

# Look on the Fields

March 2023



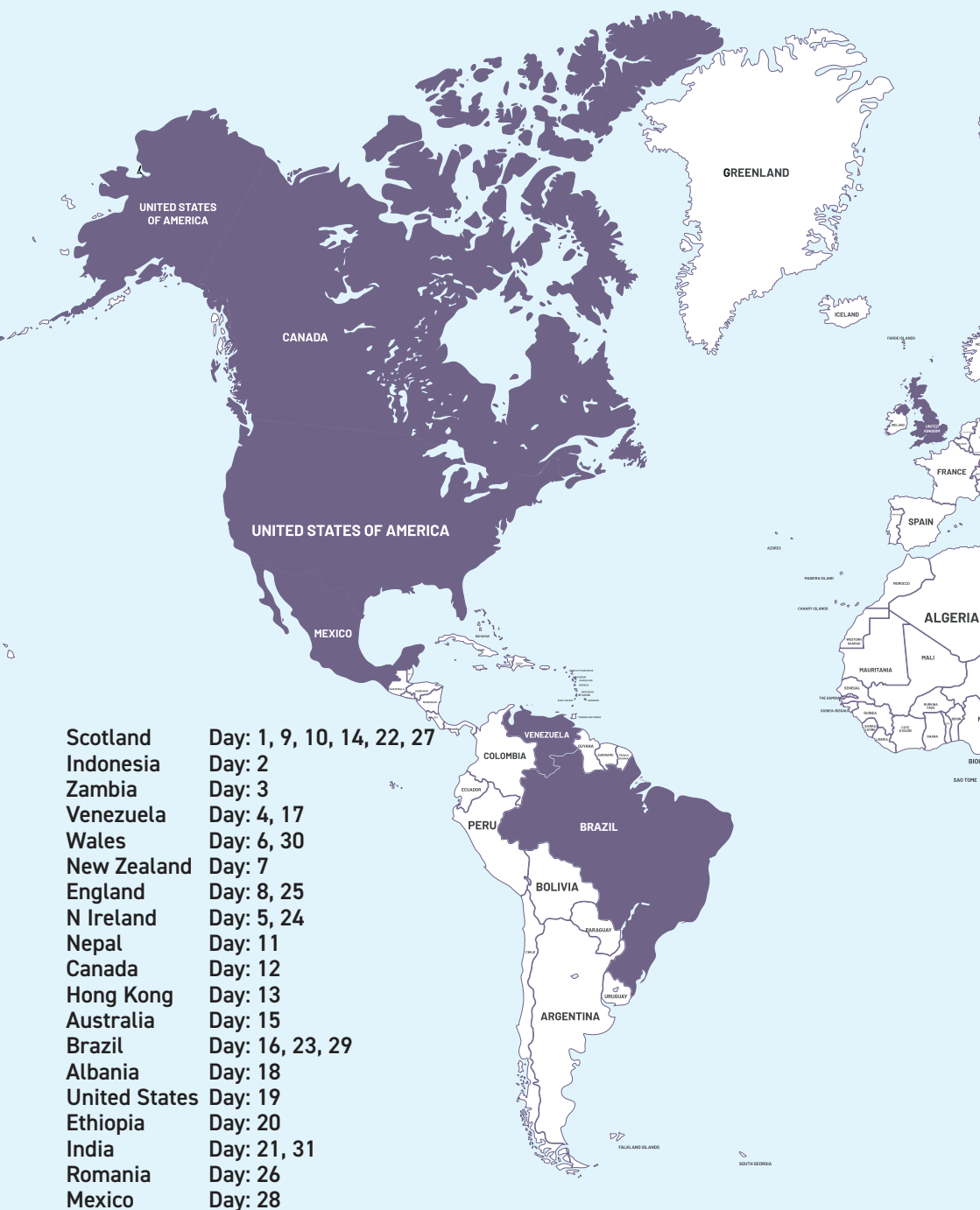
ITEMS FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE  
With Daily Scripture Readings

