

# **Updates and Horizons November 2022**





#### Ukraine Café at St Paul's

Every Friday morning, St Paul's Church welcomes both hosts and their Ukrainian guests who are staying in Dorking and the surrounding areas. This is a safe place to meet and get to know one another over coffee and cake. We also provide



advice from local support teams and a quiet place in the church to pray and light a candle.

It was a privilege on Remembrance Day to share the two minutes silence in remembrance of all those who have lost their lives in conflict.



Please continue to pray for Ukraine, all those who are caught up in war, and conflict across different regions in the world.

As part of St Paul's outward giving, the WCT have had a discretionary amount to allocate during 2022 to a cause or causes which appeared to be most in need of an extra injection of support. In addition to being able to offer, (via the Café and within certain guidelines), emergency help for local Ukrainian refugees, £500 is being sent to Christian Aid to be used in their work in Ukraine. Christian Aid is working with three partner organisations in the ACT Alliance:

- Hungarian Interchurch Aid in Ukraine and Hungary
- Lutheran World Federation in Poland
- Swiss Church Aid in Ukraine, Hungary and Romania, to offer assistance to internally displaced peoples and to refugees

So far, HIA have reached 26,187 people with lifesaving aid, shelter, truckloads of food (by mid October, a total of 345 metric tons had been delivered), water, sanitation and health support, as well as offering vital information for refugees and internally displaced people.

Through the DEC emergency appeal, Christian Aid has donated £1 million for trauma first aid kits and £1 million for urgently needed medical and pharmaceutical equipment, items and supplies, for Ukraine, through their partner, Crown Agents who is working directly with Ukraine's Ministry of Health to supply these kits to those caught up in the fighting. Christian Aid ukraine-humanitarian-appeal-2022





News from Stuart and Jenny In July, Stuart put together a team of mental health professionals and others from Latin America to support a conference of around 200 Latin Americans who are serving Jesus in the Muslim world or serving in support roles. It was really inspiring to be among this group of people who have not been able to meet together as a group in this way before. For the organisation Stuart works with, Brazil is now sending the greatest number of workers to the unreached out of all the countries. In fact, it appears the number of those preparing to go from Latin America has doubled in the past year. This presents challenges in terms of training and ongoing care. Stuart's team is involved in preparing training for Latin American individuals and families who are planning to travel abroad, or who are already abroad in some challenging

places.



Over the past few weeks, Jenny has travelled to the USA for meetings with the *Finishing The Task coalition* (led by Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose Driven Life*). Jenny is serving with the International Prayer Council. Jenny then travelled on to Brazil where she presented a workshop on the *Impact of Prayer On Church Planting Movements* at the national missions conference. This invitation came through a book launch of "Testimony to all Peoples", which is a book full of stories about

God at work through church planting movements with the Matthew 24:14 coalition.

Thank you, St Paul's, for all the years you have supported us in our ministry to Latin Americans and others who in turn are ministering in some of the most unreached parts of the world.

Stuart and Jenny.





#### Prayers for Persecuted Christians

Our mission partners, Open Doors, who support persecuted Christians worldwide, brought to our attention the need for prayer for the Christians in



Qatar. They are among 360 million Christians throughout the world who experience persecution.

Foreign Christians are largely given the freedom to worship in Qatar, but local Christians are forbidden from having their own churches or even entering a church. Leaving Islam carries the death penalty. Six of the other teams involved in the World Cup are on the Open Doors World Watch List which shows the 60 countries where it is tough being a Christian – Iran (no 9), Saudi Arabia (no 11), Morocco (no 27), Tunisia (no 35), Mexico (no 43), Cameroon (no 44).

So when you are watching a match, or see the highlights on a news broadcast, treat this as a reminder to hold in prayer our Christian brothers and sisters who follow Jesus at great risk. Because we are all part of one Church, of one Family.

For more information - Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - Qatar - Open Doors UK & Ireland





## An update from Pastor Christian de la Roche in Lille

Since 1 January 2022, we've taken in 135 young people, similar to the number of young people we cared for in 2019.



On 24 August this year, President Emmanuel Macron signed a law providing authorities broader powers to monitor and close down religious organisations and groups they determined to be promoting ideas contrary to French values. Religious groups, including Catholic, Protestant, and Christian Orthodox leaders, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) publicly condemned the law before it was enacted, saying that it "risks undermining fundamental freedoms" such as freedom of worship and of association. There is to be a United Nations review of this law on 1 May 2023. There is an anti-religion feeling coming from politicians and an ostracising of religious minorities (particularly evangelical Protestants); diversity of beliefs is becoming less acceptable.

Rehabilitation of Maison Esther, in Wattignies, 5km from Lille. This house provides accommodation for 14 of the unaccompanied minors, currently cared for by the Centre de la Réconciliation, while they await recognition of their minority. It also houses four Christian students and three Christian families. It is in poor condition - not insulated, with unsuitable heating, and therefore high energy expenditure. The sanitary facilities are very minimal and the 14 young people are in one dormitory.

Major works were necessary, so we started with the help of the young people, although there is no government funding available. During summer 2022, we made good progress and further periods of work are planned. Once completed, the Centre de la Réconciliation will be able to offer more and better accommodation, and savings will be made on energy costs.



Thank you for your support, your prayers and your concerns for our work.

The Centre de La Reconciliation has recently launched itself on social media to raise awareness of its work.

Facebook: <u>Facebook.Centre de la Réconciliation</u>
Instagram: Centre de la Réconciliation on Instagram



<u>Pale Taylor in Poland</u> Unfortunately, the link to the interview with Dale which was included in last month's Updates and Horizons did not function. Apologies – please find the link to the interview between Carlton and Dale here - <u>Dale Taylor Poland</u>

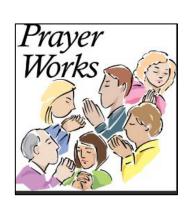


## Calling all home groups!

Psalm 34:15: "The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry."

Almost all our St Paul's homegroups are linked with one or more of our mission partners. These partners rely on prayer support, and often are happy to send news and specific prayer requests direct to homegroup leaders. More general information can be found online by using the links listed at the end of this Update.

If anyone is unsure of their specific mission partner links, do contact worldchurch@stpaulsdorking.org.uk





## Samara's Aid Appeal

Ten school bags, filled by members of our church family, were recently delivered to Helen, one of Samara's helpers, for onward transportation to Syria. She was delighted with the donations, and while there were only a small number of bags, Helen's comment was that every single one meant a child will be able to go to school, fully equipped, to begin their education.



Samara is still collecting in the hope of completely filling the shipping container that will take the donations to Syria. There is still time to help financially – they have been given extra stationery items for more bags but need to buy additional items to ensure all the children have the identical kit. Your help would be much appreciated - Samara's aid appeal



For information about any of the above, please contact **St Paul's World Church Team**: Carlton Beasley, Annabel Blanch, Sally Hulbert, Jonathan Papworth, Elizabeth Shaw and Sue Swain-Fossey worldchurch@stpaulsdorking.org.uk More information about our Mission Partners: A Rocha - Dave Bookless; Centre de la Réconciliation - Lille; New Hope Children's Centre - Kenya; Jenny and Stuart O; Oasis, Mumbai - India; Open Doors - Syria; Penny and Juan Carlos Marcés - Peru