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 Proverbs 9

ST LUCIA Pop. 0.19 Mil. Ciceron

We continue to seek the Lord's help with assembly responsibilities in the very small assembly in Ciceron, where six others meet with us in fellowship. Earlier this year the assembly organized a 3-week series of online gospel meetings. This is the first time this has been tried here, but we felt it was necessary at a time when people are restricted in attending the hall. We were all very encouraged at the numbers who listened each night to Brandon Doll (US) and Jack Gould (my father in Canada) preach the gospel. We continue to pray for this work and give thanks for a contact who was saved in the US through listening to the messages on YouTube. The Word of the Lord is not bound!

Weekly visitation continues in the small fishing village of Anse la Raye, where we have been working for the past few years. Pray for Yannic, who we met while handing out the latest edition of Via magazine. We have spoken in the past and he struggles with the idea of being assured of salvation.

This past Sunday there was the baptism of a young woman, named Denila. It has been a real encouragement to us, as she is the friend of a young sister in the La Guerre assembly. She was baptized in the ocean and it was wonderful to see some of her family come to witness her baptism. Very few, if any of her immediate family would be saved. We bless God for working in her life. Please pray for Denila and her family.

PHIL & TRENA GOULD

1/4/21

C. 2017 (Can)

2ND Proverbs 10

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Writing from N Ireland

As you will be aware, things are not good in Brazil presently. The month of March has been by far the worst month of the pandemic across the whole country, but especially in Rio Grande do Sul. In both private and public hospitals, demand for ICU beds has significantly exceeded capacity. People are dying in the queue to get an ICU bed. Thankfully, the Lord's people have been greatly preserved considering all of this. Many have contracted the virus and have recovered. A dear sister from Sao Leopoldo called Angelita, aged 52, contracted the virus and was hospitalised, but the Lord called her home. We pray for her dear husband Omero and family as they come to terms with their great loss.

The brethren in Kilkeel have asked me to have a series of gospel meetings in the hall there. They are due to start on 18th April, God willing. I will appreciate your prayers for these meetings and also for the great need in Brazil, where we would be but for the present circumstances.

C. 2014 5/4/21 JOHN & ROSEMARY DAVISON

SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Bridge of Weir

On Sunday we met in Bridge of Weir as an assembly for only the third time in a year, and have very much appreciated returning to the hall and enjoying fellowship with the Lord and His people. I know that the Zoom meetings may continue for some time, for some of the meetings, but it was good to get back to remembering the Lord in breaking bread. Looking back, we could hardly have conceived that we would not have been together for a full year. In addition, we have had the joy of baptising John Mark Kermath, who lost his dad to Covid a year ago, and receiving him and another young sister, Daisy Bain, into fellowship.

There is no doubt that we have been reaching into our community more in the last year, and the Gospel has been heard by far more people in our village than at any time that I can remember. We don't want to lose that sense of reaching out and retreat into our hall with the Gospel.

Serving the Lord in the last year has been stimulating and has shaken me out of some ruts. It has made me appreciate opportunities that I may have taken for granted, especially in the schools. It is invigorating to think of what opportunities lie ahead in the Lord's will. May He give us all the energy, wisdom and desire to serve Him well in days that lie ahead.

22/4/21 STEPHEN & SHARON GRANT

4TH Proverbs 12

VENEZUELA Pop. 28.5 Mil. UK 7 Writing from N Ireland In December 1998, Hugo Chavez was elected president of Venezuela. Many thought that better days were in store for the country, and a man had been found who would solve all the problems of the poor. Sadly, this has not been the case. After 22 years of Socialism, the country has been brought to its knees. Private enterprise has been almost eliminated and all government-controlled industry is on its last legs.

Cost of living is soaring; wages are very low and many are out of work. Presently, most basic food items and medicine are available but at a price most are not able to afford. Now with the added problem of Covid19, the situation has become very serious. The new strain from Brazil has arrived and is very active. The hospitals are not in any way prepared or able to cope.

The Lord has been gracious to His people. Through the exercise and generosity of many assemblies and individual believers from outside the country, the Christians have been greatly encouraged by the help received. Since the beginning of 2021, with the help of Samuel and many other dear brethren in Venezuela, we have been able to buy food and have it distributed to 3,461 families from 104 different assemblies. This has caused much praise to be given to God from grateful hearts. The spiritual, social, economic and pandemic needs in Venezuela remain great. Pray, brethren, pray!

C. 1968 19/4/21 UEL & RAY USSHER

5TH Proverbs 13

ZIMBABWE Pop. 15 Mil. UK 7 Bulawayo

We are now able to travel freely by road anywhere within the country. The land borders however, are still restricted. Travel by air is now available, although flights are scarce. Masks must be worn in public. Churches are allowed a maximum of 50 people in attendance.

