



CHRIST CHURCH PARBOLD EASTER 2024 PRAYER NEWSLETTER



ENCOURAGEMENT.

This Joyful Eastertide

These are the opening words of a hymn the Victorian author described as an Easter Carol. Perhaps they echo the “*Joy to the world*” sung to celebrate the birth of Jesus. So why is Joy an appropriate word to celebrate the Easter season?

Here are just three thoughts,

- When Jesus was crucified, another hymn writer exclaims, *My sin not in part but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord O my soul.*
- The apostle Peter writes that God *has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*
- Paul writes *Christ Jesus who died – more than that who was raised to life is at the right hand of God and is interceding for us.*

I'm Forgiven.

I have a new life and living hope for the future.

I have a living Saviour who speaks to God on my behalf.

May we all know that this Easter and be able to join in the words of the 8th century John of Damascus,

For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end.



Brian McGucken.

PARISH TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN.

- a) Anyone who has a prayer need can phone his/her request to Brian and Frances McGucken (01257 462058) between 6pm and 6.30pm any day, or for urgent needs, at any time. A team of people is on hand to pray immediately for your need.
- b) If neither is available to take your call live - please do not use the answer phone for this purpose - but contact Lin Milne on 463523 or John Mountain on 463919.

Your prayer request will be treated as confidential – unless you state otherwise.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please remember in prayer Jonathan Hickling and all the family following the death of his father, Alfred. He is now with the Lord in glory and we, as a church, remember his visits to play the organ. A lovely, Christian Gentleman with a strong faith.
- Please pray for Andrew Fanstone's mother, 84, who is starting a course of chemotherapy in April.(see article further down the newsletter)



MERCY RESCUE TRUST NEWS

Hi Everyone,

Things at Mercy Rescue are going well, but still very busy, there are now 21 babies and toddlers out in the community with staff or at the centre. Please pray that suitable foster families may be found.



Some sad news to start, unfortunate Gloria a toddler of 2 ½ passed away last week following a short illness. Please pray for Zipporah and the family as they grieve their loss, and all members of MRT team.



Some good news. Daniel is now back at Mercy Rescue following some time in a hospice. He is still very small and underweight although is now slowly gaining weight, but he still has a long way to go.

- Baby Amelia arrive a few days ago, she was abandoned by her family due to the circumstances of her birth. Jedidah and Sally will try to meet with the family to see if there can be a reconciliation, if there is no reconciliation, they will hopefully find her a permanent foster family



Several babies that came to us late last year or earlier this year have been fostered or reunited with a family member. Here are a few pictures.



Adrian /Brooke /Larina/Zawndi/ Javan

Please pray for Sally as she prepares to travel to England at the end of May for a visit, she will be staying with me for 5 weeks, so there will be lots of opportunities to meet her. Thanking you all for your continuing support.

God Bless

Barbara

IRIS PHNOM PENH NEWS

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An incredible day with the Bethel team! In the morning, they went to visit and have a time of ministry at Daughters of Cambodia, an organisation that provides ethical work opportunities and support to women that want to find a new life away from the bars of the red light district.



In the evening, we took a sunset boat ride along the area near the red-light district and prayed over the area. After the boat ride we sent teams into the bars to share the love of Jesus with his precious daughters working the establishments.

One woman gave her life to Jesus! Another woman wants a way out and connected with our IRIS team. One woman wanted to join our weekly discipleship group! Praise God!!

AN EASTER POEM FROM MARJ DIXON



Christ the Redeemer died for me
On the cross at Calvary,
My sins are gone, I've been set free.
The old has gone, Oh can't you see,
The new is here for you and me.
Christ is our Redeemer!



NEWS FROM ANDREW FANSHAWE



Dear Friends,

On this Easter weekend we just wanted to write and wish each of you a very blessed Easter and we pray that the truth of what we celebrate in this season will permeate your hearts and that we will never lose the wonder and awe of the fact that He who had no sin, became sin for us, so we may become the righteousness of God.

This will be a simple email as we are on a family trip driving a 1000km to another Iris base where we will minister at a easter conference that will be taking place. Please pray God will keep us safe on the long drive and use us powerfully as we are there.

We also wanted to update you on the house. God has amazingly provided the money that we needed to put a large enough down payment on the house so we can borrow the rest from the bank. The bank are still just waiting for one more document from the sellers but we are almost there! When we told our neighbour that we managed to get enough money to buy the house, she fell down on her knees with tears in her eyes, thanking God. So I guess she was rather happy we would stay but she also knew that we needed a miracle for it to happen and so it was a good testimony of God's provision for her and those around us.

We would also like to ask you to continue to pray for my mum. She had a successful mastectomy and recovered well but on the 2nd of April will undergo 5 sessions of radiotherapy. Please pray that her body will react well to this and that she will not get too tired.

Finally, on Monday our next mission school starts. It is always one of the highlights of the year as we train and raise up the next generation of missionaries that come from various nations around the world to be with us. This year we have a larger number of families involved than usual which will give us a new challenge in logistics. We have 6 families, who

between them have 13 children and that is apart from all the singles that will be coming. I do a lot of the teaching on the school and would appreciate your prayers that God would release his revelation, anointing and authority on me as I speak and please, as always continue to keep Claudia and the children in your prayers during this time.

