

SPECIAL PRAYER FOCUS: CHRISTMAS

Father God, thank you for sending your Son into the world to walk among people and to give up his life for us. We praise you that we can remember the precious gift of Jesus each year at Christmas. Please be with CMS missionaries as they are involved in Christmas celebrations. Give them courage as they share the gospel with those in their churches, workplaces and communities, and equip them with words of truth and light. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

SATURDAY 1 – MALTA, EURASIA & SLOVENIA

G & R pray for A from the university to become more secure and live out his newfound faith. **R** prays that in the midst of winter darkness, the people of Eurasia would seek the one true Light who came into the world. **Kingsley & Veronica Box** pray for their church's conversation stall that is being held before Christmas. Pray that God would give boldness to church people and bring people along who are interested in Jesus.

SUNDAY 2 – ITALY & IRELAND

Gillian Law prays that many people would attend the *Mark Drama* performance just before Christmas. Pray that they would be impacted by the gospel message. **Simon & Jessica Cowell** pray for their early days as a family of five. Thank God for student leaders' enthusiasm to study God's word in their newly formed university groups. **Naomi Brunacci** prays that students in Padova and Venezia would invite their non-believing colleagues to GBU Christmas events. Pray for the gospel to be preached clearly and for people to take steps to knowing God. **Erin Moorcroft** prays that Christmas would give increasing opportunities in personal evangelism. Pray that those wandering in spiritual darkness would come to know Jesus, the light of the world.

MONDAY 3 – AUSTRIA & GERMANY

Rob & Arabelle Horne pray for God to raise up a few keen individuals and families to serve at church. Pray for opportunities to proclaim Christ this Christmas. **Rachel Gibbs** prays that non-believers would feel welcome in the ÖSM Linz group and would continue to attend the Uncover Bible study. **Klaus & Jude Hickel** pray that people would recognise Advent as a time to discover the King who has come and will return. **Mimy Gardner** praises God for a biblical counselling course that many at LEC attended last month. Pray that fruitfulness and godly conversations would come of it.

TUESDAY 4 – SPAIN

Mike & Tania Snowdon pray for hearts to be changed to be more like Jesus at the GBU conference on 5–8 December. **John & Jodi Lovell** pray that their church family would be committed to reaching out to unbelievers and using Christmas to speak with people about Jesus. **Andrew & Dominique Gifford** give thanks for their straightforward arrival in Australia. Pray for their church community in

CMS SANT EVENTS TO PRAY ABOUT

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Barcelona, and for Steve and Naime as they lead them. **Jim & Tanja French** give thanks for relationships with link churches, safety in travel, and stamina and joy in raising partnership support. Pray for preparations for Summer School and relocating to Spain, and for good transitions for the children.

WEDNESDAY 5 – FRANCE

Josh & Susannah Apieczonek pray that GBU students would use Christmas as a chance to organise events and share Jesus with their friends. **Caroline Evenden** prays that God would work powerfully this Christmas so that many more people in France would grasp how wide, long, high and deep the love of Christ is, and know this transforming love (Ephesians 3:18). **Daniel & Kate Morris** pray that students would use Christmas to speak of Jesus and their faith in him with their family and friends. **Kelly Landrigan** prays for encouraging times at various conferences this month. **Colin & Catherine Puffett** pray for opportunities to talk openly about their hope in Christ with friends and neighbours, especially at the Christmas show on 16 December. **M** prays for opportunities this Christmas to engage with her Muslim friends and neighbours about Jesus.

THURSDAY 6 – CMS AUSTRALIA

Pray for **Chris Cooper's** safe arrival back from a pastoral visit to South East Asia. Pray for final preparations for the end-of-year missionaries' conference on 14–17 December. Pray that it would be a time of great fellowship and encouragement.