Last December I was able to distribute seed and fertiliser to believers in the Harare area. There have been good rains this year and so now there is an expectation of a good harvest in May. However, before the harvest comes in there is a time of hunger. So in March I was able to make another donation of food to help through these lean months.

Social interaction has been very slight over the past months. As with so many others, it has been a solitary existence. Here in Bulawayo we have had to suspend cooking the meals that we used to provide for the needy. Instead, we have substituted the meals with food distributions on a 6-weekly basis, to the same people who would otherwise have come for the meals on Saturday afternoons.

C. 1976 3/4/21

DERYCK JONES

6TH Proverbs 14

ETHIOPIA Pop. 112 Mil. UK 4 Writing from Scotland I was recently able to visit Ethiopia again, and have just returned from spending more than 9 weeks there. I had wondered whether I would be able to go this year at all but God overruled. However, I did have a fairly hasty exit! Ethiopia was going to be put on the 'red list' of countries on Friday 19th March, so I got the last flight out of Addis the day before. I had to quarantine at home for ten days and submit two Corona tests, which were thankfully both negative.

One Saturday in Ethiopia we were at a place called Chefi Dosa in the middle of nowhere. The recent developments there are thrilling. Two athletes who lived in the village were friends. One was a believer and he witnessed to his friend and he was converted. They discovered that there was a running club in another part of Ethiopia and off they went to join this club. In this village, they came into contact with an assembly, and when they returned to their own village, they began to witness in Chefi Dosa. Soon 19 people trusted Christ and were baptised. Another 9 have accepted Christ and are being taught the meaning of baptism.

This is not an offshoot from another assembly, but is totally virgin territory. There is not a church of any kind in the village. The believers have been given a piece of ground freely by the local council and have now put up a temporary building. As well as preaching there, we were able to give them help so that they could build a more permanent hall. There is a witch doctor in the village, but his daughter is one of those who have trusted Christ, and the believers have a midweek meeting on his ground! Pray that he may be saved.

The number of believers and assemblies in Ethiopia is growing, for which we give God thanks. Prayer would be valued that these believers will be guided by local elders in assembly teaching. We also value prayer for a good witness in this part of East Africa.

C. 1969 2/4/21 ROBERT REVIE

7TH Proverbs 15

CANADA Pop. 37 Mil. Nova Scotia

We are thankful that in Nova Scotia we haven't been as hard hit with the pandemic as some Provinces. It is the one time to be grateful that we live in a sparsely populated area.

During our Zoom meetings last year, one of our granddaughters got saved and we heard of another lady in Ontario trusting the Lord about the same time. We are so joyful at this news! We hope to recommence drive-in gospel meetings when the weather warms up a bit. Although we have been able to gather now for over ten months, our most promising outreach has not been able to resume, which is the children's work, since most children have to be transported to and from the hall.

I would be grateful if you could pray for my neighbours across the road from me. Their children used to come to Sunday School before Covid, but the parents rarely came. The mother, who is almost 38 years of age, is scheduled to have open heart surgery within the next 4-6 weeks. These circumstances has opened up a little opportunity to get closer to them and in the course of conversation, I have been able to share how the Gospel came into my family. They were willing to accept Gospel literature. They have a lot of contacts and their salvation and changed lives would have a big impact in the community. Please pray for this family and the work of the assembly here at Clementsvale.

19/4/21 AMY McCLELLAND

8TH Proverbs 16

MALAWI Pop. 19 Mil. Writing from N Ireland

We are grateful to the Lord for the tremendous interest in Gospel literature in Malawi. After a long Covid-related delay in customs, our literature container was finally released at the beginning of March, and brothers Harold and Goodson set about supplying our nearly 200-strong network of literature distributors with calendars and tracts. By the end of the month almost all 500,000 calendars, and a very significant proportion of the 1,000,000 tracts had been distributed. As a result, we have had to arrange printing of another 600,000 tracts in Malawi to try to meet the demand in the coming months.

After a short pause due to the rainy season, the development of the site at Saidi is about to resume. Our immediate priorities are the completion of the perimeter security wall and the erection of a suitable meeting place for children's work and Gospel meetings. We would also like to build office accommodation for translation work and additional storage for literature.

Thereafter, we would like to provide necessary accommodation to host long-overdue and much-needed Bible teaching conferences. I am planning on being in Malawi for a short visit from mid-late May to help oversee the drilling of a borehole and the installation of solar panels and water tanks.

We are thrilled to see Anna Vallance's plans to join the work in Malawi apparently fall into place. Lord willing, she also hopes to arrive in late May, although her itinerary is very much in the hands of the airlines too. Please pray for her safe arrival and the ongoing work of the Lord in Malawi.

