

Partners Praying Together

December 2022 – Covid-19 Special Edition



BECAUSE OF THE RAPID CHANGES brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic across the globe much of ABM's normal project work has been disrupted. Because of that, we have asked our Overseas Partners to supply us with prayer points that reflect the situation in their country. Included in this edition of *Partners Praying Together* are the prayer points that we have received. We have included these so that you can show prayerful concern for them as they, who like us are 'wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world' (as the prayer from Compline puts it), adjust to living in a time of global pandemic. You'll also find the usual things we would normally have: the feasts and commemorations from the lectionary, the Australian Cycle of Prayer, and commemorations from the United Nations calendar. All the material is designed to inform your prayers for our Overseas Partners, the bishops and dioceses of our Church and for wider global concerns. With the Psalmist let us pray, 'Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, Lord, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice' (141.2).

1. Who are ABM's Overseas Partners?
2. ABM prayer theme for each day this month
3. Prayer points from our Overseas Partners
4. The feasts and commemorations from the lectionary, the Australian Cycle of Prayer, a cycle of our Overseas Partners, and commemorations from the UN calendar

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Who are ABM's Overseas Partners?

THIS MONTH WE ARE ASKING YOU not only to remember our each of our Australian dioceses as they grapple with the Covid-19 pandemic, but also each of our each of our Overseas Partners as they deal with it too. Our Overseas Partners consist of Activity Partners (with whom we currently have joint activities), Relational Partners (with whom we have historical relationships) and Networking Partners (with whom we work overseas, or with whom we share information). We have, as the well-used Anglican phrase describes it, strong *bonds of affection* for all of them. Because our overseas work involves both the Church, through our Church-to-Church Unit, and communities, through our Anglicans in Development Unit, we often relate to our partners both through the Church itself and through a particular Church's community development arm. So, as you pray, we ask you to remember each of our Partners (and their community development arms) some of whom are more able to weather through the coronavirus storm than others:

Activity Partners

1. The Anglican Church of Kenya (*ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya's Anglican Development Services*)
2. The Anglican Church of Melanesia (*The Anglican Church of Melanesia's Board of Mission*)
3. The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (*Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea*)
4. The Church of the Province of Central Africa (*the Zambia Anglican Council's Outreach Program*)
5. The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) (*the CPM's Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks*)
6. The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (*E-CARE, a community development organization of the ECP*)
7. The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East (*the Diocese of Jerusalem's Development Desk*)
8. The Philippine Independent Church – *Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI (VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI)*

Relational Partners

9. The Amity Foundation – an expression of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China
10. The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia (*Anglican Missions Board, AMB*)
11. The Anglican Church of Hong Kong, the *Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui* 香港聖公會
12. The Anglican Church of Japan, the *Nippon Sei Ko Kai* 日本聖公會
13. The Anglican Church of Korea
14. The Church of Bangladesh
15. The Church of Ceylon
16. The Church of North India
17. The Church of Pakistan
18. The Church of South India
19. The Church of the Province of South East Asia (covers Malaysia and Singapore)

20. The Episcopal Church of South Sudan (*the Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA*)
21. The Episcopal Church of Sudan

Networking Partners

22. Episcopal Relief and Development (USA)
23. The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (Canada)
24. USPG (UK and Ireland)
25. Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy
26. Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life
27. CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa
28. The Mothers' Union

Please remember all our partners in your prayers. Whether they are in Honiara, Juba or Vancouver, they need our prayers.

Information from our Partners regarding Covid-19 will be put up on our website as it comes to hand.