FRIDAY 7 – SOUTH ASIA

S & I pray that God would work through the Christmas season as their school families hear the life-changing story of the birth of Christ through acting, craft, reading and singing. **L** gives thanks for a new production centre that will provide employment for 120 refugee women. Pray that they would find lasting hope and healing in Jesus through the centre. **S (& T)** pray that their home would be a place of peace and rest as people come and stay over the Christmas period. **E** prays for university and visa applications to go smoothly so she can start studying language on location in February. **D & S** pray for many opportunities to share the hope they have this Christmas. Pray that the Spirit would convict, illumine and thrill many with the good news of Christ. **David & Georgina Newmarch** pray that Christians in Pakistan would stand firm in their faith despite many types of persecution. Thank God that their lives shine in the darkness. **K** prays for a smooth visa application. **M & K** give thanks for opportunities to spend time with family and friends during the holiday period. Pray for meaningful conversations and joyful memories before they depart in February.

SATURDAY 8 – NEPAL

S gives thanks for a successful move to her new city. **K (& B)** pray for Christmas to bring opportunities to share, even with less public programs and no public holiday anymore. **K & M** praise God for the amazing growth of Young Life across Asia. Pray for new staff for the school, including a replacement for **K**. **D & E** pray for the role of the school in supporting education in Nepal. **J** prays for the school's relationship with the Nepali Christian school next door. Pray that they can be a blessing and for the ways that they are already working together.

SUNDAY 9 – NEPAL

G & R give thanks for Christmas celebrations around Nepal. Pray for God's protection of his people. Pray for a palliative care refresher course at the hospital today and tomorrow. **L & T** pray for safety for **L** as he travels to conduct interviews for his study. Pray for ways to encourage participation in their home group. **B & L** pray for the school Christmas presentation that will be performed for the hospital patients and community. Pray that the good news of great joy would be well received.

MONDAY 10 – MIDDLE EAST

J gives thanks for growing stability in her region. **S** prays for the local church as they love and serve refugees. Pray for people who will struggle through winter. **L** prays for boldness and opportunities with her majority friends during Christmas. **B** prays for her friend **H**, who was recently diagnosed with likely multiple sclerosis, to be healed and to know Jesus. Pray for her Arabic classes with **M** to be regular. **S & C** pray for safety for churches during Christmas. Pray that believers would be free to meet together. Pray for boldness in sharing this hope with friends. **C** prays that many Arabs would have courage to ask questions and engage with Bible stories this Christmas.

TUESDAY 11 – UAE, JORDAN & MIDDLE EAST

W & C pray for their Christmas services and the 4000 people who gather to hear the gospel. Pray that many would bring friends to hear the good news. **K** prays for her visa, ID and move to a new apartment to happen quickly and smoothly so she can begin things in the lead-up to Christmas. Pray for **J & D** as they spend a lot of time caring for church and staff members, especially as Christmas approaches. **Malcolm & Charissa** pray for good planning and preparation for Christmas services. Pray that many people would come and Jesus would be honoured. **T & K** pray that their Summer School presentations would be inspiring and encouraging. **M** prays that she would learn to speak in sentences. Praise God for his grace in helping her thus far.

WEDNESDAY 12 – TANZANIA

Pray for **Mike & Katie Taylor** as they attend a missionary conference in Kenya. Pray for safe travels for their students during the break and many opportunities to teach what they have learned, to love people in their communities and to faithfully proclaim Jesus as Lord. **Geoff & Martha Boye** praise God for the joy and encouragement of visiting partner churches and sharing about Tanzania and the ministry at Munguishi. Thank God for kind, caring, interested and prayerful supporters. **Liz Burns** prays that ministers would keep the word of God central during the Christmas season. **Kevin & Karen Flanagan** give thanks for the opportunity to do further language study in Dar es Salaam following a very busy period. Pray that the Lord would grow his church

in the Diocese of Lake Rukwa. **Arthur & Tamie Davis** pray for students and staff from all over Tanzania as they gather in Dar es Salaam for the TAFES missions conference.

THURSDAY 13 – TANZANIA

Glen & Dominique Turner praise God for great academic results for Mara Primary School amidst some difficult situations this year. Give thanks that many people can see God's hand in this. **Matthew & Samantha Archer** praise God for sustaining them throughout a difficult year. Praise God for 20 years of marriage this month. **Judith Calf** prays for God's mighty hand over the students and the preparations for the Evangelists' Foundation Course that starts in January.

