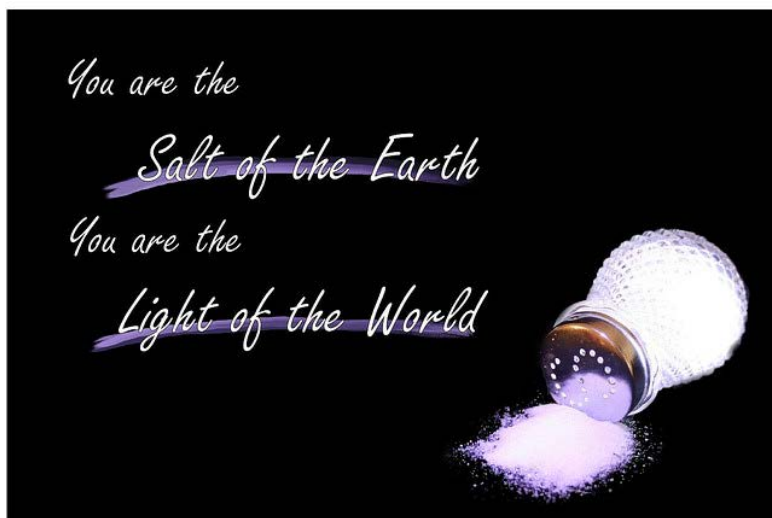
Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for God’s provision of “Maengi’s” housing and daily needs, and quick adjustment to the Samoan culture.
2. Pray for God’s wisdom and knowledge upon “Maengi” in her teaching at Maluafou College.

Sunday, 9th February 2014

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Bible Readings: Psalm 112:1-9(10); Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Matthew 5: 13-20



source: whomshallisend.blogspot.com

Prayer

Thank you that you made us light of the world,

Strengthen us to shine for Jesus Christ

in this world of darkness;

Thank you that you made us salt of the world,

Help us to bring the flavors of justice, righteousness,
love and mercy in this world.

Amen.

The history of the **Congregational Union of New Zealand (CUNZ)** started in 1842 when a Mr. Jonas Woodward com-

menced services in his home in Wellington, New Zealand.

The first Congregational Church at Auckland was formed

in 1851, followed by churches in Dunedin in 1862 and

Christchurch in 1864. Many other churches sprang up all

around New Zealand during this period of time, in main city centres as well as many

small settlements. In 1863, the Auckland Congregational Union and Mission were

formed to serve the needs of the northern Churches. Similarly, the Congregation-

al Union and Mission of South New Zealand was created in Dunedin to serve the

southern churches. One year later, both Unions were united in Wellington, where

The Congregational Union of New Zealand held its first meeting.



Never large in numbers, Congregationalists in New Zealand have nevertheless always had an influence well out of proportion to their numbers. Kate Sheppard the well-known activist for Women's Rights (whose image is on NZ \$10 note, shown below) was a member of Trinity Congregational Church in Christchurch. In 1893 New Zealand became the first country in the world to grant women the vote – despite claims that families would be abandoned and the economy destroyed. Ms. Sheppard was vindicated when 65% of New Zealand women took the chance to vote in their first general election.



Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God's faithfulness to the Congregational Union of New Zealand.
2. Pray for the congregations of CUNZ as they seek to influence in the life of the people in the New Zealand society.

Tuesday, 11th February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25;
2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Ms. Jean Stolton was a former Partner-in Mission from United Reformed Church (URC) to Church of North India (CNI) from September 1963 till 1991. She taught at St. Margaret's School for girls in Kolkata (previously known as Calcutta). The following is what she wrote recalling her days in Kolkata and St. Margaret's School 1963-1991:

"Kolkata (then Calcutta)! What an exciting place to spend 27 years of my life as a missionary with LMS/CWM! A noisy, overcrowded city, hot and humid, but one full of interest and life. People living on the streets, thriving universities, hospitals, a busy railway station, an underground and roads crowded with trams, rickshaws, buses, cars, bullock carts and people, going about their business. My little corner was St. Margaret's School for girls, aged 6-16, founded by the Church of Scotland, later coming under the Church of North India. I taught English, but there was so much else. Everyday, except for weekends and holidays, I was surrounded by about 750 girls and 30 teaching staff. My job for the last 9 years also included looking after about 60+ boarders (girls and some staff). We were next door to the Church, where I was an Elder. Life included education, music, games and sports, drama fun, worship and care for each other."



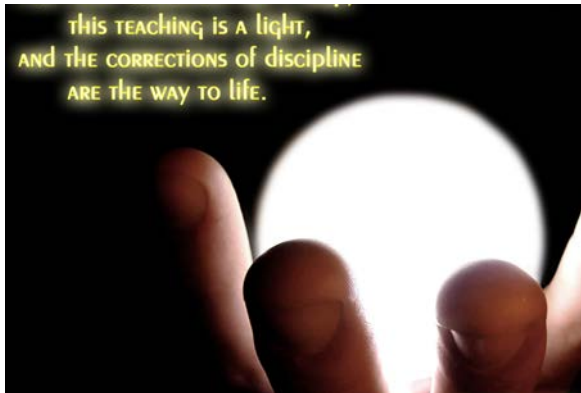
The St Margaret's School in Kolkata

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving for St.Margaret's School's contribution to the city of Kolkata and the Diocese of Kolkata.
2. Prayer for St.Margaret's School students in the 21st century as they become Kolkata's future.

Wednesday, 12th February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:105-112; Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-30



source: brunomollet.wordpress.com/2011/07/09/wisdom-from-proverbs-6/

“

Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise. Without having any chief or officer or ruler, it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest. How long will you lie there, O lazybones? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want, like an armed warrior. A scoundrel and a villain goes around with crooked speech, winking the eyes, shuffling the feet, pointing the fingers, with perverted mind devising evil, continually sowing discord; on such a one calamity will descend suddenly; in a moment, damage beyond repair. There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that hurry to run to evil, a lying witness who testifies falsely, and one who sows discord in a family. My child, keep your father's commandment, and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life"

(Proverbs 6:6-23 NRSV)

Thursday, 13th February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:1-8; Genesis 26:1-5; James 1:12-16

The first resident missionary to today's Kiribati came with some Hawaiian pastors in 1857, through the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission (ABCFM). They settled in Northern Kiribati and established a school to teach young people to read and write. Although their success in evangelization was limited, their greatest contribution was the translation of the Bible, completed in 1893 and the translation of Christian hymns into the Kiribati language. In 1870, a number of Samoan missionaries came with a missionary from the London Missionary Society (LMS) to Southern Kiribati. The ABCFM finally left in 1917 and entrusted all the schools and churches in Northern and Central Kiribati to the London Missionary Society. By 1945, after World II, the local pastors gradually took over from the Samoans and started to prepare plans for autonomy which culminated at the first general assembly of the Gilbert Island Protestant Church in 1968. The name changed to **Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC)** in 1979 when the Gilbert Islands – the larger part of the British Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony – became independent as the Republic of Kiribati.



KPC is developing the New Strategic Plan 2013-2017 for endorsement and implementation by the Church's Executive Council. The major focus is on Empowering Mission, Empowering Education, and Strengthening of Self-Reliance. In the area of Empowering Mission, the Church is looking to develop people resource in Theology. That is, to train the clergy locally rather than to send them abroad which is costly, especially for the Bachelor degrees. Therefore, it is important for current faculty members of the Theological College be upgraded to the level of Ph.D. so as to teach a bigger number of pastors. Another focal area in Empowering Mission is Mission Outreach. Beginning from 2013, the Diploma graduates from the Theological College were commissioned to Team Ministry. The Team Ministry is mandated to go and reach out to people who have been alienated from the Church. They conducted bible studies in different settings and made sure that Christian teachings are enforced in the light of new religious groups, such as Mormonism and Baha'ism who have misguided some believers of the Church.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray that the New Strategic Plan of the Church is Spirit-led.
2. Pray for the Team Ministry that the Diploma graduates continue to be encouraged in their ministry of teaching biblical truths.

Rev. Hsieh Ta-Li is a Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT) to Presbyterian Church of Singapore (PCS), a position facilitated by Council for World Mission (CWM). With the signing of the "Mission Partnership Agreement" between the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) and the Presbyterian Church in Singapore (PCS) in 2008, Rev. Hsieh was appointed for missionary service as the senior pastor of Abundant Grace Presbyterian Church which is under the auspices of the Chinese Presbytery of Presbyterian Church in Singapore.



