

St Matthew's Mission Partner of the month:

Carlile College, Kenya

Principal: Patience Wanzala.

1. Thanksgiving for the successful completion of Sept-Dec 2022 trimester & for wonderful graduation held on 2nd Dec 2022
2. Pray for growth of the sustainability project (Beekeeping at Kambiti farm)
3. Pray for funds for workshops construction for Hospitality and Technical courses
4. Pray for infrastructure upgrade of the connected Church Army School and its licensing by the Ministry of Education

Sherford CC Mission Partner:

Gaurav Srivastava, BOAT

Lucknow, Northern India

Please pray for boldness and strength for pastors and church leaders who are serving in the villages as they are facing much persecution and discrimination. Church services have been forcibly stopped and many pastors have been threatened. Pray that the pastors will stand firm to face the challenges ahead. Pray that the persecutors will come to know the truth and come to know that there is only one God, that is Jesus Christ.

Please pray for Pastor Kamlesh. He was arrested and charged with 'illegal conversion.' He was released on bail after spending one month in jail. He runs a small church of 50 believers. At present there are no church services. Pray that the services will resume soon and that believers will be able to worship freely. Pray for his family as they are suffering both trauma and financially. Pray that the Lord will strengthen them so that they can face the situations and problems.

Please pray for us as we identify new leaders and pray for the new leaders and pastors. This year BOAT is planning to train more leaders for the harvest. Pray for the Lord's help and guidance to train the new leaders and plant new churches. BOAT is looking to train 150 new leaders and provide them with a sound biblical foundation.



Joint Prayer Meeting

January 2023

Song: Behold our God

Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice
All creation rises to rejoice...

*Behold our God seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our King! Nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon his hands
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal humbled to the grave
Jesus, Saviour risen now to reign!

Bible Thought James 5:16-18 (NIV)

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Looking Back with thankfulness

...for lots of guests visiting and hearing the gospel proclaimed at our Christmas outreach services and events.

...for growth in numbers and maturity during 2022

...for all who have helped making our buildings super places to come to

...for lots of people joining in with reading advent devotionals, Sherford's book of the term" & engaging with God's Word

...for new ministries launched at Sherford CC in Autumn 2022, especially youth Bible study & young children's Sunday morning group

...for miraculous answers to prayer from our weekly prayer walks

Hopes & Prayers for 2023

Individuals

St Matthew's

...for our staff and PCC as we seek to reach out effectively

...for our homegroups: studies in James, more people to connect & be consistent, doing up groups this Sunday at 6:30pm

...for our Sunday services in January (Acts 15-17)

...for the youth and children this year, to grow in their love of Jesus, of the church family, of each other.

...for the right person to become our next churchwarden at the AGM

Sherford CC

...for our upcoming *Hope Explored* course this month, that God would bring the right people into the group

...for our baby and toddler groups, and especially for the team to grow

...for our future staffing plans for later this year

...for a dads-and-kids outreach event at the end of January, and a planned pancake party next month

...for the Sherford Food Hub, set up by a local Christian who wants to work alongside the church