EACH DAY THIS MONTH

- ✦ Lord, we watch, we wait, we look, we long for You. Dispel the clouds and darkness, awaken us to Your glory, that we may walk in Your light.
- ✦ Pray for all those affected by Covid-19 worldwide, especially those who mourn the loss of loved ones; for those suffering from long Covid; for all those who are currently infected, especially children; for all whose businesses or employment has been affected by the pandemic; for all who have contracted influenza or monkeypox; for the people of the Ukraine, and for all like them who suffer the misery of conflict around the world; for all in Australia, Pakistan, Japan and elsewhere dealing with flooding; for those in Indonesia affected by November's earthquake; all who struggle with the rising cost of basic foodstuffs, rent or mortgage payments and fuel costs; all who are homeless, especially people living with disabilities; and for all children in detention centres in Australia.
- ✦ Give thanks for the medical staff who have been working so tirelessly during the pandemic; for the development of vaccines; for the way in which people have been flexible and managed to cope despite the difficulties; for all those who have shown kindness to their neighbours throughout the course of the pandemic so far; for the way that churches have been able to use technology to keep in touch with their communities; for Australia's low unemployment rate; for the Federal Government's commitment to end violence against women and children within a generation; for all those who volunteer in organisations to help Australia to become a better place.
- ✦ Lord, may we all be given a new enthusiasm for walking God's way, clothed in the armour of light.



Prayer Points

from our

Overseas Partners

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea



- ✦ We pray for God's power of healing and protection shower upon the communities affected by the floods in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania: God of creation we ask you humbly for your divine power and grace to restore and rebuild their lives and homes in their communities. Amen
- ✦ Lord we give thanks and praise for the low level of unemployment in Australia . Giver of abundant resources and providence, thank you for the blessing of viable economic conditions for wealth and prosperity that has created opportunities for employment to all people.
- ✦ God of order, power and might, with greater love and justice be present in the lives of all youth in detention. Strengthen and activate your spirit in them. Give strength to prison reform advocates to fight solitary confinement, rampant racism and the use of potentially fatal restraint manoeuvres in youth detention centres.
- ✦ Lord we pray for greater leadership, understanding and wisdom in the lead up to the referendum on an Indigenous voice to the Australian parliament, praying for a successful outcome.
- ✦ God of providence may you bless the people who are struggling to pay high costs for food, utilities and for economic and social services due to the high inflation caused by the Ukraine war.

The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ✠ For the people of Iran in these times of deep discontent and anger and especially for all Persian Christians including the churches of the Anglican diocese
- ✠ For the nation of Qatar and all who live in it, citizens and non-citizens alike, at this time of the Football World Cup and especially for the Anglican Church of the Epiphany
- ✠ For the Palestinian and Israeli peoples at this time of yet more political change and tension and especially for Archbishop Hosam Naoum, bishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem
- ✠ For Syria and its people, that they may not be forgotten in the long-drawn-out struggles within that nation
- ✠ For all rulers, governments, and people of power and influence in our region and Province, that they may understand and foster the common good of all for whom they have responsibility.



The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

- ✠ Give thanks for the successful Mission Conference of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines. We pray that the Holy Spirit guides us as we continue to be a Volunteering, Welcoming and Caring, and Witnessing church.
- ✠ Pray for the new ECP mission areas in Cebu, Southern Luzon, and Surigao.
- ✠ Give thanks for the mission of Lay Organizations. We pray for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew as they prepare for their National Assembly next month.
- ✠ We pray for the victims of Typhoon Paeng (international name: Tropical Storm Nalgae) especially those affected by the landslide in Edefan, DOS, Maguindanao who are mostly Episcopalians. Pray for the repose of the souls of those who died, and for the fast recovery of houses and livelihoods that were damaged.



The Episcopal Church of South Sudan



- ✠ We thank God for the successful House of Bishops meeting that concluded last week.
- ✠ We ask you to pray for security in many parts of South Sudan. Recently there were attacks by cattle raiders in Lomega Diocese that left about 8 deaths, with more than ten people wounded.
- ✠ Flooding is still serious in many parts of Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Eastern Bahr el Ghazal Internal provinces.
- ✠ Continue to pray for implementation of the Revitalized Peace agreement between SPLM in Government and SPLM in opposition.
- ✠ Pray that God prepares hearts for the Christmas season and the gospel to be heard.

