



# LOOK ON THE FIELDS

## ITEMS FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE

With Daily Scripture Readings

1<sup>ST</sup>

1 Peter 3:8-22

### **BOTSWANA Pop. 2.4 Mil. UK 8 Gaborone**

We are glad to report that since the homecall of our beloved colleagues, Jim and Irene Legge, the believers in Serowe have continued faithfully in assembly testimony. Several brethren and sisters, who were already assisting the Legge's in the literature and correspondence work, have sought to keep it going, looking to the Lord to provide for the various needs of this ministry. They have been encouraged by growing opportunities to spread the Word in other schools and villages.

On the wider front, we rejoice in the recent initiative of local believers here who have been burdened to assist the Lord's work countrywide. They have established the *Lord's Work Fund* which regularly passes on designated and discretionary gifts in support of the work and workers in Serowe and elsewhere throughout Botswana. They have been careful to conduct the work of the fund in a transparent and accountable way. We thank the Lord for these developments and trust that He will bless these ongoing efforts for His glory.

C. 1982 17/4/22

CLARK & HAZEL LOGAN

2<sup>ND</sup>

1 Peter 4

### **WALES Pop. 3.1 Mil. 'Your542day' Outreach**

The Easter period has been a very encouraging time for the work of Your542day. Please pray for the following:-

1. Different Bible verses with the Your542day logo appeared in the South Wales Evening Post over the five weekdays leading up to Good Friday at the same cost of four days over Christmas 2021. In addition, the logo (May the Glory of the Risen Lord Fill Your Heart with Joy) used on our Good Friday CDs also appeared amongst the news item pages.
2. Over the Easter weekend the Good Friday Special 2022 programme (lasting just short of an hour) was broadcast on eight occasions on six community Radio Stations. (Radio Tircoed, Radio Walkham, Chatandspin Radio, Blaenymaes Christian Radio, Drystone Radio and Vintage Radio). To God be the glory.
3. Drystone Radio, operating from Cowling, North Yorkshire to listeners across Craven, Wharfedale and parts of the southern Yorkshire Dales came on board for the first time. After the programme Andy Rankine (Programme Controller) wrote  
 'Thank you for your Good Friday Programme. We will always take a service or programme from you whenever we are able to. I am using the thought for the day too, but I will work that into our schedule but with no regular time slot as yet.'

This is an answer to prayer as our daily Messages with Meaning

are now being broadcast on five radio stations. Praise the Lord as we pray for more to come on board before the end of the year.

4. In addition the Good Friday Special 2021 programme was aired on Blaenymaes Christian Radio Station and the Easter Service from Noddfa, Pontarddulais was broadcast on Blaenymaes Christian Radio station and Radio Tircoed on Easter Sunday.
5. We were initially disappointed, but not disheartened, when Radio Walkham failed to broadcast at 11.00am on Good Friday due to technical problems. However, the Lord overruled, and the programme went out at 2.00pm on Good Friday. As a result, Mel Gregory (Station Manager) very kindly volunteered to repeat the programme on Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday. How great is our God!
6. 450 CDs and several mp3 formats of the Good Friday Programme have been distributed in the UK, India and Nigeria. Many positive comments have already been received from people who would never darken the doors of a place of worship. Amen.
7. Blaenymaes Christian Radio now broadcasts Your542day Messages with Meaning every morning and in addition utilises many of the 10-minute broadcasts from our "Reflections" library every Tuesday evening. Blaenymaes Christian Radio is the only Christian Radio Station which carries our broadcasts - all the others are secular Community Radio Stations. The estimated (not officially confirmed) total audience of all the five Radio Stations is more than 750,000.
8. Every day different Messages with Meaning can be heard on our website ([your542day.com](http://your542day.com)) or our Phoneline (015 542 53 542). Scripts of the messages are available every day on our Facebook page and WhatsApp Group.

Thank you all for your continued support. Please pray on that fruit will follow for His glory.

14/4/22

PETER FRANCIS & DAVID LISCOMBE

3<sup>RD</sup>

1 Peter 5

### **INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Writing from Wales**

Naveen Kumar Madala first contacted Your542day through social media towards the end of 2020. Naveen is a native of the Krishna District of the South Indian State of Andhra Pradesh. He has a wife and two young sons. Very quickly he proved to be a genuine and delightful believer involved with an independent evangelical church (around 200 in fellowship) known as Bethel Ministries. He lives in the village of Veerapanenigudem near Gannavaram which is designated a schedule tribe by the Indian government. The people of the Hill area are low caste and living below the poverty line. Housing is a basic block-built hut with no electricity, heating or running water. It is very cold at night and poisonous snakes slither around the houses at nighttime.

Seeing this genuine need, we opened a Bethel Ministries Fund in February 2021 and were overwhelmed with the response of assemblies and individual believers. Almost £2,900 was then available for us to send to Naveen to help alleviate the condition, both physically and spiritually, of these dear people. Because of the Hindu government's difficult financial restrictions on aid being sent from foreign countries to Christian churches and organisations we were not able to start distributing this money until December 2021. Nearly all the money has now been sent monthly to provide for rice, blankets, medication, torches and Bibles. Naveen has been including Hindus in the distribution programme and is touching their hearts resulting in over 30

Hindus regularly attending Sunday Services at Bethel Ministries. Praise the Lord.

Naveen shares the Your542day Messages with Meaning scripts from our Facebook page and WhatsApp Group with over 300 family and friends on a regular basis. He is also translating the messages into the Tegal language to reach even more people in the area.

Together with Stuart Scammell, we have sent Naveen CDs, DVDs and children's Christmas and Easter Story books. We are in daily contact with Naveen and are overwhelmed and humbled to learn of regular prayer times the believers of Bethel Ministries hold solely to pray for the work of Your542day. It was very challenging, humbling and encouraging just before Easter to learn that Naveen personally spent an hour on his knees praying for the Easter Broadcasts. Naveen is meticulous in his use of the funds and, without us asking, has given an in-depth account for every penny spent.

14/4/22 PETER FRANCIS & DAVID LISCOMBE

4<sup>TH</sup>

2 Peter 1

#### ITALY Pop. 59 Mil. UK 16 Naples

Covid finally caught up with us as a family as Joy caught it in February. Thankfully she was asymptomatic, and none of us caught it. She is now back to school and we too have got our liberty back! Joy is now 12 and entering the "terrible teen" years. The challenges which that brings are very different to those we faced with the boys, so we trust the Lord to guide us through it and give us wisdom to help her come to know the beauty of our Lord Jesus and trust in Him.

Patrizia's mother has been diagnosed as having a meningioma in her cranium which is causing her to be unable to stand without falling. She is now in hospital, but with the Covid restrictions, nobody is able to visit her. Here situation is complicated by her being almost 80, being 90% blind and almost deaf. Cases like hers are often neglected in hospital, so we are very concerned for her.

Covid has affected our ministry in many ways, particularly our ability to engage with people on a personal level. I have been much burdened to reach the population of our city with a message of hope, especially in this time of great anxiety, so we are working on publishing a series of videos. The videos should include clips from national news programs, photos of news paper articles, interviews with locals and a punchy gospel application.

