

Supported Worker Prayer Letter

November 2020

Thank you for praying for our supported workers in a very challenging time in our world. We believe that prayer is powerful and effective and your support is greatly appreciated.

Kath: Local School Chaplain



Term 2 and 3 were interesting and excellent all in one. Having most of the children remote learning was definitely a challenge but it was such a blessing to be able to be at school spending quality time with only a small number of kids. There has been a lot of anxiety in children and parents and with our ever-changing COVID regulations it has made for a busy term.

Prayer points:

- For kids who are struggling with routine and new rules.
- That the pace of life doesn't go back to the previous craziness and that parents will prioritise quality time with their children over all other things.
- Praise for the blessing of great staff and good people who are supporting me, especially our wonderful church.

Brett and Gill: Action Sports Ministries and Christian Surfers



Globally all the action sports are booming over Covid, as they are individual sports and less limited than many team sports. Surfing, Skating, Mountain biking etc. all have record sales and participants, yet also report many mental health issues. We have facilitated global gatherings including Christian Surfers, the ACTS network. I will help pioneer the first Mountain Biking global summit. I am also initiating 'ShredTalks' for leadership development via online discussion panels and individual talks.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ActionSportsMinistry>

I have never stayed home for so long as 2020 and now invest probably half my time in local people and initiatives. Gill has graduated with a Masters in Educational Leadership and is looking for work in professional development, mentoring, public speaking training, keynote speaking.

Prayer points:

- Mountain Bike summit in November
- Our ongoing 'Shred Talks'
- Gill finding work
- Wisdom for my mentoring of leaders
- Japan and 2021 Olympics (surf, skate, climb)

Andrew: Jesus Racing and Life Choices



Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic that is where it all stopped. The tours that we had booked in for Tamworth, Perth, Tasmania and Winton (Vic) were all cancelled, moved to later in the year or transferred to 2021. This has been very disappointing for the team as a lot of work goes into securing the bookings and coordinating the logistics of such tours. Fortunately, the team was able to move most of our tours, so all is not lost.

Given the interruption that was forced upon us we took the opportunity to step back and think more broadly about the way we deliver our programs and whether there is a possible way that we could expand our services via the utilisation of digital formats. We have also focussed on the way we manage the bookings and logistics processes and have reviewed and implemented changes in our social media and website platforms.

Pray points:

- That the borders will re-open
- That the doors will reopen for doing assembly-based programs in State High Schools
- That the Gaols will re-open
- Praise God for the great response we had to our program up in QLD in August
- Praise God for the continued support of our major supporters over this difficult period.

Heather: OM (Operation Mobilisation) International



When Covid first broke out, a lot of OM workers (including me) chose to remain in their ministry locations rather than return to their home countries. Due to border closures many are now stuck, which means plans for home assignments, schooling and much needed rest are in disarray. Pray for wisdom and peace for these workers, and that borders will reopen.

My focus is on HR processes in OM, especially child safety, harassment, and grievance. One of OM's core values is 'loving and valuing people' but we don't always get it right. My role is developing policies, resources for raising awareness and training on behavioural issues, as well as creating systems for resolving problems. Pray for wisdom for me. Pray for all in OM too, that we would continue to be godly in our interactions with each other and local communities.

The church I attend here in the UK (St James Denton Holme) runs an OpShop and cafe and provides work experience for people who are on benefits. I volunteer one afternoon each week sorting clothes for the shop. I have found myself mentoring one of my co-workers. Please pray for her - that she would grow in confidence in her abilities, and that she would be able to find a job. Pray for me too, that I would be able to focus on the relationship rather than the tasks and that I would be able to point her to Jesus.

Gary and Jan: GAiN (Global Aid Network)



Gary had just returned from a medical mission project in the Philippines in February when things began to shut down with the virus. GAiN started the COVID-19 Community Relief project to help affected people of India, Cambodia and the Philippines. With your help, we raised \$60,000 and sent it to local country partners to support people in crisis and poverty.

GAiN wants to expand to new places so we are seeking to develop relationships in Australia with those who share this vision so we are ready when the borders open and medical aid can resume. As well, Gary continues to do chaplaincy work both in mentoring and direct chaplaincy with the Sydney Kings. Some specific opportunities have developed.

