

## DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

Many people remain in great need in Haiti following the earthquake of three weeks ago, which devastated the country. As well as a need for continued supplies of food, water and medical supplies, one of the main concerns at present is how to provide proper shelter for so many people before the rainy seasons begins. It is believed that over a million people are currently without proper shelter, and special tents will be needed to withstand the expected heavy rains which are due to start in a few weeks time. Tents are being shipped in to the country, however many more are required, and it is thought there are not enough in the world at present to cover the need. *Prayer Points –*

- For all those who have been affected by the earthquake; especially for those who have been injured, have lost loved ones, or have suffered damage to their homes, possessions, or livelihoods.
- That emergency supplies will quickly reach all those in need and for those who have been injured to receive medical help.
- For wisdom and energy for aid workers, medical staff and all those trying to bring help to so many people in desperate need. That everyone in Haiti will have adequate shelter before the rains come.

*Do-Donations towards the Moderator's Appeal for Haiti should be sent to the Financial Secretary's Office, Church House, as soon as possible, but not later than the end of February 2010. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Presbyterian Church in Ireland' and marked 'Haiti Earthquake Appeal'. Where possible, members should be encouraged to contribute under the Gift Aid Scheme. (Gift Aid to be recovered by the congregation). Alternatively, people may give directly to Tearfund and Christian Aid. Details are available on their websites.*

**MALAWI** Last Wednesday, Diane Cusick and her colleagues were delighted to receive many boxes filled with much-needed resources for the pre-schools. Diane writes, "Thanks to one and all for these gifts of love to the children and caregivers in Malawi." *Prayer Points –*

- Give thanks for all those who support the 'Containers to Malawi' Project.
- For the family and friends of one on Diane's colleagues in the Education Department who passed away recently.
- For one of the teachers from the school who is unwell pray that she will receive proper medical care and that she will recover soon.

**Remember to keep Linda Keys in your prayers as she is now eligible for a call. Pray God's blessing and direction for her**

West Church  
BALLYMENA

*Serving Jesus Together*

**Sunday 7th February 2010**

**Our Father Who Art In Heaven,  
Hallowed Be Thy Name**

Lord, take care of those who are suffering through bereavement, disability or are in hospital recovering from their illness. Give to those suffering in any way, both those within our own Church and those we know outside of Church, the help they need. Amen

The Prayer Team would like to encourage members of the congregation to come along to Prayer Time on Sunday morning. We meet in the Church office at 10.30am and 6.00pm and would love to have you join with us. Or why not come along and join us for a **Prayer Breakfast** on the 1st Saturday of each month @ **9.00am** in Montgomery's! - **Sat 6th Feb Prayer Time alternate Thursday's - 4th Feb @ 8.30**



**Encourage your friends to pray!** Our weekly Prayer Bulletin is available every week @ [www.westchurchballymena.org](http://www.westchurchballymena.org)

**He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. 2 Thessalonians 2:14-15,**



**Wild West - Scripture basis: Acts 13,14 and 16. Psalm 95.**

Each week we ask you to pray for all team members listed

REFER TO PRAYER BULLETIN 10/01/10— BUBBLES, SPLASH, XSTREAM

**XStream Rota Scott Wharry/Sandra McPeake + Karen Brewster, Madeleine McIlroy, + Eddie Gilmore**

Please be encouraged to pray for :-

**OUR AIM: to encourage our children to say 'yes' to God**

\* each individual by name; \* for the section leaders as they prepare the weekly sessions and organise the teams; \* for team members as they interact with the children as individuals and in small groups; \* for the team members to support the leaders and each other.

**Pray for the last Discovery Series 5,** God's wisdom and blessing on everything that comes out of our workshops. Pray that many of the congregation will continue to attend and participate and the Ministry as they lead and that the Spirit of God would speak to us. As we dream the dreams God wants for us as a congregational family .

Give thanks for the great support given at the PW event of **Here Comes the Bride** last Tuesday evening which brought fellowship, fun and a sense of unity across all generations as they looked at bridal gowns over the decades. Pray God's blessing on this and future events and for all the ladies who came along.

**Remember to pray for Anne Allen and the new ministry of distributing CDs and DVDs.**

**PRAYER POINTS FOR GRIEFSHARE— Phyllis**

We have completed 11 sessions of our Griefshare Course and we want to thank all of you who have prayed for us. I can assure we have been richly blessed as a consequence, but we don't want you to stop praying so below are some further guidelines for prayer.

Give thanks for the real sense of God's presence at every session

Give thanks for the 18 people who regularly attend the course

Give thanks for the open sharing in the group discussions

Give thanks for Samina, Muriel, and Anne and for the gifts and personal experiences each of them have brought to the group

Pray for the final 2 sessions of the course which will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February; that they will be a real benefit to each participant. Pray for the leaders that they will be guided how to support the group members at the completion of the course.

## Lost Donkeys

*"Now the donkeys belonging to Saul's father Kish were lost" (1 Sam 9:3).*

God used adversity to call the first king of Israel. In 1 Samuel 9 and 10, we find Saul working in the family business, employed by his father, Kish. In Bible times, donkeys represented trade and commerce, for they were the primary means of transporting goods.

Some of Kish's donkeys were missing, so Kish told his son Saul to take a servant with him and go find the missing donkeys. Saul and the servant traveled the countryside three days in search of the missing donkeys - but without results. Saul thought his father might worry about him, so he told the servant, "Let's go back." The servant replied, "Look, in this town there's a man of God, a prophet. Let's go see him and maybe he will tell us which way to take." In today's terminology, it was time to call in a consultant.

So Saul and the servant went through the town and the prophet - a man named Samuel - was walking toward them along the street. As Samuel walked toward Saul, God told the prophet, "The man who is approaching is the one I told you about. He will be the leader of My people."

Saul stopped Samuel in the street and said, "Sir, would you please tell me how to find the house of the prophet?"

"I'm the prophet you're looking for," Samuel replied. "Today you'll have dinner with me and tomorrow I'll tell you everything that is in your heart." Saul's pathway to leadership led through the experience of a business setback: a missing herd of donkeys. God arranged every step of Saul's journey. It was God who sent the donkeys away, which made it necessary for Saul to go searching for them. When Saul was ready to give up the search, God arranged for the servant to suggest that they look for a prophet in a nearby city. The Lord spoke to the prophet and told him to expect Saul's arrival. There was not a single detail left to chance. God's plan worked flawlessly.

So it is in your life and mine. God is in control of every detail in your life

Lord, let me be a simple fool, not a hardened fool. Though I make many mistakes in life, I want to learn from those mistakes. I want to improve; to do what is right. As the Bible says, to be a "simple fool." Please never let me become a hardened fool who does not listen or learn from mistakes. I pray for your guidance, direction, and wisdom each and every day. Thank you for hearing me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him (Matt 4:19-20).*

*Thank You, Lord Jesus, for Your wonderful promise that we will inherit every blessing of the Kingdom of Heaven even though we have to go through the suffering of persecution. Help me to care more about pleasing you than getting the affirmation and praise of men and women. One day I want to hear those words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant'. Amen.*