John 20:31 April 2021



LOOK ON THE FIELDS

ITEMS FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE

With Daily Scripture Readings

Note: The Look on the Fields is currently only available electronically. We hope to refresh the publication and recommence printing soon.

1 ST Psalm 108

ENGLAND Pop. 56 Mil. Datchet

We continue to send a video each fortnight to a number of schools and are receiving appreciative feedback. In lieu of our Easter Exhibition we have produced a 30 minute video and we hope that, like the Christmas video, it will be viewed many hundreds of times. These resources are available on our channel "Praiseandcrown" on YouTube.

A new venture is producing a monthly gospel video for a local TV station. The initial feedback has been that this has been a well viewed item, including a lady ringing into the organisation to express appreciation.

The chaplaincy at Heathrow airport continues to give good opportunities for Bible teaching on Zoom and helping those passing through the airport. Many passengers are travelling because of challenging circumstances (such as visiting an ill relative or bereavement). There has also been opportunity to offer support for passengers quarantined in hotels.

We are looking to the Lord for His guidance regarding future opportunities in evangelism presented by the changing circumstances, and are also hoping to soon be able to teach more among the Lord's people.

C. 2012 16/3/21

STEVE & JUDI BUCKERIDGE

ND Psalm 109

DEM. REP. OF CONGO 86 Mil. UK 3 Lubumbashi

Yes, I am still here in the UK! I was due to return to the D.R. Congo in January just as the Covid19 vaccination programme was being rolled out. I was praying about this when unexpectedly my GP phoned saying they had left-over vaccine and did I want to receive a dose? I did! I was able to change my plane ticket to an open-dated one without charge, and so I decided to wait for the second vaccination, which I received last week.

Although it has been a very strange visit to the UK, first with self-isolation and then being unable to meet friends and family, I have managed to achieve what I came back to do and also completed some of the work I brought back with me. My main 'Covid project' has been to complete a video of the work I help with in Lubumbashi. I put together a PowerPoint presentation and my long-suffering friend Margaret, with whom I am staying, had the 'joy' of making the video. With much blood, sweat and tears it is now finished.

In Congo, the Covid infection rate is rising but is still very much lower than in Europe. In Congo, schools have now reopened. A recent Mai-Mai militia attack in Lubumbashi on two military camps with large arms depots left a dozen dead. Worryingly, it

appears that the army were relieved of a considerable quantity of hardware and ammunition. Succession rumours persist and many people in the city are anxious.

God willing, I hope to return to the DRC during the week after 29 March, which is when I am hoping to meet my brother and a few in the family – outside – within Covid rules.

Thanks for your prayerful support and encouragement.

C. 1985 5/3/21

RACHEL NEWBY

3RD Psalms 110 & 111

VENEZUELA Pop.28.5 Mil. UK7 San Carlos

Most of the assemblies we visit in this area have reopened after being shut for many months, but other parts have been hit harder by the virus and many Gospel Halls remain closed. Children's work is largely at a standstill, which is very sad indeed. However on Sunday afternoon it was a joy to give a Bible class to a group of children in a roofed sports area here in Puerto Cabello. It is government supervised and the trainers were happy to allow the assembly a weekly space for a Bible story, singing and a memory verse. They are subteens and I was pleasantly surprised at their attention and interest.

I have been glad to help some nights in the gospel at the home of Eduardo and my niece Joyce, here in the city. The interest is good and the attendance most encouraging. A man called Jesus Marin comes every night and shows concern about salvation, but his liquor business may be holding him back. My cousin Albert Urbano (Saword, aged 62) has come 6 times with his family. As a boy he helped Grandpa Saword in the print shop and heard the gospel many times, but is still not saved.

We left Guasdualito, Apure 3 weeks ago because of Esther's health, and she is being treated for cardiac insufficiency because of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) here in Puerto Cabello. She has had some difficult nights, but has shown some improvement, and we appreciate your prayers for her.

My brother William and his three sons have sustained a great loss with the home call of his dear wife and the boys mother Veronica on January 11th, followed by his mother-in-law Josefa's passing a few weeks later. We commend them to your prayers in their grief and also his longing to be back in Delta Amarcuro with the new believers and wide open gospel opportunities. Certainly, God's ways are past finding out. The last hymn Veronica asked for, some hours before passing was the Spanish version of 'We'll all gather home in the morning'. What a blessed prospect.....'to meet the redeemed and the faithful, and Our blessed Redeemer to see!'.