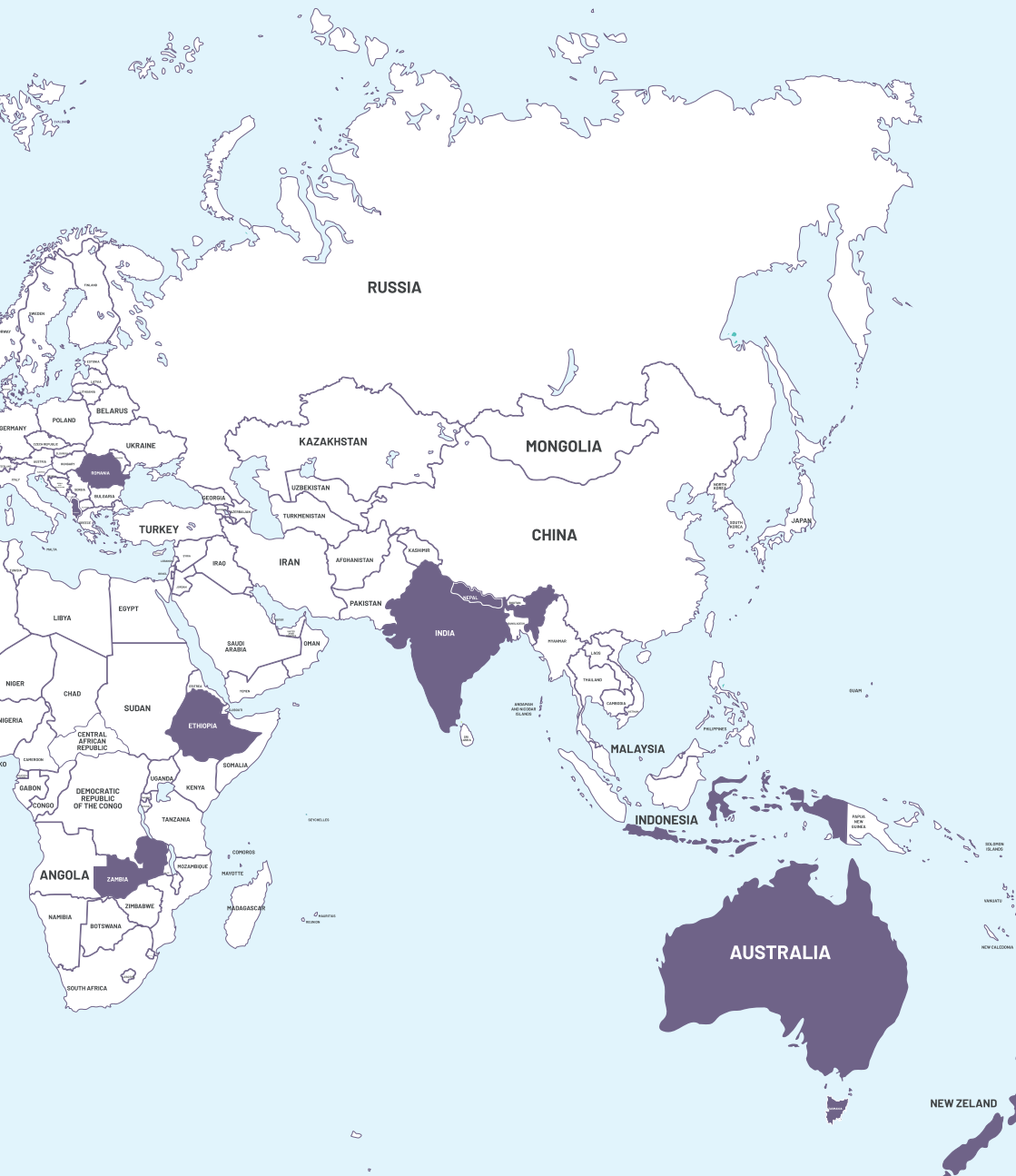


**LORD'S  
WORK TRUST**

STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE GOSPEL

**'Go into all the world and preach the gospel'** Mark 16:15







In the last week in January, we enjoyed fellowship with the saints in Bedminster Road, Bristol as we took up a week of ministry on "the Tabernacle". We were thankful for the long distances travelled by many to support the meetings. A young man asked for fellowship after the meetings which was encouraging. I returned home for February, as has been my practice for many years, to work locally in Glencraig and neighbouring assemblies.

### **Glencraig**

Please pray for the word spoken during two funerals of local people in February. The first contact we had with Betty was at the drive-in Gospel meetings. She and another of our neighbours started to attend our Sunday night gospel meeting when restrictions were lifted. She was only diagnosed with cancer a few months ago. We have reason to believe that she confessed Christ as Saviour (praise God). It was a large funeral as her husband was a Free Mason. I also took the funeral recently of a former neighbour of ours, Anna, again we believe she was saved later in life. She had become a regular at our Sunday night service until she was taken into a care home.

We would appreciate prayer for the gospel being preached at a local community venue on Wednesday nights along with Stephen Graham. We also took up the book of Romans on Friday night ministry (alongside our regular monthly bible reading) and ministered the Word to the company at Musselburgh during their mid-week meetings this month and other assemblies on Saturday nights and Lord's days.

