

Prayer Book

Praying Without Ceasing



a partnership
of churches
in mission

April - June 2014



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

After the successful publication and circulation of the 1st volume of the CWM Prayer Book, I am very pleased to commend this 2nd volume for your reflection and consumption. The feedback on the 1st volume has been most encouraging and we trust that you will find this equally enriching.



Prayer is a powerful spiritual instrument, meant to connect us to the Source of power and to align ourselves with the purpose of God for our lives. It not only brings about change, but also reveals answers to questions we didn't think to ask. Prayer isn't simply about asking God for help; it is also opening a channel of communication with God, so that God can reveal to us God's extraordinary and unimaginable plans for our lives.

CWM is a partnership of churches across the world, each with its own set of challenges, fears and hopes. As we make our way through this prayer book, we will pray together for specific concerns and for individual aspirations, for singular dreams and for community projects. Through these common prayers, we share our hopes and dreams with each other; we praise God together; and, collectively, we open our hearts to God's will.

As we pray, let our hearts and minds be open to contemplations that God plants, and may we be blessed with understanding to envision and walk along the path that God leads.

Shalom!

Rev Dr Collin I. Cowan
General Secretary of CWM

PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Reflect
& Research



When Jesus was on earth, he prayed often. And He modeled a life of prayer for his disciples, and us. He prayed early

in the morning, late in the night and all through the night. Before Jesus began his public ministry, “he went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed” (Mark 1:35). The proclamation of the good news of the Kingdom of God was a crucial moment of Jesus’ life and for him, communion with his Father was critical. Similarly, towards the end of his public ministry, Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, not only for himself but for those whom he was leaving behind (Matthew 26:36-46; cf. John 17). Therefore, prayer plays an important part in the ministry of Jesus.

Moreover, in John 11:42, we read that before he raised Lazarus, he said, “Father, I thank you for having hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me” (John 11:42). In other words, Jesus’ prayers were always God-centered and for the glory of God. His disciples also wanted to learn to pray. One day after Jesus had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray” He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

For we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.” (Luke 11:1-4)

May this be our prayer after our daily reading of the write-up in this CWM Prayer Book (Apr-Jun 2014) as a witness of our communion in Jesus Christ wherever we are.

A word of thanks and appreciation to all who have contributed to the production of this volume, especially to our partners-in-mission, General Secretaries of our member churches, ecumenical partners, Mr. Santono Yap and Ms. Shireen Lim.

Tan, Yak-hwee (Rev. Dr.)

Programme Secretary, Reflection and Research



April 2014



Ms. Rebecca Lalbiaksangi is a Partner-in-Mission from Presbyterian Church in India (PCI)/Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) to the Presbyterian Church in Wales (PCW).



Rebecca has been working at Llanfair Uniting Church in Penrhys, S. Wales from July 2011. Rebecca is involved in all the activities along with her husband, Miara Rabearisoa who also serves as a volunteer in the church. The church is at the heart of the village. People come in and out of the activities organised by the church. Whenever the church's café is open, they not only come to eat, but also to chat. Rebecca and Miara felt that it is important for the church to listen to their problems and to give support if needed. The children and youth face many challenges in their lives such as drug and alcohol problems, breakdown in relationships. The church is like their 'second home' where they spend much in the church activities. They often ask, "What is going in church today?" Last Christmas, we were decorating the church and the Christmas lights were on. They came and knocked on the church's door to check what the church was doing and they offered their help. The church is a place of comfort and belonging for them.

There are more children than adults at Sunday worship. And Rebecca writes, *"This is the point which my husband and I have vision. Children love to come to church and to learn something. If they still continue to come in their adulthood, then Penrhys will be changed thus remove all the bad reputation that they have from the past."*

Prayer Requests:

1. Their activities will 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.

Wednesday, 2nd April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 146; Isaiah 60:17-22; Matthew 9:27-34



Source: http://www.goarch.org/chapel/lectionary_view?type=gospel&code=99&event=962

Matthew 9:28-30

When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

"Yes, Lord," they replied.

Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you"; and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this."

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 we believe is God's will for the life and witness of God's 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.



Spanning 194 Congregations across the four (4) Regional Mission Councils (Cayman Islands, North-Eastern, Southern and Western), the UCJCI boasts of some 14, 000 members and pledges "... to love and Worship God as Creator, Jesus the Saviour and the Holy Spirit the Comforter; to make a difference in people's lives by actively loving and serving those around us; to bring the good news of the Gospel to all people; to nurture each other in faith; to pursue God's justice and peace in all areas of life; so that 'God's kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven.'"

The General Secretary of UCJCI, Rev Norbert Stephens, shared: *"In 2009, the UCJCI launched the Programme of Renewal and Transformation, a programme aimed at establishing a missional church evident in growth: spiritual, numerical and financial. Our focus for the 2013 – 2015 period is 'Renewal and Transformation for LIFE! (Liberty Integrity Faith Environmental Stewardship)'. It is our hope that this theme becomes a way of life for every believer called into partnership with God to engage the complexities and ambiguities of our times."*

Prayer Requests:

1. That the leaders may be inspired to courageously lead our members into realizing the goal to become a missional church
2. That the UCJCI be strengthened to continue to respond in healing and hopeful ways to the contextual socio-economic and socio-political issues in Jamaica and Grand Cayman

Friday, 4th April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10-16; Revelation 11:15-19



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). She has been working in Bangladesh since April 2010 as 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.

She has dealt with a number of children who have been ill, however, the little boy in the picture above, Shagor, has probably been the most difficult one. This is her story:

"Shagor is four years old. He cannot walk or talk and has been mentally and physically disabled since birth. His parents brought him to me and asked what they had done that God punished them with this child. They never talked or tried to communicate with him. I talked to Shagor, cuddled him, tickled him and generally carried on with him as I would with any other three year old.

I returned to discover they have been communicating with him; he makes sounds, laughs and generally well improved. I have written a medical manual, carried out numerous training sessions and yet the visit to this boy and seeing how much he has improved means so much more."

Prayer Requests:

1. For Patricia'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.

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.



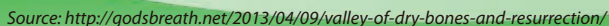
As Congregationalists, the Church believes that the Local Church is the primary place where mission is practised. The local church is at the frontline of mission practice. The UCCSA has chosen to embrace what is sometimes referred to as the 'five marks of mission' as a tool for locating mission in the local church. These five marks of mission include a holistic vision of mission that includes:

- Proclamation (Tell)
- Teaching and nurturing (Teaching)
- Loving Service (Tend)
- Transforming Society (Transform)
- Stewardship of Creation (Treasure)

Prayer Request:

Pray for the congregations of UCCSA to be involved in the five marks of mission.

Bible Readings: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45



Ms. Vanrammawii Hrahsel, 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 hour 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 food and other necessities because of the lack of transport and communication. Moreover, electricity, internet, telephone, newspapers, television are not available.



“Latei” teaches Geography and Development Studies and also helps in English, especially to the children in Antebuka community. Some of the challenges that she faces daily in school are the lack of study materials, resources, overcrowded classrooms and students’ negligence to school work. Besides teaching responsibilities, she has administrative duties such as curriculum co-ordinator, and sits in various school committees. “Latei” also joins the Girl Guides and participates in the “Sandwatch Project” which monitors and conserves local beaches and environments. Kiribati is made up of 33 atolls and most of them if not all of them are barely 2m above sea level. As a result of climate change, their lands are in danger of being submerged in the waters and leaving the community as ‘landless’ people.

Prayer Requests:

1. For the administrative body of KPC, RAK (women) and YCL (youth). Pray for a revival among the church members to live faithful and virtuous lives with God.
2. For the nation as they are fighting sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Tuesday, 8th April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 143; 2 Kings 4:18-37; Ephesians 2:1-10



**Protestantse
Kerk**

The **Protestant Church in the Netherlands**

(PCN) is the largest church in the Netherlands in terms of membership. The Church has 2.1 million members, with nearly 1800 local

congregations and over 2200 ministers. 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. The vision for the life and work of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands is expressed in four themes, one of which is the form. That is two or three together in Jesus' name. (*The heartbeat of life. Memorandum concerning the vision for the life and work of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands*)

What is church? Jesus said, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them." That is to say, the presence of God is what makes a group of people church, not the elements that facilitate it, such as church council, ministers, buildings, lectionary or financial resources. All these elements are necessary; the church however is not the addition of those elements but should be living communities. Concentrating on the substance of the church provides openness with regard to the shape of the church. There are well-tried shapes of being a church which could be continued. And the Church needs the assistance of the Holy Spirit to be a church for the contemporaries; to be a church for age groups remote from the current ecclesial nature. Experiments with new expressions of being a church are desirable. PCN has initiated 100 new pioneering spots with new forms of congregational life to share the gospel with people who do not know anything about it.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for PCN in their pioneering efforts to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, especially with people who have not heard of it before.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in unexpected moments and unexpected places in the face of secularism, ignorance and unwillingness to engage in faith.

Wednesday, 9th April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 143; Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41; Matthew 22:23-33

Cause me to **hear** thy lovingkindness
in the morning;
for in thee do I **trust**:
cause me to **know** the way
wherein I should walk;
for I **lift** up my soul unto thee.
P_{salm} 143:8

Source: <http://ispygod.net/tag/psalm-1438/>

Praying Without Ceasing 17

Thursday, 10th April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 31:9-16; 1 Samuel 16:11-13; Philippians 1:1-11

Ms. Liantluangpuii is a Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church of India (PCI) to Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (CCCAS). Since 2007, Liantluangpuii, who is also affectionately known as “TP”, serves as a missionary teacher in Kanana Fou High School which is run by the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa. Her work in American Samoa concentrated mostly on teaching Biology and Marine Biology.



Kanana Fou High School has all kinds of students as it accepts expelled students from other schools. “TP” writes, “In our school we don’t expel students even if they have unsatisfactory conducts and we even accommodate the most difficult ones till they graduate.” She adds, “Recently, substance abuse is popular among the students which we have not seen before. These students need the touch of the Holy Spirit to deliver them from their involvement in this.”

There are some students who are from broken home families, and the school becomes the place where they could release their burdens. They even share their stories and problems to “TP” and she thanks God for giving her the opportunity to listen to them and to pray for them. By the grace of God, she has experienced God’s hands in so many ways and believed that God will send more of God’s help and deliverance to the students who are in need, physically, mentally and spiritually.

Prayer Requests:

1. Substance abuse is on the rise among the students, pray that these students may receive the touch of the Holy Spirit and protection from God upon those who have been affected by this abuse.
2. Pray for wisdom upon the administrators of Kanana Fou High School.

Friday, 11th April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 31:9-16; Job 13:13-19; Philippians 1:21-30

From Revd Wayne Hawkins, Regional Secretary of **CWM European Region**:

"The European Region of CWM is a partner in an ecumenical movement called Fresh Expressions, which is committed to encouraging, networking and equipping new shapes of church for a changing mission context. Through a process of incarnational mission many local churches and networks are beginning to explore fresh expressions of church for the community and networks that they seek to reach with the gospel. The European Region recognises that the Fresh Expressions movement is a clear example of "missional congregations" which is a core of CWM's strategic direction.



Fresh Expressions is now entering a third phase of its work in supporting the churches of the European Region and their ecumenical partners. A new team leader has been appointed and there will be a time of transition and change, as new priorities take shape.

The United Reformed Church and Congregational Federation are partners in the Fresh Expressions movement and are seeing fresh expressions of church and leadership develop. The Protestant Kerk in the Netherlands have been developing new patterns of church through their CWM Mission Support Programme. And the CWM member churches in Wales are beginning to consider how this initiative will work in a Welsh context."

See www.freshexpressions.org.uk

Prayer Requests:

1. The European Regions participation in Fresh Expressions that it will encourage and resource the CWM member churches to consider new and fresh ways of being church.
2. The new Fresh Expressions team leader, Phil Potter as he takes up his new post. And for clear thinking and direction in the next phase of Fresh Expressions.

Saturday, 12th April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 31:9-16; Lamentations 3:55-66; Mark 10:32-34

“God has not been trying an experiment on my faith or love in order to find out their quality. He knew it already. It was I who didn’t. In this trial He makes us occupy the dock, the witness box, and the bench all at once.

He always knew that my temple was a house of cards. His only way of making me realize the fact was to knock it down.”



Sunday, 13th April 2014

Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday

Scripture readings: Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 27:11-54

Lord of the world,
we have read our newspapers,
we have listened to the news,
and we know there is plenty of suffering in the world.
When we have to face suffering,
help us to bear it.
Give us courage to risk suffering,
and to face suffering,
when we know it is for good reasons,
as Your Son Jesus suffered to do Your will.
And when we cannot see the reasons,
let us know you are still there,
a hand to hold in the darkness.

Father, in some ways the suffering of people we love are harder to bear than our own. You who sent Your Son into the world know that better than we do. The hard thing is that we can do so little, that we cannot share their pain or relieve them of any of its burden.

