

Mission News – January 2022
(please try to use prayer guides daily)

MONDAY – Today, please remember and pray for our partnership in Ghana with **the Rt. Rev. Matthias Medadues-Badohu, Bishop of the Diocese of Ho**, our Companion Diocese. Please pray for our Ghanaian brothers and sisters in Christ this month by using Paul's prayer from Col 1:9-11, *“that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.”* Like us, they are in a spiritual battle in Ghana and our prayers for them are like a life jacket.

TUESDAY – Reverends Terence & Jasmine Chandra (Pennies and Sparrows) would appreciate our prayers as they begin a new year of ministry focusing primarily on the city centre of Saint John, particularly the two priority neighbourhoods of Waterloo Village and the South End. They partner with neighbourhood groups from both communities to see what can be done to reduce poverty, especially for the children, and to bring greater food security and affordable housing and a better connection to local resources for residents. Their regular programs include English Language classes, the English Language Bible Study, monthly Seniors Helping Seniors, Art of Prayer and Family Connections. The Emmaus Way is another program where teams support families and individuals living in unstable life circumstances. They hope to launch a new team – this one based in Fredericton to support two refugee families with volunteers from two church communities. Please pray for God's enabling, protection and vision for T & J and that He would be glorified as this ministry grows and expands.

WEDNESDAY – On August 15th last year, when Kabul fell, a girl was born to Christian parents, in this country (Afghanistan) where religious minorities, and women in particular, lived in fear. The parents believed the birth was a sign that God had not given up on their country. For a time there was a media frenzy. But who will be there when the cameras are gone? **Open Doors** is one ministry supporting persecuted Christians in more than 60 countries for more

than 65 years. It raised approximately \$100 million last year to provide support to persecuted believers. Pray for Open Doors advocacy on behalf of the most vulnerable and marginalized people and that it will speak volumes to the watching world about who God is and what He cares about.

THURSDAY – At the start of a new year, **The Pregnancy Resource Center of Saint John** has much cause to praise God: an increase in new and returning clients in 2021, new board members and volunteers, Anna’s willingness to assume the position of Board Chair, the success of their Virtual Fall Banquet and 22 precious babies born in 2021. We rejoice with them! They also asked us to pray for (1) a new Treasurer of the board, (2) guidance for Center director Holly Ells and the Board of Directors in setting the budget for 2022, (3) the replacement of aging office computers, (4) guidance as the vision and the strategic plan for 2022 are discussed, (5) an early hip surgery date for Elizabeth (volunteer), (6) the federal government to withdraw its threat to revoke the charitable status of pregnancy resource centers across Canada and (7) a new texting app within their budget as their current company is ending its texting services in April.

FRIDAY – **The Saint John Community Food Basket** serves the city’s central and south end neighbourhoods and is the city’s largest food bank. In early November the food bank had a break-in with the office space ransacked and computer and other electronics stolen. **John Buchanan**, executive director of the food bank, said the whole experience has been an “emotional roller coaster.” The break-in is especially sad as the Food Basket has been seeing more people use their service since the Canada Recovery Benefit Program ended on October 23. John also said the food bank may also be seeing an increase in clients due to a number of evictions occurring in the south end. Please pray for staff, volunteers and clients at the food bank who have been distressed by this incident, for their protection from the virus and God’s blessing as the food bank looks after neighbours that need help.

SATURDAY – Close to two years of restrictions, lock downs, anxiety, and fear have worn us down. Even the vaccine roll outs, greeted with great hope by some, have become fraught with uncertainty and confusion. And most of us are deeply weary. Providing God’s comfort to struggling people has become the driving force for the **Canadian Bible Society (CBS)** this past year. They introduced a new program

for people in long term care, made new resources freely available, and expanded their use of digital media to reach more people more quickly. Further, CBS helped many Bible Societies across the world to stay open during the pandemic. As well the pace of Bible translation has picked up with 70% of the world's full Bibles now translated by Bible Societies. However, there is much that needs prayer coverage. Please pray specifically for (1) a three year project to prepare translated drafts of the whole Bible for publication in Mohawk, (2) provision of a second 1 million Bibles for Cuban believers, and (3) for the ministry of **Rev. Mel Norton**, CBS representative for New Brunswick.

SUNDAY – Jamie MacArthur (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Atlantic Director) was delighted to welcome a new staff couple this year. **Matt and Aimee Allen** have taken up leadership at Dalhousie University and are replanting the work at Mount Saint Vincent University. Along with **Patrick Palmer**, who serves in Fredericton, they are the four full time staff in this region to date. However, some enterprising students have undertaken to restart a chapter of InterVarsity at UNBSJ! A group of about 27 Christian students are meeting with the authorities at the University and have reached out to Jamie for IVCF's Constitution and other documents to assist them in obtaining the university's sanction. Praise God for this exciting development and pray for the group's co-leaders **Allison, Patrick and Olivia**. This is a direct answer to the prayers of many. Pray for needed finances for the fledgling group, engagement with other students as they are welcomed to the fellowship, and favour with University authorities.