

# WARE IN THE WORLD

MISSION UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2024

ISSUE 4



Christ Church Ware  
Jesus led, Spirit empowered, Grace based.

## Praise and Prayer from Burundi

*We hear from Michael Resta who is teaching in a Bible College in Bujumbura*



I am living in Bujumbura teaching in a Bible College called *Partners Trust International*, founded by a former student of All Nations. The focus is on training and leadership and so far, I have taught an Introduction to Old Testament and New Testaments, English, apologetics, and the epistles.

Over the summer, I gave some basic English lessons to street children and helped prepare a cricket team for the street children's world cup in India!

### Praise for:

- **Safety and wellbeing** in a country now rated as the poorest in the world ([www.worldpopulationreview.com](http://www.worldpopulationreview.com)).
- **Accommodation and hospitality** – for the first seven months, I stayed at the home of Paul and Alison G (working in Burundi for 15 years and also members of Christ Church when on home leave).
- **Keen students** – there is so much to learn from them especially culturally. They are enthusiastic for the Word of God but have limited resources.
- **Peace.** I believe I am where God wants me to be and have enjoyed teaching the Bible in particular.

### Please pray for:

- peace, political stability and freedom from corruption in Burundi.
- the students, some of whom are pastors, that they would grow in their faith and reliance upon God's word as they teach their congregations. Also for the church which I attend and its mission focus and Biblical emphasis.
- the provision of resources which are unreliable – e.g., fuel, petrol and electricity.
- continuing good relationships and for my language learning which is slow. I am on a two year visa and believe God is telling me to apply for a new visa to stay for longer.

## WELCOME TO MISSION NEWS SEPTEMBER 2024

- **Praise and prayer** – an update from Michael Resta.
- **OneHeart for Refugees with Reach Beyond** – a short mission trip by Tom and Gary Parkes.
- **A thank you message from International Nepal Fund (INF) about the legacy fund\*** donation from Christ Church.
- A story from Burundi where a **dream inspires a call to South East Asia**.
- **Sharing blessings with the church in Kazakhstan** – a short mission trip by Fran Worboys.
- Jess shares her reflections on **marathon running for Amigos**.

\*See page 5 on how to propose more ideas for legacy fund projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION – Go to [www.christchurchware.co.uk/missions](http://www.christchurchware.co.uk/missions)

## OneHeart for Refugees

*Over the summer, Dr Tom & Gary Parkes went on a mission trip to Greece and Gary shares about their trip and what they did.*

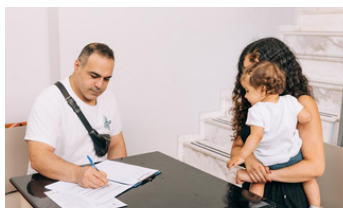
Greece is the entry point into Europe for thousands of people fleeing the Middle East and Asia. Of those that come, many end up in refugee camps with little support, far from amenities and in a place hostile to refugees.

This summer, we visited *OneHeart* (a partner of Reach Beyond – UK), an NGO that seeks to serve refugees. It's founder, Sahar, was herself a refugee from Iran and is now a powerful advocate for others.

The ministry's hub is a medical clinic in downtown Athens run by a mixture of refugee volunteers and short-term doctors. Refugees and asylum seekers are entitled to state medical care but they are frequently denied care or turned away for lack of interpreters.



*The OneHeart hub*



*A refugee volunteer*

*OneHeart's* ministry includes primary medical care, advocacy and help accessing emergency care and referral when needed. Sahar has found some Greek specialists offering services free or at reduced rates.

*OneHeart* also helps with legal issues, trauma counselling, mental health support and seeks opportunities to share faith in Christ.



*Farsi (Persian) Church, Hub basement*

In the clinic basement, there is a thriving church where many refugees from otherwise unreached people groups, can be nurtured in faith and fellowship. After the trauma of displacement or escape, they can find a safe place and an opportunity for new hope. Jesus was also persecuted and rejected. We spent time helping in the clinic (and Tom) went to visit the refugee camp, a two-hour journey outside Athens, in temperatures up to 37 degrees Celsius. Access to the camp is strictly controlled, even for charities.

### **Please pray for:**

- Sahar as she seeks out the most needy from the refugee camps.
- More volunteers and supporters.
- For a Local/Greek committed Christian doctor to do clinics regularly.

