



# MISSION FOCUS 2023

This year's updates from our overseas partners and friends, and organisations who support global missions.



Read this collection of latest updates from those we support, through prayer and finance, in sharing the gospel around the world.

“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 1:4-6 (NIV)



# Contents

## **MISSION PARTNERS**

Lindsey Capper	page 4
Tim Curtis	page 5
Sarah Dorman	page 6
Chris & Sarah Downing	page 7
Jill Ireland	page 8
Tim & Nim Kempton	page 9
Jonathan & Margaret Lamb	page 10
Jason Lane	page 11
Berdine van den Toren-Lekkerkerker	page 12

## **MISSION FRIENDS**

Elisama Daniel	page 13
Jess & Ohsung Kwon	page 14
Tim & Judy Rous	page 15
Pastor Yatta Samura	page 16

## **MISSION AGENCIES**

North Oxford Overseas Centre	page 17
Friends International	page 18
Oxford Centre for Mission Studies	page 18

# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION PARTNER

LINDSEY CAPPER

### ORGANISATION

PIONEERS

### LOCATION

GIJÓN, NORTHWEST SPAIN



William Cowper's line "God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform" captures well the season here. Attempts earlier in the year to recruit younger volunteers for 180 GRADOS youth ministry team were unsuccessful, while plans for our summer camp have taken several surprising twists and turns. It can be confusing at times to discern between when to keep fighting for something and when God is closing the door on an idea. But it causes us to press in more to God, which is always fruitful, and so we can also be thankful for this season.

### PRAISE

- The encouraging growth in members of 'Faith Group', our Bible reading community group, and in one member particularly, who has returned after absence and seems so much more engaged and committed.
- The small but regular group of youth at 180 GRADOS, who come to hang out and hear God's word each week.

### PRAYER

- The July summer camp. It seems to be a constantly changing project, but we're excited about spending extended time with the young people and long that they might take significant steps towards Jesus during the camp.
- The idea and process of buying the 180 GRADOS youth centre property, in order to make the ministry financially sustainable into the future.
- Various transitions ahead. After much prayer, I have decided that it is time for me to move on from Gijón. This inevitably involves big changes for me and the team here. I will leave at the end of the summer and will take a few months sabbatical break to rest, reflect and seek God on my future direction. We have been praying for new team members to join us for a while, a few have expressed interest but nothing is yet confirmed, so do pray that God will bring new people with fresh energy on board.

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**

# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION PARTNER

TIM CURTIS

### ORGANISATION

CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY (CMS)

### LOCATION

RIO VERDE, PARAGUAY



Greetings from the translation office in Rio Verde, where I continue to look after the Anglican Centre, from where the Anglican Church of Paraguay works in partnership with the Énxet and Guaraní speaking indigenous churches of the Chaco, focusing on bible teaching and discipleship training materials.

### PRAISE

- Give thanks for the progress that the Northern Enlhet Bible Revision team has made on the book of Job. Please pray as we check through the Psalms during July.
- Please give thanks for the progress that has been made in the creation of an indigenous body within the Anglican church of the Southern Cone of South America to represent indigenous voices. This was the request of the delegates who attended the indigenous Anglican Conference last year in Salta, Argentina, and is known as “Misión Indígena”. Please pray for me in my new role as local coordinator for Paraguay as I keep Southern Énxet and Angaité church leaders updated.
- Give thanks that a preliminary draft constitution for “Misión Indígena” was drawn up by indigenous anglican leaders in Buenos Aires with its commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel, faithfulness to Scripture, and to unity. I give thanks for the help and suggestions given to us by Argentine Bishop Brian Willams, and that Elvio (Southern Énxet) and Hermenegildo (Angaité) from Paraguay were able to attend.

### PRAYER

- Please pray for ongoing improvements to the Rio Verde Anglican Centre, including repairs to underground water storage tanks.
- Please pray for the Anglican Church of Paraguay following the Synod held on 24th of June.

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**

# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION PARTNER

SARAH DORMAN

### ORGANISATION

SERVING IN MISSION (SIM)

### LOCATION

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA



Sarah serves on the SIM international security team, overseeing risk and crisis management in the regions of Europe and Africa. She also serves in Ethiopia, initially at the Mekelle Youth Centre, and in the last year teaching at Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa.