C. 1989 (Ven)

14/3/21 KEN & ESTHER TURKINGTON

4TH Psalms 112 to 114

ROMANIA Pop. 19.5 Mil. UK 4 Ploiesti

During the last two months I have been able to visit 9 assemblies in our home County of Prahova for Bible teaching. In addition, I have had two extended trips to the N.E. of Romania for discussions with gospel workers and to have ministry meetings in five local assemblies there. The monthly studies in Sibiu, Pietrişu and Curtea de Argeş have also been a real spiritual blessing. About three months ago I had five Thursday evening ministry meetings with the growing assembly in Mărăşeşti (110 miles from home). These studies on Elijah the prophet in 1 Kings recommenced two weeks ago when the hall was packed with over 140 present! Two weeks ago I drove to the North for four ministry meetings over the weekend in four large assemblies (Gulia, Paşcani, Luncuşoară and Chilişeni) followed by discussions with gospel workers and

brethren in the cities of Suceava and Botoşani. The meetings saw large numbers present including a very good number of younger believers. There has been much to encourage in recent months.

Because of the Covid virus, visits to Romanian speaking assemblies in Italy are not possible at present, therefore the intensive studies recommenced with the Ponsacco assembly using Zoom last weekend. This entailed four hours of teaching over the weekend and these monthly systematic studies continue until the end of May.

The translation work continues with the Lord's help. Sue is checking the translation of the Precious Seed book on the Old Testament which will be printed in two volumes.

During lockdown, 75,000 A4 gospel texts (Galatians 4:4) were printed in preparation for distribution with the 2021 calendars throughout Romania. Increasingly, one of our roles is to provide huge quantities of gospel tracts and booklets and A4 gospel texts (with a gospel message on the back) for Romanian evangelists, believers and assemblies. During recent years we have encouraged assembly believers to distribute this literature on the streets in towns and cities in different regions during the Christmas and Easter periods. We are most encouraged to see the development of this public gospel testimony and how believers have caught the vision. C. 1992 2/3/21 PAUL & SUE WILLIAMS

 $\mathbf{5}^{\text{th}}$

Psalms 115 & 116

ROMANIA Pop. 19.5 Mil. UK 4 Ploiesti

We are involved in the initial stages of a gospel work amongst assemblies in Moldavia, N.E. Romania. Evangelism is much harder in Romania today than in the years after the Revolution of December 1989. During the last 25 years that we have been living in Romania there have been significant changes politically, socially, economically and spiritually. With this in view, together with some local brethren, the aim is to expand gospel work in the region of Moldavia, where there are over 150 assemblies. It is becoming harder to get unsaved Romanians to come in to gospel halls. Also a generation of faithful believers are being called home to heaven and a new generation needs to be motivated and encouraged to continue the vital work of the gospel. This work will be long term not short term. The needs of the present must be addressed, challenges faced and the sovereign hand of the Lord in salvation experienced. The aim of this renewed gospel work is to bring the message of salvation (orally and through gospel literature distribution) to the unsaved in many villages and towns in the region. We also hope to motivate the younger generation of believers, despite increasing pressures on their time, to be involved in gospel work in their spare time. We are praying that this spiritual exercise may help prevent the closure of some very small village assemblies and develop some "untapped potential" in local assemblies.

Much prayer is needed for this gospel initiative in the region of Moldavia. Please join us in fervent prayer for the Lord's richest blessings in the gospel.

C. 1992 2/3/21

PAUL & SUE WILLIAMS

6TH

Psalms 117 & 118

SOUTH AFRICA Pop. 58 Mil. UK 7 Cape Town

Recently we have been enjoying freedom from a number of restrictions. Official case numbers and the death rate are quite low for now. We do not know how long this utopia will last. The government has not yet vaccinated 0.5% of the population and we are constantly warned that the "third wave" is round the corner. At Northpine assembly we are gathering on a Sunday morning only. The door is also open again for me to travel to encourage some of the rural assemblies. We have not seen many of these

dear believers for over a year. I have just commenced a series of ministry meetings with the saints at Wellington. Last weekend we were able to visit the assembly in Hermanus who we have worked closely with for the last five years. These were happy reunions and it was a joy to minister in person after a year of online preaching.

Pray for a proposed trip across the country to the saints in Pretoria for a series of ministry in April, Lord willing. In the meantime, open air preaching is possible again and gives us a lot of encouragement in terms of unbelievers willing to listen to the Gospel. Those who listen have generally heard Gospel terminology before but are living lives in the grip of sin. To some extent they seem immunised to the message.