The city of Pozzuoli in many ways lends itself to the preaching of the gospel, so I would like to share with you some of the subjects that we hope to focus on so that you might 'adopt' one for prayer.

- **Earthquakes** - Pozzuoli has experienced a rise in earthquakes. As you can imagine, this news is on people's lips, so the theme of the video will be 'when everything around us is quaking, where can we find refuge (Psalm 46)'.
- **The Amphitheatre** - Pozzuoli has the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in Italy. What did people believe to make them willing to die for it?
- **Paul** - The apostle Paul landed in Pozzuoli and found Christians (Acts 28:13) Why was he on his way to Rome?
- **Naples Street and Rome Street** - They are both well known roads in our city. Naples Street does lead to Naples, but Rome Street doesn't lead to Rome. Are we on the right road to salvation?

There are many more such themes that we have in mind, so please do pray that they might be really well made, and have an impact on our city.

C. 1995 4/4/22 ALEX & PATRIZIA CATCHPOLE

5<sup>TH</sup>

2 Peter 2

#### ITALY Pop. 59 Mil. UK 16 Naples

Patrizia has returned to the prison ministry after a break due to Covid. She does have some really special times, as the Lord prepares the ladies' hearts. Many of them on first impact, seem hard and uninterested, but before long they open up and are visibly touched by the message and prayers for them. She has been given permission to start a new course on making dolls and has also been invited to help in the boutique once a month. This is a further opportunity for Patrizia to meet new inmates. Please continue to pray with us that the Lord might open the door for us to have a monthly service for them where we can preach the gospel and invite people to give their testimony.

Covid restrictions, as well as not having had a building of our own to use for a number of years has had a negative effect on fellowship, as we are no longer able to eat together, something which is really important in Southern Italian culture. We meet in houses during the week, which really helps community on a small scale, but we are only able to meet together as a complete church on Sundays. We really miss our weekly prayer meetings and Bible studies for the whole church.

We have had a serious set back with our building project. In order for us to buy the land, the lawyer that owns it asked us to provide a sworn legal document which ratifies its value in case of future investigations by the tax office. Our architect prepared the document, but had an adverse reaction to a Covid vaccination. When she was better, she went to a solicitor to legally certify it. That solicitors office was closed because of Covid infections. She then left it with another solicitor with an appointment to pick it up when it had been certified. In the mean time she took a turn for the worse due to the vaccination before dying in hospital. We were really shaken by her death as she had become a friend and not just our architect. We are now trying to discover who was the solicitor was that she left the document with.

Please do stand with us in prayer during this very difficult period, that the Lord would sustain us and give us His joy and peace.

C. 1995 4/4/22 ALEX & PATRIZIA CATCHPOLE

6<sup>TH</sup>

2 Peter 3

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

We are thankful to the Lord for His goodness and grace over these past two months and want to share with you, for your encouragement, some of the joys we have experienced during this time. It has been a wonderful privilege to see the Lord at work and in His grace saving souls and encouraging growth in new believers.

When sharing previously about the salvation and baptism of four believers at the beginning of February, we mentioned that conversations were ongoing with others. Over the weeks both Mama Hemedi and teenager Joyce confirmed their personal faith in the Saviour and also their desire to be baptised.

Mama Hemedi, a Muslim lady, is a single mother of Hemedi (8yrs) and 2-year-old twins Christina and Christian. Her husband died some while back and the father of her twins left her in the

lurch. She struggles to support herself and came across our radar as a result. Through love and care shown to her, she has been exposed to the gospel, realised her need as a sinner and trusted Christ as Saviour.

Joyce was in our first cohort of children at Watoto Wa Thamani (WWT) Day Care Centre. It was through Joyce, that contact was made with her granny who was bringing her up, Bibi Joyce, who subsequently was saved, baptised, and brought into assembly fellowship. At WWT Joyce (17yrs), her granddaughter, had a good spiritual grounding and has been brought to the assembly meetings ever since. What a joy it was to see the fruit of the seed sown in her confession of faith and baptism. We pray that their step of obedience and witness may continue to speak to the hearts of those that were present and that they will grow strong in Christ.

We discovered in recent weeks that Baba and Mama Vialeth have been living under great financial pressure, but in view of help already received, they didn't want to tell us. It all goes back to the work-related accident Baba Vialeth (Masumbuko) had last year. He was hospitalised and while still waiting for his leg to fully heal has not been able to work again. Mama Vialeth was also sick at the end of last year which involved an operation. They had borrowed funds from friends and neighbours to pay for this and have been repaying this each month, using  $\frac{1}{3}$  of her wages, leaving very little for them to feed their family of 4 children. Since Baba Vialeth's accident, they also have been unable to pay any rent and the landlord was only allowing them to stay in the room because he was of the same tribe as Baba Vialeth. Using our 'Needy Believer's Fund', we were able to repay both their family debt and the overdue rent, as well as cover the next 6 months rent to ease the pressure. They were overwhelmed by the help given... but isn't that how we all should be in view of God's great love?  
C. 2002 1/4/22 STEPHEN & GILL DAVIES

7<sup>TH</sup>

James 1

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

We are currently in the UK for a short visit, but on the Saturday before we left Tanzania, Gill and Monica held another of their monthly Ladies Bible Seminars. It was well attended and the teaching on the life of Moses and on prayer was both helpful and appreciated. The ladies also learned the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Books of the New Testament song (in Kiswahili) which they thoroughly enjoyed and was helpful to them as they tried doing 'Sword Drill'! Finding their way around the Bible is so very basic and needful if these new believers are to read God's word with understanding and grow in their faith.

The WWT children recently put on an assembly for their parents. Its theme was colour and the children dressed up in various costumes and coloured local material to talk and sing about the colours in God's creation and the things around us. It concluded with a presentation of the gospel through five colours – black (sin & death), red (the death & shed blood of Christ), white (cleansed and made whole through Christ's death), green (new life & growth in Christ) & yellow (eternal life & a home in heaven). After tea, maandazi and potato samosas, each parent took home a keyring with beads of the above colours hanging from it and an attached card to remind them of the message they had heard. This was a highlight of a very good first term of 2022 and we look forward to what the Lord has in store going forward.

We thank the Lord for His goodness, grace and provision and entrust future days to His will and plans, which, we believe will be for His praise and glory.

C. 2002 1/4/22 STEPHEN & GILL DAVIES

8<sup>TH</sup>

James 2

### **VENEZUELA Pop. 28.5 Mil. UK 7 San Carlos**

It is still hard to take in the sudden passing away of our brother Allan, just six days before his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. A real evangelist, he was used by the Lord to see several assemblies planted, and he used his abilities as a civil engineer to build many gospel halls. He will be badly missed not only by his wife Sandra and seven children, but by the Lord's people in Venezuela, where he was much appreciated. The big state of Barinas is now without any fulltime workers; pray that the Lord will raise up others to take his place.

We have been encouraged with the good attendance in El Pao, where we have been preaching twice a week for almost a year. We laboured for seven years in this place since 2000 without seeing any visible results, and then left to begin a work in El Baúl. After seeing an assembly planted in El Baúl, we returned to El Pao and began to see some fruit of the seed planted some 13 years previously. Several have professed faith and are showing evidence of reality, and quite a few others are attending with interest. Norbelys, a young married teacher, since telling us that she got saved in her home, has been trying to honour the Lord, and witness to others at work. Pray for her husband José who attends almost all the meetings but admits he fears the reproach of being called a Christian.

