



WorldShare

window

the newsletter of www.worldshare.org.uk • issue 2021/1

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supported by
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Editorial

As 2021 arrived, did you have any good words to say about 2020?

2020 was an incredibly challenging year for WorldShare and also for its ministry partners. I'd like to take this opportunity to say a **big** thank you to supporters who stood by WorldShare during these tough times. As the pandemic developed, we had no idea how the financial support of our ministry partners' work would be impacted. In the end, over 2020, we praise God that we were able to send nearly £70,000 more to ministries than we did in 2019.

A year ago, we had not really heard of 'Covid-19', 'lockdown', or the many other words of this season. In last May's Window I shared how WorldShare was responding to lockdown 1.0 and we are now into lockdown 3.0! I also mentioned the village of Eyam in Derbyshire. 350 years ago, they pioneered 'lockdown' to prevent the spread of the plague and save lives. The newly appointed vicar even convinced villagers to 'self-isolate'! This got me thinking about the role of Christians and the Church.

Plagues and pandemics have appeared many times in Church history leading to many Christians being involved in healthcare.

Sacrificial service, as described here, is probably not the norm in the 21st century, with the advances of medical science, but we have seen it appear in our Covid-19 world.

Bishop Dionysius of Alexandria recorded the following in AD 260

“Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbours and cheerfully accepting their pains.”

We have sadly been made aware of the death of four people closely associated with our ministry partners, and many others fall ill, because of the virus. One of the most recent being Mirche Andreev, leader of the Evangelical Church network in North Macedonia (read more about his life on page 10).



Mirche Andreev, (right)

Through all of this, our ministry partners have wholeheartedly continued to serve and share the Gospel with their communities.

Please pray for all of our ministry partners as they continue to serve the poor, vulnerable and marginalised in their communities. The need is more desperate than ever.

Alan Butler, Chief Executive

CHILDAID: A testimony of God's faithfulness



Welcome to our regular spotlight on ChildAid. In each issue of our magazine, we focus on a particular ChildAid ministry partner that we work with. So today, a testimony from Andrea at Potter's House in Guatemala.

Hello my friends. My name is Andrea Hernández and I am 19 years old.

I want to share with you part of my story at Potter's House.

I started my studies in the Education Programme when I was eight years old. I found out about Potter's House because I saw that some neighbours were also studying there. My mother worked long hours and it was difficult for her to take care of me, so she decided to enrol me in the programme. I really like being part of the Education Programme. My mother taught me to pray at a very young age and Potter's House did too. They taught me in a very attractive and beautiful way.

This year I've graduated from high school with a specialisation in accounting. It was not easy, the income of my house was almost always scarce but at this time of pandemic, God has always been with me.

I thank God for providing me with the opportunity to study auditing at the university next year. I would like to be able to help small business owners to invest their money well and not go into debt. I would like to study more about photography and English to expand my work and knowledge. I would like to be recognised for being a hard-working and fair auditor.

I am sincerely grateful that my sponsors helped me to finish my studies. I value everything they have given me; they changed my education for good. I love knowing that they always cared about me without meeting me in person. They are a great example of solidarity and they will always be part of my family. I am also grateful for Potter's House for giving me the opportunity to study. They transformed my way of thinking and my future.

I'd like to share with you a verse that helped me to move forward:

“Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”
Matthew 19:26



Andrea Hernández

Could you support a child like Andrea? Please get in touch for more details or visit our website. Tel: 01302 775209 or email clare.hill@worldshare.org.uk www.worldshare.org.uk/how-to-help/sponsor-a-child

Amazing stories from our ministry partners



It is difficult to comprehend the extent to which Covid-19 is going to impact our ministry partners and the countries in which they work in 2021. In many of these countries, it is only the privileged who are able to work from home, social distance, and access hygiene and food supplies.

We have also heard that in many countries, Covid-19 testing is limited, and hospitals don't have an adequate supply of ventilators or even enough personal protective equipment. Lockdown laws are more extreme than we've seen in the UK and police brutality is increasing as they enforce these laws, particularly in parts of Africa. Last year we heard that a member of staff at one of our ministry partners was held at gunpoint as he tried to avoid violence in the street. Thankfully, he wasn't harmed.

Despite all this, we are constantly encouraged by stories of how God is working in some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities through our ministry partners. Here are just a few examples of how challenges are being overcome.