### PRAISE

- Please thank God that the peace deal between the Tigray region and Federal government has held and that the process of rebuilding has begun. We have seen the resumption of commercial flights between Addis Ababa and Mekelle, aid entering the affected areas and both sides agreeing to a regional transitional government. In March, I was able to visit Mekelle for the first time in two years. It was wonderful to see old friends and colleagues from the Mekelle Youth Centre project and catch up with them and their families.
- Thank God that the youth centre has been able to remain open throughout much of the conflict, that it has been a safe place for young people to come, spend time together and engage in sporting activities.
- Thank God for security and risk management trainings that I have been able to teach in recent months. It has been particularly encouraging to work with African colleagues as they are sent to serve in areas of the world where Christ is least known. Please pray for new opportunities arising to work with local churches as they seek to support mission partners that they are sending overseas.

### PRAYER

- Please pray as decisions are made regarding the long-term future of SIM's work in Tigray.
- Please pray for new opportunities arising to work with local churches in providing security and risk management training as they seek to support mission partners that they are sending overseas.

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# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION PARTNER

CHRIS & SARAH DOWNING

Jonathan, Amy, Rebekah & Sam

### ORGANISATION

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION (ECM)

### LOCATION

U.K. BASED



Long-term mission partners with European Christian Mission (ECM) based in Tirana, Albania, Sarah spent two years leading the local team. Chris worked in the Emergency Department of the Trauma Hospital, seeing patients and also training doctors and nurses.

Chris, Sarah and the family have been back in the UK since July 2020.

Chris is working for the NHS in Southampton. Sarah has been investing in family life with the children at university and finding their feet in a very different education system in primary and secondary schools.

### PRAYER

- Pray for the Downings as they continue to negotiate life in a different culture in the UK.
- For the children as they continue to adjust to being back in this culture.
- For Chris and Sarah in their work and their ministry.

Thank you for your love and prayers.

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**



# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION PARTNER

JILL IRELAND

### ORGANISATION

SPORTS FRIENDS (SF) &  
SERVING IN MISSION (SIM)

### LOCATION

U.K. BASED



Jill serves as the Deputy International Director for SIM's Sports Friends ministry and supports Sports Friends teams in three South East Asian countries. Sports Friends seeks to make disciples of Jesus through strategic sports ministry.

July 2023 will mark the start of an extended sabbatical/furlough time when Jill will be stepping back from ministry for a period of rest, review and seeking God for a renewed sense of calling.

Jill has been working full-time in sports mission since she first moved to Oxford in 1996 to work with Christians in Sport; then 2 years of study at All Nations; followed by the last 15 years of working with SIM's Sports Friends ministry (10 of those years overseas in Thailand).

Jill is grateful to God for sustaining her through these 27 years of Christian sports mission and the privilege of seeing him draw many people to himself all around the world through the relationships built on a sports field! She is also grateful for the love, prayer and support of St Andrew's throughout that time.

### PRAISE

- Give thanks with Jill for the gift of this sabbatical, and pray for those who will kindly be stepping in to cover Jill's areas of responsibility in her absence.

### PRAYER

- Please pray for rest and refreshment for Jill during her sabbatical and particularly for God's leading, direction and discernment for how he would have her continue to serve into the future; whether that's continuing with Sports Friends, SIM or something new!

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**



# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION PARTNER

TIM & NIM KEMPTON

Leah & Adam

### ORGANISATION

WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS

### LOCATION

JOS, NIGERIA



The Kemptons work with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Jos, Nigeria. Tim works as the Linguistic Coordinator, helping to ensure the linguistic foundations are in place for Bible translation projects. Nim cares for their children Leah and Adam, and supports the Scripture Engagement team.

Being back in the UK is a time of renewing friendships and family relationships, reporting back about ministry to our partner churches and supporters, and enjoying our newest arrival - baby Adam. We particularly enjoyed being based in Oxford for a few months and worshipping at St Andrew's. It was a welcome time of spiritual refreshment for us.

