

Mission News – December 2018
(please try to use prayer guides daily)

MONDAY – Today, please remember and pray for our partnership in Ghana with **the Rt. Rev.'d Matthias Medadues-Badohu, Bishop of the Diocese of Ho**, our Companion Diocese. Christmas in Ghana is a special occasion for both Christians and non-Christians, with celebrations centered around large family gatherings and feasts. The favorite meals are peanut butter soup with mutton and *fufu* (a mixture of pounded cassava and plantains) or *banku* (corn dough meal), grilled tilapia with hot ground pepper, or banku with okra stew. People choose favorite carols as ringtones for their cell phones. Brightly colored paper and ornaments pinned up throughout the houses set a cheery mood for the festivities. For Christians in Ghana, however, the most important message – the birth of Christ – is the focus. Please pray the message will be heard by many whose hearts have been prepared to receive King Jesus.

TUESDAY – In Canada, freedom of religion is a constitutionally protected right, which allows for freedom to assemble and worship without limitation. However, for people in many countries around the world, this fundamental freedom is being overlooked. Over 215 million Christians around the world are persecuted because of their faith. Pray for **Open Doors** as they work to provide persecuted Christians with hope - be it through the provision of Bibles, Christian materials, training, livelihood skills, advocacy, and many other ways – their aim and purpose is that these Christians can know that they are not forgotten, and that they can stand strong to be salt and light in the places God has established them and serve the communities God has given them.

WEDNESDAY – **Pregnancy Resource Center of Saint John** asks for our prayers for the following: (1) Clients who come to the Center for pregnancy tests and are often feeling overwhelmed. Pray that God will work in their hearts and that they will come back for their next appointments. (2) Pregnancy loss clients as they work through the program with their mentor **Stacy**. Pray more women will become aware of this service. (3) A pregnant client and her boyfriend. He is being treated for anger and drug addiction and she is finding the separation difficult. Please pray for effective treatment and for new direction for his life. (4) A smooth handover for the new Executive Director for the PRC, **Krista Raynard**, as she works with **Anna** who finishes Dec 31st. Pray that Krista will not feel overwhelmed but will trust in the Lord for daily wisdom, strength and peace.

THURSDAY – **John Buchanan, Executive Director of the Saint John Community Food Basket**, says “we are blessed and very thankful for the support we receive from our community, corporate partners and individual donors” and are grateful for donations of money and non-perishable food items, especially with the approach of Christmas and the holiday season and winter months. John goes on to say that “we are very proud to offer a respectful, dignified environment for our clients to shop. **Yes “shop”!** Clients can make their

own food choices from our Community Food Basket **market** ... rather than the more universal offering of being provided a box or bag(s) of various foodstuffs. Volunteers assist in making individual and family selections considering personal tastes, dietary choices and food sensitivities." Clients are also offered grocery carts to transport their food for a nominal fee of \$3 or for free if they can't afford it. Please pray for the clients, volunteers and community partners. John asks prayer in particular for longstanding, senior volunteer **Sister Emily Lordon** who is having significant health issues.

FRIDAY – Cindy Miles, Interim Executive Director, writes that "**Safe Harbour House** is a residential space that operates under a transitional housing model and every day since we opened our doors in March of 2017, we have provided a safe place to live for a number of youth at risk. Youth come to SHH with a number of underlying issues related to childhood trauma, abuse, neglect, mental illness and addictions. The House provides a safe space so youth can focus on their health, education and treatment. We encourage and support them in their aspirations to live their lives to their greatest potential. This past year has seen incredible success and growth. Two youth that never considered post-secondary to be part of their journey have been accepted into University and are busy preparing. 15 youth came through our doors this year and those that did not finish high school are working on getting their diplomas, and some are seeking employment or have found employment. One young person graduated this past June and is now working on fulfilling their dream of entering the Military."

SATURDAY – David & Rhonda Peterson (Dayspring) are receiving invitations to share a meal in the homes of some of their international friends this fall, getting to know them and their families more deeply. Pray that God will reveal His love through them. Their friend Ahmad is waiting to get a call from Halifax with a date for his kidney transplant. His wife is the best match. Pray the call will come soon and that his mother will get approved as a government assisted refugee so she can support the family. D & R are also helping with an Alpha Marriage Course at Dayspring. Pray that God will touch the young couples and strengthen their marriages. Finally, please pray that D & R will be a blessing to the staff and residents at King's Way Care Centre, sharing their gifts of music. Rhonda's Dad is a resident there.

SUNDAY – Erin Hodge (Inner City Youth Ministry) sent along this update: "For praise, give thanks for this summer having gone so well, we provided approximately 1400 lunches and supported many families through our back pack program as well. Great relationships were built! For prayer request, pray that we have avenues to maintain a connection with the families and individuals from the summer, as well as new relationships as well!" Please pray that Erin will be a godly example for these children and that her studies at Threshold Ministries will further equip her to serve these children and their families.