Prayer Points:

- I was unable to do my end of the year review with the Sydney Kings coach and secure his go ahead for chaplaincy next season (2021). Recently I received a text from the coach informing me that he would be assigning someone to work with me regarding visits to training. Within an hour I had an email from the person assuring me of his availability. This is a big answer to prayer for me.
- We will have players signed to play with us who may be new to Sydney, and even Australia. It helps tremendously if at least one new player is already a follower of Jesus, seeks out my service and then spreads the word to others. So, pray that I would continue to find favour with the coaches, the team, and new key players.
- For the Covid-19 Project that the funds would get to those who most need it. Protection for the Christian and community workers who are on the front line of the distribution efforts.
- That we keep good connection and relationships with our Medical Missions partners and for their protection as well (the doctors, nurses and pastors serving through this crisis).
- For wisdom in how best to use our time and resources in Australia while we wait for restrictions to ease.

Kevin: FEBC (Far Eastern Broadcasting Company)



If you recall, a mass shooting happened in Isan, Thailand last February 2020. The perpetrator was a soldier of the Army who killed 30 people and wounded 57 others before he was eventually shot and killed. On September 26, the FEBC Thailand team travelled a 4-hour drive to the region and visited a respected public school. The principal warmly welcomed the team and were given the chance to share the FEBC programs that brings hope to the whole student body. This is an uncommon event to us especially from a Buddhist-dominated public school. Kamolthip our Program and Follow Up Director attributed it to these factors. First, to God answering the prayer of His people for a breakthrough. Second, through the power of God in the messages of our programs aired in this region for many years. (We air on a big commercial station and 2 community stations.) And thirdly, to God's local pastor-servant who introduced our team to the principal and the school. FEBC is always a partner to a local church. We also visited the Pastor's church and met with children and parents. He didn't invite the regular members of his church. The Pastor reiterated that these are non-Christians because he knows we are reaching the non-Christians. We informed them our different programs that will meet their needs. And we informed them about our Bible program, the Bible Correspondence Course, the Listeners Club, etc. And we handed out radios. Please pray that the Words sown will continue to grow and produce much fruit in this hurting region!

Prayer Points:

- Praise God for the way He has used FEBC media to reach those in great need during the pandemic; providing messages and practical support to listeners in refugee camps, high density slums, mega cities, and remote rural areas. The power of media has gone through lockdown barriers, closed hospital rooms, and bedroom walls to give hope to those who need it most.

continued on next page

Kevin:

FEBC (Far Eastern Broadcasting Company)

Prayer Points:

- Praise God for the way our FEBC fields are giving education and support in their programs during these difficult times to the most marginalised – those elderly, disabled, with special needs or mental illness. Visual programs through Facebook live, mobile apps, and streaming are bringing sign language programs to the deaf. Plus, in Mongolia, a new Downs syndrome program called "Treasure Brooch" is being aired to support families and give hope.
- Praise God for the faithful financial support coming from across Australia that has allowed us to send, above our commitments to 22 countries across the world, a further \$165,000 in June for COVID-19 relief projects and a further \$60,000 in September for Christmas projects.
- For our FEBC teams around the world. Our team cannot go empty handed to suffering listeners. Risking their health and providing food, medicines, masks and often more radios – they showing, as one listener said, 'God's message is wrapped in love.'
- For the health of our FEBC team serving around the world. Sadly, we have lost some wonderful people to COVID-19 and some are still suffering the effects after recovering.
- For the support of FEBC programs and ministry. At a time when many other missions cannot work or have retracted their missionaries for safety, our work continues to grow.
- For our small FEBC Australia team, who are working tirelessly to raise prayer and financial support to enable millions of lives to hear the Good News.

Joan Eley: WEC Venezuela



It is with a sad heart we share that Joan Eley passed away suddenly but peacefully 30th August 2020 in Venezuela. 88 years of life lived to the full! Joan was the first missionary sent out from GBC and served over 50 years in Venezuela.

You can listen to this special podcast celebrating her life at the link below. This was recorded at GBC on 18 October 2008 with Paul Summers.

<https://gbcsermons.simplecast.com/episodes/a-celebration-of-joan-elley-gymea-baptist-church>