



## BBC World Mission Bulletin

July 2019

**Then I saw another angel flying in mid-air, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. Revelation 14:6**

**Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples. 1 Chronicles 16:24**

Welcome to the first mission news following our Mission ACTS process and as it is the first edition it is an extended version as a follow up to our week of prayer sessions.

Included in this first edition are different approaches to our world mission and what is on the hearts of the mission team of Janina, Lynn, Malc (White), Allan, Wayne and Malcolm (Lee)

The items have been pulled together from individual newsletters and personal contacts respecting of course that some items are confidential and so it is not always possible to document the whole story. If you would like to know more about any of the mission activities or read the more detailed reports that we receive then please speak to any one of the team members.

Thank you for being part of our journey and please continue to pray for all that we do as a missional church.

Yours in Christ

Malcolm

**Representing God locally, nationally and globally, by participating in His mission through praying, giving and going.**

## RUSSIA

Russia is very wary of foreigners and missionaries are considered as not being needed as Christianity has been in Russia for over 1000 years. In 2016, the “Yarovaya Law” was introduced which was in theory aimed at anti-terrorism however it has major implications for churches. Religious organisations have to be registered in order to have a building. Faith can only be shared within the walls of such a building and activities at home are against the law. Paperwork is required to speak about Jesus and so on.

In Noyabrsk, a major city in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Region, pastors from the Union of Evangelical Christian-Baptists were fined for building a children’s playground near the House of Prayer, because the police found religious literature inside the church, and they claimed that the children could be subjected to “illegal missionary activity” by reading these books. In the Ivanovo region, a husband and wife prayed together before eating while out to dinner with friends, and their prayer was considered an “illegal missionary activity,” and the couple themselves were declared an “unregistered religious group.”

In Biysk, several Seventh-day Adventists visited the local administration building to present their ministry activities, but the administration claimed this was an “illegal missionary activity” and sued them. “There are practically no Protestants that haven’t been impacted by the law,” says the pastor of a registered Protestant church in Moscow who chose to remain anonymous. “I lead a congregation of 50 people, and almost every Sunday a police squad interrupts our services. They always ask us the same questions: ‘Where are your registration documents? What do you do here? Where do you get the money to pay your rent? Why are you selling books? Do you have any new congregants?’ And after we talk with them, representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs inspect our books to make sure they have our church’s full name written on them, as required by the law. If they don’t find anything wrong, then they just come back the next week. Sometimes, local authorities dress up like civilians and knock on our door, asking to be let in so they can ‘pray.’ If we don’t let them in, they film us turning them away and then use the footage against us. And if we do let them in, then they take pictures inside the church to identify ways that we are violating the ‘Yarovaya Law.’ We have had to pay several fines for ‘illegal missionary activity.’”

Many Muslims are also being fined. For example, in Voronezh, 46-year-old Rahim Faradzov, who moved to Russia from Azerbaijan in 1989 and owns a well-respected construction firm, tried to challenge the fines he was issued under the “Yarovaya Law.” In 2017, Rahim organized a prayer group for his Muslim friends so they could worship together in private. But last May, local police raided one of their prayer meetings and searched for religious literature. When they didn’t find anything, they fined Rahim 5,000 rubles (\$78.60) for “illegal ministry activity” under the “Yarovaya Law.” And in the last year, Rahim has been issued five more fines. When it became impossible for he and his friends to pray together, Rahim went to the courts, arguing that he wasn’t forcing anyone to believe in Islam, but to no avail.

The average Russian has been brought up with the idea that spiritual matters are very private and should not be discussed with others. As long as he has not murdered someone, the average Russian doesn't see his life as sinful. Most believe they are saved by their good works, and they have no interest in personally knowing the God of the universe.