## LEGACY FUND UPDATE



**Greetings from**

**International Nepal Fellowship (INF)!**

We would like to thank Christ Church family for your generous contribution to provide these wheelchairs to the needy ones.

It has been a great support to our patients in Green Pastures Hospital (GPH) and Surkhet.

With regards,  
Dhanmaya

*The final financial and narrative report of the project is available from CCW Treasurer.*

After a serious spinal injury, Lila was cared for at Green Pastures Hospital, INF, for three months with rehabilitation and compassionate care. Lila was also supported as she adapted to using a wheelchair funded by Christ Church. The INF counsellors, and pastoral care workers helped with the social, psychological, physical, spiritual and economic issues arising from her life changing injuries.



*Lila gave her consent for the story and photo*

## A Dream Inspired the Call from Africa to South East Asia

*related by Alison G*

I've known Passie and Hermès since before they got married in 2009. We worked for the same Burundian Christian organisation – Harvest for Christ. They are an unusual Burundian couple. Passie is a dynamic leader and Hermès is a gentle support and leader.

Back in 2010, they pioneered living amongst the Batwa (pygmy) people in the north of Burundi. The Batwa, considered to be the original inhabitants of Rwanda and Burundi, are about 1% of the population. The community where Passie and Hermès worked in had an average death age of around 27 due to no sanitation, one room houses resulting in incest amongst teenage siblings and other factors. They built trust with the community (a very different approach from international NGO's) and together, they worked to help build toilets and houses, alongside teaching literacy and numeracy; and doing Discovery Bible Studies. Slowly, the community was transformed. While she was there, Passie had a dream of what she now realises was a Buddhist monk but at the time they did not know what to make of it. As they have prayed into it, they realised that Jesus is calling them to work amongst Buddhist peoples.

For the last couple of years, they have been seeking out how they and their three children – Joe, Sage and Micah – might go and live in the Buddhist world. They've been in touch with two mission agencies; one of which is facilitating them going on a vision trip to Thailand this October for two weeks. Would you pray with them that Jesus confirms if this is where He's calling them and opens the door for a visa and financial provision – potentially with one of them working in an international school as a teacher which would facilitate their visas and a salary so the other one can focus on church planting?

*Article written by Alison G. Alison and Paul, with Jeremy (7), Grace (6) and Lydia (3½) are based in Bujumbura, Burundi, coaching and facilitating the Burundian church to train Burundians to be sent in mission. They have a home in Stanstead Abbots where they stay when on Home Assignment and worship at Christ Church when around.*



*Passie and Hermès*



## Opening new doors to Kazakhstan

*Fran Worboys shares about her involvement with Flame International and how this led to her recent mission trip to Kazakhstan*

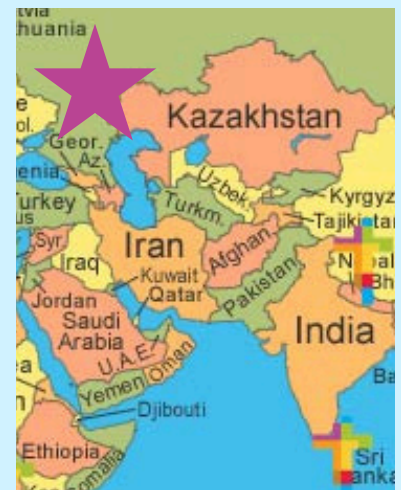


*Flame International (Flame)* is a UK based, Christ-centred charity whose vision is to see people set free from the pain and trauma of war, terror or oppression with a mission to release Gods healing, forgiveness and reconciliation to individuals and their land. *Flame* equips, trains and supports local leaders to help their communities and nation. The Lord had led me to *Flame* and I had participated in various ways in their UK courses, but I was aware that the Lord was now opening new doors into a different kind of mission, Kazakhstan.

Being asked to go on this type of mission cannot be taken lightly. Seeking the Lord's will, His authority and blessing is paramount, and I had, on numerous occasions where His intention was confirmed. I love the way God speaks His heart to us.

Ask someone, "do you know anything about Kazakhstan?" and they will probably say, "no". Kazakhstan really has been hidden in plain sight. It is the largest land-locked country in the world which contains startling contrasts of dry deserts, grassland steppes, snow-capped mountain ranges, rivers and lakes. Its people form a rich kaleidoscope of ethnicities (although people of Kazakh and Russian heritage form the largest groups).

