

THE MESSENGER



Where Will the Hand of Friendship Lead?

BY DENISE COX

If the realtor's slogan is "location, location, location," then God's slogan must be "relationship, relationship, relationship."

Recently, Jack Melvin, a SAMS missionary in Honduras, visited the SAMS home office. He recounted how, little by little, God helped him to foster a relationship with his apartment building's cleaning woman. Over several months his friendship with Maria has grown into a friendship with a whole village. He knew the small number of hours Maria worked wasn't sufficient to sustain her family. He began to employ Maria for small tasks around his apartment. He learned about her life, like how she rode the bus more than two hours each day from her village to the city for work. He found out about her children and the small, rural village where they all lived.

When he learned that the children had never had a Christmas tree, he took his tiny artificial tree out to them. Then he planned a small celebration for the village with gifts for the children and a traditional meal for everyone. People in the village volunteered to cook the food. Jack is praying that God will continue to open up this village to the love of Christ and that possibly, in the future, a new church can be planted there. In God's kingdom, it starts with one person noticing the plight of another and offering a hand of friendship.

Jack Melvin serves in the Diocese of Honduras, overseeing the development of building projects and carrying out ministries to the poor. He is sent by Christ the Redeemer Church in Danvers, Massachusetts.



*"See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains."
James 5:7b*

Jack uses his experience as an architect to oversee the progress of buildings. Pray for the development of churches and that more will be led to attend.



Pray that Jack continues to reach people like his friend Maria and that others in the community will be raised up to share the love of Christ.

A Bridge of Peace

TRANSLATING THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

BY SHAW MUDGE

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. Acts 2:44

Recently our family went to see the film *Hidden Figures*, a true story about African American women working for NASA during the time of segregation. As we left the theater, I thought about the journey I took helping to translate the *Anglican Province of the West Indies 1995 Book of Common Prayer* into Spanish, since this worship tool could be a way to integrate Spanish speakers more fully into the life of the church. The journey began when I asked God for a mission opportunity, and after much prayer I was approached by Cecile, a provincial representative from the Diocese of Belize. The Anglican Province of the West Indies did not have a Spanish version of the *Book of Common Prayer*, which made ministries to Spanish speakers in northern and western Belize challenging. These Spanish speakers may even have had difficulty freely worshipping because they didn't have access to a prayer book in their heart language.

With enthusiasm I accepted the project and soon found an appropriate translator, John Park, who is also a SAMS Missionary. Over the next few years we collaborated with the Diocese of Belize to create this Spanish translation that would equip more people for worship. Those who worked on this joint project came from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. Even though the color of our skin and our cultural background varied, we worked together because of God's mission, and served as ambassadors of God's peace among people of diverse cultures. The journey was long, and at times, difficult. At one



Shaw (far right) and John (next to Shaw) are working with Fr. Juan and Rev. Olivia, who also helped with the project.

point, I thought it would never be completed. But in the end, with the prayers of our sending team, the draft was approved.

The *Anglican Province of the West Indies Spanish Prayer Book* was launched on the third Sunday in Advent, 2016, in Belize City. Excitement has already started to spread among Spanish speakers in the country, who can now worship with the *Spanish Prayer Book*. I pray that God will use this worship tool and those who were passionate about this project to open the church to even more Spanish speakers. I pray that it will be a bridge of peace between

Anglicans of diverse cultures in Belize and throughout the province.

Shaw Mudge and his wife, Julie, are Associate Missionaries to Belize.



Shaw with the Diocese of Belize staff including Cecile (in the yellow blouse) and Bishop Philip (center).

SAMS-USA

Prayer Calendar March – June 2017



Amanda Scott

March 1-4: *CENTRAL AMERICA: Honduras*

Amenda Scott, serving in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, asks for prayer for the children at LAMB Children's Home where she serves. Honduran Social Services is working to return as many children as possible to their families without proper due diligence, and the home has already lost children to very bad environments.

Give thanks with **Ana Reid** in Omoa, Honduras, as she continues to partner with ministries like Youth Alpha in order to disciple young people. Pray that her coordination of teams will be fruitful and for the increase of Senders to support her.

Lift up **Jack Melvin** in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, as he oversees diocesan building projects and ministers to the poor.

March 5-11:

Lift up **Dennie and Veronica Flowers** as they continue their long-term ministry in La Ceiba, Honduras. Pray for Veronica and her students at Holy Trinity School. Pray also for the work of the Honduran Development Network, helping the diocese move toward self-sustainability.

Give thanks with **Jeannie Loving** in Danli, Honduras, for the growth of the community and church in the rural town of San Lorenzo. Give thanks also for healing both spiritually and physically.

