



ST PETERS
C H U R C H

MISSIONS PRAYER DIARY - MARCH 2020

ISLAND OF MAYOTTE SINKING

The island of Mayotte is sinking and moving! There is gang warfare and now there are frightening outbreaks of violence. Heather and Jeanette wrote this "Mayotte is an island in distress which has lost its way. Every week, if not every day there are new accounts of violence somewhere. Students being attacked by gangs on their way to school, in the school grounds, school buses being stoned etc. etc. Then this past Sunday, there was a very unfortunate incident where a policeman fatally shot a man who was brutally beating up someone who was testifying about another incident that had just taken place. This was used as a pretext for the youth (and some very young 8 – 12 year olds) to go into the streets that night, block the roads, set the dustbins on fire and stone the police who had come to restore law and order. While the police were being kept busy with these youth, the older generation of mothers, fathers, and older sisters and brothers broke into two shops and ransacked them. One shop suffering a loss of 100 000 euros. (Multiplied by 16 comes to 1.6 million Rand).

The island is in shock with this new development of the older folk going on the rampage. The local population blames the illegal immigrants, but the surveillance cameras will hopefully be able to bring some light on the subject. In the meantime the atmosphere on the island is tense. Prayer changes things. Please continue to pray for this needy island, that the people will become desperate with themselves and look for a true solution. Pray that all the Christians on the island will be ready to give The Solution - JESUS when the opportunities present themselves. Thank you for your faithfulness in standing with us. Our prayers WILL CHANGE THINGS, the Bible promises us this. Our pastor continues to challenge the church with their responsibility in sharing the gospel with the people on the island. Pray that many will take up the challenge and the Lord will transform lives.

Rod & Glenda Thomas – OMF (church leaders in Sendei, Japan)**

1. Please pray that the coronavirus, or rather fears about it, do not interfere with Stephen and Esther Kim coming from Korea to Sendai to pastor the Sendai church for March. Tadimitsu our evangelist will finish his bible training in March so please pray for the Lord to send him out!

2. About 5 inquirers who are regular in services need to be born again. Pray for them to make a commitment to the Saviour. We return on 30 March. While we are on home assignment in South Africa we are trying to track down documents for Glenda's UK ancestry visa. Please also pray for road safety and that we don't scratch our hire car!

Grant and Loutjie Swanepoel (Nelson Mandela University, P.E.)

3. Our offer to purchase a house in Walmer, a nearby suburb, was accepted. We see God's hand so clearly in all of this! On the other hand, we were informed last week of the fact that a church from the UK will be stopping their significant support of our ministry in August. This comes as the last in a series of events that have now culminated into a crisis for us. Since coming to SA, our support needs have gone up and our support levels have reduced, due to people supporting other ministries, the exchange rate etc. It is hard to keep ministry and home schooling going and get ready to move, not knowing how we are going to sustain the ministry financially. Please can you make all of this a matter of urgent prayer? We have kept this short, but will gladly send more detailed information to anyone who asks.

Tim and Therese Galange (MTW Missionaries at Bible Institute, Kalk Bay)

4. Tim preaches in Khayelitsha township on the first Friday in March to kick off a township preaching conference that will highlight the deficiencies of the prosperity gospel and the merits of the true gospel of grace. We will be involved both Friday and Saturday. Please pray the gospel will have real impact in many lives.

5. Tim will be preaching again the following week in BI's chapel but a different text. Pray for time to develop his sermons along with his class and reading group. The pastor's reading group has had a baby! :) One of the pastors in Tim's reading group has begun his own group with young men from Khayelitsha township - they are very excited about what they are learning, Pray for diligence, faithfulness and growth.

6. Therese has had more opportunities to meet with the ladies attending BI, increased involvement with the children and ladies who attend the Masi Craft Workshop as part of the church plant there, and is busy planning a Steering Comm. meeting in early April (in Johannesburg) that is a follow up from last November's conference in Cape Town. Pray all who need visas to attend will get them and all the logistics for this meeting go well.

7. Tim doesn't lead a Ministry Week team from BI so during this week (23-27 March), we will visit our MTW missionaries and the various ministries they are involved with in Zimbabwe. Pray we gain insight into the challenges and opportunities for ministry there. Pray too, for the BI students during their Ministry Week that this will be significant time in the students' lives as well as to those they minister to. Thank you!

