

PRAYER FOCUS

2016/17



WELCOME

Dear praying friend,

Thank you for your commitment to pray for Christian healthcare workers and the people they serve.

Our partners often tell us how much they appreciate having friends across the world praying for them.

Please join us in sharing prayers of request and thanksgiving, giving Him the glory.

Thank you.



Chief Executive

Using this guide

Each year we produce an annual Prayer Focus. It includes a summary of the ongoing work at the time of publication, along with inspiration about how you can uphold this work in prayer.

We appreciate all of your prayer, whether daily, weekly or just whenever you can. Please cycle through the projects and prayer requests at your own pace.

We receive regular updates from our partners. If you'd like to receive the latest prayer requests, please visit www.emms.org/prayer. There you can sign up to receive monthly prayer emails.

DUNCAN HOSPITAL: SENDING A LIGHT



Duncan hospital serves the poverty-ravaged villages of Bihar, India's poorest state. They do so by reaching out with life-saving healthcare and health education and by providing excellent hospital facilities.

We give thanks for:

- Life-saving miracles happening in the lives of mothers and babies in the face of extreme adversity.
- The generosity of many in the Send a Light appeal.
- Honest, hard working and committed staff.
- A Christ-centred administrative team at Duncan with leaders who nurture the institution.
- Favour with the government health department.
- Honest and faithful senior government officials.
- A useful evaluation giving direction for the future.

Looking ahead, please pray for:

- God's protection for field staff during travel and while interacting with villagers.
- Government staff and local officials to have integrity and a desire to love and serve those who are poor and marginalised and to deliver health to all.
- Duncan hospital to be more accessible to the poor and helpless in Bihar and Nepal.
- Duncan staff and their families to be nurtured and protected physically, mentally and spiritually when facing a huge workload and less family time.



Photos (from top): Dr Sharon and some of the many mothers and babies her team care for.

MALAWI: EMPOWERED FOR HEALTH



YOU AND US
TOGETHER, WE
CAN ACHIEVE
AN HIV-FREE
GENERATION.

- Mphatso Nguluwe, LISAP

Photos (from top): Mphatso Nguluwe (centre) Director of LISAP; child vaccination and nutrition near Mulanje Mission Hospital; mum and baby clinic at Nkhoma Mission Hospital.



MALAWI: EMPOWERED FOR HEALTH

Improving health in Malawi faces significant challenges. Not least of these is a poverty that robs people of hope and expectations. Pray that hope would stir as people are encouraged to claim the healthcare they deserve.

Malawi has experienced severe floods, destroying crops and livelihoods. This has been followed by droughts, making food security a life-threatening problem for Malawi's people. Pray that health providers can overcome these challenges in caring for people.

Pray for the key activities of each partner:

Livingstonia Synod Aids Programme

The Mziche project will continue in Nkhata Bay district. The aim is to stop the spread of HIV at birth and improve the lives of people living with HIV.

Nkhoma Mission Hospital

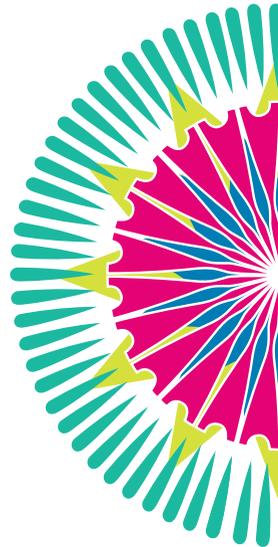
Work continues to improve delivery of essential healthcare in the area served by Nkhoma Mission Hospital, in particular through strengthening the network of clinics and links with other health providers.

Mulanje Mission Hospital

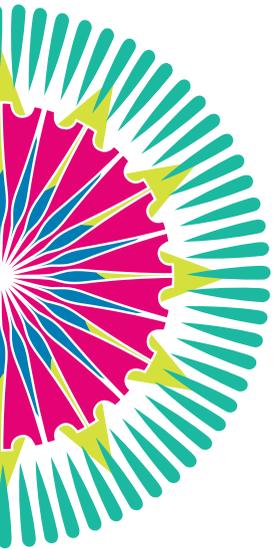
Similarly, Mulanje Mission Hospital continues to provide essential healthcare in an area that was badly affected by the 2015 flooding. They continue to improve the provision of primary healthcare in the area.

Malawi Health Equity Network

All partners will work together to develop local groups who are skilled, informed and able to advocate for improved healthcare. Pray for the various levels of decision making, that they would be motivated by care and compassion.



MALAWI: PALLIATIVE CARE



Give thanks for the successful launch of this project made possible by support of the Sunday's Child appeal and matched funding from the UK government.