Nigeria has approximately 500 languages. One of our colleagues calculated that if we continue at our historic rate of Bible translation, it will take until 2180 before all the remaining languages in Nigeria have the New Testament! We want to increase the speed of translation, but it can be a challenge to do this without sacrificing quality. Our office in Nigeria is developing a new proposal called "Mark Road" to start translation work in 40 new languages, beginning with the Gospel of Mark. Please pray for our colleagues as this initiative is crafted and put into action. Pray in particular for the recruitment of more linguists and Bible translators to help with the remaining need.

### PRAISE

- Our time of spiritual refreshment at St Andrew's.
- The safe arrival of baby Adam.

### PRAYER

- The recruitment of more linguists and Bible translators.
- The success of the Mark Road initiative.

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**

# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION PARTNER

JONATHAN & MARGARET LAMB

### ORGANISATION

PRIMARILY KESWICK MINISTRIES

### LOCATION

U.K. BASED



Jonathan is a writer and teacher and serves as minister-at-large for Keswick Ministries, as well as supporting several agencies in teaching, preaching and writing.

### PRAISE

- We are very thankful that, around the world, many of the 90 events associated with Keswick Ministries are back up and running after the Covid pandemic. Please pray for the events in different countries, details of which are found on <https://keswickministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Keswick-Fellowship-international-news-423.pdf>.

### PRAYER

- We would be grateful for prayer for various events at which Jonathan is speaking over the coming weeks, and these include:
  - » Florence, Italy (July 6-18): Project Timothy is a preaching training programme for younger church leaders from across Italy. Jonathan is leading sessions on preaching from the Wisdom literature, and giving morning devotions. As this is 12 sessions in all, please pray for the perseverance of the translator and the participants!
  - » The three week Keswick Convention, July 15 to August 4. Details are here: <https://keswickministries.org/>
  - » Capenway Men's Retreat (September 8-10): where Jonathan is leading 5 sessions on 'Faith in the Face of Danger', based on the story of Nehemiah.
  - » Saffron Walden Bible Focus (September 16), where Jonathan is speaking on 'In Time for Eternity', based on Matthew 24 & 25.
  - » Forth Valley Convention (September 29-October 1), where Jonathan is giving three Bible expositions, and preaching at Olivet Evangelical Church.
  - » The Christian Medical Fellowship is holding its Senior's Conference (October 9-11), and Jonathan is giving Bible expositions around the conference theme of 'What's so good about getting old?'
  - » The Kingsbridge Bible Weekend (October 13-15) is an event gathering churches together from south Devon, and Jonathan is giving 4 sessions on 'Reading between the lines', based on the book of Ruth.

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](https://standrewsoxford.org/mission)**

# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION PARTNER

JASON LANE

### ORGANISATION

INNOVISTA

### LOCATION

WORLDWIDE

Based in Oxford



Across Europe, Russia and Central Asia, Innovista identifies, equips and develops leaders to change their communities with the hope of Jesus.

As Russia's brutal war on Ukraine continues, we have worked through the winter to help churches continue to serve their communities. This has included generators to keep buildings warm and light, so that churches can welcome people who need care and community.

The Resilient Families Programme has launched. Developed with the brilliant children's charity, Viva, this six-week programme builds the capacity of families to deal with the stress and trauma created by the war.

Now the winter has passed, we are preparing another phase of our work. This will include tailored support for church leadership teams who are exhausted after a year of war-time service, through specialised coaching and short retreats. We will also work with churches who have been close to frontlines or in previously occupied territory to reconfigure their ministry for their new context.

### PRAYER

- Endurance for churches and teams who are serving under extreme stress.
- New staff for Innovista in Ukraine - our medium-term aim is to have a pair of leadership trainers in each region.
- The Resilient Families Programme to spread widely and provide help for families struggling with trauma.

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](https://standrewsoxford.org/mission)**

# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION PARTNER

BERDINE VAN DEN TOREN-LEKKERKERKER

### ORGANISATION

CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY (CMS)

### LOCATION

AFRICA & ASIA

Based in The Netherlands



Berdine, works to support, train and teach Christian leaders, in areas where many more are needed.

### PRAISE

- In our family we will be celebrating the third wedding in 13 months. Yes, within a period of 13 months all three of our sons, Wiger, Derk and Marten, will be married. We are grateful!
- Another major change is that Benno and I will be moving house. We will leave Groningen and settle in a suburb of Utrecht, in Nieuwegein. The reason for this move is that in January my (Berdine's) job at the Mission Council in the Netherlands turned into a permanent position as Director of the organisation. Again, this is good news, and we are grateful for this opportunity to serve the church in her mission calling, both in the Netherlands and around the world.

