

April 2024

Dear prayer partners, thank you for constantly standing before our heavenly Father to pray for our MTS global ministry. We appreciate your time reading and praying through these updates for April. We are kneeling together in prayer!

The angel said to the women. "Do not be afraid, for I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.'

Now I have told you."

Matthew 28:5-7

Stephen Kato *MTS Uganda Country Director*



- We are so thankful to God for using us. We had the Caring for the Vulnerable Child (CVC) training with Transformed-for-Life students, done once a week and continues.
- We did a follow-up visit with the people we trained last year in Igayaza, who shared encouraging testimonies of how God has brought healing in their lives. For instance, there was someone who, before the conference, was looking for an opportunity to kill his dad for having physically abused him. However, he learned to forgive through the conference and finally forgave his dad. Another participant had a 2-year-old and six-month-old child who had failed to walk, but through the conference, she learned that she could write a letter to God presenting her requests. She testified that she wrote a letter to God requesting that her child gain the strength to walk, and God answered her prayer. We, therefore, thank you for standing with us in prayer.

PRAYER

- Please pray for the two By His Wounds (BHW) conferences that will be held on Transformed-for-Life property with parents and social workers. The first one will begin on April 8 and end on April 12, and this will be for female parents. The other will start on April 15 and end on April 19, and this will be for male parents. Please pray that God will supernaturally use us.
- We also plan to conduct a follow-up visit on April 26 for the people our master trainers trained in the Kayanja Kibaale district. Please pray that God will continue extending His gracious hand to us and the participants. Your prayers are so paramount to us.

David Mudeya *MTS Beni Regional Office*



PRAISE

 We are grateful to God for the strength He gave us for ministry during March. My family had gone through several seasons of illness, but praise God that we are all feeling well now.

PRAYER

- Please pray for our upcoming training. From April 1 to 3, we will have two By His Wounds (BHW) practical sessions with Sunday School teachers from different churches. We will also have another BHW intensive training session for pastors and key church leaders in Nobili from April 9 to 12. Our team will travel from Beni and Ruwenzori on Sunday, the 7, to Nobili, crossing through Uganda and returning on Saturday, the 13.
- Please pray for our radio broadcast BHW program, for which six local radio channels are being used in Beni, Oicha, Mangina, Ruwenzori, and Nobili.
- Please continue to pray for stability and peace in our country, the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Jean-Pasteur Katavo and Daphrose Muteho
Director of Africa translations and emerging leader development



PRAISE

 We praise the Lord for His protection in a city (Goma, DRC), which is surrounded by war and yet has become a place of refuge to 1 million IDPs and for His provision at the heart of the greatest humanitarian crisis where 23 million Congolese are food insecure.

PRAYER

- Daphrose and Katavo need inspiration as they write a Bible for kids and a book on their new model of chaplaincy ministry to share their 15 years of experience as facilitators of transformation.
- Christian, Finney, and Archipe are studying theology; let's pray that the Holy Spirit will equip them with love, wisdom, and skills.
- MTS master trainers Mama Lea Kanduki and Mama Alfajiri live in the M23-held territory; we pray for their security.
- MTS master trainer Pastor Richard Kasay preaches the Gospel to the Pygmies.
 Let's pray they will accept the Lord and become active church members.
- Chaplains Daphrose Muteho, Esther Kavunga, and Rosette Muyisa are preparing vacation ministry programs for July and August 2024. We pray that the Lord will help them organize these vital training sessions.
- MTS has an intensive seminar for master trainers at UCBC in the last week of May 2024. We pray for protection during travel and refreshments.
- September 2024, MTS Congo has a By His Wounds Comfort Crusade in 10 towns at the heart of the Beni Death Triangle. Let us claim a miraculous harvest of 22,000 people.

Kavusa Mutsopi Albert MTS-MAMBOWA/DRC



PRAISE

 I praise God for protecting me during these six months I have been working at the Mambowa Hospital. I thank MTS for supporting my studies to become a surgeon and providing surgical equipment so I can serve my people. I thank God for all the people who pray for me. Of the 39 major surgeries I have performed so far, I have witnessed only one death. I thank God for his healing hand on my patients.

PRAYER

- May God continue to bless MTS for supporting my studies.
- May God use me powerfully to heal my community spiritually and physically.
- May God help me use the surgical instruments I received through MTS to benefit the patients and glorify God.
- Please pray for God's provision as I plan to celebrate my traditional wedding in May 2024.

Moise Mawa MTS Butembo, Lubero, Bashu Regional Office



PRAYER

- Please pray for the best follow-ups and spiritual support for the people we serve.
 May God help them continue to persevere in His word. We need to create a support network and an ongoing awareness program for lost princesses who still live with anti-values. Please pray for us.
- Pray for the work of listening and psychological support for beneficiaries of MTS teachings.
- Pray for the health of the families of the MTS Butembo team.
- Pray for security and peace in the DRC.

Debbie Taylor *RESPLENDA: An abuse ministry using MTS in Spanish-speaking communities*



PRAYER

 We are starting a new MTS cycle. Please pray that our facilitators will respond to our suggestions for improvement and that those who signed up will feel safe and welcomed.

New Global Ministry Partner



We have a new global ministry partner that we keep anonymous for security purposes. We will call her "Joan." We asked Joan to summarize the situation among the Uyghur people that God has called her to serve. Here is her report:

"Hi! I hope you all are doing well. I wanted to update you on the current need of a people group that I have had the privilege living alongside and working with since 2006.

