



## Updates and Horizons

May 2023



St Paul's  
DORKING



### The Centre de la Réconciliation, in Lille.

Annabel and Val are travelling out to Lille on 27<sup>th</sup> May to learn more about what Pastor Christian and his

team do, and how we, at Saint Paul's, can best support them.



The Centre does brilliant work supporting unaccompanied teenage refugees by providing lodging and schooling and helping with paperwork. It has been one of our Mission Partners since 2018.



*Prayer from Tuesday's Lectio 365 -God of rescue and restoration, thank You for Your great and beautiful mission in the world. Here I am, Lord, fill me with Your Spirit and send me.*

Please pray for Annabel and Val for their trip from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31st May For safe travel, and for them to learn about the work at Centre de la Réconciliation



Support Summer Camps in Burundi!

### **Great Lakes Outreach Burundi, including an opportunity to help a child for £20!**

Burundi, in central Africa, is one of the world's poorest nations, and is struggling to emerge from a 12-year, ethnic-based civil war. Since independence in 1962, it has been plagued by tension between the usually-dominant Tutsi minority and the Hutu majority.



In 1999, Simon Guillebaud heard God's call to move to Burundi, then considered to be the most dangerous and, by some economic measures, the poorest country on



earth. After leaving home and security, he travelled out, not knowing what was in store. Having, in his own words, unexpectedly survived 7 years of genocide and civil war, he set up a charity called Great Lakes Outreach (GLO), which does amazing work. Their vision is to transform Burundi and beyond through holistic mission, working with gifted leaders of integrity. Simon remains as International Director, and is pictured with Jean Bosco Mutebutsi, the National Director, who deals day-to-day with their life-changing projects. Learn more here: [Great Lakes Outreach.](#)



With GLO partners, one of the projects is running children's camps in the

summer. Simon writes: "My Mum forced me to go on a Scripture Union camp in 1987 in a Dorset village called Iwerne Minster. There I met with lots of other fun young people, and more importantly, heard the glorious call of God on my life. The rest is history, as they say".

Looking ahead to this summer, some of us will be sending our children or grandchildren to camps, with prices ranging from £200-£450 for a week. **The GLO Partners will be running lots of camps this summer, and the cost to send one child is just £20. These are game-changing, life-shaping opportunities. St Paul's will be sending £1,000 to send 50 Burundian children to summer camps. Can you join us in sending one or more children to a GLO Christian camp?** Click [To sponsor a child to Summer Camp](#).



**OpenDoors**

**Open Doors Syria is one of St Paul's Mission Partners.**

We bring you a report from Aleppo, where the earthquake in February brought utter devastation:

Thanks to your prayers and support, Open Doors' partners in the affected areas are helping churches that are offering shelter to the victims of the earthquakes – there are those whose houses are damaged and those who are afraid to sleep in their own homes because of potential further aftershocks. Food and other basic needs, such as mattresses and blankets are being distributed too. Local partners are identifying those in need of trauma care and are working with them to make sure they receive appropriate assistance. The team in Syria are currently looking to identify ten students who were about to graduate from a trauma school programme, to form a group, led by a professional, to provide basic trauma care.



Reverend Ibrahim is an Open Doors partner in Aleppo.

"What we did, as a church, by the grace of God – we were there. It was really a blessing that the church was available when others weren't yet. We were, from the beginning, taking care of the community – trying to bring a type of peace into the lives of people."

Ibrahim says that even non-Christians are seeing the light of Jesus thanks to the help the churches have provided.

"They have seen Jesus Christ working through us," he says. "That He was and is and will be with us in the critical times. In one way or another, the church was carrying the living existence of Jesus Christ among the suffering society, among the community that was feeling that God was far away from them."

He tells the story of one woman, a non-Christian, who wanted to express her gratitude for the church's help - even though she didn't know the word 'Christian'. "People of the cross," she told Reverend Ibrahim, "you were our family, taking care of us."

"I saw destruction everywhere," says Leyla (name changed), an Open Doors local staff member who went to help in Aleppo. "I saw people gathered in the streets, next to their new 'home' — their car, where they had to sleep."



**PEOPLE IN LATAKIA (ANOTHER BADLY HIT CITY) ARE BEING SUPPORTED THROUGH LOCAL CHURCHES**



While such sights are horrifying, in Syria they are all too familiar. Christians in northern Syria have suffered crisis after crisis for more than a decade. Many believers are still trying to rebuild after the brutal reign of the Islamic State group and the recent conflict with Turkish forces. The earthquake is just the latest tragedy to impact them.

Some believers wonder why something like this is happening yet again. They've been through so much over the last 15 years. And yet, God's hand is still visible to His people in Syria. Leyla told a story of a woman who lived on the fifth floor of a building with her son. Their building collapsed, but both the woman and her son miraculously survived. The son, who had never believed in God, yelled "thanks be to God" and decided to begin following Jesus.



Give thanks for all the support Open Doors' partners have been able to give so far and for the impact that help is having.

That more shelter and aid will become available, and more people will be cared for

That God will pour out His peace on Turkey and Syria and calm any fears of future disaster.



It was great privilege to meet two members of the Oasis India team at the weekend and hear their incredible testimonies.

Unfortunately, on Sunday, we had not managed to set up arrangements for you to make personal donations to their work, in response to their prayer for extra funding. You can either transfer money online to St Pauls General Fund, sort code 30-52-40, account no 00023425 with reference "Oasis India", or donate via cash in an envelope at the back of church, and we will ensure the donation gets to Oasis India.

Thank you for your support— a full report of Jessica and Vichois' presentation will be included in the June Updates and Horizons newsletter.



A Rocha are issuing snippets each month to help raise our awareness of practical things we can do to make our surroundings better for wildlife. For practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, please check out [Wild Christian - A Rocha UK](#).

## JUNE

Taste the benefits of seasonal and local food. Make plans to source locally grown foods that you can add to your diet/ shopping list throughout the seasons. Produce grown locally is picked at the peak of its ripeness and will be full of flavour, tasting better than the produce that has been imported and travelled thousands of miles.

For information about any of the above, please contact **St Paul's World Church Team:** Carlton Beasley, Annabel Blanch, Sally Hulbert, Jonathan Papworth and Elizabeth Shaw [worldchurch@stpaulsdorking.org.uk](mailto:worldchurch@stpaulsdorking.org.uk)  
More information about our Mission Partners: [Dave Bookless A Rocha, 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](#)