

Lynn Treneary

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The call in action

He says, “**Be still, and know that I am God**; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10 (emphasis mine)

Dear All

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. I do hope this letter finds you well and content in the midst of these unprecedented times for the world.

I’m writing to you from Ellon, Aberdeenshire, Scotland as I have moved out of my friend’s house in Aberdeen and into my daughter’s family house (Saoirse, Damian and Noah). Ellon is a small town just inland of the northeast coast, running alongside the River Ythan, a little less than halfway between Aberdeen and Peterhead. They have bought a fixer-upper and I’m so happy for them. My prayer is they both continue to keep their jobs as they are in the oil industry and times are uncertain for everybody.

We have not been affected by the virus in our family thankfully but I pray for all of you who may be grieving and struggling.

My secondment agreement between CMS and ECSS, Maridi diocese, has come up for renewal and it is hoped I will be able to return to Maridi in September for two years but it is not predictable when it will be advisable to return.

The situation in Maridi regarding coronavirus is not well-known as health services are extremely limited. People do not know if they have it or not. There are around 2000 cases in Juba, the capital, but it is the only place that has tests. As far as they know it is not widespread in Maridi. There is a kind of lockdown. Schools and churches are closed. This is causing giving to be almost non-existent, leaving church workers with nothing to live on. Food is only to be had from your own garden. We give thanks to God that some families do have a piece of land on which to grow corn, peanuts, okra and sweet potatoes.

Unfortunately it’s not enough to provide for all health needs and prevent malnutrition and now starvation is widespread. Some NGOs (non-government organisations such as charities) are operating and the worst affected are able to get Plumpy’Nut malnutrition treatment packs for children under five. There is an Italian charity, CUAAM, working at the hospital, providing a doctor and an administrator, which is brilliant. They also provide some meds but not enough to serve a town of around 20,000.

Prayer requests from Bishop Moses:
We are grateful to share our innermost prayers of the Diocese of Maridi as we struggle with the mission of God here in Maridi:

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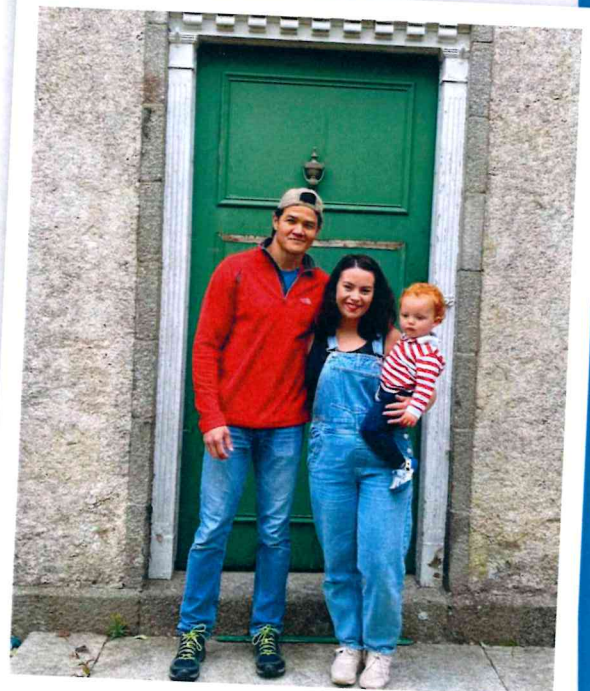


Name: Lynn Treneary

Location: South Sudan

My call: Encourage and strengthen people in Maridi through faith and love to live out their lives as children of God.

My role: Teaching English at Chaima Christian Institute, working with the evangelist teams and the Mothers’ Union.



Saoirse and family outside their house in Ellon

- That more awareness is carried out by evangelists to six archdeaconries in the remote areas of Maridi to awaken the minds of the poor people in the villages.
- Pray for food and soap to support the 79 diocesan basic school teachers who lost their jobs almost two months ago now and whose families are starving and in great need.
- Pray for the provision of 20 bicycles for the village pastors so they can carry on raising awareness of coronavirus in the six archdeaconries in the Diocese of Maridi.
- Pray for trauma healing support intended to be carried out by Bishop Moses to help the priests in their archdeaconries in July and August.
- Pray with Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Maridi to continue to impact families through the provision of masks and soap.
- Pray for spiritual healing for our people as most people are traumatised by a wave of inter-community fights, general starvation and high prices of basic commodities, among other things.
- Pray for the provision of clean water for many communities, in Maridi.

The meetings and prayers about Nodding Syndrome are bearing fruit. There is a Nodding Syndrome Alliance with a specialist clinic being run from the hospital. There are outreach workers taking information out to the furthest reaches of the state. The organisers do not yet see a need for a centre and would prefer our help in sourcing meds only at the moment. If anyone feels called to help with that please send me a private email. We praise God for answering our prayers and ask him to provide more food and medicine.



Children taking part in cultivating in Maridi.

So Chaima is closed and I'm afraid I don't have a lot of information from there. I do know though, that in a multi-crisis situation, food is a priority and there is no money to pay wages. Once I have more definite news, I'll let you know. Please pray for me to be able to get back as soon as possible.

You might wonder why I want to be in Maridi at such a time as this and I would say I still feel called to be there and share their troubles because my presence there is a reminder that Maridi Christians are not forgotten in the global Church. As I see the faith of Maridi Christians in action I think of it as "extreme Christianity". Trusting and loving God in such dire situations of need, e.g. hunger, sickness, lack. We all need encouragement in our faith from time to time but the grace I see displayed by my friends in Maridi is second to none and I long to be there with them.

May God bless all of us as we trust in him for everything and in everything.

With love and thanks for you all

Lynn