

Dear Pray-ers,

I trust you all had a great Christmas and New Year. I enjoyed spending Christmas day with my friend **Margie**, seeing more of **Anne & Allan** when they visited in the New Year and being at **Helen's** New Year party.

### **Team prayer request**

Please pray for Beryl, who has just found out she's got a small lump on her lung on the side on which she had a mastectomy. Praise God that it was found early (as a result of a check-up after a slight injury). She's waiting for an appointment with the oncologist in the next ten days or so. Please pray for wisdom, peace and healing.

### **My activities**

**Badake** is well on the way to completion. I'm just waiting for it to be proof-read by **Werner** and **Mark**. These proof-readers are very busy people. Please pray they will be able to do it before too long.

I have begun to work through the 13 points to getting ready to be data-protection compliant! I'm awaiting some feedback from **Melanie**, who is guiding me through the process.

Bible studies with **Jamila** have been on hold during the school holidays but are due to recommence on Fridays again. Baby is due in March. Pray they will both stay well for the last couple of months. Please also keep praying for dreams and visions, persistence in her plan to read the diglot Bible to improve her English and, through it all, for open eyes. 28 January, the family and I have been invited to the home of a couple in the church for Sunday lunch so I will ask **J.** on Friday. Pray that they will be able to come and that it will again be a bridge-strengthening exercise.

At the members meeting to appoint seven deacons, a list of eight was presented. Members are now to say whether or not they are happy with all or any of these. Any that are accepted by 75% of the members who respond, will be appointed at the next meeting on 6 February.

### **Continue to pray against injustice**

Please continue to pray for **Ali**, who is *still* in jail after eight months despite being exonerated from all wrong-doing five months ago.

Workers in **Burkina Faso** write, "Please continue to pray for **Dr Ken Elliott**, kidnapped two years ago today by jihadist groups from **Mali**. After serving the poorest of Burkina Faso and **West Africa** for over 40 years, this 82-year-old was taken from his home in the middle of the night. Apart from the hostage video in July, we have no news of him. Pray for God's grace and strength for Ken, for comfort and courage for his family, and for a swift release. Pray for his captors to come to repentance and to see the light of Jesus. And pray for the other captives being held by the same groups: **Jeff, Beatrice, Gloria, Sophie** and **Iulian**."

Workers in **Guinea** write, "The wives of two of our teachers bought some flour for just over £1. Unfortunately it turned out that the seller had stolen the flour. The judges ordered that the women, who bought it unaware that it was stolen, pay a fine of £75 or be imprisoned."

Please pray for **Bibi and Oumou**, who were wrongfully imprisoned for child trafficking. They have not been released. You may remember workers said, "*This is a huge misunderstanding involving false accusations by disgruntled former employees, as well as some carelessness in record-keeping.*"

"Keep praying for **Samba** and fifty other recent students who are still trying to get their diplomas from the school they graduated from in June. They can't apply for post-grad studies etc. until they have their documents as proof. Please pray against this injustice, whether incompetency, lack of the right type of paper to print it on or even contrariness in the administrative office.

### **More on-going prayer needs**

Six months' worth of translation work in several hand-written notebooks is still lost. Pray for its recovery.

**Demba** is still waiting for eye surgery, which can't be done yet, but which he longs for as he gropes around in near-blindness.

### **Guinea**

Workers in **Guinea** write: "The Christmas celebrations both at the study centre and at the workshop went very well. Everybody appreciated the film. At the workshop the film prompted a good discussion about the faith of Christ's followers. The apprentices asked a lot of good questions and we had the

privilege of sharing with them. Pray that the message of the film and the content of this discussion will stay in their hearts and that they will themselves search for the truth and understand who the Saviour is.

“One of the young believers has a good contact with a neighbour, who is a student who for several months has been suffering from headaches and spiritual attack. The family has tried everything without success. Our friend asked if he could pray in the name of the Lord, and the young woman is now much better. She was very touched and wanted to know more. He has given her a memory card with stories of the prophets. Pray that she will accept the Lord and be courageous.

“It’s very encouraging to see these young believers so motivated to share the Good News. Please pray that God will strengthen them and give them courage and discernment. May God protect them and encourage them with visible fruit.

“**Mamasaliou** was involved in a lorry accident in which several were killed. He is still in hospital and, although improved, has not been out of his bed once in the two weeks that he has been in hospital. Please pray for complete healing.”

### **Burkina Faso**

Please pray for a worker amongst the Fulas who has recently suffered a heart attack. I was greatly challenged by what he wrote: “I spent the first three days after my heart attack in the national hospital with no toilets, no running water, and my wife sleeping on the floor beside me to wash, feed, and fetch medicines for me. The staff and care were excellent, but there are just not enough staff or resources. We were surrounded by people suffering and struggling to find the money for their treatment and medicines. “You have to be rich to be sick,” was one dry comment. We tried to share hope and prayer with those around us. Then, thanks to health insurance, I was swept off to an air-conditioned clinic ready for evacuation—options totally unavailable to most people here. How unfair is that? I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and prayer for us, both here and around the world, and we have felt the constant peace of the Lord. But this time has also stirred in me again the fire to come back when this is past and keep offering the little I have for Christ and his purposes. This is just a ‘sleeping policeman’ (a speed bump). We have to slow down for it, but once it’s past, we keep going forward. Friends, let us not settle for comfortable lives. Let us not grow weary of doing good, as I so often do. Let us keep pressing forward to take hold of our heavenly calling in Christ, to know him and to make him known.

“On the site of the prison chapel, several pastors, prison authorities, and builders pray for the building of the chapel. In the background you can see the prison mosque and the prison garden. The prison director, a Muslim, was keen for us to build the chapel because he said, “*You Protestants are always the first to help in prison, so why is it everyone else has their prayer house, but not you yet?*”

Whilst thinking of the inequality of the world, let’s pray for the Christian schools in various places which serve Fulas, amongst others. May the love shown to them, and the clear message of God’s grace bring many to faith even whilst these schools help to open up more life possibilities to their pupils. In one such school a child explained the hole in their notebook: ‘*A mouse has been eating it.*’ ‘*But you should keep your books etc. in your bag.*’ ‘*Yes, but the mouse got into my bag.*’ When I think of the lame excuses often offered in western schools ...

### **Finally**

In West Africa a Fula get-together is being held from Jan. 25 (arrival day) 26—28, followed by a Mission School Jan. 29—Feb. 8. Please pray for final preparations, safety in every way including travel and that God will work powerfully through these gatherings.

### **Dates**

Jan 25—28

Fula get-together in West Africa

29 Jan—Feb 8

Mission School in West Africa

29 Jan—2 Feb

friend taking me and our mums to Lee Abbey

Thank you again for praying for me and others working amongst the Fula people.

God bless you.

Love, *Jane*