

Epiphany Trust

Reg. Charity 1006653



Prayer Diary Spring 2019

Epiphany Trust

Happy New Year!

This year we celebrate 30 years since the fall of communism in Western Europe. This also marks the beginning of our involvement with the orphans of Romania. This has culminated in partnering projects in 8 countries across the world.

Thank you for continuing to support the work of the Epiphany Trust in prayer. 2018 saw new projects come on line and a successful year of fund raising. We hope to continue this into 2019 with your help. This is a slightly streamlined prayer diary which hopefully will reach more of our supporters. We hope to include more updates on our website and email more of our supporters to save on postage. Please let us know if you wish to be contacted in this way.



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

Zimbabwe

Our project manager, for Jessie's House in Zimbabwe, Eddie Mubengo writes:

"The political situation in Zimbabwe seems to have stabilised but its dire economic state will take many years to improve. Shortage of cash and the soaring food prices is affecting every family in Zimbabwe and vulnerable children like those in Muzondo are always disproportionately affected.



Current statistics suggest that more than 2.4 million people will face food insecurity during the peak of the 2018-19 lean season. Livestock conditions will also deteriorate across the country due to water shortages and poor pasture. However, the community of Muzondo is privileged to have 2 boreholes that supply the community and livestock with fresh water and a centre that provides a daily nutritious meal to the most vulnerable children. The members of Muzondo community are forever grateful to Epiphany Trust."

- *Give thanks that parents are learning to care more for their children because of the positive way they are treated and from talks by teachers and local nurses.*
- *Ask that parents will earn sufficient money to pay for their children's medicines. (Many have ringworm)*
- *Pray for Zack a 6 year old boy whose father died 3 years ago. He is now living with his elderly grandmother.*
- *Pray for Toby, a 5 year old boy. His father died 3 months ago and his mother is now caring for him and his 6 siblings. His family receive vegetables from the school garden. (names changed)*

Chrysalis

Our Chrysalis staff report that: “Things are going very well at the moment. We have had four new additions to the staff this year, all of whom have brought a very refreshing attitude and work ethic to the holidays for adults with learning difficulties. They have integrated themselves well into the group, and we have a solid staff team going into the New Year.

Bookings are up on this time last year, which is encouraging, and we continue to receive bookings from existing customers and new guests alike.

We have raised a bursary fund to help those of our guests who are in financial difficulty, and this paid towards holidays for four of our guests last year. This will rise to as many as twenty in 2019, which affords the guests an opportunity to go away which they might not otherwise have, and provides much needed respite for their carers and families. Anyone wishing to contribute towards this fund should write to Martin Davy at the Chrysalis Office, or telephone him: 07523 747476

- ***Give thanks that we have received a most promising CQC inspection.***
- ***Pray we maintain our enthusiasm and energy throughout the year.***
- ***Pray that we will have the bookings in the winter months needed to provide enough work for our staff.***
- ***We are enjoying a very good spell, with no complaints or incidents. Pray that this will continue.***
- ***Pray that the support staff team will continue to gel - so important with the residential nature of the job.***

Sri Lanka

We now support 12 Child Action Centres in Sri Lanka providing for 1800 vulnerable children in 5 different counties. Deborah writes “At CAL we make sure our kids receive a well balance meal which is the only meal some of them get for the day. Social Services Doctors and state medical staff say that kids from CAL centres have no report of being under weight or malnourished! Surprising news for kids from the streets!”

Deborah Edirisinghe continues in her role as Director of Child Action Lanka. In addition she now represents Epiphany as Director for Burma, Thailand and India, areas which are more accessible from Sri Lanka. She describes the poverty she has found in the most moving terms.

- We continue to pray for the children of Sri Lanka that the support they are given by CAL will enable them to gain life skills and educational qualifications to give them greater independence in later life. Feeding the children remains a priority of the staff there.***
- We pray for Deborah and her family as she extends her role within SE Asia.***



India

India is a land of contrasts. From the affluence of high rise and space projects to the slums of Delhi where 'Happy', a slum dweller himself hosts one of our latest projects. A house for children to learn the Christian faith; receive an education and particularly a place where they are safe.



