

EAST ASIA

SUNDAY 26 Pray for Graham and Alison, Harry and Samuel working in a big city. Graham is busy balancing team responsibilities with being an accountant and looking after several groups for students who have returned from overseas. Harry is starting a new school this year, and Alison is helping a local leader's wife to start a study group for mums.

27 Pray for David and Jenn, Caleb and Jemima continuing with language study but also becoming more involved in the work with returned students. Ask that they will be able to have a good impact on the members of the beginners group that they are leading, and for progress with training up local leaders to help with the work. Think of Jenn establishing better links with Mums in her community.

28 Give thanks for Nia busy doing language study and meeting up with lots of ladies who have returned from overseas. Pray that her one to one times would be fruitful and that the local ladies she is training will grow to become effective study group leaders. Ask that Nia will make the most of her second year in Asia and that she

will have wisdom about what to do next.

29 Matt is continuing to work hard at his language study, and looking for new accommodation now that Josh has married and moved out. Pray for the small group that he has started to outreach to the students. Ask that Matt will get the right teaching job this autumn, and ask that his co-operation with Joy in reaching out to local students would be blessed.

30 Give thanks for Josh and YeYing married on April 11. Pray for them as they make preparations to come back and go to college in North London this autumn. Ask for a good start to their marriage and for healthy relationships and opportunities with YeYing's family and friends, most of whom have no faith.

SUNDAY 31 Pray for wisdom for the Chinese government. It is the 60th anniversary of the founding of the communist republic and the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen "disturbance". Pray that both events will be marked with peace and reconciliation. Ask that the effort to spread the benefits of wealth and development to the countryside would be effective, and that the on-going talks between the government and the leaders of the country's house church movement will bear fruit.

If you would like extra copies of *Prayer News* to pass on, or would rather receive it by email, please contact Lynda on 020 8691 6111 or email her at lblake@crosslinks.org

If you would prefer not to receive future copies please let Lynda know.

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CROSSLINKS
God's Word to God's World



TANZANIA

1 Thank God that Philip and Fiona Richardson in Iringa have found someone to home-school their daughter, Bethany. Pray for the ordinands Philip has been teaching who will be leaving the college in May. Pray for them and their families as they prepare to go to the parishes and for two of the students who will be returning to their homes in the DRC.

2 Thank God for Mote Magomba, the new Director of Amani Bible School. Please pray for Mote as he leads the school, that he will be given wisdom from God and will be able to work well with staff and students.

3 Please pray for rain to come in Tanzania where a large percentage of the population are subsistence farmers. The rains have stopped and started and in some places have not come at all. Many of the crops have been scorched and already the price of food has begun to rise. Pray for the people of Tanzania in these difficult circumstances.

4 Pray for Carol Derbyshire who returned to Msalato Theological College at the beginning of March after home leave. Pray for Carol as she continues to oversee the English language department at the college.

Pray for co-workers to be found for Carol and her team as they hope to run a new one year English course from September.

SUNDAY 5 Please pray for Bob and Jane Hurley who are working at Morogoro Bible College where Bob has recently been appointed as Principal. Pray for him in this role that he will look to God for wisdom and guidance and that he will know God's strength as he has many responsibilities. Pray for Bob and Jane's son, Matt, who has recently joined them in Morogoro.

6 Pray for Robert and Sharon Heaney, as they prepare to go with Crosslinks to teach at St John's University in Dodoma at the beginning of next year. Pray for Robert as he continues with his doctorate research and for Sharon as she teaches in a school.

7 Please pray for Bridget Hathaway working with a community-based rehabilitation programme in Karagwe. Thank God that recently one of the programme's volunteer village workers gave their life to the Lord. Thank God also for the openness of the local government to the possibility of providing education

PRAYER NEWS
April - May 2009



Simon Be Bin Htu lectured at Holy Cross Theological College in Myanmar for four years until until he became the Vice-Principal in 1998, and then Principal.

He has been selected by the Board of Governors to train in doctrinal studies at Trinity College, Bristol and will have a key role in enabling other students to take higher theological degrees at Holy Cross rather than study abroad for them. Simon's Ph.D studies will be completed in 2010.

See 13 April

for children with disability. Pray for ongoing good relationships between Bridget and the District Education Officer.

MYANMAR

8 Give thanks for the School of Biblical Training (SBT) held in Yangon in January, when 80 people attended for a week of training in principles of Bible exposition. Pray that there will be lasting results in their lives and ministry and that through them the church in Myanmar would be equipped for mission.