Tell us what to say, and when to keep silent.
Show us what to do, and how to comfort.

God of all comfort, comfort us in all our afflictions, so that we may be able to comfort others with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Monday, 14th April 2014

Monday of Holy Week

Bible Readings: Psalm 36:5-11; Isaiah 42:1-9; John 12:1-11



After 18 years of negotiations, the **Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar**, known in Malagasy as *Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy eto Madagasikar (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.

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, the FJKM continues and commits itself to witness to and for God at all levels of church life.

The FJKM has an extensive network of schools in Madagascar, operating about 530 schools which provided education to a total of 150,000 students. It also operates a Teacher Training College that is being incorporated into the newly established Reformed University of Madagascar. As a church, it also recognises the importance of theological knowledge. Two levels of theological institutions were set up: three schools of theology and one seminary to train students for ministry.



Prayer Request:

Pray for the schools and institutions of the FJKM that they will continue to provide education and health care to the people in Madagascar.

Tuesday, 15th April 2014

Tuesday of Holy Week

Bible Readings: Psalm 71:1-14; Isaiah 49:1-7; John 12:20-36

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).



Following his retirement from the General Secretary position of the Churches of Christ in Malawi in 2003, Rev. Nixon Constance Chiwala was appointed by the Churches of Christ in Malawi as a missionary to serve in the Synod of Botswana of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa. He returned to Malawi in 2007 but returned in 2008 for his second missionary term.

One of the challenges that he faces as a missionary is language. Without any formal orientation to the culture and church life and also language training, Rev. Chiwala had to use his experience and knowledge to conduct the worship service. With respect to language learning, it was a challenge since the people residing in the area where the Kasane Congregational Church is located speak two languages. Rev. Chiwala writes, "To learn both languages at the same time it took me time but later I decided to concentrate on one language which is widely spoken in the country".

The other challenge which was a pleasant one was the place of worship. The church building was getting too small to accommodate the members who were joining the church almost every Sunday. So, a decision was made to leave the church building and to meet for worship by the manse where there was a structure for the church building. They started worshipping there while construction was going on until the building was completed in 2007 before Rev. Chiwala's departure to Malawi.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for Rev. Chiwala's quick adjustment to the culture and language in Botswana.
2. Pray for knowledge and wisdom to be upon Rev. Chiwala as he ministers to the growing congregation of Kasane Congregational Church.

Wednesday, 16th April 2014

Wednesday of Holy Week

Bible Readings: Psalm 70; Isaiah 50:4-9a; John 13:21-32



Source: <http://presbydestrian.wordpress.com/2012/03/18/so-great-a-cloud-of-witnesses/>

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Hebrews 12:1-3

Thursday, 17th April 2014

Holy Thursday

Bible Readings: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14;

John 13:1-17,31b-35

This day of dread and betrayal and denial
causes a pause in our busyness.
Who would have thought that you would take
this eighth son of Jesse
to become the pivot of hope in our ancient memory?
Who would have thought that you would take
this uncredentialed
Galilean rabbi
to become the pivot of newness in the world?
Who would have thought that you –
God of gods and Lord of lords –
would fasten on such small, innocuous agents
whom the world scorns
to turn creation toward your newness?

As we are dazzled,
give us the freedom to resituate our lives in modest,
uncredentialed, vulnerable places.
We ask for freedom and courage to move out from our nicely
arranged patterns of security
into dangerous places of newness where we fear to go.

Cross us by the cross, that we may be Easter marked. Amen.

Friday, 18th April 2014

Good Friday

Bible Readings: Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 18:1-19:42

It is all over – the hardest of deaths.

It is finished.

The soldiers have gone off duty,

The sightseers has dispersed,

The show is over.



What did they see?

A man – three men in all – being tortured to death.

A gruesome political murder.

They saw, and did not see,

The Son of Man being lifted up to draw all men to him;

The Lamb of God being sacrificed, taking away the sin of the world.

They saw, and did not see,

How God so loved the world that He gave his only Son.

They saw, and did not see,

How God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.

Lord, as we meditate on the suffering of your Son, show us the face of God behind the tortured human face, that we may see the tortured human face behind the face of God. Make real to us, as we can bear it, the human agony of this day; so may we perceive the divine glory.

Saturday, 19th April 2014

Holy Saturday

Bible Readings: Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; Job 14:1-14; John 19:38-42

Rev. Z. John Colney is a Partner-in Mission sent by the Presbyterian Church of India (Mizoram Synod) to serve as a Mission Enabler with the Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW). His ministry is at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church which is located in Ebbw Vale, Wales. His wife, Lalhmingangi Chhakchhuak, daughter Malsawmsangi and son, Malsawmkima are with him in this missionary journey in Wales.



With the help of God and God's blessings, Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church is moving forward. Rev. Colney and his family are thankful to God as they witness development in the different aspects of their work. John writes: *"In addition to the two worship services on Sunday, we have the Sunday School, the Bible Study on Wednesday Evening, Family Services/Community Services during festive season, Mission Evening/ Social evening are also held quarterly, Regular Church Prayer meeting, Coffee Morning on Tuesday, After School Club on Tuesday Afternoon, Holiday Club (during the last week of August), Work Fellowship on Saturdays, Services in Nursing Homes on Thursdays."*

Rev. Colney is also involved in an ecumenical organisation 'Churches Together in Ebbw Vale.' He also speaks at school assembly and school children in the Church. To him, it has been a delight and privilege to be able to serve God and God's people and at the same time, witnessing the growth of life in God's people.

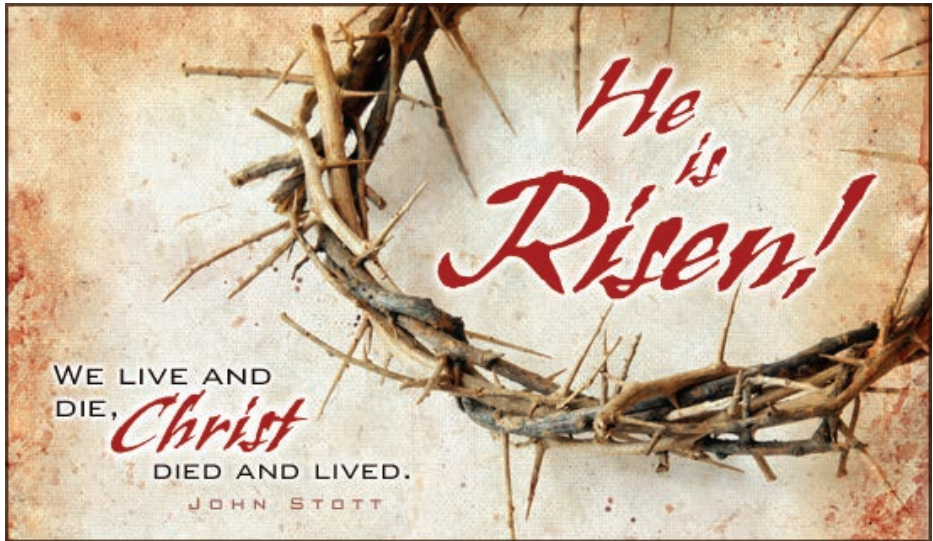
Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving for Rev. Colney and the family in the ministry in Wales.
2. Pray for him and the church as they work together to achieve the task that has been set for them; developing the spiritual life of the church and out reach and witness in the community.

Sunday, 20th April 2014

Resurrection of the Lord – Easter Sunday

Bible Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Jeremiah 31:1-6; John 20:1-18



Source: <http://www.crosscards.com/cards/holidays/easter/he-is-risen-crown-thorns.html>

Monday, 21st April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21;
Colossians 3:5-11

Ms. Hilda Asukile is a Partner-in Mission sent by the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) to the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) for her missionary appointment. She is an English teacher in FJKM Institut de Formation Et de Recherche Pedagogique (IFRP) where she teaches trainee teachers to teach English.

Hilda's teaching career has been enriched as she acquired new skills in her life. She attended a training course on "Teaching English as a Second Language" (TESOL) which has been incredibly helpful in her teaching responsibilities. Beyond her teaching responsibilities in the classroom, Hilda had produced and presented three English programmes on FJKM Radio Fahazavana. They were "English for Beginners," "English for Intermediate Learners" and "Time for English." It was an exciting experience for her, *"I learnt to teach English on the radio to an audience I was not seeing!"* FJKM Radio Fahazavana also had airtime for worship service called "Bread of Life" and Hilda had been invited several times to lead or preach at the service. Lay ministry is one aspect of Hilda's Christian life which has been enhanced whilst on missionary service. With the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, she was able to prepare and preach each sermon.



Living and working in Madagascar has exposed Hilda to the Malagasy culture, food, people and language. In the process, she has learnt some French. She marvelled at the stories of martyrs, traditional customs and beliefs, the history of kings and queens, and also old palaces that stand as national monuments.

She commented that much as she has been teaching and preaching, she has also *"learnt a lot in the process. Thanks be to God for such a wonderful opportunity."*

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for all the learning experiences she has in Madagascar.
2. Continue to pray for God's guidance, protection, good health and strength upon Hilda and the work she is doing.

Tuesday, 22nd April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Exodus 15:1-18; Colossians 3:12-17



Below is an account written by the General Secretary of **Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC)**, Rev. Mareweia Riteti:

“The beginning of the year 2014 is a milestone when the Mission Department increased the number of Pastors in the capital Tarawa. This is part of KPC’s move into being a Missional Congregation. Normally in the capital, there is

one Pastor for one Village to cater for every Mission Activities. Alongside the Pastor are the deacons who become co- workers of the Pastors.

The call to increase the Pastors was passed during the 2012 General Assembly to empower mission outreach in the capital. This means that the big villages in the capital Tarawa will have three instead of one pastor for one village. In addition to the increase of Pastors in one village, the Church is also looking into establishing new worship centres to assist the people who travelled long distances to attend Church services. The mission plan is to plant new church buildings beginning from the maneaba (meeting hall) as the place of worship.



Rev Maleta Tenten, KPC Secretary for Mission who is behind the New Move in Church Planting and Empowering Congregations in the capital Tarawa

Metaphorically, we are looking at the Church Centre as the fountain of spring where people come and be nourished for their life sustenance. Increasing Pastors and building centres of Church services can therefore be seen as a way of increasing fountain of springs in the capital Tarawa.”

Prayer Requests:

1. The increasing outreach of new religious groups have taken away some KPC members. The KPC mission be strengthened in its outreach programme.
2. The KPC strategy goal in taking the word of God closer to the people as manifested in the need to increase Pastors in the capital Tarawa and building new worship centres where the people are.
3. The speeding up of processing the new site for William Goward Memorial College to be the solution as KPC seek to empower Education to the young generation.

Wednesday, 23rd April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Joshua 3:1-17; Matthew 28:1-10



Source: <http://julieteo.blogspot.sg/2011/01/crossing-over-to-2011-clues-from-joshua.html>

“So Joshua told the Israelites, “Come and listen to what the LORD your God says. Today you will know that the living God is among you. He will surely drive out the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites ahead of you. Look, the Ark of the Covenant, which belongs to the Lord of the whole earth, will lead you across the Jordan River! Now choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. The priests will carry the Ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall.”

So the people left their camp to cross the Jordan, and the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river’s edge, the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho.”

Joshua 3:9-16

Thursday, 24th April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 16; Song of Solomon 2:8-15; Colossians 4:2-5



Mr. Donald and Ms. Christi Samuel are Partners-in Mission from 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 second part of their story which they would like to share regarding the youth in American Samoa:

"The priorities, attitudes and habits of our youth keep changing. The spirit of individualism and consumerism, imported by mass media, impede them from living the values of God's reign. Some unjust social obligations, corruption and abuse of power raze good traditional values such as respect to elders and discipline. The youth recurrently lose their sense of purpose in life, and engage in abuse of alcohol, drugs, irresponsible relationships, teenage pregnancy and violence. Several youth find absence of parents as the major problem; but, parents blame the age factor of the youth. Surveys show that many parents ignore the youth, leaving them to make their own choices in life at a time when they just figure out who they are. Nevertheless, the youth look for spiritual support, education, job, health and space to redefine their identity. They are desperate for adults' role modeling and mentoring. They search for consistency and integrity in their parents ("the first teachers") and church leaders ("the spiritual parents")."

Prayer Requests:

1. Youth to be equipped as individuals and groups to relate and live the gospel values in daily life.
2. 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.
3. Youth Groups of the CCCAS to build more meaningful partnership with school teachers, governmental and non-governmental staff, towards nurturing youth leadership.

In the year 2010, the General Assembly of the **Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT)** announced the launch of the *"One Leads One New Doubling Mission Movement"*. This movement focuses on training and equipping PCT members to share the gospel of salvation, and to profess their faith according to Christ's command, "Love your neighbour as yourself." This movement is to reach all the people in Taiwan.