We have been visiting Zanja de Lira again this year, making a weekly trip to preach in three different areas of this fishing village. Sometimes there is encouraging attendance and interest, other times most of the men folk are away fishing, but the seed has been faithfully sown and we await the harvest in due time. Many are slaves to drink, but the gospel is still the power of God unto salvation. Pray for Alejandro, an elderly man who has a brother in fellowship in El Baúl, seems to understand his need of salvation, but told us he loves dancing and knows he will have to leave it if he believes!

The young assembly in El Baul is showing a real interest in maintaining gospel activities. They love to help us on the wearisome trips to Zanja de Lira and have their own cottage meetings. The new gospel hall is already in use, although we haven't had time to finish the plaster, and make the windows and doors. We hope to help them shortly finish the sanitary installations, so they can restart the children's work which was suspended due to the pandemic. Carlos, the husband of a sister in fellowship and much prayed for, told us he got saved at the beginning of the year and is at all the meetings. Others are also waiting to be baptized. We value your continued prayers for the work in Venezuela.

C. 2000 (Ven) 13/4/22 ANDREW & ELENA TURKINGTON

9<sup>TH</sup>

James 3

### **IRELAND Pop. 4.8 Mil. UK 16 County Waterford**

This year has been very busy, but I have also had two periods of enforced rest. In January, I was laid aside for a short while following surgery for a hernia. Then last week, Beth and I both tested positive for Covid-19, and as a result were forced to stay home and rest. We both found that our energy levels and concentration were impacted, but we are slowly returning to normal, and have now been getting out for some fresh air and exercise. Today the doctor said that we are allowed to be out in contact with people again.

The month of March marked a return to more opportunities for outreach, with our monthly gospel meeting held on the first

Sunday in March for the first time in two years. I was responsible for that meeting and spoke on the reliability of the Bible. We also planned a series of evangelistic Bible studies starting on March 24. We ran ads in the free local newspaper and on Facebook, as well as distributing over a thousand invitations door-to-door. Two ladies we had never met before came to the first study, as well as a mother and her son who used to come but hadn't been for about 4 years because of opposition from her husband. We know that she is a believer, but not sure where her 16-year-old son stands.

Unfortunately, so many from the assembly were sick that we had to cancel the second meeting in the series, and our Sunday morning meeting was held via Zoom. Last Tuesday our Bible study went ahead in person and our Thursday evangelistic study also went ahead, but sadly no visitors were in this time.

I have started a series on apologetics with the assembly in Kilkenny and I anticipate that I will do 5 or 6 sessions for them in this series, trying to answer the most common questions that might arise as we seek to share the gospel. In this first session, I emphasised both the value and limits of apologetics: valuable because the Scriptures call us to be ready to give an answer, but limited because we cannot convince people through clever arguments but through dependence upon the Lord and His Holy Spirit to convict and convince.

So we continue to work and pray hard for the Lord to open hearts and minds to see the greatness of their need and the wonder of God's gracious provision in the Person of His Son.

Thank you for prayerfully standing with us in the work to which the Lord has called us. May we be faithful as His ambassadors to appeal to men and women to be reconciled to God!

C. 1997 12/4/22 DAVID & BETH WILSON

10<sup>TH</sup>

James 4

#### **SOUTH AFRICA Pop. 58 Mil. UK 7 Cape Town**

Along with our son Joel and another brother from our local assembly, I was in Namibia from 20 March to 1 April where we joined other believers from different countries for a Seed Sowers outreach. An estimate of 40,000 Gospel texts were distributed in various languages. People were generally happy to receive the texts and it was possible to have personal conversations with quite a few. There were also opportunities for public preaching.

It is very encouraging to know of the exercise of Steven and Stephanie Anderson to move to Namibia in a full-time capacity. They were commended from USA and are currently serving the Lord in Zambia. We trust that the Lord will open the way for them to serve Him full-time in Namibia.

C. 2001 4/4/22 RODNEY & JOY BROWN

11<sup>TH</sup>

James 5

#### **ENGLAND Pop. 56 Mil. Liverpool Emmaus UK**

Once again we have experienced the great faithfulness of God in providing for the continuing ministry of Emmaus in the UK. During the course of 2021 we moved into our new office in Liverpool and were joined by further workers to help develop the ministry of Emmaus. Peter and Dawn are looking to expand the range of children's materials, Sarah is working on our audio-visual content and Ania is reaching out to the Eastern European community both in the UK and abroad.

During lockdown the prison ministry has grown, as prisoners have

found themselves with more free time to study. Although prison visiting access has been curtailed to some degree, we are still able to send our courses into the prisons via the Chaplaincy service. Going forward John is hoping to develop relationships with the chaplains to further the take up of our Bible study courses. The number of courses sent out to individuals has also increased, for which we are deeply thankful. The study of His word is never in vain, and we trust that the Lord will produce lasting spiritual growth in our students.

We can give thanks for the genuine spiritual interest that there still is even in the UK today. Please pray for our volunteer tutors in particular, that as they face searching questions from our students, and need real wisdom in providing answers that rest fully upon His word. Please pray too for our students that they may grow, and in doing so, be better fitted to faithful service throughout the UK and beyond.

6/4/22

JONATHAN HUGHES

12<sup>TH</sup>

Jude

#### **ROMANIA Pop. 19.5 Mil. UK 4 Ploiesti**

In the initial phase many people entered Romania at three different border crossings (**Siret and Sighet** in the north as well as **Isaccea near Tulcea in the southeast**). Generally speaking, they were more well off and arrived in their own vehicles and had money, so they quickly moved on to other countries where they had relatives or friends.

Believers were waiting at the border with food and essential items as well as offering transport to bus stations, train stations and airports for those without vehicles. Accommodation was offered to those who needed it with many people only staying one or two nights. For example, up to 140 people were being cared for daily in a Christian centre in Sighet, on the Romanian-Ukrainian border and there was a large turnover.

Over the course of time various centres for food and accommodation were opened by believers, business people and local authorities. Donation centres for food, clothing and finance were started in local shopping centres. The EU also set up a distribution hub near Suceava airport in the north of Romania.

People of other nationalities who were working or studying in the Ukraine have left. Where possible, places are being found for students in schools and universities here if they wish to stay and continue their studies. Some jobs are being offered to people who wish to remain in Romania.

Assembly believers in the county of Suceava, in the north of Romania, who speak Ukrainian have been an enormous help as they co-ordinate different aspects of the relief work. Siret is the busiest crossing point into the country and thousands of people have passed through a Christian centre set up in the town of Suceava.

As the bombardments worsened after the first week many women and children crossed the border, arriving on foot with suitcases and bags, some having abandoned vehicles or public transport as the queues were stretching for miles. The weather turned much colder at this point and there were flurries of snow. Many of these were poorer people who have left everything behind and were exhausted and traumatized. Some have never been outside of their own country before and only knew their own language.

C. 1992 14/4/22

PAUL & SUE WILLIAMS

**ROMANIA Pop. 19.5 Mil. UK 4 Ploiesti**

Assembly believers in Romania are working extremely hard and pulling well together in this new and developing situation.