JKPS, India: Thank you for your generous support of our Cyclone Amphan Appeal which along with grants from two charitable trusts enabled JKPS to rebuild the Premanand Boys' Home which was severely damaged during the cyclone last May when its roof was blown off. The rededication of the boys' home took place on 12th November 2020 followed by the inauguration of a new covered play area.



Finney Thomas, leader of JKPS, expressed his gratitude and thanks, giving God all the glory:

"We thank God especially for our donors."

JKPS has also recently celebrated the inauguration of a baptistry in West Bengal's Malda province with 17 believers from the Santal tribal community in West Bengal and Jharkhand being baptised.



HEAL Africa, DRC: Although Africa escaped much of the first wave of Covid-19 last year, cases are now on the increase and HEAL Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo is seeing more coronavirus patients at the hospital in Goma. Thankfully, due to a significant grant from a charitable trust last year, we were able to help HEAL Africa purchase PPE and other specific "anti-Covid-19" equipment and supplies and carry out additional training in preparation for this.



We are also delighted to share that 19 new chaplains from different provinces in DRC have been trained in various areas of clinical pastoral care. These chaplains will provide psycho-spiritual and existential support at the bedside of the sick in the hospitals and prisons of DRC. They will use their skills to help people going through difficult situations, leading them towards more autonomy, hope, self-confidence, and trust in God.

PiFó Haiti:

Recent feedback from PiFó Haiti has been a real encouragement to us and we hope it will also be an encouragement to you, our supporters. Despite the challenges of 2020, PiFó Haiti surpassed their fundraising goals, and want to thank WorldShare supporters for the huge part that you played in that achievement. Ministry leader Wendy Thiessen said, ***"Everything you do translates to improving the life of someone in a country who is in need. I am grateful to each one of you, you're valued and SO appreciated."***



Due to God's amazing provision, PiFó Haiti have been able to expand their food program to allow all three schools to offer a small meal to all the students during the week, like the two pictured on the cover of this magazine!

Word of Hope, Myanmar:

Pastor Pau and the team at Word of Hope in Myanmar have had a particularly hard time over recent months with what seems like a never-ending lockdown. But, by the grace of God, they are keeping well and staying positive. Schools and churches remain closed and on Sunday mornings they worship on Zoom, just like many of us are doing in the UK. Thankfully, all the children at the Word of Hope orphanage are also doing well while they stay at home. They are keeping busy through a range of activities including English lessons, singing, praying, Bible studies and lots of play.



Thank you for standing with our ministry partners at this time, whether in prayer or by giving. Your support is greatly appreciated.

More creativity from Ezra & Joey



You may remember that we featured two fab fundraisers in our last issue of Window, Ezra & Joey, who made and sold packs of cards in lockdown last Spring, donating over £180 to WorldShare. Well, they didn't stop there!

Ezra and Joey were 'back in business' in the autumn, raising more funds for Worldshare, again hoping to help people who don't have all that they have. They had fun making 18 packs of Christmas cards with four designs. Their Mum, Tina, publicised them to family and friends through Facebook and a video update from the boys. They sold them all and raised more than £70 - amazing!



Win a WorldShare Water Bottle!

Ezra & Joey won themselves a fabulous WorldShare water bottle for their fundraising efforts and you can win one too! Just drop us an email at info@worldshare.org.uk letting us know what fundraising activity you are doing to raise money for WorldShare and we'll send you one as a thank you.



Did you know you can support WorldShare while you shop online?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to WorldShare. All you need to do is start your shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk and choose WorldShare as your appointed charity. The donation will be made at no extra cost to you, it's that easy!

smile.amazon.co.uk

WorldShare Week is back Sunday 14th – Saturday 20th March 2021

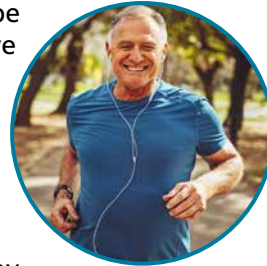
This March we invite you to hit the pause button, gather family and friends (virtually) and join us in celebrating our ministry partners for WorldShare Week.

A time to intentionally pray, share stories and raise funds for those working around the world to bring hope in their communities. Although WorldShare Week will look a bit different this year because of Covid-19 restrictions, there are still lots of ways that you can get involved. If you haven't already signed up for our monthly prayer calendar, you can do so via our website: www.worldshare.org.uk/pray (more info on Page 14).