The year 2015 will mark the 150th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Mission in Taiwan when PCT will dedicate the fruits of this ministry to God. And the *"One Leads One New Doubling Mission Movement"* will continue through 2020. PCT seeks prayers for their General Secretary, Rev. Lyim Tiong-Hong who is serving his first year as chief executive of PCT.



Rev. Lyim graduated from Tainan Theological College and Seminary. Furthermore, he received special training at the WCC leadership training institute in 1989 and also the Third Party Neutral, Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution, Saint Paul University in 2007.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray that God gives wisdom and strength to Rev. Lyim to lead the Church in these turbulent days in Taiwan.
2. Pray for God's grace as he leads the staff in making the preparations for the commemoration of many missionaries who loved the Lord and Taiwan as seen in their laying their lives for and in Taiwan.

Saturday, 26th April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 16; Song of Solomon 8:6-7; John 20:11-20



Many of the tasks of the **Mission Enabling Team** which were underway in 2013 fully take-off in the first quarter of the New Year – 2014; the seeds that we have sowed are now starting to bear fruits! As

we continue our work to support our members particularly through our Team Visit Programme – which see a gathering of member churches in a form of conversation or dialogue about the local church's life and witness and their take on missional congregations or life-affirming communities, our prayers are:

In thanksgiving for:

- successful conduct of the Team Visit Programme hosted by the Nauru Congregational Church (NCC) and Congregational Federation (CF);
- safety travel of team visit participants coming from Zambia, United Kingdom, India, Tuvalu, Jamaica, New Zealand, Guyana, Myanmar, Malawi and Singapore;
- the fellowship and insightful discussions during the team visit programme participated in by representatives from the United Church in Zambia (UCZ), Presbyterian Church of India (PCI), United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI), Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu (EKT), Congregational Federation (CF), Church of North India (CNI), Guyana Congregational Union (GCU), Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM), Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW), Congregational Union of New Zealand (CUNZ) and Churches of Christ in Malawi (CCM);

Prayer Requests:

1. Smooth organisation of the upcoming team visits in the Gereja Presbyterian Malaysia and United Church in Zambia scheduled in April and May 2014;
2. Travel mercy for participants from Jamaica, United Kingdom, Singapore, Bangladesh, South Africa, Nauru, Hong Kong and India travelling to Malaysia and Zambia;
3. Insightful reports and reflections from team member participants which can be developed later on as additional resources on developing missional congregations/life-affirming communities.

Sunday, 27th April 2014

2nd Sunday of Easter

Bible Readings: Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a, 22-32; John 20:19-31

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, not the Unit- ing Church in Australia. In 1962, the London Missionary Soceity, 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 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.



One of the Church's mission goals is to provide health, education and other social services to the local community. As such, the Church has six provincial high schools and many primary and elementary schools to provide education; in terms of health services, it has 29 Health Centres, 31 Aid posts, one Community Health Training Worker School and one Nursing School in partnership with the Government. Specialised minis- tries were also set up to address other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, domestic violence awareness, poverty alleviation and entrepreneurial training.

Prayer Request:

Pray for the social institutions, such as schools and healthcare providers that have been set up by the Church. *As they serve the people, may the Good News of Jesus Christ is being lived out.*

Monday, 28th April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 114; Judges 6:36-40; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20



World Communion of Reformed Churches

Called to Communion, Committed to Justice

"The World Communion of Reformed Churches has found a new home. On Sunday, 12 January, a service of welcome took place in the Reformed Church of Hanover, followed by a reception and the dedication of the new WCRC offices.



In his sermon, Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay, President of the WCRC told the congregation that "the decision to move out of Geneva was not an easy one" and that "fears, concerns and anxieties had been expressed during the time of decision". He stressed that "God, the initiator of new things, was present with

Abraham, who was dislocated from his place of familiarity and comfort and relocated to what was supposedly an unknown destination". Jerry Pillay ended with the words: "I know in my spirit that as we see this as God's new location for us now as we continue the work of the WCRC, it is only a matter of time that we will be able to say 'This is our home'. This is the new WCRC home from which we will continue to write the new chapters in the life, work and witness of the WCRC."

The sanctuary of the Reformed Church in Hanover was packed full with guests from far and near. Among those present were Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, as well as German church leaders, and government officials at federal, provincial and local levels. In a symbolic act, representatives of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), the German Reformed Alliance, the Evangelical Reformed Church of Germany and the local Reformed Church presented bread and salt to the President, General Secretary and executive staff of WCRC, expressing their wish that WCRC should never lose its saltiness (Matthew 5:13)."

Prayer Request:

Please pray for the General Secretary Search Committee and the Executive Committee of the WCRC as they are engaged in the discernment process for the next General Secretary.

Credits: www.wcrc.ch

Tuesday, 29th April 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 114; Jonah 1:1-17; 1 Corinthians 15:19-28



Source: <http://www.christart.com/christianbooks/read/4764/10>

"Then the sailors said to one another, "Let's get to the bottom of this. Let's draw straws to identify the culprit on this ship who's responsible for this disaster." So they drew straws. Jonah got the short straw. Then they grilled him: "Confess. Why this disaster? What is your work? Where do you come from? What country? What family?" He told them, "I'm a Hebrew. I worship God, the God of heaven who made sea and land."

Jonah 1:7-9

Wednesday, 30th April 2014

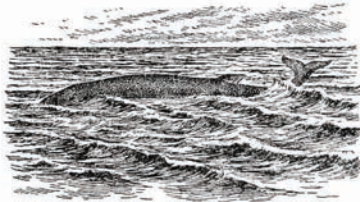
Bible Readings: Psalm 114; Jonah 2:1-10; Matthew 12:38-42

GROWING HATRED TO JESUS.

Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as



was three days
and three
nights in the



's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The



of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this

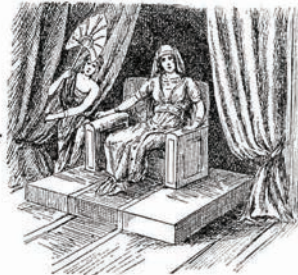


generation, and shall condemn it: because they

at the



of Jonas; and,
behold, a greater
than Jonas
is here. The



of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

"The Bible in Pictures" was ©1922 - Now FREE to Copy. 154 www.creationism.org/books/

MATT. 12: 38-42.

May 2014



Thursday, 1st May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:1-5; 1 Peter 1:8b-12



Ms. Lalremtluangi Renthlei is a Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church of India (PCI) to Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS).

Affectionately known as “Mapuii”, 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.

Every day is a challenge for “Mapuii” in her role as a teacher in a high school, especially in her dealing with students from the age group between 14-18 years. And she needs a lot of God’s guidance constantly. And God has taught her about dependence and reliance upon God. God gives her hope when things seem hopeless. Over the years, “Mapuii” has seen improvements in the students not only academically but spiritually as well.

Since 2008, “Mapuii” together with fellow missionaries (and a request from a student) started the ‘Christian Club.’ The meetings are held during lunch hour every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The meeting gives us a chance to instil God’s words to the students and their application in their lives. Besides, both students and teachers are brought closer to one another.

She writes, “Being so far away from my family is sometimes hard especially during difficult times. But God really builds me to become a stronger person through these trials. I’ve learnt that serving God is not a matter of feeling, it’s about obedience.”

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for the students who have grown spiritually and academically; and the good relationship between students and teachers.
2. Pray for a spiritual revival in the churches in American Samoa.

The **Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa**

New Zealand (PCANZ) was formed by early

settlers in New Zealand in 1840. It identifies itself as a bi-cultural church within a multina-

tional context, establishing links and seeking to build relationships with different people groups of various ethnical and national backgrounds. The Church aspires to make a distinctive contribution to the New Zealand society through the life and activity of the parishes, making common grounds in terms of the importance of the Bible and sharing the leadership.

It hopes to provide an avenue to nurture, sustain and encourage believers for local and global mission, through its 400 congregations with mission programmes that link them to the life of their communities. Different types of worship and services, organ

music, Island gospel choirs, contemporary bands, ancient Psalms, or café worship reflects the multi-ethnic composition of the context the church is serving in.



Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand



The Church is also involved in a “Press Go” project that seeks to encourage new mission initiatives that will help the church to find effective new ways of serving our communities. The local congregations are encouraged to develop initiatives to attract funding for the project, so that it can enable them to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in new and innovative ways.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray that the Church members can find alternative venues for church activities in the light of rising property prices. Pray for a new sense of mission that will allow the church to be freed from its reliance on buildings, and discover new opportunities to emerge from these challenges.
2. Pray for our youth and children’s ministries as they serve in an increasingly secular culture. Pray that we will be able to train missional leaders who have the ability to develop effective ministries in our constantly changing mission context.

Saturday, 3rd May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:6-9; Luke 14:12-14



The history of **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 the 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 Church is involved in missions, both on a national level and international level. On the national level, a National Mission Ministry was set up to conduct the work of evangelism within Korea. The National Mission Ministry establishes policies for church renewal, growth and support. It is also in charge of specialized mission activities which include urban mission, rural mission and military mission. For international missions, a Worldwide Mission Ministry was initiated to manage missionary outreach to other lands and to Koreans abroad, taking charge of all tasks related to the missionaries who are sent out by the General Assembly. It is also responsible for developing and planning policies about overseas mission such as collecting materials from each Mission field, screening, training and send out missionaries, and other forms of support.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the missions that are initiated by the Church, both locally and globally, that they bear witness to God's love and care to all.
2. Pray for the missionaries who are in the field that God's protection and provision will be with them always.

Sunday, 4th May 2014

3rd Sunday of Easter

Bible Readings: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-35



Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Duccio_di_Buoninsegna_Emaus.jpg

“As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.”

Luke 24:28-35

Monday, 5th May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 134; Genesis 18:1-14; 1 Peter 1:23-25



Christ.

The **Presbyterian Church of Wales**, known in Welsh as **Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru (PCW)** is one of the largest Christian denominations in Wales, with 28,000 members, 650 churches, 50 ministers and 25 Christian workers. Around two-thirds of the 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

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. The Church has strong links with other churches and denominations, particularly with its 'daughter' church, the Mizoram Synod of the Presbyterian Church of India.

The Women's Department is a particularly active branch of the Presbyterian Church of Wales. Many of their female workers work tirelessly in their churches, pastorate and presbytery. They raise funds towards the Women's Special Collection, which allows the Department to make generous contributions to the Church's Life and Witness Workers and Projects, both at home and abroad. The Women's Department holds a Mission Rally in May in north and south Wales in English and Welsh. The rallies are very special occasions as they are an opportunity for the women to come together to worship the Lord and also to commemorate and give thanks for missionaries who shared the Gospel in places such as Mizoram and the Khassi Hills. Those who are present at the rallies listen to speakers and are updated with the Church's current mission workers, one of which is Ms. Carys Humphreys who is serving in Taiwan for the last 25 years.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving to God for the Women's Department, and their contributions and ministry to the Church.
2. Pray that God will raise partners in mission for God's work in Wales and abroad.

Tuesday, 6th May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 134; Proverbs 8:32—9:6; 1 Peter 2:1-3

The **Congregational Christian Church of Samoa (CCCS)** traces its beginnings to 1830 when missionaries sent by the London Missionary Society (LMS), Tahiti and the Cook Island arrived on the island. 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. And huge numbers of people soon offered themselves for overseas mission work in the Melanesia.



The setting up of the first printing press (only the second in the Pacific region) in Samoa in the year 1839 was a mark of the missionary zeal to bring the people to understand the gospel through the written word. By 1855, the whole Bible was translated into the Samoan language. The missionaries also introduced a monthly journal – the Church Chronicle – which continues to this day. The Church also set up the Malua Theological College, which was established in 1844. The main objective of building the college is to teach and educate local students so that each village of Samoa would eventually have a theologically educated pastor as spiritual leader.

The church has been actively involved in social efforts, particularly in the area of education. CCCS has six secondary schools namely Laeulumoega Fou College (LFC), Maluafofua College (MFC), Nuuausala College (NSC), Tuasivi College (TSC), Congregational Senior College (CSC) and Papauta Girls' College (PGC). The Church also has a vocational school called Leulumoega School of Fine Arts (LFA). All schools come under the administration of the church education portfolio and usually enrol close to 3000 students every year. The year 2012 saw a huge jump in the student roll for these six schools, the direct result of progressive administrative and commitment of the Church through its Board of Education.

Prayer Request:

Pray for the young people of Samoa that through the education efforts of CCCS, they be godly and effective leaders for the church and society.

Wednesday, 7th May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 134; Exodus 24:1-11; John 21:1-14



Source: <http://fralfonse.blogspot.sg/2011/04/john-21-14-allowing-lord-to-reveal.html>

At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied. Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

"Bring some of the fish you've just caught," Jesus said. So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn't torn.

Since the arrival of the first missionaries of the London Missionary Society (LMS) to bring the Gospel to American Samoa,



EFKAS CCCAS

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

the Church has been known by the name of LMS since the year of 1830. In 1961, its name was changed to the **Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS)** and gained its independence in 1980. The CCCAS (EFKAS) is firmly established in the United States (mainland), Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia and American Samoa. It currently has 39,000 members with 115 congregations.

