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Cover photo: School girl at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka

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Epiphany
Trust

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Prayer Diary

Quarter 3, 2018

July 2nd - 8th

Thank you for continuing to support the work of the Epiphany Trust in prayer.

“Where did this year go.....” has been heard so many times. Is it a scientific fact that the years go quicker as one gets older!

We are officially half way through the year and to date our projects continue to flourish. From Jessie’s House in Zimbabwe to the Street Kids’ projects in Sri Lanka. From our schools within the Karen area of Burma to Happy’s slum school in Delhi. From the safety of ACES away from the violence of the streets of San Salvador to the newly built wells in rural Bangladesh.

That’s not to say that there aren’t problems..... and for these we continue to ask for your prayers. It’s easy to lose heart when our prayers don’t always appear to be answered in the way we want but we trust that God is in control!

- *Give thanks for the successes of the year to date and ask God’s continued blessing on the projects mentioned above.*
- *Pray that when problems are encountered we at Epiphany will have the wisdom, patience and perseverance to overcome them.*



The map above gives an overview of Epiphany’s projects worldwide.

Ways you can support the Trust

BANK TRANSFER:

The Co-operative Bank, Account no. 65006735
Account name: Epiphany Trust, Sort code: 08 – 90 – 86
Please email: sharon@epiphany.org.uk to notify us of your transaction if possible

ONLINE:

Go to our website: www.epiphany.org.uk and click on ‘Donate’ or click the ‘Just Giving’ secure payment icon.

CHEQUE/CREDIT CARD:

Please make cheques payable to ‘Epiphany Trust’ and send to the address overleaf or telephone with credit card details.

STANDING ORDER:

Still the most effective way of supporting the Trust as it helps with advance planning of projects. Ask the office for a ‘Standing Order Mandate’ or download from our website.

BY TEXT MESSAGE:

Text ‘MYET33 £?’ to 70070 You can enter £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10

LEGACIES:

Please consider remembering the projects of the Epiphany Trust by leaving a legacy. Check website or contact us for further details.

VOLUNTEER:

There are lots of opportunities for you to get involved! Spend time at Epiphany House; Camp Romania; with street children in Sri Lanka; or join the fund-raising ‘challenge’ - hiking across the Carpathians. We can tailor your time with us around personal preference and other commitments you may have. We can also put together a full or part gap year experience. Alternatively, you could get involved by volunteering on a Chrysalis holiday for learning disabled adults, or by becoming an Epiphany Trust rep in your own church or community.

IN PRAYER:

You can pray for the work of the Trust on a regular basis by using our quarterly prayer diary. Just phone or e-mail the office to request a copy of the current diary.

Our World September 24th - 30th

As we pray, we are reminded of the words attributed to the American Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr in the 1930s.

“Lord grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”



He related the Christian faith to politics and diplomacy and was a crucial contributor to the debate over whether war can ever be justified. With the current potential for war on a massive scale - was this ever more relevant.

Should we pray - following this prayer to the letter and accept that some things are inevitable? Or should we continue to pray for the wisdom to know the difference - with the added words “Thy will be done.....”

Sri Lanka (1)

July 9th - 15th

No news is good news....This time, however, it's not necessarily the case! We have heard little in the media about the recent torrential rain causing flooding and landslides in Sri Lanka. Villages are buried and the death toll is rising. This is affecting the children and their families supported by our partners Child Action Lanka. Families in Nuwara Eliya are cut off by flash floods and land slips and in Kelaniya they are being housed temporarily in temples. Children in these situations are very vulnerable and CAL under the leadership of Debbie Edirisinghe are trying to set up child friendly areas where the children will be safe from abuse. In Galle on the south coast viral infections are spreading. They desperately need help now.



<http://www.childactionlanka.com/donate/>

- ***Pray for people of Sri Lanka, many still reeling from the lengthy civil war, as they suffer from yet another disaster.***
- ***Ask that the Government of Sri Lanka will act with wisdom and urgency, to bring relief to those most in need.***
- ***Please pray particularly for the children affected, that they will not fall victim to trafficking or abuse, as is all too common in disaster zones.***
- ***Continue to pray for strength and good health for Debbie as she takes on yet another challenge.***

Chrysalis

July 16th - 22nd

Chrysalis holidays are as busy as ever during this summer. Most of the holidays are fully booked, so please pray for the smooth running of what is now quite a sizeable operation. With lots of different aspects to organise, pray for everyone involved that exciting, fun and safe holidays continue to be delivered.