9 Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo is keen to see these SBTs develop and expand, as well as giving more concentrated training to some key people from each Diocese. Pray for discussions between him and Singapore based Crosslinks Mission Partner Neil Watkinson as they plan future training opportunities.

10 GOOD FRIDAY Please pray for Crosslinks' Mission Partners, Associates, Study and Project Partners, SMILE Teams and NEXT folk as they seek opportunities to talk to people about the significance of the day.

11 Give thanks for the opportunity Tim Houghton and Neil Watkinson had to develop relationships and run a condensed SBT in Mandalay. Pray for Bishop Noel Nay Lin and Rev Kyaw Myo Naing, the diocesan secretary, as they seek to build on

what was learned and share it among the churches.

SUNDAY 12 EASTER SUNDAY Praise God for the risen Lord Jesus, and pray that His worldwide Church may seek first the Kingdom of God in all that it does.

13 Crosslinks Study Partner Simon Be Bin Htu is due to spend April to June in England finalising his thesis. Simon is currently Principal of Holy Cross Theological College in Yangon: pray that his time in England will be fruitful and that the college in Yangon will be well led in his absence.

14 Bishop Barnabas of Sittwe has been a good friend of Crosslinks for many years. He is about to retire and at the time of writing elections to choose his successor as bishop are imminent. Please pray that God will so direct the elections that the new bishop will be a man who can lead the diocese forward in mission and ministry under the authority of God's Word.

15 Plans are moving forward for another SBT in the Karen refugee camps on the Thai/Burmese border at the end of August. Please pray for the arrangements for that and for the small team that will lead, particularly as they look at the possibility of providing a new advanced level alongside the basic Level 1 training.

SUNDAY 17 Jenny Merritt would appreciate prayer for her old colleagues and students at Nekemte School for the Deaf. Pray for commitment, unity and integrity in everything the Mekane Yesus Church and its staff are doing there.

18 Pray for Karen Salmon and her team at Mekelle Youth centre. They need to recruit long-term computer, English and sports teachers. Jon and Karen lead six Bible studies and four Bible clubs each week, but could do more with others to share the load.

19 Karen, Jon and Kristi have dreams of expanding youth work into the countryside. An initial step in this has been Karen's English Bible Club at Romenat School. Pray for major decisions that will be made this month regarding the future of Mekelle Youth Centre.

20 Last year's early rains failed and the main rains in the winter failed in a number of places around the country. Please ask God to send rain to Ethiopia over its winter months from June to September. Farmers are desperate for a good harvest this year.

21 The Ethiopian government introduced new legislation for non-government organizations. Pray for the implications of this on fund raising and involvement in issues of justice and human rights.

22 Over the past ten years mission has changed with more short-

term teams and individuals getting involved. Pray for wisdom in how to use the skills and gifts of many offering for service in Ethiopia for two weeks or up to one year.

WEST AFRICA

23 Ulric and Annabel Gerry live in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria with their children; Meriel, Caitlin and Iona. Ulric's works largely with expats who tend to find it difficult to integrate into the local churches, and Annabel is working as the Senior Governance Advisor for DFID (The UK Department for International Development). Please pray for them with busy and varied workloads.

24 Sena Ounate Lare is President of the Advisory Board of the Local Bible Translation Association in Togo. They are promoting the New Testament in Moba, doing literacy work so that people can be able to read the Bible in their mother tongue and preparing to start translation of the Old Testament into the local language (Moba). Please pray for the 12 current literacy classes, and pray for wisdom for the board while Sena is on UK leave.

25 Plans are currently being made for a SMILE team to go to The Gambia later in the summer and take part in Christian outreaches there. Pray for the young people making up the team, and for Antonia Instone as she co-ordinates this.



Karen Salmon currently works on a new project at Mekelle in the north-east of Ethiopia. She teaches HIV/AIDS Awareness to young people. This involves formal certificate classes, peer education training and follow-up, anti AIDS clubs for girls, a drama group and video shows.

The youth centre also offers Computer and English education, library facilities, and opportunities for recreation and sports.

See 18 May



Debbie and Alun Burt both studied at LBC and went out to South Africa separately in 2006 to work with a homeless project called U Turn outside Cape Town. They got married in 2007.

Alun is still working for U Turn and Debbie is running a project for vulnerable children called 'Arise'. They have been accepted as associate mission partners with Crosslinks, and still need some funding.