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 CCCAS is a self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating church. In 1983, it established its own theological college in Kanana Fou, which offers a diploma in theological studies and a BD degree. The theological college also serves the Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu in training their ministerial candidates. The CCCAS also runs an elementary and high school. The Church placed much emphasis on youth activities both in local communities and at the national level, and has undertaken the construction of a multi-purpose youth centre. The Church is also concerned with problems affecting the Samoan society such as drug and alcohol abuse and the influx of religious sects. The Church has sent and continues to send its own missionaries and fraternal workers to Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand, to other Pacific nations and to the United States, reflecting its mission in different places.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the young people in American Samoa to be protected from substance abuse, such as drug and alcohol. And also for the Church seeking to involve the young people in the various activities in the multi-purpose youth center.
2. Give thanks for the faculty and students in the theological college in Kanana Fou as the students are under preparation for the ministry in the region.

Friday, 9th May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 23; Exodus 3:16-22, 4:18-20; 1 Peter 2:13-17



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. In the current day, the Church has 68 congregations with 35,000 church members and 73 ordained ministers and 132 preachers.

In order to train up laypeople in the churches, HKCCCC's Laity Training Department was set up to promote joint training activities in the CCC churches, with the following objectives:

1. To plan and to promote activities related to the working theme of the Council.
2. To plan and to promote educational and volunteer training programs for the laymen in the churches of the Council.
3. To plan and to promote joint ministry for the youth and ladies' groups in the churches of the Council.
4. To plan and to promote joint religious education training programs for the churches of the Council.

This month of May, the Church Ladies Committee (a subgroup under the Laity Training Department) has planned church visits as part of joint outings for the ladies in the CCC churches to allow them to get acquainted with each other. This activity also allows them to reflect on their faith and on how their faith can be related to their daily lives and to encourage exchanges among the ladies groups in the CCC churches to share their resources

Prayer Request:

Pray for the women in the Church Ladies Committee, that they may build relationships with each other and support one another in the faith.

The **Congregational Federation** is involved in many communities as part of the Church's mission initiatives, such as Back to Church Sunday and the Food Bank.

Rev. Suzanne Nockels, minister at **Market Harborough Congregational Church** (member church of Congregational Federation) shares, "A CWM consultation in 2011 focused on the challenges facing partner-churches in Europe. The consultation had a large focus on the economy and took place when the full scale of the financial crisis in Europe was spreading. I came away thinking the church needed to re-position itself to be in a place of service. When I returned home we carried on talking as a fellowship, we heard about foodbanks in the media and together we prayed.

Jubilee foodbank was launched in February 2012 and now works with 30 agencies providing 3 days worth of food for people in food crisis. People have written us letters saying that at a time of deep distress the bags were a 'life-saver'. We've made connections with people we've never made connections with before. Almost every day somebody drops a donation of a few tins into the chapel and stays for a bit of a chat. People have volunteered with the food bank and joined the church. Most of all we hope we are helping to feed families who find themselves having no food in the house and no means to buy any.



What are the underlying social problems? I will rejoice when the Jubilee Foodbank closes because then we live in a society that can feed itself and respects people rather than labelling them as 'scroungers'. Our work is moving more into an advocacy role, challenging our local elected representatives to see what is happening. In the meantime we will draw alongside those beaten and battered by an economic down-turn."

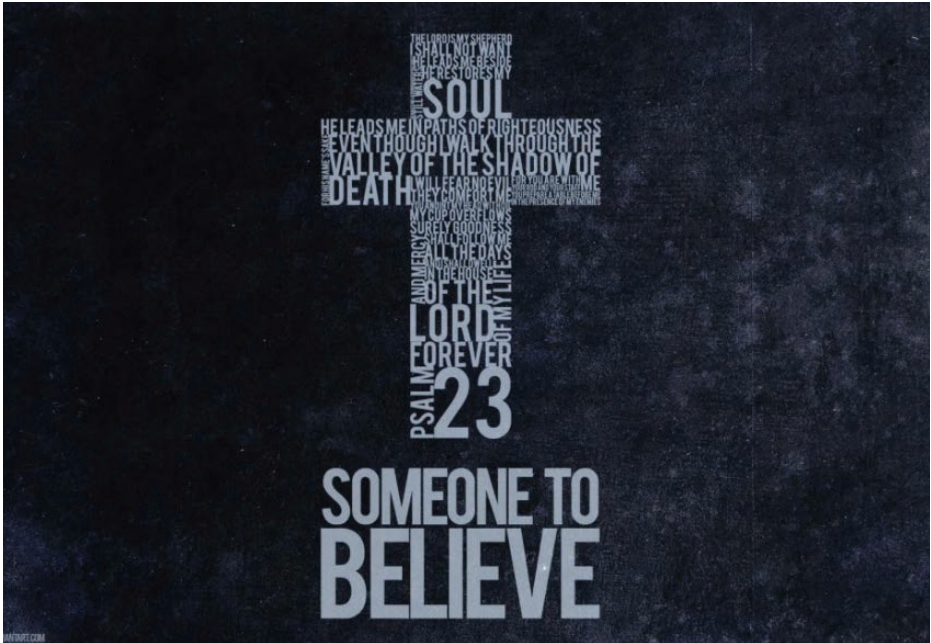
Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgiving for the Federation's initiative of serving the needs of people in food crisis through the Food bank.
2. Pray for the advocacy role of the Church to address the underlying social problems of food and poverty.

Sunday, 11th May 2014

4th Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Readings: Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47; John 10:1-10



Source: <http://www.testimoniesofheavenandhell.com/Christian-Wallpapers/2013/04/02/psalm-23-cross-scripture-christian-hd-wallpaper/psalm-23-cross-scripture-christian-hd-wallpaper-2/>

Tahan Theological College is one of the leading Theological Colleges in Myanmar and is located in the town of Tahan-Kalymyo. This is an ecumenical sharing and learning center for God's ministry, founded and run by **Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM)** in 1978. At present, the college has 32 female and 82 male students from 13 different denominations. The college has had accredited study programs by Association for Theological Education in South East Asia and is also one of the founding member colleges of Association for Theological Education in Myanmar. TTC has pledged to serve and teach the people to make them as colorful *koinonia* in God's light, and accepted it as a God-given mission where ethnic conflict and diversity is more challenging.

Rev. Pek, Principal of the College, shared that TTC was relocated to the present location in 2009, and faced many challenges. The country had also been practicing close doors system for many years. Among such immense challenges the college has been trying to focus on the following categories as its priorities.

- a. Development of Library: Due to the closed door system in the country, the college could not get books for library from a proper channel for many years. At present the college has only ten thousand useable title books and most of these books are very old. Not only quality books but facilities are also needed for Library development. In addition to this the library needs more space to accommodate more students. Therefore the college has been praying for quality books and fund for the extension of the building.
- b. Intercultural sharing center: The College is in dire need of a big building/hall that can be used as an inter-cultural sharing center as well as commencing important events that could make mutual understanding and cooperation in God's ministry.
- c. Guest House: We are happy that we have been receiving visiting professors from overseas partner churches and organizations from time to time but the place of lodging and food for them is rather expensive and difficult. As matter of fact the college is praying for Guest House where the VIPs for the college could easily cook themselves and stay free of cost.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the provision of funds to meet its priorities for the college development.
2. Pray for the college to train the students and people of God to be peacemakers and fruitful servants for God's ministry.

Tuesday, 13th May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:23-31; Hebrews 13:20-21



Mr. Samoelijaona and Ms. Parfaite R. Rasolonjanahary are Partners-in Mission from Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) to Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC). They left Madagascar on New Year eve of 1994 to join the mission programme of CWM. Samoelijaona served as a teacher whereas his wife, Parfaite served as a dentist. Both of them worked with the United Church of

Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands which is now known as United Church in Solomon Islands (UCSI). When they first embarked on their missionary journey, their children were with them and they grew up in the Solomon Islands. In 2008, Samoelijaona and Parfaite continued their missionary service but with the Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC), namely in Kiritimati Island. However, their children did not go with them. Their older child, a daughter Rify got married whereas the younger one, a son Vonjisoa, is studying elsewhere.

Samoelijaona is elated when his son came to visit them during the Christmas seasons and phones them occasionally. Their daughter who lives in Europe and because of distance is unable to visit them often. However, in 2012 she visited them with her son and daughter. Samoelijaona and Parfaite felt so favoured by God. When he was writing his story, his grandchildren were with him and he enjoyed their presence and he wrote: *"And oh! How could I express the delight caused by the mess my granddaughter is creating around me. And do not ask me the pleasure of having my daughter accessible again after so long time."*

Samoelijaona thanks God for the visits of his children but knows that parting is difficult. However, they have to face it. And 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 and encourages one to go forward to do better. They give happiness to the work. To God be the glory!

Prayer Request:

Please pray for missionaries' and their families.

Wednesday, 14th May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 100; Jeremiah 23:1-8; Matthew 20:17-28

SHOUT FOR JOY TO THE LORD ALL THE EARTH.

WORSHIP THE LORD WITH GLADNESS;
COME BEFORE HIM WITH JOYFUL SONGS.

KNOW THAT THE LORD IS GOD.

IT IS HE WHO MADE US, AND WE ARE HIS;

**WE ARE HIS PEOPLE,
THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE.**

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKGIVING

AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE;

GIVE THANKS TO HIM AND PRAISE HIS NAME.

FOR THE LORD IS GOOD AND

HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER;

HIS FAITHFULNESS CONTINUES THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS.

PSALM 100

Thursday, 15th May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 6:8-15



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 Presbyterian Youth Fellowship is an organization within the Presbyterian Church of India formed for the benefit of the youth in Church. It was first initiated by the Executive Committee meeting to place a focus on fellowship, providing opportunities and meeting the challenges of the Christian youths today. Keep the young people in PCI in prayers as they seek:

- To promote Christian growth and encourage personal relationships with God and fellow human beings.
- To promote fellowship, witnessing and service among the Youth of the Presbyterian Church, especially the holistic ministry of the church.
- To facilitate training for development of Christian leadership and tapping potentialities of youth.
- To promote and foster Christian unity among the Youth.
- To encourage the use of talents and skills such as writing, speaking and other potentials.
- To inculcate healthy responses to the challenges faced by Christian Youth today.

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.

Saturday, 17th May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Jeremiah 26:20-24; John 8:48-59

There is, we discover late and often,
An arresting quality about your word to us.
We do not want to be arrested or even pause,
For our days are planned out.
And certainly we do not want to be arrested
by the authorities,
not for speeding,
not for trespassing,
not for shop-lifting,
surely not for truth-telling.

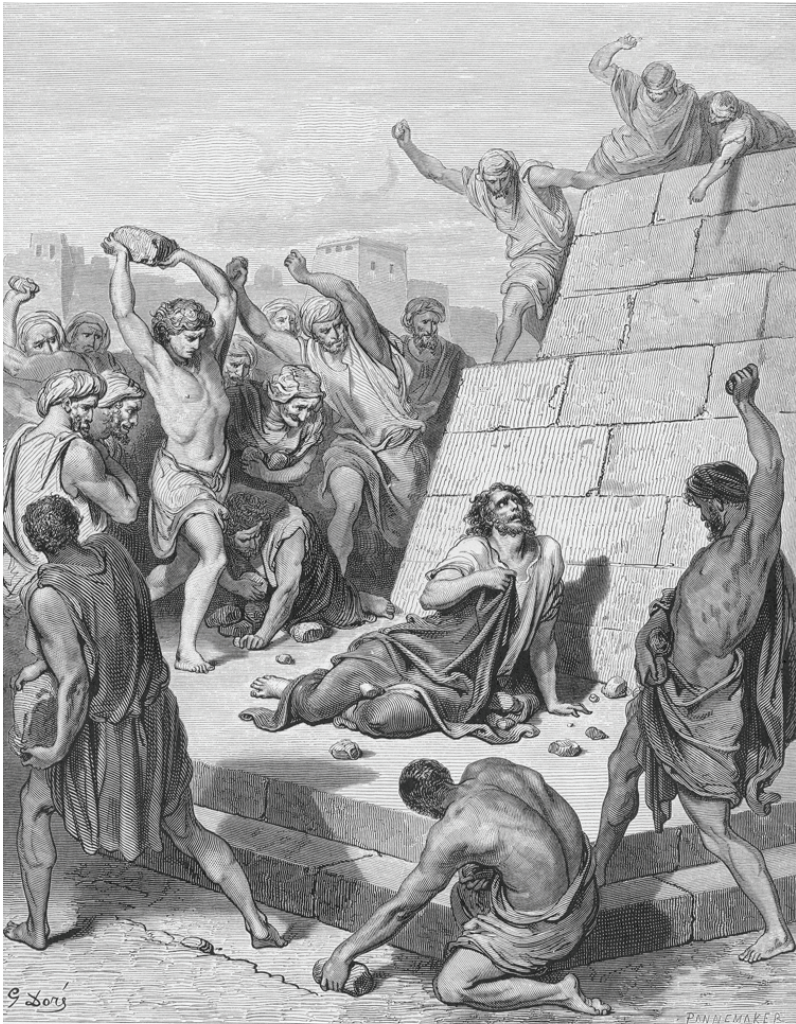
Minister to us in our cowardice and timidity.
Set us to be as bold as you are true,
to meet the authorities who resist and arrest...
our ancient mothers,
our old convictions,
powerful ordaining committees,
and last, even, city hall.