C. 2003 21/4/21

STEPHEN & GAIL HARPER

9TH Proverbs 17

SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Lanarkshire

The past year has given so many different opportunities in the Gospel. For example, we have been holding online Gospel meetings each Sunday since March 2020. We have had over 1,000 people watch some messages. While the numbers are good, what is encouraging is the numbers of locals who are watching. The local electrician told me that he watched every week with the family! The local republican band organiser has been watching each week too, as well as many locals we would never get into our hall.

We are grateful that much of our local outreach work in schools has not stopped during the pandemic. I have kept going with my weekly assemblies, live online classroom teaching and pre-recorded lessons. Amazingly during March I had to record 23 class lessons (45 minutes each) and 20 Easter lessons for school assemblies. Many of these lessons were passed around and shared by different schools, which has subsequently resulted

in access to 'new' schools for me! The Bible teaching in schools is still going on even in these times, which is something to give God thanks for.

We held weekly online Lockdown Bible clubs over the last 12 months. Some nights we had 60 children logging in. The participation from the youngsters was wonderful, as they enthusiastically completed tasks and activities set each week. During some special weeks of online kids meetings with other assemblies, we had the joy of hearing of a young lad who accepted Christ as his Saviour. God still works in Lockdown!

With a burden for teenage believers, we held a virtual youth weekend which proved a real blessing, with over 300 attending. The interest and the feedback was very good, and we are all encouraged by it. We held nine sessions between February and March and trust that God will bless the Bible teaching given throughout. It is clear that young Christians are missing the company of other young believers and this is something we should all pray about, especially as Lockdown restrictions ease.

Please also pray for our many Summer outreach plans, which at present are uncertain. They include plans for Edinburgh, St Andrews, portable hall work, Summer Fair and Trailer work and camps.

13/4/21

GRAEME & ANNA PATERSON

 10^{TH}

VENEZUELA Pop. 28.5 Mil. UK 7 Los Altos

During February, fuel became easier to buy and restrictions due to coronavirus were less rigid so we were able to visit the brethren in Cumana after a year's absence. It filled us with joy to see the small group, faithful and encouraged despite the difficulties. In Cumana there is no assembly as yet but some have professed faith in Christ in the last few years. The few believers meet weekly in the backyard of brother Valentin's house. Please remember Cumana in your prayers.

We also had the privilege of visiting the Zurita and San Pedrito assemblies for three weeks. These are small groups but faithful to the Lord, and it is a joy to share in the warm fellowship of the Lord's people. While we were in Zurita helping in the construction of a kitchen area and some modifications to the hall, a 94 year old sister called Esther Rivas, from San Pedrito, went home to be with the Lord. So for a few nights after work was finished for the day, we cleaned up and headed further down the mountain to San Pedrito to join the brethren in gospel meetings at the wake. Mrs Esther got saved 25 years ago and left a sweet fragrance among the believers and unsaved. We continue to pray for a good number of her relatives who attended and are not yet saved.

A couple of weeks ago fuel became very hard to get once again and severe quarantine restrictions are back in place. The new wave of the deadly Brazilian variant of the virus has arrived and is hitting hard. Gospel meetings being held in the hall in Los Altos have had to be cancelled. Other plans are on hold for now. Please pray for Venezuela!

C. 2018 (Ven) 2/4/21

PEDRO & LOIS MALAVE

11TH Proverbs 19

N. IRELAND Pop. 1.8 Mil.

The drive-in season of meetings has blossomed in N Ireland again, now that spring is in the air, and it is great to see the work go on across the province despite all the limitations. It is encouraging to

see God at work still. Four weeks in the Gospel with John Rogers at Ballyshiel have flown past. Planning for the meetings was at short notice yet looking back now, there is little doubt that they were in the mind of God. Whilst it is sometimes hard to guage the interest in drive-in meetings, we were encouraged that the word spoken had an effect on various hearts. We wait to hear news of God blessing this effort in the Gospel.

We have made a start in Omagh now. The assembly there have organised a postal drop of 13,000 invitations and it would be great to see some response from the town. The meetings are in the yard of Omagh Livestock Market, which is very suitable. Plenty of need is represented at the meetings.

It is good to see brighter headlines in the news as regards the easing of restrictions. We are all likely a bit more stretched and threadbare than we realise and assembly fellowship has been under a fair strain too. We trust that we will be able to step forward in wisdom and unity. It is precious to know that the One who gently leads still goes before us.

