

Dear Partners in Prayer,

APRIL 2024

At every stage in my WEC journey I have been heard to say, 'I have the best job in WEC!'

I enjoyed seven wonderful years at Bourofaye Christian School in Senegal, 12 years in hospitality ministry at Bulstrode, and now I am part of the Membership Department, processing and training those who are called to serve with WEC.

When we have our training weekends for short-term workers, I teach a session called 'Expectations', when I encourage our participants to consider what they are expecting to happen on their mission placement. We look at expectations of ourselves, our ministry, those we will work with and, of course, our expectations of God. While preparing I read Isaiah 64 and was excited by verse 3: 'When you came down long ago, you did awesome deeds beyond our highest expectations. And oh, how the mountains quaked!'

As you pray through WEC Pray this month, may Isaiah 64:1-4 encourage you that we've a God who responds to our prayers. Feel your faith rise, as you expect great things from God. May He do 'awesome deeds beyond our highest expectations'.

Thank you for your prayers,

Moira Stephen

Membership Department Coordinator

WEEK 14

● **MONDAY 1 APRIL Motivational quote:** 'Multicultural teams work well only with a lot of tears, hard work, humility and frequent repentance - but it is worth the effort!' (Patrick Johnstone, *Future of the Global Church*, 2011, p228) Most WEC teams in all countries are multicultural. Pray about this challenge for every one of us as we serve together.

● **TUESDAY 2 UK Finance department:** We give thanks for God's provision to our UK & Ireland branch over the last financial year through the faithful giving and prayers of each supporter. Linda in the Coventry office, and Tracey working remotely, would both appreciate prayer for their day-to-day work. Following recent changes, the bookkeeping includes processing donations for WEC's General Fund and for ministry projects, plus paying out expenses, to facilitate WEC's goals here and abroad.

● **WEDNESDAY 3 WEC at Events:** Pray for our team of mobilisers volunteering on the WEC stand this summer. Some events are a day or two, others more than a week, and sometimes it involves late evenings chatting with enquirers, church leaders, prayer warriors and supporters. Pray for sufficient team members, organising the right resources to each location, with suitable transport and accommodation.

● **THURSDAY 4 'Grace' in North Africa:** Within just two months, Grace had a one-year residency card, had moved into her own flat in the desired location, and started a full-time language course in local Arabic. 'I've been amazed how our Father has provided for me and answered our prayers.' Pray for deeper friendships with local ladies, and for her ongoing language studies.

● **FRIDAY 5 Arbroath Prayer Weekend:** Praise God for the many booked to join us to pray for WEC this weekend at

the Windmill Centre. Pray that our Bible teacher, Dr Alistair Wilson, and our missionary speakers will inspire our many Scottish prayer groups and others. May they return fuelled with information and encouragement from answers to previous prayers.

● **SATURDAY 6 Mission & Me in Scotland:** Pray that some attendees of the Arbroath weekend will explore whether the Lord is calling them into cross-cultural mission. Pray for Derek, Heidi, Andrew and Maria as they chat and pray with people about this. May they together discern what the Holy Spirit is saying for this season in their lives.

WEEK 15

● **SUNDAY 7 End of Ramadan 2024:** In 1992 Christian workers by the Red Sea felt called to pray and fast for Muslims through their month of Ramadan. Since then annual Prayer Guides have been produced by mission agencies working together to inform and inspire all Christians to pray for Muslims, in up to 40 languages! As Ramadan ends, pray for this ministry which produces other prayer guides too. (www.worldprayerguides.org.uk)

● **MONDAY 8 Motivational quote:** 'The centrality of the local church in missions needs to be emphasised, and agencies must be more accountable to their supporting churches for their ministries and use of workers.' (P Johnstone, 2011, p234) Pray for deeper communication with our home churches, so their sense of involvement increases.

● **TUESDAY 9 Thomas & Kristi in Cambodia:** 'We have started an English class in our house in the capital. Parents at the café next door asked Thomas to teach their children. We started with three students, but they invited others who invited more, including one of the dads. Now we have 11 students and asked them to stop inviting people, as we don't have more chairs in the house.' Pray for Thomas and Kristi, planning to buy more chairs to grow this ministry with local families.

