

A note from Allen Edwards

We would value prayer over the coming weeks that Jean stays well. Since Christmas she has had another round of chemotherapy although as with her previous two rounds this was stopped prior to the last dose because her white blood cell count was too low to have it safely. We are now waiting for an appointment at Southampton to discuss an operation.

There have been some encouraging developments with the outreach on the estate with numbers at Café @ 4 growing and more people becoming involved with outreach on the estate.



Items for prayer for February are:

Our involvement with outreach on North Stoneham Park as members of the Myriad team and with Café Church on 18 February.

1. My continued involvement as a Foundation Director (representing Salisbury Diocese) of the Acorn Multi-Academy Trust during these challenging times for schools.
2. My continued involvement as a visiting Professor at Cardiff University.
3. 4/2 Leading & preaching at 8:30 at St Francis Church.
4. 11/2 Leading & preaching at 8:30 and preaching at 10:00 at St Francis Church.
5. 17/3 Café@4
6. 31/3 Leading and preaching at St Nics North Stoneham Park.

News from Odel

I want to take this opportunity to share some exciting developments in my life. I am delighted to inform you that I have resettled well since returning to Rwanda a few months ago. The transition back into my home country has been smooth, and I have had the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

I am thrilled to announce that I have recently been appointed as the Diocesan Secretary of Kigali Diocese (Anglican Church). While I am grateful for the trust that has been placed in me I am also praying that I may be able to serve according to the expectations and that the Lord will be with me through it. The previous Diocesan Secretary has been mentoring me for the past two months, and I am pleased to say that I am now ready to work on my own.

While taking on this new responsibility, I am fortunate to have remained in Remera Parish, serving under other senior pastors who are guiding and supporting me in my growth as a minister. Their mentorship has been instrumental in shaping my understanding of pastoral practice.

My ordination is scheduled to take place this summer; the exact dates are still to be confirmed. I kindly ask for your prayers as I continue to grow into ministry. The journey has been challenging yet rewarding, and I am grateful for the love, encouragement, and prayers that many of you have extended to me. Your support has been invaluable, and I am truly blessed to have such amazing people in my life.

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UK Registered Charity 1132628



*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,

"What do you think about sending asylum seekers and/or refugees to Rwanda?" is a question I keep getting asked. Answer? I believe it is totally wrong, for the policy lacks any moral credibility. However, if people are going to be sent overseas there are far worse places to which they could be sent. In conversations about this with some senior church leaders in Rwanda, their individual responses have been. "The reason we are ready to welcome refugees is that so many of us have experienced life as refugees, including the President."

Since the *Bibby Stockholm*, moored in Portland Harbour, started to accommodate asylum seekers, a number of churches in Weymouth and Portland have welcomed men from the barge. One church has twenty-five attending services regularly. Co-operation between churches has led to a weekly Bible study, a coffee and chat afternoon and a meal, helped by a local Farsi-speaking couple as most are from Iran. Some of the men are preparing for baptism at the end of January. Getting to know the men individually as brothers in Christ with a strong faith in Jesus means they are not simply viewed as asylum seekers. Some have testimonies of living for Christ in Iran. Others have come to Christ through churches around this country.

It has been, and continues to be, both a challenge and an opportunity for the churches as they seek to apply the teaching of Scripture: *"When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."* *Leviticus 19:33-34.*

And the words of Jesus: *"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me....."* *Matthew 25:35-36.*

What the future holds for these men is in the hands of the Home Office who face enormous challenges. As we pray for wisdom and justice it's important to see the wider context of a broken world for which Christ died. According to the UNHCR by June last year there were 36.4 million refugees and 6.1 million asylum seekers worldwide plus 62.5 million people displaced in their own countries because of conflict. As the hymn words it, *"Facing a task unfinished that drives us to our knees."*

With our love in Jesus, Mike and Angie

EAGLE WINGS MINISTRY ACTIVITIES IN BUKAVU DIOCESE MAY–DECEMBER 2023

Rev MUHINDO MATABARO Jean-Paul *Eagle Wings Ministry Representative,
Bukavu, DR Congo*

Pastors and Lay Leaders Training at Idjwi

June 15th –16th we gathered 29 pastors and lay leaders for two days discussing *Integrity and Faithfulness* as in 1 Timothy. The participants were from Anglican parishes, Pentecostal, Baptist and Evangelical churches of Idjwi Island in Lac Kivu.



Conference in Muhumba, Bukavu



September 1st-3rd we organized a great conference on *Seeds and Fruit of Generosity* (2 Cor 9:6) with 493 in attendance. This conference was closed by a concert of choirs from 27 different churches in Bukavu and around, representing Anglican, Methodist, Lutheran, Pentecost, Baptist, Assemblies of God and Evangelical churches. We saw God showing his splendor and people were spiritually refreshed.

Pastors and their spouses retreat in Bukavu

In October the Lord enabled us to gather 36 Pastors and their wives for a one-day retreat at MAMANI Center of the Roman Catholic Church of Bukavu. The topic was *Your Reasonable Service* (Rom 12:1).

Church Leaders' Conference in Kavumu

December 27th - 29th we organized a three-day conference for 49 pastors considering *Called to Lead, Called to Serve*. The attendees were from 21 churches: Pentecostal, Baptist, Evangelical, Lutheran, Nazarean, Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Revival.



Assistance to Kalehe Catastrophe Victims

To assist the victims of the calamity that happened to Kalehe territory, we offered uniforms and school supplies to 40 children (21 girls and 19 boys) who were orphans from pastors' families for the 2023-24 academic year.



Prayer Requests

Pray for EWM Ministry in DR Congo. May God give necessary provision for the ministry activities in 2024.

Pray for pastors and Christian families in this critical time of economic crisis following the war in Eastern DRC and severe poverty in the country. May God provide ways to access food for the hungry.

Pray for Jean Paul's PHD studies as he is now applying for a Shengen Visa enabling him to be at Montpellier University of France from March to September 2024.

Pastor George, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, South India

We have known Pastor George for approximately eighteen years. He continues to do a great work, running an orphanage, providing for the needs of widows and homeless people, especially at Christmas. Unfortunately he does not have his government's permission to receive funds from overseas organisations such as EWM UK, but he can receive private gifts. Below is his brief summary of what he and his wife, Suhitha, did over Christmas, together with photos. Please continue to pray for them, especially as opposition increases.

"Greetings in Jesus' name. By God's grace and your support and the support of others of God's children, we gave new clothes to the orphan, poor children. They enjoyed Christmas well. Then, we helped the people who are sleeping on the roadside without any shelter. They asked us to donate tarpaulin sheets to cover themselves when the rain falls and the snow falls. Then we helped the very poor people by providing saris and dhoties. The best foods were served—biryani, chicken 65, curd rice.



They enjoyed the joy of Christmas.

We shared the gospel with them."



Thank you so much for your prayers and support. God bless you.



Ian and Sue Walton

We feel that prayer has been answered as when we saw the consultant in December. Sue's cancer was stable and our next appointment with the consultant is early June with a scan a couple of weeks prior. Sue does, however, have some problems with gallstones which cannot be treated because of their proximity to one of the major tumours in the gallbladder and bile duct. Prayer for that to settle down and for the cancer to remain stable would be appreciated. Thank you .