C. 2019 31/3/21 RAYMOND & LOUISA KIRKPATRICK

12TH Proverbs 20:1 to 21:11

JAPAN Pop. 127 Mil. Writing from N Ireland

Eileen and I were clearly led back to Japan to serve in the Koshigaya Assembly way back in October 2018 in the most amazing way. We were given the same verse from the Lord on the same day, namely 'Behold, I set before you an open door, which no man can shut (Rev 3:8)'. The believers in Koshigaya and Matsubushi had been praying that we would return to serve there again. That day I was visiting the university where I previously taught part time and amazingly, another part time teacher quit his job and they were now looking for a replacement. Two professors who knew that I was back visiting Japan approached me and asked if I would come back! I was very shocked, but told them I would think and pray about it. When I called Eileen in the UK that evening, I never mentioned the verse, but said 'what would you think if the Lord made it possible for us to return and serve Him in Japan again?'. There was stunned silence, then after a while, she said that the Lord had spoken to her that morning through the exact same verse!

The rest is history and within a couple of months we found ourselves back in Japan again.

C. 1988 20/4/21

NOEL & EILEEN HAMILTON

13TH Proverbs 21:12 to 22:16

JAPAN Pop. 127 Mil. Writing from N Ireland

As we returned to Japan, the believers were so excited that the Lord had answered their prayers. One year became two, and the university asked me to teach for a third year, even though I was fast approaching my 72nd birthday. Initially I said yes without hesitation, but 2020 was a very difficult year for everyone, and especially for our family. Back here one of our daughters had a tragic family situation to deal with, while another daughter in Japan gave birth to our 3rd grandchild last June. Ellis has a cleft palate and other complications, requiring perhaps several surgeries.

The treatment (and lack of) in Japan, with all its frustrations, led them to seek the Lord's will and that turned out to be a heart rending decision to return to the UK last October. Eileen accompanied them, leaving me on my own for the next few months. The Lord made it clear to Eileen and I that we should

not do a further year but return and retire (again) to the UK in early February this year. That was also a heartbreaking decision, as were all the goodbyes to the believers and assemblies. During our time in Japan, the Lord did amazing things, and we were so blessed being back again, even for a few years. The Lord worked in many lives, our own included.

Baby Ellis is due to have his first surgery in June, God willing. We now also have a fourth grandchild, Ezekiel (Zeke), now 6 months old. He also has a problem with asthma, so we now understand why the Lord brought us back here again.

We are so grateful for your prayerful and practical support over many years and would value your continued prayers for us and our family.

C. 1988 20/4/21

NOEL & EILEEN HAMILTON

14TH

Proverbs 22:17 to 23:11

NEW ZEALAND Pop. 4.9 Mil.

We are so grateful that God's provisions are enjoyed daily. As Paul wrote, 'my God will meet all our needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19)'. How we have proved this multiple times since we stepped out in service for Him in 1975, both in Latin America and here in New Zealand.

In our past service for the Lord we have met many fellow workers commended from Scottish assemblies. It was especially thrilling to meet Jim and Betty Burnett in Argentina in 1996, and after that visiting them a number of times, and participating in their work for the Lord. Jim spoke so highly of my Uncle William (Willie Trew) and his ministry. I did not know him because as a family we emigrated to New Zealand when I was seven.

With a few health issues we are not as active in a more expansive ministry as we were before. However, with the Lord's help, we do what we can. During lockdown, it was a privilege to minister through the media of 'Zoom'. Sharing in the preaching ministry in our own assembly now that we are out of lockdown is a service that I enjoy. Margaret seeks to do her bit among the women locally and more extensively through telephone calls and pastoral care of some who seek her help.

In the small retirement village where we stay, we have opportunities to converse with neighbours about spiritual matters and present the Gospel. Sadly, some have closed minds and have no thought of eternity. One woman we are friendly with – an ex academic in English literature – is open to the Gospel, asking many questions. She is keen to read literature that focuses on biblical responses to her questions. Recently, a family from the Philippines began attending our small assembly. What a blessing to try to help them practically and spiritually. What a blessing it is to do what we can in the Lord's strength, until He comes.

C. 1975 (NZ) 11/3/21 GEORGE & MARGARET TREW

1 **5**TH

Proverbs 23:12-35

ALBANIA Pop. 3 Mil. UK 4 Tirana

The pandemic has certainly gone on much longer than we anticipated and with it has brought many challenges, but the Lord has been faithful throughout. In Albania, we are experiencing the second big wave of Covid19 infections and the death toll has reached almost 2,000 since last March. As the government is unable to offer financial assistance and political elections are

approaching, it appears that despite the increasing number of cases, we will not go into another lockdown.

Here in Tirana we are still permitted to meet in person with some restrictions in place. We enjoy being together on Lord's Day and also on Saturday for the children's work and literature outreach. We meet online on Tuesday evenings for prayer and on Thursday evenings for systematic Bible study. We are also regularly involved in visiting the believers during the week.