We bid mercy for those of our faith,
who this day are arrested for truth-telling;
Your word is truth, and we live by it,
frightened or bold,
free or not,
in the manner of His own life among us.
Amen.

Sunday, 18th May 2014

5th Sunday of Easter

Bible Readings: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Acts 7:55-60; John 14:1-14



MARTYRDOM OF ST. STEPHEN

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. . . . (Acts 7: 60)

Source: <http://catholic-resources.org/Art/Dore-Acts.htm>

Monday, 19th May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 102:1-17; Exodus 13:17-22; Acts 7:17-40

God be praised!

As sure as night and day,
as real as the ground beneath our feet,
as certain as yesterday,
so is the Lord's love to us.

There is no greater commitment than
the taking of human flesh,
a death upon a cross,
a resurrection,
and all this God has done for us in Jesus,
plunging into the very depths of hell itself
to bring us to the joys of Paradise.

Lord God, you let nothing stand in the way of your love:
you break down the barriers of our sin with your forgiveness,
when we stumble in failure you lift us up,
our pride, our stubbornness, our naïve conviction that we always
know what is best for ourselves, you bear with infinite patience,
there is nowhere that you would not come to us,
there will never be a time when your love will end.

As I have given thanks for God's commitment to me,
I think of my commitment to others:
the people I love,
the people to whom I have made promises,
the people with whom I share my life in the church.
Lord, as you are faithful, so keep me faithful.

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 was sent to the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa for his missionary appointment. He is currently working in the Moffat Mission, which was founded by London Missionary Society (LMS) missionaries two centuries ago. Besides the administrative duties at the Mission and development projects, Joseph is currently managing the Renovation and Restoration Project of the Mission.

One of the challenges Joseph encounters is language. But by and large, he has been able to communicate well enough and get things done even though he still has hiccups with the local language. However, he has learnt some basic phrases that navigate him through. There have also been moments of conflicts, frustrations arising from the workplace as well as from his personal and social life. He writes, “Those were the moments that made me wanted to scream my lungs out at every face I encountered and more importantly at God... It is at such times of desolation, I hear the Divinity whispering into my soul saying, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness’ (2Cor 12:9)”.

With this encouragement, Joseph continues to persevere in his missionary appointment, choosing to look to God and depend less on himself, saying, “God has found me worthwhile, not only ‘in spite of my weaknesses’ but because of my weaknesses, to work with Him. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, failures and frustrations so that Christ’s power may rest on me”.

Prayer Request:

Pray for Mr Kennedy and his family that God continues to encourage him in his missionary journey, and be refreshed in this journey.

Wednesday, 21st May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:13-18; John 8:31-38



From CWM's **Reflect and Research** Department:

A group of esteemed and renowned composers, musicians, liturgists comprising of some who are "well regarded and experienced" and others who are "willing to learn" is gathering in Kingston, Jamaica for a workshop on liturgy and music. The workshop is entitled, *"Liturgical Music of the 21st Century. An International Proclamation Through the Art of Music"* to be held from 16-22 May 2014. The participants, aware of their identity, tradition, heritage, and spiritual narrative are given opportunity to actualize them in liturgies and music. In the face of the shifting of the "center of gravity in the Christian world" southwards, to Africa, Asia and Latin America, it is critical for composers, musicians and liturgists to engage and to develop music and liturgy wrought by their contexts. And a gathering such as this workshop, is an opportunity for the participants to make "the faith of a community comes to life in its music making ... **in music, the faith and life of a people take flesh. The musical doing of a people is so potent and so expressive of its being.**" (*Te Deum: The Church and Music. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1998, 5*).

It is hope that the works of participants from this workshop will be published as a resource handbook on music and liturgies for the church's mission in the 21st century.

Prayer Requests:

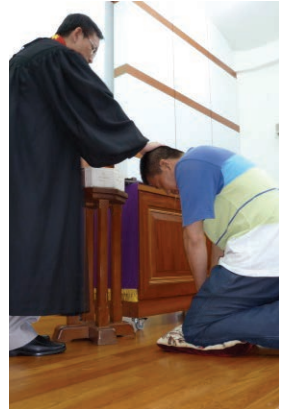
1. Thanksgiving to God for the gift of music to lift our spirits and enhance our worship and also the way in which we express our faith in God.
2. Pray for all who attend the workshop that they will be enriched by the sharing and learning that is taking place.

Thursday, 22nd May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 6:5-22; Acts 27:1-12

Rev. Hsieh Ta-Li is a Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT) to Presbyterian Church of Singapore (PCS) under the "Mission Partnership Agreement". He serves 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. With recent developments by the government in the surrounding area, young families have moved into the area with children and young people. Rev. Hsieh saw the opportunity of outreach work and started tuition ministry. The tuition ministry grew from two classes to seven classes with 40 students. The church also conducts parenting skills classes to equip parents, and cake-making sessions to bond parents and children together. In Easter 2009, the church organized an Easter egg event in place of the usual Sunday School class so as to attract participation from both the children and their families. The event was a success and made an impact in the community that the elderly are interested to find out if there are activities that they could take part in. The church responded to such interest by holding seminars, talks and celebration parties on special holidays or festivals. This is a way in which the church engages with the community and also to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. The church has also set aside Saturday afternoons for pictorial book reading with the children in the community park.



As the church seeks to reach out to children, Rev. Hsieh realized that the church needs helpers. Therefore, he gathers interested young people from the church and trains them in bible, theology and teaching methods in preparation for the ministry. A mission team from Taiwan also visited them during their summer break and imparted to them the MEBIG way of outreach. MEBIG (Make Everyone Believe in God) is designed to train and develop teachers for outreach program to children. MEBIG originated from a church in Japanese.

Prayer Requests:

1. Give thanks to God for the many children in the community who come to the various activities and pray that the seeds of the gospel will take root in their lives.
2. Pray for the young trained leaders that they will continue to impact the lives of the children and their families.

Friday, 23rd May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 7:1-24; Acts 27:13-38



Rev. Charles Chua is a Partner-in Mission from Presbyterian Church in Singapore (PCS) to Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW). He is an ordained minister with the Presbyterian Church in Singapore and was sent as a mission enabler to Wales in December 2002 for his missionary appointment. 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.

Since 1st October 2012, two ministry interns, Tim Hodgins and Sunniva Jonsen are under the mentor care of Rev. Chua and his wife, Molly. Tim is currently serving with his wife, Sam at the Tabernacle Gorseinon church. They initiated the weekly coffee morning as an outreach event to the community. On the other hand, Sunniva is serving at the Argyle and Rhyddings Church in Swansea. She leads bible study sessions, helps in the English Corner, as well as participating in Discipleship classes with the new believers. In reflecting on Tim and Sunniva, Rev. Chua writes, "They are such precious people, full of love for the Lord and people, so teachable and hard-working".

Rev. Chua and his family could never thank God enough for God's amazing grace in drawing people to Himself, in strengthening the fellowship of God's people and reaching out to others with God's wonderful love! In his words, Rev. Chua writes, "the excitement of impacting so many lives day in day out, along with its stresses and challenges have helped us to be more dependent on the Lord and to walk humbly before Him and each other. As the ministries expanded, the more we need to grow in intimacy and depth in the Lord, His Word, and His people".

Prayer Request:

Thanksgiving to God for the ministry interns, Tim Hodgins and Sunniva Jonsen who are impacting people in the Tabernacle Church and the Argyle and Rhyddings Church in Swansea. Pray that they will continue to serve with passion and love for God.

Poem: Children need our care

Homeless, beaten, battered, and broken,
Children everywhere
God calls us to mission, to care and share
Terrified, tormented, targeted and teased,
children everywhere
God calls us to mission, to care and share

They are in foster care, orphanages and juvenile centres,
children everywhere
God calls us to mission, to care and share
Street children, without mother or father, no sister
no brother, children everywhere
God calls us to mission, to care and share

What do we say to God, how do we respond?
Children everywhere need a helping hand
Shall we walk away, overcome with fear?
Our children are crying, they need us to care

God calls us to mission, to care and to share
God calls us to mission, no need to worry or fear
God calls us to mission, let's take up our place
For children everywhere need us to care.

Mona-Christabel Anne Cowan

Sunday, 25th May 2014

6th Sunday of Easter

Bible Readings: Psalm 66:8-20; Acts 17:22-31; John 14:15-21



Source: <http://whispersofwonder.com/how-praise-affects-your-perspective/>

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 envisions that in order to transform other lives, the local congregation needs to be transformed first. Believing in the motto, 'Be Servants of the Servant Lord', the department focuses on equipping each one of them to have a clearer vision about God, Church and society and deeper passion for Christ and His gospel, rooted in justice and truth. In order to achieve this vision, the Church engages the congregation in the following ways:

- Publishing Bible study materials and other literature in order to help the pastors and the congregations to meaningfully participate in God's ministry.
- To empower the children and youth to bear witness in a changing and challenging world.
- To foster leadership qualities among the pastors, youth and children.
- To equip the pastors' spouses and other women involved in God's ministry to engage in the same fruitfully and relevantly.

Prayer Request:

Pray for the Church as they embarked on different programmes and activities to engage the local congregation to know more about God and the relationship between Church and society. Pray for the congregation to have a willing and open heart to learn and also for the ministers and teachers to deliver the Word of God effectively.

Tuesday, 27th May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:8-12



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

The Children's ministry within the CUNZ varies church by church. Teaching models in use are those of the Sunday School Union, and the Kidsreach 'Celebrate Children' programmes.

Keis Anisi heads up the children's ministry at Te Atatu church. They have been using the Sunday School Union programmes for 40 years and recently held a 3-day children's camp at the church, to help the children with the year's theme – 'By Faith, not by Sight.'

Jeanette Vink, pastor at Raglan church reports that more children are coming to their early service at 8.45am each Sunday. This service has been running for just one year, and Rev. Vink is giving all praises to God for what is happening in the church.

Prayer Requests:

1. Thanksgivings to God for the good response in Raglan Church and the continuing work in Te Atatu Church.
2. Pray that as the children be nurtured in the Word of God through the Sunday School programme, and be effective tomorrow's leaders.

Rev. Elizabeth and William Chirwa are Partners-in Mission sent from the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) to Jamaica to the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) in June 2005.

When they first arrived in Jamaica, they have to get themselves adjusted to local culture and societal norms such as food. Even though some of the food in Zambia could be found in Jamaica, it is in the preparations of the food that is different. However, Elizabeth and William appreciate such an adjustment for it has expanded their cooking skills. The most challenging adjustment is language. In the first few years of their ministry in the local congregation, there seems to be a language barrier. The way they pronounce certain words as Africans sound funny to the Jamaicans.



Jamaicans have a culture of silence amongst the local community. Therefore, it makes ministry very challenging. The church finds it difficult to identify the root causes of certain problems, such as violence and crime as encountered by its members. However, Elizabeth and William continue to serve God faithfully and drawing themselves closer to God for strength.

One of the challenges faced by missionaries is family, both immediate and extended. Their daughter, Tamara returned to Zambia after staying in Jamaica for a year due to some adjustment problems, but they are thankful for CWM's continued support. Elizabeth and William take the responsibility of being guardian parents to the two sons of Elizabeth's sister after her death. The names of their nephews are Kulemya and Elihu whom they have to support financially.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for Wezi (our son) and his wife Mirriam as they get adjusted to married life.
2. Pray for Beauty (our daughter), her husband Nadi and their daughter Michelle as they seek to get established in rural community.
3. Pray for God's protection and care upon Tamara and extended family in Zambia; and also the provisions for Kulemya and Elihu's education expenses.

Thursday, 29th May 2014

Ascension of the Lord

Bible Readings: Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53



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 has delineated their mission priorities for the decade 2011-2020. The six areas of mission priorities are: a) evangelism and spiritual revival; b) congregational renewal; c) restructuring the structure; d) education for liberation and social inclusion; e) building communities of healing and reconciliation; f) protection of life and livelihood for the fullness of life.

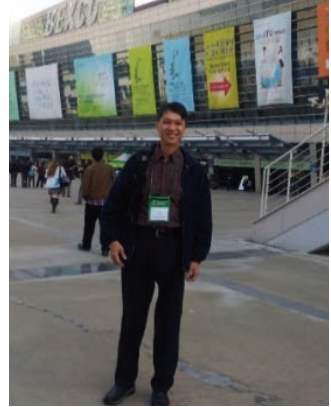


With regards to evangelism and spiritual renewal, the Church hopes for spiritual revival within worshipping communities as well for a renewal of commitment for discipleship and evangelism. Such a priority should be seen in an inculcation of spirituality that is rooted in prayer, fasting, offering, reflection and action.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the spiritual revival meetings that are being scheduled in different dioceses.
2. Pray for strength and perseverance in the rural churches, where at places people are still not safe in proclaiming their faith.