See 14 May

ship of the Chairman, Matthew Payne; that they would explore different ways of working between trustees and staff and know their different respective roles. Pray for good candidates to be elected to the General Council this year and that the Lord would provide for the society's financial needs in times of recession.

SOUTH AFRICA

SUNDAY 10 Nat and Helen Schluter ask that we pray for closer walks with the Lord as they read and pray together every morning and as they encourage their children to read their Bibles and pray too. Pray for family time as they live life and work for the Lord - that they would know the love of God, and that they would love one another as a result.

11 Please pray for Johannesburg Bible College where Nat is the principal. Give thanks for the new building and offices. This has been a huge blessing and has arrived at just the right time as student numbers increase dramatically.

12 Pray for the mid-week church home group led by Jamie and Helen Read in Port Elizabeth. They plan to invite some of the BIEC (Bible Institute of the Eastern Cape) students along - so pray that the Bible studies would stimulate Christian growth and meaningful fellowship.

13 Jamie and Helen are preparing to welcome a team from their home church in Sevenoaks in July. They hope that the team will gain an insight into the work of BIEC and take Bible classes in Walmer township primary school and assists Pastor Zolile Dayimani's church in some practical work.

14 Alun and Debbie Burt are working in Heiderveld, outside Cape Town. Alun is working with U Turn, a project for homeless men and women, and Debbie is working with vulnerable children. Pray for protection for them in their work, and for opportunities to share the gospel and see both children and adults come to a living faith in Jesus.

15 Ray and Rebekah Brown are working in a team setting up a new church plant in Durban. The aim of the plant is to reach students at the university with evangelism and discipleship. 15,000 of the students are from different parts of Africa. It is also aiming to bridge-build into the surrounding community. Please pray for Ray and Rebekah's role in this, and the church's financial situation during this economic crisis.

ETHIOPIA

16 Please pray for Hazel Maunsell and her team as they write and publish their books. All books are written from an Orthodox perspective and aim to bring Biblical truth and clarity to their readers.

16 Relief work continues following the devastation of Cyclone Nargis nearly a year ago. Pray for the teams from the Church of the Province of Myanmar who travel regularly to 'Ground Zero' to provide aid and supplies to families still struggling to rebuild homes and lives. Pray that alongside the practical help the gospel message may be proclaimed.

SOUTH AFRICA

17 Pray for Jem Hovil as he develops the work of Entrust Foundation (formerly *Trust in Christ*), especially with its growing emphasis on direct involvement in training and curriculum development alongside its ongoing donor role. Pray too that more partnerships with other organisations will develop, leading to co-investment in projects and an expansion of the work.

18 Brian and Minah Koela lead Muizenberg Community Church (MCC), of which the Hovil family is a part. Pray for the Koelas as they lead the church in its vital work of "Building a diverse community in Christ to reach and serve the world" - a demanding task, particularly given their depth of involvement in the local community. Pray for strength and wisdom, and for Jem's involvement in that process.

SUNDAY 19 Pray for Dean and Paula Finnie, redeployed to Grace Community Church in Macassar. They have been specifically asked to lead the

church's practical social work and to build up a team who will take this on. They will also be specifically involved with Bible teaching and training in the church and with evangelism.

20 Sihle Mooi is now leading a church plant in Soweto. Give thanks that the church has recently moved in to a new building for its meetings. Pray for the leadership team as they work out ways to maximize the new venue's use.

21 Glenn and Lizzy Nesbitt work in Johannesburg, where Glenn teaches at Johannesburg Bible College and ministers at Soweto Community Church. Pray for the Lord's continued help in preparing lessons for teaching, and pray for Lizzy to find a job outside of JBC.

22 Nerena Neathercoat has been working for two and a half years in Durban, South Africa. She helps organise student ministry on the university campus called The Bible Talks and is involved with training apprentices from across the region in a local training course, called the Entrust Training Course.

FRANCE

23 Please pray for Andy and Uta Buckler with their five children who are working with the Reformed Church in Mantes-la-Jolie just outside Paris. Their desire for this year is two-fold: to keep 'running the race as to win the prize', and to take their church



Dean and Paula Finnie (with Joel and Eli) are working with Grace Community Church in Macassar, South Africa. Their primary remit as leaders in the church is to develop the church's work in the community focusing specifically on evangelism and discipleship.

Dean is also involved in preaching, teaching and training in the church and Paula hopes to build on her past experience in home based care and HIV work.

See 19 April

PRAYER FOCUS



Peter and Miranda Harris have been based near Arles in France since 1997 as International Co-ordinators of A Rocha, a Christian environmental organisation working in over fifteen countries around the world..

