

Mission News – November 2021
(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. This month please pray for Bishop Matthias' physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well being using the following prayer adapted from *Anglican Focus*. "Loving God, thank you for being our shield and strength. You are a God of compassion and faithfulness. During this challenging time of Covid, please protect, nourish and sustain Bishop Matthias and other church leaders through the work of your Holy Spirit. May he find rest and encouragement in Your loving care." In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, Bishop Matthias has been endowed with authority to represent Jesus Christ to the Church in Ho and to the wider community, and by God's grace, he has been empowered as a servant, leader, teacher, reconciler, and enabler.

TUESDAY – Reverends Rod and Lisa BrantFrancis (All Saints Church, Tyendinaga, ON) would appreciate our prayers for their relationship with the Diocese of Ontario and for their parish that it will creatively thrive as a church within the guidelines set out by their Diocese. Please pray, too, for Bible study and Fellowship Prayer returning to Zoom group and for parish letter distribution. Rod and Lisa also voice their need for encouragement, inspiration and energy and for wisdom and the leading of the Spirit to address, or not to address, those in their community who believe the Church has no right to be there due to the Residential Schools and for peace in their community. Pray earnestly for the Band Council elections in December which are often a turbulent time in Tyendinaga. Finally, pray that the message of the Gospel will touch the hearts of key persons in their community and for health, peace, courage, wisdom and strength for their wardens dealing with incredible personal stress throughout this pandemic season.

WEDNESDAY – Erin Rideout (Inner City Youth Ministry) sends the following praise/prayer items: (1) Give thanks for our new volunteers! We are thrilled that despite Covid still very much being a factor we still have willing volunteers and have started to see growth in our numbers (we are still very much looking for more volunteers). (2) Give thanks for our new space at St Mary's and St Bartholomew's Church- so far the space has been perfect for the Lunch Connection program! (3) Please pray for our staff as they constantly adjust to changed restrictions, and work to ensure the program runs without interruption. She adds that many ICYM programs are on hold because of Covid but their Family Connection program is still running (a delivery program but all the packing of the boxes, which include a meal, board game, book, crafts, snacks and activities is done at their Trinity Church office). They are also grateful for **Kate Selig** who is their food security program assistant (half time on a 1-year contract). Erin specifically asks for prayer as they are "feeling the pinch" as expenses are still exceeding monthly donations as the Lunch Program is far more expensive to operate now. Please pray that ICYM will receive good responses from some recent funding applications.

THURSDAY – Tony Dickinson, Housing and Shelter Director for Outflow Ministry writes that Covid has brought changes to their ministry. *Instead of gathering around the table to share a supper, we are providing takeaway meals. This means we are able to help people have supper five nights per week. Some of our Catapult brand social enterprises went on a brief hiatus and others had to temporarily reduce staff. We are happy to let you know that each social enterprise is again open and working to fulfill the shared mandate to help people enter into the workforce. Our shelter continues to offer a safe place for 30 men who would otherwise have nowhere to turn. The focus of the shelter is to help our clients to find housing as quickly as possible. We would like to ask Stone Church to hold us up in prayer in three areas. First, please pray for the people who use our services. While we have been able to continue ministering to those in need, the pandemic has had a real impact on how we do*

this. This impact directly touches the lives of those we serve. Second, please pray for our staff and leadership. The work Outflow does is challenging in general and the pandemic has added to this challenge. Third, please join us in thanking God for his continued provision during the pandemic so we can help people in need.

FRIDAY – Youth Unbound (previously Safe Harbour House) and through collaboration with community partners and youth, provides stable transitional housing for youth with a safe, empowering environment that supports them in making positive changes in their lives. The Youth Unbound program is a transitional, intensive, educational, employment support and housing program for homeless youth from ages 16 to 19. As part of this programming, they also offer Outreach services to youth 16 to 30 that transition from their program to independent living as well as to other youth that reside in the community. Since the doors were opened in 2017, Youth Unbound have welcomed 46 youth into the home of which they have 6 youth currently in the program. The initiative is heavy on the building of positive relationships and is focused on a strengths based approach. Pray for Youth Unbound in the multiple challenges they face, as do many in the community – such as the lack of safe and affordable housing and the continuing rise of the cost of food.

SATURDAY – Bev Sullivan, Manager for Seafarers Saint John writes, *Regarding, the Covid concerns, once the seafarers are vaccinated, I'm sure they'll start coming to the Mission again. I think they're fearful of the possibility of taking the virus back to their ships. Here in Saint John, the Port Authority has been working with NB Health, etc to be able to vaccinate seafarers here, if they request such. Although that process is close to being implemented, I don't have an exact date yet.* Please pray for Bev and Eric Phinney the Mission Chaplain, that God would grant them the vision to see in those they serve the likeness of our Lord Jesus. In her email, Bev also included a lovely prayer from The Mission to Seafarers Canada. "Almighty God we give thanks for all those who work at sea. We acknowledge our need for the food and raw materials they transport. We recognize that they are sometimes in danger and their long absences often involve sacrifices in their family life. Help us to show our gratitude not only in our words, but also in our actions. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

SUNDAY – David and Rhonda Peterson (Dayspring and Newcomer Connection Refugee Assistance) send along the following praise and prayer items:

Praise (1) *David has been able to find housing for all our new families! But housing is still a need as the team receives non-Afghan new families weekly. (2) Our Father provided for us to fly to Minnesota to visit David's family and especially his sister, Joan (cancer). (3) Our Dayspring Garden has done so well and this warm weather is helping the tomatoes ripen on the vine! We are happy to be able to share our produce with others.*

Prayer (1) *David would appreciate prayer as he tries to manage his team, which has grown from three to six people. They are trying to prepare for an influx of Afghan refugees that the government keeps promising to bring. (2) We'd like to ask you to pray for Joan and her family. If our Father doesn't heal her, she will probably be going Home to be with Him soon. (3) M and H are still waiting for their interview with the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees). We are praying that the Afghans that Canada has promised to bring to Canada, will not cause others who have been waiting to come, to be pushed back in the cue. They are trying to wait patiently for movement on their file and so are we! Thank you for your gift towards their sponsorship.*