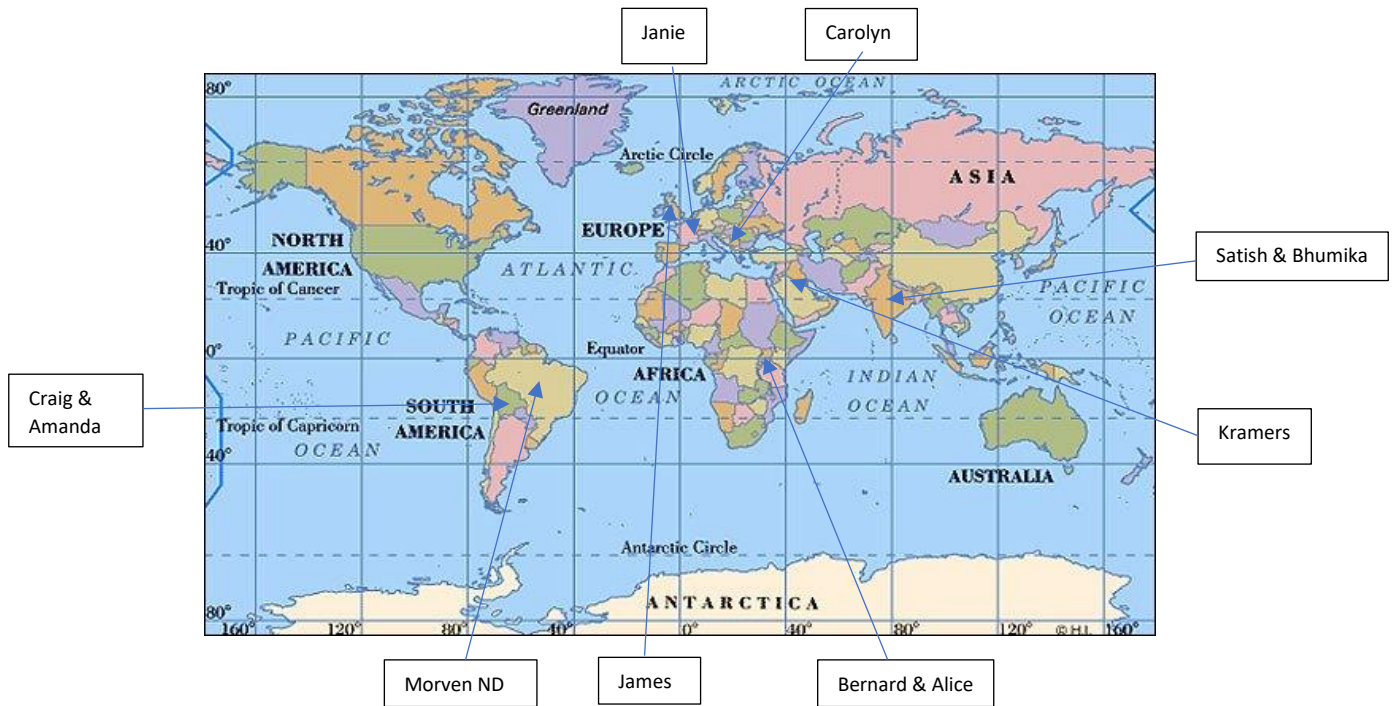


Missionary Partner Update March 2022



Bernard and Alice Bakunda, Uganda

Bernard and Alice's story can be read in their book 'Underneath are the Everlasting Arms'. Bernard is an ordained minister and worked as a hospital chaplain and built Rhema School for orphans on land belonging to his family over 20 years ago. Alice trained as a nurse and counsellor, then gained a masters in psychology after which she lectured at Mildmay Uganda.



While engaged to Bernard, on 27th April 1984, gunmen fired at a pick-up in which Alice, her parents and her cousin were travelling. Her cousin was killed and her father and Alice were seriously injured. Alice's right arm was subsequently amputated and she remained in hospital until August 1984. Despite this, Alice and Bernard's wedding went ahead in December that year. Liz Traill (one of Burnside's missionary partners at that time and a teacher of Alice) asked Burnside to pray for Alice following her injury. It was not possible to get an artificial arm in Uganda, and Burnside church contributed money to allow Alice to go to London to be fitted with a prosthetic arm in 1985. Following this the church adopted Bernard and Alice as missionary partners and they were able to spend a week in Burnside.

Bernard continued his work as hospital chaplain and Rhema school has grown to accommodate 300 orphans.

Alice was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019 and was delighted to be declared cancer free the following year but sadly in 2021 her cancer returned and Bernard emailed to say that Alice had 'rested from her sufferings on 2nd March 2022, aged 62'. We remember Bernard and the family in our prayers.