And yet, among the crowds of indifference, there are always a few who are looking for hope and truth. Believers talk with as many people as possible to find those who want to know more about the gospel, encouraging them to read the Bible one time, and then another time, and more after that. Pray for these things:

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will draw many Russians to Him.
- Pray for the believers in Russia to be bold, trusting in God as they share the gospel with people who come into their lives.
- Pray for churches all over Russia that are dreaming about, preparing for, and starting churches. Moscow has over fifteen million people and around thirty Baptist churches. That's a church for every five hundred thousand people. There is need for hundreds, if not thousands more churches.
- Pray for believers as they study the Bible with seekers.

Russia is home to many unreached or marginally reached peoples. It is a multinational state with over 186 ethnic groups designated as nationalities. The Russian Baptist Union is emphasizing work among the Kalmiki, the Komi, the Udmurts, the Mari, the Chubash, and the Tuvintsi. Some of these groups have a million people in them, and others are small. The vast majority of them have no access to the gospel in their language.

- Pray that the Russian Baptist Union and others will send people to work with each group.
- Pray for the Scripture to be translated into the heart language of each group.
- Pray for churches to be planted in their heart language.
- Pray for native leaders to be trained to reach their people in their heart languages.

Pray for wisdom, courage, discernment and for an end to corruption

## SYRIA



### ABOUT SYRIA (from Tearfund)

Conflict broke out in Syria in 2011. In the intervening years, it has become one of the most complex and tragic humanitarian situations in the world.

Over 400,000 people are estimated to have been killed, with more than one million injured. Some 6.3 million are internally displaced whilst 4.8 million have fled to other countries. Much of the nation has been devastated by the conflict with around half the population having now fled their homes. Four fifths of Syrians now live below the poverty line.

The **Syrian Civil War** is an ongoing multi-sided armed conflict in Syria fought between the Ba'athist Syrian Arab Republic led by President Bashar al-Assad, along with domestic and foreign allies, and various domestic and foreign forces opposing both the Syrian government and each other in varying combinations. The war is currently the 2nd deadliest of the 21st century.

The unrest in Syria, part of a wider wave of the 2011 Arab Spring protests, grew out of discontent with the Syrian government and escalated to an armed conflict after protests calling for Assad's removal were violently suppressed. The war, which began on 15 March with major unrest in Damascus and Aleppo, is being fought by several factions: the Syrian Armed Forces and its international allies, a loose alliance of mostly Sunni opposition rebel groups (including the Free Syrian Army), Salafi jihadist groups (including al-Nusra Front), the mixed Kurdish-Arab Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), with a number of countries in the region and beyond being either directly involved or providing support to one or another faction (Iran, Russia, Turkey, the United States, as well as others).

Iran, Russia, and Hezbollah support the Syrian Arab Republic and the Syrian Armed Forces militarily, with Russia conducting airstrikes and other military operations since September 2015. The U.S.-led international coalition, established in 2014 with the declared purpose of countering ISIL, has conducted airstrikes primarily against ISIL as well as some against government and pro-government targets. They have also deployed special forces and artillery units to engage ISIL on the ground. Since 2015, the U.S. has supported the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria and its armed wing, the SDF, materially, financially, and logistically. Turkey is directly involved in

operations against the Syrian government since August 2016, not only participating in airstrikes against ISIL alongside the U.S.-led coalition, but also actively supporting the Syrian opposition and occupying large swaths of north-western Syria while engaging in significant ground combat with ISIL, the SDF, and the Syrian government. Between 2011 and 2017, fighting from the Syrian Civil War spilled over into Lebanon as opponents and supporters of the Syrian government travelled to Lebanon to fight and attack each other on Lebanese soil, with ISIL and Al-Nusra also engaging the Lebanese Army. Furthermore, while officially neutral, Israel has conducted airstrikes against Hezbollah and Iranian forces, whose presence in southwestern Syria it views as a threat.

International organizations have accused virtually all sides involved, including the Ba'athist Syrian government, ISIL, opposition rebel groups, Russia, and the U.S.-led coalition of severe human rights violations and massacres. The conflict has caused a major refugee crisis. Over the course of the war, a number of peace initiatives have been launched, including the March 2017 Geneva peace talks on Syria led by the United Nations, but fighting continues.

