



Where are **Crosslinks** partners serving?

Running the race / Opportunities to serve

Running the race

It is tempting to look for numbers and success stories as we seek encouragement in our work for the Lord, but the Apostle Paul gives us a different reason to keep going.



'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.' 2 Timothy 4:7

ccording to the Times¹, the middle of April is peak running season in the UK. Countless joggers hit pavements and parks in the warmer weather. Some square up to the 'couch to 5K' challenge, while others make the finishing touches in preparation for their marathons.

This Lycra clad army of fitness enthusiasts put in the effort to run their races – yet some of them, despite their sweaty preparations, I imagine will not finish.

2 Timothy 4:7 is a well-known verse. The Apostle Paul writes what are thought to be some of his final words to his dear friend and apprentice Timothy. As Paul looks back on his life, he essentially declares 'mission accomplished', and he now looks forward to the victor's crown (4:8). Yet we know from elsewhere in the New Testament (as well as from within 2 Timothy) that his race has not been an easy one. In fact, in verse 7 Paul likens his race to a boxing match. Paul has been in a fight: a fight for the gospel, a fight for Christlike character, a fight against all the schemes of the evil one, a fight for souls and no doubt a fight against his own sinful nature.

The men and women who serve cross culturally as Crosslinks mission and project partners are also in a fight as they run their races. And the map overleaf is just a snapshot of the hard ministry work being done all over the world.

... as you enjoy this publication, will you pray for these men and women and their ministries?

Whether it's the Lord empowering Graeme Innes to preach 36 times in 36 days and see 10 non-Christians come to Christ, or lanet who has spent the past 14 years of 'retirement' from being a teacher in southeast London to devotedly teaching English and sharing lesus with Thai students. Or Alun and Debbie Burt's steadfast commitment to the township communities in South Africa whose lived reality is a daily struggle of gang violence and drug addiction. These are just to highlight four 'fights' and four races happening right now. Our mission partners, wherever they serve, are fighting and running as they seek to take 'God's word to God's world'

Yet what is true for Crosslinks mission partners and project partners is the same for all disciples of Christ. Whatever the nature of our ministry, just 'staying in the fight' and 'putting one foot in front of the other' is sometimes the best that any of us can do. To remain trusting and leaning on Christ, to simply keep holding on to him, requires endurance.

The sports app Strava has unleashed a virtual competitiveness amongst runners with times, distances and stats shared and compared seemingly universally. It's tempting for churches, parachurch ministries, and mission organisations to do something similar. To publish numbers and trumpet good news stories of growth and victory. And by God's grace, Crosslinks has many we could share – alongside a fair share of disappointments, setbacks and struggles.

But encouraging stats and stories only get you so far. And they're not where Paul goes. 2 Timothy 4:7 is the encouragement we need to simply remain in the fight and to put one foot in front of the other when it would be easy to give up in the marathon of the Christian life.

So, as you enjoy this publication, will you *pray* for these men and women and their ministries? We commend to you our prayer diary – a few sentences each day that gives not only a window into God's work all over the world but is a spiritual discipline that nourishes our souls – and *People & Places* on our website which gives more detail.

I'm not sure how many runners across the UK will finish their races this summer, but pray for us and for our partners that we will finish ours.

Rupert Shelley, Director of Mission Partnerships



Mission partners – seconded to a church or Christian organisation overseas for at least three years, our long-term mission partners are sent by their local church and supported by churches and individuals. Crosslinks mission partners go wherever Biblebased ministries are needed and are passionate about making Jesus known. They serve by training gospel workers, in church planting and strengthening, and in frontline evangelism.

Project partners – Crosslinks supports local partners running gospel projects in their own countries. These projects are all involved in training Bible teachers and church leaders, or in evangelism. Full details of all our project partners can be found at crosslinks.org/project-partners

Opportunities

to serve

The global church has highlighted three varied opportunities to serve alongside established mission partners in Asia, Africa and South America. As you explore where Crosslinks partners are serving, why not consider whether you, or someone you know, could answer the call of our bothers and sisters across the world.

Read stories of current mission partners on our blog and get in touch at contact@crosslinks.org to find out more.

Join us in prayer

Join us at our online prayer meetings with supporters on Zoom. Hear from and pray for Crosslinks mission partners. Sign up at **pletters@crosslinks.org**



21 July, 7pm

Andrew and Bethanie Walker, serving in Argentina

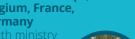


8 September, 7.30pm Helen Sheridan

Helen Sheridan, serving in Ireland



Belgium, France, Germany





James and Lou Clark, Louvain-la-Neuve

Steve and Dawn Orange, Brussels

de Roemer, Binche

Czech Republic

irka and Keira Kralovi, Olomouc



Sena and Jane Ounate-Lare, Caen

Hungary

France

Andy and Zsófi Oatridge, Budapest

Sam Bronsdon, Budapest



Alastair and lise Donaldson. oughrea

Simon and Abigail Donohoe, Dublin

Helen Sheridan, astlebar



Italy

Crosslinks

P and Sue Aranzulla, Bologna



onny and Ruth Pullar, Modena

Mark and Jane Oden, Naples

Luigi Palombo, Milan



Moldova

Matt and Sarah Gurtler, Chişinău

Graeme and Bequi Innes, Chişinău



Riste and Tea Micev, Novi Sad

Brada (and Yatza) Radanovic, lovi Sad



Spain

ulian and Nicky Milson, Valencia



Sweden

Chris and Lotta

Trevor and Andrea

return to Sweden

Portugal

Coimbra

Watson preparing to

oe and Rachel Clarke,



Thorsten and Kerstin

Gillian Pegler,

South Wales

UK

Prill, Edinburgh, Scotland

Josh and Cathy Hooker preparing to return to Namibia

Pāradaugava



Reformed Church, Riga, Latvia



Asia and

Janet, Chiang Mai, Thailand

John and Gillian Robinson, Bangkok, Thailand





Kantipur Church, Kathmandu, Nepal,



Gerald and Louise Mwangi, Nairobi





Jomo Nderitu, Marsabit

Ken Irungu, Kikuyu

> St Julian's Centre, Limuru

Rick and Alanna Creighton, Jos, Nigeria

Across Africa

Jem Hovil, East Africa

Andy and Rachel Symons, Mkushi, Zambia

Accra, Ghana









Opportunities

TEFL teacher evangelists in Southeast Asia

The Lord is using TEFL teachers to share the gospel with many people. There are opportunities to serve in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, short-term or long-term



Portia Yiadom,





Matt and Helen Pope, antiago, Chile Mentoring pastors



Andrew and Eunice loody, Yumbe



return to Uganda



ohannesburg

Johannesburg

South Africa

James and Lucy

Johannesburg

Buchanan,



heological training

John and Jenny Miller,







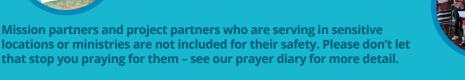


Christ Central Soweto, Johannesburg













Theological trainers

in Sub-Saharan Africa

Bible colleges are growing

rapidly, seeking mature,

theologically strong trainers

who can work under African

leadership and minister

with the challenges cultural

diversity brings.

Opportunities















faithfully. There is spiritual

appetite but many churches are without clergy.





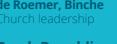
























Uganda



Rachael (and Bernie) Muluuta, preparing to