Covid led to Rhema school closing with online lessons for those who were able to engage. The school has now reopened and most pupils have returned.

Bernard emailed with this update – "It is great news to hear that despite the heart-breaking challenges of COVID -19 and other issues, the church is sending us a gift! We acknowledge with deep appreciation the funds for our ministry and work with Rhema School. We remember you daily in our prayers".

Please pray

- for Bernard and the family as they adjust to life without Alice
- for Rhema school as children return after lockdown
- for staff at Rhema school

Carolyn Tomasović, Croatia www.eiz.hr



Carolyn grew up in Burnside and is a member of Burnside Blairbeth church. She has been living and working in Croatia for 30 years where she lives with her husband Miroslav and their 3 children (although Olivia is currently in Glasgow). A graduate of the Glasgow School of Art, she first travelled to the region via a British Council scholarship to the Academy of Fine Art in Zagreb in 1989. After returning in 1992 to visit friends, the war disrupted travel and she remained, volunteering with numerous aid agencies and churches. Her professional life has taken many diverse turns from artist to the UN military peacekeeping forces serving in ex-Yugoslavia to field consultant for the World Council of Churches for whom she managed two regional funds for 15 years, one related to the support of women victims of war and the other related to developing ecumenical cooperation in S.E. Europe. She has lived and worked in the region throughout the wars where, among a variety of activities, she cooperated with the Conference of European Churches in facilitating the inter-religious roundtables for ex-Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Since 2008, she has been the managing director of the Ecumenical Women's Initiative (EWI), a Croatian women's fund active in six countries of the region, supporting grassroots women's peace activism within an interfaith framework. She has been invited to speak at international meetings including the United Nations.

EWI is a regional women's organisation active in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. It seeks to empower women and girls as essential actors for social change towards sustainable, positive peace in W. Balkans, and in the potential of faith for the restoration of trust in building peace and reconciliation processes. EWI promotes the affirmation of its values and respect of others as a precondition to peaceful coexistence in which human potential is not developed at the expense of others but the opposite - through solidarity, inclusion and cooperation, and the constructive transformation of conflict. Through its various programmes, EWI supports and connects individuals and groups working in the fields of women's human rights, peacebuilding and reconciliation and belief-based ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue & cooperation. To date EWI has supported 700 women-led initiatives across the region which have directly impacted on the lives of over 60,000 people.

Please see Appendix A with more details of the following prayer points

- for ecumenism
- for peacebuilding
- for women living with disabilities
- for coexistence at a distance
- for family

From Life and Work, 2003 - The thing about Carolyn Boyd is that she is extremely modest and down to earth, despite the fact that she is really a bit of a 'superwoman' <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/europe/ewsf-boyd.html> - we echo these comments!

Satish & Bhumika Chettri, Grace Ministries, India



David Easton was invited by Rutherford House to give a course of lectures at the Delhi Bible Institute over 20 years ago. It was there that he met Satish, who was a member of staff. Satish was born into a Hindu family and became a Christian at a camp when he was 16. Soon after David's visit, Satish and Bhumika felt called by God to set up Grace Ministries, a mission to the Nepalese diaspora, principally in Delhi and Bangalore, and Burnside church adopted them as missionary partners.

Satish, Bhumika and their children Joash (now 21) and Jerusha (now 14) continue to serve through work with widows; orphans at Grace Children's home; training of pastors at Reapers' Course; LIGHTS seminars to encourage teens; running house group and many other forms of outreach. Bhumika teaches jewellery making to women who have been abused; she offers prayer, counselling and shares the Gospel with women.

See Appendix B for more information which was in a recent Contact

Satish says "Thank you so much for being a blessing in our lives and Ministries"

Please pray for

- work with pastors including training
- work with widows and orphans, especially Grace Kids in Grace Children's home
- work with children and teams; families and elderly

Morven Collington Clark, International Director of New Destiny Adventure Centre

We have supported Morven and New Destiny since 2016. <http://ndaventura.org/>

New Destiny is an independent Christian charity in Brazil, which Morven co-founded in 2004. The Project is situated on a farm an hour from Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, and attends the town's poorest children and families via three main programmes: 'Transformers' –recreational, educational and Christian activities for 80 to 100 children/teenagers a week; 'Transformums' – home visits (and phone calls), encounters, other practical/emotional support; Adventure Camps – for the children and their families throughout the year.

This year, post pandemic, the Transformers and Transformums groups are back up and running during the week on the farm, plus Friday visits in the community and one adventure camp a month. Youth activities for TF+ youth starting soon on Saturdays too.'