Give thanks for an improved supply of morphine in Malawi. All too often patients are left in unnecessary pain because of a lack of pain relief. Pray that supplies would continue to be available to all who need them.

Pray for each of the partners and hospitals involved in this project:

Palliative Care Support Trust

Mulanje Mission Hospital

Nkhoma Mission Hospital

Pray that all staff would know God's strength and encouragement in the work that they do.

We give thanks for good relationships with the government of Malawi and other organisations, pray that these would be fruitful in improving end-of life care across the country.

Praise God that more patients are receiving the care they deserve. PCST reports seeing a three-fold increase in patient numbers. Pray that they would have the resources to meet these growing needs.

Photos (from top): Samson, clinical officer at Nkhoma, on a home visit; Nurse Annie gives an outpatient clinic at Mulanje Mission Hospital; Aida at home with her family, supported by home care teams.

CHHATARPUR: PROTECTING MOTHERS & BABIES



Photos: Project lead Dr Prabhudutt and inside Chhatarpur hospital

Chhatarpur hospital is saving the lives of mothers and babies by reaching out into the communities, training nurses and improving facilities.

Join us in giving thanks to God for:

- His faithfulness and protection as staff travel to various villages daily.
- Good working relationships with government health officials.
- Successful completion of mid-term evaluation and the clarity we have received to move on to achieve our goal and objectives.
- God's provision and protection over the construction workers while constructing the mother and child health block.

Looking ahead, please pray for:

- God's strength for the project team members to complete the task that He has assigned us.
- Necessary finances and resources to reach all those we can with better healthcare.
- That staff would be a light in villages trapped in the darkness of addiction, drug abuse, depression, caste discrimination, gender discrimination and traditional rituals.



MADHIPURA: GIVING HEALTH A HOME



Madhipura Hospital needs more doctors and nurses to meet the needs of its community. Thankfully, work is now underway to improve and build more staff accommodation. Pray that work will proceed quickly and safely.

Give thanks that living conditions will be improved and staffing increased. Pray for the staff at Madhipura hospital, for many of whom it's a great personal sacrifice to be there.

Pray for safety, there have been a series of violent attacks. Patients' families can become distraught when their loved ones' conditions deteriorate or they die, despite this being outside the hospital's control. This can lead to violent confrontations.

Pray that, as people see the quality of care they receive, they would grow in trust of the hospital.

Pray that recent security improvements would allow staff to do their work without fear of attack. Give thanks for the support of local police and government officials in supporting the hospital in this area.

Pray for Dr Timothy, leading the team at Madhipura. Give him continued strength and wisdom.

Pray that all who come to the hospital receive the care and compassion they deserve.

Photos: Building works begin for the new nurses block at Madhipura hospital

INDIA: PALLIATIVE CARE



Photo: Palliative care home visit and Dr Savita

When access to healthcare is so restricted, curative options are quickly exhausted. People are then left fearing the very real prospect of dying in unimaginable pain. Palliative care is about preventing this by providing holistic care.

Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) is working to provide palliative care through their network of hospitals. Join us in giving thanks for:

- The addition of palliative care at Lakhnadon and Chinchpada Christian Hospitals.
- Successful training for 14 doctors and nurses in the basics of palliative care. So far, 53 EHA staff have undertaken this accredited course.
- Completion of the revealing and meaningful study on Palliative Care as a Tool for Reducing Household Poverty.

Looking ahead:

- For further training of staff, including that Dr Tony Biswas (Lalitpur) and Dr Leejia Philip (Raxaul) will successfully complete a diploma in Palliative Medicine through Cardiff University, Wales.
- Pray for smooth transition to new leadership as Dr Ann Thyle is handing over leadership to Dr Savita Duomai (Shalom Delhi). Pray for Dr Savita as she takes on this additional responsibility.





EMMS International continues to support future doctors and healthcare professionals to take their elective placements in mission hospitals and resource-poor settings.

We give thanks for a growing number of applications to the scheme and pray that this reflects a growing heart for healthcare mission. Pray for wisdom as applications are assessed.

We pray for students throughout the application process:

Give them wisdom and direction in planning their placements and submitting their applications.

Help students in preparing for travel, practically but also spiritually and emotionally. Protect them on their travels and in their work.

As they return, pray that they would continue to apply what they have learnt and be guided by what they have seen.

Pray also for the hospitals where the students will go, that they will be encouraged by their visit and that their assistance would ease the hospitals' burden.

Give thanks for the continued support of the Lazarus Trust in funding this programme.