- Some refugees need guidance in arranging onward travel as well as financial help to purchase tickets and obtain any further documentation necessary for further travel. Gifts have been used to purchase tickets for families to travel to Belgium, Germany and Italy and to help with transport to airports, train and bus stations within Romania.
- Some need accommodation on a long-stay basis as they have nowhere else to go and they prefer to be near the border so that they can return once the situation eases. They are looking for jobs so that they can rent an apartment for their family, live independently and bring some stability to their lives after all the turmoil they have been through.
- Humanitarian aid convoys are being allowed into Ukrainian towns nearer the border in the north of Romania and believers continue to purchase and take in essential items, on a daily basis, while it is still possible to do so. The waiting times to clear paperwork are taking longer as there are queues of vehicles that need to be checked.
- Humanitarian aid is dropped off in the Ukraine at church buildings, store rooms or halls where people have fled for shelter. Goods are then taken further into the Ukraine to the areas under siege.
- Humanitarian aid is being taken regularly into the Odessa region of the Ukraine where contact has been made with believers who are able to pass on essential supplies to others in their area.
- A coach load of food and other essential items was taken to the border with the Republic of Moldova which can then be transported onwards into the Ukraine to where it was most needed. The coach returned full of people being brought to safety in Romania.
- We heard of one man who had been sheltering in the basement of his house near Kiev after it had been bombed. After 8 days he was rescued by a believer and taken to safety in one of the Ukrainian towns near the border. He has made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Believers continue transporting people from the borders with the Republic of Moldova and Odessa region into towns in Romania. Some stay one or two nights until they are able to travel to other countries where they have family members or other contacts.
- In Romania people are being housed in church buildings, schools, sports centres, hotels and private homes.
- New beds, mattresses and bedding needed to be purchased and with a swift turn over in numbers washing machines, driers and central heating systems were working non-stop. A new washing machine was purchased for one of the Christian centres when the old one broke down.
- Ukrainian tracts, New Testaments and Bibles are being distributed in Romania and the Ukraine.

**ROMANIA Pop. 19.5 Mil. UK 4 Ploiesti**

We receive updates several times a day so that current needs can be met. How wonderful that the sovereign Lord has His people in the right places at the right time.

- A request was received for two quality generators to be bought and taken to Kiev. A believer immediately knew where to look and what to buy.
- Medical supplies and medicines for those who have remained in the Ukraine is a priority.
- When humanitarian aid arrives in the Ukraine there are emotional scenes as believers witness the way in which the Lord has provided for them and those they are caring for, in their time of great need. With tears in their eyes they express their thanks and appreciation. Prayers of praise and thanks to God are uttered and hymns such as "Amazing Grace" are sung in Ukrainian by those present.

Our Lord and Saviour has provided, in wonderful ways, the necessary financial help, through the generosity of His people, to buy food, medicines and other essential items here which have been transported directly into the Ukraine for believers to distribute to those sheltering from the hostilities.

It has been overwhelming to see how the Lord has opened hearts here in Romania, in the U.K. and elsewhere to provide for the ongoing needs of so many people fleeing their homes in the Ukraine. Words are inadequate to express our thanks to each and every one of you who have been part of alleviating the suffering of so many needy people. The apostle Paul wrote in **Galatians 6:2**, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ".

Even greater needs will follow and as plans and decisions are made for the future, much wisdom from the Lord is needed.

Ukrainian people (believers and unbelievers) are attending assembly gatherings and being shown much love and kindness by believers. Some of those helping Ukrainians have their own personal needs too.

There is apprehension here as the war is in the neighbouring country. As elsewhere in the world, people were already concerned and making economy due to the hefty increase in gas, electricity and food prices in recent months.

A Christian centre in Suceava has seen thousands of people passing through who are very affected by what they have experienced, some having travelled the length of the Ukraine to flee the war. Many conversations take place with a translator present.

Besides the hot food, help with accommodation and onward travel, if needed, warm words of welcome, encouragement and hope are offered at all the Christian centres. Emotional support is needed as some people just sit down and cry. An arm around their shoulder and a prayer that God will quieten their troubled hearts and minds can bring much comfort. The gospel needs to be presented with much wisdom and sensitivity, as does the giving out of suitable literature.

Those who have fled are physically and emotionally drained and some have the additional strain of being separated from loved ones. The future is uncertain for them. They need our prayers.

We have been reminded of the Saviour's words, "For I was hungry and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; naked and ye clothed me ..." (**Matthew 25:35-36**).

Your fellowship practically and in prayer is much needed and greatly appreciated for the tragic situation in the Ukraine.

15<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 1:57-80

**BOTSWANA Pop. 2.4 Mil. UK 8 Writing from N Ireland**

Dan & Stella Nguluka serve the Lord in Maun, Botswana. They were commended from Solwezi, Zambia.

Dan and Stella travelled to Lusaka 2 weeks ago to visit family and to seek diagnosis for Stella's ill-health. After various tests, Stella has been found to be suffering from severe hypertension, and is still awaiting a final diagnosis from tests and biopsies performed.

Dan has also not been well for some time (he suffered severe TIA's in November 2017) but was in increasing discomfort and sought a diagnosis also. He has just been given a positive diagnosis for prostate cancer, and surgery and radiotherapy are recommended.

Major decisions lie immediately ahead, and direction as to whether to continue treatment in Lusaka, or go back to Francistown, Botswana. Either option is not without significant cost.

Dan and Stella have asked for specific prayer, for themselves and for their three children. Dan says, "We have been deeply shocked at a double illness, and impending diagnosis. We may get down in spirit, yet can have confidence in the purposes of our God in these matters."

Please pray for our dear brother and sister at this time. Further updates will follow, God willing.

C. 2004 10/5/22 DAVID & HELEN MCKILLEN

16<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 2:1-21

**LEBANON Pop. 60 Mil. Tyre**

Thank you for your continued prayers over the past weeks and months. It was my intention to write earlier but I had a herniated disc which made it difficult for me to do many things for several weeks. I was not able to go to school for ten days and even once I returned it was difficult as my office is on the top floor of the school. Thankfully, I am much better now and trying to catch up.

**Country Update**

The situation in Lebanon has not changed much over recent months. Prices are still very high in relation to salaries. The education sector across the country is in crisis. Elections are due to take place next month and it feels like people are waiting to see if anything changes at that point.

**LEST (Lebanese Evangelical School – Tyre)**

Despite some interruptions and closures due to Covid-19, we have been able to continue with school for most of this term. Although having a 4-day week is great in allowing time for other things, students have lost a lot of time this year so they lost out on a lot of the fun activities that would usually be spread throughout the year. Many families have still not been able to pay school fees so there are concerns about how things can move forward to the next academic year.

At this time of year, we start to think about staffing decisions for the coming year. Please pray for wisdom as we make these decisions in days when many teachers spend the value of most of their salary in getting to school. For many teachers, their salaries are worth only around \$60 in comparison to a few years ago when they were worth over \$1000 per month. Many staff are working as private tutors after school to enable them to continue to provide for their families' basic needs.