Morven now lives in Lenzie and her work includes - managing, mentoring and spiritual overseeing of the team; overall planning and vision casting;



communication with the New Destiny Trust (who coordinate donations from UK) and communication with the project's data base of contacts.

Please pray

- For Transformers programme starting on 1st March and TransforMUMs programme on 7th - for lives transformed by the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit as He works through our staff.
- The staff team of 7 in Brazil and 2 in Scotland - especially for protection, wisdom and unity.
- Wisdom in how to continue helping and supporting the recent flood victims in our local town of Itabirito

James Fraser, Release International Lead Engagement Manager



We have been partnering with James since December 2016 as we were keen to adopt a missionary partner who worked for an organisation supporting persecuted Christians.

Release International is an inter-denominational Christian ministry working through local church partners in around 30 countries, helping persecuted Christians prayerfully, pastorally and practically. The ministry is inspired by the testimony of Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and is based on Hebrews 13 v 3: 'Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.' Release International's calling is to love and serve persecuted Christians by raising their voice, giving them the 'tools' they need to live for Jesus Christ, calling UK Christians into fellowship with them, learning lessons of Christian discipleship with them, and maintaining Christian stewardship to honour them.

James lives locally and travels around Scotland speaking about the work of Release International and calling Christians in Scotland to stand with their persecuted brothers and sisters across the world. He also helps to lead Release International's team of regional Engagement Managers across the UK, and occasionally travels internationally to visit some of the ministry's project partners and share fellowship with the persecuted believers they are supporting.

And here are some prayer points:

- Please pray for the opportunities we have to exhibit in person at Christian festivals and conferences this year after two years absence. Pray that Christians across the UK would be moved to respond to the voice of our persecuted brothers and sisters.
- Please also pray for the various in-person and online events we have planned this year, that many people would attend and be challenged and inspired by our international partners.
- Please pray for me as I resume travelling more extensively in Scotland and also internationally.

Craig and Amanda Cunningham, Latin Link, Santa Cruz, Bolivia



Craig and Amanda are friends of members in the church and we have supported them since Dec 2016. Craig is from Strathaven and Amanda is from Canada. They have been working as missionaries in Bolivia since 2010.

Craig continues to work as pastor at Trinity International Church and is involved in the Langham Preaching Programme. Amanda is coordinator for short term 'Stride' volunteers with Latin Link. There have been many challenges during lockdown but also blessings, and it has been a time to appreciate the things that were previously taken for granted. Their son Sam will be 7 in April. School has reopened and Sam is adjusting to the new routine.

Craig and Amanda hope to visit us in May while on home assignment. To receive their prayer letter please email cramandaham@gmail.com

Please pray

- for the Alpha course launching at Trinity on 13th March
- for Amanda as the Latin Link team goes through a leadership transition (she is on the board)
- for renewed strength for the next couple of months: we have lots to do before we leave at the end of April

Andrew Robertson, Bolivia

Andrew has now returned from Bolivia where he spent 2 years as a Stride Volunteer with Latin Link. Please remember Andrew as he seeks guidance for his future. He has started a short-term job with Reachout Trust.

Please pray for guidance for the future as Andrew acclimatises to life back in Scotland

<https://andrewbolivia.blogspot.com/>



Jerry and Stacy Kramer, Love for the Least

Andrew Robertson spent 3 months with Jerry and Stacy while he was in Zanzibar, and Burnside Blairbeth adopted the Kramers as missionary partners in Dec 2016.



Jerry was ordained as an Anglican priest in 2003 and following this he and Stacy worked as missionaries in Tanzania. They joined YWAM in 2011 after which they set up 'Love for the Least' which focuses on least reached areas of the world, work with orphans, widows, refugees and addicts. They have worked in Nepal, Turkey, Zanzibar and Western Asia. Their current focus is a refugee camp in N Iraq with 1,000,000 refugees from ISIS and the Syrian Civil War. The average stay in a UN refugee camp globally is 18 years. They are also very involved in the orphanages they set up in Kenya and Tanzania. Their time is spent abroad visiting and directing the projects; and at home in the USA, gathering support and visiting supporting churches. Further information can be found at <https://lovefortheleast.org/> Each year they take part in Advent Conspiracy, a worldwide movement which aims to focus on the joyous celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. There have been many challenges this year but despite this, they have managed to spend time at all of their projects.

Please pray

- for transitioning the refugees from relief to long term recovery. This includes job skills and education. The UN provides no food so if they don't work, they don't eat
- for discipleship groups and churches in the Middle East to multiply. There are now 144+ churches in Iran reaching the 6th generation and more in Iraq.
- for local leaders to emerge and grow in discipleship, moving the Gospel forward.
- for people in the Middle East to have dreams and visions of Jesus. Thirty percent of Muslims following Jesus have had a dream or vision of Him.