Abundant Grace Presbyterian Church is located in the north-eastern part of Singapore and has a congregation of 200 members. The area was originally a village with few residences and amenities, but with recent redevelopments by the government, many flats have been built. This attracted many young married couples to settle in the area which offers opportunity for the church to reach out and minister to them as well as to the existing elderly residents. This is a challenge of urban community mission in this developing area.

In August 2008, Rev. Hsieh noticed that the visitors who came to church are from China. They were mostly working as maintenance crew, technicians, salespersons, chefs and construction workers in the government building projects. With the support of the Care Committee of the church, they planned events and activities, such as English class and small group gatherings of about 10 to 20 people. As the group of Chinese workers grew, there was a need for a third church service. Thus, in November 2011, they started the Sunday evening service that caters to this growing group. Every week, members of the church will prepare dinner for the workers and eat together as a community. The ministry grew, touching lives and witnessing converts and water baptisms. Rev Hsieh says, "It is truly a testimony to God's providence and faithfulness to us!"

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for the lives of the Chinese workers that are touched by the church members and their blessings.
2. Pray for Rev. Hsieh and his ministry in Abundant Grace Presbyterian Church to impact the surrounding community.

Saturday, 15th February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:1-9a; Matthew 15:1-9

The origins of the **Presbyterian Church of Myanmar** (PCM) first began in year 1914 to 1950, when Mizo immigrants who are Presbyterians moved into the Kalay and Kabaw valleys in Upper Chindwin. They were taught by a local Baptist minister and later by Methodist ministers, but chose to maintain their Presbyterian tradition and ways. Thus, Presbyterianism spread across the Chin Hills, starting with a first congregation in Losau Village in 1956, and in 1962 the church is constituted at a national level with 5000 members.

PCM has been moving toward with her colourful dialects in the midst of the major Buddhist tradition confronting the new political challenges headed by the civilian Government. The General Assembly of Presbyterian Church of Myanmar, the highest governing body of the Church supervises 9 Regional Synods, 3 Working Boards, and 2 Working Departments to equip 232 local Congregations with her Church mission in different projects. The Church has been involved in outreach Gospel mission through evangelizing animists and Buddhists in different parts of the Country. However the Church does not stand at big population of member as she is one of the main-line churches in Myanmar and works actively with Ecumenical Organizations at national level and international level. With the kind support of Council for World Mission and partner-churches the Church could assist Synods, Boards and Departments with different projects through supporting water-pipes in hilly region for drinking water, providing relevant tools and facilities to disabled people, setting boarding houses for rural students and constructing Mission-Quarters for Missionaries in Mission outreach fields.

Prayer Request:

1. Pray for the Church to stand firm in their faith as it seeks to bear witness in the midst of the major Buddhist tradition.
2. Pray for the various church projects that provide the basic necessities, such as water-pipes, to the communities in the hilly regions as well facilities for rural students.

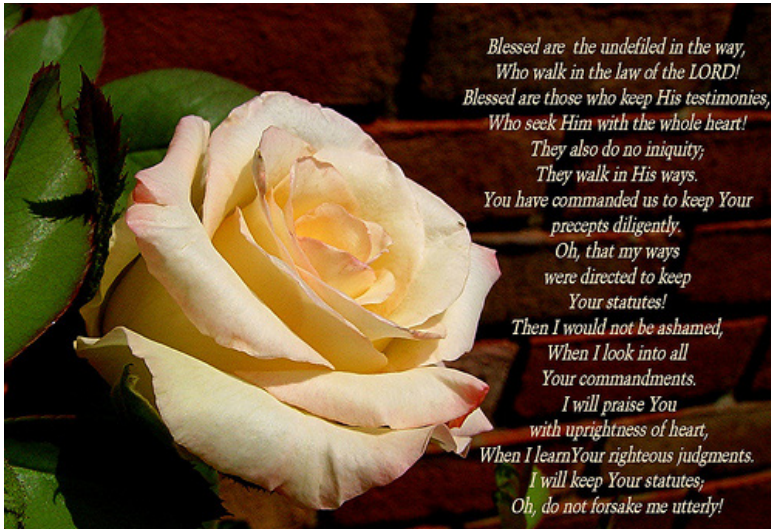
Sunday, 16th February 2014

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 5:21-37

This is our prayer for today

Blessed are the undefiled in the way,
Who walk in the law of the LORD
Blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
Who seek Him with the whole heart!



source: flickriver.com

Monday, 17th February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:9-16; Exodus 20:1-21; James 1:2-8

The **Guyana Congregational Church (GCU)** has its origins back in 1808 when John Wray, from the London Missionary Society (LMS), arrived in Guyana which was then ruled by the Dutch. He and his successors experienced strong opposition in their church planting efforts. The congregation, however, spread quickly after the abolition of slavery in 1834. The British Congregational Union of Guyana was formed in 1883. In 1908, the Colonial Missionary Society gave its support to the Church, and by 1942 the Union had started mission work among the Arawak Indians living in the interior lands. The Union also undertook a joint ministry with other denominations among bauxite miners. The Church currently has 1,700 members in 36 different congregations.

In the 127th Assembly of GCU which was held at the historic Mission Chapel Church, in New Amsterdam, Berbice in April 2010, the theme was "Capture the vision and carry out God's mission through the power of the Holy Spirit." The Church was challenged to capture the vision of God and that God would preserve them and their next generation. The professionals of the Church are urged to set good examples in their workplaces, "worship begins with the individual but stops at the public place."

Source: <http://www.reformiert-online.net/adressen/detail.php?id=12210&lg=eng>
http://www.guyanachronicle.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12466%3Aguyana-congregational-union-concludes-127th-assembly&Itemid=12

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the Church to carry out God's mission through the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Pray for members of the Church to bear good witness not in worship but also in their workplaces.

This is the testimony of **Ms. Sharon Chua** who used to be one of the administrative assistants at CWM Global Office. She grew up in a family where idol worship is practised. When she was a child, she was sickly with asthma. For many years, her mother at the advice of her friends visited a number of Chinese temples, consulting the temple gods and mediums with the hope that they could cure her daughter, Sharon. Sharon remembered going to a house temple where there were many idols made of gold and wood. She still has the memory of entering a dark room in the house temple where there was an idol with multiple hands and another black statute with a red tongue sticking out. This experience instils in her the fear of darkness and of the unknown unclean spirit.

Sharon's uncle and his family are Christians. Her aunt and cousins introduced and led her and her mother to Jesus Christ. At that time, Sharon's father was very resistant and needed more time and God's help to accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour. And God works in miraculous ways and God used Sharon's mother to lead him to Jesus Christ. After many attempts from Sharon's mother, her father decided to accompany her mother to church. Sharon felt that her father went to church because of her especially when she had so many struggles during her school days. She was always fearful and felt secure only when her mother was by her side. This, she interprets as a way in which the Evil One instils fear in her.

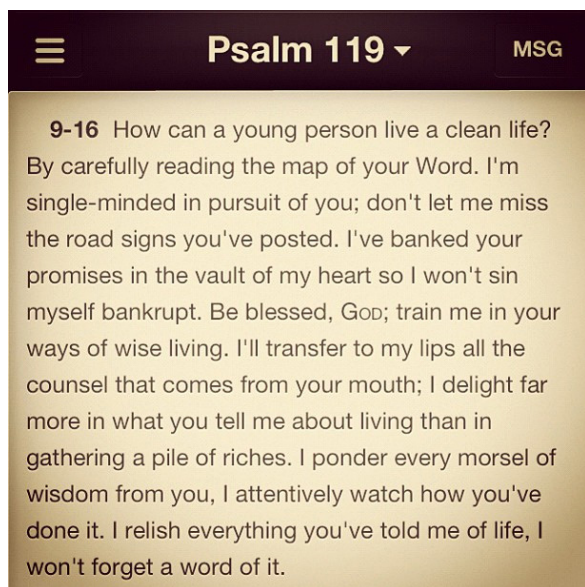
During the period of trials and resistance, the Lord slowly guided them into understanding, accepting and believing in him fully. And Sharon believes that God reigns and will break the resistance of evil one who blinds others from knowing God.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for God's protection upon her and the family from the evil one, to be shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves (cf. Matt. 10:16).
2. Pray for Sharon that she walks in obedience and faithfulness according to God's teachings.
3. Pray for Sharon that God will grant her wisdom, insight, strength to complete her Degree in psychology and education expenses.

Wednesday, 19th February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:9-16; Proverbs 2:1-15; Matthew 19:1-12



source: flickr.com

Prayer:

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word.

May it be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our paths,
And a strength to our lives.

Amen.