**Community**

There have been more opportunities lately to reconnect with families after interruptions due to Covid-19. These relationships

are so important in a culture where everything is relational. Please do pray for the families that are still so welcoming despite their economic hardship. Ramadan presents many opportunities to spend time with families so there are several more visits lined up for this week.

**Prayer Points**

- Thank God for being able to have school till now. Pray for teachers and families struggling in these days of economic crisis in Lebanon. Pray that the school will be able to continue as it has for 153 years.
- Pray for our students and teachers as they attend assemblies. Pray that we will be able to resume staff prayers in the new year as it was put on hold due to Covid-19.
- Pray for the believers in school to be strong and bring Hope to people around us. Pray that God would provide more workers to share the opportunities.
- Pray for Lebanon as elections will take place in a few weeks' time. Pray for peace and justice so that the country can start to recover.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support.

19/4/22

ANDREA SMITH

17<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 2:22-52

**WALES Pop. 3.1 Mil. Maesteg**

As we remember Easter, which is a precious time for all Christians, the miracle of that first Easter reverberates to our generation in the twenty-first Century. Yet many young people are growing up with no knowledge of the Gospel and its implications for eternity. It reminds us to constantly and prayerfully renew our efforts to share this glorious truth.

A lady we have known for many years, rang us to see if we would do a service for her husband, who had recently died. He had arranged a 'Pure Cremation' in Hampshire, meaning just a cremation and no service, so no family members or friends were able to be present. As the widow, she was not happy with this arrangement. Of course, we agreed and held a Service of Thanksgiving.

It was a memorable time with 23 of her family and friends in attendance, including her daughter who used to come to Good News Club nearly 40 years ago. The widow is having trouble adjusting to the loss of her husband, but we are in regular contact with her, and she has attended our Sunday evening service subsequently.

Another lady has attended a number of times this year along with her half brother and grandson. She lives some miles away in Barry but was originally from Maesteg. She came from an abusive background but attended our Good News Club for several years over 35 years ago. She has made a profession of faith but is having to work through many issues in her troubled background.

In both cases, it was so important that we were there as we were the only ones in the local church today who were involved in the Good News Club all these years ago. It seemed to have a reassuring effect upon them to see us and renew the connection.

Thank you so much for your continuing prayers and for your interest in our work for the Lord.

19/4/22

PAUL &amp; ALISON YOUNG

18<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 3

**ANGOLA Pop. 32 Mil. UK 4 Writing from Canada**

I am thankful to have the prospect of returning to Angola in mid-May for a month. I would appreciate prayer for travel as Angola still requires a negative PCR Covid test before arrival. I had Covid a few months ago, and I am exposed to it frequently in my medical work so there is a possibility I could test positive which would make travel impossible. As well, the Angolan authorities require testing on arrival at the airport and if that is positive, quarantine is mandatory.

During my time in Angola, particularly in Biula, I plan to have a week of early morning teaching meetings with the saints in the assembly. Pray that this will be an encouragement and help to them and that my spoken Chokwe will not be too rusty as to be unintelligible! There is practical work to be done in Biula, including work on the ram pump for the village water supply and arranging for a new roof on a building. Folk will be seeking medical care at the clinic, too.

While in the Saurimo area, I am hoping to facilitate the placement of two young men in nursing school, who will be sponsored by their home assembly in Chilombo. On my last trip, I was able to connect with the head of the nursing school, and I hope to continue the process on this trip. These young men are from an area where there is no training available after grade 12 and they only have the option of gaining a living from fishing or trying to start a small business. There is an assembly-run medical clinic and maternity facility in Chilombo and the hope is that the young men can return to help in that work.

I am looking forward to visiting with Brian and Debbie Howden, who we have not seen since our family left Angola in June of 2020. Brian and I are planning to travel together over a weekend to a northern area of Angola, a part where I have never visited. We will share in some meetings together, and I am looking forward to working with my brother and meeting the saints in this area.

There is a lot to fit into my trip, and I appreciate prayer that the Lord will guide in what intentions come to pass.

C. 2012 (Can) 19/4/22

SAMUEL & ELIZABETH SIMONE-GINDELE

19<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 4:1-15

**INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Narsapur**

Bethesda is celebrating its "Centenary Thanks Giving Service" on the 3rd of February 2023. We have planned several programmes during the year....Workers Conference, Special meetings for Home Based HIV patients and children inviting their families and sharing God's love, the final Thanks Giving Service will be on the 3rd February 2023 when Dr. Ian Burness will give the Centenary Message. While Bethesda continues its good work among leprosy patients, we took up HIV work on a large scale. The challenge came from Dr. CR. Prabhakar in the year 1999. The same year Dr. Kunjappan John and his wife Dr. Vimala John inaugurated the ministry. Dr. Kunjappan John gave an inaugural address. The work is being continued. There is a ward for HIV patients and there is a George Muller Hostel for the children with HIV and recently George Muller Hostel 2 was also opened for other HIV children. The children continue to be based in the communities, and Bethesda keeps in regular touch with them. Also, 'HIV Home Based' is proving fruitful and there are presently 112 HIV men and women benefiting from this medical care.

Also Dr. Edward Shorts Hostel for boys and girls continues for the children of leprosy and HIV patients. The basic work of care and treatment is being well continued. There are now leprosy relapses and our doctors and staff are doing well to treat them. The School inside the campus continues to cater to their educational needs.

Besides all these activities, Bethesda continues its primary objective i.e. the patients should come to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is being done faithfully. Kindly pray that all these celebrations bring glory to the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Also join us and pray for various financial needs. These are the construction of a compound wall around the burial ground, building repairs and painting, transport needs and a fence around the coconut grove. As always, we look to the Lord for his gracious provision.

1/4/22

BETHESDA (LEPROSY) HOSPITAL

20<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 4:16-44

**ANGOLA Pop. 32 Mil. UK 4 Camundambala**

We are delighted to say after more than 2 years in the UK (restricted with Covid regulations, Jonathan's health and 5 months waiting for the issue of temporary residency visas) we are, God willing, returning to Angola tomorrow.

Initially we will be in our home in Camundambala, sorting through container goods arrived during our absence, home maintenance, and sourcing of building materials etc in order to serve alongside sister Irene Cardoso, a national full-time worker for the Lord in Cavungo (the little square of East Angola which juts into Zambia). We can only do this in the dry season as the roads would be impossible to do any other time without damaging the generators, cement mixers etc.

Whilst in Cavungo, we will have limited or no means of communication, except if we travel to Cazombo a couple of hours away, which God willing Ruth will be able to do to occasionally in order to buy goods. We will try and update you all when we are back in Camundambala.

We are delighted to say that Brass Tacks are arranging once again for brother Phil Kennedy (Markethill, N. Ireland), to join us in the work.

21/4/22

JONATHAN & RUTH SINGLETON

21<sup>ST</sup>

Luke 5:1-16

**SRI LANKA Pop. 21 Mil. Colombo**

Sri Lanka is facing an economic crisis that is worsening by the day. The people are facing unprecedented day to day challenges. A perfect storm of problems has led to this situation. The instalments for large foreign loans from countries such as China, have to be paid back with increasing regularity. Because of these huge debts, Sri Lanka is unable to pay to import the most basic of supplies.