Pray for **David Ledwitz** in Copan, Honduras, as he learns Spanish, the culture, and transitions to life on the mission field.

March 12-18: *CENTRAL AMERICA: Honduras, Belize, Costa Rica*

Pray for **Mike, Kim, Liliana, and Katherine Miller** in El Venado, Honduras, as they share Christ's love to orphaned and vulnerable children.

Pray for **David and Mary Beth Alenskis** in San Ignacio, Belize, as Mary Beth continues to reach out to children through music. Pray for David's and Mary Beth's ministries in the school.

Give thanks with **Eduardo and Hilda Monzon** in San José, Costa Rica. Pray that the church and the diocese will continue to lift up people in the name of the Lord.

March 19-25: *SOUTH AMERICA: Ecuador, Brazil*

Pray with **Roberto, Cameron, Graham, Liam, and Francis Vivanco** in Quito, Ecuador, for the youth of Ecuador. Give thanks for opportunities to provide scholarships and hope.

Lift up **Ron and Debby McKeon** in João Pessoa, Brazil. Pray for Ron who is preaching, teaching, and providing pastoral care. Pray for Debby as she teaches children and trains teachers.



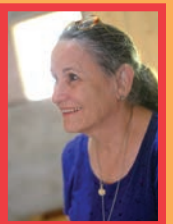
Ana Reid



Jack Melvin



Dennie and Veronica Flowers



Jeannie Loving



David Ledwitz



The Miller Family



David and Mary Beth Alenskis



Hilda and Eduardo Monzon



The Vivanco Family



Ron and Debby McKeon

...continued on the next page



Todd and Patsy McGregor



Grant and Wendy LeMarquand



Kerry and Cynthia Buttram



The Smith Family



The Firestone Family



The Hicks Family

March 26-April 1: AFRICA: Madagascar

Give thanks with **Todd and Patsy McGregor**, in Toliara, Madagascar, for the first anniversary of St. Patrick's Cathedral in the Diocese of Toliara. Give thanks for the medical mission team that came earlier in March. Pray for the diocesan leadership development meeting happening this week.

April 2-8: AFRICA: Ethiopia and Egypt

Pray with **Grant and Wendy LeMarquand** in Gambella, Ethiopia, for their search for a new dean for St. Frumentius Anglican Theological College. Also pray for discernment about possible open doors in southern Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somaliland in the Horn of Africa.

Pray for **Kerry and Cynthia Buttram** in Cairo, Egypt, as they mourn the loss of Kerry's father in January. Pray for the social outreach of the cathedral.

April 9-15: SOUTH AMERICA: Chile and Bolivia

Pray with **Russ, Heidi, Joyanne, and Jocelyn Smith** in Temuco, Chile, and for SAMS Bridger, Juliet Millard, as she serves alongside them this coming summer. Pray for Russ as he works with the students at the Rural Bible Institute, and for his visits to rural churches. Lift up Heidi as she continues in the ministry of Evangelism Explosion for Kids, and for the founding of Equipping Servants International in Temuco.

Pray with **Rusty, Tammy, Thomas, and Madelyn Firestone**, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, as they continue their ministry at La Trinidad Church. Pray for Tammy as she leads the church, and for Rusty as he facilitates short-term teams.

April 16-22: OCEANIA: Solomon Islands

Pray with **Jonathan, Tess, Avalyn, Cohen, Caeli, Judah, and Immanuel Hicks** in Malaita, Solomon Islands, for completion of their home at the seminary compound. Pray for Jon and his students as they are sent out in ministry teams each Sunday to the neighboring village churches and for Tess and the children as they homeschool together.

April 23-29: ASIA: Cambodia

With **Gregory, Heidi, Aubrey, Ella, Saeeda, and Ivy Whitaker** in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, pray for the congregation at Church of Christ Our Peace, that they may be instrumental in sharing the Gospel. Pray for the rapid progress on building new worship space and offices for the Anglican Church of Cambodia.

Give thanks with **Guy, Summer, Pirum, and Quinn Benton** in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, as they rejoice with their new family member, Norah. Give thanks for the final adoption of Pirum.

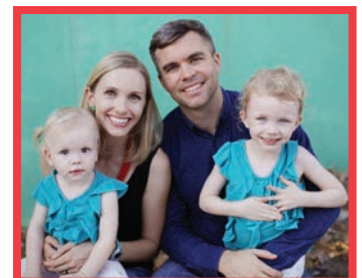
With **Jesse, Sarah, Clara, and Adelai Blaine** in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, pray that God would open up the hearts and minds of people in Cambodia to know Him. Pray for their ministry as they focus on church planting and discipleship.