If you would like to organise a fundraising event, we have created a fab quiz that you can use either with your church, small group, family, or friends. Some questions relate to WorldShare but not all, and you can pick and choose the bits you want to use. Why not get a group together on Zoom and ask for a donation per person/team to WorldShare?



Alternatively, maybe you could try a 'give it up' challenge for WorldShare Week and donate what you would have spent to WorldShare (i.e., chocolate, takeaway, etc) or get sponsorship to run/walk/bike a distance during that week.



Last year one of our supporters donated the cost of having coffee out during lockdown when they were unable to go to their favourite coffee shop.

Every little helps so let us know at info@worldshare.org.uk what you are planning and why not tag us on social media too using [#WorldShareWeek](https://twitter.com/WorldShareWeek).



As mentioned on Page 6, everyone who organises a fundraising activity or prayer event for WorldShare will receive a water bottle as a thank you gift.



Hope instead of abuse & exploitation



In January, many supporters, just like you, were inspired to pray and give to our Hope & Redemption Appeal. Today, we want to say thank you and share how your support is helping to transform the lives of women and girls who have been subjected to abuse and exploitation.

Through the appeal you have been helping to raise funds for two of our ministry partners - JKPS in India and Wakisa Ministries in Uganda - who are both reaching out to victims of violence against women and girls. We shared stories from Mahima Homes, set up by JKPS to provide quality aftercare facilities for under-18 survivors of the commercial sex trade, and the Pregnancy Crisis Centre, set up by Wakisa Ministries to address the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being of traumatised teenage girls with unwanted pregnancies.

Here are two stories that demonstrate how your support changes lives.

Mahima Homes - Priti was rescued after being sold to a brothel.

Priti (name changed) was raised by her aunt as her parents died when she was young. She never got a chance to go to school. Instead, she had to work at a brick-kiln, from a very young age, where she was exploited and subject to sexual abuse. In 2016, Priti was trafficked and sold to a brothel in Sonagachi, Kolkata's biggest red-light area for commercial sexual exploitation. Thankfully, that same year, she was rescued and placed in a Mahima Home. Three perpetrators, of whom one was a minor, were arrested.

Love and support

Priti was the youngest of all the girls when she was placed at Mahima. Although initially withdrawn, she gradually opened up, thanks to the



care, love, and support she received from the other girls and staff. This enabled Priti to heal from the trauma she had experienced. Now age 17 and a grade eight student, she is focused on her studies and is taking regular music lessons. Priti serves as an excellent role model and older sister to younger residents at the home.

Wakisa Ministries - 14 year old Catherine escaped sexual abuse but found herself homeless and pregnant.

Catherine's biological father left home one morning and never returned. Her mother left Catherine and her siblings with their grandmother and moved to the city to find work. Instead, she found a man who said he would support them. She then sent for Catherine, who had just turned 12, to join them to do their domestic duties. After moving to the city, Catherine was enrolled in school but was only allowed to go after she had finished her morning chores and had to leave school early to be back in time to prepare dinner.

Her mother and stepfather would spend every day drinking in the nearby bar and then come home expecting to find dinner made and clothes washed. One night, after Catherine's mother had passed out drunk, her

stepfather came into Catherine's room and sexually assaulted her. Catherine turned to her mother for comfort, but instead, her mother beat her badly. When it happened again, Catherine ran away to live on the streets.

A new home

Thankfully, Catherine found her way to the Wakisa Pregnancy Crisis Centre just weeks before lockdown laws were introduced in Uganda where she joined 23 other pregnant girls who otherwise would have had no shelter, medical care, or food. Without Wakisa Ministries, Catherine would be on the streets, alone and pregnant, without food or medical care and at increased risk of coronavirus.

Priti and Catherine's stories are shocking, and sadly so are the stories of the other girls before they find their way to Mahima Homes or Wakisa Ministries for help. We thank you for standing with these girls and praise God that these two ministry partners are committed to reaching out to victims of violence against women and girls with practical help and the hope of the Gospel.



If you missed the appeal and want to know more, please visit:
www.worldshare.org.uk/how-to-help/appeals.

A tribute to Mirche Andreev



Over the Christmas period, we heard the sad news that Mirche Andreev, leader of our ministry partner, the Evangelical Church in North Macedonia, had gone to be with the Lord, after testing positive for Covid-19.

John Rose, previous Chief Executive of WorldShare writes...

I first visited Macedonia in 1976 and found a place of great spiritual darkness after 500 years of Muslim and Communist domination. Christian witness was small and in hiding. That situation has changed under God, and due, in no small part, to Mirche Andreev.

