

Allen Edward's Diary

Please pray for Jean's and my involvement with outreach, café Church and as members of the Myriad team on North Stoneham Park, Eastleigh, Hampshire .



February

5th Leading and preaching at St Francis

15th Leading and preaching at St Martin's in the Wood

March

5th Presiding at Communion St Francis

Leading and Preaching St Peter's, Boyatt Wood

12th Preaching St Francis at 08.30 & 10.00

and for my continued involvement as a Foundation Director (representing Salisbury Diocese) of the Acorn Multi-Academy Trust during these challenging times for schools and my continued involvement as a visiting Professor at Cardiff University.

News from Odel

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It's been a while since I sent you an update but it has been crazy busy with the MA studies. I am thankful to the Lord that term one finished well.

I am also grateful to have been invited to spend 10 days of the Christmas break with Mike and Ange's family. It was lovely and refreshing to spend Christmas and New Year's Day with their family.

Please pray for me for I am about to start the process of writing my final dissertation. The topic will be "The Role and Impact of Child Sponsorship Programs in Social Economic Development" and I'm thinking of Compassion International Rwanda which might require me to travel to Rwanda for research. Please pray for God's provision and guidance in all this. Please pray for my family, especially my dad who is unwell. Thank you very much. I wish you a happy new year of 2023!

Mike is Interim Moderator for Weymouth Baptist Church during their vacancy. This is reflected in the Prayer Diary which, because of the additional entries and extra month, is now a separate page.

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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*

Prayer News 103 Feb– April 2023



Dear Praying Friends,

If oak trees could talk!

*"Change and decay in all around I see,
O, Thou who changest not, abide with me."*

Henry Francis Lyte's words echo through the centuries. As evangelist J. John wrote in his Philo Trust article this morning, *"many of us feel that the changes we are now experiencing are more dramatic and disorientating than any we have known."* He goes on to suggest two elements that contribute to this, *"on the one hand there is a new morality with a brazen rejection of truth and righteousness. On the other, a cold morality so that we are surrounded by harsh new rules and regulations."* However, his article is not doom and gloom but sees new opportunities amidst the challenges.

Isaiah wrote of new opportunities and hope to Israel in Is. 61:1-3, part of which the Lord quoted at the start of His ministry – His manifesto of the Kingdom of God with ramifications for beyond those of any political plans or pressure group's strategies! But, verse 3 that caught my attention, the promise, *"...to comfort all who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them ... a garment of praise instead of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour."*

If oak trees could talk they could recount stories of different eras of history, the good, the bad and the ugly! The point is that oaks, with their scars from storms, droughts, even lightning strikes, have stood because of deep roots. Exactly why Isaiah used the expression, for God's redeemed people grieving at the state of all aspects of national life. They are to be called *"oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord"*. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, this is who and what the Lord has called us to be and equips us to fulfil. Not being *'holier than thou'*, but seeking to reflect the righteousness, love, mercy and grace we see in the Lord who saved us.

What is amazing, humbling and awesome, is that His purpose for us individually and as His Church is that we are *"for the display of his splendour"* in the midst of an unbelieving and increasingly hostile world. With all our own flaws, this is His eternal intention, so that we may witness to His holiness, abiding truth, mercy, grace and love to the increasing number of people who have a hunger for something different to what they are experiencing in 2023 life. May we not lose heart, but rather be encouraged and emboldened by our sovereign Lord as 2023 unfolds.

With our love in Jesus, Mike and Ange

News from DRC

Pastor Jean-Pierre, deputy National Leader of AOG, Bukavu

My wife, Apurtuna, and I are in good health, but our daughter, Zaina, was hospitalized a month ago and underwent surgery. I plan to organize a training seminar for our Shabunda pastors, in Lulingu, more than 300 km from Bukavu. Please could you help us with Bibles for these Servants of God who live in a landlocked territory. Please pray for our 34th CADAF (AOG) community's General Assembly from March 25 to April 2 in Uvira. Unfortunately, I lost my phone and my computer, was stolen during my stay in Kinshasa last year.

Rev. Jean-Paul, Registrar of Anglican University of Bukavu and head of Eagle's Wings Ministry, DR Congo (independent of EWM UK, but in fellowship with us)

In 2022 EWM focussed on 3 areas:

1. Church leaders' capacity building in Integrity and Faithfulness:

- 3 days training of 49 pastors and lay leaders from Anglican, Baptist, Pentecostal Assemblies of God, and Evangelical churches in Walungu (70km in west of Bukavu).
- 3 days training of 27 pastors and lay leaders from various Protestant denominations in Kavumu (30 km north of Bukavu).
- 1 day training of 89 pastors and lay leaders from Anglican churches at Nyabibwe/ Kalehe (100 km north of Bukavu) in Lake Kivu Archdeaconry.

2. Social Engagement

In May 2022, we organised a 5-day Peace and Reconciliation Workshop for 35 church and community leaders in Uvira. School fees were paid for four orphans and vulnerable children studying at primary school.

3. Economic Empowerment

At the follow-up of the Livestock Goat Project started in Katana and Kalehe in 2021 of the 14 Pastors who received a goat, seven gave back a kid which were distributed to seven new pastors. As the 21 goats continue multiplying, we will give goats to new pastors. 90 children from pastors' families received two guinea pigs each. These little animals will multiply, produce meat and manure, and generate money for school needs.

Please pray for EWM DRC that God will help church and lay leaders to be involved in local resource mobilization to support the vision and mission of the ministry.



My PhD studies

I'm now in my 2nd year starting on my thesis in French *Le discours sur le pain de vie au centre de la prédication du salut holistique, exégétique de Jean 6, 1-16*. I am so thankful to Eagle's Wings Ministry UK and the St. Augustin Foundation for their financial support for my studies. *Please pray that God will give me health, wisdom and the required resources for the research and other needs relating to my PhD studies.*

News from Manasseh and Catrin, Emily and Eliana in Germany



We are thankful for many answered prayers and a wonderful summer trip to Rwanda whose good memories we shall always treasure. We saw that the material box project is still facilitating church preschools and helping churches to reach out to more children. Bishop Nathan Amooti shared how the church planting in the Kigali Diocese is seeing much fruit. We also met different young pastors who were part of the pastoral training scheme that Manasseh helped pioneer.

When we returned to Germany, Eliana's check-up showed that her heart condition had improved so open heart surgery wasn't immediately required. In June, we celebrated Eliana's second birthday, and in September she started crèche in the same kindergarten as Emily. Emily started her second kindergarten year, and enjoys playing with friends and doing crafts.

We are thankful that Catrin started working with our mission organisation VDM where she supports Manasseh in his ministry at Kairos. The Alpha course has been a huge blessing to our small church, and a doorway to reach the younger generation. We also opened our church building to a group of 16 Ukrainian women to study German. A discipleship meeting called the English Fellowship among Refugees at the Kairos Project keeps us busy and rejoicing.

Please continue to pray for us as a family following the sudden death of Catrin's father and her mother's continuing coma which she has been in since last summer.

News from India

Pastor Sundar's seminars.

Mike found the last series of Zoom seminars more difficult as heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh interrupted the flow of the seminars. The group was different and seemed less able to engage in discussion which is essential for the success of the teaching. Sundar himself has had a full programme of events during January. We will discuss the future early in February.



Please pray that Sundar will have the confidence to lead such seminars himself, which Mike is confident he has the ability to do.

Pastor George, Madurai, Tamil Nadu,

By God's grace we were able to help 100 handicapped brothers and sisters by giving them clothes, bed sheets, food and rice. They were very happy. Pastor George's wife shared the gospel with them.