The Church of the Province of South-East Asia



- ✠ Thank the Lord for the peaceful 15th General Election of Malaysia, home to three dioceses in our Province, on 19th November even in the face of monsoon floods in certain parts of the nation. Voter turnout was 73%.
- ✠ Pray for political stability of Malaysia, as election results rendered a hung parliament. Ask for God's mercy and intervention of the Lord.
- ✠ Pray for harmony among the people of Malaysia as racial and religious sentiments were stroke during the 15th General Election. Pray against violence and hatred among followers of different religions.
- ✠ We rejoice at the Province's 1st ordination of an Indonesian priest at Church of Christ the King of kings in Nunukan, Kalimantan on 4th December 2022. Pray for safe travel as the Provincial leadership converges on Nunukan.
- ✠ Pray for the nations in our Province as the people combat against rising costs of living, food and fuel prices. Pray for the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of all those who suffer economic hardship.

香港聖公會

The Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui **The Anglican Church of Hong Kong**

- ✠ Pray for those newly baptised and confirmed, that they may be welcomed by all our brothers and sisters in Christ and find peace in our midst.
- ✠ Pray for our newly ordained priests and deacons, and the ordinands who will soon graduate from Ming Hua Theological College. May they find God's grace sufficient in their lifelong dedication to service.
- ✠ Pray for the ongoing development of the new missionary diocese of Macau
- ✠ Pray for the upcoming annual clergy conference, and for all the attending clergy and staff members. Pray for the smooth running of the conference, and a fruitful discussion over the days and nights.



日本聖公会

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai **The Anglican Communion in Japan**

- ✠ Give thanks for the election of Francis Kiosumi Hasegawa as the bishop-elect of the Diocese of Tohoku; and pray for that diocese as it considers its structure and mission moving forward
- ✠ As the government announces the 8th wave of Covid-19 has started (and is expected to surpass all others thus far), please pray for all who work in the medical profession to be upheld during these busy and exhausting times. Remember also those in minority groups who might face extra burdens or difficulties at this time of increased numbers of infected
- ✠ Give thanks for the work of the church as it offers care to those on the margins, and especially as representatives from each Anglican diocese gather to learn about the work caring for the homeless in Yokohama city
- ✠ Pray for ecumenical organizations in Japan as they prepare to share the light of Christ over the coming festive period, especially at a time when religion and Christianity in particular is more under the public spotlight in Japan than ever



- ✦ Give thanks for Christmas and for the gift to our world of Jesus Christ our Saviour; give thanks also that the church is able to gather people together at various services and events after a long hiatus due to the pandemic
- ✦ Pray for those who find it difficult to cover the cost of increased utility bills; and who during the cold winter months are forced to decide whether or not to turn the heating on; and pray also that the government might offer adequate support in these times



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The Anglican Board of Mission,
Locked Bag Q4005,
Queen Victoria Building,
New South Wales 1230.



For access to the electronic version of Partners Praying Together, go to <http://www.abmission.org/resources/missional-prayers>

For access to the electronic version of the worldwide Anglican Cycle of Prayer, go to anglicancommunion.org/resources/cycle-of-prayer/download-the-acp.aspx

Dec	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	ABM Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Thu 1	<p>Frances Perry, founder of the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne († 1892)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Australia; The Primate – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; the General Secretary – Anne Hywood; the General Synod and the Standing Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Kenya ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya's Anglican Development Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World AIDS Day
Fri 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; Bishops Chris McLeod, Denise Ferguson and Tim Harris, the clergy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Melanesia The ACOM Board of Mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
Sat 3	<p>Francis Xavier, priest and missionary († 1552)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop Rod Chiswell, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Sun 4	<p>Advent 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Ballarat – Bishop Garry Weatherill, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of the Province of Central Africa The Zambia Anglican Council's Outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Banks
Mon 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bathurst – Bishop Mark Calder, the clergy and people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of the Province of Myanmar CPM's Development Desk, and the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development World Soil Day

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Tue 6	<p>Nicholas of Myra, bishop and philanthropist († ca. 342)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bendigo – Bishop Matt Brain, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church in the Philippines E-CARE, a community development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Civil Aviation Day
Wed 7	<p>Ambrose of Milan, bishop and teacher († 397)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall; Bishops Jeremy Greaves, John Roundhill and Cameron Venables, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East The Diocese of Jerusalem's Development Desk 	
Thu 8	<p>The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Richard Baxter, pastor and spiritual writer († 1691)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bunbury – Bishop Ian Coutts, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philippine Independent Church (Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI) VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI 	
Fri 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short; Bishops Carol Wagner and Stephen Pickard, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Amity Foundation – an expression of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime International Anti-Corruption
Sat 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry to the Forces – Bishop Grant Dibden, chaplains and members of the Armed Forces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia Anglican Missions Board, AMB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights Day