Please pray the school work will open up again, God willing. It is over a year since we last preached the Gospel there. Otherwise we are all well and grateful the Lord has preserved us, especially when Alexander is higher risk due to his medical condition. The boys are glad to be back at school for now. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

C. 2016 29/3/21

ALASTAIR & ANDREA BAIJAL

7TH

Psalm 119:1-40

BRASS TACKS

Who could have imagined the past year, and all the changes that have happened. How good it is to know the Lord, and trust Him in every situation.

Although our office is still based at home, supervisory work on a building project near Edinburgh recommenced in January. This week, another small team of local workers will begin a new project in Cardiff, so we do trust that as spring progresses and the current Covid regulations are eased, we will be able to do more within the UK. Great care is taken to work separately, and though we eat together, it is at a distance. Nevertheless, it is a great joy to be able to have fellowship again, and to be involved in the Lord's service.

Please join us in praying for wisdom regarding our outstanding projects abroad – the major one being the continued construction in Malawi. We have been unable to travel far for an entire year, and did not visit Africa last summer as planned. Thankfully the virus has not had the devastating impact there which it has had here and across many other parts of Europe. However, financial constraints are a daily problem for many, and some of our Zambian friends and fellow believers are eating only one small meal a day.

One faithful brother has recently had a stroke, and is unable to do his normal 'tent-making' work with his sewing machine. He has a young family to support, as well as his oldest daughter who is training as a nurse. He appreciated some practical support and would value prayer for him and his family.

C. 1997 24/3/21

ALAN & SHEILA PARK

 8^{TH}

Psalm 119:41-72

SRI LANKA Pop. 21 Mil. Colombo

The pandemic is continuing to have a devastating effect on so many people. During the last week we have been helping many families across the island. However, we highlight one family to give some understanding of the significant difficulties involved.

A dear sister in the assembly has five sons. She lives in a large slum area on the eastern edge of the city. She works in a bakery and her shift begins at 2am every day. Her employers now require her to live in the bakery for three months at a time and not commute from home because of the spread of the virus. The area where she lives is highly infected. At the end of the three month period

she was given two weeks leave to go home and see her family. She then had to report back for another three month stint of work.

Her eldest son works in a supermarket as a shelf stacker. Her other children are all at school. Her middle boy, S, is 15. The local school is very poor and has not arranged any online classes for the last year as most students do not have computers. S and his brothers have been forced to stay at home for much of the last year. Their home is one small room and they were forbidden from stepping outside as the entire area was under curfew, rigorously imposed by the army. Trapped in this home with nothing to do each day sadly resulted in S having a mental breakdown last week. He started attacking other members of his family with a knife and the security forces had to be called.

The assembly arranged for immediate medical attention for S as soon as the family called us. The doctor prescribed medication and advised that the boy should be sent to a mental institution or that he should be removed from his current environment. The doctor also advised his mother to give up her job as her son was clearly missing her due to the large periods of absence. The assembly arranged for S and his mum to be moved into guest accommodation at the assembly, where they will be cared for. He has found the gardens refreshing and has calmed down considerably. His mother has now lost her job, so the assembly is also looking after the rest of her family. Please remember S and his long-term care and future in your prayers, along with the rest of his family.

1/3/21 BETHESDA GOSPEL HALL, COLOMBO

9TH Psalm 119:73-112

SRI LANKA Pop. 21 Mil. Colombo

Despite the difficulties being faced by the people, we are so thankful that the gospel is continuing to be preached. During the last month we have heard of souls being saved in Jaffna and Badureliya. From our assembly, brothers have visited the east coast of the island, Kuliyapitiya, Kurunegala and various areas in the hill country. They have preached the gospel and encouraged believers in these areas.

The literature work that we are involved in has seen a substantial increase during the last year. We have also been translating and printing large volumes of literature and sending it out across the island to meet the increasing demand. We are grateful that we have had this opportunity to distribute this literature at a time when most of the assemblies in Sri Lanka are unable to meet.

Brother Jack Hay has been speaking to the believers in our assembly at least twice a month for the last eleven months via Zoom. There are between 130 to 150 listeners that join each meeting. The biblical teaching and practical exhortations from Jack and others have been greatly appreciated. Please continue to pray for the work of the Lord in Sri Lanka.

1/3/21 BETHESDA GOSPEL HALL, COLOMBO

OTH Psalm 119:113-144

ROMANIA Pop. 19.5 Mil. UK 4 Writing from England It is a real encouragement to Ruth and I to hear from time to time of your desire to receive the emails that we send out, giving you up to date information about Casa Simeon. Please let us know if you would like to be added to our mailing list (oblnewsletters@outlook.com).