A high proportion of believers have contracted the virus over the past year and unfortunately a number have lost their lives. The lack of medical resources has constrained us all to care more for one another and this has produced a spirit of unity within each local assembly.

Benjamin and Esther continue to attend school with the wearing of masks compulsory while Sylvia undertakes her usual sessions at the clinic. They have had a significant number of foreigners and missionaries attending for covid assessments and treatment, along with local Albanians who have succumbed to the virus. The hospitals, both public and private, are riddled with Covid19 and sick staff are expected to come to work so for many, we are the safest option they have here. Thankfully as a family we have been preserved until now and look to the Lord for the future. Many medical supplies are now running out in the country and prices have rocketed, but we are able to help out with the funding of medicines for the poorer believers in particular.

C. 2008 1/4/21

ENRIS & SYLVIA NASE

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Proverbs 24

N. IRELAND Pop. 1.8 Mil.

We continue to organise the display of God's Word through a variety of Gospel signage formats, including billboards, roller signs, static signs and on the sides of phone boxes and buses. We are encouraged at the Bible requests that result from this activity. Sometimes people contact us directly, like a dear Muslim man who rang last week. He was clearly seeking peace, which he had not been able to find elsewhere. Pray for him; he has been sent suitable literature. Indeed, pray for all those who make contact and for those who read the scriptures displayed.

Restrictions in the South of Ireland are due to ease in the coming days. Gary Woods and I plan to commence a series of drive-in Gospel meetings with the assembly in Clones. The venue is a large gravel yard on the outskirts of the town, and we look to the Lord for His blessing in salvation.

We are glad to be able to preach the gospel presently at a drive-in series in Maghera with brother Stanley Davison, as an outreach from the assembly at Gorteade. We have been very encouraged at the good number of locals attending, as well as many unsaved children of believers. Pray with us as we look to the Lord for blessing.

C. 2017 19/4/21

PAUL & LINDA KISSICK

17TH

Proverbs 25:1 to 26:12

INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Narsapur

Miss Geetha, a 28 year old woman with HIV/AIDS was admitted to Bethesda in a very serious condition. Doctors and nurses treated her with the utmost care and love for six days. However, the patient died on 5th April. We know that during her short stay in hospital she has seen the love of Christ. She has two children. Please pray for them and her husband.

Centenary renovation work has started with the school building. This extensive work will enable 'smart' internet learning and other changes in the children's curriculum. At present we have 51 children in the school. Please pray for these children and for wisdom in relation to this extensive building project.

8/4/21

BETHESDA (LEPROSY) HOSPITAL

18TH

Proverbs 26:13 to 27:27

UKRAINE Pop. 44 Mil. UK 4 Lviv

On our return to Ukraine in February, we appreciated the help of Lubchic to quickly design and print a Gospel calendar which we have widely distributed. We are praying that God will bless His own good Word.

Ruslan and Tanya from the assembly contracted Covid in early March and were extremely sick for two weeks but have now fully recovered and returned to work. They expressed their thanks for the prayers of so many.

We are grateful for the opportunity every Tuesday to have fellowship in the Gospel with Dan Perez, a missionary in Ivano Frankisk. The meeting is well attended and God has blessed in the past.

Although Covid has radically changed our movements and has brought many restrictions, we are happy to be able to go to the two gypsy camps and share the Gospel in the 'open air'. Now that spring has arrived, access to the mountain villages of the Carpathians gives multiple opportunities to reach out with the Gospel. Prayer would be valued for the believers and their witness in Ukraine.

C. 2010 1/4/21

EDMUND & AGNES JOHNSTON

19TH

Proverbs 28

SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil Fife

Although this last 12 months has been difficult for all of us, we know God has been working in salvation and restoration and are grateful that He has given us work to do despite the restrictions. We have just received news that we will be able to recommence, along with our brother Jack Hay, the 'drive-in' gospel meetings, in Lochore Meadows Country Park.

There is much work to be done, in terms of pastoral work with individuals whose lives God has graciously touched this last year and with whom we are working. Dick, for example, who was saved last year at the 'drive-in' meetings is now gravely ill with lung cancer having been diagnosed in February. He is witnessing to everyone despite his weakness. A friend of my brother Euan and I professed faith in Christ in March. We 'happened' to meet him on a walk, after not seeing him for decades, under conviction of sin and longing for peace with God. Another young man, who first came to tent meetings we had with Simon Sherwin in Methilhill two years ago, has been saved after the 'on-line' conference in January. His mother came to know the Saviour a few weeks later. Praise God. We were privileged to speak at his baptism a week past Sunday and he is now in fellowship in Innerleven. His mother is also going to be baptised soon. This has encouraged us and the assembly in Leven. Please keep these people in prayer.