## **Charities**

### **Tearfund**

'Tearfund has been providing support to Syria by partnering local organisations in the Middle East region and local churches in Syria. Tearfund's partners always support people in the greatest need, regardless of their religion or ethnicity.

In this challenging context, our dedicated partners are involved in:

- The distribution of food and hygiene packages
- the distribution of basic supplies, such as blankets, fuel and stoves for the winter...

Tearfund has mostly been working with Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan – providing food and shelter, and offering trauma counselling. Meeting people's immediate needs has been vital, and this will continue inside Syria, where over 6 million people are still displaced. But we have now been registered to set up an office in Syria. It means we can employ local people who know their country better than anybody, and we can support them as they in turn support their communities. Alongside churches and other local organisations, we will be providing livelihoods training and business grants – helping people to reactivate old businesses or start new ones. Being registered in Syria means that we can be among the people and organisations we're working with.'

<https://www.tearfund.org/about-us/what-we-do-and-where/countries/asia/syria/>

## **PRAY FOR OUR WORK**

- Pray for Tearfund's local partners, that they will be able to keep serving those most in need.
- Pray for refugee mothers, many of whom have been deeply traumatised by their experiences in the last few years.
- Pray for refugee children, many of whom are facing an insecure future.'

## **BMS**

Currently working with Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

'BMS World Mission has been helping Syrian refugees since 2011, first with immediate relief – food, blankets, medical help – and then, alongside continuing relief needs, with longer term support for refugee families.

Today, our workers and partners are trying to make sure that the next generation of displaced Syrians is not lost. Your giving is making educational support, safe learning spaces, relief co-ordination and the love and help of our mission workers coming alongside refugee families on the ground possible...

Please pray

1. For peace and justice in Syria.
2. That all the Syrian refugee children in Lebanon, and across the world, receive education, and that they will be as passionate about learning as Shakala is (see story on BMS website [bmsworldmission.org](http://bmsworldmission.org)).
3. For the teachers at the learning centre in Lebanon. Pray that they know that the hard work they are doing has an amazing impact on the children they teach.
4. That the learning centre will be able to expand and that more teachers will be trained so that they will be able to accept all the children that come to them and give them the education they deserve.'

## **Suggested prayer points**

- Peace in Syria
- That we understand where the problems are
- For displaced people in Syria
- For those returning to their homes
- Medical support and hospitals, livelihoods training and investment
- Education and support in refugee camps
- Care and support for Syrian refugees around the world

## NORTH KOREA

The power of prayer is needed more than ever in North Korea.

**The Holy Spirit is moving in North Korea, and it is incredible. Christians are worshipping there, praying there, and sharing God's love there. And yes, the demonstrations of faith may well be monitored and contained, but people *are* following Jesus. They're doing so with tremendous courage and belief, often alone, hidden, or under the gaze of an observer, cut off from the global community of Christians we're so privileged to access.**

What you can see below are images from North Korea. Look at the streets, the metro and the buildings, and imagine what it would be like to be a Christian there. Don't let your brothers and sisters in North Korea feel alone when they're not, and don't let the darkness stop others from seeing the light of Christ in their lives..



How amazing would it be for the Word of God to be preached one day on this riverbank in  
Pyongyang?

### 1. PRAY FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

Please pray for opportunities for people to speak Jesus' name and share his ministry without fear. Pray that the Bible is read and understood, and that it reaches people yet to hear the truth of our living God.



So many people in these homes have yet to hear the good news. Pray today that would change.

## **2. PRAY FOR A REPEAT OF THE CHRISTIAN REVIVAL**

Pray for thousands of people to accept Christ into their hearts, just as thousands did in Pyongyang in the early 20th century. Pray for the Holy Spirit to sweep through North Korea's capital city and beyond, liberating people in the freedom that comes with following Jesus.



Pray that people would come to use the Bible as their source of truth.

