

# Mission Partners

2014-17



Learning to Live the Life  
CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND

# Mission Partners 2014 to 2017

As a church we are committed to partnering with six missions. These missions represent many aspects of God's work in the world including the relief of poverty both locally and abroad; the provision of medical support in parts of the world where there are few hospitals using ships; provision of equipment and buildings for a school in South Africa; short breaks in the UK for young people still suffering in Belarus from the results of the Chernobyl disaster; funding and prayer support for many who are suffering persecution in various parts of the world; debt advice for local people. In addition the harvest food is distributed to a project in Bristol that supports people who are homeless and who have a drug or alcohol dependency.

These missions are allocated one Sunday during each year when a representative is able to thank the church for its support and to bring us up to date on what is happening in their particular area of mission.

We are thankful for the mission champions in Christ Church who act as the link between the congregations and the individual missions. They bring the church latest prayer requests and explain how the money donated is being used. These missions will be supported for the next three years. More details of the organisations we support are as follows:

## Chernobyl Children's Life Line

Can you remember the Chernobyl disaster back in April 1986? The population of Belarus can. The Belarusian people are suffering more than ever from the legacy of the world's worst nuclear disaster - the radioactive fallout was nearly 100 times greater than that of Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined, with 70% of it falling on Belarus.

The Chernobyl Children's Life Line charity was formed to help the children of Belarus. There are now around 150 links throughout the country who raise funds to bring groups of children to the UK for respite care, approximately 3000 annually. The charity also finances the 1000 Families Project, Holiday/Respite Camps in Belarus and a community laundry.

Our aim is to help these children by boosting their immune system and offering them respite from the relentless bombardment of radiation. For the children lucky enough to come to the UK it is a trip of a lifetime. It is estimated that a month staying away with a family in the UK, eating nourishing food, resting from the relentless radiation and breathing clean air can add up to two years life expectancy, and improve their school attendance (because of better health) over the next two years.



## Can you help?

All of our host families are unpaid volunteers. During the four weeks that the children are in the UK we are supported by various organisations, church groups, shops, dental care providers etc. Some activity park, visitor centres, Scout organisation and the Fire Brigade also make the children very welcome.

The children who are invited to stay with the host families in the Bristol Link come from the town of Ossipovici (100 km South West of the capital Minsk) and the outlying village of Protesavichi. The children help to grow vegetable and fruit for the school canteen and any surplus, together with scrap metal that they may collect, is sold at the local market to help pay for the meagre teaching resources. Around half a million children in Belarus are classified as being at high-risk and need respite breaks from the radioactive contamination.

## However...

It costs over £400 for the airfare and visas for each child that we invite, so donations of any value are always gratefully received. The harsh reality for any charity is that we don't just need enthusiastic and willing volunteers - we need to raise funds as well in order to continue the good work and projects that we have started.

Imagine: knowing that people like you care.

## [www.ccll.org](http://www.ccll.org)

Local contacts: Andy and Denise Smith

t: 0117 3738245

e: denise-andy@hotmail.co.uk

## Children of CLARENS

This Mission initially started by seeking to support the education of orphans and train local teachers at the Dihlabeng Christian School in Clarens, South Africa, a small town on the border with Lesotho, the majority of whom live in townships surrounding Clarens, mostly in shacks with electricity and running water nearby but no sanitation. The school has grown from nine pupils in 2001 to now over 115 pupils - 21 are orphans who also receive a meal daily at school.

The school is linked to Dihlabeng Church which also manages the People of Hope, a team of paid workers and volunteers who provide care and prayer for the most vulnerable people in the townships. This includes testing, and accessing of anti retroviral drugs to combat HIV/AIDS.

Our mission is to maintain loving relationships with the community through reciprocal personal visits (five since 2005), and to financially support their programmes for the most needy through Christian faith and action.

