

## World Focus for July Health

### Introduction:

The term *health* has broad application, including healthy lifestyle, emotional well-being, relationships, and spiritual health, i.e. the quality of our relationship with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A related concept is that of sustainability. Can current actions and activities be continued into the foreseeable future? Are they *healthy* in the longer term? This applies to individual behaviour, communities, nations and globally. In many cases the consequences are shared.

Historically, medical care and training has played a part in the proclamation of the gospel worldwide. Jesus combined healing the sick, restoring the excluded to society, challenging unjust practices and preaching the Good News that the Kingdom of God is near.

One group of people for whom health care is crucial are the forcibly displaced, be they fleeing natural disaster or human conflict. For the latter, the sick and elderly are often unable to relocate, becoming victims of the conflict. They are more likely to die from the absence of medical care and denial of regular medication than direct military acts. As such, they are frequently the hidden victims of conflict zones.

If you have questions or would like clarifications then please contact Ian Davies

### Intercessions on Sundays:

Please use a selection of the following.

#### Health:

- Praise for the quality of medical care that is available to us; pray for the spread of medical expertise and facilities worldwide
- For medical care for those displaced by conflict or natural disaster. Pray too for an end to conflicts.
- Pick an issue related to debates around health care in the UK or globally: possibilities include 'Assisted Suicide' or provision of care for the elderly or what care is appropriate near the end of life or the funding of health care or worldwide availability of drugs or drugs-resistant bugs or ....
- Pray for the spread of good health care and medical practice worldwide. Sustainable Development Goals 3 (health and well-being) and 6 (clean water) are particularly applicable.
- One specific situation might be the cholera epidemic in Yemen, one consequence of the brutal conflict affecting parts of that shattered country
- Another would be South Sudan, where the official designation of famine was lifted, perhaps obscuring the reality that food insecurity (and the attendant health issues) has spread significantly even if the intensity of food shortages has lessened.

Overseas Mission Partners involved in health care: (see links below)

- Mat & Katy Linley, with Good News Hospital, Mandritsara, Madagascar; Katy is a doctor, Mat team leader for the expatriate community in addition to his role in training local pastors

- Kagando Hospital & Rural Development Centre, Uganda
- Smile International in Uganda, the recipient of our Christmas appeal

Local Mission Partners:

- For the hospital chaplaincy team, remembering its volunteers and the need for a new chaplain to be based at Cheltenham General Hospital
- For Street Pastors, whose activities include preventing accidents from broken glass

Those involved with the Prayer for Medics group suggested the following for Christians in medical professions:

- That they practice caring as well as technically correct medicine
- That they recognise ethical challenges and discern a Biblically appropriate response
- That they achieve a good work / home / rest-of-life balance

Nb. these can be adapted to all professions as part of a healthy way of living

Knowing Jesus Christ and sharing His hope:

- That the good news of Jesus will be shared with many through support of those in need of care and support
- That people will come to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord

#### Useful links:

Bible Society: UK: [www.biblesociety.org.uk/](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/)

Egypt: [www.dareketab.org/bs3/en/default.aspx](http://www.dareketab.org/bs3/en/default.aspx)

Open the Book: [www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/)

Youth for Christ: UK: <https://yfc.uk/>

Local: [www.yfcgloucestershire.co.uk/](http://www.yfcgloucestershire.co.uk/)

The Rock: [www.therock.uk.com/](http://www.therock.uk.com/)

Street Pastors: <http://streetpastors.org/locations/cheltenham/>

GARAS: <http://www.garas.org.uk/>

Mandritsara - Mat & Katy Linley: [mandritsara.org.uk/](http://mandritsara.org.uk/)

Kagando: Friends of Kagando: [www.friendsofkagando.org.uk/](http://www.friendsofkagando.org.uk/)

TEAR Fund: [www.tearfund.org/](http://www.tearfund.org/)

Corrie Sissons: [www.oxfam.org.uk/](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/)

Sustainable Development Goals: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>