

**Prayer diary for Allen & Jean Edwards,
Eastleigh, Hampshire**



- Jean's and my involvement with outreach, café Church on 16th July and as members of the Myriad team on North Stoneham Park.
- Development of the local Street Association.
- My continued involvement as a Foundation Director (representing Salisbury Diocese) of the Acorn Multi-Academy Trust during these challenging times for schools.
- My continued involvement as a visiting Professor at Cardiff University.
- 30/8 Leading & preaching at 10.00 at St Martin in the Wood Church.
- 17/9 Leading & preaching at 08.30 and preaching at 10.00 at St Francis Church

News from Odel

Dear EWM UK family,

I hope you are well. It is with deep gratitude that I write to thank you for your generous prayers and support, as well as to update you on my progress. I am excited to let you know that I am a few weeks away from completing my studies at All Nations Christian College. The course ends on July 31st and I will fly back to Rwanda on 2nd August.

I am currently writing my dissertation and hope to finish it by the end of July before I go back home. As my MA is in Transformational Development, my dissertation critically evaluates the long-term impact of child sponsorship in Rwanda. It basically examines the impact of child sponsorship on the spiritual, human, natural, physical, and social capital of the Rwandan community. I would like to request your continued prayers as I finish it and prepare to head back to Rwanda, to serve with my home church in full-time ministry, a calling that I have been praying about and discerning for quite some time.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your unwavering support through the Eagles Wings Ministry. I am truly grateful for your prayers and generosity. Also, I would like to thank Mike and Angie for their love and support during my stay in the UK. Throughout my stay and studies, they went above and beyond to make sure that everything went smoothly. May the Lord bless you all so much.

The Anglican Diocese of Kigali is struggling to pay rents for those ministering for them in the city. This will include Odel as he commences his ministry.

Odel will be joining Mike in the conferences in Rwanda in August. He will be his travelling companion, and will do some of the interpreting for him and will share in some of the teaching.

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*Leaders - refreshed in Christ: renewed in mission
"those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31*

Prayer News 105 August-October 2023



Dear Praying Friends,

During a recent Prayer for Poundbury meeting a lady shared an experience she had as we were praying. She had the profound sense of the Lord standing in front of her, reaching out and putting a finger beneath her chin, lifting it gently for her to look at him. In Psalm 3:3 we read, *"But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head."*

A beautiful picture and an encouraging perspective, that the Lord is *"the lifter of my head."* In Isaiah, the Lord instructs His people to *"lift up your eyes"*, all four occurrences are an encouragement to them to see the reality of who He is and the blessings He has for them. In John, as the Lord has met with the woman at the well in Sychar, Samaria, He sees her returning with the whole village coming towards Him. He says to the disciples, *"Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest."* John 4:35.

Luke records the Lord encouraging the disciples to have a perspective of hope rather than despair at signs preceding His return, *"Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."* Luke 21:28.

There is so much that captivates our attention and causes us to look down in despair or around with alarm. It can happen even, or especially, when we have stepped out in faith as individuals or a church. Like Peter, stepping out of the boat in faith and then seeing the waves, waivered! The context of each of this handful of references is one of challenging circumstances or people being outside of their comfort zone. Refocusing is required. *Raise your head; lift up your eyes.* Allow the Lord to be *lifter of your head.*

Our brothers and sisters in Christ in eastern DR Congo, have faced and continue to face challenge after challenge. They face violence from the lawless militia groups, now joined by some Islamic extremists. Two years ago they offered hospitality to tens of thousands who fled the volcanic eruption near Goma. In May this year the whole region was hit by exceptional rain causing rivers of mud to cascade down steep hillsides. Thousands lost their lives; many lost their homes and livelihoods. YET, reading their correspondence is humbling as we see their resilient faith in Jesus whom they experience being *the lifter of their heads.* May you also know Him as *the lifter of your head.*

With our love in Jesus, Mike & Angie

News from DRC

Rev Jean Pierre MUKUMO – Assemblies of God (CADAF) DR Congo

On the night of May 4/5, 2023, a torrential rain fell until it caused material and human damage with more than 400 dead, not counting the missing so far, houses, churches, schools swept away, including 52 deaths from our AOG community. As I speak to you, the survivors of this catastrophe remain without shelter, without food, without blankets, without kitchen equipment, the children no longer go to school and others have even moved here in Bukavu. This incident happened in the province of South Kivu, in the territory of Kalehe, not far from Bukavu, the villages surrounding Bushumba.