FRIDAY 14 – D.R CONGO, SOUTH AFRICA & NAMIBIA

Graham & Wendy Toulmin pray that the DRC elections scheduled for 23 December would take place. Pray for peace and stability in DRC. **David & Prue Boyd** pray for God's guidance on the timing of their return to DRC. Pray for peaceful and fair elections in DRC. **Nathan & Diane Lovell** pray for safe travels for the students returning to their families for Christmas. Pray for the new students who are preparing to start studies in January. **Kylie Zietsch** praises God for his love, and for the chance to go camping and be refreshed with friends. Pray for the staff team to love and serve one another despite tiredness. **Mike & Karen Roe** pray for safety for students and staff travelling back to their rural homes. Pray that they would make Jesus known there. Pray that **Daniel & Olivia Webster** would recognise their powerlessness to change people and be prayerful. Pray that God would change the hearts of those they serve.

SATURDAY 15 – ETHIOPIA, EAST AFRICA & KENYA

Roger & Lynn Kay give thanks that they can celebrate Christmas with all their children in Ethiopia. Pray for a special time together, rejoicing in Christ's birth with their church family at St Matthew's. **Maggie Crewes** gives thanks for the hundreds of women in self-help groups who are learning how to keep their children safe and in school. **Shane & Naomi Rubie** pray for a restful break over Christmas. Pray that Shane would continue to manage his big workload and for his health to remain stable. **Norm & Janelle Gorrie** pray for the resumption of Borana reading classes after the whole village fled last week. Pray for reconciliation following the death of 18 people and many severed relationships. Pray for the December diocesan youth camp.

SUNDAY 16 – JAPAN

Chenny Thie prays that non-Christian friends would accept invitations to Christmas events and understand the grace of Christmas. **Nathan & Maki Clapham** give thanks for a Christmas meeting at Tsukuba University. Pray that the gospel would remain central at various outreach events. Pray for **Matt & Jen Lim** as they settle into a new routine with the commencement of language learning and daycare. **Adam & Helene Ramsay** pray for their return to Japan. Pray for understanding teachers, patience with the cold and for their team to begin to grow together again. **Steven & Sandra Parsons** pray that Japanese people would be drawn to church Christmas events this month with open hearts to grasp the true reason for celebrating. **Roger & Noriko Dethlefs** give thanks for the opportunity to meet students in campus Bible study groups. Pray that students in the Overseas Christian Fellowship group would invite their non-Christian friends to come along.

MONDAY 17 – JAPAN, TAIWAN & HONG KONG

Brad & Michelle Jackson pray for patience as they persevere with people who are keen to learn about God and read the Bible, but who take a long time to become Christians. Pray that God's Spirit would help them to take that step. **Kellie Nicholas** gives thanks for an encouraging year. Pray for a good time with family and friends over summer. **Dene & Rachel Hughes** pray for the students inviting friends to Christmas parties. Pray that the gospel would go out clearly and that conversations would continue into the new year. Pray for **Dave & Beck McIntyre** during the busy Christmas season at church. Pray that awareness of Christmas in Japan would create gospel opportunities. **Ian & Narelle Hadfield** pray that the good news would make an eternal difference to the 2000 people who attend St Andrew's church at Christmas. Pray that all the Hong Kong churches would faithfully proclaim Christ.

TUESDAY 18 – EAST ASIA

L & J pray that students at NTE would have been encouraged to consider missionary work. Give thanks for a refreshing time at missionaries' conference on the weekend. Pray that they would adjust to Aussie life. **D & L** pray that they would use every opportunity to point to Jesus at Christmas. **S & K** pray for the safety of workers and local believers, and for the strengthening of local believers despite pressure. **D & T** give thanks that their organisation has had some positive interactions with authorities recently. Pray that this continues, especially in the current environment. **E** thanks God for the specialists who give up their holidays to come and serve at the orphanage. **L** gives thanks for her team. Pray for energy and good health.

WEDNESDAY 19 – DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

SAH: Pray for **Sam & Shan-Shan Chrisp** as they transition back to Sydney. Pray for good preparation for deputation and quality time with Shan-Shan's family. **Marty & Jenny Foord** pray for their transition into Home Assignment and that God would raise up supporting churches for them. **N** thanks God for the way he has used her time at SAH to prepare her for long-term mission. Pray that she would depend on him as she moves into deputation. **S & P** pray for their family's transition back to their home state for Home Assignment and building relationships with supporting churches. **Neill & Rebekah Dunbar (NZCMS)** pray for refreshment after a two-week holiday and that their studies at SAH would be useful as they start life in Phnom Penh. Pray that they would rejoice in God's provision and good news to all nations this Christmas.