29/4/21

CRAIG & HANNAH MUNRO

20TH

Proverbs 29

INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Writing from Scotland

I have been preaching in India each month throughout this past year and able to develop lines of truth. The 'Present Truth' magazine is now being translated into Marathi, Hindi, Kannada and Telegu as well as an Indian 'English' edition. The situation currently in India is deeply troubling with the village areas now deeply affected by Covid-19 as well as the cities. The villages have minimal medical facilities and have been largely unaffected in the first wave. The hospitals are full, and this past week people have been literally dying outside of the hospitals. Many of God's people have been called home. We were updated today of another two evangelists who have been called home who served in the North of the country and have been widely used in the upbuilding of assembly testimony. There are several exercised brethren who are seeking to get basic medical supplies and practical support to where it is needed but the lack of oxygen is a major concern. Being seen to divert oxygen supplies is a criminal offence, involving imprisonment. These 'faithful' brothers and sisters are also in danger as they get medical supplies to the village assemblies. Please pray for India and God's people's whose faith is being severely tested. 29/4/21 **CRAIG & HANNAH MUNRO**

21ST Proverbs 30

SRI LANKA Pop. 21 Mil. Writing from N Ireland

In the east of Sri Lanka, the assembly at Alamkulam initially met in a hall made of banana leaves! However, after a few years a new hall was built in which the Lord has blessed and as a result the hall now needs to be double the original size. Another good problem to have! The foundation to this extension has been laid and we hope to incorporate facilities to prepare food as well. I have found in Asia that many live in very remote areas and travel long distances to assembly meetings, usually by walking and are often hungry. Many also have no fellowship within their families and need time with other Christians apart from being at a meeting. Pray for the assembly at Alamkulam, the outreach work they are in involved in and this proposed extension to their hall.

Another assembly in the east of Sri Lanka is at Palchchenai. The 'hall' where the believers meet is a lean-to building on the side of a brother's house. The assembly there has also grown, being blessed by the Lord in their outreach. Many have been praying about the possibility of buying a separate piece of land with proper title, although this is an area in which good title deeds are hard to get. In addition, land there is costly, sometimes even more expensive than in parts of the UK. Please remember the believers at Palchchenai, the work of the Lord in Sri Lanka generally and also the national workers, who tirelessly travel around in difficult and sometimes dangerous circumstances taking the Word of God to their fellow countrymen.

10/4/21

CHARLES DAVIDSON (N Ireland)

ND Proverbs 31

NEPAL Pop. 29.2 Mil. Writing from N Ireland

On 14th April, Dinesh (Damak assembly) and Ashish (Dhulari assembly) travelled almost 150 miles north to a place called Sakranti to visit Ajay and Rabin. This is the same place where they were previously caught by police and imprisoned for distributing tracts! Rabin is a believer who was saved at Damak. They went to share the Gospel there after much prayer and exercise concerning the area, which has no assembly – yet! Yesterday was the last Gospel meeting with them. Rubina (Rabin's younger sister), Arati (Ajay's cousin) and Ajay's mother are seriously searching for salvation. Please remember them in prayer.

Dhulari is the first city you come to on the Indian/Nepal border. It is a very important and influential place in Nepal .

I normally try to spend a month in Nepal every year, usually the 2

weeks after boxing day followed by the last 2 weeks in February. During my visit in January 2019, the believers from Dhulari who made the journey to Damak every Sunday to Break Bread decided that they would build a lean-to against one of their houses and have it all done for my end of February visit for gospel meetings. They did all the work themselves and had it ready in time. The plaster was still wet but their enthusiasm in the things of the Lord and keenness for their neighbours to hear the gospel was invigorating!

The first meeting was so special, not just because it was full but that I was the only Christian inside; it was composed of 100% Hindu people. It showed me that the assembly believers who live in Dhulari have a great testimony among the local people. It was my privilege to be asked to speak at their meeting when they remembered the Lord in Dhulari for the first time in January 2020.

Unlike many places in the world which due to covid has gone into hibernation, the work in Nepal has not. Due to the Lord continuing to work among them, it is now recognised that the assembly in Dhulari needs a more permanent building situated on an independent site. This needs much prayer and thought, but it is good to have to grapple with such challenges. Please pray for the preservation and progress of the work in Nepal.

17/4/21

CHARLES DAVIDSON (N Ireland)

 23^{RD}

Ecclesiastes 1:1 to 2:10

ROMANIA Pop 19.5 Mil. UK 4 Cluj

Sadly, brother Daniel, who was baptised in February, passed away in March. Tim spoke at his funeral, both in the home and at the cemetery. Many of his family are unbelievers and so we pray that the Gospel messages may speak to their hearts and draw them to our Saviour.