My wife and I went to Macedonia in 1990 to investigate a report of new developments. Recent and unexpected separation from Yugoslavia had produced a search for a new identity. God's 'moment' was very clear.

In an apartment we found Serbian pastor, Dimitrije Popadic, with a group of young people who had recently come to Christ and were meeting expectantly. They wonderfully had an amazing vision of planting churches all over the southern Balkans.

Shortly after, most went to Bible College abroad to prepare themselves and many have become



Mirche

significant leaders in Macedonia and elsewhere.

Mirche and Nada Andreev stood out. Mirche was chosen to lead the infant church when Dimitrije left Macedonia and directed a growing ministry for over 20 years. Starting in Skopje, there are now over 35 churches – and still increasing. The Evangelical Church has the first Macedonian Bible College, there are churches amongst the large Albanian and Roma minorities and good work has been done in breaking down the dangerous ethnic divisions in the country. During the Kosovo crisis in 1999 the then quite small Evangelical Church cared for many times their own number of Muslim Albanian refugees from Kosovo.

When I first knew Mirche people would cross the street, rather than be seen near an evangelical. A few years later people from all backgrounds would cross the street to shake his hand.

Mirche was a man of great faith, wisdom, vision, and ability, widely respected, including by government ministers.

I am deeply privileged to have known Mirche and, like many in Macedonia and elsewhere, will miss him greatly. But he has left the Evangelical Church in very good shape, and we can be confident that he now knows peace and joy in the presence of the Saviour.

We pray for his family and colleagues and for Pastor Petre Petrov, from Shtip, as he takes over the leadership.

Latest News



We are delighted to announce that Emily Hobbs, Marketing & Communications Assistant, gave birth to Simeon Joel Hobbs on 6th January 2021, weighing 9lbs 9oz. Emily is currently on maternity leave and she and Simeon are doing well.

In January we welcomed Harriet Robson to the team as Marketing & Communications Specialist. Although she will be covering

Emily's work while she's on maternity, Harriet has been recruited as an additional full-time team member to help develop our Marketing & Communications further.



At its December meeting, the trustee board welcomed two new members.



Peter Summerside

Peter used to be an employee of CNEC ("Christian Nationals", the forerunner of WorldShare) working at Bawtry Hall from 1988 to 1994 in various roles. This was some time out from a career in the Construction Industry which Peter then returned to. He retained his interest in WorldShare, has a strong conviction that working in partnership with local Christians is "the way to do mission" and now has time to continue that interest, by becoming a trustee. Welcome!

Rev Dr Zoltan Biro

Zoltan was born and raised in Western Romania, studied at the Hungarian Baptist Theological Seminary in Romania and later moved to the UK to undertake further studies. Since then, he has been working as a Pastor amongst the Hungarian community in Oxfordshire and is now based in Eynsham, where he is Pastor of the local Baptist Church. He comes to WorldShare with a deep understanding of Europe, the different cultures and a fresh perspective. Welcome!



Petre Petrov appointed as new ministry partner leader



The Council of Pastors of the Evangelical Church in North Macedonia, met on the 11th & 12th of January and following much prayer and consultation, Petre Petrov has been appointed to replace Mirche Andreev as the new President of the Evangelical Church.

Pastor Petrov is the pastor of the local Evangelical Church in Shtip. He will remain as Pastor and, as needed, will commute to Skopje.

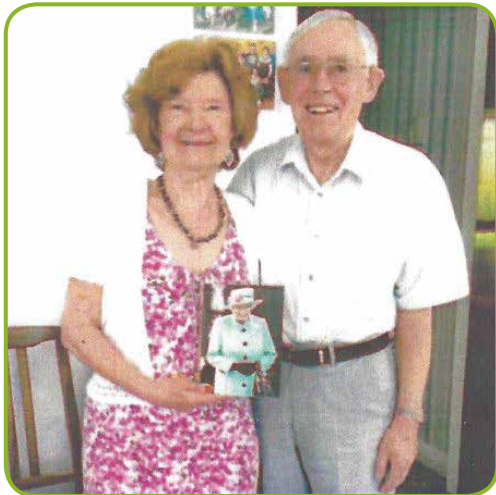
Please pray for the Evangelical Church in this time of transition and for Pastor Petrov as he takes over the leadership of the network of churches. May God use him mightily in his service.