The **CWM's Mission Enabling** team works closely with Regional Secretaries journeying with CWM's members as they develop, implement and evaluate their mission programmes and strategies. In particular the team is responsible for supporting and resourcing CWM's strategic priority of enabling members to develop missional congregations, by which we mean developing life-affirming communities in line with CWM's vision of promoting 'fullness of life through Christ for all creation'.

The Mission Enabling team does this through:

- Providing resources and training resource persons to support the development of missional congregations
- The Mission Support Programme, which provides assistance to members with their mission programmes
- Assisting with member mission consultations
- Providing technical assistance to members, especially members facing particularly difficult challenges
- Promoting the sharing of insights and best practice, in particular through the annual Regional Roundtable meetings and Team Visits
- Encouraging members to work collaboratively in response to new mission challenges, supporting this through the Partnership in Transforming Mission programme

Our Prayers

- For members in their mission programmes and as they engage their own memberships in developing missional congregations
- For the successful take-up of the Missional Congregation Toolkit
- For the smooth implementation of the Team Visits Programme that will see every member church visited over the next six years in line with CWM's mission statement 'to mutually challenge, encourage and equip churches to share in God's mission'
- For fruitful sharing and discussions by members during the Regional Round Table Meetings
- For the newly appointed Mission Enablers working with the Churches of Christ in Malawi (CCM)

Friday, 21st February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:33-40; Leviticus 6:1-7; Galatians 5:2-6

The **Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN)** is the largest church in the Netherlands in terms of membership. It is the continuation of three former churches, the Netherlands Reformed Church, the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and it exists as from May 1st, 2004. The Church has 2.1 million members, with nearly 1800 local congregations and over 2200 ministers. About 600 of the Church's ministers are pastoral workers in care facilities, at prisons and judicial authorities, and in the armed forces. A Protestant congregation can be found in nearly every city, town and village in the Netherlands. These local churches are faith-based communities of people who are united by their belief in Jesus Christ.



**Protestantse
Kerk**

The vision for the life and work of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands is expressed in four themes (*The heartbeat of life. Memorandum concerning the vision for the life and work of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands*):

- a) 'On the day of the resurrection' – the content
- b) Two or three together in Jesus' name – the form
- c) Political body – the society
- d) "Together with all saints" – being a church with others

For PCN, the content of the vision is critical. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is God's response to death. This changed everything and provided a new foundation for believers. And the believers did not come together to put together the pieces and the remnants of their faith. Jesus Christ came into their midst and said: "Peace be with you." It was then and it is today. "The real issue is God and what is being granted to us, the life that is being given to us, and the reconciliation that is being presented to us. We live from grace. Not what we have thought or achieved is the decisive factor.... This is what we share. This happens on Sundays and at other times, whenever the Scriptures are being opened and bread and wine are being shared by sisters and brothers. In this way we become initiated in the Kingdom of God."

Prayer Request:

Pray for the PCN as it seeks to bear witness to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Netherlands, especially with the young people.

The **Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW)** also known in Welsh as **Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru**, is one of the largest Christian denominations in Wales, with some 28,000 members and 650 churches. The Church has around 50 ministers and 25 Christian workers. Around two-thirds of their churches worship and work through the medium of Welsh and the central administration is run on a bilingual basis. The Church's aim is to worship God and to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Also known as the Calvinistic Methodist Church and 'The Connexion,' the Presbyterian Church of Wales was born out of the Methodist revival of the 18th century.



One of the areas that the church emphasizes is the Youth and Children ministry. Children are being taught using the Bible and are encouraged to apply the teachings of the Bible to their personal lives and their relationship with Jesus Christ. Both children and young people are given opportunities to discover their God-given gifts and how they might use their gifts to serve the Church.

PCW has a children and youth training centre, Coleg y Bala which is located in Bala, Gwynedd, Wales. The training centre focuses on children and young people programmes such as weekend and week-long courses. The children and young people are engaged in games, activities, presentations and watching movies as they learn more about Jesus. Fellowship and gatherings for men of all ages are also available to create opportunities for adults to impart life values and skills to the children.

The centre also provides accommodation facilities for school trips and Christian unions.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for God's faithfulness to the Church and its mission in Wales and outside Wales.
2. Pray for the children and youth who attend the various activities in the training centre be nurtured spiritually in Jesus Christ.

Sunday, 23rd February 2014

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:33-40; Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, 16-23;

Matthew 5:38-48



source: pastorgraphics.com

Prayer

Jesus, Prince of Peace,
you have asked us to love our enemies
and pray for those who persecute us.
We pray for our enemies and those who oppose us.
With the help of the Holy Spirit,
may all people learn to work together
for that justice which brings true and lasting peace.
To you be glory and honor forever and ever.
Amen.

(source: catholic.org)

Lalramnghaki Fanai, affectionately known as “Rami” is a Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church of India (PCI) to Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS)



“Rami” has been working as a missionary teacher in American Samoa since 2007 at Kanana Fou High School which is owned and run by Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS). The subjects that she has been teaching over the years are *US Government*; *US History* and *World History* for grades 12, 11 and 10 respectively.

Working in American Samoa which is so far away from India has been a challenge to “Rami” in many ways. What came as a shock to her was that her work was confined to the school. She was not given any responsibilities outside the school. Back home in India, she was actively involved and had responsibilities at the previous mission fields that she used to work in. Therefore, she felt useless at first and it took some time for her to adjust to the new situation.

“Rami” writes, “even though there was never any doubt in my mind that God sends me to do his work in American Samoa, I felt it was kind of a waste of time to just be focusing on school work, and I asked God why he sent me here while there was so much work to do back home in India. After much prayers and a lot of questionings, I now came to realize and accept that my role here in American Samoa has not so much to do with taking active part in church, it has more to do with working among the students who come from different backgrounds and denominations, sharing their problems and hurts and presenting Christ to them and showing them how to apply their faith in everyday life. Now I thank God for not giving me responsibilities outside of school because it enables me to focus all my attention on my students in terms of giving them guidance academically and spiritually.”

Prayer Requests:

1. Substance abuse is on the rise among the students. Pray that effective measures from the school and church will be taken to deal with this issue.
2. Pray for “Rami” and other missionaries of CWM working in Kanana Fou High School that they will bear witness among the students with love and patience.

Tuesday, 25th February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:57-64; Genesis 31:1-3, 17-50; Hebrews 12:14-16

The **United Church of Zambia (UCZ)** was founded on 16th January 1965, in Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Zambia. It was created by the amalgamation of the following churches: The Church of Central Africa in Rhodesia, The Congregations of the Copperbelt Free Church Council, The Church of Barotseland, The Methodist Church, Paris Evangelical, London Missionary Society and the Church of Scotland. The United Church in Zambia is the largest Protestant Church in the country; with a wide spread presence in all the 10 provinces of Zambia.



Since its formation, UCZ has been experiencing an exponential growth in membership and the numbers of congregations. As such, UCZ is faced with the challenges of trained ministers for the church. The church runs the UCZ Theological College where ministers are trained. The Theological College is in the process of being turned into a university. Moreover, most of UCZ's congregations are constructing manse and church (worship) buildings and therefore, UCZ as a whole are running fund raising projects to finance construction works, outreach programmes and social services. With respect to social responsibility, the various organs of the UCZ, including the Synod Headquarters, run schools, hospitals, and other social services programmes.

The UCZ is governed and operated through the Synod Headquarters, Presbyteries, Consistories, Congregations and Sections in that descending order of hierarchy. UCZ has serious plans to construct a new office complex for occupation and for rent and it is a way in which the Church desires to achieve financial self-sustainability.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for a robust, spirit filled United Church of Zambia, with the capacity to initiate spiritual revival and social economic uplifting of the people of Zambia.
2. Pray for peace and stability in the country, and political tolerance between the ruling party and those in opposition.

Wednesday, 26th February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:57-64; Proverbs 3:27-35; Luke 18:18-30



source: doverchurchofchrist.info/studies-in-the-book-of-proverbs

²⁷ Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
when it is in your power to do it.

²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come again,
tomorrow I will give it”—when you have it with you.

²⁹ Do not plan harm against your neighbor
who lives trustingly beside you.

³⁰ Do not quarrel with anyone without cause,
when no harm has been done to you.

³¹ Do not envy the violent
and do not choose any of their ways;

³² for the perverse are an abomination to the LORD,
but the upright are in his confidence.

³³ The LORD’s curse is on the house of the wicked,
but he blesses the abode of the righteous.

³⁴ Toward the scorners he is scornful,
but to the humble he shows favor.

³⁵ The wise will inherit honor,
but stubborn fools, disgrace.