A government decision to ban chemical fertilisers and make Sri Lanka the first country to farm organic only has proved to be disastrous. The government insisted that there would be no impact by going organic only but a few months after going organic, our island that was once self-sufficient in rice production had to import hundreds of millions of dollars-worth of foreign rice. The ban on fertilisers saw crop yields plummet triggering inflation and crushing Sri Lanka's export of tea and rubber. Sri Lanka's main export of tea has suffered a tremendous blow causing an economic loss of hundreds of millions of dollars. The government has now

lifted the ban on chemical fertilisers, but the damage has already been done to Sri Lanka's fragile economy.

Because the island's Treasury is almost empty, Sri Lanka is unable to pay for the most basic of items on which people depend on. For example, this month, Sri Lanka had to cancel school exams for millions of students because the country cannot afford to import paper. Newspaper stalls are empty because Sri Lanka does not have enough paper for printing. There are daily power/electricity cuts of between six to thirteen hours across the entire island. There is a critical shortage of medicine. For example, the believers in our assembly are reporting that Panadol or Paracetamol is not available in any of the pharmacies they have visited in the Western Province.

Also, basic food staples such as rice and milk are hard to come by. Even if these items are to be found, the price has risen so high that people are unable to afford to purchase these items.

Fuel and gas are also in short supply across the entire island. Several of the brothers in our assembly drive a three-wheeled Tuk Tuk for their daily living. These brothers report that they have to spend several hours each day in a queue for fuel and often at the end of a long wait, they have to go home without any fuel and hence they are unable to work for the day and bring in an income to feed their family.

Most of the families in our assembly have resorted to cooking outdoors using firewood. Families have also reported that they have reduced their food consumption to one meal a day in order to survive.

There seems to be no end in sight to these current problems. The country is controlled by the powerful Rajapaksa family. Sri Lanka's two most powerful positions are held by brothers, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. The people in different parts of the country have been protesting daily asking for both these leaders to step down (Note – The Prime Minister eventually resigned on 9 May). Sri Lanka's constitution makes it impossible to remove a President from power unless they stand down voluntarily. Demonstrations have been largely peaceful so far but the fear is that if the people don't feel a change in their situation for the better, the situation in the island could get much worse. We have been helping many families at this time with food and other basic necessities.

14/4/22 BETHESDA GOSPEL HALL, COLOMBO

22<sup>ND</sup>

Luke 5:17-39

### **SRI LANKA Pop. 21 Mil. Colombo**

In the suburb of Dematagoda, for the last ten years, we have been organizing a weekly gospel outreach every Saturday morning among the children in that deprived area. On average, there are about fifty children that attend this gospel outreach meeting every Saturday. For the last decade, we have hired a room in that area where these meetings are conducted. Last week, we decided to give every child who has been faithfully attending the meetings a food parcel to help them and their family at this time. After we helped these families, last Saturday morning, the numbers doubled and one hundred and fifteen children turned up for the meeting. Almost all the children are from Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist families. The room was overflowing and there was not enough chairs for everyone to sit and children had to stand or sit on the floor wherever they could find some space. Please pray for this outreach work, that the seed that is being planted at an early age in these children will bear fruit.

Despite all the negative news that is coming out of Sri Lanka,

there is also much to rejoice about as the Lord's work in various areas of the country is continuing and souls are being saved. Despite transport difficulties and poverty increasing, it has been noticed amongst the assemblies that there are increased numbers attending gospel meetings. For example, on Saturday 26th March, three recent converts were baptized by the Muttuchchenai assembly in Eastern Sri Lanka. All three were saved during the last month. They are all from a Hindu background. Each of them had wonderful testimonies. Please remember them and their spiritual growth in your prayers. They are Sritharan, who is a 34 year-old carpenter, Gunamani, a 38 year-old housewife and Madushalini, an 18 year-old student.

While we were rejoicing at the news of these three that had been saved, the following week we received the joyful news that a 28 year-old mechanic by the name of Prashanthan had also been saved in Muttuchchenai. Sritharan who had been baptized the previous week, had spoken to Prashanthan and given the gospel to him. He then brought him along to the following week's gospel meeting and this young man repented of his sins and put his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank God for encouragements like these despite all the negative news around us.

We also received news that a young university student by the name of Ranujan was baptized on Saturday 9th April in the sea next to the village of Ralodai in Eastern Sri Lanka. This young man has been attending the Ralodai assembly meetings for some time and had shown much interest in the gospel. It was with great joy that we heard that Ranujan had sought repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

On Monday 11th April 2022, a brother by the name of Sisira from the town of Kuliapitiya which is about three hours North of Colombo, was busy planting vegetables. He then received word that a cow had got loose and fled into a neighbouring jungle. Sisira went into the jungle to retrieve the cow and inadvertently stepped into a wild boar trap. Sisira was rushed to the district hospital in Kuliapitiya. His left leg was perforated in eight different locations and he had lost several litres of blood. Because of the shortage of surgical items and medications, the doctors have been unable to operate on Sisira's leg. The doctors in Kuliapitiya told us that Sisira's leg may have to be amputated. To further complicate matters, the ambulances do not have diesel to bring Sisira to a hospital in Colombo. We are trying to help Sisira at this time. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

14/4/22 BETHESDA GOSPEL HALL, COLOMBO

23<sup>RD</sup>

Luke 6:1-19

### **SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Luthermuir**

In the goodness of God we are both well and thankful that things seem to be returning to a measure of normality. We continue to help in the local assembly and in gospel outreach. I am presently working over on the North-East coastal villages, tracting and speaking to people as opportunities arise.

In mid-April, God willing, I will be over in Belfast for a few days ministering at the Easter Conference meetings along with other servants of the Lord. In mid-May we return to Glenluce for two to three weeks of gospel meetings and door to door visitation. We had a series there last September/October and interest was good. We hope to return to Axbridge (Somerset) in July for a further series of tent meetings with our son-in-law, Paul, sharing in the preaching.

Prayer is much valued and needed with respect to all these labours,



that we might know the Lord's presence and power, and something for His honour and glory will be accomplished.

Gwen continues to keep home, caring for her mum (aged 94) and extending hospitality to the saints.

1/4/22

DAN & GWEN GILLIES

24<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 6:20-49

**VENEZUELA Pop. 28.5 Mil. UK 7 Los Altos**

Since mid-January we have been in the community of Piñantal. Last year, along with brethren from the Santa Fe, Los Altos and Zurita assemblies, we preached there for the first time. The Lord blessed this effort and allowed us to see some profess faith in His name. The reunions were held in the local school, where we were also able to stay, as classes were cancelled at the time owing to the pandemic.

After much prayer and due to the receptiveness towards the gospel and some who, having professed, have remained faithful to the Lord, we decided to buy a site on the main road. Now, since the 17<sup>th</sup> January, we have started the construction of a Gospel Hall on that site. The access road to Piñantal is in a very poor condition and it is common for the truck to break down. There are no supermarkets or hardware stores in Piñantal, so we take everything from Puerto La Cruz (about a 4-hour drive from Piñantal in the truck). There is also no phone coverage so we stock up, go to Piñantal, work and return home when we run out of supplies (generally about 10-15 days later) to re-stock and spend some time at home before returning. In the "team", there are six of us and the Lord has motivated some of the new believers in Piñantal and even some neighbours who often, after their hard labour on the land, arrive at the site in the afternoons and lend a much-appreciated hand. Work is coming along, and the main jobs now left are to finish plastering the walls, make and install the window protectors and put the roof on, we are thankful all the costs are covered for these coming jobs.