Mr. Tommy Lam Chi Kin attended the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) in Seoul, under the sponsorship of CWM, and also the 10th Assembly in Busan organized by the World Council of Churches (WCC) from 26 October to 8 November 2013. He is a member of Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China (HKCCC).



In his participation of one of the GETI discussions, he said: *"I found that practising ecumenism is really challenging. Guided by Professor Stephen Bevan S.V.D., my seminar group had in-depth discussions on various current ecumenical issues. We have gone through some current topics in South Korea, such as the reunification between South and North Korea and the conflicts between the evangelism and ecumenism in South Korea. We also discussed some ecclesiastical issues, for example the role of the Church and how the Church can be united. The seminar sharpened my analytical skills of how the Christian values of love and peace can be applied to our community".*

Tommy also visited the local churches in Seoul. One of which was the Myung Sung Presbyterian Church, the biggest Presbyterian Church in the world. He said, "There were nearly seventy thousand church members attending service that day. I had never seen such a number of people worshipping God, having meal and fellowship together. The atmosphere was really like the banquet in Heaven."

Prayer Requests:

1. Thank God for the opportunity to learn and understand the importance of church unity in the world.
2. Pray for a resolution to the conflict between evangelism and ecumenism in South Korea.

Saturday, 31st May 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 131; Isaiah 26:1-6; Philipians 2:25-30



The **United Reformed Church (URC)** is a member church of Council for World Mission (CWM). Between the years 2010 to 2020, the Church has adopted *Vision2020*, a ten year strategic framework for mission. It is a framework to inspire and support mission planning at every level of the United Reformed Church: local, Synod and Assembly.

The basis of *Vision2020* is formed by the ten statements of the Church's mission and purpose and the ways by which to achieve them. They sum up what the Church believes God is calling them to be and to do, as local churches and also as a denomination.

The key idea of *Vision2020* is that, on a regular basis, local churches look at their mission priorities and do so in a context of prayer and discernment. It is important to do this because all are called to be witnesses to the life and work of Christ in our communities.

There are ten priorities in *Vision2020* and churches are invited to identify one or two mission priorities which are particularly pressing or relevant to their context. One of the marks of a healthy church is to do a few things and to do them well.

To find out more about the ten priorities, please visit URC's website at <http://www.urc.org.uk/mission/vision2020-our-mission-strategy.html>.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the Church that its members will be responsive and work towards *Vision2020* with unity and conviction.
2. Pray for the local churches in URC that they will continue to grow in the ten priorities that was listed out.

June 2014



Sunday, 1st June 2014

Ascension Sunday

Bible Readings: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; Acts 1:6-14; John 17:1-11

We thank you, Lord, that you have not gone away, but that you are here more than ever.

We praise you because your work on earth is completed:

The holy mystery of your incarnation,

Baptism, fasting and temptation,

Agony and bloody sweat,

Cross and passion,

Death and burial,

Resurrection –

All are over; once, and for all.

Your triumph is complete;

A triumph visible, though not to all.

We bless you that you have opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

What you have done, you have done for us.

What you have won, you have won for us.

Risen and ascended Lord, teach us to set our minds on things that are above, where you are, seated at the right hand of God, so that when you appear, we also may appear with you in glory.

Source: More Everyday Prayers by Henry McKeating, John Reardon and Michael Walker

Monday, 2nd June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 99; Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24; 1 Peter 4:1-6

Preacher Willy Lau, the Synod Youth Executive of the **Presbyterian Church of Singapore (PCS)**, shares the following updates of the Church:



"From 6 December 2013 to 31 January 2014, 17 young people from 11 Presbyterian churches came together for a time of learning and exposure organized by the Presbyterian Church in Singapore (PCS). They were participants of the Synod Youth Internship Programme which aim to develop a new generation of leaders for the Church. The three main goals of the Programme are spiritual formation, ministry development and character building.

For two months, the young people were orientated to the different ministries under the umbrella of Presbyterian Community Services; and were given an understanding about 'hidden' or 'invisible' communities that exist in Singapore, such as migrant workers, the poor and the marginalized. The young people blogged their daily reflections and led daily devotions. For intellectual stimulation, classes on Reformed traditions and Church doctrines were conducted. In addition, they were together on a short term mission trip so as to understand the meaning of partnership and witness in a different context. Being together for 2 months engaged in the various activities and events, the young people found camaraderie and Christian witness."



Prayer Requests:

1. All praise and glory to God for the success of the first Synod Youth Internship Programme.
2. Pray that God continue to use these young people mightily in and beyond the walls of their local churches.

Tuesday, 3rd June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 99; Numbers 16:41-50; 1 Peter 4:7-11

Ms. Ruth Archer is a former CWM Partner in Mission sent by the United Reformed Church in UK, to the United Church of Papua New Guinea (Then the Papua Ekalesia). Ruth served the church as a nurse and midwife from 1966 until 1976. Her first term was spent at Fife Bay, a remote area on the southeast coast that was only accessible by sea. There she ran a small bush hospital and was responsible for the health of the local people, visiting them in their villages.

Ruth's second and third terms were spent at Iruna Hospital in the Mailu district where life was less difficult as for some of the time there was a resident doctor. The hospital was close to an airstrip, which meant that in the event of an emergency, patients could be transferred more easily. Ruth also taught at Iruna's Nurse Training School.

Ruth recalls walking through the bush at night to visit a very ill woman in a distant village. She carried a Tilly lamp, which only illuminated one step at a time. This gave her fresh insight into the verse from psalm 119, "Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light to my path."

In a country where the people speak over 800 different languages, the work of the Bible Society and the Bible Translators was very important. Ruth remembers being present at the celebrations when the people from an Inland Village first received the Bible in their own language.

Prayer Requests:

1. Remember in prayer the United Church of Papua New Guinea as it ministers to very diverse peoples.
2. Pray for the Bible Society and The Wycliffe Bible Translators as they work to provide the people with the Bible in their own tongue.
3. Give thanks for the valuable work of MAF, (Mission Aviation Fellowship) who transfer medical emergencies to hospital, and fly pastors and teachers to remote areas.

Wednesday, 4th June 2014

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

God alone is good
Let us ascribe all that is good
To the most high and supreme Lord God
And thank Him for everything.
He from whom all good things come.
And may He, who alone is true God,
Receive from us and every creature
All honour, praise, dominion and glory;
For every good is His,
And He alone is good.

Adapted from St Francis

Thursday, 5th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:1-9a; Acts 2:1-11



Rev. Buhle Mpofu is from the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) and attended the GETI under the sponsorship of CWM. It was held in Busan, Korea in November 2013. He remembers the “amazing kindness and hospitality” extended to him by the Korean host member churches. This act of love reminded him that mission is to love and care for all of God’s creation.

Through the seminar and discussions, Rev Mpofu has a deepened understanding of the Korean context, particularly the painful reality of churches ministering in a historically divided nation between the North and South. There were presentations which focus on this subject from different perspectives such as, the history of the Church in Korea, Asian Christianity, ecumenism, evangelism and mission in Korea. He also learnt about the minjung theology, a church’s resistance against military rule from the context and experiences of an oppressed population. This invokes much interest in Rev. Mpofu as it mirrors the Black theology or African Christianity in his context.

Another learning experience for him comes from the various lectures on the subject of mission and evangelism, especially the presentation by Stephen Bevans. Rev. Mpofu writes, “Stephen Bevan’s book attests that indeed, mission today is “from everywhere to everywhere” and noted that particularly because our age is an “Age of Migration”, *migrants and refugees from the beginning of the Christian era, are themselves becoming missionaries. Such an understanding of the world of Christianity should enable us to appreciate the significance of human mobility in enriching our Christian mission. I found this observation critical to my current studies in theology and migration.*”

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the church in Korea that they will be united and be focused in their ministry of evangelism and mission.
2. Pray for Rev Mpofu that the learning he received will equip and strengthen him for his ministry and his personal Christian walk.

Ms. Parfaite Rasolonjanahary is a Partner-in Mission from Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) to Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC). She has been a CWM-missionary for more than eighteen years now; 14 years with the United Church in the Solomon Islands (UCSI) from 1994-2007 and from 2008 with Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC).



Parfaite serves as a dentist whereas her husband Samoelijaona serves as a teacher. Her current dental missionary service is at the Hospital of Kirimati Island. Her work consists mainly to alleviate people's oral and dental problems and whenever possible, to prevent those sufferings. For example, teaching them the proper way of brushing teeth and convincing patients that extraction of tooth/teeth is not the best solution. In spite of inappropriate instruments and adequate medicines, Parfaite considers her work a big achievement when people in remote places still have direct access to dental services. She finds reward and joy in a job accomplished, and also seeing the smiling faces of people after treatment in the clinic. At the beginning of each morning, she allocates some time to meet God in prayer, committing the day and the work into God's hands.

These are some facts that she wants to share about Kirimati Island:

"The lack of potable water on Kiritimati Island compels us even to boil rainwater due to mosquito pupae and other larvae. Fresh produce is not readily available for a proper diet, due to sandy soil lacking nutritious minerals for planting. Therefore, locals and expatriates alike rely on frozen and processed imports. Most of Kiribati people possess generous hearts: people come to give us fresh fish, banana etc.. Since, the access to proper medicines can be complicated; we try not to succumb to illnesses. Prayer always sustains us. In the beginning, language was a great barrier for me. Now I experience an improvement communicating in the Kiribati language at least in my work."

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for more rain on Kirimati Island.
2. Pray that Parfaite may always have good health to carry out the mission God has assigned her to do.
3. Pray for their children that they may get good jobs.

Saturday, 7th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 20:1-21; Matthew 5:1-12



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; having its presence in all the 10 provinces of Zambia.

As UCZ's congregations grow in numbers and memberships, the need for trained ministers becomes more apparent. The UCZ's Theological College where ministers are trained is in the process of changing its status to be a university so as to enable higher education and learning. As such, this is a challenge to the Church in capacity building for its staff at the Synod Headquarters as well as the teaching staff to teach in the university. The Church is also sourcing educational and medical stocks for their schools and hospitals respectively.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the ministers who are undergoing training in the Church for effective ministry amongst the people and society.
2. Pray for the provision of educational and medical resources for the Church for their ministry tasks.

Sunday, 8th June 2014

Day of Pentecost

Bible Readings: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Numbers 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-21;

John 20:19-23



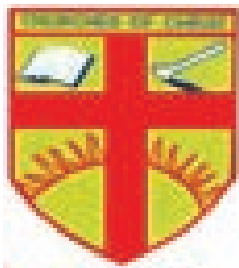
Source: <http://www.heqiart.com/4-stories-of-apostles--others.html>

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

Acts 2:1-4, NIV

Monday, 9th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Joel 2:18-29; Romans 8:18-24



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)**, 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.

- a. The finalization of CCM's constitution, so that it can be used as a final and true document of the Church.
- b. Develop and strengthen the spirit of fellowship among men, women, boys and girls as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the process of finalization of CCM Constitution, that it may be done smoothly and efficiently.
2. Pray for the fellowship amongst the members in the church, regardless of gender and age.

Tuesday, 10th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29;
Romans 8:26-27

The following is a short introduction from Dira Ephraim, General Secretary of **Nauru Congregational Church (NCC)**:

"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 sq miles and situated 33 miles south of the Equator in the Central Pacific Ocean. It is divided into 14 districts, with 12 tribes which are represented by the 12 pointed star of Nauru's flag. In 1968, Nauru achieved its Independence led by the founding President Hammer DeRoburt and in 1981, Nauru Congregational Church became a member Church of the Council for World Mission, and built also a partnership relationship with Pacific Conference of Church.

During the 2002 census, it was confirmed 60% of the population were Protestant attending church at NCC and continue to increase in numbers over the years. NCC has 7 district Churches, each headed by Senior Deacons/Deaconess, its own Executive Council of 5 members and Church Council of 21 members representatives from the district churches.

Prayer Requests:

1. We pray also for the people of Nauru to respect and uphold Nauru's landmarks and culture and the divine work of God's creation. The historical Christian values that saved this nation from war, pestilences and famine.
2. We pray and hope for CWM as a whole to continue to deepen partnership between its members, to help out in times of difficulties and share responsibilities in spiritual growth. To continue to encourage and/or restore those who were shattered, to foster unity with resources, provide funding, training and upgrading skills.
3. To share Prayers of needs, strength and guidance and allow the interaction bond of trust, peace, and love and love and touch upon others as a testimony and confirmation of God's Love.