It was a joy to witness another young man in the Cluj assembly getting baptised last month. Flaviu had been raised in a Christian family but had not accepted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour until quite recently. We are also encouraged to hear that several of the young married couples are expecting little ones! This keeps Jenny busy crocheting baby blankets for them all!

On the nice days we are repairing one of the balconies to Casa Luca which has suffered from bad weathering. The balcony needs a new metal subframe and replacement decking, and we are pressing on with this project. Currently we have a mother and son – Claudia and Ionuti, and two elderly ladies, Dorina and Voichita in Casa Luca. We are expecting another couple to join us soon. We ask the Lord to send along those who need our help spiritually during their worrying time of illness and treatment. C. 2002 17/4/21 TIM & JENNY GOODING

74TH

Ecclesiastes 2:11 to 3:15

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Nantes

We are at present in a third lockdown period, hopefully for four weeks only. It doesn't make a huge difference to our lives really. The bookshop is allowed to stay open, as is the church for our Sunday meetings. However, we cannot travel more than ten kilometres from home without an acceptable reason, and only essential shops are open.

We ask prayer for the situation at the bookshop. It is considered an essential service so is open, but it's been quite a lean week since the lockdown began. Last Tuesday I had no customers at all, but a workman came in to see about changing our boiler, which is not working. He asked me lots of questions about Evangelicals, what we believe, and how we practice our faith. It was one of those moments when you know the Lord has allowed circumstances to be as they

are so that He can do His work. Let's pray for the workman! Pray too that customers will come to the shop despite most being closed.

Some of the teens linked to the church are showing an interest in baptism. Several have also committed to a fairly ambitious Bible-reading plan. This is great news for us. The youth group has really taken off these past months and some of the teens are inviting non-Christian friends to come along. Join us in praising the Lord for these encouragements.

C. 1985/88

12/4/21

GERRY & DOROTHY SEED

25TH

Ecclesiastes 3:16 to 4:16

CANADA Pop. 37 Mil. Portage la Prairie

The online children's meetings concluded at the end of March. On average, over 80 children attended each week. We value prayer for these precious souls, that they might be saved.

Please also pray for two recent VIA magazine distributions, specifically to advertise the two radio programs. In Morden, 4400 were distributed and last week 2,700 were sent to Neepawa. We trust that they will be read and that as a result, some will tune in to hear God's Word.

Please pray for D who wrote in to Anchorpoint Radio. A message on the Pharisee and the Publican appears to have hit home. We hope that he will continue listening and soon find Christ as his Saviour.

Last night I got a text from R in Flin Flon, asking if he could call me. He had heard Compass Point last Monday. He wanted me to pray for him and his mum, as both have health issues. We had a good conversation and he would like to meet up in Winnipeg the next time he brings his mother for cancer treatment. Please remember them both in your prayers.

Our latest PBS mailout went very smoothly, for which we are thankful. Last week we also mailed over 120 special packs to German school teachers on all the Hutterite colonies in Manitoba. Each contained 5 German BibleTime lesson samples, with a covering letter and a free set of three new children's poetry booklets (written by Stuart Scammell) for their school library. Please pray that many colonies will begin using these lessons as part of their German School curriculum.

C. 2000 18/4/21

PETE & ELAINE SMITH

26TH

Ecclesiastes 5 & 6

Tribute to Mrs Charlotte Elliott (South Africa)

Charlotte and her husband Kenneth were commended in 1956 by the Cregagh Street and Apsley Street Assemblies in Belfast to the Lord's work in South Africa. They joined Mr Coleridge, who had a small printing press in his garage in Mowbray, Cape Town. A few years later the Lord provided funds which enabled them to purchase a site for the Evangelical Mission Press in Bellville, Cape Town.

Later, as the work grew, a larger building was erected. Over the years tracts, calendars and booklets, in many languages, have been printed. Large quantities have been sent to many African countries.

After Kenneth's homecall in 1999, Charlotte continued to work, and even in her advanced years, she went daily to the Press.

On 29th March, after a year of deteriorating health and increasing frailty, Charlotte went to be with the Lord at the age of 92 after 63 years in the Lord's service in Cape Town. Alastair Baijal separately commented 'it was a privilege to preach the Gospel at the open grave on Easter weekend with many unbelievers in attendance and tuning in via an online live stream'. Our dear sister has now gone home to her reward.

NORWAY Pop. 5.4 Mil. UK 5 Skien

Among our daily readings that Jenny and I use for fresh inspiration, is the book 'Bringing us to Glory' by the late and dearly beloved David Gooding. We highly recommend it to all! Recently, while chatting to a young man who daily visits his grandmother, a neighbour of ours, I mentioned that in these days we enjoy reading David's book. The stream of questions flowed, why, who is Jesus, is there a God, what is life all about anyway?! I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to witness, and have agreed to share some walks and talks together in the near future. Pray for Henning that his eyes will be opened to see and know Christ personally.