- *Please pray that we find suitable accommodation in attractive, appropriate areas around the world for the varying needs of our guests.*
- *Ask that our guests enjoy the holidays, having new experiences and making new friends.*
- *Pray that we continue to find the right staff for a job which is rewarding and fun but can also be challenging and tiring.*
- *Pray that the two new support staff enjoy the job and settle in quickly.*
- *Pray for creativity and inspiration and guidance for the future as planning starts for 2019.*

Zimbabwe September 17th - 23rd

Eddie Mubengo left Zimbabwe in 2004 having been put on the wanted list for his support of the opposition party. He has been instrumental in setting up Jessie's House, despite being unable to return until very recently. In April he visited Jessie's House Academy for the first time and reported that the centre has become a beacon of hope to Muzondo village. "We had a huge gathering on the 3rd of April at the centre. It was as if we were having an official opening. We sang and danced for hours. People came from far and near to express their gratitude." These are the words of Eddie's 14 year old daughter visiting Jessie's House: "I felt so happy seeing them running around the centre grounds, singing and dancing. It was just the most heartfelt thing I could ever imagine. Being able to see them and join in their fun made me see just how important Jessie's House is to the people of Muzondo. There were no little sad children crying, or kids with small, thin long faces with big tearful eyes. No, only joy. Thank you to everyone who made this happen."

- *Give thanks that Eddie and his family were able to visit their community back in Zimbabwe without fear of reprisals.*
- *Please pray for funding for a second borehole, to provide water for the community and the agricultural project,*
- *Eddie has asked that we pray for funding for a playcentre for pre-school, for teacher's accommodation and for a second classroom block. . . . a big ask but so much has been achieved that we dare to dream big!*

Pakistan /Thailand September 10th - 16th

Pakistan continues to experience religious persecution in the form of forceful conversions, documented massacres, rape, and forced marriages, demolition and desecrations of churches and Hindu temples, as well as the destruction of universities and schools. We in the west can only imagine what it is like to be denied freedom to worship. It is unsurprising therefore that hundreds of Christians and Hindus and other minorities choose or are forced to escape the tyranny and enter Thailand - the nearest border, as asylum seekers, only to be treated as stateless refugees with no rights and little opportunity to make a living.

- ***Please pray for the Pakistani migrant children who have no legal status in Thailand and have been left without schooling for many months - in some cases up to 3 years.***
- ***For Jade * and Ella* who have set up a small school for migrant children in a Bangkok apartment block, as they expand their work using Skype technology.***
- ***Pray that the authorities will stop turning their backs on religious minority groups who are being persecuted in Pakistan.***
- ***Please remember 'China* a young Pakistani woman supported by Epiphany who will speak at Hope University in June at 'The Big Hope Young Leaders Congress.'***

**** not real names***

Burma

July 23rd - 29th

Burma ironically appears in holiday brochures as an up and coming tourist destination... whilst in reality it is on the cusp of civil war with widespread abuse of minority groups including the Karen. Forced labour, human trafficking, and child labour are common. The military is notorious for rampant use of sexual violence and have forced several hundred thousand Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh.



- ***Pray for the children of Burmese minority groups, deprived of a childhood and forced to witness atrocities that no child should see.***
- ***Pray for a peaceful return of the Rohingya refugees to their homes and a stable future for them.***
- ***Ask that the military government will act with compassion and not see the minority ethnic groups as a threat to their power.***
- ***Pray for Aung San Suu Kyi that she is practically allowed to support minority groups and finds it in her heart to do so.***
- ***Continue to pray for the pupils and staff of the schools we support in Karen state and give thanks for all that has been achieved so far.***

El Salvador July 30th - August 5th

One of the most valuable aspects of supporting a charity is the impact it has not only on the recipients of the aid but on those who take part in the fundraising. For some years the children of Holy Redeemer School in Worcester have taken an on-going interest in the work of ACES. They not only raise funds for the children on the streets of San Salvador but have studied El Salvador as a country including its customs, culture, and history. Bron Soan, above right, founder of ACES and now in her 9th decade is still very much a part of that team.



- *Please pray for the children of San Salvador who live in one of the most violent cities in the world.*
- *Give thanks for the ACES volunteers who have dedicated their lives to supporting these most vulnerable young people.*

“You have given me the shield of your salvation, and Your help has made me great.”

2 Samuel 22: 36

Bangladesh September 3rd - 9th

One of the poorest, most densely populated countries in the world suffering from Islamic extremism is still coming to terms with the influx of Burmese refugees. In a recent BBC programme, Simon Reeve the presenter of travel documentaries revealed the tragic plight of the Rohingya refugees still living in enormous camps awaiting their return home. At the time of writing, the impending monsoon is expected to make conditions in camps such as Cox’s Bazaar even more horrendous.