Happy's (Photo below) prayer list is as follows:

- ***For our school children - the children's health. (TB and typhoid exists in the slum, and there's poor hygiene.)***
- ***For the health and safety of the children's parents.***
- ***For the school/church building to be rebuilt next year with a solid roof, secure doors and windows and a good electricity supply.***
- ***For Happy's father's health: for healing.***



El Salvador

El Salvador is one of the most dangerous places to live in the world particularly for women. More than half of all Salvadorian women say they have suffered from some form of violence. Children are sadly not immune and ACES, our partner charity has tirelessly supported children in a culture where drugs, gangs and violent crime are the norm. Sadly, ACES charity is closing this spring after over 30 years of invaluable work, achieved through dedicated trustees and supporters. Many of the trustees are ageing and in poor health and the ageing staff in El Salvador at AMOR have also decided with the heaviest of hearts to retire. Sadly leaving youngsters with psychiatric problems to the precarious care of the state.

- ***We give thanks for the work of Bron Soan, the Trustees and fundraisers who have worked tirelessly for the most vulnerable young people in El Salvador.***
- ***We pray for the children from the project whose future looks very uncertain.***
- ***We will continue to pray for the people of El Salvador as they struggle to live in a corrupt and violent society.***

Thailand/Pakistan

Pakistan continues to persecute its religious minorities.

Honour killings are sadly common and Christians continue to seek refugee status in neighbouring Thailand. Hundreds of refugees continue to risk dangerous boat crossings to seek refuge in Thailand.

- *Give thanks that we now have a representative in Debbie Edirisinghe from Sri Lanka. Her new role for Epiphany in addition to being the Director of CAL is to support the Asian projects including the Pakistani Christians who have escaped to Thailand.*
- *Pray for Debbie's safety and energy levels as she combines the stresses of CAL, family life and visits to the other Asian projects.*
- *Pray for the safety of Pakistani refugees as the authorities seek them out and imprison or place in detention centres, often divided from their families.*

'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Matthew 25

Bangladesh

Clean water – something we all take for granted.....
Nearly 1000 children under the age of 5 die every day from diarrhea due to contaminated water.

We have had an amazing response to our wells for Bangladesh Appeal, now working towards constructing 45 wells in Bangladesh. Fund raising events and donations completed 40 wells during 2018 and we are grateful for local restaurateurs and the Rotary Club of Newton and District Jubilee for their support over the past 5 years.



- ***Give thanks for the generosity of our supporters who have raised over since enabling the Trust to provide 40 wells in the rural and impoverished areas of Bangladesh with a further 5 committed.***
- ***In a world where environmentalists continue to debate global warming, We pray that governments throughout the world will also take seriously the basic issue of clean water as a priority in the most impoverished areas of the world.***

Staff and Volunteers

Epiphany continues to be staffed by Bill Hampson, its Director, Sharon Ainscough Assistant Director and Gill Dickinson as office manager. We are supported by the most willing band of volunteers any charity could wish to have.

Epiphany was recently nominated for a Queens' Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK. We await the final Government decision which would ultimately be confirmed by the Queen.

Whether we are successful or not, we were made aware in the process of the unique contribution made by our volunteers. 100's of people who have given and continue to give unselfishly of their time and talents. We owe so much to them.

- We Give thanks to thousands of volunteers who over 3 decades have given of themselves to support vulnerable children and young adults.*
- We give thanks for Amy, Andrew, Jayne, and Sue who spoke on behalf of volunteers and reflected the feelings of other volunteers over the past 30 years.*
- We give special thanks for those who on a daily basis support our accounts and IT. Without their expertise we certainly could not function as effectively.*

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.

Epiphany Trust, situated in Newton le Willows, is a registered charity whose aim is to raise awareness and provide support for disadvantaged and disabled young people and adults. Through the various activities and fund raising events we participate in, we are able to make a substantial difference to the lives of people across the world.



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Cover photo: a smiling face in the Delhi Slums, India

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