Since starting to build, every evening we have a joint gospel and ministry meeting at the school; although tired, attendance is encouraging and recently an unsaved neighbour made a comment that filled our hearts: "The Gospel has done a lot of good to this town". We returned home to buy cement and other supplies but the cement factory has had certain difficulties (no sacks) so we are coming on to our third week at home. Since arriving we have been able to join the brethren in Los Altos in open air Gospel meetings; we knew about and had been praying for these meetings in El Saco and are happy to be able to join in this activity. There are a good number of unsaved attending every night. A teenage lad called Juan Jose has professed to be saved. It is an area where denominations have sown confusion for many years, so it is good to be able to expound the truth of the Word of God.

C. 2018 (Ven) 25/4/22

PEDRO & LOIS MALAVE

25<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 7:1-29

**ANGOLA Pop. 32 Mil. UK 4 Camundambala**

After a short five week break in the UK, we are due to fly back to Angola on the 26th April. We are grateful that we have had a wonderful time with family and friends, but the land and people that the Lord has placed in our hearts calls us back once again.

We deeply value the prayers of the Lord's people as we seek to preach and teach the Word of God. We feel our weakness but as we have been reminded while being in the UK, the Lord's strength

is made perfect in weakness, and His grace is always unfailing in every circumstance.

Please continue to remember in prayer, the bible classes and the public teaching of the Word in the assemblies in the provinces of Lunda-Sul and Lunda-Norte. There is still an ongoing struggle as some wish to impose unbiblical practices on the Lord's people. Please pray with us that Angolan believers will stand firm and hold to the Bible as their only rule for doctrine and practice.

Please pray too that we might know the Lord's help as we seek to meet some of the desperate needs that surround us daily, to show in practical ways the kindness and compassion of the Lord.

We have just finished packing a container with 11,000 Portuguese Bibles, 500,000 tracts and other good literature, and numerous other much needed items for the work. Please pray that the container won't be held up in customs and will arrive safely in Camundambala.

Finally, remember the assembly at Camundambala. We are thankful for blessing and growth, but please pray that we will continue to see the Lord's mighty hand at work in the village, as there are still so many sitting in utter darkness. Pray too for the proposed building of a new Hall for the believers to meet in, that the Lord will provide and guide for this large undertaking. We are looking forward to providing a building that doesn't leak, and is safe for folk to come into, that will be a testimony to the Lord.  
C. 1993 23/4/22 BRIAN & DEBBIE HOWDEN

26<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 7:30-50

**ROMANIA Pop. 19.5 Mil. UK 4 Cluj**

Two weeks ago, with part of the gifts we have received from friends and church groups in the UK, we placed an order for a Caulterizing Machine and a portable Ultra Sonic apparatus which had been requested by doctors in a hospital 40km into Ukraine from the Sighet border with Romania. As this had to be imported from outside the country, we had to wait until last Thursday to collect the machines from Cluj and drive them up to Sighet. We stayed overnight there and then crossed the border with Dr. Adi on Friday morning and met up with a friend of his who is an interpreter for him. Firstly, we drove to the hospital in Teceu Mare and were amazed at the conditions we found there. (It reminded us of our first visits to similar establishments in Romania 30 years ago.) Although they were trying to improve the buildings, the war had interrupted this work as many of the men folk had been called up to defend the country. Although there were no military casualties there, the workload had increased due to the influx of over 3000 refugees who had fled the East of the country where the fighting is the fiercest.

Their equipment is outdated (40 – 50 years old) and they have not received much funding from the government to modernize the facilities. We presented the equipment and Dr. Adi demonstrated how to use them. From here we drove an hour eastward and visited a clinic in Bocicoi which is trying to help the refugees staying locally. Once again, we found decrepit conditions and outdated equipment. They had a huge, 45-year-old X-Ray machine which they were operating in a room that had no lead protection on the walls, windows, or doors, and those who were using the machines were putting themselves in great danger of exposure to the radiation emitted. We have given Dr. Adi permission to order another Ultra-Sound device for here.

In the same village we visited a large building formerly used to house psychiatric patients, which now was housing 450 refugees. Their rooms were cramped and cold and we saw many who had

been affected and traumatized from what they had experienced in recent weeks. They came with just holdalls of clothing which they had grabbed at a moment's notice to escape the invading Russian army. We didn't take any photos of them as we sensed their shame and loss of dignity, having lost everything they once held dear. Many of them do not know what their future holds or how long they will stay there. They are too poor to cross the border and travel to another country and cannot speak another language.

Lastly, we visited a new storage facility that Brother Adi has set up as a distribution hub there. They cross daily with food and clothing and other necessary items which can no longer be purchased in Ukraine. The goods are deposited there and then local charities come and take what they need and distribute it where it is needed. This saves the Ukrainians the laborious border crossing procedures whenever they need anything. The main need right now is food, and so we are forwarding another gift to enable the purchase of bulk food items. Thank you all for your practical and prayerful support for us and for these dear people.

C. 23/4/22 TIM & JENNY GOODING

27<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 8:1-21

#### **UKRAINE Pop. 44 Mil. UK 4 Lviv**

Now I am feeling a little stronger I had an exercise to visit Krakow in Poland and the way opened up for a 3 day visit recently, when I spent some time at the central train station in Krakow, distributing Ukrainian John's Gospels to the refugees. It was quite heart rending to see so many women and children with bewildered faces and marked by fear. God gave help to converse a little with them with my limited language ability and to witness about "Jesus Christ". I also had the joy of sharing with them financially with gifts that we had received for the refugees. We are confident that God's Word will not return void. Please pray for these dear Ukrainian souls.

Please also pray for our brother Ruslan in the Lviv assembly who has been called to the army and is now in training. Also remember his wife, who is a cancer nurse and has volunteered to train civilian soldiers on how to apply bandages, treat wounds and give injections.

We are thankful to God that things are relatively safe in Lviv, however it is the big fear of the unknown day or night as the air raid sirens continue to ring across the city. Also your prayers would be appreciated for the believers in the assembly as they continue each Lord's day to honour the Saviour in "remembrance of His death" until He comes. Please also remember the many orphanages as they have increased in numbers with children arriving weekly from the capital, Kiev and Kharkiv.

C. 2010 30/4/22 EDMUND & AGNES JOHNSTON

28<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 8:22-39

#### **ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Writing from the USA**

Having now been in the US for 6 months, we are starting to see God's direction in specific ways. Our time based at CMML in New Jersey has been a real blessing where we have been so thankful to have this lovely place to stay during our initial adjustment period.

As mentioned in our last update, we assumed that the Lord wanted us to settle in Chicago, mostly due to the needs of Joy's mother. However around 6 weeks ago, the Lord started to redirect us. Over a period of 2 weeks, He gave us all a sense of His peace that we should move to York in Pennsylvania. Truly His Word is living, being a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

This change of direction to go to York was not actually a major surprise to us since we have enjoyed fellowship with the assembly there over the years. Two of Joy's cousins are in fellowship there along with her Aunt Ruthie Logan. One of the cousins and her husband (Mitch and Sharon Geesey) were fellow missionaries with us at Loloma for almost 10 years, so it is a joy to know that we will be together again in the work of the Lord here. They relocated to the US for their children's futures about 15 years ago, so have much experience to share with us.

