

A note from Allen and Jean Edwards



Thank you for your prayers for Jean. Her chemo has now ended. The oncologist decided to stop it prematurely after 5 sessions rather than the full 9 as it was a preventative measure and she was reacting badly to the drugs. Since then Jean has had an X-ray and two scans. She has an appointment with the oncologist at the end of the month to discuss the results and hopefully clarify the way forward.

We are involved in the Clockhouse Church, an outreach on the estate here, which is part of Myriad, a CofE initiative to promote new expressions of church. They had a weekend away last weekend which was really encouraging. We have really seen the Lord at work and the Clockhouse Church on the estate is growing with plans to expand the leadership team, the number of home groups and also the number of services as more and more people become involved. The area Bishop is planning to visit the Cafe@4 Service in September.

A couple who met through Clockhouse are being married next month, one of the members has been confirmed, and two others are planning to be baptised and confirmed in September.

Items for prayer in July/August:

1. That PCC gives approval for Cafe@4 to continue and extra Clockhouse Church activities to be developed.
2. Our involvement with outreach on North Stoneham Park as members of the Clockhouse Church leadership team and with Café@4.
3. Cafe@4 service on 21 July, the planning meeting on 25 July and the Bishop's visit in September.
4. My continued involvement as a Foundation Director (representing Salisbury Diocese) of the Acorn Multi-Academy Trust during these challenging times for schools.
5. My continued involvement as a visiting Professor at Cardiff University.
6. Clockhouse outreach team meetings on 18/7, 1/8, 9/8 & 12/9.

Eagles Wings Ministries UK Ltd.

Flat 3, Maiden View Court, 5 Widcombe Street, Poundbury, Dorchester, DT1 3BS

07731 172978 or 01305 520811

e-mail office@eagleswingsministries.org.uk

www.eagleswingsministries.org.uk

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Leaders - refreshed in Christ: renewed in mission
"those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31

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Dear Praying Friends,

One of the great joys and privileges of visiting and maintaining contact with Christian brothers and sisters across a variety of countries is that it gives a glimpse and foretaste of heaven. The Apostle John writes in Revelation chapters four and five of the glimpse of heaven which the Lord granted him. He saw and heard the whole of heaven combining in worship of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb standing in the midst of throne with the marks of sacrifice, yet very much alive. They *"sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.'"* Rev. 5:9-10.

Here we see the risen, living Lord Jesus. The scroll is the world's destiny until the Lord comes again. No emperor, dictator or king, no financier, political leader or super-educated academic past, present or future could open the scroll. Only the Lord Jesus was worthy to open the scroll because of His death and resurrection. A reminder that in the precarious world situation Jesus is Lord and God is on the throne, notions of worldly power inverted.

Here we see the power of the Gospel to break down barriers. *"by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation"*. That's why visits, like the one we have just made to Rwanda, give us a foretaste of heaven. The Lord continues to bring together the Nicodemuses a Jew, the anonymous Roman soldiers, the Simons of Cyrene (north African), and the Ethiopian officials; the impetuous Peters, the politically zealous Simons, the sceptical Thomases, the caring Philips and the deep thinking Johns of today. We are brought together through the sacrifice at Calvary of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gracious work of the Holy Spirit – the Body of Christ on earth and the glorious company of heaven.

Here we see our urgent calling as priests whose role was intercession and teaching. We are commissioned to intercede for a broken world and hurting people and to make Jesus known in word and action, that others from every modern day, tribe and language and people and nation may come to know Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

With our love in Jesus,
Mike and Angie

EAGLE WINGS MINISTRY ACTIVITIES IN BUKAVU DIOCESE, DRC

Rev MUHINDO MATABARO Jean-Paul

I am fine in Montpellier and my studies are going very well. Now there is nothing to complain about climate and living cost. Eagle Wings Ministry has been a great blessing to me! My thesis writing is hard work so I am usually working day and night to see how it is possible to make some progress before I return to Bukavu on August 29th.

Last Sunday evening, I was talking with my family through a WhatsApp call. They are fine except my mother of 78 years who is suffering with blood pressure. Three of my children are at university and the other nine (*he and his wife also have a number of his late brother's children as part of this number*) at primary and secondary schools need prayers for their last part of fees.

Regarding my studies, please, know that since I arrived in France in March, I am working hard, struggling to see how I can possibly have the completed draft of my thesis before the end of my stay at Montpellier University. Under my Thesis Advisors (Professor Céline Rohmer in France and Professor Vincent Muderhwa in Goma, DRC), I am analyzing by Socio rhetoric exegesis approach, a very long text, the whole chapter of John 6. My purpose is to defend an hypothesis of the *Existential Quest in the Bread of Life Discourse*. As Jesus cares for the crowd by performing a miraculous sign of feeding five thousand with loaves he associated the Word and bread. Instead of understanding the auto revelation meaning of Jesus's sign, people continued desiring and searching for him, not as God who is able to satisfy their needs of both body and spirit, but as a Miracle Worker who can solve their material and physical problems. So, Jesus pronounces a discourse to help them understand his divine identity, using the symbol of bread: "I am the bread of life, whoever eats my flesh will never go hungry and whoever drinks my blood will never go thirsty" Eating and drinking means believing in Him as the one sent by God to bring life to people. Unfortunately, many turned away from Jesus and did not go with him any more.

The paradigm of the Existential Quest in the Bread of Life Discourse is very significant in the context of the African Church. What I have experienced in Goma and Bukavu due to poverty and other problems relating to political instability and unemployment. Is that many people enter the church every day, may be for baptism, theological studies, ordination and other ministries relating to discipleship but many church members do not desire to have a personal experience with Jesus as Lord and Saviour. They just want to get a superficial solution to their existential problems: healing, job, food and non-food assistance, fiancée, elevation, honour, accommodation, etc. Still many others create churches as a way to get money. Others use their spiritual gifts as a skill to generate money for themselves and for their own glory. So the church in Africa, especially in DRC, is facing continual divisions with a certain proliferation of revival churches/sectarians. Prosperity Gospels and prayer rooms where there are false prophets are appreciated more than ordinary churches.

I am so thankful for the financial assistance I receive from Eagle Wings Ministry UK to help me since I started these studies about 3 years ago. I pray God to bless you abundantly and to show his splendour through the result of my studies.

Please pass my greetings to all the brothers and sisters at EWM UK.



Pastor Sundar, Karumuru, Andhra Pradesh, South India

Pastor Sundar continues to try and run seminars for local church leaders. Please pray about the frustrations surrounding sending money to him to subsidise these seminars. There has been a major problem in him receiving the gift EWM UK sent recently. Despite a number of attempts by him and by Ian our treasurer, it has not been possible for the money to be credited to his mission's account. It has always gone through smoothly before. If it is not credited it will be returned by the bank to the EWM UK account. This will make it very difficult for Pastor Sundar to afford to run the seminars. Please pray.



Pastor Sylvance, Okumu, Kenya



There have been significant challenges to life and ministry in recent weeks due to widespread flooding. Mike should have been going there for a conference in May but had to postpone for personal reasons which was fortuitous because pastors would not have been able to attend. EWM UK was able to send a modest gift towards the help needed by some of the pastors. Please continue to pray for ministry in Kenya following not only the floods but also the recent political unrest.

NEWS OF ODEL RUGEMA IN KIGALI, RWANDA

Odel and Dinah's wedding celebrations were spread over two days. Friday was at Dinah's home village in the far northeast. This was a traditional ceremony of Introduction in which the families agreed the wedding in a formal ceremony. The wedding took place on Saturday followed by a wonderful reception. Mike preached at the wedding.