Greg & Carol Phillips (Mukhanyo Theological College, KwaMhlanga and Pretoria)**

8. We are thankful for about 80 or 90 registered contact students in all our campuses/learning centres. The registration process kept our academic admin and me very busy at least into the first week of February with quite a few late applications and registrations. By the way, that was already our third week of classes. We thank the Lord for the gift of life in His Son and pray that our lives will daily reflect Him more and more.

9. I am thoroughly enjoying teaching the Books of Moses, Paul and His Letters, and Exegesis of Hebrews. It is wonderful to be in the true, authoritative self-revelation of God week by week with our students. The Honours class in Exegesis of Hebrews is most exciting particularly because this has now grown to twelve full-time students from diverse backgrounds - 5 South Africans, male and female from all different ethnic groups, 1 Zimbabwean woman, 3 Ethiopian men, 1 Malawian man, 1 Nigerian man, and 1 man from Ghana. Isn't that fantastic! May God be glorified. Please pray for these and all our students. They come to us, often with many life and ministry challenges, and from diverse theological backgrounds.

10. The next big thing we are gearing up for is the Mukhanyo Graduation Service on Saturday 7th March, so please pray for the team responsible for all the communication with graduates, academic records, certificates, graduation programme and organisation of the event. Please continue to pray for protection on the roads, good health, and the Lord's provision financially.

Peter Laubscher – The Leprosy Mission

11. The Leprosy Mission's "Triple Zero Campaign" has been placed in the top 100 of the proposals submitted to the MacArthur Foundation for the US \$100 000 000 challenge. We should know by the end of May 2020 whether we have made it through to the final round. If we do make it to the final stage, a huge amount of work will be required to prepare a detailed proposal. Please pray with us that we will find favour with the leaders of the Foundation which wants to award US \$100 million to an organisation that they believe is capable of making a globally significant impact. The Foundation describes it as "A competition for a \$100 million grant to fund a single proposal that promises real and measurable progress in solving a critical problem of our time."

12. Last month I asked you to pray for the child who had been excluded from a school in Pietermaritzburg due to leprosy. I am delighted to tell you that we received excellent support from the Departments of Health and Education who intervened swiftly. The situation has been resolved and the child is back behind her desk at school. Please pray that she will settle well and that she will be able to put this horrible incident behind her and focus on her studies.

13. Please pray for L D from Mount Fletcher in the Eastern Cape. He developed signs of leprosy in 2015, but sadly, it has taken five long years for the diagnosis to be made. He is now very badly affected by the severe form of leprosy. Pray for Goodman Qhosholo, the Leprosy Mission's field worker in the Eastern Cape, who will be working with L D to help him avoid further injuries and disabilities. Goodman will also be investigating the situation at L D's home, as it is possible that there are other leprosy affected people living there who are not aware that they have leprosy. Goodman travels extensively throughout the Eastern Cape, teaching health workers about the signs of leprosy so that people like L D are diagnosed at an early stage and receive treatment before leprosy causes disabilities.

14. Join us in giving thanks for recent extremely generous gifts received by the Leprosy Mission. We appreciate our supporters who, through their generous donations, make it possible for us to provide free services for leprosy patients throughout South Africa.

Jordan Pickering – Student Y at UCT

15. We are very thankful to the Lord for a great Orientation Week and the start of relationships with a new crop of students. We are also grateful to a number of donors who have helped the Student YMCA to get through some tough financial months.

16. We have a very exciting staff team that has grown over the last year, and we are excited by the momentum and new initiatives that this has brought. We thank God for his work on campus. Please pray for the fundraising efforts of each of our staff members.

17. Please pray that we will receive a good response to our application to the city for a rates rebate under the new allocation for NPOs. Our property in Rondebosch attracts a very high rates bill, which has put us under financial strain since the last rebate system was suddenly withdrawn last year.

18. Pray for the success of the new coffee vending initiative that we are starting with Beth Uriel this month. We hope that it will bring more students onto our property and provide another funding source.

Explore Course in Africa (Nevil Carrington)**

19 (a) We give thanks for the six new Explore study groups which have commenced in 2020. We pray for wisdom for the 4 existing facilitators as well as two new facilitators, Nancy Lambrechts from Stellenbosch and Alina Ngcekwi from Johannesburg. **(b)** One of our Explore strategies is to identify at least five Explore students, per year who could further their studies at GWC. Today, we give thanks to the Lord for seven former Explore students who are enrolled at GWC this year. We praise the Lord and trust that their time at GWC will enhance their understanding of Jesus and inspire others to further their studies. We plan to send you a photo of the Explore team with these GWC students.