Wednesday, 11th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Numbers 11:24-30; John 7:37-39

Heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of the universe,
before the works of your hands I am struck dumb with wonder.
Again and again you surprise me with the beauty of the earth.
I look up and the sky is new every morning;
day by day the face of nature changes.
I stumble upon the tiny flower and am startled by its colours;
I watch the spider weave its web and can scarcely believe what I see;
the relentless movement of the sea echoes the beating of my heart;
the bird's cry as the cat pounces disturbs my peace of mind.

Father, I cannot express what I feel about the world you have made.
Delight and fear, awe and curiosity:
so many emotions mingle together.

Forgive me for taking so much for granted,
and for not caring enough for all that you have given.

Father, I pray for all who work closely with nature:
for farmers and gardeners who grow our food,
for scientists and technicians who probe the secrets of the earth,
for foresters who plant and harvest the trees,
for those who forecast the weather,
for photographers and artists who capture the beauty for others to see,
for conservationists and all who guard the precious heritage of the earth.

Thursday, 12th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 8; Job 38:1-11; 2 Timothy 1:8-12a

CWM's Communications Manager, **Charis Bhaginanathan**, shares that the Communications team will be working towards a number of goals this year. Some areas we will focus on include:



- Sharing CWM's information in an accessible and interesting manner
- Using communications as a tool for advocacy
- Celebrating our individual diversity and communal spirituality through the exchange of stories to build connectedness and an inclusive community
- Embracing the linguistic diversity of CWM through our stories and communications
- Taking a definite and deliberate stand on social and world issues to reinforce our commitment to justice

She said, "We believe that communication expresses spirituality, enables sharing, celebrates diversity, builds connectedness, challenges injustice, and affirms justice. These are the foundations on which we will build all our communications including the website, newsletters, publications, videos, promotional material, and social media.

Our key messages will be determined by the social events and world experiences of the time. We want to share stories of injustice and helplessness, stories of courage in the face of adversity, and stories of persistent and powerful hope. These messages must be shared to bring about a positive change, and the Communications team at CWM will ensure these stories are heard."

Prayer Request:

As we build our team and continue God's work, we need your prayers to help us communicate effectively, bravely, consistently, and most importantly in a manner that will bring glory to God.

Friday, 13th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 8; Job 38:12-21, 2; Timothy 1:12b-14



Mr. Sonny Mwambe is a Partner-in Mission from United Church in Zambia(UCZ) who took the step of missionary service with Kiribati Protestant Church (KPC) 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 and way of life (**see picture**).

His family joined him in 2009 and the challenge that they faced had to do with their children's education. Their children, Alina and Lusekelo had to learn the local language even though English is an official language but it is hardly used. However, when their children became conversant with the local language, walking 10km daily to school was a joy. They preferred walking with friends to riding bicycles which they deliberately left behind. What was even more interesting was that, they stopped wearing their shoes. They wanted to look like any other children. They felt uncomfortable because this made other children to constantly look at them if they wear shoes. Sonny writes:

"My children seemed to have enjoyed their stay in Kiribati because of the peace and freedom which prevails in this place. There is very little restriction, no fences around homes, no trespassing my children could go to see their friends at any time of the day. Sometimes they even wanted to spend nights in their friends' homes. Because of this, one of the local person proposed to adopt one of my children. There is something you can appreciate with the people around here. They have a giving hand. They share whatever little they have. They may be poor but they still feel they have something to share. Whatever they have, they will share with you."

In 2011, Alina and Lusekelo went back to Zambia so that they could attend school there. Though Sonny came back in 2013 to continue his missionary service, his wife Matilda stayed behind in Zambia since they felt that their children need one of the parents to be with them. Such is the reality of mission – separation from family.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for missionaries and their families.
2. Pray for Sonny as he teaches at William Goward Memorial High School while his wife and children are back in Zambia. Ask God to keep them in good health and care.

The **Congregational Federation (CF)** is a federation of independent or Congregational churches formed in 1972. The objective of the Federation is the advancement of the Christian faith.



The Mission Development Officer of CF, Judith Mbaabu, shared: "During the months of April and May, the Church will be engaging the young people to consider their calling to serve on the *Core Team of CF-XTRA*. It is open to all young people over the age of 17 and meets to consider the role of young people within CF, and plans and facilitates CF-XTRA's activities.

The Church also hopes that it can be a better place for children to belong and to grow in faith. A series of *Child Friendly* coaching days is helping to improve children's participation in the whole life of their fellowship. A Child Friendly event on 4th October 2014, to be held at a Christian Retreat House in Suffolk, will also focus on the spiritual well-being of those who minister with children.



The *LEAF (Listening, Engaging, and Acting in Faith) Church Programme* begins with four workshop sessions that could be used as part of a Bible study, Sunday worship, house groups or a church away day. These sessions are designed to help churches identify its God-given mission and the resources that might help. They also lead up to the creation of a church learning plan that the church can work through and reflect upon over 12 months."

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for all young people in CF-XTRA and bless all those nominated for the core team.
2. Pray for all the churches in CF who are looking for ways to develop their work with children.
3. Pray for churches who are considering a learning programme and ask for God's blessing on them as they seek His wisdom and guidance.
4. Pray that the churches will have the vision and course to step out in faith in the coming year.

Sunday, 15th June 2014

Trinity Sunday

Bible Readings: Psalm 8; Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Matthew 28:16-20

I can't explain you, Lord.
But you being what you are,
And I being what I am,
That doesn't surprise me.
What I have learnt about you makes a kind of sense,
But I haven't got it all worked out.
Lord God, you made me, and everything else that is,
Or ever was, or ever will be.
That's an idea I can get hold of.
You are my Father,
And the Father of us all;
Your care and love are something we can all depend on.
That comforts me.
Your Son, Jesus, I know about.
I can grasp that his work is your work.
That when he died for us, that was your love displayed;
That when I face his challenge, that is your challenge.
When I meet him, I am meeting you.
Your Holy Spirit I know something about – not enough.
When I feel his power in me, that is your power.
This is no explanation, Lord, but a description of how it seems to me,
how I encounter you.

Being a Company in the Little Red Dot



Mr. Reynaldo Dandan, CWM's Corporate Secretary writes, "establishing a Company in Singapore is easy. In fact, it has attracted many businesses from all over the world to set-up their regional presence in Asia from this city-state. The legislation regarding company law (or the Companies Act) is a robust statute that encourages compliance and good governance. Thus, to prevent any internal collapse, any company (through its directors) registered or established in Singapore is required to rigorously exercise due diligence and financial accountability.

However, Singapore is not immune to financial crises, though it successfully grappled with the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis and the 2008 worldwide recession, the country managed to stay afloat due to its conservative economic outlook and strong corporate laws governing Singapore-based businesses and investments."

Prayer Requests:

1. The practice of business ethics in all economic enterprise not only in Singapore, or Asia but worldwide;
2. The testimony of Christian businessmen to model and exemplify the value of honesty, integrity and fair trade;
3. People who are working in Accounting & Company Regulatory Authority of Singapore, ensuring the compliance of companies and combatting against unfair business practices and other unethical business dealings;
4. Christians in the workplace to be a testimony in their respective companies.

Tuesday, 17th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 29; Job 39:13-25; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13



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. The Church of Bangladesh was declared and endorsed free and independent status on 30th April 1974. This process brings together the Anglican and English Presbyterian Churches under the umbrella of the Church of Bangladesh.

COB has a vibrant Youth Fellowship ministry. The constitution of the Youth Work Committee of the Church quotes Acts 1:8, "And you will bear witness for me" as the principal aim and objective" for the young people. The Church believes that young people are the present as well as the future of the Church. Therefore, the Youth Work Committee is tasked to help young people from Youth Fellowships that through the Fellowships, to support each other and also to commit to Jesus Christ, their Saviour and Redeemer. Furthermore, this also creates unity and co-operation among them, and also to be partakers of God's new creation. They also participate in the activities of the church and to keep relationship with other Christian Youth Associations.

Seminars and workshops are conducted to train the young people in building their relationship with Christ. The programmes are:

- Theological Training and bible study;
- Social Awareness Training (HIV/AIDS, Climate Change, Human Trafficking);
- Promotion of Higher Education and Vocational Training.

Prayer Request:

Pray for the various programmes of the Youth Work Committee in their task to disciple the young people to bear witness wherever they are.

Wednesday, 18th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 29; Job 39:26—40:5; John 14:25-26

Take from me, O Lord, that self-pity which love of myself so readily produces, and from the frustration of not succeeding in the world as I would naturally desire, for these have no regard for Your glory.

Rather, create in me a sorrow that is conformable to Your own. Let my pains rather express the happy condition of my conversion and salvation. Let me no longer wish for health or life, but to spend it and end it for You, with You, and in You. I pray neither for health nor sickness, life nor death. Rather I pray that You will dispose of my health, my sickness, my life, and my death, as for Your glory, for my salvation, for the usefulness to Your church and Your saints, among whom I hope to be numbered.

You alone know what is expedient for me. You are the Sovereign Master. Do whatever pleases You. Give me or take away from me. Conform my will to Yours, and grant that with a humble and perfect submission, and in holy confidence, I may dispose myself utterly to You. May I receive the orders of Your everlasting provident care. May I equally adore whatever proceeds from You."

Thursday, 19th June 2014

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



Prayer for the CWM Council meeting in Shillong, India (19-25 June 2014)

The next CWM Council meeting is set to take place in Shillong in June 2014. The hosts will be the Presbyterian Church of India (PCI).

The theme for this meeting is ***“Dare to hope, when everything says No”***. We hope that this theme will allow us to interrogate and challenge our fatalistic culture, which paints everything negative. We will focus on the positive experiences and energies around us as an alternative reading. Through the sessions we also want to proclaim a theology of hope in God alone, believing that even if everything really said ‘No’ there would still be a basis for hope.

As people from around the world will travel long distances to gather in Shillong for this meeting, we pray for safe travels and arrivals of all the participants. We also pray that our deliberations and decisions will reflect God’s purpose and respond to the cries for freedom and hope.

Prayer request:

We ask for your prayers that this meeting may be an enlightening time of thoughtful questioning, much learning, and healthy interactions, and that we all might be enriched by it to continue in our walk with God in faithful obedience.

Since 1981, the **Training in Mission (TIM)** Programme of CWM has been preparing the youth for ministry and mission of its member churches. The TIM Programme, administered by Empowerment and Training and brings together a group of 10-12 youth from the churches and ecumenical partners, for 10 (ten) months of intensive mission training. TIM is



- aimed at life formation and recognizing the locus of mission as the 'public space.' Participants undergo a process of learning new perspectives and developing skills for the life of witnessing.
- an enabling experience as it provides opportunities to participants for adventure of faith rooted in God and enacted in the world.
- a journey of transformation --- dialectic of self and society.

Rosana Thomas, from the United Church in Jamaica and Cayman Islands and one of the TIM 2013 participants, shares her experience in Kiribati.

"The most outstanding experience was during my visit to Abaiang and Eita villages as they are most affected by climate change in Kiribati. The land was flooded with water. I felt really hopeless and sad to see the condition, family had to move because their homes got damaged and it was unsafe for their children to go to school. Living with them open(ed) my eyes that no matter the circumstances, including disasters, all will be well if you help each other ... their belief in God is very strong...

This experience has transformed me to see a wonderful Island that God has created (and that despite) the possibility of (disaster) seeing (the People) has so much faith in God ... and this makes me think that there are People who are more safe and yet still they harm and made others life more uncomfortable... and they has less faith in God."

This year's TIM Programme is hosted by the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, Presbyterian Church of Aoretaea New Zealand and Kiribati Protestant Church from March to December 2014.

Prayer Request:

Pray for God's grace that the TIM Programme will continue to inspire the youth in continuing Christ work through mission and ministry for the greater good.

Saturday, 21st June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 131; Isaiah 31:1-9; Luke 11:14-23

Christian Aid has 41 supporting churches in the UK and Ireland and works in more than 40 countries. Our vision is no less than an end to poverty. We respond to humanitarian need, but we also campaign for an end to the causes of poverty.

We will soon launch a new climate change campaign. We know that climate change is having a huge impact on the poorest people of the world, even as they try to lift themselves out of poverty. Farmers in Zimbabwe and Cambodia tell us that weather patterns are changing and become much less predictable, so that it is much harder to grow a good harvest. In parts of Africa, there have been almost no rains for years. In Bangladesh, climate change brings increased floods, so that river water becomes salty and land is washed away. In Bolivia, glaciers are melting and supplies of water for irrigation are diminished. Christian Aid is working with partners to help adaptation to new climate patterns.

But we are also campaigning hard to address the causes of climate change. We know that without urgent action from governments, to cut emissions and to move towards a sustainable low carbon future, global temperatures will continue to rise. Climate change could make poverty permanent and time is running out. Even worse, those who will suffer most from the effects of climate change are those who have done least to create it, the poor of the world. To achieve 'climate justice' the world community must change our ways. The biggest obstacle is simply.. the will to do it. This is one of our toughest, but most urgent, campaigns...Please pray..