Sun 11	Advent 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Gippsland – Bishop Richard Treloar, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Hong Kong (<i>Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui</i> 香港聖公會) 	
Mon 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Grafton – Bishop Murray Harvey, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Japan (<i>Nippon Sei Ko Kai</i> 日本聖公会) <p style="text-align: center;">See p. 5</p>	
Tue 13	Lucy, martyr and virgin († 304) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry with the Aboriginal People of Australia – Bishop Chris McLeod, Aboriginal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Korea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Antibiotic Awareness Week begins (till 19 Nov)
Wed 14	John of the Cross, mystic and teacher († 1591) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander People of Australia – Torres Strait clergy and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Bangladesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Diabetes Day
Thu 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier; Bishops Andrew Curnow, Paul Barker, Genieve Blackwell, Brad Billings, Kate Prowd, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Ceylon 	
Fri 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Newcastle – Bishop Peter Stuart; Bishops Charlie Murry and Sonia Roulston, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of North India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for Tolerance
Sat 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of North Queensland – Bishop Keith Joseph, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Pakistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Philosophy Day
Sun 18	Advent 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of South India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Migrants Day Arabic Language Day

Dec	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	ABM Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Mon 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy; Bishops Jeremy James TSSF, Kate Wilmot, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of the Province of South-East Asia (covers Malaysia and Singapore, with missionary congregations in Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand and some parts of Indo-China) 	
Tue 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Riverina – Bishop Donald Kirk, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of South Sudan <i>The Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA</i> See p. 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Human Solidarity Day
Wed 21	<p>Thomas, apostle and martyr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Rockhampton – Bishop Peter Grice, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of Sudan 	
Thu 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Sydney – Archbishop Kanishka Raffel; Bishops Peter Lin, Chris Edwards, Michael Stead, Gary Koo, Peter Hayward, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NATSIAC, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council 	
Fri 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Tasmania – Bishop Richard Conde, Bishop Chris Jones, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nungalinya College, Darwin 	

Sat 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Murray – Bishop Keith Dalby, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, Cairns 	
Sun 25	<p>The Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Northern Territory – Bishop Greg Anderson, the clergy and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Episcopal Relief and Development (USA) 	



Displacements and Omissions in December this year:
 Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, man of prayer († 1637)

Dec	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	ABM Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Mon 26	Stephen, deacon and first martyr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Wangaratta – Bishop Clarence Bestor, the clergy and people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (Canada) 	
Tue 27	John, apostle and evangelist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Willochra – the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USPG (UK and Ireland) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Epidemic Preparedness
Wed 28	Holy Innocents' Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglicare Australia: Chair, Bishop Chris Jones; Executive Director, Kasy Chambers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy 	
Thu 29	Thomas Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury, martyr († 1170) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theological Colleges and Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life 	
Fri 30	Josephine Butler, social reformer († 1905) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life 	
Sat 31	John Wyclif, teacher and reformer († 1384) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa 	

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers throughout the world...

I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. – Jeremiah 33.6b

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN AFRICA. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Mayotte, Benin and Mozambique. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by South Africa, Kenya and Réunion.

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE AMERICAS. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Guyana, Paraguay and Cuba. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by the United States of America, Brazil and Chile.

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS AROUND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Somalia, Sudan and Morocco . Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN EUROPE. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in North Macedonia, Andorra and Monaco. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Germany, France and Italy.

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Timor-Leste and Indonesia. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Indonesia, India and Thailand.

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

AND WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN OUR OWN REGION, THE WESTERN PACIFIC. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in French Polynesia, Tuvalu and New Caledonia. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Japan, South Korea and China.

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

** Statistics are the latest available from the WHO and are accurate as of 16 November 2022.*

Infection rates are now increasing in most parts of the world because of new variants, whereas death rates are continuing to fall.