The Whitaker Family



The Benton Family



The Blaine Family

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN WORD AND DEED



Nicole and Wayne Curtis



The Pyle Family



April Sylvester



Jessica Hughes



Janine LeGrand



Mary Chowenhill



Cathy Donahoe



Louise and Johann Vanderbijl

April 30-May 6: AFRICA: South Africa

Pray for **Nicole (Corlew) and Wayne Curtis** in Cape Town, South Africa, who are partnering with the Anglican provincial ministry, Growing the Church. Pray that the young people they minister to will become strong Christian leaders.

May 7-13: AFRICA: Mauritius and Zambia

Pray for **Bryan, Shakila, Elijah, and David Pyle** in Tamarin, Mauritius, as they serve at a recent church plant. Pray that the hearts of the community will be open to hearing the Gospel.

Pray with **April Sylvester** in Ndola, Zambia, for fruitful ministry and mentoring relationships as she serves with GLO Zambia, overseeing a discipleship gap year program for Zambian youth.

May 14-20: AFRICA: Uganda

Give thanks with **Jessica Hughes** in Mukono, Uganda, for her ministry teaching at Uganda Christian University. Pray for the beginning of the academic year, that the Lord would be glorified in her teaching and service.

Give thanks with **Mary Chowenhill** in Mukono, Uganda, for all the faithful senders who are part of the team. Pray for the students at Uganda Christian University who are in internships and research, and for the completion of the new curriculum for the business department. Pray for guidance as to how to help students formulate business plans, and discernment for what projects to work on while teaching.

Pray with **Janine LeGrand** in Masindi, Uganda, for wisdom in having a balanced program addressing needs locally in Masindi and in more remote villages. Pray for good cardiac and respiratory health, and for her back. Pray for more supporters over the long-term, and for constant obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

May 21-27: EUROPE

Pray with **Stephen V.** (not pictured) in Europe as he works on the translation of the Book of Common Prayer into the native language in his region, and for the outreach of the Gospel throughout the community. Continue to pray for Sender support.

Lift up **Mark, Susan, and Ethan** (not pictured) in Europe as they pastor and counsel other missionaries in their community.

May 28-June 3: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND USA

Give praise with **Cathy Donahoe** in San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, for her ministry's supporters and give thanks for students truly motivated and interested in learning how best to treat their physical therapy patients.

Pray for **Johann and Louise Vanderbijl**, as they transition and seek new and renewed support for future missionary service. Give thanks for the continuing return of Johann's health.



Pray for our missionaries who serve through economic and agricultural development, that they will equip those in their communities with tools to provide for their families.



The Hill Family



Maria and Juan Marentes



The Colvin Family



Jack and Mary McDonald

Please focus on the following as you pray:

Sunday: for missionary to be used to share the Gospel

Monday: for missionary's own spiritual growth

Tuesday: for God's blessing for the diocese and bishop

Wednesday: for missionary's relationships with nationals

Thursday: for missionary's health, safety and family

Friday: for outpouring of the Spirit in missionary's church

Saturday: for God to raise up new missionaries

June 4-10: USA

Pray for **Allen, Rachel, James and John Hill** in Raleigh, North Carolina, as Allen pursues education for their future missionary service. Pray that his back will completely heal.

With **Juan and Maria Marentes** in Los Angeles, California, pray for opportunities to serve Him in the Hispanic population, both in Santa Ana and Costa Mesa, California. Also, pray for Maria's feet and the challenges of the insurance process.

June 11-17: USA AND CANDIDATES

Pray for **Matt, Sora, Ezekiel, Naomi, Isaiah, and Hosanna Colvin**, as they transition to life in North America.

Pray for the SAMS Missionary Candidates (not pictured) **Stevan and Kathryn Betcher, Jacky Lowe, Anne Schaffer, and Nate and Erika Twichell**, as they seek the Lord for Senders to be raised up.

With **Jack and Mary McDonald** in Catawba, Virginia, pray for the international ministry at Virginia Tech where Mary serves. Give thanks that Mary has signed a contract to publish a book about her veterinary stories. Pray that this project will bring him much glory. Also pray for Ashby, their daughter, who is getting married on June 25.

