

Devotional

Hi wonderful Prayer Partners,

It is now only four weeks to Christmas. Our daughter is due to have her third baby any day. We are all very excited about having this precious new addition to our family with us for Christmas! We are trusting God for a safe birth of a healthy baby and his care for our daughter. Owen and I are on standby to come and mind their two children when 'things start happening'. We live about 15 minutes away but our daughter has another contingency plan in case the contractions come 'thick and fast'. Her sister in law lives about two minutes away. Bron and Phil would much prefer this baby to be born in the hospital where the trained medical staff and all the facilities are rather than at home or in the car on the way. They very much know that God is with them. How blessed are we by the medical people and facilities we have in this country!

This made me think of Joseph and Mary with the immanent birth of baby Jesus. Dr David Jeremiah in his Turning Points magazine and devotional says "As the crow flies, it is about 110 km from Nazareth to Bethlehem. This trip would have been more like 160km for this couple due to the route they needed to take. If they travelled an average of 2kms per hour it would have taken them 50 travelling hours to walk 160km. If they travelled an average of 8 hours per day, it would have taken 6.25 days to walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem. So roughly 1 week, one way—2 weeks round trip - on foot and by donkey." Imagine how they must have felt to be told on arrival in Bethlehem that there was no room left in any inn for the birth of this baby.

However they knew that God was with them which makes ALL the difference no matter what situation we are faced with. We, like Mary and Joseph, need to trust in God's faithfulness and goodness to us as we travel life's journey which can sometimes present considerable challenges but can also bring great blessings. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, Immanuel - God with us.

This PrayerForce is the last I'm doing as Prayer Co-ordinator as I finish my role this year. It has been such a privilege to undertake this role since 2007. I am so thankful to God for His guidance, love and blessings to me and of course his wonderful faithfulness in always answering our prayers in His very best way. My sincere thanks to everyone who is part of the MMM prayer network. Your prayers for the work and workers in MMM are invaluable and pleasing to God. I will continue to underpin MMM in prayer and look forward to keep connecting with my many special friends in MMM and hear what God is doing.

Have a very blessed Christmas. Love and blessings -Jane

International Prayer News

Praise

- for the commitment and willingness of the MMM Directors, staff and volunteers and for the immense blessing they and the work projects have been as they show the love of Jesus to others.

Prayer requests

- for God's provision of more needed staff, local volunteers and overseas work teams to enable a greater number of projects to happen in all MMM International regions.
- for God's wisdom for the International Board members to help grow MMM's impact in all member countries.
- for all MMM International staff, volunteers and Board members to have a very safe and blessed Christmas and holiday time. May God's Holy Spirit refresh them in preparation for another year of enthusiastically "serving those who serve" and bringing glory and honour to God.

New Zealand

Prayer requests

- for good attendance and wonderful reunions, at the Celebration Barbecue, celebrating 20 years of serving Fiji being held on December 17th, at the MMM Centre, Pirongia.
- for inspiration for Ave Robinson as she prepares the next issue of the MMM News magazine due out in December.

Fiji

Praise

- for all the Alexanders have undertaken and those who have joined with them to grow MMM's impact and bless the locals.

Zambia

Praise

- for E3 partner, MMM in Zambia, that trains orphaned and vulnerable young people in practical skills (*brick-laying, plastering, carpentry and tailoring*) so they can earn a living and be given hope and dignity to turn their lives around.
- for the students building a house, earlier this year, for a local pastor as part of their practical work, providing him and his family with a decent home.

Hong Kong

Praise

- for MMM's people and work here over the past 20 years.
- for the great MMM 20th Anniversary celebrations held last month.
- for those involved on the project undertaken after the celebrations at a Children's Home in mainland China

South Africa

Prayer request

- for more Christians to join Neil Eichstadt and John Benn.

PrayerForce

December 2017



MMM Australia

1 Praise God Almighty for his wonderful faithfulness and grace to MMM. Give thanks for God's provisions and blessings on our financial needs. Praise God for the great commitment and efforts of our CEO, Terrence Baxter, Board members, staff and inspiring Managers and volunteers who desire to bring glory to God, with their lives 'serving those who serve'.

2 **WA** Pray for quick access to knee surgery for fulltime, staff member, Rod Heape. Pray also for the WA Region Manager's daughter in-law, Bre, to receive a Permanent Residency Visa so she will be able to work in more rewarding and purposeful jobs.

3 **VIC** Pray for God to bring forward those who are willing and able to provide financial assistance for Geoff Jarvis who has left his employment to work fulltime as Region Manager and for a while lead some teams on projects. Praise God that Kim Roediger has said he is making a remarkable rate of recovery and that he and his wife Wendy are very humbled by God's presence in their lives and the prayers of many Christians for them. Pray for a complete healing for Kim.