It is our joy to be able to report again on the negative results from the last Covid tests carried out in the care home. The two residents who were hospitalised are back and recovering from their illnesses. All of the staff who had Covid have recovered and have returned to work and we thank the Lord that once again the home can function normally.

Following my heart attack two weeks ago, I thank the Lord that a pacemaker has been fitted and I am feeling better already. I am looking forward to getting back to normal activities as soon as possible, including another visit to Romania later this year, God willing. Your prayers and concern have been deeply appreciated. C. 1995 27/2/21 RICHARD & RUTH McCLENAGHAN

11TH Psalm 119:145-176

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Descalvado

We are grateful to the Lord for preserving us thus far and also for the liberty we are enjoying having meetings. Some regions of Brazil are really badly affected by the virus but so far, we are being allowed to meet again, for which we are grateful, but with the usual restrictions on social distancing.

Last month we had to stop having meetings in Melos because the lady of the house was not happy. She is still not wanting meetings there, so we are going to start the meetings in another house but not too far away. This will allow Eduardo and his sister Natalia and their father to continue to attend. They are delighted that the meetings are restarting and hope that soon they may be able to have the meetings back in their own yard. The meetings will be in the open air, to respect the restrictions imposed. We would value prayer for Natalia. She is very upset with the situation at home. Pray also for her mother, that she may come to know the Lord as her Saviour.

Once a week we have an hour to preach the gospel on the local radio station. It is well listened to and many people that never attend meetings are hearing the gospel, for which we are grateful. Pray for this work.

C. 1998 (Brazil)

MARCO & JANICE GEBARA

17FH Psalms 120 to 123

ARGENTINA Pop. 45 Mil. UK 5 Buenos Aires

This year marks 30 years of service for the Lord in Argentina. In 1991, Isabel and I were commended to full time missionary work. I had been born to missionary parents (Willie and Pearl Jack) and the same assembly in Glasgow had commended them in 1934, also to Argentina! Our objective is to make God's Word accessible and visually understandable to all peoples, ages and cultures.

Our passion is to study the Bible narrative in its historic context, recreating this through scale models, illustrations and graphics. Each subject takes on average one year. This is time taken up in research into the Word, the study of background, preparation of possible scale models, PowerPoints and notes. All this will be pulled together into presentations which are often held in local assemblies, schools or as exhibitions. There can be between four and ten sessions related to each subject. These have included studies on the Tabernacle, Solomon's Temple, the Tower of Babel, Noah's Ark and many more. Our 'parish' is Buenos Aires where we live, but also teach throughout Argentina as well as Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Columbia and even Spain! We are currently preparing material separately on Creation and also the Sermon on the Mount. We would value your prayers.

Isabel is currently in Posadas, about 600 miles north, helping her sister Ani attend to family matters following the death of their mother, who passed away in February aged 90. Prayer would be appreciated.

C. 1991 6/3/21

BOBBY & ISOBEL JACK

13TH Psalms 124 to 127

BOTSWANA Pop. 2.4 Mil. UK 8 Francistown

Early last Saturday morning, some of the believers gathered at the home of an elderly lady who lived next to the Hall in Francistown, but who had passed away while in Gaborone for medical treatment. Mma Tebogo made a profession of faith in 2019. Her daughter passed away several years ago, and a grand-daughter two years ago, so she was responsible for some great-grandchildren. Other members of her family stay in the home or nearby. The various children attended Sunday School. Please pray for the family, especially those not yet saved.

In Francistown there is currently a surge in Covid cases. It is on the main route through Botswana from north to south, and is Botswana's second city. People are travelling between zones and spreading the virus. Other cases are from visitors or truck drivers coming up from South Africa, bringing the nastier strain with them!

Kgosi and Dorcas Mompati, who are in the assembly in Francistown, are both medical doctors who have a private clinic in the city. They have seen a number of patients and even a member of staff pass away as a result of the virus. It is very difficult for them during this time. Three members of the assembly have had Covid and been required to isolate. Thankfully, none have required hospitalisation. Sadly a fourth member, Mr Munyadzwe, was called home (see separate tribute).

Our three children, Rejoice, Thomas and James are now all together at the Clifton College, the local secondary school. James in in year 1, Thomas year 3 and Rejoice in the lower sixth form. She is a prefect and keeps her two naughty brothers and their friends in order! They are doing well generally and we are thankful. Your continued prayers are much valued.