June 18-24: ASSOCIATES

Lift up SAMS Associate Missionaries: **Chuck and Beth Bradshaw** (theological education in Uganda), **Mike and Linda Chapman** (ministry in Perú), **David and Lucy Chaves** (social ministries and discipleship in Kenya), **Townsend and Dawn Cooper** (health ministries in Perú), **Bunny Cowan** (teaching ministry in Honduras), **Kathy Decker** (communications and short-term teams leadership in Perú), **Brian and Mary Jane Dennison** (educational ministry and discipleship in Uganda), **John and Ninfa Dixon** (Hispanic outreach on the U.S. Mexican border), **Michael and Anita Dohn** (health ministry in USA), **Chris Feuillade** (student ministry in Chile), **Tom and Maryjane Furrer** (medical ministry in Nigeria) **Doug and JoEllyn Fountain** (ministry in Uganda), **Margarita Grachen** (children's ministry in Honduras), **Jason and Emily Hood** (pastoral leadership in Tanzania), **Mike and Betty Kaszer** (short-term team ministry in Honduras), **Frank and Shawnee Lyons** (youth ministry), **Kym McDaniel** (children's ministry in Perú), **Richard and Martha Menees** (ministry in Africa), **Ian and Polly Montgomery** (short-term ministry in Perú), **Susan Morris** (ministry in Uganda), **Shaw and Julie Mudge** (theological education in Belize), **John and Susan Park** (short-term team coordination in Perú), **Vicki Robertson** (children's ministry in Perú), **Amanda Scott** (children's ministry in Honduras), and **Eldon Stoffel** (youth ministry in Rwanda).

June 25-30: SAMS STAFF

Pray for SAMS home staff: **Lynn Bouterse, Denise Cox, Nita Dempsey, Julie Kirik, Howard McClellan, Sarah Norris, Dana Priest, Bonnie Walker, and Stewart Wicker**, as they support and encourage missionaries and the church here in the U.S. and globally.



Pray for the children in Africa, especially for those in Madagascar who face extreme poverty.

Memorials and Honors

Given by:

The Rev. Andrew and Mrs. Terry Osmun
The Rev. Dr. Laurie and Mrs. Mary Thompson
Mrs. Judith Auger
Mr. Marc Lindsay
Miss Victoria A. Walter
Mr. James Sr. and Mrs. Betty G. Schaffer
Mr. Stewart W. and The Rev. Laura Wicker
Mrs. Audrey R. and Mr. Gerry W. Cox
Mr. James Sr. and Mrs. Betty G. Schaffer
Society of Transfiguration
The Ven. John and Mrs. Susan Park
Mr. Gerry W. and Mrs. Audrey R. Cox
Mr. James and Mrs. Elizabeth G. Schaffer
Mr. Stephen H. and Mrs. Nancy A. Moore
Mrs. Marcia M. Hawkins

Given by:

Mr. Trace Cates
Mr. Robinson E. Blair
Mr. Michael Armstrong
Ms. Kathleen Anne Megan
Soldotna Dental Clinic
Mr. George A. and Mrs. Judith S. Pittman
Church of the Incarnation
Mrs. Joan Merriken
Mr. John L. Kessell
Mr. James B. and Mrs. Margaret B. Clary
Ms. Polly Ann Jamison
The Rev. Ronald N. and Mrs. Johnnie H. Johnson
Lt. Col. Thomas R. Coury
Mr. Edward P. and Mrs. Joyce E. McNamara

In Memory of:

Mr. Richard A. Englander
Mr. Richard A. Englander
The Rev. John Galagan
Mrs. Elza P. Gehring
Mrs. Lidia Gomez
Mr. Jim Green
Mrs. Debra Diane Jones
Mr. Charles S. Lloyd
Mrs. Vondel Lacey Lucas
Elizabeth Matthews
Dr. Jerry Morgan Medley
Mrs. Monja C. Morrison
Mr. Isham Ballard Nichols, Sr.
Mr. Bruce H. Spatz
Mr. Perry West

In Honor of:

Mr. Leslie Thomas Cash
Mr. Larry Colletta
The Rev. Edward Groves, Jr.
Ms. Jeanne Marie Hackett
Mr. William J. Harman, III
Mr. William J. and Mrs. Cheryl M. Harman
Mr. David Ledwitz
Mr. Jim Merriken
Mr. Carl E. Schwarz
Mrs. Sandra Smith
Ms. Katie Stamper
Mr. Robert Strong
Ms. Suzanne Walter
Mr. Kenneth A. and Mrs. Elizabeth C. Wenzel

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**Do you sense
a possible call
from God?**

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SAMS Launches New Website

Keep informed on your Society's happenings and global mission by checking out the new and now mobile-friendly website. You will also find more updates on your missionaries, and interactive features.

Learn more at www.sams-usa.org



SAMS Missionary April Sylvester who serves in Zambia takes on the missionary call, ready to endure the extreme environment in order to glorify the Lord.

Read *A Sweating Missionary in the Mud of Life* on the SAMS Blog on our new website to learn about April and missionary life in Zambia.

“

I am ready to endure any hardship, if by any means I might save some. The longing of my heart is to make known my glorious Redeemer to those who have never heard.

”

William Burns
Missionary to China in 19th century.

