



PRAYER FOCUS

2015-16

Welcome

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

James 5:13

In good times and bad, we have reason to call out to God in prayer. Thank you for joining with us to pray for the work of EMMS International and its partners.

Prayer is fuel to the work of bringing health and healing to some of the world's poorest people.

All of this is done in Jesus' name and for His glory. Thank you for being part of that.

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Wells', with a small dot at the end of the signature.

James Wells

Chief Executive

Using this guide

This guide is produced each year and provides a summary of the ongoing work at the time of publication.

Please use it as often as you can. You can cycle through the projects as you pray each week or month.

The prayer requests are by no means exhaustive. For more information to inspire your prayers, please visit www.emms.org/prayer. There you can sign up to become a prayer champion and receive updates by email for urgent prayer requests.



Madhipura: Giving health a home

Madhipura, Bihar, India

Building a future for healthcare in Bihar, India, to meet the needs of some of India's poorest people.

Pray for the nurses and doctors who work tirelessly for others, despite crumbling accommodation and staff shortages.

We pray for the people of Madhipura, Bihar. Uphold them in their struggles against poverty.

We give thanks for an opportunity of new life in the hospital and in the community as a whole.

Jesus offers life, and life to the full, to everyone. Pray that we would all know fullness of life and share it with others.

Pray for the mothers and their children, that they would get all of the care and support they need. Extreme poverty makes their lives incredibly difficult.

"My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So Jesus went with him.



Malawi: Palliative Care

Malawi

Through educating healthcare professionals and equipping local volunteers, this project will ensure more and more people across Malawi have access to the care and pain relief they need.

Pray for Palliative Care Support Trust and their work in providing much needed care for people with life-limiting illnesses.

Pray for volunteers in local churches and communities. They provide loving and compassionate care to those who are sick and their families. Give thanks for the success of Inspiring Hope, the palliative care handbook for church volunteers, in equipping and encouraging more people to get involved.

Pray that more people would get the legal support they need to write a will. Currently, widows and children are often disinherited leaving them grief-stricken and facing dire poverty.

Pray for the education and training of healthcare professionals. Ask that more people would choose to specialise in this area, and that those who do would be upheld in their work.

Pray for better palliative care provision in hospitals. In particular, pray for Mulanje Mission, Nkhoma Mission and Queen Elizabeth Central Hospitals as they work to become centres of excellence in palliative care.

**"Keep doing this.
Do more of this.
Not just for me, but
for people like me."**

Patrick, palliative care patient from Mulanje



Duncan Hospital: Reaching out

Raxaul, Bihar, India

Protecting mothers and babies by working with the community to meet the needs of the poorest people.

Please pray for the continued determination of hospital staff as they strive to bring health and healing in one of India's poorest states.

Give thanks for the work that has started to reduce the number of maternal and neonatal deaths by educating mothers about health risks, encouraging them to come for antenatal care and to deliver at Duncan Hospital's community clinics and its Mother and child Health Block.

Please pray for the continued success of the referral system from the clinics to Duncan as they aim to treat all referred high risk pregnant women and infants.

Pray that every resource would be available to provide the staff, medical equipment and ambulance needed.

"A committed team of people working hard to bring hope and a greater sense of human dignity to people in the midst of terrible circumstances."

Ben Shepherd, elective student, on his experience with the team at Duncan Hospital.



Nkhoma: Essential Healthcare

Nkhoma, Malawi

This project is relieving the pressure on community health centres by providing supervision and coordination. The result is improved access to lifesaving healthcare for hundreds of thousands of people.

Working together well means more people receive the care they need, and that the quality of care is better. When healthcare resources are stretched so thin, it is imperative that they are used for the maximum benefit. Please pray for positive working relationships, which serve the needs of the people of Nkhoma.

Pray for Yoas Mvula, the health coordinator. Pray for direction and perseverance as he works with various groups and villages.

Pray that local villages will be helped to prioritise their needs and improve the utilities in their communities.

Please pray for each group, that they would work together well. We ask for better coordination to improve how government, church and community healthcare bodies, along with NGOs, work together so that everyone receives the best care possible.

We pray for the healthcare staff, that despite a lack of resources, they will be able to show love, compassion and deliver quality healthcare to those who need it most.

He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"



Mziche: Delivering life without HIV

Mzenga, Malawi

The Mziche project is working through the church in Northern Malawi to stop the spread of HIV.

Pray for mother buddies. These faithful women, living with HIV, who have given birth to babies free of the disease, are going out into their own communities to inspire and support others to do the same. Give thanks for mother buddies who have been trained so far, and pray for the women they are helping.

Pray for churches caring for people with HIV, and combatting the stigma surrounding the disease. In particular, please pray for the support groups they run that give practical encouragement on living positively.

Pray for fathers in this community. Give thanks for those who are already responding, doing more to support their wives and children and protecting their families from HIV.

Pray for the team at Livingstonia Synod AIDS Program delivering this project, particularly for Mphatso Nguluwe and Tina Banda.

"She is like a mother to me, more than a friend. I thank her for my life."

Memory speaks about her mother buddy, Enisa



Chhatarpur: Protecting mothers & babies

Madhya Pradesh, India

Through reaching out to their community, improving their facilities and training more nurses, Chhatarpur Hospital is working hard to protect mothers, babies and children.

Chhatarpur Hospital is facing an increase in demand for maternal and child health services, added to a grave shortage of capacity and resources.

Pray for dedicated healthcare workers who are working in a difficult situation. Pray for strength and perseverance, but pray also that they would continue to find joy in their service of God and their community.