Mentac: Pray for conversations about God with people during Christmas events. Pray for **A** and **Y** as they finish Mentac.

THURSDAY 20 – CAMBODIA

Dave & Leoni Painter pray for growth in their understanding of Asian cultures and the opportunities this provides for understanding the gospel. **Wim & Maaïke Prins** give thanks for Wim's speedy healing from a broken collarbone. Pray for his upcoming preaching opportunities at church. **Bethany Vaughan** thanks God for an English class with 6 girls starting at her house. **Craig & Samantha McCorkindale** pray that they can share the light of Jesus at Christmas with

Cambodians who are in darkness. **Andrew & Liz Glover** praise God for opportunities to learn things that will be helpful for their time in Cambodia. Pray that they would know God's presence as they start their new ministry in Phnom Penh.

FRIDAY 21 – INDONESIA & TIMOR-LESTE

J & D pray that they would communicate what God is doing in Indonesia well during their short time in Australia this summer. **R** prays that he would learn language and culture, be diligent in his studies, grow in his ability to listen, understand and communicate, and develop good friendships with local people. **Alan & Helen Wood** pray for wisdom in the final stages of interviewing a vicar candidate. Pray for Christmas activities, especially carol singing at embassies. Pray for preparations for All Saints' 200-year anniversary celebration. **Chris & Grace Adams** pray for the launch of the Tetun *Big Picture Story Bible* and for the various Christmas activities at churches around the country. **Andrew Buchanan (& Abi Tandiseru)** pray for their contributions at NSW and Tasmania Summer Schools in early January.

SATURDAY 22 – SOUTH EAST ASIA

J & I pray that J would be clear and connect well with students through talks on Ephesians at a youth camp. Pray for good family time over the school holidays. **T & E** pray for peace as they celebrate Christmas and that believers would be emboldened to share the message of love and sacrifice. **I** gives thanks for her new house. Pray that she would have opportunities to have a housewarming and celebrate Christmas in a way that is of interest to her neighbours. Pray for **H & M** as they move to a new province, and for the boys to adjust well. Pray for K to be okay with the extra distance. Pray for H to find a language helper quickly. **L & I** pray that they would care well and share the gospel deeply with Middle Eastern friends. Pray for Summer School preparations.

SUNDAY 23 – SOUTH EAST ASIA

T & J give thanks for increasing momentum among international student ministry in Australia. Pray for God's blessing on students in Australia and South East Asia and that many would mature into faithful followers of Jesus. **N** gives thanks that she can spend Christmas with her parents. Pray for good rest and refreshment. **M & L** pray that those who attended a Christmas event that M spoke at would be moved to find out more about God. **J** gives thanks for God's strength in the lead-up to the final exams last week and for encouraging intake testing on the weekend. Pray that past students would be able to re-enrol for next term. **Mark & Rosemary Dickens** pray that the good news of Jesus would be received with repentance and faith at the five Christmas services which hundreds of visitors will attend, including many children. Pray that **S** and other Christians would bear witness to the good news this Christmas. Pray that God would provide opportunities to share his gracious love and for the Spirit to move powerfully in the lives of unbelievers.

MONDAY 24 – CHILE

Gary & Julie Haddon praise God that all their girls can spend Christmas with them. Pray for CEP students as they prepare to run a training camp for youth leaders from across Chile. **Frances Cook** prays for a graduating student, Marcos, who will return to Salta in northern Argentina with little clarity about his future. Pray that **Michael & Joanne Charles** would be faithful servants of God in their work. **Chris & Stef Overhall** give thanks for a visit from Stef's family. Pray that they would make the most of opportunities to talk about Jesus at Christmas.

