



***See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.***

Isaiah 43:19

To the Israelites living in exile, the Lord speaks through Isaiah, telling them that they do not have to depend solely on the memories of what He has done for them before; He is doing a new thing! Our God is always on the move, always at work in His world, always bringing people to Himself and working out His good, pleasing and perfect plans. This month we pray for our partners as they start a new year, praying that God would change lives as He makes ways in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

BANGLADESH - Chittagong Hill Tract Hostel

Chittagong Hill Tract Hostel is located in Ali Kadam, the hill district of Bandarban, Bangladesh. This is a neglected area of Bangladesh and very under-developed, with education being one of the major needs of this region. Our partners offer a residential hostel for children to receive education, equipping them with the skills they need to thrive.



- Lord Jesus, we thank You for the time that the children and young people have been able to enjoy with their families and communities over the December holiday. As they return to the hostel and find out their grades from last year, we pray that You would be with each of them in their celebrations and disappointments. May they not place their worth in their grades but in You, and may they be inspired to work hard this coming year to achieve their full potential, we pray.
- We pray, Lord, for new students who are arriving for the first time to the hostel to receive education. May they settle in well and find the routine of the hostel to be a positive and helpful way of living their daily lives. May their time living at the hostel help them to grow in important life skills, in maturity and in responsibility as well as enabling them to achieve their academic potential, we pray.
- Father, thank You that the hostel provides each child and young person with other young people to spend time and make friends with. We pray that You would give them grace and wisdom as they care for the children. Would You help the young people to make good friends who will love and support them and may there be a fun and loving atmosphere in the hostel. We pray especially for any young person who struggles to make friends, that You would ensure the others make an effort to integrate them and make them feel loved and valued.

DR CONGO - BOMO

Our partners, BOMO, operate a partly-residential training centre to help women as young as 14 avoid turning to prostitution to earn an income. Our partners teach practical skills and support the women spiritually.



- As the new first-years begin training and 8 of the graduates from last year move into their second year of training at the BOMO centre, we pray, Lord Jesus, that You would grant them a successful year. May they enjoy learning and developing their skills, and through this may they also come to see that they have value and dignity, we pray.
- Lord, thank You that so many of the women who have trained at the BOMO centre have come to know You over their time there. Thank You that they have come to understand that they are deeply loved and cherished by You, so much so that You died for them. May they continue to grow in awe and love of You, Lord Jesus, and would You use them to share Your love with others who do not yet know You, we pray.
- Lord, we pray for each trainee and graduate who BOMO has worked with. Thank You for all You have done in their lives and the transformation You have brought about. May they continue to experience emotional and relational healing as they grow in Christ. As they step into their vocation using the gifts and skills You have given and grown in them, may they know deep joy and be witnesses to Your transforming power, bringing You glory.

BRIGHTER FUTURES Children's Homes

Rope is currently supporting children in 5 children's homes under the Brighter Futures scheme. Through the care provided by our partners, raising the children in a loving Christian home, the aim is that the children gain key life skills, enter adulthood with qualifications and employable skills and would see that there is hope and a better future for those who follow Jesus, with the hope that they would come to know Him themselves.



- Following the successful safeguarding workshop led by Andy and Debbie in November for our partners running children's homes, we ask You, Father, to continue guiding our partners as they implement what they learned. We especially pray that You would direct them as they consider how to make their work sustainable in terms of finances and leadership. Would You provide them with all they need to reach those You have put on their hearts, we pray.
- Father, thank You for the staff at the children's homes who lovingly care for the children at all hours of the day. We pray that You would strengthen them in their work and continue to give them compassion for the children. Would You direct our partners to others who can serve You in this way with love and integrity, we pray.
- Many of the children in the homes have had difficult experiences, and some have experienced loss and grief over the last year. Thank You, Father, that You are the God of all comfort who comforts us in our grief. We pray that each child who has experienced grief this year would know Your closeness and Your healing. Help them to come to terms with what has happened and to look ahead with hope for the future, we pray.

CAMEROON - Hope for Widows

Our partners work with widows aged 35-55 in the N'du and Barmenda region, Western Cameroon, near the border with Nigeria, seeking to provide each woman and her family with a holistic package of support: physical, emotional and spiritual. They also work with a group of 5 churches to develop a model of intervention for widows in their communities to ensure they are cared for and given the dignity and respect they deserve.



- Our partners are currently living in Douala, Cameroon as it is too unsafe to return to Bamenda. In this new place, God has provided them opportunities to support more widows in Douala through the churches there. Lord Jesus, thank You so much for giving our partners somewhere safer to live and for enabling them to continue serving You. Thank You that the churches are eager to fulfil Your call to care for orphans and widows. We pray You would continue to bless these relationships and that You would bring transformation to more people through our partners.
- Following successful meetings with church leaders in Douala, several churches are looking at how they can establish a fund to care for their widows. Lord, thank You for their openness to this and their desire to ensure widows are loved and cared for. We pray You would stir the hearts of the wider churches and committees to get behind this important work and do what they can to make this happen. We pray for Your financial provision to care for the widows and for people in the churches to get alongside the women and support them, we pray.

Your prayers answered - THANK YOU, LORD!

- We are delighted that the 6 trainees gaining craft skills in Ecuador graduated successfully in November! It was a wonderful day where they could celebrate their progress and look forward to starting up their own businesses. Thank You so much, Lord, for seeing them faithfully through this training. We thank You too that the course has gained an excellent reputation, with many others wanting to start training in January. Would You continue to bless this important ministry, we pray.
- We praise God that the first 6 months of training for women in Pakistan have gone really well - the 50 ladies are very committed and are beginning to dream of the income-generating activities they will be able to start once they finish the course in July 2020. Our partners share that one of the best students is a deaf lady who is showing real talent and energy as she develops her tailoring skills. Thank You so much for all You have done, Father. Would You bless the women as they continue to train, renewing their passion and hope each day.



Growing as Disciples

- *God on the Move: Great is Your Faithfulness.* Read Lamentations 3:19-24. Jeremiah looks around the ransacked city of Jerusalem, its remaining people in mourning. While he grieves over what has happened, he remembers the truth that brings immeasurable hope: God is good, He loves us and He is mighty to save. Even in the worst of times, God is with us and leads us through them, working all things for the good of those who love Him. Are you or someone you know going through a difficult time? Ask the Lord to make His presence with you or them tangible, for faith to trust Him in the midst of it and to see Him faithfully lead you through it and work it for good.
- *God on the Move: A New Heart.* Read Psalm 51. David is known as a man after God's own heart and yet he still made bad decisions that fractured his relationship with God. Yet even then, he knew the Lord is a God of compassion and power—he knew that he could turn to Him and be made clean from what he had done. When we turn to God, He can wipe the slate clean and repair us from the inside out. Are you or someone you know carrying the weight of guilt or shame? Invite the Lord into this, being honest with Him, trusting in the forgiveness He offers you in Christ and in the power of His Spirit to help you walk closely with Him again.



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If you would like to discuss anything you've read in this prayer letter, or would like to ask about any of our work, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