Picture: In Eastern Kenya, it hasn't rained properly for more than four years. By 2020 climate change could leave up to 250 million more people in sub-Saharan Africa in poverty. People now dig bore holes in river beds to find water.

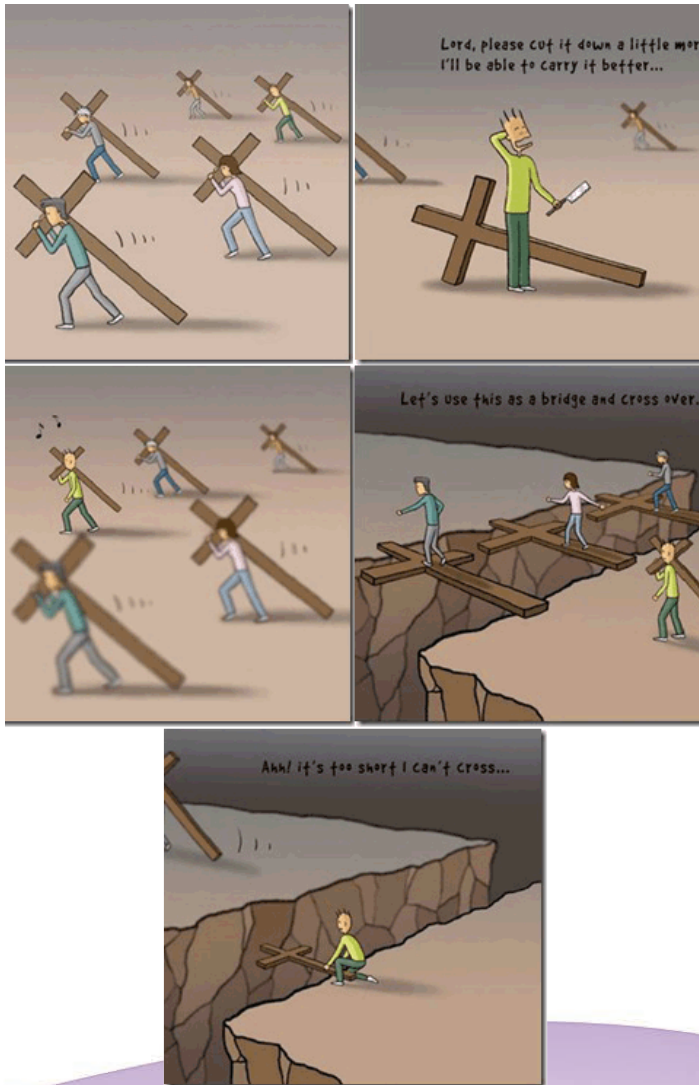
Photo: Christian Aid / Jodi Bieber



Sunday, 22nd June 2014

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Bible Readings: Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Jeremiah 20:7-13; Matthew 10:24-39



Source: <http://merecslewis.blogspot.sg/2011/12/is-christianity-hard-or-easy.html>

Monday, 23rd June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 104; Deuteronomy 32:1-14; Hebrews 10:32-39



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 of Welsh Independents and the Welsh Independents' College has co-worked successfully in the field of training for many years. The aim of both organisations is to serve the churches in order to enable them to fulfil their mission in contemporary Wales. The extramural courses have already nurtured many ministers and preachers and local leaders to

serve the churches. Some of the current courses offered as part of 'Training 2014' is as follows:

- Growing and leading within the Church
- The Church as a Team
- Leadership in Church
- Interpreting the Bible

Prayer Request:

Pray for the Church members who are attending the training courses, that they may be equipped well to serve the Church and the local community.

Elder Mok Cheh Liang, General Secretary of **Gereja Presbyterian Malaysia (GPM)** shares the following activities that the Church has been involved in recently:



One of our Church Without Walls strategies is Church Growth through church planting. We aim to plant 30 more churches from 2011 to 2020. The churches to be planted would reflect the multi-language society of Malaysia. We are working ecumenically with national language speaking denomination churches in order to plant more such churches. The following are example of such cooperations:

- a. Borneo Evangelical Mission Church (BEM) or SIB (Malay: Sidang Injil Borneo):
GPM set up The Presbyterian Bursary for BEM pastors doing master degrees in Sabah Theological Seminary. It also helps BEM to setup church-based kindergartens in the interiors of Sarawak so that their children would have the opportunity of pre-school education that is biblical base. GPM churches conduct Vacation Bible Schools for primary school students and teenagers in Sungai Baram/Mulu district areas and distribute national language Bible to them.
- b. Gereja Toraja Indonesia (GT):
MOU signed in 2010 for mission cooperation and church planting. The Gereja Toraja Kuala Lumpur was officially accepted as a congregation of the English Speaking Presbytery in Oct 2013.

Prayer Requests:

1. That there will be more Presbyterian churches coming together for mission in East Malaysia.
2. That the rights of the natives of Malaysia worshipping God in their heart language would not be deprived and that freedom of religion as guaranteed in our Federal Constitution would be respected.
3. That those who are against our Lord Jesus Christ will see the Light through the Word and turn to Him.

Wednesday, 25th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 104; Isaiah 66:7-13; Luke 12:22-31

Consider
the lilies
of the
field, how
they grow;
they toil not,
neither do
they spin:
And yet I say
unto you, That
even Solomon
in all his glory
was not arrayed
like one of these.
Matthew 6: 28,29



Thursday, 26th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 13; Micah 7:18-20; Galatians 5:2-6

Ms. Lalramnghaki Fanai who is affectionately known as “Rami”, is a Partner-in Mission from the Presbyterian Church in India (PCI) who was sent to Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS). She has been working in American Samoa since 2007 as a teacher at Kanana Fou High School which is owned and run by the church, teaching subjects such as US Government; US History and World History for grades 12, 11 and 10 respectively.

“Rami” focuses her attention on her students in terms of giving them guidance academically and spiritually. The Christian Club which she and her fellow missionaries from PCI have started during their second year of missionary service in American Samoa has given them an opportunity to interact with the students from different grade levels in a personal way. And she has experienced God’s merciful hands working in the lives of the students in many ways over the years. She writes, “We are grateful to God for giving us Christian Club here in Kanana Fou High School.”



One of the challenges that “Rami” and her fellow missionaries faced was housing accommodation. They had to pack and move a couple of times but that problem was solved in 2012 when CCCAS built a house for them on the campus of the theological seminary. And they are very grateful to CCCAS for provision of the housing accommodation.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray that spiritual revival takes place in the lives of the young people of CCCAS.
2. Pray that missionaries from CWM working in Kanana Fou High School will accomplish their mission among the students with love and patience.

Friday, 27th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 13; 2 Chronicles 20:5-12; Galatians 5:7-12

The following account on Ecological Justice is written by **Mr Ken Yeong**, Socio-ecologist with "Good Stewards Malaysia":

"Climate change has emerged as one of the most "wicked" challenges our world has seen. In reality, climate change is but one of a host of ecological justice crises that our modern globalized societies have created. Like climate change, it is not always plain to see how a consumer decision made locally can have national, regional and international ecological significance.

The recent international summit on illegal wildlife trade in London highlights just how complex ecological justice issues have become. As demand rises exponentially among the affluent for wildlife, tigers, rhinos and elephants are driven to the brink of extinction. In spite of this illegal trade being worth US\$19bn/year, dwindling wildlife and its impact on ecological goods and services is impoverishing local communities that are already struggling to survive.



A young Albatross being fed with 272 pieces of plastic along with the fish caught by its mother
Credit: Greenpeace

There is little "faithfulness, love and acknowledgement of God in the land" on our part, as image-bearers of a just and creation-loving and -sustaining God, to trade entwined socio-ecological health for excessive materialism. The imagery in Hos 4:1-3, however, has become rampant today. Let us come humbly before our Lord Jesus, Creator and Redeemer, and ask that He open our eyes to the ecological injustices around us. And that He will show us how we can be His vessels of transforming light in this dark issue."

Prayer Request:

Pray for Christ followers all over the world to be conscious of illegal trading and climate change, and find out how we can play a part in safeguarding and protecting ecology and our environment.

The **Congregational Christian Church of Tuvalu**

(Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu) traces its origins back to 1861. The London Missionary Society 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 percent 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, issues of violence and morality, the prevention of AIDS and problems of transport and communication affecting the country. The church seeks to enrich the faith of its members, to enhance the use of the Tuvaluan language and musical tradition, and to promote the full participation of women. There is as yet no ordained woman pastor. Women are very active in organizing church and community events, and celebrations. Other priorities are the development of island communities' churches in the capital for Christians who have migrated from the smaller islands, and the publication of a new hymnal and of the first study Bible in Tuvaluan. The church has appointed a full-time chaplain to the hospital and the prison, and hopes to establish also a chaplaincy for seamen. With the help of a consultant from the Church of South India and a local coordinator, a review of the curriculum for Sunday schools has been undertaken. Youth activities are organized by the Boys' Brigade and island youth groups. One of the major projects of the church is to establish a theological institution, to train people for the ministry and to provide refresher courses for pastors.

The church has fraternal relations with the Methodist Church in Fiji, the Congregational Christian Church in Samoa and in American Samoa, the Protestant Church in Kiribati, the Uniting Church in Australia and the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in New Zealand.

Source: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/congregational-christian-church-of-tuvalu>

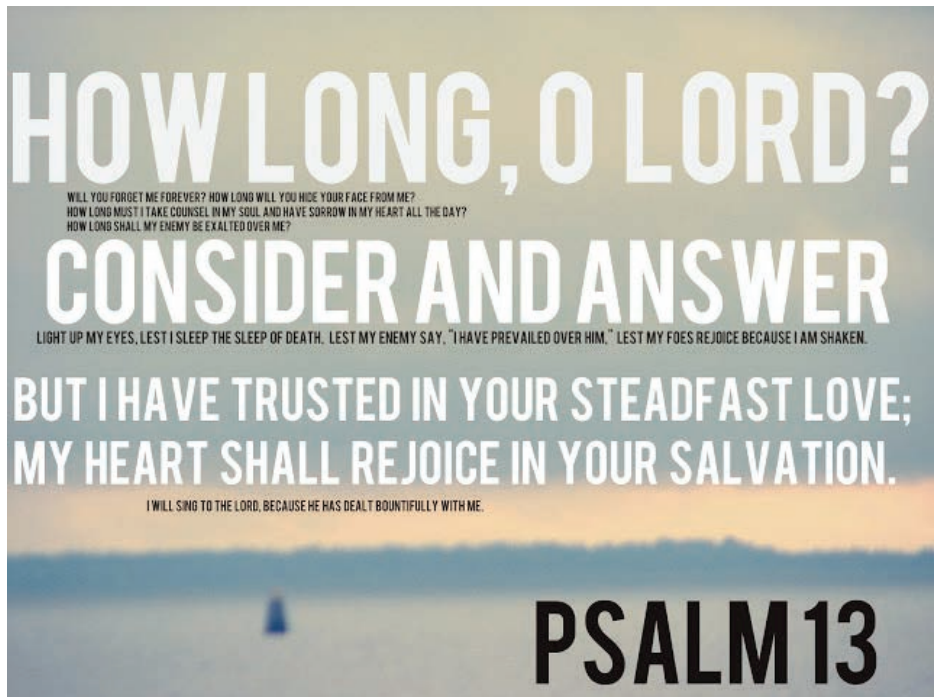
Prayer Request:

Pray for the projects of the Church, such as establishing a theological institution, to be successful.

Sunday, 29th June 2014

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Bible Readings: Psalm 13; Genesis 22:1-14; Matthew 10:40-42



Source: <http://www.nadinewouldsay.com/2013/02/a-walk-through-psalm-13.html>

Monday, 30th June 2014

Bible Readings: Psalm 47; Genesis 22:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Rev. Derek Silwenga is a Partner-in Mission from United Church of Zambia (UCZ) to United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA). He was sent for his missionary appointment in April 2010. He is accompanied by his wife, Edith, and they are serving the Mogoditshane congregation.

Rev. Silwenga is involved not only with his local congregation but also within the synod level of UCCSA. One of his responsibilities is the supervision of one of UCCSA's intern ministers. He is also the chaplain of the men's fellowship within the UCCSA synod of Botswana and also represents the synod at the Botswana Council of Churches (BCC). He also serves in the Botswana Training for Ministry Committee (BTMC) which has the responsibilities of preparing interns and those who are aspiring to enter the ministries in the church. The Mogoditshane congregation is getting more and more involved in the life of the local community. Rev. Silwenga writes,

"The church through the church choir has continued to support the children with disabilities at the 'Cheshire Foundation' in the Mogoditshane village through various donations, fundraising ventures, prayers and fellowship. Prison and hospital ministries are part of the spiritual and social programmes that the church has taken up. This indeed gives me joy as the church becomes more and more relevant to the community."



Prayer Request:

Pray for the Botswana Training for Ministry Committee as they supervise interns and those who are seeking for God's guidance for the Christian ministry.



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