(Proverbs 3:27-35 NRSV)

Thursday, 27th February 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 131; Proverbs 12:22-28; Philippians 2:19-24



Ms. Hilda Asukile is a Partner-in Mission from United Church of Zambia (UCZ) to Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM). She is an English teacher in FJKM Institut de Formation Et de Recherche Pédagogique (IFRP), where she is tasked to empower local teachers to teach English.

Relocating to a different country is never easy, and as such, Ms. Asukile faced many challenges in terms of language and culture. The predominant languages used in Madagascar are Malagasy and French which are unfamiliar to Hilda. English is the second foreign language to the Malagasy people. Her challenge is to bring the student teachers to a level where they could teach English. However, such challenges did not discourage her but on the contrary, she was joyful when she saw her trainee teachers, enabled with knowledge and skills to teach English after attending her classes. She said in her own words, *"It is such a great joy to see graduating teachers each year, thinking that I also played a part in shaping their teaching careers."*

Ms. Asukile's personal career also advanced in Madagascar. As a member of the National Education Trainers team, she had the opportunity to visit different parts of the country for training. Her specialization is English in-service training. She has been invited by various schools for training sessions as well, giving her opportunity to meet with pupils, students and teachers of the school. She has also incorporated the sharing of the gospel in her teaching, using songs, devotions and prayers – an aspect that she did not take into serious account when she was in Zambia.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray that Ms. Asukile will continue to impact and influence students and trainee teachers who are in her English lessons; and also share the gospel through songs and prayers.
2. Pray that the teachers who have been trained by her will make an impact in the lives of their students.

The **Church of Bangladesh (COB)** came into being as the outcome of the separation from Pakistan. The separation initially started as a movement which focused on language finally took shape through the liberation war in 1971 which created a free and independent Bangladesh. Relationship with Pakistan was no longer possible. The Synod of the Church of Pakistan on 30th April 1974 declared and endorsed free and independent status of the Church of Bangladesh. This process brings together the Anglican and English Presbyterian Churches under the umbrella of the Church of Bangladesh. Here in retrospective it is worth mentioning the contribution of the devotees and missionaries who gave their labour, lives and endured all kind of trouble to proclaim the Good News and thus established congregations in the different parts of the country and especially in its remotest villages. COB always remembers those souls with due respect and pays homage to their memory. These people will remain always dear in their hearts and minds for their devoted work, such as giving the light of education and health services alongside pastoral care.



The mission of Church is to manifest and reflect the Good News of Jesus Christ towards achieving freedom and wellbeing of the humanity that would be realized through worship and accomplishment of different welfare activities including social, economic, educational, health and others. The Church believes in and wishes for spiritual enrichment, social justice and self-sustainability those rely and reflected upon revival of moral qualities of all.

One of the challenges, amongst many, is poverty which is deep and widespread, affecting especially the Christian minority. And the Church has its limitations to address the present diverse socio-economic crisis.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the Christian witness of the Church of Bangladesh in the midst of widespread and deep poverty.
2. Pray for the many Bangladeshi workers who are working abroad and in the garment factories in Bangladesh that they receive fair treatment from their employers.

March 2014

CWM Partners-in-Mission

The mission in which Christians engage is God's mission. God sent God's Son into the world. The risen Christ sent his disciples to continue his ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit. Christians today share in this mission.



One of the main aims of personnel sharing is to learn from one another in partnership. CWM's founding document, *Sharing in One World Mission* states, "We believe that we become participants in mission not because we hold all the answers and all the truth, but because we are part of the body of Christ. All of us are still searchers. We have glimpsed the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, and what we know we love. But there are varieties of Christian experience and of Christian community we have not entered. There are doubtless many ways in which Christ comes to men and women that we have never seen. Therefore, we seek a form of missionary organisation in which we may learn from each other, for in that fellowship we believe that the Holy Spirit speaks to all through each."

The sharing of people is therefore multi-directional. Every church has something to offer and something to receive. Mission-Partners go from North to South, South to North, South to South, and North to North. This multi-directional sharing should be "person-oriented", and not merely "task-oriented". There is an emphasis on personal character, spirituality and vocation. Each sharing of a mission partner should strengthen the mutual relationship between the churches involved.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving for past and current partners-in-mission of CWM in the work of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Pray for the "person-oriented" focus of CWM member churches in their outreach ministry.

Sunday, 2nd March 2014

8th Sunday after Epiphany

Bible Readings: Psalm 131; Isaiah 49:8-16a; Matthew 6:24-34



source: flickr.com

Prayer

Lord God, save us from being so occupied with material things that we forget the things which are spiritual; lest having gained the whole world, we lose our own soul; for your mercy's sake.

Amen.

(Frank Colquhoun, Prayers for Today)

Rev. Derek Silwenga is a Partner-in Mission from United Church of Zambia (UCZ) to United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA). He and his family arrived in Botswana in April 2010 after their commissioning service at their church, St. Andrews United Church of Zambia in March 2010. They were warmly received by the synod and regional leadership of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) which made their 'settling in' in Botswana quick. A month after their arrival, Rev. Silwenga was introduced to Mogoditshane local church where he was to serve. At that time, their daughter, Izukanji and two younger boys, Alinani and Suwilanji left their parents, Derek and Edith Silwenga to go back to Zambia to continue their education.



There were a number of traditional and cultural shocks that they began to experience, that is to say, they had to start to learn and re-learn each day. One of the cultural shocks was the issue of funerals-burial services. The first time Rev. Silwenga has to conduct a funeral service, a church leader came to pick him up at 4am in the morning. The service started at 5am and ended by 8.30am. Though Rev. Silwenga felt challenged to conduct a funeral at these early hours, he is appreciative in that all other programmes and activities for the day were not cancelled. Throughout Botswana, funeral burial services are usually conducted on Saturdays. Another lesson that Rev. and Mrs Silwenga learnt when they were in Botswana is the wedding lunch. The wedding lunch is prepared for all, even passers-by who have not been formally invited. There is enough food for everyone. This is done both in urban and rural communities unless the families celebrate their wedding lunches or dinner in a hotel setting where it is by invitation. Rev. Silwenga writes, "this kind of arrangement reminds me of the real African spirit where communal life and fellowship are greatly valued. It also reminds me of the early church as we read in Acts 2:44, 'All believers were together and had everything in common.'"

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for Rev. Silwenga and his family for the opportunity to journey with God in God's mission.
2. Pray for Rev. and Mrs Silwenga in their ministry in Mogoditshane local church as they share and learn from each other in the church and the community.

Tuesday, 4th March 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 104; 1 Kings 17:1-16; 1 Corinthians 4:6-21

Since the arrival of the first missionaries of the London Missionary Society (LMS) in 1830 to bring the Gospel to American Samoa, the Church has been known by the name of LMS. In 1961, its name was changed to the Congregational Christian Church in Samoa and when it became independent in 1980, it changed its name to **Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS)**. The CCCAS (EFKAS in Samoan stands for *Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano I Amerika Samoa*) is firmly established in the United States (mainland), Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia and American Samoa. It currently has 39,000 members with 115 congregations.



EFKAS CCCAS

Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano I Amerika Samoa
Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa

The CCCAS accepts the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, as the ultimate source of authority for Christian living, which includes all that is necessary for salvation. The Church also believes that it must act in accordance with teachings from the Holy Scriptures and the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, and prepared its constitution with the objective of guiding the Church in American Samoa and other localities.

The area of church planting has been a new focus for the mission programme of the church, especially with an emphasis on those localities where a sizeable number of Samoans resides in military communities. Having an ecumenical thrust, the CCCAS played a key role in creating a national council of churches in American Samoa together with the Methodists and Roman Catholics and other local groups. Over the years, the church has also become an active participant in the wider ecclesial fellowship through its membership in the Pacific Conference of Churches and other global ecumenical bodies, such as the Council of World Mission. During its 2005 general assembly, the CCCAS celebrated its 25th anniversary since its inception in 1980.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for the LMS missionaries who through their efforts, established and built up the Church which continues spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ today.
2. Pray for the Church seeking to plant congregations in location where there is a sizeable number of Samoans, especially those residing in military bases.

The gratitude we intend

The witnesses tell of your boundless generosity,
and their telling is compelling to us:
You give your word to call the worlds into being;
You give your sovereign rule to emancipate the slaves and the oppressed;
you give your commanding fidelity to form your own people;
You give your life for the life of the world...
broken bread that feeds,
poured out wine that binds and heals.
You give..we receive...and are thankful.
We begin this day in gratitude,
thanks that is a match for your self-giving,
gratitude in gifts offered,
gratitude in tales told,
gratitude in lives lived.
Gratitude willed, but not so readily lived,
held back by old wounds turned to powerful resentment,
retarded by early fears become vague anxiety,
restrained by self-sufficiency in a can-do arrogance,
blocked by amnesia unable to recall gifts any longer.
Do this yet. Create innocent space for us this day
for the gratitude we intend.
In thankfulness,
we will give,
we will tell,
we will live,
your gift through us to gift the world. Amen.

