

World Focus for September: Education - lifelong learning for all

Goal number 4 in the Sustainable Development Goals (see link below) is: “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” This is a broad understanding of the term education, including both the specific field of schools, colleges and training institutions and the broader sense of continuous life-long-learning of which continuous professional development is but one aspect.

Looking locally, there are many educational institutes in Cheltenham; many amongst us work or serve in voluntary roles.

Many of our church’s mission partners are active in education in a variety of ways. Amongst our local partners The Rock and Youth for Christ Gloucestershire are active in schools. Street Pastors and the Hospital Chaplaincy team both have training programmes for new recruits. Abroad, Mat Linley in Mandritsara, Madagascar is involved in training local pastors and Dan’s work includes teaching on formal linguistics courses as well as supporting local staff to improve their translation skills. Bible Society is engaged in education in many places, including in Minya, Egypt, often with a focus on literacy that enables more people to read scripture for themselves. The Batam Farm project in Indonesia, overseen by Mike Workman and the recipient of our Christmas appeal, includes training programmes in sustainable agriculture and Christian evangelism and discipleship.

The concept in the Sustainable Development Goal of promoting lifelong learning applies to us as Christians in our following Jesus Christ as well as in our professions and voluntary service.

How much do we value education? Do we value it for all ages? And for all aspects of life?

Prayers on Sundays

Please use a selection of the following:

Education - lifelong learning for all:

- That educational provision is provided for all in a way that is sensitive to their abilities, talents, aspirations and circumstances
- For on-going continuous learning and maturing for us all each day, at work, in the community, at home and in our walk with Jesus
- For educational issues in the news

Specific Mission partner: Mat & Katy + Jonah, Phoebe & Barney in Mandritsara, Madagascar

- For the local pastors being trained by Mat
- For nurses and other medical professionals learning by working with Katy

Specific Mission partner: Youth for Christ in Gloucestershire

- Pray for good engagement with numerous pupils across a variety of schools; pray that Jesus’ hope is made known
- For expansion of the work in Gloucester in partnership with local churches

Specific Mission partners: The Rock

- For wise and appropriate use of the opportunities they have to be involved in local schools; for more such opportunities
- For the redevelopment of the St Peter’s Church to include a community café, bicycle repair facility, performing arts facilities and a prayer space.

Knowing Jesus Christ and sharing His hope:

- Pray that many find peace with God because of how each of us lives our daily lives
- Likewise, pray that all involved with each of our mission partners will make Jesus accessible to many by how they live their lives and do what they do

Useful links:

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