

## **Mission Partner prayer and update 2 March 2025**

### **News from the Finnies**

*The Finnies in South Africa sent through the following update.*

The Need to Read club which was started a year ago and which St Andrew's helps to fund, is growing from strength to strength despite all the challenges e.g. behavioural issues, low attention spans, lack of books outside the classroom, afternoon heat etc.

Linda, a trained primary school teacher, who is a deacon at the church, will soon be working part time for the Gathering and under her leadership, the Maths@Home club will be re-opening in Term 2. This is a huge answer to prayer and Linda is full of ideas having had years of experience both at primary level and in very testing classrooms.

The latest family news is that Paula and Dean have begun the process of being approved as a court appointed Place of Safety with a local adoption agency. They are not planning on adopting again but hope to foster and offer their home as a safe space to young children & babies to stop them going into the care system. Paula believes this to be an important part of their mission to serve. *"God sets the lonely in families"* (Psalm 68.6).

Please pray for:

- A smooth assessment fostering process and provision of baby clothes/equipment etc.
- Linda as she navigates her change in job and circumstances.
- Job opportunities for Joel & Eli who are both currently in the UK.
- The landlord puts aside redevelopment plans for the building and instead sells it to the Gathering.

*Paula & Dean are very grateful for your prayers and support throughout the year and look forward to meeting you all when they visit in September.*