Although it is a Muslim country, there is an eclectic range of beliefs including Christianity and traditional folklore. Its southern border contains sections of the Silk Road; the ancient trading highway linking east to west.



*Kaz hospitality - horse (mare's) milk*

This is where we spent a truly blessed week with the church and Christian community. They are hungry and thirsty for God, and we were made so welcome. It was a privilege to see what God is doing in a country where Christianity cannot be openly expressed or promoted. Yet, God is making hearts soft to receive healing. Prayers are being answered and God is raising up people of single minds and hearts for Him. It was such a privilege to hear the testimonies about God moving in lives.

I feel really blessed in going to Kazakhstan and being part of a team that was so unified. We had fun. We enjoyed fellowship together which flowed into the ministry with agreement in the Spirit. The days were long, but we were

upheld by God's strength and a spirit of encouragement. We saw deliverance and healing. We experienced atmospheres shifting, peace and joy being given or restored. Pictures, words of knowledge and prophecy were powerful, yet humbling too. God was at work, and it felt precious to be a part of His plan.

## A Marathon for Amigos

*Completing her first ever marathon with a time of 5:1:40 and raising £3000 for Amigos Worldwide, Jess shares her experience running in the London Marathon.*

Many hours of training runs gave me plenty of time to ponder about...

- **Being thankful** for my health and scenic running routes. Remembering to be thankful to God each day is so important.
- **Daily discipline.** I found the time each day to do my stretches and turned down weekend plans so I could do long runs. We make time for what is important. We are intentional when it comes to what we want to do. Is this the same when it comes to reading my Bible and spending time with God?
- **Equipping and fuelling.** Correct trainers, clothing, nutrition, hydration. It's important to be properly prepared. Likewise, we need to be equipped and fuelled daily in our faith journey.
- **Running alone.** Running buddies make the long miles easier and more fun! Don't run the race of life alone, who is cheering you on and who are you cheering on?
- **Commitment.** Training runs had to happen come rain or shine. A life with Jesus isn't about being a fair weather Christian. It is about committing to trusting God through the storms as well as in the good times.

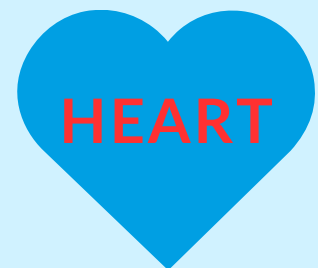


## CHRIST CHURCH



\*The legacy fund is the tithe (10%) portion from the money donated from the Christ Church development fund (excluding grants).

So far £30,000.00 has been approved by the PCC to support external projects.  
**If you have some good ideas about a project or charity that is dear to your**



**please write to Ros McFiggans**  
via the church office and she will send you an application form.  
**Email**  
[office@christchurchware.co.uk](mailto:office@christchurchware.co.uk)

## LOCATION OF MISSION PARTNERS



## CHRIST CHURCH MISSION PARTNERS INCLUDE:

### PEOPLE

- Richard and Monica Harvey
- Mel and James Lynch (Birmingham – Women of Worth Ministry) [st-johns-house.org](http://st-johns-house.org)
- Flavio and Cinzia De Lima (Operation Mobilisation) [www.om.org/ships](http://www.om.org/ships)
- Prem and Indira Subedi (in Nepal) [www.availmission.com/avail\\_worker/prem-and-indira-subedi/](http://www.availmission.com/avail_worker/prem-and-indira-subedi/)
- Charlotte Boulton [www.thedustproject.com](http://www.thedustproject.com)
- Michael Resta in Burundi

### ORGANISATIONS

Street Pastors in Hertford and Ware  
[www.streetpastors.org](http://www.streetpastors.org)

FUTUREhope  
[www.fhhw.org.uk](http://www.fhhw.org.uk)

CPAS (The Patrons of Christ Church)  
[www.cpas.org.uk](http://www.cpas.org.uk)

Tearfund – Rwanda – Church and communities transformation  
[www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)

All Nations – training for mission  
[www.allnations.ac.uk](http://www.allnations.ac.uk)

A Rocha – Eco Church

