

Mission News – May 2025

(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.** In February **Robert Griffin**, Fredericton Companion Diocese Chair, was installed as a lay canon during his fifth trip to Ho. This has further strengthened our partnership in Ghana by recognizing Robert's unflagging efforts in taking the Diocese of Ho mobile medical clinic from an idea to reality. "The fully equipped and staffed clinic now visits villages where no doctor has ever been, providing health care to thousands of people in the diocese." The role of a lay canon in Ghana is to use their expertise and experience in service of the Church. They advise the Bishop on socio-economic issues and raise resources to support the work and ministry of the Diocese. Robert has filled this role well! Pray for God's blessing and guidance as future projects are identified and considered.

TUESDAY – Laurence & Peggy Epp (ReachAcross, Calgary) have a fruitful ministry befriending many Muslims in the Calgary area and continuing to maintain contact with former Muslim friends from the years they were living in countries around the Red Sea. Their ministry involves English as a Second Language classes, Laurence volunteering at a local cancer hospital as an Arabic language translator, invitations to their home for coffee or meals, practical helps such as assisting with job searches and teaching how to drive, and emotional support and encouragement. All these activities are accompanied by offers of prayer and Bible study. Please pray for God's blessing on their friendship evangelism. Praise, too, that the ReachAcross National Board has chosen a National Director. There are still more "hoops to jump" so pray for the process.

WEDNESDAY – It is very encouraging to receive reports of the significant increase in printed Bible sales in 2024. These increased by 22 percent in the US through the end of October 2024, compared to the year before, where total US print book sales only increased by less than 1 percent in that same time frame. According to the American Bible Society, young people, in particular, appear to be buying Bibles in greater numbers compared to other age groups and say that they've increased their Bible reading in the past year: 21 percent of Gen Z reported they have increased their Bible use, compared to 16 percent of Boomers and 11 percent of Millennials. (*Christianity Today*). Hopefully, this upsurge in Scripture reading is true for Canada as well. Please pray for the ministry of the **Canadian Bible Society (CBS)** and **Pastor Mel Norton** (Woodstock, NB), who serves as Development Advisor for CBS, in their efforts to get the Word into the hands of Canadians of all ages.

THURSDAY – **Northern Clergy Families Fund (NCFF)** has helped clergy families in the North for over 50 years. They do so by contacting Bishops in the North for names of families they can assist with a monetary gift (cheque of \$1,000). These gifts have “no strings attached” and are much appreciated by these families with the escalating costs of transportation, housing, food and medical care in the North. NCFF was able to assist 6 families in 2024 and the need for such a fund has only grown. Please pray that God will continue to move more churches and individuals to respond generously in giving to this ministry, ensuring that these families know that they are remembered by those of us in the South. NCFF is, and has been for a number of years, one of our supported missions at Stone Church.

FRIDAY – **Open Doors (OD)** carries out a vital ministry to the persecuted church throughout the world. (See the World Watch List on our bulletin board for their annual ranking of the 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution.)

This ministry includes providing critical support, delivering resources and providing training. OD shares the story of a husband and wife team: **Narendran** and **Kavita** (names have been changed). They had just finished a prayer meeting in their small bamboo church in rural India when they were attacked. It was a terrifying assault which put the couple in hospital for a week. When they returned home they discovered that Hindu extremists had wrecked their beloved church. OD provided support by paying for their medical expenses and covering them in prayer. N and K rejoice that they are safe and still able to serve God even though both face physical challenges. Pray for N and K and many others that Open Doors is able to assist and encourage, our persecuted brothers and sisters.

SATURDAY – Please pray today for **Hellen Adano (Marsabit, Kenya)**, the widow of Bishop Andrew Adano. The Adano family became very dear to us during the years that we were in a Companion relationship with the Diocese of Eldoret. Hellen continues as deaconess in their church, St. Peter's Anglican in Marsabit, and has a special ministry to other widows. Although we no longer support the Adano family financially, Hellen and her four children appreciate our prayers for their spiritual and physical well being and for their church's outreach to nomadic herders. The Adano family has established a fund in Andrew's memory to provide children in the area with an opportunity for an education as many live in deep poverty.

SUNDAY – **Saint John Seafarers' Mission** offers practical and emotional support to seafarers at their 92 Tilley Lane location, regardless of nationality and religious beliefs. All Mission to Seafarers (in over 200 seaports across 50 different countries) aim to provide as much help as possible to international seafarers. These men and women are employed to serve aboard any type of marine vessel. They are often at sea for months, away from their

home and families. When ships dock at Port Saint John, the Saint John Seafarers' Mission provides needed services to support these workers. These services can be as simple as coming into the Mission centre for a hot cup of coffee, making a call home possible, or a trip to the mall to restock on some essentials before heading back to sea. Please pray for the team at the Saint John Mission which includes Executive Director **Tony Dickinson**, General Manager **Beverly Sullivan** and Port Chaplain **Rev. Eric Phinney** plus their much appreciated volunteers as they reach out to seafarers in Jesus' Name, the One who stilled the waters.