

# Paraclete Christian Network International

## Serving and Equipping

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## Prayer Update Sheet Autumn 2023

Dear All,

It's time to send round the latest news and prayer points for the various ministries PCNI is involved with in both Benidorm and Zimbabwe. We are grateful to all of you who prayed and supported us earlier this year when CAF bank closed our account with them, sparking a serious incident for us which led to a long and intense, but ultimately helpful, meeting with the Charity Commission. As a result of this meeting, we have been busy reviewing the Trust's aims and governance whilst writing new policies outlining the procedures we use in the running of the charity. We were so grateful to God when the Cooperative Bank offered us an account and thankful to all of you who transferred your giving across once the account was set up. All this was a challenging set of circumstances indeed.

### The English Church, Benidorm Spain

We are again so grateful to God for the ministry of Trevor and Maggie Ramsey heading up The English Church in Spain. 2023 thus far has been a very encouraging time for the fellowship as the church has continued to grow numerically and in its life together as it seeks to be an effective witness in the challenging town of Benidorm. In June, a mission team from Newtownbreda, Northern Ireland, had a wonderful time of ministry to the church and outreach to the community. They brought great encouragement to the church members and spent many hours going out speaking to folk and giving out literature on the seafront and along "the Strip" where much of Benidorm's entertainment takes place. This is something Trevor and Maggie,



sometimes accompanied by church members, do regularly every Friday night. They estimate they have had over 350 significant conversations during the year so far and have had the joy of seeing 3 clear confessions of faith alongside all the seed planting they have done. The church is in good heart with improved attendance at Sunday and mid-week services plus fruitful ministry in the Ladies' and Men's groups. They have also established good relationships with the Scandinavian congregation with whom we share the building. They recently held a joint service with over 100 people attending.

**Items for prayer** are for someone to come along with a vision for children's work among the small number of children and families we have in the church. Thanks to our good relationships with the Scandinavians, we have been working together to try and open a bank account alongside theirs. There have been many administrative hurdles to jump but all the paperwork is now with the bank. Please pray that our hopes that an account will be opened very soon will now become reality. Also on the financial front, giving via offerings has improved significantly but still not enough to cover our

expenses in Spain. Please pray especially for Trevor and Maggie and their families for health and strength and ever fresh anointing on their lives and ministry week by week with more joy in seeing God's hand at work. You can find out more detail and information of all that is going on in The English Church by visiting their website <https://englishchurchbenidorm.com>

### **Kuwadzana Christian Training Centre, Zimbabwe**



Quite amazingly, by God's grace, the ministries at the Training Centre in high density Kuwadzana continue to flourish despite the great hardships Zimbabwe continues to experience. August saw fresh elections but these were not deemed free and fair by international observers. Sadly this means the status quo remains in power with little vision or ability to rebuild the country. The political, economic and social situation continues to deteriorate with high unemployment, high inflation, poor water and electricity supplies. Very little of this challenging situation reaches our news now with so many other trouble spots in the world...

Despite all this, the exciting news is that the centre has managed to erect a two-storey classroom block to accommodate the influx of secondary school students from 200 to 550! This has come about due to the collapse of the Government education system where teachers are striking because they are not being paid. The building is nearing completion and will be operational at the start of the new school year in January 2024. Also, thanks to generous donations from supporters - some of you reading this prayer letter - we have been better able to resource and equip the College's science lab and now hope to be able to offer science teaching up to O Level standard. Jonah Masaka, the staff and teachers are all working together well. Superkids Preschool continues to operate as does the Bible School attracting students from different denominations although numbers here are restricted mainly to those who live nearby and do not need to pay for transport to the classes.



**Please pray** for the small team of Trustees - Jane, Graham and Lynda - who plan to travel to Zimbabwe in January 2024. This will be a time to review the finances, offer Bible teaching and do church visits plus plan for the future. We especially have new plans for the Bible School using **SEAN** courses (internationally recognised Theological Education by Extension) locally and further afield both in Shona and English. Pray for the annual Bible School graduation ceremony where we honour



our hard working students in such a difficult environment and that the new school building will be completed for us to be there for its opening. Pray especially for Jonah Masaka and the staff and teachers for health and strength and great effectiveness against all the odds. May they see encouraging signs amidst all the misery in the country. We also need great wisdom as we look ahead to the time when Jonah (now 76) will retire from running the Centre. As we too in the UK are experiencing economic hardship, this is affecting us as a charity as it does many others. We need to pray in

new resources so we can continue to support the work in Zimbabwe. You may feel led by God to simply donate or you may be interested in the Christmas fund raising and scholarship scheme we run. We are attaching details of these and they can also be found on our website [www.paraclete.org.uk](http://www.paraclete.org.uk). Please be in touch if you are interested in supporting our work.

Thank you all so much for your prayer and support. May you know God's blessing and peace in these troubled days. **Revd Lynda Hulcoop on behalf of the PCNI Trustees**