20. The first Explore exams for 2020 have commenced and a total of two hundred and twelve students are expected to write. Please pray for all the students who are preparing to write exams that they use this time to reflect on what God has done in their lives so far.

21. We have prepared a funding proposal which will cover an Explore facilitators seminar in Botswana in July and we pray that this proposal will be well received. The seminar will include facilitators from Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa.

Cricket Meyer – Children's Ministry at Uyesu Unathi in Khayelitsha and with Ana A Yesu in Malawi**

22. Praise the Lord for a good month of bible teaching out at Uyesu Unathi. The staff are growing in leaps and bounds as they learn more about the love of Jesus. Their enthusiasm is contagious and their eagerness to learn the Scriptures an encouragement for sure. Praise the Lord for safety travelling in and out of Khayelitsha.

23. I am currently in Malawi and it's the rainy season, it gives me first-hand experience in knowing just how much prayer our people need out here during this wet season. Thousands of children walk to school in the mud and rain, please pray for them to be sure-footed as they go, the mud is very slippery, also pray for their health during this season. It is easy to take the comforts of our homes for granted. Thank you for your love and prayers for the ministries of Ana A Yesu (Malawi) and Uyesu Unathi (Khayelitsha)

Bheki and family: Outreach from St Peters to Masiphumelele

24. No news this month from Bheki but please continue to pray for uBabalo neThemba Church to grow both in numbers and spiritually in 2020. Please also pray for the ideas of having a feeding scheme and tutoring project in Masi. These are big undertakings and need the Lord's wisdom and guidance.

Beau-Gavin Durr (YWAM)

25. Praise God for: (a) making a way for me to travel to the Middle East to assist a team here with teaching refugees, (b) for being able to identify with the grief of the people here in the Middle East more, having gone through my own.

26. I would appreciate your prayers for: (a) for the people here to have their eyes opened and encounter the true God, (b) safe travels as we head into refugee camps in the northern mountains. (c) I've been struggling to sleep well and lacking energy so would appreciate prayers for rest and good health, (d) unity of all the workers here, (e) me to continue being moulded and shaped into greater Christ likeness so that the people I meet would encounter Christ in and through me.

Ana A Yesu (Children's Ministries in Malawi) **– Brian and Angela McClarty and Cricket Meyer

27. Praise that Cricket received funding to make a trip to Malawi which she is currently doing to assess the Grade R children in the village of Samuti. Praise also that there are now 36 children at the preschool in Blantyre and they are progressing very well. There have been some difficulties with the Bible study at the primary school being held regularly. Please pray that the problems will be overcome so that God's Word may continue to be taught.

Eugene & Dawn Reyneke (AIM – Esbungabera, Mozambique, leaders' training & evangelism)**

28. No recent news as Jinx and Dawn are still on home assignment. Please pray that Jen and Cecelia have the Lord's protection, provision and guidance whilst they minister on their own in Espungabera.

Heather Simpkin & Jeanette Lelliott – AIM, (Mayotte)

29. Please continue to pray for our very needy island. On 1st and 2nd January we had two more strong earthquakes due to the volcano which is forming to the east of us. The pocket of magma under the island is emptying and this has caused the island to sink 15cm and move 20cms to the east. This together with the uncontrolled violence between rival gangs which continues to break out all over the island is causing the population to be very fearful, desperate and without hope. Pray for all the Churches and Christians spread out all over the island, that each one will boldly declare Jesus Christ who is our only hope and the One we need, to bring us back into a right relationship with God. May their eyes be opened to see that other religions cannot offer them this.

30. Heather's time in South Africa is now coming to an end as she will be back on Mayotte on the 2nd March. She has had a most profitable visit and we praise the Lord for that. The Shimaore lessons are becoming a real blessing as apart from a new grammar lesson at each session, we now look at some verses in Scripture and this is a great encouragement to the students.

Katleho & Delight Meslane (Youth Pastor, St Thomas' Church, Heideveld)**

31. No news this month – please continue to pray for Katleho to have many ministry opportunities and for the Lord to open hearts to His Word.

**These missionaries receive financial as well as prayer support.