4 **SA** Pray for a reigniting of passion in people to be involved with MMM in SA so projects can be done there. Pray for needed team members to commit to helping on a large painting project for Christian radio station LIFE-FM in SA so it can commence in late January 2018. Pray a team can form to return to Happy Valley to extend the ramps to the toilets.

5 Pray for our CEO, staff, the Managers, Committees, project leaders and teams to know God's sustaining and guidance to complete the expectations of their roles well, prior to the Centre's closing for the annual holidays. Pray for God's protection over them while travelling during holiday time. Pray for God's protection over the MMM properties and equipment while the Centres are closed.

6 Pray for good health and safe travel for the Managers coming to Melbourne and then returning home after a Conference on December 8th. Pray they will have very fruitful discussions. Pray the new Managers will find this time together very informative and it will be a great blessing to all present.

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

(2 Corinthians 9: 15)

7 Pray for a person of God's choosing to come forward to be the National Prayer Co-ordinator as Jane is stepping down from this role at the end of 2017.

8 Pray for God's wisdom, guidance, sustaining and blessings for Terrence Baxter (*CEO*). Give thanks for Rachel Littlechild (*his PA*) and Finance Manager, Diane Jenkins. Praise God for our wonderful Managers and all they do in this role.

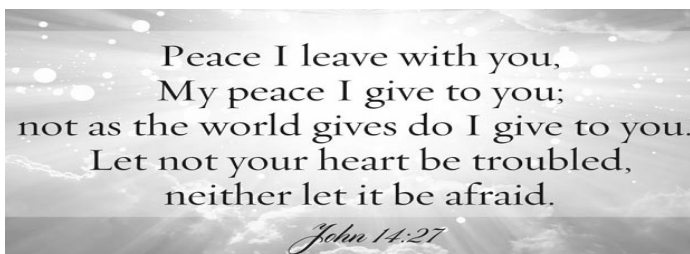
9 **VIC** Praise God for our Manager's safe return from China and for all he did on the project at an orphanage there. Pray for interested volunteers for a Safari next year to contact Geoff Jarvis (*Region Manager*) soon.

10 **WA** Praise God that Karen Beard (*WA Region Manager*) no longer has her very persistent, long term cough.

11 **Thailand** Pray for a great response to the letter sent out requesting donations towards the purchase of land, adjoining Shoulder-2-Shoulder, for a future MMM Centre to be built on. Praise God for all Palita and Pedro do, including the recent project to provide Palita's elderly grandma with a western toilet inside her house, as she has difficulty walking downstairs due to a broken leg that required surgery that was not done.

12 Pray for each of the MMM Board members to know God's direction and will and wisdom to implement this. Pray for his protection and rich blessings on them. Give thanks for the support of their families, enabling them to do this role.

13 Pray for a person to take on the role of National Associates Co-ordinator. Pray for a greater number of volunteers to take up the challenge to be involved in the ministry of MMM in all regions and more to register as Associates. Pray for really effective promotion of MMM and more opportunities to share about our work, resulting in more people becoming involved in all aspects of MMM, especially on project teams.



14 **VIC** Praise God for the funds raised over two Saturdays of Garage Sales. Pray for some items, to be listed on line, to receive great interest and a good purchase price. Pray for God's guidance for the Committee and his favour on planning future fundraising ventures, especially all the details for the annual dinner in March 2018.

15 Pray for more prayer groups to be formed next year and meet on a regular basis at each Region Centre and other locations. Praise God for all who faithfully pray for MMM's work and workers and for His answers.

16 Pray for all MMM staff, volunteers and Board members to have a very safe and blessed Christmas and holiday time. May God's Holy Spirit refresh them in preparation for another year of enthusiastically 'serving those who serve' and bringing glory and honour to God as they live for him.

17 Pray for all in MMM who may be unwell or preparing for their first Christmas after the passing of a loved one. "May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise." *Psalm 119 : 76.*

18 Pray for God's blessings, favour and encouragement for all the organizations MMM undertakes projects for and for each ministry to be very fruitful in their kingdom building endeavours. Praise God for all our project team members and their skills. Give thanks for the privilege for MMM to provide practical help with building and maintenance needs, along with fellowship, to bless others and help their ministry to grow.

19 Pray that as we meditate about Christmas, from God's Holy word, the Bible, our hearts will be filled to overflowing with gratitude and a desire to share his love and message of hope with others at Christmas and throughout the year.

20 **QLD** Pray for suitable volunteers to commit to the 2018 Safari and for good preparations for the projects and schedule, by the Coopers and Behrens, for this. Pray for God's peace and healing for John Cooper with his health issues.