(Walter Brueggemann, Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth. Prayers of Walter Brueggemann)

Thursday, 6th March 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24; Exodus 24:1-8; Romans 2:17-29

Vanrammawii Hrahsel who is also affectionately known as “Latei” is a Partner-in-mission from Presbyterian Church of India (PCI) to Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC). She was teaching in Hiram Bingham High School on Beru Island for three years (2007-2010) and then she was transferred to William Goward Memorial College on Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati in mid-2010.



Beru is located in south Kiribati and it is about 2 hours' flight from Tarawa. The land area is 17.65 sq. km. and has a population of 2,100 people. The island often runs out of supply of foodstuff and other necessities because of the lack of transport and communication. Moreover, electricity, internet, telephone, newspaper, television are not available. Latei also had some frightening experiences with 'visitors'.

"A few months after I have arrived, I cried out in pain from my sleep one night. Quickly I grabbed the flashlight and saw a centipede on the bed, inside the mosquito net! I have very limited knowledge of poisonous insects and animals, and my first thought was "if it is a venomous bite, then I am going to die!" I was weeping and worried, feeling anxious about how much time do I have to live! I wanted to write a note to explain that I was bitten by poisonous centipede! However, I was too scared to get out of my bed as it was too dark. I was preparing to die but at the same time, Beru was not really my place of choice to depart this life and meet Jesus. I pray "I trust You. But why in Beru?" Later I learned that centipedes' bites pain last only for a day. After I moved to Tarawa a rat bit me while I was sleeping at night, but I never have that kind of fear again. This situation is something I would not naturally be grateful. However, through all these times God has been so gracious, he strengthens and comforts me."

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for protection and safety for Latei during her ministry in Beru and Tarawa.
2. Pray for the administrative body of Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC), RAK (women) and YCK (youth)

The **Congregational Christian Church of Samoa (CCCS)**

traces its beginnings to the arrival in 1830 of missionaries sent by the London Missionary Society, accompanied by missionary teachers from Tahiti and the Cook Islands and a Samoan couple from Tonga. They arrived at a time of fierce warfare and fighting between local chiefs, and the people who were weary of violence and bloodshed readily received the missionary's gospel of peace. When a renowned paramount chief of a much respected family lineage officially accepted the new religion, all his followers and kinsfolk immediately followed suit. Within a few years, virtually the whole of Samoa was converted to Christianity.



A burning zeal for the gospel was engendered within the spirit of the newly converted nation. Huge numbers of people soon offered themselves for overseas mission work. In 1839, the first twelve Samoan missionaries left for mission work in Melanesia. Ever since then up to 1975, Samoans have continued to take the gospel message to other Pacific islands, e.g. Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Niue, Tokelau, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Wallis & Fortuna. Many of these early Samoan missionaries never returned home; they occupy many of the unnamed and unmarked graves in the islands of the Pacific.

The Samoan church during the missionary period engaged itself in the "social redemption of humanity". This vision was based on the church's understanding of God's sovereignty. It saw the divine purpose of redemption not in individual terms only but also in corporate, social and political terms. The newly acquired faith had its focus on the transformation of life and society. That legacy remains a motivating force in the nation's idealism as well as in the church's commitment to active social efforts.

Prayer Request:

Thanksgiving for the missionary endeavour of CCCS in the past and also in the present. Pray that the vision of God's divine redemptive purpose be experienced in all aspects of life and society.

Saturday, 8th March 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:1-9a; Matthew 15:1-9

Rev Nixon Constance Chiwala is a Partner-in-Mission from Churches of Christ in Malawi (CCM) to United Congregational Church of Southern Africa Botswana (UCCSA). He was ordained in 1993 at the Gowa Mission Station in Ntcheu district in Malawi. After his ordination, Rev. Chiwala was elected to the high office as the General Secretary of the Churches of Christ in Malawi which he held for 10 years.



Following his retirement from the General Secretary position, he was appointed as a missionary to serve in the Synod of Botswana of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa. His wife, Faliness and their four daughters, Linda, Prisca, Loyce and Elida went to Botswana with him. He was posted to Kasane Congregational Church which is almost 1000 kms away from Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana,

One of the immediate challenges when they arrived in Botswana was housing for the family. When they first arrived, they stayed in a house that belongs to a church member for two months while the Mission house was under construction. The church member's house was a two bedroomed house with only one bed in the house. Since the children had no bed in their room, Rev. and Mrs. Chiwala and his wife gave them theirs while they slept on the base of the bed without a mattress. However, a week later, a bed was brought for the children and Rev. and Mrs. Chiwala had their bed back. And two months later, they move to an uncompleted manse. The children had a difficult time adjusting to the housing situation but Rev. Chiwala always encourage them with these words, "God has a purpose and one day everything will be alright."

While the local church was not forthcoming in their response to their housing condition, Rev. Chiwala took initiative to improve their housing situation. He mobilised the people and formed a Project Committee. They did fundraisings for the manse and at the end of the year, they managed to complete the house and the family was comfortably settled. This is a challenge to his ministry as missionaries.

Prayer Request:

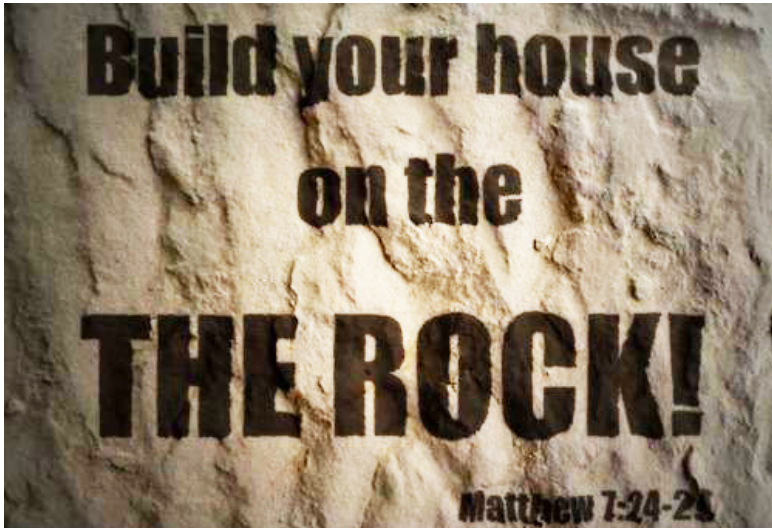
1. Thanksgiving to God for His providence and protection over Rev. Chiwala and his family in their time in Botswana.
2. Continue to pray for Rev. Chiwala and his ministry with the local Kasane Congregational Church.

Sunday, 9th March 2014

9th Sunday after Epiphany

Bible Readings: Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24; Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28;

Matthew 7:21-29



source: sodahead.com

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Rock on which I want to build my life upon, You are the foundation and my salvation, Because my 'house is built upon the rock,' I pray that it will withstand all the evil of this world, For all glory, honour and praise are yours, O Lord! Amen.

Monday, 10th March 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 52; Joshua 8:30-35; Romans 2:1-11

The formation of the **Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China (HKCCCC)** can be traced back to 1918 when the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in China called a meeting in Nanjing to look into the desirability of forming a union of churches. The May 4 Movement in 1919 aroused some youths in China a great passion for nationalism, and Christianity was suspected as a cultural invasion by the imperialistic Western powers. In other words, the local churches must become self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating in order to take root in the country and to minister to her people. Thus, representatives from the Presbyterian Church, the London Missionary Society and the Congregational Church agreed that they must stand united in order to be a more effective witness for Christ. The representatives met to draw up a scheme of union. Subsequently, the churches in Canton declared the formation of the Guangdong Synod of the Church of Christ in China in July 1919.



Currently, the Church has 68 congregations with 35,000 church members and 73 ordained ministers and 132 preachers. They have also set up 81 schools, ranging from kindergarten to high school with over 2,900 teachers and 45,000 students to make an impact in the educational sector of the city. The vision of the Education Department of the Church is to nurture fullness of life and to witness the love of God together. According to the Mission Statement of the Department, it states that "with love of Christ, compassion for humanity and a progressive attitude, we strive to deliver a quality education, to develop students' potential to the fullest, to share with them the Gospel, and to cultivate in them a sense of good citizenship which will benefit our society and nation." To put it differently, the Church aims to spread the word of God and service to the community through the provision of a holistic education to all with loving care and total commitment.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for God's faithfulness to the churches in Hong Kong. Pray for the continuing witness of HKCCCC in the face of materialistic society.
2. Pray for the Hong Kong community in terms of the wealth gap between different social classes, and for the Hong Kong Government to exercise wisdom and diligence in their governance.