### PRAYER

- The other side of the story is that we will have to leave the community in Groningen, both Het Pand and Buurtgenoten. This is a painful experience. These two communities have become our home and our family. We value your ongoing prayers for these communities.
- In Nieuwegein, we are already connected with an international community, where many members are former asylum seekers. We also have found (and bought) an amazing house, where we hope to be able to start a missional community house. Our prayer is that our house and community will become a place of welcome in the neighbourhood, a place to meet others across boundaries of culture and difference, and a place where together we will discover more of the love of God. Again we value your prayers for this!

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**

# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION FRIEND

ELISAMA DANIEL

### ORGANISATION

ACROSS

### LOCATION

SOUTH SUDAN



My studies at OCMS have come to a logical conclusion, and the prayers, support, and encouragement from St Andrew's were invaluable, and thus brought me this far; I can never thank you enough for everything – prayers, support, generosity, hospitality, friendships, and fellowship...

In the ministry of ACROSS where I serve, we have continued to see God at work despite the numerous challenges we face, both as an organisation and as a nation.

We have intensified our collaboration and partnership with the local church to bring a Christ-centred transformation and development in communities. We have thus, established this department (in addition to the other humanitarian and development programmes we carry out) called 'Transformational Leadership, Church, and Community Engagement' (TLCCE), which emphasises the ministry aspect of ACROSS.

### PRAISE

- Our partnership in the Gospel with the local church and communities.
- Christ-centred transformation among leaders (church, political and community) so that they seek the common good and serve with integrity.
- Successful completion of my studies at OCMS, graduation is due on June 30th, 2023.
- UK visas already granted for me and my wife Eva to come and attend my graduation.

### PRAYER

- Impact and transformation in communities – psychosocial trauma is endemic in all communities; hence, ethnic conflicts are all over, pray for peace.
- The safety and security of staff in all locations, and especially travels in hard-to-reach and insecure areas to provide life-saving interventions.
- Revival in the church in South Sudan, and Godly-leadership for church and nation.
- Peace, security, socio-economic recovery, and healing for South Sudan.
- The nation of Sudan, which is at war.

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**

# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION FRIEND

JESS & OHSUNG KWON

Daniel, Solomon & Samuel

### ORGANISATION

YOUTH WITH A MISSION (YWAM)

### LOCATION

U.K. BASED



Ohsung and I and our family are thankful to God and have been most appreciative of the prayer and support of members of St Andrew's over several years as we've served in mission in the Amazon and at All Nations Christian College.

Now that our mission focus has taken a new direction and we are on the staff of YWAM and staying in the UK, we feel it is the right time, after consultation with Dan, to relinquish our role as St Andrew's mission partners.

We continue to support our projects in Brazil working with indigenous tribes, and our roles here in the UK will focus on evangelism and discipleship. Please be praying for the Bible translation project so that the Matis tribe in Brazil can hear the gospel.

We thank you for all your care and we will certainly be keeping in contact with the church through our friends and family there. Please stay in touch by emailing [tabatinga07@gmail.com](mailto:tabatinga07@gmail.com)

With every blessing,

Jess, Ohsung, Daniel, Solomon and Samuel Kwon

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**



# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION FRIEND

TIM & JUDY ROUS

### ORGANISATION

CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY (CMS)

### LOCATION

ARU, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Since February 2022 it has been our joy and privilege to be part of the Aru Diocesan team and members of the Cathedral congregation, sharing our lives together. Tim works in the community development office with responsibility for several income-generating initiatives that have been floundering to varying degrees: a mini-supermarket, Elikya carpentry workshop, Radio Salama, and others. Judy helps with monitoring of the annual plans of several diocesan departments, and skills-sharing to help with their delivery. Judy also attends weekly Mothers' Union meetings, connecting with women in our community and church. Our days begin with prayers with fellow team members: a key moment for sharing God's word, mutual prayer, encouragement and praise.