Their role is to provide support, training and co-ordination for A Rocha's community based conservation projects, giving expression to the Christian conviction that "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

See 24 April

deeper, further, and into greater maturity. Please pray for Andy and Uta and the church that they learn to be sensitive to God's guidance and to walk in His power.

24 Please pray for Peter and Miranda Harris, working with A Rocha International and living in the south of France. It has been a busy time for Peter as he is currently working as President and also interim Director as the previous Director left in the middle of last year. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for him in leadership and for the right person to be found to be Director of A Rocha International.

25 Please pray for Edward and Laura Nelson with their three children working in Paris. Thank God for the way He is working in the lives of those who are coming to the church plant that Edward leads and for the fact that more people came to the two prayer meetings held recently than any other prayer meetings since they began 17 months ago!

SUNDAY 26 Please pray for Ben and Rachel Tanner, SMILE volunteers who are working alongside the Bucklers in Mantella-Jolie. Thank God for the work they have been doing with the youth. Please pray for a youth trip they are organising to the UK in April. Pray for all the practical arrangements and that it will be an opportunity for the young people to be used by God and to grow in their faith.

UNITED KINGDOM

27 Please pray for Gilbert and Uzma David who serve at St Paul's Church Slough as full-time parish workers with particular responsibility for work amongst Asians. Pray they would be wise in removing cultural barriers without watering down the gospel, or preaching another gospel. Pray that many Asians would be saved through their work.

28 Pam Chandra continues the work of her late husband, Afri, amongst Asians in the U.K. Please pray that she would be given strength to raise her three sons in the fear of God and to make the most of every opportunity she gets to share the gospel.

29 Remember Tim and Tanya Davies at Christ Church Central, Sheffield. Pray that they would teach the message of Jesus accessibly, understandably, and relevantly to everyone. Pray that they would be able to start more churches in Sheffield for people who don't go to church.

30 Pray for Henry and Dinah Shaheen who work to promote the gospel amongst the Assyrian community in Europe. Please pray that God would open many doors for their work and that he would give Henry endurance as he tries to work part-time to fund his work for the gospel.

MAY

1 Simon Dowdy is the senior minister at Grace Church Dulwich. Please pray for him and his church as they study Hebrews in their small groups this year that they would "pay more careful attention" to the one through whom God speaks and be those who live not by sight but by faith.

2 For Phil and Louise Keymer and John and Flick Hindley working at The Plant in Manchester. The Plant recently had its annual weekend away, where Paul Baxendale taught them from Revelation. Pray that the church would live out what it has learned and overcome every trial and trouble as they wait for Christ's return!

CROSSLINKS

SUNDAY 3 Please pray for the Ireland operation within Crosslinks. After a long period without a team leader they then had a year with two and now are without again. Pray for the existing team of Pam Smyth, Hazel Coulter and Val Ellis, supported by volunteer Brian Blacoe, and that God would raise up the leadership they need.

4 The Crosslinks Camps in Northern Ireland this summer have teaching by Mike Morfett and Geoff Haugh at the Junior camp and Tim Anderson, Mark Smyth and Peter Bourke at the Senior

Camp. Pray for faithful teaching and prepared hearts.

5 Pray for the new Church and Member Team (CMT) in England. This team has undergone the biggest changes in blending members of two teams into one new one. Pray for Alan Purser, Team Leader, in the many new challenges he faces.

6 The Means of Mission Team (MMT) has experienced less change in terms of role but more change in terms of personnel. Antonia Instone has joined recently to cover the Smile and Project programmes. Krista Potts is taking on the administration of the Schools of Biblical Training programme. Pray for Jo Sayer as she gives leadership to the Team.

7 Pray for the small Finance and Administrative hub with Lynda Blake, Peter Cottingham, Peter Gordon and Yemi Lawal, that they would seek to provide a good service to the other staff teams. We are grateful for improvements in this area already.

8 Pray with thanksgiving for Giles Rawlinson as Operations Director as he seeks to guide and steer the CMT and MMT as well as the Ireland staff and the finance and administrative hub; that he would have the right priorities and know what is important and what is urgent.

9 Pray for the trustees, the General Council, under the leader-

PRAYER FOCUS



Simon Dowdy writes:

"Thank you for your prayers for Grace Church, Dulwich. We are full of thanks to God for the wonderful message of the gospel and the promise of membership of God's family for all who believe in Jesus."

See 1 May