



So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it." The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 1:27-28; 2:15

When God created humanity, He empowered them, giving them dominion over creation. They reflected the Creator in whose image they were made by working, taking joy and satisfaction in their work. Many of the people our partners work with are longing to work - to provide for their families, contribute to society and take joy in doing so. However, they lack education, training and opportunities to do this. Forgotten by society, many turn to habits and behaviours that are not God's best for them. This month we pray that those who are forgotten might be remembered and empowered, being given opportunities to learn, grow, work and thrive.

CHAD - FEEJ

Our partners began FEEJ in response to the significant amount of young people who struggled with school, work and family life. The project runs a youth association and centre to provide education and mentoring for young people to understand the Christian faith and apply Christian discipleship principles to their lives. They seek to build up peaceful and respectful leaders who are rooted in the love of Christ.



- Young people in Chad are given very few opportunities in life. Their gifts and talents lie unseen and, with few prospects, many turn to things like drugs, pornography and teenage pregnancy, having no hope of a better life. Thank You, Father, that through our partners, You are showing these young people their worth and value in Your sight. Thank You that many are coming to know You and are being supported to become outstanding leaders in their generation. We pray for Your continued blessing on this work, on Elisabeth and her team, and on each young person they encounter.
- One young man, aged 22, dealt drugs from the age of 13 and took up to 55 tablets a day. A young person shared the Gospel with him and he encountered Christ. This encounter turned his life around! He is off drugs and getting support and is deeply committed to Christ. Thank You for bringing such amazing transformation to this young person, Father, and for using a young person to introduce him to You. We pray You would renew him, bringing full healing to his body after the effects of the drugs and helping him to live a healthy spiritual life in You. May he go on to a bright future where his gifts are recognised and he has the chance to support himself through dignified employment.

BOLIVIA - Word Made Flesh

Our partners minister to women in the brothels of El Alto. They train and provide alternative employment for the women, run a drop-in centre for their children to create a safe and loving space for them to grow and learn in, and work with local churches to support the women and children to become integrated, loved and valued members of the churches.



- Father, thank You that each woman and child that our partners in Bolivia work with is treasured by You. Your heart burns in anger when You see Your children used and abused by others, and we know You have created these women and children to be loved and valued. Father, would You use our partners to break them out of this dark, hopeless life. May the women be supported to enter dignified employment and the children helped to further their education so that each can fulfil all that You have called them to do, we pray.
- Many of the children who come to the centre do so irregularly due to the chaotic lifestyles of their mothers, who, while seeing the value of the programme for their children, may not yet be ready to engage in it themselves. Father, we pray for peace and stability in the lives of these women and their families. Would You help them to trust our partners and have hope that there may be another way of life for them. May this trust and hope open them up to doing something to change this, and may they be given the opportunities to do so - for the benefit of themselves and for their children, we pray.

SOUTH AFRICA - Change-Makers

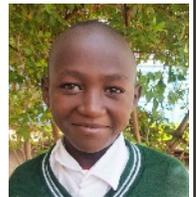
Worcester, South Africa, is notorious for gang culture and substance abuse. Our partners, Change-Makers, run a detox and rehab centre that helps men to turn their lives around and be faith-filled role models for their families and communities. Our partners also work with young people to keep them from getting caught up in this vicious cycle.



- Lord God, we celebrate all that You have done in the lives of men who have fallen into gangs and drug-addiction in South Africa. In 2019, 35 men developed self-discipline through the Behaviour Modification Programme led by our partners, which includes a daily routine, chores, and the ability to follow direction and guidance - all basic principles to enter and succeed in the job market. They also all received skills training in either welding or carpentry, and 14 are now in employment or school. Thank You so much, Father, for helping the men develop these skills and for providing work. May the change in their behaviour be lasting and would You provide all with employment to apply their skills, we pray.
- While the men are making good progress through the rehabilitation programme our partners offer and many are coming to know and love the Lord, there are some who not pursuing their faith journey as deeply as they could and are remaining uncommitted to a church community. Father, we pray You would continue the good work You began in their hearts and give them a hunger for You that nothing else will satisfy. Help them to see that the love and acceptance they crave is found fully in You. May they fall more in love with You, be more committed to You and find a community of believers who can support them on their journeys, we pray.

KENYA - Sunshine Rehabilitation Centre

Sunshine Rehabilitation Centre is based in Navaisha, north west of Nairobi, and is home to over 100 boys, all of whom had spent time living on the streets. Our partners provide a Christian boarding home with access to education and seek to reconcile the boys with their families.



- Father, thank You for each boy living at the Sunshine Rehabilitation Centre in Kenya. Thank You for providing a loving place for them where they can grow and come to know You. We praise You that many of the boys have come to faith, pray and read their Bibles, preach and share their faith, lead worship, and pursue discipleship. Thank You, Lord, for all You have done in their lives and for this amazing new life You have given them in You. We pray for Your continued blessing and guidance for these boys. May all the boys come to know You and always walk closely with You, love You deeply and find their identity and value in You.
- Thank You, Father, for all the life skills the boys are learning during their time at Sunshine - from personal hygiene, being neat and tidy, being responsible, and supporting others, through to farming, environmental management, and living with HIV/AIDS. Thank You that boys who have developed these skills well are being role models to the others, encouraging them and supporting them too. Please help them, Lord, to adopt and maintain positive behaviour changes and to develop skills that will serve them well in later life and in employment, we pray.

Your prayers answered - THANK YOU, LORD!

● Lord God, thank You so much for Your amazing provision through our Christmas Lifeline Appeal, which raised nearly £12,000! Thank You for the transformation You will bring to the lives of those this money will support. We pray they would be empowered and given every opportunity to thrive and find joy and satisfaction in what You call them to do.



● Father, thank You that the second year of training for BOMO students in DRC has enabled 8 women to develop their skills to a more advanced level and grow in confidence in their abilities. As they now look to work together in groups of 4 to set up a cooperative tailoring workshop, we pray You would bless this business venture. May there be unity, joy and support amongst each group, and may they delight in being able to provide for themselves and their families through the use of their creativity and newfound skills, we pray.

Growing as Disciples

● *Opportunities to Thrive: Am I Not Sending You?* Read Judges 6:11-7:25. Hiding in fear in a winepress, Gideon was not a likely candidate for the job God called him to. However, God did not let Gideon's fear stop Him from using Gideon for His glory. He saw what Gideon did not see and put his fears to rest, giving him the signs and encouragement he needed to fulfil his calling. Sometimes we might not feel up to the task God gives us, but He sees what we do not see. He is with us and gives us what we need to accomplish it, bringing Himself glory through it. Pray the Lord would help you to see yourself with His eyes and fulfil what He has called you to do, glorifying Him through it.



● *Opportunities to Thrive: Each Contribution Needed.* Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-27; 14:26-33. Using the analogy of a body, Paul explains how God has given gifts to each person in His Church to use for the benefit of the Church. No one should look down on another; all have something to contribute and each is necessary for the wellbeing of the Body of Christ. As such, each person needs to be given the opportunity to use their gifts so the Church can grow. What are your gifts and how is the Lord asking you to use them? Pray for opportunities to exercise them in humility for the good of the Church and to empower others to exercise their gifts too.

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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!