Xinjiang is a Muslim majority region in the country of China. The local people are known as the Uyghur (pronounced "wee-ger"). They are of central Asian descent and relate most closely in culture and language to the Turkish people.

In 2018 it became very apparent that China was setting up camps that were in fact prisons. Peoples and villages began disappearing. Men and women taken in the night. Children left with aging relatives or taken to orphanages in eastern China. We were told that these people needed to be "re-educated" in the Communist ways and would be released when they were rehabilitated. But evidence has shown that this is not what is happening.

In 2018 our family was forced to leave the region and in 2020 an independent tribunal met in London investigating China's crimes. After hearing testimonies and looking at verified evidence (such as the Xinjiang Papers), it was concluded that China is actually committing an ethnic genocide. The Jewish community has also recognized that these are concentration camps.

We are so thankful to the Lord, that America has taken steps in recognizing the situation of the Uyghur people, including the passage of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, signed in 2021 by President Biden. Currently, the government is also looking to pass a law that will divest TikTok from China's control, a tool that the country has used to spread false propaganda that keeps the public unaware of the atrocity happening within China's borders.

A Texas State representative has taken a hard stand in protecting Texans from ever receiving <u>forcibly</u> <u>taken organs from the Uvghur prisoners</u>.

China is known to use the Uyghur in these camps as slaves. The clothing industry has benefited greatly from the free labor with companies knowingly turning their backs to the suffering of the Uyghur people.

But again, we see the Lord moving as more and more consumers are doing the work to make sure their clothes come from fair companies.

And yet, there is so much that we can do:

- 1. You can ask your Senator to endorse the House action on divesting TikTok. We aren't asking to get rid of TikTok but to strip China of its power in controlling the app to further hurt the Uyghur people.
- You can write a letter to a company that is knowingly using the Uyghur slave labor in order to make their products (Complicit Company list found here: https://linktr.ee/christians4uyghurfreedom)
- 3. And you can write government officials, letting them know that you support their work in freeing the Uyghur in these camps.

While there are 2 million Uyghurs still imprisoned and enslaved in Xinjiang, there are thousands that were able to flee before the borders closed. This diaspora of Uyghur are haunted daily by those they had to leave behind and are in constant danger of being sent back to Xinjiang.

Together with Mending the Soul, we are working to use their trauma healing model in order to care for the Uyghur. We have been using the African By His Wounds curriculum but we are excited to begin contextualizing the material specifically for Uyghur. Please pray that the Lord brings together the people He is calling to work on such a valuable project."

Mark and Alyssa Dunker Nairobi, Africa International University (AIU)



PRAISE AND PRAYER

MTS Training at AIU and planned expansion:

We are slowly making our way through the *By His Wounds* (BHW) book. We reached the sharing part of chapter 5. We will complete chapter six very soon. While our group has grown inconsistent and very few people are at the place to facilitate groups, we are all (about 8 of us) excited to expand the ministry.

On May 18, we will be offering a one-day seminar that gives an overview of BHW. We plan on sharing with 30 people that we have pre-selected. We are seeking future leaders. Then we will have small groups meet for 6 weeks. We will follow up with a large group meeting. Our hope then is to advertise through the school chaplaincy and offer an expanded ministry of healing to the greater school community during the Sept semester. A student affiliated (Nehemie Baraka) with David Kasali and Katavo brought us about 700 English books from Eastern Congo in January. I think those were books MTS may have

brought or printed and were sent to us. So thanks.

MTS Training in my Masters Pastoral Counseling Class

I just finished teaching pastoral counseling to a few MDiv and MA students as an elective. I tried to cover most things they will face in counseling, so they have completed a trauma project that includes BHW. From this small group, one pastor asked for 3 additional copies to give to three pastors at Nairobi Chapel. She is hoping they would like to implement this ministry. If that happened, it would be huge for MTS in Kenya. Another student, Alkesh, will be taking a lead elder role at a large international church in Beijing. Most of the members are African. Alkesh just asked me for extra copies of BHW to take to China.

• MTS at Kinshasa Tabitha Centres

Our schedule moved by three months, but Sifa Mapendo and I are still planning a MTS training of Tabitha Centre leaders along with their partner men's ministry. We are targeting around 20 key leaders who can continue the work among the multiple Tabitha sites. We will do this near the first of August. This will be a work associated with ReachGlobal and their Kinshasa City Team. We are hoping that a missionary from the Yaounde team can come and watch and learn.

Dr. Joseph Nyamutera, <u>Rabagirana Ministries</u>, <u>Healing Hearts</u>, <u>Transforming Nations</u>, and <u>The Institute for the Study of African Realities</u> (ISAR)

Yesterday, Mark and I met with Dr. Joseph Nyamutera. His son takes classes from us. Joseph has been doing reconciliation and transformation healing through the churches in Rwanda since immediately after the genocide ended. Through this work, he eventually founded Rabagirana and Healing Hearts Transforming Nation. He offers peacemaking and trauma healing across multiple cultures through several programs. When I gave him BHW and told him about what we hope to accomplish at AIU, he became interested. He would like to expand the work of Rabagirana to deal with abuse in the world outside of genocide. He is especially interested in creating a short course at ISAR here at AIU. He intends to reach out to the director of ISAR, as he has developed other short courses with her before. Thank you for your prayers.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS - THEY MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE!

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new! Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."