## **3. PRAY FOR PROTECTION AND BOLDNESS FOR CHRISTIANS IN NORTH KOREA**

Please pray for encouragement for the Christians who want to worship openly in North Korea. Pray that they would be kept safe, and would feel the freedom of rejoicing that you feel in church.



May Pyongyang Railway Station one day become a start point for people wanting to share the gospel in North Korea.

## **4. PRAY FOR THE REUNIFICATION PROCESS**

Pray that the leaders of North and South Korea would repeat their handshake of earlier this year. Pray that both nations would pursue a peaceful relationship that would allow families separated by the border to become whole again for good.





Pray for economic prosperity for the people of Pyongyang and beyond.

## **5. PRAY FOR THE ECONOMY TO GROW**

Pray for economic development for North Korea, one that is sustainable and ensures people have plentiful access to food and healthcare. Pray too that leader Kim Jong-un would accelerate his country's focus away from the military, and towards developing the economy.

## **6. PRAY FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED MEDICINE**

Pray that people who are sick do not suffer from the sanctions imposed on North Korea. Pray that medical supplies are plentiful, and that aid workers are not restricted in trying to reach people who need help.



Pray for students who want to leave Pyongyang to study overseas.

## **7. PRAY FOR STUDENTS WHO WANT TO TRAVEL**

Please pray for North Korean students who would like to travel abroad to further their studies. Pray that travel restrictions would not be imposed upon them, and that they would be welcomed into other nations and classrooms with open arms.

## **UKRAINE**

Once one of the Soviet Union's most fertile republics, Ukraine was a major producer of Europe's wheat and a primary source of minerals such as coal and iron. The country's rich, black soil generated more than 25% of the Soviet's agricultural output. Since gaining its independence in 1991, the nation has struggled to take advantage of its economic potential and remains largely dependent on Russia for oil and gas. And while Ukraine has become a mixture of ethnicities, traditions, and customs, Ukrainians continue to be a very hospitable people.

During the seventy-one years of Soviet rule, Ukraine endured engineered famines in which an estimated eight million died. The government strictly limited attempts to develop Ukrainian culture, even forbidding the study and use of the Ukrainian language. The nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl in 1986 continues to inflict environmental damage, disease, and death. In 2013, after the government abandoned close trade ties with Europe for more favourable ties with Russia, massive protests began with hundreds of thousands in attendance. When the government passed anti-protest laws, the protests escalated into deadly riots. Though these laws were later annulled, fighting and unrest continued across Ukraine, resulting in a civil war that has since taken thousands of lives. In the midst of this internal chaos, Russia annexed Crimea, adding further confusion to an already divided nation. Attempts at peace and reconciliation have been largely unsuccessful. In addition, the population suffers greatly from HIV/AIDS and alcoholism. Rampant drugs, crime, and prostitution enslave many of Ukraine's most vulnerable, including orphans.

As the "Bible Belt" of the former Soviet world, the Ukrainian Church has faced a long history of persecution. Though freedom of religion is improving, it is not yet protected in both law and practice. Leadership training and direction are greatly needed among Christians, especially with the rapid growth of thousands of new congregations since 1991. Doctrinal schisms in the Orthodox church and divisions between Catholic and Protestant believers hinder their witness. The pain suffered under Soviet rule and during the most recent conflicts has greatly divided the Ukrainian people. But even amid recent violence, the Church has responded as the hands and feet of Jesus, meeting physical and spiritual needs. This has provided increased opportunities for Ukrainians to know and follow Christ.

**Pray for God's peace and reconciliation to overcome all hatred, conflict, and war.**

**Pray for followers of Jesus to arise as messengers of His hope to the hopeless and the oppressed.**

**Pray for repentance, forgiveness, and unity in the Church, across denominations and traditions.**

**Pray for those who we know are working in this region – Ben, Steve, Sergei and Vladimir.**

## **CHURCH PARTNERS**

### **Claire Bedford - Chad**

We pray for continued good health for Claire, to be able to manage the soaring temperatures & continue to work in such a hostile environment.