C. 1999 21/2/21

JOHN & ONTY BANDY

BOTSWANA Pop. 2.4 Mil. UK 8 Francistown

An older brother from the Francistown assembly, Mr Munyadzwe, who had been in the Covid clinic in Francistown for six days on oxygen, passed away on 3 March. He leaves behind his beloved wife, 4 daughters, a son and an adopted daughter, all aged 30 to 50. He is the first believer in fellowship in Botswana to pass away from Covid.

Our brother was a faithful member of the assembly, and was the oldest brother in fellowship. He was a tall, gentle man who quietly continued for the Lord despite disappointments and health problems. He was saved in 1999 and shortly after was baptised and added to the assembly fellowship where he grew in the things of the Lord. John and Mr Munyadzwe were very close and he will be sorely missed by his family and friends. Prayer would be valued for Mrs Munyadzwe and the rest of the family.

Our adopted daughter Gaone has recently tested positive for Covid and is isolating with mild symptoms in the village where she teaches in a primary school.

C. 1999 21/2/21

JOHN & ONTY BANDY

1 5TH Psalms 132 & 133

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Meyzieu

In France we do have a curfew every night from 6pm until 6am. Consequently, all assembly activities in the evening are organised by Zoom or Skype. The discipling and mentoring that we are both involved in is also done by these means, which of course

is not ideal, as we prefer to be in the presence of those we are working with.

Brigitte is encouraged that there has been a slight rise in the number of people contacting us about the Emmaus courses. Before the Covid crisis, she usually received 30 letters with homework to be corrected each week. Over the last 9 months it reduced to 3 or 4 a week and sometimes none at all. Last week, she received 10 homework sheets to correct. We are also thrilled that a brother from a closed country who has not written to us for about a year has at last contacted us again. He sent us his homework and we have sent him another course free of charge. Please pray for this man who is growing in his faith and resisting pressure from his Muslim family and friends.

A lady in our church also needs prayer. She is in her late 70's. Her daughter recently moved to the West Indies and her son recently told her that he too is going to emigrate. She is very shaken by this news and does not know what to do: stay in Lyon or go and live with her daughter or son. Please pray for wisdom and peace.

C. 1980/84 4/3/21 DAVID & BRIGITTE SUTHERLAND

16TH Psalms 134 & 135

SRI LANKA Pop. 21 Mil. Writing from N Ireland

The assembly in Colombo has been sending out Correspondence Courses to aid the study of the Scriptures for the last four decades. Volunteers from the assembly at Bethesda distribute these courses and correspond with the students by post. This outreach work has resulted in thousands being reached with the gospel over the years.

In 2008 a couple from a denominational church in Kurunagela had seen some literature and wrote to the assembly in Colombo and asked to be added to the mailing list for the Correspondence Courses. From this couple, others learned about the courses and over 60 were studying the Scriptures in the small village of Ibbagamuwa in the Kurunagela district.

Subsequently, monthly meetings were organised and many visiting speakers from the UK taught in this village during their visits to Sri Lanka. One by one a number were saved and other denominational Christians became convicted that they should be following the teachings of the Word of God rather than the ideas of men. This group of believers decided to start meeting together in a home. Those who were saved were baptised in a local lake, and the Lord added to their company regularly. They were exercised to have a meeting place of their own, which in Sri Lanka would be very hard to get planning permission for. They decided that the building would also be used as a community building and one in which trades could be taught to those around them. Amazingly, full planning permission was granted, which was an answer to prayer.

The group of believers purchased some land with their own resources and subsequently the Lord provided the funds for them to start constructing their meeting place in late 2020. The hall will soon be finished. Please pray for them as they plan to start meeting in their own hall soon – what a thrill! These believers are very humble and diligent in the spread of the gospel in their own area. I have had the privilege of Breaking Bread and remembering the Lord with them on several occasions.

6/3/21 CHARLES DAVIDSON (N Ireland)

17TH Psalms 136 & 137

BIBLE EDUCATION SERVICES

Bible Education Services UK (BES) is a faith based Christian charity which writes, designs, publishes and supplies Bibletime booklets to children throughout the world. Postal Bible Schools (PBS) and others receive this material and use it with individuals, schools and churches. Currently the resource is being translated into 40 languages and distributed to millions of children in over 65 countries.

Egypt – Praise God for the Bibletime material which has been printed in Arabic and distributed to over 5,000 children.

Canada – The promotion of German Bibletime lessons on Hutterite colonies begins later this month. Please pray for a positive response.

Belarus – We give God thanks for the amazing interest in the BES material in Belarus, with Tim and his young team of volunteers sending Bibletime to over 3,000 children every month. Pray for continued protection, determination and endurance for all 30 staff members, whose average age is 20 years old, especially during these uncertain times of political unrest!