We have much more to write but we have to get to bed as we will get up early in the morning to hit the road again, but we didn't want easter to pass with out sending you our love and thanks for all your prayers and support.

Jesus is alive!

God bless

Lots of Love

Andrew, Claudia, Jessica, Keziah and Noah.



Educaid - Learning for Life

March/April, 2024 - Update for Christ Church, Douglas-in-Parold

Greetings to everyone at Christ Church, Parbold from us all here at EducAid in Sierra Leone. We wish you all a very happy Easter that renews our lives in both Parbold and Sierra Leone. We hope, too, that 2024 brings Peace throughout the world.

This update is in two parts - the first part is from Miriam, the Country Director of EducAid Sierra Leone which provides a few bullet points identifying just some of the current work of EducAid. Her notes identify a mind boggling range of involvements that are taking place in challenging circumstances. She writes -

I hope that all is well with everyone at Parbold Douglas Church.

-We are working with over 30 new schools using a new AI tool to help remote, untrained qualified teachers have access to resources and guidance via WhatsApp.

- We are continuing our work with 65 primary schools supporting 13,000+ children in a big school improvement programme that is seeing some great positive changes in literacy and numeracy learning.

We are continuing our work with 10 senior secondary schools, helping teachers focus on

- Respectful relationships and
- Teaching for real learning.

We are continuing our work with 118 schools in Freetown to support school leaders in providing for the different needs of girls and boys (a gender responsive school leadership programme)

-We are working with a growing number of primary schools on foundational literacy and numeracy, using tablets - each child has a 30 minute session each day on the tablet with a headset and a personalised lesson.

Our own schools continue to do great stuff -

- we have got ICT labs going again in Lumley, with and Rolal and Maronka coming soon
- sports days happened last term for all schools
- Rolal has a new student-led "Ministry for the Future" that will be engaging kids in exciting activities about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead
- Maronka girls participated in a project that resulted in this work at Lancaster Priory: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-68032243>
- we featured in the Nottingham news when we adapted their ConsentCoalition alphabet: <https://www.hucknalldispatch.co.uk/education/nottinghamshires-a-z-of-consent-conversation-goes-global-4428841>

We are excited about all the opportunities ahead and greatly appreciate steadfast support of Parbold Douglas Church.

The second part reports on life in EducAid - work and play

EducAid - Sports Day

EducAid's annual Sports Days were held at Rolal, Maronka and Lumley Schools this past month! From high jumping, parent walking races to a "tug-of-peace", we were impressed by the dedication and teamwork of EducAid's school communities. It's inspiring to see how sports can bring people together and foster a sense of community. Well done to all the students and staff who made these sports days such memorable and enjoyable events!



Educaid - Environment Action

EducAid works to increase the environmental awareness and appreciation of children and young people. We offer our students opportunities to learn about climate change, pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and how these issues affect us in Sierra Leone and globally. Our programmes teach students renewable energy, waste reduction, water conservation, and many other sustainable practices. This past term our Lumley school has been part of several hands on learning experiences where they have participated in beach cleaning and re-cycling.

EducAid - Technology

EducAid is working to include technology in education and best use it as a tool. This semester has seen a **new computer lab** set up at our Lumley School (pictured), and we are working to open others across all EducAid's sites! Teachers at EducAid Sierra Leone's schools have been using TheTeacher.AI - Fab Data's WhatsApp chatbot, to understand how best to use these important tools to improve education.



EducAid, in collaboration with Imagine Worldwide, has also been working on improving numeracy and literacy across the Port Loko district through the aid of tablets.

EducAid - More Graduates

Huge congratulations to our 5 BAM graduates (four pictured) who graduated this month!

We are so proud of the inspiring achievements made by those in the EducAid community and wish you the best of success in your futures.



Educaid - Equality News

On the 6th February, 2024 a day of activism on FGM was held across all of EducAid schools, with the performance of a play and group discussions to raise awareness around this harmful practice and provide support and safeguarding for those affected.



Our students also celebrated the International Day of Women and Girls in Science telling us their favourite subjects and what they plan to do in the future. International Women's Day was also celebrated on the 8th March as a national holiday in Sierra Leone allowing our students to enjoy participating in equality awareness activities at the beach.

None of these incredible achievements would be possible without you.

A Very Big Thank You -

from us in Sierra Leone to you in Parbold

Further details of the work of EducAid in Sierra Leone, and ways in which you could become involved is available from Pat Horn - patval@sky.com or 07941 577 436

THANKS

Many thanks to all our contributors to this Easter newsletter. May the news from all our links encourage everyone to keep praying for their needs.

The next newsletter will be on Sunday 2nd June. Any items for inclusion to Lin Milne by Friday 31st May please.

A FINAL EASTER THOUGHT.

The Good Friday service in church was so thoughtful as we remembered the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. We sang the hymn My Song is Love Unknown –a hymn I have sung and loved since I was in school, the words are so evocative of that Good Friday. And yet, suddenly I realised the words of one verse were speaking so clearly to me that I couldn't continue. It was the verse that said:

In life, no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have, ,
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?

Heav'n was His home

But mine the tomb

Wherein He lay.

The realisation that Jesus lay in the tomb that should have been mine, took my breath away! Words that I have sung for many years came to me in a new and real way.

And the cost that God thought was worth paying to save me! My Lord and My God

(Lin)

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY BLESSED EASTER

