

Chris & Linda's Prayer Requests July 2024

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Ths 5:16-18)

Dear friends,

Profuse apologies that the trickle of newsletters has dried up. I'm still intending to send out the last two, for April/May (currently half-written) and June-July, but they will have to be more retrospective than usual (if I can complete them during furlough).

What I did want to do is send out our prayer requests for this month, as we leave Utila a week today, especially as things are extremely busy, as you might expect.... So here goes....

This week

Our final Home Communion visits

The Evangelism refresher course on Thursday, at which Linda hands over to the local coordinator, Miss Kim

Recording an online version of the worship leading and preaching seminar we have led for the Women's Group and Men's Fellowship here this last week, for the trainee Local Preachers on the north coast.

Safe travel for our freight, which was collected yesterday and is being shipped to Puerto Cortes on the mainland today (Weds), then by road to San Pedro Sula, by air to Atlanta in the US, thence on to London, where our next church have arranged for its storage until we arrive at the manse.

Blessings for our day off on Friday

Next week

Our final service we're leading on Sunday morning, and our farewell service this Sunday evening, especially for wisdom in how to involve the Superintendent, who's travelling from Roatan (the next island), and Rev Goff, the District Representative, who's coming from Belize, as well as the arrangements for their travel, food and accommodation.

Saying our goodbyes (we're not looking forward to this...)

Travelling mercies for our ferry ride to La Ceiba and minibus to San Pedro on Wednesday 17th, flight to Madrid on Thursday 18th & on to London on Friday 19th, and our drive up to Cliff College that afternoon

Finding suitable Bible teachers to teach 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Grades (ages 9-13+). These are my two classes, one whose teacher has just had an operation, and one whose Bible teacher resigned just before the exams...

Finding a suitable Bible class coordinator (or coordinators doing different aspects of the work) to replace me. No sign of anyone suitable until last night, when somebody suitable agreed to do at least some of the work...

Ongoing concerns here

The ongoing threat of hurricanes (rare, but hurricane season has started early, and Beryl didn't miss us by much before causing much damage and loss of life in Jamaica)
School-related concerns listed above

The difficulties of finding suitable teaching staff, especially as the school year continues until November

The health of my colleague Rev Hanners, who is nearing retirement age, but now finds herself with far more work to do since we are leaving

Please pray that the District somehow finds at least one of the two new ministers this Circuit requires, one to assist Rev Hanners in the work here, and one to take on the work on the north coast, which we have been doing from Utila, especially the training of the six local preachers I have been working with

The new Superintendent, Rev Clare, who lives in Belize and will also be inducted as District Bishop in September

Replacing Linda and I in our wonderful Sunday School, with suitable new teachers for the preteen and adult classes

The ongoing work with teenagers, through Sunday School and Teen Tuesday

Returning to England

Finding a reliable second-hand car to buy early on

Our plans for furlough, which this time will be more focused on readjusting than informing through church visits as we did last time

Returning to UK culture and the MCB with its associated paperwork and different theological emphases

Our 'Home visit' in London with the Global Relationships team, debrief and medicals, followed by a meeting of returning Mission Partners, of whom there are many since the lay programme has been discontinued

Adjusting again to the climate and time difference

Missing the blessings of living here- the people, the wildlife etc etc

I will send out further ongoing prayer requests with our next newsletter during our furlough to cover our new appointment. Thank you all so much for your ongoing prayer and other forms of support.

Love, peace and blessings,
Chris & Linda