

UK Missionaries... UPDATES... UK Missionaries... UPDATES... UK Missionaries... Updates... UK

Jenny Auld: Pray that people will come forward to provide prayer and financial support as Jenny prepares to go to Ecuador in July.

Jon Bartholomew: Pray for the ministries that Jon is involved with in Milagro and that someone will be prepared to continue the work when he leaves.

Judith Buchanan: Pray for peace for Judith as she has her CAT scan on 17th February.

Billy & Jeanne Campbell: Pray for Billy and Jeanne as they prepare to move to Hong Kong and for Billy's new role as ECC Shepherd for Asia.

Daniel & Gail Castro: Pray for Daniel and Gail as they continue their studies and for guidance for their future. Remember Melissa and Ruth too.

Steve & Katuska Davies: Remember all the family - Steve with language study, Katuska as she teaches and Samuel, Benjamin and Joseph.

Eddie (& Chris) Delameillieure: Pray for Eddy as he continues language study and teaches at SEUT and for Chris in her ministry.

Jonathan & Esther Heath: Pray for Jonathan and Esther as they continue visiting supporters and taking meetings. Pray too for the building work in their home. Remember Nathanael, Abigail, Josiah and Luke.

Julia Henry: Praise God that Julia has been in Greenwood for Cross training. Pray for safety as she returns to Ecuador and for completion of the repairs to her apartment.

Melvin & Sharon Kelly: Pray for a strong support base

for Melvin and Sharon as they fundraise for future service in Mozambique.

Gavin McClintock: Pray for Gavin and Julie Donaldson as they marry on the 28th February.

Nigel & Priscila McKee: Pray for all of the family, including Joshua, Annabel and Dylan, as they continue to readjust to being back from Brazil. Pray too for wisdom for Nigel and Priscila as they look for opportunities for ministry.

Paul & Emily Noble: Pray for wisdom as Paul and Emily help a new student to settle, and as they parent Isaac and Luke and all their students.

Alan & Joanne Parkinson: Pray as Alan and Joanne teach (Alan with another new course!) and get involved within the local community. Remember Charis too.

Des & Karine Quinn: Pray for protection of their health, for Des with language studies, and a huge increase in support. Remember Karine, Lucas and Felipe too.

Marlene Rainey: Pray for a smooth transition to life back in Northern Ireland for Marlene and for guidance for the future.

Ken (& Elizabeth) Roberts: Pray for wisdom for Ken as acting field leader, and maintaining all the other jobs too! Remember Elizabeth, Esther and Daniel too.

Mark & Nube Vogan: Mark and Nube desperately need a teacher for Timothy and Debbie and for several other children on the compound.

Pam Wynn: Pray for loving patience in the classroom and ways to encourage the local believers with whom Pam regularly shares.

Focus on Prayer



www.omsinternational.co.uk

January 2009

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philipians 4: 5-7

This passage in Philipians is both a challenge and an encouragement. Some days being able to rejoice and not be anxious when our circumstances are difficult can be very hard. For some of our missionaries there are days when they need some extra help in prayer as they face the challenges of language, culture, family, colleagues, ongoing support-raising and a host of other details of living. We all appreciate the part you play in making the difference for individuals when a little bit more prayer is needed.

Even in the darkest days the fact remains "The Lord is at hand" and no matter what the issues, God wants to hear about them. Continued, informed, specific prayer and intercession, with thanksgiving is required from us all.

Michael Berkeley
UK Executive Director

Please do not display this material on church notice boards or in a public place. Thank you.

Jonathan & Lupita Morton, USA; Director of International Ministries



We live about two minutes from my office at OMS world headquarters in Greenwood. Our day starts at about 6am when after getting ready, breakfast etc. Lupita makes sure that I have all the documents and papers that I need for that day. I usually do a bit of preparation for meetings etc before I go into the office. I arrive at the office at around 8am and leave at around 5pm. I spend as much time as possible involved in strategic prayer and planning focused on vision and strategy. This involves working with the regional directors for Latin America and Europe and field directors on strategic ministry growth analysis and plans that will make us more fruitful in winning people to Christ, planting churches and training leaders. A reasonable proportion of my time is also spent in dealing with sensitive ministerial and personnel issues that for whatever reason go beyond a national leadership level. I work closely with a variety of people, closest of all with my direct supervisor, the Executive Director Randall Spacht. With Randall there is constant communication with a complete duality of information and knowledge allowing either of us to make an informed decision about any issue or region of the world in which OMS operates. I usually leave the office at around 5 and after eating with Lupita finish any work that was left

undone during the day. Lupita keeps me organized, organizing our home, making sure that I am aware of my schedule, appointments and that I have all the back up documents etc. needed for meetings each day. She spends about 4 hours a day in language study and in her spare time is reaching out to non Christian Latin people living in the community.