Janie Beattie, Barcelona

Janie first went to Spain in 1975 as she was keen to learn Spanish. She became a Christian in Spain and after returning to Burnside, with encouragement from Muriel Hamilton she joined Burnside Church. She then returned to Spain to attend a Seminary in Azuqueca de Henares for 3 years. Following this, Barcelona became her home.

Janie has volunteered at the Evangelic Hospital for over 30 years, visiting patients and helping at the monthly Sunday service. Since covid the team have not been able to visit in the wards but have helped with arts and crafts at Christmas. Janie started volunteering at the local Mission about 30 years ago which was attended by children from deprived and broken families. Prior to covid they had regular camps and day trips. Since lockdown the Mission has been working with the children remotely.



In winter the Mission runs a street soup kitchen for those in need eg rough sleepers, drug addicts, prostitutes.

Janie says "We are seeking guidance to know how we should restart the children's work. We are trying to be still and know that I am God. The emphasis is on evangelising and shining the light He shone."

Please pray

- for wisdom to know what God wants the Mission team to do
- for health



Please let Marjory know if you wish updates on missionary partners marjory.maclean@ntlworld.com

Appendix A

CAROLYN BOYD TOMASOVIĆ - POINTS FOR PRAYER

Over the last three years we have been working closely with 68 women-led groups and organisations across the region. As 60% of them are rural, the pandemic seemed to hit them particularly hard with many women suffering from increasing isolation, rising domestic violence, economic hardship and anxiety as sabre rattling in parts of the region grows louder. Unrest is rife and never at any point since the end of the war in the Balkans has the political situation in the region been so fragile, particularly in Bosnia. (In this I exclude Croatia which is by far the most stable country in the region). We see high levels of “intergenerational trauma” among children and young people. Despite being born well after the war, they are being brought up in the trauma of their parents and communities, with constant daily reminders of the ongoing injustices, conflict ridden rhetoric of political leaders, and threats of increasing militarism so much so that many fear war could break out again. Only last week, a friend in Sarajevo told me that a little 6-year old Roma child begging in the street asked her for money to buy something to drink. Instead of giving money she bought him a carton of juice and as he sat beside her drinking it he asked if there was going to be a war and if she was frightened.

We cannot do much to influence high level politics but we can build the resilience of ordinary people, who when given the opportunity can become quite extraordinary.

ECUMENISM

EWI local partner: “The topic of re/construction of women's identity from a biblical perspective is extremely important to me today, as it was at my first meeting with the World Day of Prayer in Switzerland back in 1997 when I met strong, active women who performed miracles in their church communities and the wider environment, believing in themselves and in God's help. This was my motive and inspiration for starting WDP in Croatia. I rejoiced at the realisation of independent initiatives within our church communities, although I was aware that many women do not have enough courage to carry out any activities without the presence of a priest. From year to year the number of our members grows and it speaks of the strength of the female spirit, the growing awareness of us women and our realisation that we are equally valuable and loved in the eyes of our Lord, in the community of Jesus' friends. This project further strengthens me and confirms my deep conviction that I am a beloved child of God, endowed with many talents and never second in God's eyes.”

Over the last few years EWI supported the development of WDP-Croatia which is now registered as a non-profit organisation as well as other women-led prayer and Bible groups which have brought believers and non-believers together from different Christian traditions in Eastern Slavonia.

PRAYER: Pray that God's spirit continues to move in them, building them as strong and visible witnesses to a different type of dialogue in the region's societies where aggression and fear seem to command the voices of those whose speak the loudest.

PEACEBUILDING

Building peace in a post-war society is like crossing a minefield. Like a minefield, it is necessary to stop and in stillness take stock of the environment around you, observing the danger spots while recognising the opportunities that are already there. It takes courage to step out of your comfort zone and enter no-man's land, into a space where many will scorn you and accuse you of disloyalty towards your 'own'. It takes strength to commit to the long term engagement peacebuilding requires. It takes the gift of discernment and humility to recognise with whom and in what way to engage with the disempowered and those living with loss and injustice.

EWI is currently supporting 20 women's initiatives whose focus is on peacebuilding and reconciliation in post-war communities.

PRAYER: Pray for those many women' groups who dare to reach out to those on the other side, to those of different religious or ethnic identities regardless of the political atmosphere which seems to be creating even greater division, placing blame on minorities for the woes of the majority.