Local contacts: Bill and Sheila Robbins  
t: 0117 957 3357  
e: billrobbins100@aol.com or shrobbins5@aol.com

## Christians Against Poverty

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a national debt counselling charity working through a network of 150 centres based in local churches. In June 2008 Christ Church Downend opened a CAP Centre which is based at Haven House, 133 High Street, Staple Hill, BS16 5HQ.

CAP aims to show God's love in action by providing sustainable poverty relief through debt counselling, advice and practical help. CAP's unique hands-on approach empowers people to help themselves out of poverty and be released from the fear, oppression and worry generated by overwhelming debts. We are providing sustainable poverty relief as our service teaches clients vital budgeting skills that will last a lifetime.

Through our CAP Centre, Christ Church Downend offers a free debt counselling service to members of the local community and beyond. We are fully committed to providing this service into the future and helping more and more individuals and family to obtain release from the burden that debt brings. Through this service we aim to actively demonstrate Gods love.

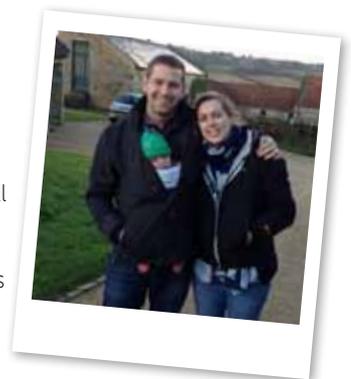
**[www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org)**

Local contact: Jane White  
e: [janewhite@capuk.org](mailto:janewhite@capuk.org)

## Church Mission Society (CMS)

CMS's strapline is sharing Jesus changing lives. CMS is a community of people in mission obeying the call of God to proclaim the Gospel in all places and to draw all peoples into fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

This takes many different forms and its current priorities are to work with people in five key contexts on the margins; in cities; among people of many faiths; against a background of materialism and secularism; amongst and with women in marginalised situations; and young people and children.



Christ Church specifically supports the work of Ben and Katy Ray who work in Tanzania in the Diocese of Ruaha for a project called Neema Crafts ([www.neemacrafts.com](http://www.neemacrafts.com)). The purpose of this project to provide handicrafts training and employment for deaf and physically handicapped people in Iringa region and also to change negative attitudes to people with disabilities. As such, it is a beacon of hope to the community. Ben is trained as a technology teacher and Katy has a background in design. They've recently been back in the UK for the birth of their first child Zachary. During this time they met with the Faith Youth Group who are their new mission champions. Some of us hope to visit Ben and Katy and work alongside them at Neema Crafts in Summer 2015.

[www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org)

Local contact: Susie, Georgia, Iona and Ben – Faith Youth Group, c/o Parish Office

## Mercy Ships

Mercy Ships is a world-wide Christian charity which has operated ships manned by volunteers to help the poorest countries of the world since 1978. Following Jesus' example, Mercy Ships brings hope and healing to the poor. Although most noted for its provision of free surgery and medical care, Mercy Ships also partners with local communities to improve health care; offering training, advice, materials and practical help, and assists local churches in proclaiming the Gospel.



There are also projects to provide help in building, engineering and agriculture, and to train local people to continue such work after the ship has left.

At present only one ship, the Africa Mercy is in service, but she is bigger and more efficient than any of her predecessors, enabling her to perform more functions in any given time.

All donations are used to support the Africa Mercy, unless requested otherwise. Some donors stipulate that their money should go towards building a second ship, therefore a separate fund is in place for this to happen if and when the Lord provides.

[www.mercyships.org.uk](http://www.mercyships.org.uk)

Local contact: Roger Lancaster,

t: 0117 940 2449

e: [rog lanc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rog lanc@yahoo.co.uk).

## Open Doors

Open Doors is an international ministry built on ordinary people accomplishing extraordinary things because of God working in and through them. It began in 1955 when Brother Andrew first distributed a suitcase of Christian literature behind the Iron Curtain thus beginning the service of serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. Open Doors supplies Bibles, leadership training; Scripture-based literacy programmes; livelihood support and advocacy services. It seeks to mobilise the church here to serve Christians living under religious persecution.'