About four times a year we travel to the different countries that OMS is serving; a real privilege. During those visits we are able to assess and encourage, working with local staff and national leadership in the areas of vision, strategy, personnel and ministry.

Our work is challenging and we praise God for the privilege of being able to serve Him. It gets frustrating when each day so many little things pop up that need immediate answers and demand time. We pray for wisdom to discern what really needs to be done so that our time is spent most productively. Travelling is a great blessing and privilege but it is very tiring. Being away from home four times a year for a month at a time can make you feel unsettled, so we praise God for the peace and assurance that He has given us as we continue to adjust to a new role and culture. Our new local church, which is Spanish speaking, has been a real source of encouragement. We value much needed prayer as we seek for God to continue to use us to see His Kingdom extended and His name glorified.

OMS International - Reaching the Nations By Prayer

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Carl, Heidi, Andrew, Elida, Tiffany & Nathanael Walton, USA; Finance & Personnel

One of the biggest differences about living and working in the US compared to the UK is in the area of healthcare. In the US, healthcare is a personal cost and whilst many employers do provide healthcare insurance there is still usually some personal cost to visit a doctor or for a stay in hospital.

We praise the Lord that OMS/USA does have a comprehensive and adequate healthcare plan through a programme of self insurance. All OMS missionaries who are a part of the medical plan must raise additional funds for their healthcare premiums. These premiums are pooled together in order to cover costs for other missionaries as the need arises. Coverage is available to the children of full time missionaries, provided the child is not married and in full-time education, or until they reach the age of 25. This directly affected our daughter, Tiffany, who is currently employed by a local retailer. The company does not provide medical benefits for her, which means she is currently paying off medical bills from this past summer. Please pray that she will be able to find a job where medical insurance is a benefit.



Andrew, Carol, Tabitha & Oscar Agnew, Mexico; Social Outreach Ministries



Life for the Agnews in Mexico City is very different now to what it was when we first came here. Our ministry can be divided into two main areas - Social Ministries and our home. Andrew leaves

home around 8am most days and goes to the Drop-In Centre and returns around 6pm. This last year there have been times of frustration when the remodelling work hasn't gone as smoothly or as fast as we would have hoped. We have been blessed by the help of many from the UK and the USA and we are now praising God that we have just about finished that phase and are ready to move onto the next. This next year should see Andrew and the MEFI team at the Centre each morning and on the streets in the afternoon. They hope to visit 10 groups a week. One or two prominent characters from each group will be invited to the Centre in the mornings with the hope being that they will find Christ, grow in Him and carry the message back to their groups. We also hope that a new church will commence shortly in the Drop-In Centre with a service mid-week. Andrew also phones or meets with pastors to encourage them and attends each of the 3 breakfast clubs at least once a month.

Back at home is where Carol's ministry is based. Tabitha is three years old and Oscar is one. There are definite long-term benefits for all of us from having stability and order in the home. While we are so grateful for our missionary team here the support structure isn't what it would be at home. Whatever Carol does outside of the home needs to fit in with the kids' routines and needs. Her principal ministry roles are developing a group for mothers of pre-schoolers (MOPS) in the La Loma church. This group will hopefully start early in 2009 and has the potential to reach many women and their kids. The second main role is to coordinate the breakfast clubs. At the moment that means writing a manual and seeking to support the leaders through occasional meetings together.

We have so much to be thankful for: our safety, our health, the exciting things that are happening in the ministries, etc. We are still in prayer for the salvation of souls in the ministries outside the home but also for the two precious little souls inside our home. We're grateful too for much better unity in the MEFI team and continue to pray that the enemy won't disrupt that. There are so many needs here it is sometimes overwhelming and our prayer is that we will have wisdom to know how God would have us manage the finances, the time and the energy He has given to us. Thank you for standing with us as we minister here.

Bruce & Mabel Callender, USA; Retirees

An often-unspoken concern of the missionary wife is the fear when her husband is travelling, which is very often, of what would she and the children do if something were to happen to him? I (Mabel) often faced this fear when our children were small and we lived in the Andes Mountains of Ecuador. Bruce would be gone frequently on missionary journeys and the thought that something might happen to him was often with me. Knowing that many people were praying for us was such a great consolation in those dark moments.