We pray that the little luxuries she has such as solar power & a working fridge continue to function to provide such welcome relief.

We pray for the hospital, the Chadian staff who provide such wonderful & much needed support to the surrounding community & for all the patients that come seeking help..

We pray that through this work & the demonstration of their faith in you, that more people come to know you.

We pray that all who go to work or to visit the hospital are kept safe & that perhaps through their visits & experiences others will also want to go to serve you.

### **Naama – North Africa**

Prayers of thanks for much needed rain and intercession for those for whom it has brought sorrow and hardship.

Prayers of thanks for what Naama has been able to do so far in the projects in which she is involved.

Prayers of thanks for the lives of those who have been working in the region for many years and for the new workers who are arriving soon.

Pray for wise and faithful local leadership so that the seeds sown may mature

Pray for a growing church family and a dormant church to now spring to life .

## **Tools With A Mission (TWAM)**

### **What we do**

Our mission is to collect unwanted tools, refurbish them, sort them into trade kits and send them across the world for livelihood creation. We send around 20 containers filled with over 300 tonnes of tools every year.

### **Why we do it**

We want to support local people supporting their own communities through livelihood creating projects. We believe there is dignity through work and the ability to provide for yourself and your family. We believe entire communities can be transformed through training and the provision of tool kits and equipment.

### **Our motivation**

We believe that God's heart reaches out to the poor and that He calls us to follow His example.

“You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat.”

Isaiah 25:4 (NIV)

Our motivation is to be a refuge for the poor, a safe place to find support, hope and dignity through the provision of tools and equipment.

Bless and pray for TWAM's activities in all these places and that we may continue to support their work.

## **ALBANIA**

It has been some years since we have had a team out in Albania. After some thought and encouragement from the Mission Acts, in October of this year a small team will be going out to Albania. We will be doing some work and investigation before going on this essential fact-finding trip. We hope to find out if this is still a country where we can work and be of assistance and more importantly where this will be and in what capacity. We hope to meet old acquaintances and new.

Pray whilst there we will have the ability to be both God lead and God hearing.

### **PRAYER POINTS**

#### **Leadership**

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV)

#### **Instructions on Worship**

***2. I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—<sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.***

Speak a covering over **Ilir Meta, Bujar Nishani, Edi Rama** and other government officials.

May their families be preserved. We pray for unselfish vision in leaders.

Pray for peaceful alliances for a common purpose among the political opponents.

#### **Economic growth**

Lord we pray for continual economic growth.

We pray against the spirit of poverty.

Lucrative partnerships with other nations.

We pray for rain and wisdom for the agricultural sector.

We pray for success in the plans to repopulate the over hunted animals through the hunting ban.

#### **Peace**

Father we thank you for peace across Albania.

We speak against the rise of organised crime.

May your word find its way into more and more homes and transform the nation.

We pray for peace even as the protests currently go on. May the government handle them with grace?

#### **General**

We pray for the nation in the view of stranded refugees that they may take in.

Let it bear good fruits for both.

***Ezekiel 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.***

God forbid that this word would ring true in our time. You are that man, you are that woman who will stand in the gap before the Lord for individuals and for nations. Arise intercessor!

## **ARMENIA**

As a church we have been supporting the work of Armenian Ministries by regularly donating clothes and through prayer. In 2020 a small team will visit to see the work first hand and to establish how we may develop our relationship.

Armenia is a nation, and former Soviet republic, in the mountainous Caucasus region between Asia and Europe. Among the earliest Christian civilizations, it's defined by religious sites including the Greco-Roman Temple of Garni and 4th-century Etchmiadzin Cathedral, headquarters of the Armenian Church. Khor Virap Monastery is a pilgrimage site near Mount Ararat, a dormant volcano just across the border in Turkey. Christianity is the main religion however many people especially the poor do not have the opportunity to hear Gods word. Armenia is a country with extreme climate changes.