TUESDAY 25 – MEXICO & BOLIVIA

Peter & Sarah Sholl pray for Peter as he teaches 1 Timothy at the Peruvian Anglican pastors' retreat in Arequipa and Lima. **Adrian & Anita Lovell** give thanks for special times with family over Christmas. Pray for good times of rest and fruitful preparation for deputation. **Nick & Kysha Davies** thank God for a conference in Sicuani and the opportunity to train future missionaries and leaders. Pray for their first Christmas without Aussie family or friends in town. **Grahame & Patty Scarratt** pray that the production of the second edition of *The Gospel in Revelation* would move ahead quickly. Pray for the legal changes being made to the LCC Trust fund.

WEDNESDAY 26 – ARGENTINA

Peter & Terry Blowes pray for safe travel to the ABUA national conference (6–12 January), a good mix of people, and Bible talks that are Christ-centred and honour God. Pray for final preparations for workshops and that the kitchen would run smoothly. **Martin & Julie Field** pray for a special time reuniting with family and friends in Australia. Pray that **Amy Stephens** would stand firm in the Lord and rely on him more.

THURSDAY 27 – NORTH AUSTRALIA

Wayne Oldfield & Mandy Jones give thanks that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal churches could celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, despite struggles this Christmas. **Tavis & Kate Beer** pray for two leaders, James and Miriam, as they move from Urapunga to Darwin next year. Pray for their church in their absence and that their ministry and ongoing training would bear fruit for God. **Terry & Liz McCoy** praise God for an inspirational time at the CMS missionaries' conference. Pray that their Summer School talks would inspire others to serve Aboriginal Christians. **Matt & Lisa Pearson** pray for continued language learning. Pray that the Kunwinjku-speaking church would share the news of Jesus with great joy. **Derek & Rosemary Snibson** pray for good friendships with their neighbours in Darwin. Pray for understanding of the networks and potential partnerships in their urban context, so that they can discern the way forward for future ministry. **Chris & Karen Webb** pray that the events and gatherings that happened at Christmas would help more people take Jesus seriously. **Matt & Kate Vinicombe** praise God for sending Jesus. Pray that they would hold this close as they say farewells to family and friends.

FRIDAY 28 – VANUATU, FIJI & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Keith & Marion Birchley give thanks for the way 2018 finished with their students. Pray that these relationships would continue to grow in 2019. **Joel & Tiffanie Atwood** thank God for the 15 leaders and core students who attended NTE in Australia. Pray for a refreshing rest in the tertiary off-season.

SATURDAY 29 – CMS BRANCHES

NSW & ACT: Pray that missionaries returning over the summer for Home Assignment would have times of rest and refreshment as they reconnect with link churches, and speak at Summer School and other regional events.

QNSW: Pray for the branch team as they prepare for Summer School, particularly Paul Vandersee, the new children and youth coordinator, as he recruits leaders for the children and youth program.

SANT: Praise God for two new staff members, Carol and Susan. Pray for them as they settle in, get to know how CMS works and for Susan as she does training. Pray for new missionary-in-training K as she starts the transition to SAH in January.

TAS: Pray for those preparing for Bible teaching and missionary input at *SummerView* Conference, including Greg Anderson, Peter Thein Nyunt and Chris Mitchell. Pray for the Branch Candidates Committee as it considers a couple for missionary service.

VIC: Pray for the final preparations for *Summer Under the Sun*.

WA: Pray for refreshment for the two new missionary units who have completed SAH and are preparing to start initial Home Assignment.

SUNDAY 30 – CMS FELLOWSHIP

Give thanks with **CMS Victoria** for the CMS fellowship across Australia. Pray for them to be encouraged and challenged as they gather at Summer Conferences this January.

Former Missionaries' Fellowship: Thank God for the lives and ministries of **Winsome Bylos** (Tanzania 1993–2000), who died in Sydney on 22 October; **John van Emmerik** (Kenya 1964–75; Tanzania 1975–78), who died in Hobart on 24 October; and **Clarry Baulch** (North Australia 1960–78), who died in Geelong on 26 October. Pray for God's comfort for their family and friends. Pray for **John Wheeler** (Indonesia 1990–93), who is terminally ill, and for his wife, Dorothy.

MONDAY 31 – CMS PARTNERS

Thank God for CMS's partners around the world. Pray that God would have used their ministries to share the good news with many over Christmas.