The separation from children at any time throughout life is painful because of not being close by to help in times of need. And, oftentimes children don't communicate their sufferings. It is only later that you come to find out what the real struggles were. We are very thankful to be living close to the family, at least close to two of them. And, our great joy is to help take care of our little grandson, David.

As we enter this new transition as retired missionaries but still involved in ministry, the big concern now is: will people still continue to support us? Our OMS pension and the cost of medical insurance still come from the support account. Again, we look to the Lord who has been faithful over so many years and we trust Him to the end.

Steve, Helen & Nisha Cosslett; UK; Funding to Return to Mexico

For our little family the thought of heading back to Mexico fills us with a whole host of emotions, from excitement at doing God's will to the scary idea of heading into the big smog-filled city in another culture with a one and a half year old. However, if the future is to be anything like the present we are in for an interesting experience. It has been a huge privilege to travel around and meet so many amazing people. With this privilege comes the challenge of Steve having to be away from Helen and Nisha left at home, or when we are all able to go, the challenge of Nisha becoming unsettled as the routine changes and then the sleepless nights that follow. We've experienced how the enemy likes to use our sleep deprivation to discourage us or to put strain on our relationships. This is one of the areas we're sure we will constantly need prayer for.



With the frustration of waiting for everything to fall into place, we have also seen the hand of God work in amazing and unexpected ways. We have been so blessed and encouraged as God has provided a job for Steve, a comfortable house to live in, a car to get around and, of course, a great family and friends who have supported and encouraged us. We would ask you to pray for *opportunities*. This word is key in Steve's role as a chaplain with the Royal Marines and it is key in our endeavour to get funds and prayer support together. It is key as we seek to develop ourselves for the challenge ahead and of course it will be key for our work once we're in Mexico. The other key word for us is *transition*, as hinted above. Moving across the world with a small family is a challenge, and leaving family and friends behind will be tough for both us and them - especially as Nisha will change so much in the time we are away. We pray you would join us this year as we seek opportunities to glorify God and make our transition to a different culture!

Leslie, Brenda, Darina & Liam Reid, UK; Funding to Return to Mexico



Please pray for me (Leslie) as I am still involved in ministry here in Northern Ireland with the Belfast City Mission - reaching out to a large housing estate near to Belfast with the Gospel - as well as deputation with OMS. Raising financial support is very challenging at this time of the 'Credit Crunch' - it certainly makes us trust God!!!

Getting the family/ministry balance right and making the most of the time available is hard. I have to spend a lot of time on the phone to Pastors, Ministers and potential supporters, particularly in the evening when I want to just rest up! Pray for motivation and stickability!

Pray for us as we work through health issues, which can be worrying, but, as we mentioned earlier, can also make us trust God more! Also, after Brenda got her Irish Citizenship, we now have to apply for three Irish passports - for Brenda, Darina and Liam. Please pray.

Mark, Olivia, Jonathan, Timothy & Benjamin Scott, USA; ECC International Director of Training

We're thankful to the Lord for many things since moving to the OMS World HQ in Indiana, USA. In five months we've become fully operational. It's as if we were plucked from one location and set down in another. Olivia and I share an office, where the Every Community for Christ training ministry runs from. The boys are all in good schools, and are kept busy with plenty of outside activities and home studies. Our home too feels like home. We're thankful.

We have our struggles too. Our main struggle has to do with how we compensate for the sudden loss in the UK pound's value against the US dollar - 25% loss in five months! The workload is stressful too, since there's so much to do. Training seems to be flavour of the month at this particular time and consequently demand is high. Join with us in prayer, ensuring we remain in God's rest, by making good choices and decisions, and maintaining a healthy and happy family.



Jonathan, Julie & Benjamin Pollock, UK; Funding to Return to Mexico



We still are amazed at the blessing that God has given us in little Ben, and even more amazed that he will be three months old in January. We can see him growing up so fast and he is now beginning to smile and laugh. He has been for his first injections and he has to go for his BCG to immunize him for going back to Mexico.

As we look forward to what God has in store for us in 2009, we remain faithful in the fact that God is leading us, guiding us and preparing the way for our return to Mexico. In order for us to return to the field we need to see our monthly support targets increase. We are currently at 40% of where we need to be and are praying for new partners to help us make the next two years possible. Thank you for receiving this prayer letter and for your prayers, which have already made a significant difference. Together we can make a huge difference in the lives of God's people in Mexico!