Pray and give thanks for Michael and Perouz Harrison and all the team that work both in Armenia and in Spalding.

Pray that they will be allowed to carry on with their work and that the authorities will be supportive rather than obstructive.

Pray for all those that they come into contact who are in desperate situations and that they will be able to meet their needs.

Pray for the children's summer camps that they may run smoothly and that all families will move closer to God.

Pray for more opportunities to share their faith and enough bibles for distribution.

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8**

## **WORLD MISSION PRAYERS**

- ❖ The Parable of the Sower. Mathew 13. Tools With A Mission  
I Pray that this is both physical and spiritual good soil for livelihoods and the expansion of God's Kingdom. Amen.
  
- ❖ Thank you for all the relief agencies working to help people in the Syrian Conflict. Give them wisdom as they provide to the many physical needs. We ask that you would bring hope to them in their distress. Protect your people under persecution. Amen.
  
- ❖ Isaiah 33: 1-4.  
Woe to you, destroyer, you who have not been destroyed! Woe to you, betrayer, you who have not been betrayed! When you stop destroying, you will be destroyed; when you stop betraying, you will be betrayed.  
  
Lord, be gracious to us; we long for you. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of distress.  
  
At the uproar of your army, the peoples flee; when you rise up, the nation's scatter.  
  
Your plunder, O nations, is harvested as by young locusts; like a swarm of locust's people pounce on it.  
  
Lord bless the people of Syria. Flood this land with your love and wash the sin from the wicked so your love can heal this nation. Amen
  
- ❖ Lord to me Russia appears such a hostile place to be, with not only a challenging climate, but so many aggressive individuals and a tough, unjust government. The people I have been reading about are so full of your love. Please help them to remain steadfast in their faith and in their determination to spread the love of Jesus. May they prevail against all odds because it is you who ultimately reigns supreme. Amen.  
Psalm 91: 13-16.  
You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.  
"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.  
He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him.  
With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation"
  
- ❖ As I was praying for North Korea, I had the Rend Collective song, "Come set your rule and reign. Build your Kingdom there" going around my head. I prayed these words for North Korea.

"Come set Your rule and reign in our hearts again  
Increase in us we pray, unveil why we're made  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope like wildfire in our very souls  
Holy Spirit come invade us now we are Your Church  
And we need Your power in us"

"Build Your kingdom here let the darkness fear  
Show Your mighty hand, heal our streets and land  
Set Your church on fire win this nation back change the atmosphere  
Build Your kingdom here, we pray"  
Amen.

- ❖ Heavenly Father. I prayed for our team visiting Albania. Please protect them from ill health, let them take your peace with them. Allow your Holy Spirit to be in all the preparations. Guide them Lord and keep them safe. Amen.
- ❖ Loving Father.  
Please give hope to Albania. Hope that life can be better than it is. Hope that Leaders will lead with compassion. Hope that peace will touch the land and transform it. Hope that the power of your Gospel will transform more and more lives in Christ our Lord. Amen.
- ❖ I believe the Lord said "I love Claire and so long as she continues to look to me and rely on me, no harm will come to her". Amen.
- ❖ Lord, we pray that your people will be protected in Ukraine, especially in the areas under Russian control. The newly elected Ukrainian President is seeking to address crime and corruption in the country. We ask that you would use this occasion to bring about a change in the attitude across the population, resulting in changed values. Use your people to help bring about change which will glorify you. Amen.
- ❖ Lord, thank you that mission doesn't need to be complicated. As Roger Pearce's pictures showed us, we can show Jesus' love for children by teaching them how to play games with just a ball. Help us to appreciate that simple things can be just as important in a child's life. Amen.
- ❖ Lord, we ask that you would be with Katy as she prepares for her trip to Uganda and ask that you would use her to bring help to teachers there, as well as ministry to her heart. Amen.
- ❖ Dear God, I pray for tools. Amen.

Dear GOD  
I pray for tools