Pray for the mothers of Chhatarpur, that they would receive the information and care they need to protect themselves and their children.

Pray for the training of more dedicated nurses to specialise in mother and baby care.

Malnourishment is a huge issue in this area. Pray for work that will see 23,000 fewer children suffering from malnutrition.

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."



Student Elective Bursaries

Worldwide

EMMS International sponsors future doctors and healthcare professionals to take their elective placements in overseas hospitals in resource-poor settings.

Pray for the students at all stages of the application process.

- For those who are yet to apply. Pray for wisdom in selecting where to go and planning their placements.
- For those who are successful. Pray for the preparations and practicalities of travelling. Pray for their wellbeing while they work in difficult situations - that they would be physically, emotionally and spiritually equipped for the work ahead.
- For those returning. Pray that they readjust to return to studies but also that they would have an opportunity to apply what they have learned in their own lives and careers.

Pray for the staff at the hospitals where students will go. Pray that this will ease their burden, if only for a short while, and that they will be encouraged by the support.

"...a spiritually uplifting way to remind oneself that God is a part of each aspect of our life and work, and that of our patients."

Amy Taylor, elective student at Ekwendeni Hospital.



Nepal: Protecting Mothers & Babies

Dang District, Nepal

Helping expectant mothers get the care and support they need to keep themselves and their babies healthy.

Pray for our partner, INF Nepal and, in particular, for Karuna Neupane, in her role as project leader. Pray for wisdom, patience and strength.

Pray for their work with existing health centres to improve facilities for maternity care.

Pray for the training of over 130 community health volunteers. They will run health clinics to treat and advise local women on safe motherhood and antenatal care. They will help pregnant women in their communities receive the care they need.

Please pray for the development of Mothers Groups. These groups give mums the support and care they need, while encouraging them to work together to improve care for all mothers and babies in their communities.

"Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me."



India: Palliative Care

Delhi, India

A partnership with Emmanuel Hospital Association to bring care for those in chronic pain and with life-limiting diseases.

Please pray for Dr Ann Thyle in her leadership of this programme. Give her wisdom in the decisions she makes and strength to continue to serve those in need.

Pray for each of the centres, those that lead them, and the home care teams that visit those in need:

- Harriet Benson Memorial Hospital, Lalitpur
- Prem Sewa Hospital, Utraula
- Broadwell Christian Hospital, Fatehpur
- GM Priya Hospital, Dapegaon
- Madhipura Christian Hospital, Madhepura
- Duncan Hospital, Raxaul

Pray for each person receiving care and their families, that it would bring them comfort and that, through it, they would experience the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

"How much of this medicine must I take to die?"

A patient asks of his morphine before becoming a palliative care patient of Broadwell Christian Hospital.



Ekwendeni College of Health Sciences

Ekwendeni, Malawi

In Malawi there is one doctor for every 40,000 people. Healthcare staff are in desperately short supply. This project will train clinical officers and nurse midwives through new degree courses.

Pray for healthcare workers in Malawi, struggling to meet the growing health needs of the country. Ask that they be strengthened and upheld in their work.

Pray for the lecturers and tutors, that they would equip and inspire this new generation of healthcare workers.

Please pray, as the course begins, that students would apply. Give thanks for all those who are willing to dedicate their lives to serving others. Ask for wisdom and provision in all of their preparations for beginning study.

Pray for the staff of the college as a whole that, as a result of these brand new courses, they would all be encouraged in their vital work.

"To care for the sick and show them love and assurance is what I have always dreamed of."

Constance, nursing student



Prem Jyoti Community Hospital

Jharkhand, India

Giving mothers and babies in Jharkhand, one of India's poorest states, a fighting chance at life.

Please pray for the work of Prem Jyoti Community Hospital. Pray for Dr Vijila Issac and her team as they continue to provide much needed healthcare and spiritual assistance to the Malto tribe communities.

Pray for their continued growth in expertise and capacity to reach even more of the poorest villages in the region.

Give thanks for the amazing work they are doing to reduce infant and maternal deaths by encouraging mothers to come to the hospital to have their babies, and by training new mothers in baby care and nutrition.

Please pray for continued strength and commitment of the Community Health Volunteers to provide basic instruction in health and improving referrals to the hospital.

"I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me"

Matthew 25:36



Livingstonia Health Director

Livingstonia, Malawi

The Health Department of the Synod of Livingstonia operates 3 hospitals, which exist to provide healthcare services and promote health to thousands of people in Northern Malawi.

This size of an operation requires an immense amount of coordination and leadership to fulfil its ministries. Thank God with us for the dedication and commitment of Sangster Nkhandwe, the Health Director. Please pray for continued strength and wisdom for the coming year and all of its challenges.

Pray for the practicalities of running a health department, for the training of finance managers, for efficient work and positive relationships.

Ultimately, we pray that more people will get the healthcare they desperately need.

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.



Hawthornbrae

Edinburgh, UK

Hawthornbrae is a grant-giving project which offers people from Edinburgh living with chronic illness the opportunity to go on respite holidays.

Pray for each recipient, and for those who care for them, that the holiday would be a time of rest and recuperation. Pray for restored health and refreshed relationships as a result.

Pray for the care organisations which make applications on behalf of their clients. Give thanks for their essential work, and that people in need have somewhere to turn.

Pray for the volunteers who manage the administration and review of grant applications; give them wisdom in their decisions and diligence in their work.

Give thanks for the blessing of God's creation and the rest we can find in it.

"The heavens
declare the glory
of God; the skies
proclaim the work
of his hands."

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