Myanmar – Please pray for the safety of the team and all missionaries and Christian workers in Myanmar. Pray about the political upheaval, military dictatorship, protests and violence currently engulfing our country. Pray for the translation of BES material into both Falam Chin and Burmese.

15/3/21

18TH

Psalms 138 & 139

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Vitoria

On 30 January I entered my eightieth year! Stephen and the family took Elizabeth and I up into the mountains to celebrate. The area is known as 'Blue Stone' and the scenery was beautiful, the setting ideal and the laughter hilarious. How merciful God has been to have given us a long life and so many songs along the way!

Although many assemblies are unable to meet in Brazil due to the devastating impact of the pandemic, we are grateful that the assembly in Goiabeiras was allowed to conduct our gospel outreach for the first time in many months. Last Sunday we were so pleased to see a definite increase in numbers attending the Lord's Supper and other activities as well. Until now, the Brazillian Government has managed to vaccinate less than 3% of the population. Due to shortages, in some of the larger cities vaccinations have stopped. Every day our prayer list grows. So many friends here, in Scotland and in Portugal have been infected with Covid-19. Some have pulled through, while others have been promoted to the Better Land.

C. 1966 1/3/21 WALTER & ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

19TH

Psalms 140 & 141

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Vitoria

We have previously mentioned brother Hebert. Cancer was discovered in various areas of his body and treated successfully. However, a recent scan has now detected brain cancer. He has been undergoing more treatment, including a medication brought from the USA. His recovery is uncertain. We feel very much for him, his wife Roberta and two young and beautiful children. Please continue to pray for this lovely family.

A national worker who lives in the Vitoria area is seriously ill in

hospital, another victim of Covid-19. His life hangs in the balance. Several other national workers have varying problems. Please remember Alexandre Maxwell Mendes and his wife Rosane, brother Alexandre Caetano, also from Vitoria, who is recovering from a cancer surgery, and a great number of young workers that feel the pinch of the economic downturn.

Walter had a pacemaker fitted recently. It is hoped that this will result in a better quality of life. Your prayer support is appreciated. C. 1966 1/3/21 WALTER & ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

 20^{th}

Psalms 142 & 143

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Loloma

At the start of the year, Tim was approached by the community radio station for the Manyinga area, to see if he would be willing to take a weekly gospel session in Lunda for about 30 minutes. The coverage of the station is very good, and many people listen to it. This was an opportunity too good to miss! During the last four weeks, each Thursday at 5pm locally here, this program has begun with good feedback. We request your prayer support for this new venture as we reach many people in the area with the life changing message of the gospel.

As we continue to seek the Lord's timing for our transition to the USA for the final education of our children, and especially their spiritual growth in an English speaking assembly, we have been greatly encouraged. An American/Canadian family have now confirmed that they are coming to join in the Lord's work here at Loloma. This is a very special answer to prayer, following communication with them for some months. They have three young children, with a fourth expected at the end of this month, so will greatly value your prayers as they move to Zambia, God willing, in June.

The assembly managed boarding school at Kayombo continues to encourage. The school has become very respected throughout this area, for which we thank the Lord. This is evidenced by the large number of parents wanting to secure a place for their children in either grade 8 or grade 10.

C. 1997 8/3/21

TIMOTHY & JOY BEER

21st

Psalms 144 & 145

TANZANIA Pop. 58 Mil. UK 6 Dar-es-Salam

The New Year began with 25 new children joining Watota wa Thamani (WWT) Day Care Centre. It always makes us smile seeing how little these 4 year-olds are, but they soon found their feet and their voices, and have settled in well. We have started to wear masks again, together with thermal temperature checks on entry. With the confirmation that Covid cases have returned to Tanzania again, we are taking all necessary precautions to protect everyone at WWT.

We also have some excellent news to share! Mama Christina, from a Catholic background, asked for baptism shortly after we sent out our last Update, saying she had trusted Christ for salvation. It was clear from the smile on her face and the joy with which she testified to her faith that her salvation was real. Then Mama Riziki, a Muslim lady who is the cleaner at WWT and who also regularly attends the Sunday meetings asked for baptism too! She indicated that she had trusted Christ through listening to the Bible stories told her by her children, who both attended WWT in the past. Apparently, they read the Bible to her every evening, as she is illiterate and cannot read for herself.