● **WEDNESDAY 10 3 Billion Reasons tour:** A new cooperative event launched last November to local churches in Southampton. It brought together mission agencies to present '3 Billion Reasons', a programme about the world's 3 billion unreached peoples. Together we plan to bring the programme to several churches this year. Pray for the right venues and dates and for lots of participation.

● **THURSDAY 11 Betel in Birmingham:** The long-awaited soft play facility at Anchor Point is complete and in use for Betel Church events and the weekly Friday morning term-time Toddler Group. Betel now offer children's birthday party bookings with bespoke birthday cakes made by the Rising Café bakers. Pray for local children and their families who make use of these facilities.

● **FRIDAY 12 Timothée & Yukki in France:** Recently Timothée and Yukki have ministered at several events in Belfast, preaching the Gospel and mobilising for mission. Tomorrow Timothée will share at a meeting for North Africans at a large church in Mulhouse, a town with a high Muslim population. Pray many of them would respond to the Gospel.

● **SATURDAY 13 Opportunities in Teaching:** There are always openings for teachers at international schools catering for the children of our missionaries. WEC helps these schools recruit staff and teachers to run a full curriculum every term. Please pray for enough academic and other staff for the schools in Thailand, Albania, India, the Middle East, West Asia, Central Asia, and East Asia where our children attend.

WEEK 16

● **SUNDAY 14 Karakalpak in Uzbekistan:** 768,000 Karakalpak people live in Uzbekistan, many still semi-nomadic. Their name refers to the men's distinctive black caps. Over irrigation for cotton production has drained rivers, bringing destitution to livestock farmers and fishing communities. Mostly Sunni Muslim, very few Karakalpaks have heard or responded to the gospel. Pray for them to receive spiritual living water.

● **MONDAY 15 Motivational quote:** 'The modern desire for short-term involvement and quick results can cripple efforts to give time to learn languages and cultures, build relationships and incarnate the Gospel in cultures.' (P Johnstone, 2011, p235) Pray for the next generation of missionaries to be willing to serve for many years to achieve that long-term goal.

● **TUESDAY 16 Mobilising in Europe:** The WAVE branch are asking God for members to join the branch leadership to process the many recruits eager to serve in Eastern and Central Europe. Pray for Martin and Ingeborg, and especially for their church contacts in Ukraine.

● **WEDNESDAY 17 WEC Eurocon 2024:** Around 70 leaders and other WECers of our Europe branches gather today for 8 days in Tirana. Pray for the Area Directors leading and guiding the conference to have fresh vision around decisions for WEC's future ministry in Europe. Pray for the worship and intercession, for deep fellowship, honest sharing and encouragement.

● **THURSDAY 18 Keith & Ally in Member Care:** Keith has been liaising with specialists to put together online training projects like Critical Incident Stress Debriefing training, and has put together a safeguarding training log for our WEC branch. Pray for Ally teaching today on the 'Staff and Wellbeing' course at All Nations Christian College. The topic she will cover is 'Multi-cultural Teams and Member Care'.

● **FRIDAY 19 Tim & Fiona in France:** Fiona recently enjoyed ministering at a conference for colleagues in West Asia, where she led an Orality workshop, creative worship, wrote and acted in a drama sketch, did some painting and henna storytelling training. The Fungs' church in Lisieux are interested in a property next to the café they run. Pray for wisdom about its potential to enable outreach ministry to grow.

● **SATURDAY 20 Opportunities at WEC Camps:** Our UK Camps give young people (9-17) a life-changing experience through Bible and mission teaching, plus fun activities with a strong Christian ethos. In the last week of July a set-up team arrive in Cromer to pitch tents and prepare equipment. Tent leaders and kitchen staff are needed from 27 July, while others stay on after 10 August to pack up and load the lorries. Pray for adult volunteers and campers to book in, and for God's help processing applications in time.