Photo: Emma Stewart on her elective placement at Ekwendeni Mission Hospital, Malawi

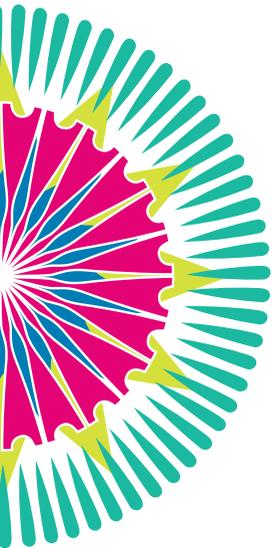
SO JESUS SAID
TO THEM AGAIN,
"PEACE BE WITH
YOU; AS THE
FATHER HAS SENT
ME, I ALSO SEND
YOU."

John 20:21

PREM JYOTI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



*Photo: Prem Jyoti
Community Hospital*



Prem Jyoti hospital serves the rural tribal communities in Jharkhand, India.

Pray for the continued training of hospital staff in maternal and newborn care. Give thanks that Prem Jyoti is leading the way in this area and that lives are being saved as a result.

Pray for continued outreach to local villages, particularly to tribal communities. Lives are lost unnecessarily because people do not recognise danger signs during pregnancy. Pray that these life-saving messages would continue to spread and take hold.

Give thanks for the development of mobile clinics, providing life-saving care in remote villages. Pray that these would continue to grow in number and effectiveness.

Prem Jyoti supports government clinics and hospitals to provide basic care and ensure that dangerous cases are referred quickly. Pray for good relationships with government officials and other hospitals.

Prem Jyoti cares for some of India's poorest people. They make sure that quality care is available by providing subsidised care or helping people claim available support from the government. Pray that they would continue to reach with care and compassion those who need them most.



UK: HAWTHORN BRAE PALLIATIVE CARE

Hawthorn Brae is a scheme to support people from Edinburgh living with chronic illness by providing grants for respite holidays.

Pray for those who are supported, that through the rest they would find physical, emotional and spiritual restoration. Pray for those who are travelling with friends and family, that there would be restorations in their relationships also.

We give thanks for God's creation. It is a blessing for us to enjoy and rest in it.

Give thanks for the diligence of the team administering the grants. Pray that they would continue to review applications with wisdom and discernment.

Pray for the various organisations supporting people in Edinburgh with chronic illnesses. Give thanks for the opportunity to work with them and pray that these relationships would continue to grow in effectiveness.

Pray for opportunities to grow and develop the programme to provide more people with much-needed respite.

The scheme was set up after the sale of Hawthorn Brae House, a property bequeathed to the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society. Give thanks for the continued legacy of care.

Photo: Harris, Scotland

**YOU RULE OVER
THE SURGING SEA;
WHEN ITS WAVES
MOUNT UP, YOU
STILL THEM.**

Psalm 89:9

NEPAL: PALLIATIVE CARE



"FOR ME, SERVING GOD AND SERVING THE POOR ARE ONE AND THE SAME THING. IF I CAN RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF OTHERS, THEN I DO THIS WITH A GLAD HEART."

- Manju



Photos (from top): Nurse Manju; Nurse Manju at work; people are still living in earthquake-damaged homes like this previously two storey house.

Give thanks for the swift response of International Nepal Fellowship, Nepal in caring for those affected by the devastating earthquakes of April 2015.

Give thanks also for their faithfulness in continuing to care for the most vulnerable.

Even before the earthquake, there was a small, active team researching the needs for palliative care in Nepal. Pray that they can continue and finalise their research and use it to build specialist care provision.

Pray for the first activities to achieve this, including:

Appointing Nurse Manju to train as the first specialist palliative care nurse in Nepal. Pray that her training would lead to skills that she can apply to both care for her patients and also train others.

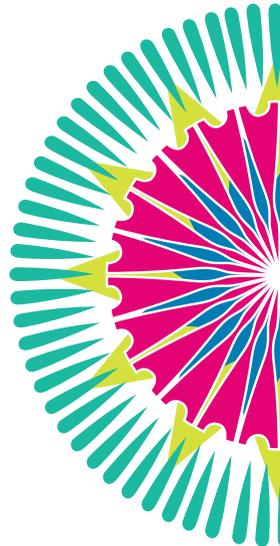
Working with churches to train volunteers in basic care so they can look after their neighbours and loved ones. Pray that this vision would continue to grow.

Continuing research into the need for palliative care in Nepal and its usefulness in advocating for the care of vulnerable people.

Continued helpful discussions and progress of the draft national Palliative Care strategy document as it is considered at higher levels

More generally, for Nepal, please pray for:

- Continued works to rebuild after the earthquakes.
- Greater political stability in the country as the new constitution is adopted into practice.
- Good relationships between governments, international organisations and local communities.





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