WOMEN LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

An issue coming increasingly to our attention is the social exclusion, economic dependency and marginalisation of rural women living with disabilities and also mothers of children with severe disability who are neglected and socially invisible leaving them with low mental wellbeing and isolation. Many whom we have come across have not left their homes for months and there is no welfare net to catch them, particularly in Bosnia and Kosovo. They have no idea of their rights, nor how to access them.

EWI supports 8 women-led initiatives that seek to address the particular challenges faced by this community and to set up small support-networks to support their physical and mental wellbeing.

PRAYER: Pray for the organisations supporting the invisible women of the region to be able to mobilise the resources needed, and advocate for these women to have access to the help and the care which is their right.

COEXISTANCE AT A DISTANCE

There is too often silence from those whose voices should be heard. Several of the initiatives we support look to identify allies among local clergy in the region whether they be Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant or Muslim. This is particularly important around initiatives focusing on interethnic reconciliation led by women who have been trained and supported as local peace advocates. In one such initiative, a thousand cloth bags were sewn with peace messages and distributed among all the religious confessions in an area of central Bosnia. The women met with local clergy of the different religious faiths in the area and several engaged in the initiative and dedicated sermons to the women's messages of peace.

PRAYER: Pray for courage among religious leaders who are willing to stand up to be the witness and example communities seek, and take the lead started by so many women in healing ethnic division, mistrust and bitterness which continue to prevent disrupted communities from reconnecting with their neighbours.

That some of the changes will continue to be a witness even though specific projects may have finished.

That young people from different Christian denominations continue to meet providing a positive witness in towns and cities where such encounters are very rare.

For gatherings which provide open space for dialogue, self-expression, open communication and healing.

That those who have learned new skills continue to interact with 'others' and reduce prejudice against people of other ethnicities and religious identities so strengthening community peace actions.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY

And for my immediate family, I would be so grateful for specific prayer support for Lucia (my youngest daughter age 18) who is very uncertain about what her future holds. She has many learning challenges which the education system here is not able to support. And with so much on-line schooling it has left her with low self-esteem, failing self-confidence and anxiety as she approaches her final school exams. And for David (23) and Olivia (26), that God's hand protects and guides them in their comings and goings. That Miro finds peace amid the complex relationships and dynamics within his own family. And for myself, please pray for discernment - that I guide the organisation in the direction which God has set, and that I maintain a healthy work-life balance as I am guilty so often of overdoing things and taken on over-heavy workloads and commitments.

I ask these things with huge gratitude for the support you already give me, and for which I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

From one project participant: "I experienced a sense of freedom, unconditional acceptance, and dignity as a friend of Jesus. On this foundation, like a tree with its root, I can live peacefully and confidently in this uncertain world and strive for hope, like branches spreading towards the sky, knowing that my Friend sees everything and holds the helm. This is confirmed in Scripture by the following sentence: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Rom. 15:13). Let us rejoice in that reality every day!"

Appendix B

News from Satish, December 2021

Greetings in the most precious name of our Lord & Saviour. Thank you for your prayers & remembrance.

We are doing well by the grace of God, despite several challenges we faced. We know that many of God's people like you are praying. We are living in unprecedented times but we know our God is sovereign.

We have spent much time in West Bengal strengthening our ministries here:

1. Children Home- Grace kids' home
2. Reapers training for untrained pastors.
3. Help for widows & widower
4. Counselling for struggling couples & families
5. Children & Teens outreach program
6. Ministry of preaching & teaching in local churches.
7. Mentoring young pastors.

The Lord has been good and is using us to reach out to more seekers even during this tough time. We are preparing people for Baptism both in Delhi & West Bengal partner churches.

Our Reapers training is going in well. We are training 2nd batch now. Am excited to equip new harvester. Grace kids are doing very well, they have finished reading the New Testament and have memorised many chapters of the bible. We are amazed to see how they learn and memorise. We are doing an outreach program on 20th Dec in 5 villages to most unreached kids. Please pray that we will be able to reach out to many kids with a wonderful message.

Bhumika is much better now. She is engaged with kids ministry and counselling and works all hours. Without her I am spineless. Joash is in final year of college, Jerusha is in 8th standard. She is learning piano and helps in local Church worship.

This Christmas we are also planning to reach out to village widows with cake, gifts and pray for them.

Please pray for Bhumika's parents - her mom had d&c in Delhi, her tumour in uterus is not cancer, but her father now has kidney and heart problems. We praise God every problem brings us closer to God.

We also have been thinking of you all at BBC. Kindly wish everyone a very merry Christmas and blessed new year.

Because of your support, prayers and encouragement we have been able to carry on what the Lord had entrusted to us.

With prayers.

Satish, Bhumika, Joash & Jerusha