Samoelijaona and Parfaite R. Rasolonjanahary

are Partners-in Mission from Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) to Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC). They left their country, Madagascar on New Year eve 1994 to join the mission programme of CWM. Samoelijaona served as a teacher while his wife Parfaite served as a dentist. Both of them worked with the United Church of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands which later known as the United Church in Solomon Islands (UCSI). At that time, there were four of them, Samoelijaona and Parfaite with their two children, Rify and Vonjisoa. Their children grew up in the Solomon Islands for 14 years.



In their missionary service, they have been well taken care by CWM and were on home leave once every two years. In 2008, their mission field moved to Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC), namely to work on Kiritimati Island. However, their mission story continues without their children. Rify, their daughter who is the older of the two children got married. Vonjisoa, their son was studying elsewhere but has graduated and is now looking for a job. Samoelijaona continues his story: *"When you are used to living with your children all along you feel awkward when you part with them. We take it as a very big blessing when they manage to visit us. Our son came to stay with us twice for Christmas holidays during our stay in Kiribati and we have felt so elated by his calls."*

Samoelijaona thanks God for the visits of his children but knows that parting is difficult. However, they have to face it. However, the work in Kiritimati Island will keep them busy and the ripples of memories will become a cherished souvenir. Samoelijaona shares a reality of mission: the family. Sometimes, one misses one's family but for the sake of God's kingdom, one is willing to leave everything behind. However, family visitations increase one's enthusiasm as to go forward and encourage one to do better. They give happiness to the work. Glory be to God!

Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for missionaries' and their families.
2. Thanksgiving that their children completed their studies. And also for Vonjisoa ('Vonjy') who was able to visit them for two Christmas holidays and also the visit of their daughter, Rify Hasinjanahary and grandchildren, Lenny and Aina Remes in 2012.

Wednesday, 12th March 2014

Ash Wednesday

Bible Readings: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day liturgical period of prayer and fasting or abstinence. Of the 46 days until Easter, six are Sundays. As the Christian Sabbath, Sundays are not included in the fasting period.

Let's pray the following prayer on this special day:

"Lord Jesus Christ, you were certain of your Father's call.
Give us the certainty that you have a job for us to do,
and help us to perceive what it is.
You speak to us,
through our conscience and our inner convictions;
through the voices of our fellow-Christians,
through the reading of your word;
in prayer, and in a thousand other ways.
Give us the faith to recognise your voice when we hear it,
and give us grace to answer".

(Henry McKeating, More Everyday Prayers)



source: inchatatime.blogspot.co.uk

Rev. H. Sangkhuma, Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church in India to the Presbyterian Church of Wales began his missionary appointment, serving first with the Union Welsh Independents (UWI) from 1998-2002. Then, he moved to serve with the Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW) to work as a mission enabler for four rural churches in South Wales for 10 years. Currently, he is working for the two presbyteries in South Wales, and also assisting the Director of Life and Witness Board as front-line manager for 13 mission workers.



Rev. Sangkhuma writes, “Christians, being a minority group are being targeted by various groups and the media has been very biased towards Christianity. This has affected the mission witness at workplaces. People worshipped their own religion, and moral and family values are rapidly diminishing. No respect for life in the community. The recent recession has attributed to all these as many people lost their faith and hope. But the present crisis becomes opportunities as many start to ask, ‘where is God?’ realising that God is the only One who could solve their problems and heal their wounds... People have shown their interest to explore their belief and to debate on socio-political, economic and religious issues in the pub or café in a casual way. Young families joined the ‘messy church’ on weekends for crafts, painting and other activities. They felt recognized, accepted and appreciated as they felt the warmth of friendship. These are opportunities where people generously share their resources, talents, and gifts for the benefit of the whole church. These are new expressions of being a church in a complex society of Wales today.”

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for Rev. Sangkhuma and his family in Wales that God continues to sustain them in the physical and spiritual needs.
2. Pray for the Christians in Wales, exploring ways in which they could be church for a mainly non-Christian and secular society.

Friday, 14th March 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17

The following is a short introduction from Dira Ephraim of the **Nauru Congregational Church**:

In the middle of the ocean, God created an island so small that you cannot even notice it on the global map. The tiny speck of dot was discovered by Capt John Fearn in 1798 and named "Pleasant Island." The size of this oval shaped island in circumference is 14 square miles and situated 33 miles south of the Equator in the Central Pacific Ocean. It is divided into 14 districts, with 12 tribes represented by the 12 pointed star of Nauru's flag.

A missionary from Gilbert Island named Pastor Timoteo Tabwia came ashore during the peak of a civil war. He would visit the 14 districts to proclaim the gospel while surrounded by warriors with firearms. All night he would hear gunshots and rumours of wars, but his faith in continuing his passionate work did not cease. It was towards the end of 1888 that Nauru finally experience peace and silence in the absence of gunshots, when God eased the situation for by eliminating all instruments of war on arrival of the German warship Eber, which confiscated all guns from Nauru.

Ten years later in 1899, missionaries Philip A and Salome Delaporte fulfilled their mission of translating the Bible and hymnbook with the help of the Nauruan high Chief, Timothy Detudamo. In 1917, the London Missionary Society (LMS) took over and started promoting lay deacons as preachers and teachers, culminating in the ordination of the first locally born minister, Rev. Amram Itubwa in 1956.

Some prayer requests by members of NCC are as follows:

1. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to guide all minds, hearts and strengths of all our leaders in the government sectors, private sectors, non-governmental organizations, churches and communities.
2. Pray for wisdom and guidance in unity in decision-making, for humility and understanding with each other, and hopes for development to the nation, both socially and economically.
3. Pray for the leaders of our churches that they will have strength to uphold all situations happening in our nation. Also for knowledge to speak to members and to guide with understanding of love and faith, and the hope to endure so steps can be taken with accordance to God's will.

Council for World Mission (CWM) was created in 1977 and incorporates the London Missionary Society (1795), the Commonwealth Missionary Society (1836) and the (English) Presbyterian Board of Missions (1847). It is a worldwide community of 31 Christian churches committed to carry out God's mission.



Our Vision

"Fullness of life Through Christ, for all Creation"

We are partners of God and we participate in God's work with others. Churches are called to prophetic witness, to proclaim and live out the vision of Jesus Christ of *fullness of life for all creation*.

We envisage a different world, a world inspired by the values of love, justice, peace and compassion. It invites us to use our gifts and resources for God's work, following the example of Jesus in proclaiming his ministry of liberation, healing and hope (Luke 4: 14-20), and taking sides with the people who lived in poverty, the oppressed and the marginalized.

Our vision inspires us to action, to decisively and urgently live out our faith, walking together as partners in God's mission and working in harmony with the whole of God's creation for its freedom and wholeness. Living the values of fullness of life for all creation, and resisting the norms of Empire we participate in God's alternative.

Our Mission

"Called to partnership in Christ to mutually challenge, encourage, and equip member churches to share in God's mission"

The mission context and God's mandate of fullness of life for all creation demand a holistic understanding of mission. This compels churches today to be faithful in proclaiming God's fullness of life. We believe that this can be best lived out in the context of local congregations. We therefore commit ourselves to enabling member bodies to develop missional congregations where the affirmation of life and hope are experienced in community.

Prayer Request:

Pray for God's Spirit to give wisdom to the Directors of the Council in their deliberations on critical issues and concerns of CWM's work.

Sunday, 16th March 2014

1st Sunday of Lent

Bible Readings: Psalm 32; Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11



source: pericope.com

Prayer

Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin;
Each vict'ry will help you some other to win;
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue;
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through.

Ask the Savior to help you,
Comfort, strengthen, and keep you;
He is willing to aid you,
He will carry you through.

(according to the hymn, "Yield not to temptation" by Horatio R. Palmer)

Carys Humphreys 韓麗絲 (Han Le-Si) arrived in Taiwan in 1986 as a partner in mission from Eglwys Bresyteraidd Cymru (Presbyterian Church of Wales) to the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT), a position facilitated by the Council for World Mission (CWM). Following her first “assignment” - a brief eight months of Taiwanese language study in Taipei City - Carys Humphreys “reported” to the General Assembly Office of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) to begin her missionary partnership under the leadership of former General Secretary, Rev. Dr. C. M. Kao.