Since then the death total rose to the thousands. Pastor Jean-Pierre sent some very explicit and distressing photos of what rescuers found in house after house. The same impact was felt by Pastor Jean-Paul and the Anglican Church in the same area. However, the storm also affected NW Rwanda and NE DR Congo.



Please continue to pray for all affected. It follows on from the volcanic eruption two years ago.

We acknowledge receipt of the donation that the EWM ministry wants to send to the two sister churches in favour of the victims of the Kalehe natural disaster. We sincerely say thank you for this. Please pass on our thanks to the leaders of the EWM ministry. We pray for the safe arrival of the funds.

Please pray about the difficulties linked to the natural disasters that we are experiencing in the East of the DRC, mainly in Kalehe, especially for our pastors in this environment who do not have shelter, even food and clothes.

Please pray for the election of new leaders in the DRC: the security and economic situation may be affected.

Rev MUHINDO MATABARO Jean-Paul, Eagles Wings Ministry Representative, Bukavu, DR Congo (independent of EWM UK, but in fellowship with us)

Pastors and Lay Leaders Conference

On May 3rd-4th, we organized a conference on *Ending Domestic Violence in Christian families* at Kamanyola for 138 pastors and lay leaders held in the Methodist Church.



Pastors and Lay Leaders Conference at Kavumu

In total, 48 pastors and lay leaders from different Protestant and Anglican churches attended the conference we organised at Kavumu on June 12th-14th in the Pentecostal Church. During the 3 days, we discussed *Called to lead, Called to serve*.



News from Pastor Jean-Paul continued

Pastors and Lay Leader Retreat at Christ Roi, Muhumba Parish

On May 22nd a total of 26 pastors and lay leaders from Christ Roi, Muhumba parish, gathered for a retreat at Amani Roman Catholic Centre for prayer and discussion regarding the theme *Integrity and Faithfulness for Holy Ministry*.

Thank you so much for the gift of money from EWM UK to Anglican and Assemblies of God Churches to assist the pastors and victims of the catastrophe in Kalehe. Please pass our thanks to all at EWM UK as this gift comes during disaster and scarcity of food in and around Bukavu. May God bless you abundantly.

Pray for successful accomplishment of the Pastors Conference planned EWM at Walungu Village on the topic *Called to lead, Called to serve* in this July 2023.

Pray for improvement of the economic situation in our communities so that people can continue contributing to EWM activities as well.

News from India

Pastor Sundar, Andhra Pradesh, Eagles' Wings Ministry Partner

At present there is great persecution in India with 300 churches burnt in the state of Manipur. Many innocent people have died and many Christian people are facing lack of food and water to drink. My friend from Manipur said their situation is terrible. *Manipur is 1200 miles as the crow flies from Pastor Sundar, wedged in the narrow strip of India between Bangladesh and Myanmar. Nevertheless, it reflects a growing concern about persecution for Christians across India.*



At this difficult time there is a great need to train the local leaders in leadership skills through small conferences which we are doing through Eagles Wings Ministries. Strong leaders can encourage their church members. But we are facing difficulties through lack of resources. Please pray for us.

We ran a number of Zoom conferences with Pastor Sundar over recent years, subsidising the cost of food and transport. We have sent a further donation to help Pastor Sundar run another short series, although we shall not be able to support him on a regular basis. It is great to see Pastor Sundar's growth in confidence to run these conferences himself - he is more than able to do so.