 24^{TH} Proverbs 1

The week before the baptisms, one of the elders in the assembly, Protas, and his wife Monica were delighted when their youngest daughter Jennifer, who is aged 16, testified that she had been saved on the last day of 2020. She apparently did not want to enter another year unsaved. She too now wanted to be baptised. So it was a joy and privilege for the assembly that these three recently saved believers, from very different backgrounds, were being obedient to the Lord and being baptised. It was quite an occasion with a large number of children and adults witnessing their public confession of faith in the Saviour. Please pray for each one of them that they may be protected from the evil one

C. 2002 26/2/21

and develop in their faith.

STEPHEN & GILL DAVIES

22ND

Psalms 146 & 147

TANZANIA Pop. 58 Mil. UK 6 Dar-es-Salam

Please pray for Mama Selina. From the start of term, she and her family were waiting outside the WWT gates each morning, asking for help. Not having met her or knowing her situation, we suggested that she come along to the Sunday meetings so that the local believers could understand her circumstances. It transpired that her husband, a motorbike taxi driver, had died in an accident at the beginning of 2020, leaving her with four children. The initial provision of a room rent free to help her sort herself out was coming to an end. The family looked clean and the children were not malnourished. She had managed to feed them regularly by digging sand and selling it.

When it became apparent that her need was genuine, we paid the rent on her room for 6 months, equipped her children with what they needed for school, and have periodically helped with a little food money. She has not missed a meeting so far this year. Here is another family which has been impacted for Christ, by firstly offering love and help, and then exposure to the gospel. Pray that there may be a breakthrough in Mama Selina's life too. With God, all things are possible!

C. 2002 26/2/21

STEPHEN & GILL DAVIES

73 RD Psalms 148 to 150

SPAIN Pop. 46.5 Mil. UK 8 Soria

In the middle of January the number of Covid infections rocketed in Soria, so the assembly went back to meeting on Zoom. Almost immediately, members of our assembly started to come down with Covid-19. Two sisters, our two elders' wives, were both admitted to hospital and one of them was placed in intensive care. She is still on oxygen and struggling to recover. The other sister was in a ward and will soon be going home after a bad case of pneumonia. Many others have been ill and some family members in other countries have died causing great sadness at not being able to be with them.

In the midst of it all we were able to distribute calendars and literature, with a daily gospel verse. It is always so encouraging to see how people love to read them, and we are convinced that many have come to faith in Christ through the short Bible reading and message each day.

Helen is just back from spending a month in Thoiry, near Geneva, awaiting the birth of our second grandson and helping out Ruben and Cecillia with little Kilian. Baby Milan arrived safely and is giving much joy to all. What a blessing it is to be grandparents! Thanks for your prayers for us and our family. We greatly appreciate them.

C. 1983 4/3/21 JESUS & HELEN ORITZ

BELGIUM Pop. 11.5 Mil. UK 1 Assebroek

Thank you for your continued prayers for the work here. I do appreciate your involvement, especially as I see the Lord transforming people. I think of one woman I meet with who came back to the Lord after leading an immoral life. She was living in guilt, shame and anxiety. It is a joy to hear of her speaking of how she knows the Lord's forgiveness, His bearing and removing of her shame, and His restoring of her life.

Please continue to pray for the individual women I meet with, who have asked for help with depression, suicidal tendencies, abuse, adultery and addictions. Please pray that they too would experience the Lord transforming their lives.

At the end of March and during April, I will be teaching some women in Zambia about how to counsel rape victims. Tragically, this is a common problem in Zambia and in many parts of Africa. Your prayers would be appreciated for good internet connections. We also need help in order to reach across cultural differences, as we look to the Lord and Scripture for how to help people.

C. 1999 9/3/21

ANNE DRYBURGH

25TH Proverbs 2

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Pirassununga

Our region has seen a sharp rise in Covid infection rates, and our local government has imposed a curfew from 8pm to 5am. Our meetings will have to be at 6pm, but we can still meet here. In many other parts of Brazil, assemblies are not able to meet at present.

All here have thankfully been kept safe, for which we are thankful to the Lord. Toninho, a neighbour who comes to meetings sporadically, was out again on Lord's day. Please pray for his salvation in these difficult times.

C. 1998 27/2/21

WILLIAM & ELEN WATTERSON

26TH Proverbs 3

ALBANIA Pop. 3 Mil. UK 4 Shkoder

Please pray for elections that are due to be held in Albania at the end of April. There is increasing discontent regarding the two main parties and turnout for voting may be very low. Most of the young people want to leave and live abroad away from the corruption.