During that initial period she witnessed the historical transition in Taiwan as Martial Law was finally lifted (1987) paving the way to the first direct democratic Presidential election by the people of Taiwan (1996). Over the ensuing years Carys has also experienced other important transitions namely in the leadership of the PCT which in her own words afforded her “the privilege and joy to serve alongside different General Secretariats and colleagues”.

As an Administrative Assistant to the PCT General Secretary and the GA Ecumenical and International Relations Committee her primary duties (English language medium) involve general secretarial work, liaison with partner churches, with missionaries, planning/hosting international conferences and guests, and so on. Periodically and as needed, Carys assists other programme secretaries and committees of the General Assembly with their ecumenical/international mission ministries.

In addition to serving in the PCT office Carys also shares in spiritual formation ministry (ecumenical) together with a Taiwanese colleague/Spiritual Director Iap Po-Kui (Cecilia Yeh) – they welcome to their “Malama” home, in Tamsui, individuals and small groups for whom they direct retreats and workshops and provide hospitality. Periodically they are invited to organize retreats for groups outside the home.

Visit: PCW - www.ebcpcw.org.uk, CWM - www.cwmission.org

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for God’s wisdom and guidance be upon Carys in her critical role in the General Assembly, especially in her liaison work with partner churches and ecumenical/international work.

Tuesday, 18th March 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14—5:10

CWM's Training in Mission (TIM)



The **Training in Mission (TIM)** programme was first initiated in 1981, since then more than 300 young people from CWM's member churches and the ecumenical community aged between 20-30 years have participated in TIM. In 2013, the TIM programme seeks to approach contemporary and contextual understandings of mission. In other words, the programme is praxis focused.

From exposure visits, training, experiences and encounters, the participants witness such realities as urban and rural poverty, to explorations of patriarchy and gender discrimination, alongside looking at human rights issues, racism, casteism, disease, ecological degradation, interfaith dialogue, development, migration and displacement. Such realities are addressed, debated and discussed. And the TIM Programme seeks to grapple such realities from a practical missiological perspective. Participants are given vital skills in the areas of communication, peace building, research and analysis.

As such, the programme offers the opportunity to *"take our stand on the side of the poor, the powerless and the oppressed,"* to produce new generations of social activists, missionaries, church leaders, all of whom will take the side of the downtrodden.

Prayer Request:

Pray for the participants of the TIM Programmes that through the exposure visits, they will be inspired to be actively involved on the side of the downtrodden.



¹⁰ "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

¹² What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?

¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.

¹⁴ So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

(Matthew 18:10-14 NRSV)

Thursday, 20th March 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7

Rev. Shou-Hui Chung is a partner in mission from the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) to the United Reformed Church (URC), a position facilitated by Council for World Mission. This partnership started in 2006. Together with her husband, Dr. Wei-Hsiang Lin and their two sons, Yueh-Chen Lin (Pipo) and Yueh-Hsuan Lin (Yuen), she is based in St. Peter's House and Chaplaincy which is ecumenically run by the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and the United Reformed denominations in Manchester. They provide pastoral and spiritual care for the students and staff of the three universities and colleges and of which the University of Manchester is one and has a large number of Mandarin-speaking population.



Since 2009, Rev. Chung started the Taiwanese Fellowship in Manchester as well as in London. Each weekend, Rev. Chung and her family travel to London for the Taiwanese Fellowship. About 100 people attend the fellowship, discussion meeting and cell groups regularly. Rev. Chung enjoys working in a diverse, multicultural and inclusive place. She appreciates the spiritual journey that she accompanies with the students and young families, especially when they made their decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and be baptized into the family of God. Another joy is seeing the students building up friendships, and then, marriage and family. As more and more people go abroad for higher education, Rev. Chung believes that it is an important period for the students to pursue knowledge, friendship and also spiritual nourishment. Although the time spent by the students in UK is only for 18 months or a few years, Rev. Chung hopes that the seeds sown will bear fruits in time to come. And everyone is a blessing to another, by the grace of God.

Rev. Chung writes, "To be Lord's servant is always our privilege. Praise God."

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God who has sustained Rev. Chung and her family in her ministry to the students in Manchester and the seeds sown will bear fruit in time.
2. Pray that the Taiwanese fellowships in Manchester and London as they meet for prayer and encouragement in the Lord.

Westminster College, Cambridge is a centre for learning within the United Reformed Church. As a resource to the national and local church and a full participant in the theological training of students within the Cambridge Theological Federation, Westminster is a place where all those in ministry can study and deepen their faith. It is a place for refreshment and learning available to all of those involved in the life of the Church from many different traditions, people from other faiths and



those with no faith commitment. It is a place of welcome, community and new vision where radical and provocative faith meets wonderful and risky living.

Currently, Westminster College is undergoing a redevelopment project for the next stage in its

life. According to Rev. Dr. Susan Durber, the former college principal, "Westminster has new vocation – as a resource centre for learning within the United Reformed Church. We're planning for the college to be a place for learning, prayer and hospitality for all URC people, and a centre which resources church congregations of this, and other, denominations. Our vision is to make Westminster a shining example of the church's ability to renew its life in faithfulness to God."

The redevelopment of the college started in July 2013 and it includes the reorganization and re-equipping of the teaching and meeting rooms, building a new small prayer chapel and art studio, upgrading the residential part of the college, making proper provision for people with disabilities, opening up more parts of the building for public use, improving and modernizing the catering facilities. An appeal for the cost of the project of Stg.£7,000,000 has been launched.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the provision of funds for the redevelopment project.
2. Pray for the faculty and students of Westminster College in the ministry of theological formation and ministry.

Source: www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/appeal

Saturday, 22nd March 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10

The **Congregational Christian Church of Tuvalu** (**Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu**) traces its origins back to 1861. The London Missionary Society (LMS) began working in the island in 1864. Tuvalu was also a mission field of the Samoa Congregational Christian Church. The church became autonomous in 1968. Its doctrinal bases are the Apostolic and Nicene Creeds. About 96% of the population of Tuvalu belongs to the Church, which plays an important role in the cultural, socio-political and religious development of the society. The primary schools and one of the two secondary schools established by the LMS have been taken over by the government. The Church has kept and revived the other secondary school, and celebrated its centenary in 2005.



The Church is concerned with the effects of global warming on Tuvalu. Tuvalu is a small independent island nation located in the central Pacific. It comprises of nine small low lying coral atolls with a land area of 24 sq.km. with the highest point of 4 meters above sea level. Tuvalu is known to the world because of climate change related to sea level rise. As for the drought in the island nation, Tuvaluans notice that it is the result of climate change yet they contribute almost nothing to the problem of global warming. Yet they are the first to feel the adverse impact of climate change. So, the Church cannot stand on the sideline and watch the people suffer. EKT is working hard to incorporate every single effort from church partners and NGO's to assist the people of Tuvalu in this current state of emergency for the nation and its people.

Prayer Request:

Pray for the leadership of EKT as they seek to address the problem of climate change and integrity of creation for the island and its people.

Sunday, 23rd March 2014

2nd Sunday of Lent

Scripture readings: Psalm 121; Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17



source: tvaraj2inspiration.wordpress.com

Prayer

As Nicodemus came to you with questions, so do we,
O Lord. Hear us as we search for answers and truth.
There is much in life we do not understand. Give us
patience to wait upon you. And enable us to rest in
you, to trust you, even when we do not understand.
Give birth to your spirit in us, that we may be new-
creatures in Christ.
Amen.

(source: calvarymoravian.org)

Monday, 24th March 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 128; Numbers 21:4-9; Hebrews 3:1-6

Reflection for 'youth and children mission' programme 3-10 September 2013



Some 40 people from CWM EAR (East Asia Region) attended the "Youth and Children Mission" Programme from 3-10 September 2013 in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. It was a gathering for all past participants of EAR Youth Work Camps for the years 2000 to 2006, and also the "I love Asia" 2007 to 2012 programmes. The purpose of the gathering was to reflect, evaluate and assess the impact of these past programmes on the lives of the young people.

Preacher Willy Lau, the Synod Youth Executive of Presbyterian Church in Singapore participated in the "I love Myanmar" programme in 2012 and was also the resource person for the current gathering. He writes, "There's lots the Singaporean youths today can learn from a programme like this and I do pray that this meeting together, coming together as a region to not end but persist, being a common heritage, the same line where we were all founded in history to step out into a larger context where we can learn and give, partnering with each other for the furtherance of the Kingdom, to be part of the missional history that God is giving that privilege for us to be involved."

