



Updates and Horizons

August 2023



St Paul's  
DORKING

STOP PRESS – CAN YOU HELP? On 30<sup>th</sup> August (TOMORROW!) A Wellbeing Day is being held at Russ Hill at Charlwood for asylum seekers who are currently housed there. John Arnold has asked for helpers for the Slow Bike Race. For information see: [Russ Hill Wellbeing Day](#)



**In July, we were blessed to be able to pray for our mission partners Juan Carlos and Penny Marcés, just before their return to Lima in Peru. Juan Carlos left us with this thought:**

"In the context of love, the apostle John writes in John 10 about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. But in this same passage he also quotes Jesus who said *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy"*, and we are at the moment seeing how this thief wants to steal, kill and destroy our faith, our peace, our hope, and also our families.

"But we also see in words from the same apostle, written also in a context of love in 1 John 3:8b, that *"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."* A few verses later, he goes on to write in 1 John 4:4 *"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them (the false prophets), because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."*

Therefore we must be careful to remain and to persevere in faith, in peace, in hope, and we must continue to strengthen the family."



Penny and Juan Carlos will continue to keep in touch with us, to send their news and prayer requests – so do keep praying!



### **Oasis India has won the award for "Best Human Trafficking Prevention Organisation 2023" by Acquisition International\***

For the past 28 years, we have been working towards making India better for women and children by creating safer communities where everyone is able to achieve their full potential. We are thankful for your support and for our resilient teams across India that work everyday for the betterment of those in our communities!

Oasis India's team for anti-human trafficking recently held forum meetings in Chennai, Bangalore, Miraj and Mumbai, inviting over 120 delegates from like-minded organisations and individuals, creating important conversations on human trafficking in India. Our team invited experienced speakers who spoke about the prevention of trafficking, child protection, and the importance of creating safe spaces for women and children in our communities.



*\* Acquisition International is a UK based, international monthly digital business magazine committed to bringing its readers up to the minute news, comment, and analysis.*

**And a story from Mumbai:**

Jeeva (name changed), 23, is part of our beautician course at the Training Centre in Naigaon, Mumbai. She faced abuse from her own grandfather, and this completely changed her. Jeeva lived with her grandparents for 11 years, and throughout her time there, her grandfather sexually abused her. Her grandmother and her mother did not believe Jeeva's cry for help and would often fight with her. Having gone through so much, Jeeva hid behind a tough exterior and did not trust anyone. When Jeeva joined the beautician course at Oasis India, she did not talk to anybody. Group counselling sessions helped her open up, and she was very emotional when she spoke about her identity. Our counsellor spoke to her, and understood the many challenges that she faced in her personal life. After five sessions with the counsellor, Jeeva came to terms with her past life and started forgiving those who had done wrong to her. She helps many new girls who come into the training get acquainted with everyone. She has shown great change and dedication. We are excited for what is in store for Jeeva, and we look forward to helping her through her emotional healing.



**“A good example of love” restoring Christians in Syria after the earthquake – story sent by Mission Partners Open Doors.**

Merry and her family fled their home during the February earthquakes that devastated parts of Syria and Turkey. But thanks to training she'd received last year through Open Doors' partners, she was able to step up and help co-ordinate the relief effort.

The memory of the first earthquakes on 6 February are still vivid in Merry's mind. "My mum had a cabinet where she kept her good glasses and plates," she says. "I saw them falling and breaking right before we ran out, screaming and crying. We went down five flights of stairs, but they felt like a hundred."

As she remembers that night, she seems near tears. "The streets were full of people stranded in their wet pyjamas," she says. Fearing structural damage to their home, Merry and her family were too scared to stay there, so they took a few of their belongings and went to stay at a nearby church.

Over the next few days, more than 7,000 people in Aleppo left their homes and went to stay in churches and monasteries. Open Doors' local partners were among the first to respond to the situation, providing several churches with food, water, blankets, mattresses and heaters, equipping them to reach out to their hurting communities.

It was in the midst of all this that Merry felt God prompt her to help. Last year, she'd taken part in Open Doors training – a programme showing participants how to use sports to help people see the light of Christ and bring people into the church. During the training, she was in charge of organisation and meals, and also taught about first aid.

"I felt that I was back in the sports training and, based on that experience, I was scheduling meals for the people and helping with distribution of food and blankets," Merry says. "I was entrusted with a responsibility in the [sports programme], and I was entrusted with it here as well. I couldn't sit still, I had to do something."



**MERRY AND HER BROTHER**

Along with her brother and three other young people who had all participated in the Open Doors training, Merry created a relief team to help people through the aftermath of the earthquakes. The team received help from relatives and friends who live abroad and began buying, bagging and distributing packages of food and hygiene products to needy people.

“We know each other’s strengths and weaknesses, and we split the tasks just like a football team,” she says. “For us, ‘winning’ was helping people and showing humanity; we have a message to send, and that’s the message of love. In the 12 days after the earthquake, we were able to show love more [often] than we were able to share during the 12 years of war.”

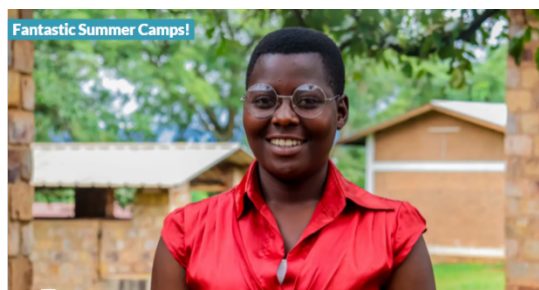
From relief aid to rebuilding, our prayers and gifts are helping believers in Syria to recover and return to their homes. St Paul’s are sending £4,600 during 2023 to Open Doors for their work in Syria.

Read the full story and about the current situation in Syria [A good example of love](#)



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BURUNDI  
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[www.greatlakesoutreach.org](http://www.greatlakesoutreach.org)

**This month, £1,000 was sent from St Paul’s to Great Lakes Outreach, working in Burundi, and that money was being used for Summer Camps for young Burundians.**



**We received this note from Simon Guillebaud, Founder and International Director of GLO, thanking us for the donation.**

“This summer. Hundreds of children and young people got the chance to go away to camps to enjoy fun, fellowship, and to get into the World of God. This video, [Fantastic Summer Camps! | Great Lakes Outreach](#)

[Outreach](#) sent by Scripture Union Burundi, will give you a flavour of just one of those camps.

We are so thankful to those generous folks who supported our appeal to help make these camps a success. Many of the kids who attended would not be able to do so without support from yourselves. I love to see the next generation getting fired up for the Gospel! The future of Burundi is bright.



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](#)