Jennifer's physical condition is still weak, the result of cancer on her central nervous system, but her faith is still strong in the Almighty! Weekly she has physiotherapy and looks forward, not only to the help she receives from the physiotherapist, but also to the chats she has with her about faith in Christ. Pray that the words we use to these dear people, and to the variety of home-nurses who call, will be used of God, and a fragrance of Christ will be a blessing to their salvation. Thank you for all your prayers for us. C. 1982 2/4/21 **NAT & JENNIFER RODGERS**

Ecclesiastes 8:1 to 9:10

IRELAND Pop. 4.8 Mil. UK 16 Dublin

The travel restriction has been eased in Ireland. We can now travel up to 25 miles, but we have not been told when churches can meet again.

It was a sad time for our family as we laid Colin's mother to rest this week at the grand age of 102! Due to the current circumstances, we were unable to travel over to England. We are thankful our Irish family was able to watch the service on stream over here in Dublin. Colin recorded a tribute, which was played at the service. Rosemary is keeping well these days, for which we praise God.

The assembly here in Dublin continues with a Zoom meeting on a Tuesday evening for Bible Study and prayer. We pray that God's Word will bring challenge and encouragement to us all. It has been great during these days of pandemic and isolation, to see God answer many prayers among the local church family. Colin continues with the daily Bible text to the believers locally, and also keeps in touch with regular phone calls. We pray that the verses will continue to be of encouragement and help.

We don't see any opening as yet to get back into the schools to teach 'Bible Explorer', as visitors still haven't been given clearance. Colin continues to keep in touch with some Principals and teachers, and is encouraged by the comments they make.

C. 1974 9/4/21 COLIN & ROSEMARY SHELDON

Ecclesiastes 9:11 to 10:20

BOTSWANA Pop. 2.4 Mil. UK 8 Gaborone

We are so thankful that we have been able to meet as an assembly every Lord's Day morning. At the moment we cannot meet midweek because of the curfew. Hazel Logan and I continue to sew face masks and now some other items. It is lovely to be able to pass face masks to those who cannot afford to buy another mask when theirs has worn out.

I have not been able to resume my school teaching but hope to provide face masks for the children of the school. Packing them in ziplocks with 2 lovely Gospel tracts is a joy, knowing God's Word is being distributed. Thank you for remembering us in your prayers. JOY GRIFFITHS C. 1990

SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Ayrshire

Due to the current circumstances, the largest proportion of my time has been spent in the study, preparing for, and delivering Bible teaching over Zoom and other platforms. A couple of weeks ago I preached a two-week series of 'Gospel Meetings' on Facebook Live and on our website. We advertised these widely on social media and hung a banner at the hall detailing the arrangements. We pray that the Lord will bless in salvation.

The travel restrictions are due to be lifted at the end of this month. This will allow us to get back to Dumfries for the openair outreach, to Cumnock with our literature table and to restart tract distribution in south-west Scotland.

A long-time burden of ours has been to go to places to have series of Gospel meetings where there is no assembly testimony. Sometimes this is made difficult by the lack of suitable venues or availability for a sustained two or three-week series. With this in mind, we have been working on sourcing a portable hall to allow us relative freedom in arranging meetings. We are thankful to the Lord for His kindness in allowing us to begin this work by recently purchasing a trailer to carry the hall. We are hopeful that the hall itself will be here in good time to allow us to give it at least one outing this year. We value your prayers for us as a family and look to the Lord for His continued help and guidance. C. 2019 6/4/21 CRAIG & CHRISTINA MACKIE

 31^{ST}

Song of Solomon 1:1 to 2:7

ROMANIA Pop 19.5 Mil. UK 4 Writing from England

Some very sad news concerning a young Romanian family. A young wife and mother called Liz was taken to be with the Lord last Tuesday as a result of Covid. She was 32 and was pregnant with a second child, so wouldn't take any medication that might harm the unborn baby. Two weeks ago she was delivered as an emergency by caesarean and the baby is well. Sadly, Liz gradually deteriorated and passed away on Wednesday afternoon. Her young husband is now left with a 4 year old and a new-born baby. Please pray for the family. The husband's name is Silviu.

Currently Romania is entering a third spike of infections. Unlike many other European countries, their inoculation programme is well advanced. However, due to fake news and anti-inoculation propaganda on the internet, the uptake of the antivirus jabs is low. Only three of the staff at Casa Simeon have had their jabs; the rest are fearful of the side effects. Please pray about this situation. All the residents have had both injections.

C. 1995 8/4/21 RICHARD & RUTH McCLENAGHAN

C=Date of Commendation

UK=Missionaries (approx.)

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