We continue to meet in the assembly with Covid restrictions. Pray for Colin as he teaches through Ecclesiastes and pray for Elida who is busy with discipleship classes with the teenage girls. C. 1997 5/3/21 COLIN & ELIDA STEPHEN

27TH Proverbs 4

COLUMBIA Pop. 50.3 Mil. Duitama/Cucata

Just recently, my commending assembly in Eureka Springs AR, sent me an updated letter of commendation, including a certain Alejandra Killins! Having this spiritual support is very important to Alejandra and I, and, as a relatively recently married couple, we are excited to now be serving our Lord together, as we look to evangelise and establish churches among Columbians and Venezuelans.

We are always going to remember our 'pandemic honeymoon church' that we got to be a part of starting in the beautiful city of Duitama these past six months. As we get ready to move back to the border city of Cucuta, we are a bit sad to be leaving this 'miracle' church in Duitama behind. I say 'miracle' because it seems like a miracle that God was able to establish this local church so quickly – and in the middle of a pandemic! In recent months, so many young people have come to know Christ as their Saviour and started to follow Him. Every time Alejandra and I think about it, we are amazed at how hungry our new Christian friends are in wanting to learn from the Scriptures. It has been a pure joy to host them practically every day in the former restaurant that we turned into our new church building.

It will be a wrench moving from Duitama, but we believe the Lord is calling us back to Cucuta to keep helping and pastoring our Venezuelan immigrant friends in that great city. They have continued to meet together in the name of our Lord in our absence, and have clearly grow spiritually as well. We pray for your help as we transition from Duitama to Cucuta as it is a delicate process. We still plan to visit and help the believers at Duitama from time to time.

C. 2009 (USA) 24/3/21 SAM & ALEJANDRA KILLINS

 28^{TH}

Proverbs 5:1 to 6:19

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Foz du Iguacu

During these days of uncertainty, brother Emerly (aged 92) had to be brought to the assembly meetings by his grandson. He is also a believer, but meets in a denominational church. After some visits he brought his wife and two young daughters with him. Last weekend he asked about the assembly and fellowship. After a good conversation, Edimar and Marcia decided that they would both like to come into fellowship. Tomorrow it will be a joy to see this young couple welcomed into the fellowship of the local assembly. Pray with us that they grow stronger in the Lord and in His service.

Usually on Saturday afternoons, six children take part in an online children's club. This has been good during the pandemic to keep these youngsters minds active in getting to know the Lord. Then, as regulations eased, they started to come on Lord's Day evening to have Sunday School classes in the Hall as well. Due to rising infection rates, this activity has had to stop for the next two Sundays, to obey the law. The Lord knows best and is still in control. Pray for these young people, that they may be blessed with salvation.

C. 1980 20/2/21

JEFF & DENISE WATSON

29TH

Proverbs 6:20 to 7:27

MIDDLE EAST Writing from Jordan

Despite local restrictions due to Covid, the assembly in Amman is able to meet via Zoom every Friday and Sunday. The number of people attending is now over 200, including individuals and entire families, and it is continuing to grow. We thank the Lord that His Word is increasingly reaching out to people.

In addition to our work locally, we also continue with our outreach online which is having an impact in the 'real world'. We are daily answering many questions we receive, finding ways to provide Bibles that people are asking for, and seeing many accept the Lord Jesus as their Saviour as a consequence. The Facebook and Social Media ministry has increased in one year from 35,000 followers to 115,000. The majority are from the other background and from many countries in the Middle East. Please play for this work.

A lady from Algeria was searching for Christ for three years. She is from the other background and was extremely afraid that

her family might kill her (which is a real threat). However, there was nobody locally to help her or lead her to the Lord. She found our Facebook page, and shared her story and her fears with us. We explained to her the message of salvation as contained in the Bible. It was not too long before this dear woman accepted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour. Please pray for our sister as she longs to serve the Lord Jesus but she is in extreme danger because of her faith in Jesus Christ.

21/3/21 MR & MRS Z

 30^{TH}

Proverbs 8

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Chingola

I am thankful to the Lord that I am making a good recovery after my hip replacement operation. I am now able to drive again, which means I don't have to bother other people when I need to go anywhere. However, my family have been very good and insist it has been no bother!

Thankfully, with regard to Covid, things here are not as bad as in other countries and life goes on much the same as usual, apart from the wearing of masks and some social distancing. We are grateful that assembly meetings continue as usual. Some of the ladies who come to my home have unsaved husbands, so really enjoy a time of fellowship when we can talk about the things of the Lord.

C. 1967 6/3/21

BARBARA TOWSE

C=Date of Commendation

UK=Missionaries (approx.)

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