### PRAISE

- Ongoing impact from evangelistic missions and pastoral visits in Haut-Uélé region, and for new churches planted.
- Positive small changes in the various income-generating initiatives.
- Our amazing colleagues and friends, many of whom juggle huge and varied responsibilities.
- Our 3-year missionary visas.

### PRAYER

- For God to speak to, encourage and bless all who meet for morning prayer and Bible reading: staff and trainees at the workshop, Diocesan staff, students at the University, staff and patients at the hospital.
- Our Bishop Ande, who is also Archbishop of Congo, in his extensive diocesan, national and international responsibilities and frequent travel.
- An end to the violence and atrocities throughout Eastern Congo and peace for the region.
- Wisdom and creativity in all our responsibilities; our walk with Jesus and our lives to bear fruitful witness to Him.

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**



# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### MISSION FRIEND

PASTOR YATTA SAMURA

### ORGANISATION

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH MISSION  
(CCCM)

### LOCATION

SIERRA LEONE



The ministry is led by Pastor Yatta Samura, who has been a friend of St Andrew's for over 20 years. Pastor Yatta's Christian faith developed as an adult, having been brought up within the Muslim community. He recently wrote to us with his latest news:

- In the last few months we had 5 babies who were baptised. Praise God for safe delivery as Sierra Leone suffers a lot of deaths at birth.
- In Freetown, we recently held a wonderful Women's Celebration service to mark the growth of the women's ministry.
- It is 21 years since the end of the Civil War, and it was a joy to see 6 of our young people graduating from the various universities in the country earlier this year.
- Our presidential and parliamentary elections that took place on 24th June 2023. The country needs to come together and there is too much tribal division. Please pray that my contribution in the reconciliation committee will bear fruit.
- Initial construction of St Andrew's school in Meama, Kono was funded by St Andrew's Oxford and opened in 2004. Over the next decade running costs were jointly funded by parents and by the charity Love Sierra Leone (<https://lovesierraleone.org/> - a charity borne of St Andrew's). It was in 2016 that the Government took the school over. However, the Government has not done well with the school, Kono is in a very remote area and the scene of much fighting over diamonds. The school management has now been handed back to us. We are planning a Thanksgiving service and we pray for sources of educational funding.

### PRAYER

- For Sierra Leone following the election, for peace and fairness to prevail.
- For the women's ministry to grow.
- For God to provide jobs for the children graduating from college.
- For financial support for St Andrew's school.

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**

# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### ORGANISATION

NORTH OXFORD OVERSEAS CENTRE

### LOCATION

OXFORD



North Oxford Overseas Centre is home to about 80-90 international post-graduate students and academic visitors. We aim to provide a warm welcome and comfortable, well-maintained accommodation; we have a programme of social events for those who want to take part, and we offer Bible studies to anyone interested.

### PRAISE

- We thank God for full recovery from the effects of Covid on bookings and activities. We are also grateful for a professional, hard-working staff team, who not only carry out their work well, but also support one another and our residents.

### PRAYER

- Our social events. We have recently had a baking evening and an arts night – both opportunities to learn new skills and meet other residents. We pray for meaningful conversations and good friendships to develop.
- The Bible studies. There is a good number of residents signed up, but it's not easy to find a good time to suit everyone. Please pray that this is sorted and that the studies will be fruitful.
- A large building project planned for the summer. It will involve almost completely closing one building, which will put pressure on accommodation and facilities in the other. We're excited about the plans; please pray for the work to go smoothly in order to provide a much-needed kitchen upgrade, and more resident-friendly social space.

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**

# MISSION FOCUS

## UPDATES FROM OVERSEAS

### ORGANISATION

FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL

### LOCATION

OXFORD



Friends International exists to share the good news of God's love with international students across Europe. Many of the students are from cultures where the Christian message is rarely heard.

<https://www.friendsinternational.uk/>

### ORGANISATION

OXFORD CENTRE FOR MISSION STUDIES (OCMS)

### LOCATION

OXFORD



OCMS is an independent Christian mission research centre. Their goal is to build reflective practitioners equipped to serve the church globally. We have been privileged to support Elisama Daniel from South Sudan through his studies at OCMS.

<https://www.ocms.ac.uk/>

**MORE INFORMATION: [STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION](http://STANDREWSOXFORD.ORG/MISSION)**