WEEK 17

● **SUNDAY 21 Aimaq in Turkmenistan:** Around 20 Aimaq tribes were forced to become semi-nomadic by drought and war, raising herds as well as farming, and weaving carpets. The 269,000 Aimaq people in Turkmenistan are Sunni Muslim with no known believers. Although Aimaq languages exist, they are only used in the home, and the larger Aimaq communities in Afghanistan may speak mostly Dari. Pray for a disciple-making movement among them in this generation.

● **MONDAY 22 Motivational quote:** 'We are privileged today to have a clearer picture of what has been done and what remains to be done. This places a great responsibility on the Church of the 21st Century to use this information for prayer and mobilisation to disciple all the people groups of the world.' (P Johnstone, 2011, p168)

● **TUESDAY 23 Operation World on the move:** Colin and Molly are busy packing a UK shipment including hundreds of research and study books, maps and files, every previous OW publication, edition and translation, plus useful office items.

These will be shipped to Southeast Asia and stored until OW can operate in the new location. Pray everything will arrive safely.

● **WEDNESDAY 24 Media team:** Pray for Jay as he finalises designs for our summer exhibition stand and literature. May this powerfully convey WEC's passion for the last, the least and the lost who are potential treasure to the Kingdom of God. Pray also for Jay's digital evangelism ministry through platforms like Minecraft, and the CW3 network of fellow Christians working in digital media.

● **THURSDAY 25 Betel in Warwickshire:** A former mining rescue centre in a Warwickshire village has been used by Betel for 12 years as a home for men recovering from addictions. An extension of four apartments is being added to accommodate families of Betel workers, like Luke and Kelly whose children, placed for many years in the care system, have been finally reunited to them. Bless the building work and the families preparing to move in.

● **FRIDAY 26 Training to serve our children:** Gill is running a learning circle on six Thursday evenings until 30 May. She aims to equip parents, teachers and MK advisors who support children living in a third culture (TCKs). Pray for her to guide the online group through topics like the post-Covid world, relating to teenagers, re-entry from a mission location, transitioning to higher education, screen time, internet use, language issues, as well as ideological challenges like sexual identity, climate change and racism.

● **SATURDAY 27 InfiniteArts Conference:** Betel's InfiniteArts team are organising a gathering of local, international, professional and amateur artists to explore creativity in worship at Betel's Anchor Point venue in Birmingham 17-18 May. Pray for ticket sales, for speakers and artists, stallholders, breakout sessions, and children's programme.

WEEK 18

● **SUNDAY 28 Uyghurs in Kazakhstan:** For centuries, Uyghurs were the merchants providing hospitality along the Silk Road, or transporting goods between the Mediterranean and Far East. There are believed to be around 352,000 Uyghurs in Kazakhstan, although this fluctuates as refugees escape from China or are forcibly returned. Since the break-up of the USSR, some Uyghur families in Kazakhstan have responded to the gospel, yet those with relatives in China are fearful for their safety. Pray for healing for these communities.

● **MONDAY 29 Motivational quote:** 'No doctoral programmes, techniques, strategies, management styles or fund-raising expertise can replace a humble godliness and dependence on the Holy Spirit. Technology is a good servant but a poor master.' (P Johnstone, 2011, p235) Pray for all WEC workers to demonstrate humble dependency on God as opposed to dependency on technology or skill.

● **TUESDAY 30 'A' in Central Asia:** 'When a lady invited two of her work colleagues to celebrate her birthday, one colleague also brought her husband. We had a great time together eating, singing, dancing and sharing the good news with them as we ate.' Pray for all of 'A's contacts and their families.

EVENTS

● **Scotland Prayer Conference / Mission & Me weekend:** Windmill Centre, Arbroath 5-7 April.

● **MomentumYes course:** Six Tuesday evenings online from 7 May to 11 June.

● **InfinityArts Creative Conference:** Anchor Point, Birmingham 17-18 May.

● **Mission & Me chat:** Online Thursday evening, 27 June or 12 September.

● **WEC Camps:** (Children aged 9-17) Cromer, Norfolk, 28 July to 10 August

See wec-uk.org/events to find out more.



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