In Memory of John Metcalfe



Following a long illness, which he faced without complaining, John Metcalfe died on the 16th July 2020 and a thanksgiving service for his life was held in Sheffield in early August. As noted by the family at the thanksgiving service, his faith was his bedrock, and although his family feel the loss most painfully, they can rejoice in knowing that he is with his Lord.

John and his wife Gwyneth had been WorldShare supporters for a number of years and as John's funeral approached, Gwyneth decided that she'd like any donations given, in lieu of flowers, to benefit WorldShare and another charity.



Thank you, Gwyneth and family, for thinking of WorldShare and channelling funds to support the work of our ministry partners in memory of John.

LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL



After you've provided for your loved ones, remembering WorldShare in your will can help provide vital support to our ministry partners in their efforts to make a lasting change among their communities.

Legacies can have a huge impact on our work and allow you to do something really significant for a cause you believe in.

Your gift, whatever the size, can make an incredible difference to how we support our ministry partners.

For more information contact jenny.hunt@worldshare.org.uk or call 01302 775209

Indonesia: 5 radically saved



In remote villages across Indonesia, our ministry partner, Cahaya Suku, has been delivering the good news of the Gospel for over 20 years in what is often an extremely hostile and dangerous environment.

This story of perseverance describes how Cahaya Suku's work, though incredibly difficult at times, is bringing people to Christ. (The names of those involved have been changed for security reasons.)

It was a disappointing day. Nita and Martha had struggled to share the Gospel with anyone and considered returning home. But they felt the Lord call them to visit another village nearby where Islam has been embraced for generations.

As they were talking with two girls at a food stall, rain started to pour down and they ran to find shelter on the terrace of the village chief's house. There they met Puja, who listened to them intently and said she wanted to believe in Jesus.

When the rain stopped, they went to Puja's house and prayed with her before continuing to discuss Bible stories. In the middle of a story from the Book of Acts, one of Puja's friends, Ratih, arrived at the house. She also wanted to know more, so

Nita and Martha started over from the beginning. A little later, one of Puja's daughters, Ana, a teenager, entered and was also interested in hearing the Gospel. Again, they started the story over again, telling of the redemptive power of Jesus.

Nita and Martha continued their story from Acts. This time, one of Puja's relatives, Ade, an 18-year-old, joined them. Once again, Nita and Martha had to pause their story and share from the beginning so that Ade could hear about salvation through Jesus. Next thing they knew, Ana's younger sister, Kemala, came and joined them! Puja, Ratih, Ana, Ade, and Kemala continued to listen to Nita and Martha teach about salvation through Jesus, praying together, and worshipping the Lord.

That day in Indonesia, the stories we read in the book of Acts were brought to life. Through the determination of Nita and Martha, and the working of the Spirit, five people came to faith. Day after day, evangelists like Nita and Martha at Cahaya Suku are obeying the call that Christ gave to all of us to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Thank you for your support

On behalf of our ministry partners around the world, we would like to thank you all for your generous support, both financially and in prayer. Your donations in response to our appeals and magazine mailings in 2020 were incredible and enabled our ministry partners to respond quickly to the immediate needs in their local communities and adapt their activities to reduce the impact of Covid-19 on their programmes. Thank you!



Over £6,500 raised for our Child Poverty Appeal and an additional five children sponsored. Thank you!



Over £5,000 raised so far for our Hope & Redemption Appeal, supporting the victims of violence against women and girls. Thank you!

Pray with us

Did you know we have a monthly prayer calendar with daily prayers for WorldShare's ministry partners around the world? You can download the calendar and sign up to receive it monthly at: www.worldshare.org.uk/pray



Over £14,500 so far for our Freedom Gifts

Your generosity in purchasing Freedom Gifts this year has been amazing, thank you!



These gifts are perfect for **Mother's Day, birthdays, and anniversaries**. Please visit: www.worldshare.org.uk/how-to-help/freedom-gifts



We are also on **PrayerMate**, where you can add our prayer requests to your personalised daily prayer feed. To find and subscribe to WorldShare's feed, scan our QR code using your mobile app or look for us in the World Mission category.



WorldShare

To give to WorldShare, please fill out this form and return to us, using the enclosed Freepost envelope or post to WorldShare, Armstrong House, First Avenue, Doncaster DN9 3GA.

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We would love to share with you information, updates and appeals for the amazing work of our partner ministries around the world. Please tick to let us know how you would like to receive communications from us.

(please tick) Email Post Phone SMS WIN21/1

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