One of the concerns of Preacher Willy is that young Singaporean Christians are unaware of environmental issues that affect the world and us today. He questioned the meaning of the place in which Singaporean Christians call 'home' if they do not take into consideration that the God whom they worship is the Creator God in urbanized, air-conditioned, human-made small island of Singapore. So, he hopes that his generation and future generations of Singaporean Christians are aware that their actions affect other Christians in the world who are suffering because of climate change and its related issues.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for the vitality and enthusiasm of young people for the mission of their church.
2. Pray for the all past participants of EAR's youth programmes that they are 'salt' and 'light' in their Christian communities and society.

The **Church of South India (CSI)** is formed from a union of churches of varying traditions: Anglican, Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Reformed. Discussions concerning union had begun at a conference at Tranquebar (now Tarangambadi) in 1919. After India attained independence, the union was completed on 27th September 1947. The General council of Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon, General Assembly of South India United Church and South India Provincial Synod of Methodist Church joined together to form the Church of South India. It is the largest united national church in India, and continued to grow and further enriched with the joining of the churches of Basel Mission and the Anglican Diocese of Nandyal. A unique church was born out of the blending of the Episcopal and non-Episcopal traditions as a gift of God to the people of India and as a visible sign of the ecclesiastical unity for the universal church.



The Church affirms that the purpose of the union is to fulfil the priestly prayer of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church "That they all may be one, and that the world may believe that you have sent me". Being the largest Protestant church in India, the CSI celebrates her life with Indian culture and spirituality and she also raises her voice for the voiceless on matters of justice, peace and integrity of creation. Sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the people of India through proclamation of the good news of Jesus; responding to human need through institutional and emergency relief work; through community development projects and skill training programmes for the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of the people and programmes for the integrity of creation.

Prayer Request:

Pray for the Church in their response to the needs of the community in their institutional and emergency relief work and community development programmes.

Wednesday, 26th March 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 128; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 7:53—8:11

Lord, we have fallen into sin,
We have fallen into wickedness,
We have fallen into evil.
Lord, lift us up and set us free.
Lord we have fallen into rebellion,
We have fallen into disobedience,
We have fallen into unrighteousness.
Lord, lift us up and set us free.
Lord we have fallen into despair,
We have fallen into disillusionment,
We have fallen into depression.
Lord, lift us up and set us free.
Lord we have fallen into loneliness,
We have fallen into darkness,
“We have fallen into hell.
Lord, lift us up and set us free.

(David Adam, The Open Gate. Celtic Prayers for Growing Spirituality)

Being a Charity in Singapore

Mr. Reynaldo Dandan, the Corporate Secretary of Council for World Mission (CWM) writes, "Singapore has a simple yet meticulous process of accrediting and monitoring Charities in the country. In addition to the requirements under the Accounting & Company Regulatory Authority (ACRA), any charity would need to further satisfy the reportorial requirements of the Singapore Commissioner of Charities. The country values charitable institutions as part of nation-building hence; the stringent enforcement of the law is only to protect these institutions, which are undoubtedly imbued with great public interest.

The Council for World Mission (CWM Ltd) has been registered here as company limited by guarantee in March 2012 and as an international charitable organisation in June 2013."

We, therefore ask the CWM family to pray for:



1. Wisdom to those working in the government serving the company and charity sectors to be able to carry-out their duties efficiently and effectively;
2. Guidance to those charities and companies in Singapore to manage their affairs conscientiously and dutifully consistent with their charitable objectives;
3. The leaders of these companies and charities to manage their respective companies with prudence and diligence, having in mind greater sense of public accountability and financial integrity;
4. The charities in Singapore to continue to be good examples to the regional (ASEAN) community of being well-managed charities and provide leadership in the area of social justice and/or social services.

Friday, 28th March 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 95; Exodus 16:9-21; Ephesians 2:11-22

Oikotree comes about as the fruit of the vision of the Accra Confession (2004) and is a collaborative effort by Council for World Mission (CWM), World Council of Churches (WCC) and the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). It aims to create a movement for those seeking to live faithfully in the midst of economic injustice and ecological destruction. Oikotree advocates “Justice at the Heart of Faith”, seeks to pursue alternatives in response to socio-economic issues in various contexts and engages in different areas of social justice issues. The name “Oikotree” is taken with reference to Revelation 22:1-2, that refers to “the tree of life” and “the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” It is opened to individuals, churches, people’s movements and all who share a concern for justice and the healing of the nations.



CWM's commitment to the Oikotree includes creating and sponsoring the website www.oikotree.org as a social platform for all persons to discuss, share and bring to focus the justice issues they are advocating for.

CWM is also one of the organizers for the Oikotree Global Forum which brings together different faith-based groups and church representatives for discussions, sharing on their representations and seeking support for each other. The first Oikotree Global Forum was held in Arnoldshein, Germany in November 2010, where 16 faith-based social movements came together to strategize for common actions and commitments in the shaping of alternatives to the dominant systems that continue to deny life. The final statement at the forum reflected a commitment to work together in building platforms of dialogue, reflection and activism for justice in the economy and the earth.

Prayer Request:

Pray for social movement groups seeking to articulate and act of issues of justice in areas and communities who are oppressed and subjugated.

Ms. Rebecca Lalbiaksangi, Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church in India (PCI)/Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) to Presbyterian Church in Wales (PCW) has been working at Llanfair Uniting Church in Penrhys, S.Wales since July 2011. In the past, Penrhys used to be a place of several kinds of social problems. The Llanfair Uniting Church is sponsored by eight denominations and it started 20 years ago. The church has different activities for the community.



Rebecca is involved in all the activities along with her husband, Miara Rabearisoa who also serves as a volunteer in the church. Rebecca and Miara have a beautiful daughter named Hannah Ralte Rabearisoa. The church has a café which opens every Tuesday to Thursday during the daytime, and also on Thursday and Friday nights. Rebecca and Miara help to run the café and also the homework club for Primary and Secondary school which has two sessions per week. The church has a craft session for the adults and children weekly. As for the youth, there is the fun and fitness programme, the special Wednesday service called compline, and the 'Peer Group discussion' which meets once a week.

Rebecca and Miara work closely with Penrhys Primary School. Every Monday morning, the school comes up to the church for their morning devotions. Although Llanfair United Church has four worship services and the Sunday school. The church also operates a thrift shop called 'Boutique' with the clothes coming from generous church members outside Penrhys. The church also has a laundrette for the community. Rebecca is also involved in supporting overseas and local volunteers.

Prayer Requests:

1. Their activities be blessed by God so that everyone who comes in and out of the church will find God's love and peace and comfort.
2. Those who come to church regularly to have strength in believing God.

Sunday, 30th March 2014

Scripture readings: Psalm 95; Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42



source: spmcrector.blogspot.sg

Prayer

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

Lord, give me the eyes to see people around me, looking for the living water.

Make me like the Samaritan woman, engaging with Jesus in a theological discussion.

And also to be like her, an evangelist and a mission enabler sharing the living water with others.

Council for World Mission European Region



The five member churches of the European Region find themselves in a fragile position, each experiencing decline and facing increasing levels of marginalisation in society. There are grounds for optimism, however, as member churches consider how to be more mission focussed, explore new patterns of church and engage in church planting. CWM Europe's programmes are focussed on accompanying member churches in mission. The five member churches of the European Region are Congregational Federation, Presbyterian Church of Wales, Protestant Church of the Netherlands, United Reformed Church and the Union of Welsh Independents.

CWM Europe's involvement with the Fresh Expressions network in the UK is an example of engaging with Missional congregations. Working ecumenically, Fresh Expressions equips and enables churches to develop locally focussed ministries that reflect the mission context of their communities.

The European Region's members are working towards regaining a position of relevance in society as we engage together in the mission issues that impact upon us. In the European context, Missional congregations are a challenge to a status quo in which society increasingly values secular ideals over those of Jesus' teaching and views the church as out of date and out of touch."

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for churches' involvement with Fresh Expressions in their communities so as to engage the church and the communities in mission.
2. Pray for the churches to faithfully bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in secularized Europe.



CWM Ltd

400 Orchard Road

#23-05, Orchard Towers

Singapore 238875

Tel: (65) 6887 3400

Fax: (65) 6235 7760

Email: council@cwmission.org

Web: www.cwmission.org

Company limited by guarantee. Registered in Singapore.

Unique Entity Number 201206146Z.

Copyright © 2013 CWM Ltd. All Rights Reserved.

Content may not be reproduced, downloaded, disseminated, published, or transferred in any form or by any means, except with the prior written permission of CWM Ltd.