Please continue to pray:

- ***For the government of Bangladesh that they are able to cope with the extra demands made on their failing economy by the refugees.***
- ***For our partners the Tauri Foundation, working with disabled and disadvantaged children in Dhaka and Rajshahi. (See picture below.)***
- ***For further funding to continue the programme of drilling wells in the remote, impoverished villages in the regions of Sylhet and Rajshahi.***



Zimbabwean Harvest August 27th - September 2nd

Although no longer as widely celebrated in the UK, harvest remains an integral part of many societies, urban as much as rural. The village of Muzondo in Zimbabwe has taken on a new life as irrigation has quadrupled their crops in a very short period of time. The success of the garden project cannot be overemphasized. The various vegetables harvested allow the children to have a balanced meal. Before the garden project, children would only have meals that were high in protein but missed out on several vitamins that they are now getting from a wide selection of vegetables. Mr Gwawawa, the primary 1 teacher, has a keen interest in agriculture and has agreed to help with gardening. He will also help develop a healthy crop-rotation to improve production.

- Give thanks for harvests all over the world that provide us with our staple diet.
- Pray for the teachers at the school , especially Mr. Gwawawa and ask that his agricultural skills will indeed improve production and ensure a steady supply of seasonal vegetables.



- Ask that the extra vitamins the children are receiving will lead to fewer health problems.
- Pray for the newly elected Zimbabwean government.

Profile August 6th - 12th Andrew Mitchell

Andrew was born with hearing impairment and a slight speech impediment. He does amazing voluntary part-time IT support for Epiphany Trust. As well as being a minibus driver for Chrysalis Holidays, (part of the Trust.) His main employment is at Asda in Hindley. Andrew tells us that he enjoys helping people out with their IT problems and strives to find a solution if he can't solve it there and then. We all say "very true!" He loves driving the minibus for Chrysalis. He says it gives him pleasure knowing that adults with learning disabilities enjoy life-changing and life-enhancing experiences going on holidays. He is a warm, generous person with a secret party trick that surprises people when he attends events.....! We could not do without Andrew and thank him from the bottom of our hearts.



- Thank God that Andrew has found his niche volunteering his IT skills for Epiphany and that he finds both this and his driving for Chrysalis interesting and rewarding.
- Pray that Andrew will continue to enjoy good health and remain a vital part of the Epiphany Team.

Sri Lanka (2)

August 13th - 19th

Debbie Edirisinghe, our partner in Sri Lanka and founder and Director of Child Action Lanka has been recognised for the huge impact she has had on supporting the most vulnerable children who live on the streets. She is recognised globally for her achievements and now advises the Sri Lankan government on safeguarding children.



- ***Give thanks for Debbie's successful speaking/fundraising tour of Germany. Also for her recent trip to India where she visited our latest project - Happy's school, in the midst of the Delhi slums.***
- ***Give thanks for all the voluntary help Debbie has received.***
- ***Please pray for a full time 'Operational Director' who can take some of the day to day running of the charity away from Debbie.***
- ***Please remember the continuing work in Trincomalee where a new well is to be constructed to bring fresh water to the community for the first time.***
- ***Give thanks for the support of Tonbridge School in Kent whose pupils volunteer each summer in Sri Lanka and have raised thousands of pounds for CAL in recent years. Ask that their support will continue into the foreseeable future.***

"He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless."

Isaiah 40: 29

Romania

August 20th - 26th

Jean Holding spent a week of her 2007 summer holiday at the orphanage in Lugoj as a Camp Romania volunteer. This spring she revisited the area with her Serbian partner, Maurizio, staying at Epiphany House. She says.... "we both just wanted to say what an amazing time we had at the house. It was certainly the highlight of our trip. Parasca and Vasile (houseparents) are such amazing people and we were so impressed by everything they are doing there and how smoothly everything runs. The young adults staying were all so lovely and caring and we had some great conversations. It's such a community atmosphere and everything we ate was from the garden. I have really been inspired by the visit! We both just wanted to say what incredible work Epiphany are doing. The young people are so happy in the house compared to what it would be like if they had to stay in the orphanage!"



- ***Give thanks for the tremendous progress the four young people have made over the past 13 years in the care of Epiphany.***
- ***Please continue to pray for Parasca and Vasile as they care for the four young people.***
- ***Please pray for the future of Epiphany House and ask that it will develop to further serve the needs of those with learning disabilities.***