At this same time, we received another special answer to prayer for our oldest son David. He has an engineering mind and could go to college, but currently likes the hands-on approach rather than sitting at a desk. A dear brother in the York assembly has a heating, plumbing and electrical business. He contacted us to say that he had a vacancy and so offered for David to work with him as an apprentice. Last month David went to spend a week with him to see what the work is like, and thoroughly enjoyed it. He is now working with him full time, and staying with the family until we move to York. So as parents we are so thankful to the Lord for this gracious provision. There is also the possibility that Daniel may be able to work there part time if he is interested, so we will see how that works out. Typically he would prefer something in the carpentry line, so we will wait to see what the Lord opens up for him.

During the past couple of weeks the Lord has also helped with a number of other important items for which we praise him.

- Drivers licenses for both Tim and David, after they successfully passed both the knowledge and practical tests.
- Some medical check-ups for Tim based on the aggressive cancer that 2 of his brothers are facing in the UK. Thankfully for him no traces of cancer have been found.
- Social Security Cards for all of the children, which is a very important identification document in the US.

C. 1997 11/4/22 TIMOTHY & JOY BEER

29<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 8:40-56

#### **ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Writing from the USA**

A key concern at this point is for a place to live, so for some weeks we have been able to visit York to look around for something suitable. A year ago we would not have dreamed of being able to buy a house, but God has been working in other amazing ways. A house right next door to our cousins Josh & Gracie Irwin has been vacant ever since we arrived in October last year, which based on the current housing market is a miracle. The owners were an elderly couple who both passed away during the last 2 years leaving no children. So the house which is fully furnished (and stuffed full of clutter), is being unofficially sold by a nephew who lives 9 hours drive away and does not really want the hassle of clearing it out and selling it. As you may imagine we are happy to do lots of clearing out along with a few modifications in return for a cheaper price. We have therefore started the purchasing process, and God willing hope to move in by the end of May.

God willing, we plan to leave CMML at the end of next week. We will spend the weekend in York and then travel to Chicago for 3-4 weeks, to help with the care of Joy's mum. Tim will also be speaking at a 3-day conference there, so values your prayers for that time. Joy's sister Rebekah continues to do a great job looking after mum, along with Sam and Sarah, but Rebekah really needs a complete break away. Mum has dementia and of concern has had a number of falls recently. In the will of the Lord, we plan to make a few modifications to the house in York

so that it will be suitable for mum to come and stay with us for several months at a time.

Tim is thankful to be able to keep up with the work at Loloma on an almost daily basis. Apart from looking after many of the financial responsibilities for the mission he is thankful to be able to encourage and mentor different ones using WhatsApp. We thank the Lord for the many dedicated believers we have been privileged to work with over the years who faithfully continue in the work of the Lord there. Encouraging reports come from the work at the hospital, the village for the elderly, the outreach work in the villages, assembly visitation and the boarding school at Kayombo. Of particular mention in this update is Yowanu the workshop mechanic who also helps with the village for the elderly and many other things. He has been so faithful since the time we left. This week was the funeral for one of the ladies from the village for the elderly, which he and others look after. We were particularly encouraged to hear that for the first time Yowanu preached the gospel at the cemetery. He was received into assembly fellowship the week before we left, and is growing in the things of the Lord. Please pray for him and the different teams of believers that the Lord is using in the Loloma area.

God willing once we are settled in York, Tim looks forward to making his first visit back to Zambia. Several there have been asking when he will be coming, so we trust that the Lord will make all the necessary arrangements for a visit of his timing. It will be special if it will fit in with the conference / outreach season (typically July to September), so that he will also be able to spend some time in some of the remoter places. It will be special to be there and see first-hand how God continues to work in different ways in that area.

We are happy to confirm that during the month of March a team from Loloma went to Namibia for the yearly tract distribution that was started several years ago pre-covid. They were joined by some believers from overseas, and from the reports had a good time. Please pray for the blessing of the Lord on the different adults and school pupils who received gospel literature. As yet there is no assembly witness in that country.

C. 1997 11/4/22

TIMOTHY & JOY BEER

30<sup>TH</sup>

Luke 9:1-17

### INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Bangalore

We recall the faithfulness of God over many years as God has been using us as a channel of blessing to many poor and needy people in India. Many have witnessed God's love and providence at their time of despair, especially during the Covid peak time. We praise God with a thankful heart for using Stewards Association in India to reach out to the needy to a great extent in various ways at their time of need.

We have been continuing with this blessed work this year as well. The need of our believing community is tremendous, and the question remains in our hearts. If we don't help them, who will? Many of our believing brothers and sisters are still going through the aftereffects of Covid and the medication administered. There are ever increasing needs of medical expenses, education needs of children and ministry related needs.

We continue to look to the Lord for His help in meeting the needs of those who are in very difficult circumstances. Let us continue to pray for the work of the Lord in India and practically help fulfil God's plan in this great land.

25/4/22 RAJU KOSHY (STEWARDS ASSOCIATION)

31<sup>ST</sup>

Luke 9:18-36

### BOLIVIA Pop. 11.5 Mil. UK 2 Cochabamba

Last Sunday morning after the service a young couple announced their engagement. It was a surprise for everybody. We knew because they came to the house to talk with us but we kept it a secret. Renan is a very gifted Bible teacher. He is 43 and Judit is 40. They have served the Lord particularly among young believers for years, so they know each other very well. Everyone was delighted. Pray that the Lord will continue to use them as they serve the Lord together.

Terrible things are happening here in Bolivia. People are going missing and there are murders every day, mostly through young couples fighting when they are under the influence of drink and drugs. There is a great concern too for young girls between 11 and 15 with babies, many having been abused by family members. A recent estimate of 38,000 is probably conservative. It is so sad! Glad to say we still have every liberty to preach the Gospel. Richard, one of the young men in the assembly, teaches at Carachipampa Christian School where Clive and Gail attended and now our granddaughter is in Pre-Kindergarten. Every month all the directors of schools get together for a meeting. They asked if they could have it at Carachipampa on the Thursday morning before Easter and they asked if someone could give a short message before the meeting. What an opportunity! There were over 90 directors there and Richard was asked to give the message. Everyone went away with Christian literature (How to know God) and an Easter message. Pray that the Lord will bless many of those lives.

Continue to pray for the ladies who are out of prison. They are going on well for the Lord, but they have their struggles. Fumico, who is struggling with cancer, is poorly at the moment. Maria also has cancer in her nose. She had a transplant done, but her eyesight is very bad too. She was there on Sunday morning, and I kept her a seat by my side to help her as they passed the bread and cup. Blanca struggles all the time not having a job. Pray for Vickie too.

Mario is still having physiotherapy once a week. The diabetes is stable at the moment, I'm glad to say.

C. 1977 26/4/22

MARIO & HELEN PONCE

C=Date of Commendation

UK=Missionaries (approx.)

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