At Christ Church there has been a small group since the late 1970's with increased numbers this past year. Open Doors send all members a free monthly magazine detailing daily which country is in most need of prayer. Many of the people we pray for suffer tremendous hardship even torture. We have heard from several people that it has been this prayer by others far away that has sustained them.

[www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org)

Local contacts: Mary Massey

t: 0117 957 2447

## Church Partnership In Moldova

Mihail Hiorecu is a pastor in Moldova. He lives with his wife and family in the small village of Pelinei. He is a church planter and has already planted a new church in the neighbouring village of Ursoaia where a small group of Christians live.

Micha explains that the locals are very suspicious of "religious" organisations that do not meet in their own buildings, so despite being a Baptist Church they are being held back until they have their own premises.

At Christ Church we have been involved in our own refurbishment programme for some time and the PCC have agreed that any monies raised by us should be tithed so that ten percent is given to Micha's fellowship to enable them to build a new church in Ursoaia.

So far they have purchased the land with the £15,000 we have already sent and are currently in the process of making it ready for construction. We are kept up to date by Transform Europe Now (TEN) [formerly Eurovangelism] who make regular trips to Moldova to monitor progress and to provide spiritual and moral support.

Also Christ Church has until recently paid Micha and his family [via TEN] a salary to enable him to remain as a full time pastor. As TEN is no longer one of our preferred missions several Home Groups have decided to take on the responsibility of providing the cash to support this pastor.

Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe with very high unemployment.

This church is heavily involved in helping people out of poverty as well as preaching the gospel directly with a thriving children's and young people's work.

[www.transformeuropenow.org](http://www.transformeuropenow.org)

Local contact: Martin Brown

t: 0117 956 2616

**Christ Church also supports:**

## Mission Direct

Mission Direct is an organisation that enables people to go on two week mission trips.. A Typical trip will see volunteers spending about half their time helping on a building project. There are visits to other partners; such as Home Based Care and Street Children projects for example. There is also some "down time" to see something of what the country has to offer to round off a full cultural experience.

One of Christ Church's members Richard Bacon serves as a member of overseas in country staff teams for Mission Direct. Richard's role is varied in helping with all the logistics, transport, accommodation and project management as well as liaising with all the local partners.

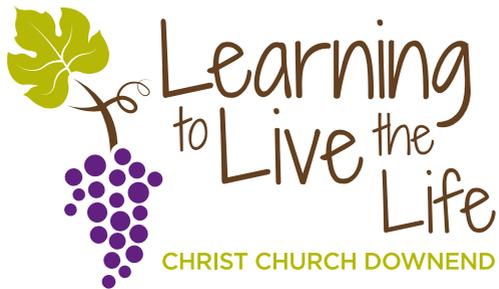


This year, 2014, will see Richard in Narok in Kenya, where the main project is the construction of a refuge for Maasai girls escaping from FGM and forced marriage. In Rukungiri in Uganda the project is connected with a school for disabled children. Typically each of Richard's overseas trips will be around eleven weeks with time in between in the UK, reporting on and preparing for the campaigns; helping to debrief the volunteers as well as orientation for the forthcoming teams.

Richard covers all his own costs and whilst Christ Church does not support Mission Direct financially as one of the Mission Partners, we do play a role in spiritual and prayer support. Dave and Kathy Prosser have filled the role of "senders" and the link with Christ Church. Richard comments that "this support and link is much appreciated in helping deal with situations outside the comfort zone where faith is challenged particularly by differing cultural values. You soon learn not to take anything for granted."

If anyone would like to know more please contact Richard or further details can be found at [www.missiondirect.org](http://www.missiondirect.org)

If you would like to support the projects Richard's Just Giving page is [www.justgiving.com/Richard-Bacon3](http://www.justgiving.com/Richard-Bacon3) or donations can be made via the Mission Direct website.



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