### **Kirkcaldy**

We continue with the gospel meeting in Kirkcaldy on the last Monday of the month and Alasdair Baijal and I have also had a few meetings on elementary church truth for believers from denominations and new Christians. There are always unsaved to preach to and we appreciate the gospel zeal of local saints to bring along friends and neighbours. Many in the area have also been contacted through the work of the sisters at the clothes bank where they are given a John's gospel and invitations to the meetings. Some have come along to meetings as a result.

### **Dumfries and Galloway**

We received one piece of encouraging news this month that a couple that came for the first time to the 'drive in' meetings we had in Galloway with brother Jack Hay (in fellowship with the Newton Stewart and Glenluce assemblies) and then to the Portable Hall in Port William in September, were baptised in Glenluce in early February. Another man and his wife have been received into the Glenluce assembly. This man's father attended the same drive-in meetings for the first time from the same mail drop. A few now have been saved or restored and he, along with his sister, son and wife attend the meetings in Glenluce. Our brother Dan Gillies has been working hard in this assembly in the gospel and it is wonderful to see God working and the fruit developing. To God be the glory!

This coming month (March) we commence gospel meetings in Linwood, God willing, with brother Jack Hay. Brethren pray for us.



## INDONESIA



## Writing from Scotland

It was so encouraging to be able to visit Indonesia again after an absence of 3 years due to all the Covid restrictions. I am not sure how many times I have made this journey over the last 18 years since I first met the small number of young believers, in a shopping mall near Jakarta, with brother Rajeev Nicholas from Sri Lanka.



The story of the Citra Raya assembly goes back to a decision of five young men from Indonesian Borneo (Kalimantan) to go to South Korea to work in a factory. While there they heard the Gospel through outreach work done among foreign workers from one of the assemblies in Seoul. Having trusted the Lord, they were baptized and received into assembly fellowship where they were taught basic Bible truth and grew spiritually.

The story is longer than this article can tell, but the five young brethren decided to go home, buy some small shops, reconnect with family and establish an assembly in Jakarta. I was privileged to meet them after they were home for less than 2 years. At that time, they met in a rented house and there were about a dozen of them.

It has been my joy to visit them regularly, at the beginning I was going at least twice a year and now plan an annual visit. Other believers from Korea and elsewhere have also been a great help to them over the years. I have seen them grow from young single men with a passion for the Lord and the Gospel, to a large assembly with all ages and stages of life. It thrills my heart to listen to the singing and see them pray, eat, talk about the scriptures and worship together.

The assembly now own their own property and although their ability to hold public meetings is limited due to the Muslim authorities in their district, they are active in personal evangelism, youth work and other outreach efforts as well as teaching and caring for the assembly.

I have a deep affection for these saints, with all the challenges of a lone assembly in an environment which is hostile to the Gospel. When I visit, I teach the scriptures and travel with the believers as they reach out to their families and work colleagues with the Gospel. We travel back into Kalimantan from time to time to visit the home villages and bring the Gospel to fairly remote areas.

I now receive far more from my visits than I give as I am refreshed by seeing their progress, stability, love for the Lord and Gospel endeavours.

Please pray for the Citra Raya assembly.

## ZAMBIA



## SHAREAfrica

### *Helping alleviate poverty among the Lord's people in Zambia*

By God's faithfulness, and the dedicated service of our people in Zambia, 2022 was a successful year. We helped build or renovate 9 assembly halls, supported over 400 subsistence farmers, provided a monthly food ration to widows and vulnerable people in 5 assemblies, drilled 4 new water boreholes, and continued to support 219 orphans with nutritious food and basic supplies.



We also opened a new office in Chipata, which is the main town in the Eastern Province. It is from there we manage the farming and assembly support in the region.

We increased the number of staff at our main office in Makeni (near Lusaka). One of our aims is to provide employment for those eager to learn skills that will allow them to earn a wage that will sustain their families and their extended families.

In 2023 we plan to:

- Expand the seed development programmes at our facility in Chapata.
- Continue to support the completion of assembly buildings, particularly roofs and windows. There are two in progress, and many more on the waiting list.
- Expand the food support service to more assemblies.
- Continue with the Orphan Support programme.
- Provide material for outreach work – Bibles, hymnbooks, and radio ministry.
- Acquire more equipment to help rural farmers during cultivation and harvesting.
- Generate more income from our small food factory to help support more of the above.



The assembly work in Zambia continues to grow with new assemblies being started every month. However, the believers in these assemblies are in the main very poor. Poverty and malnutrition in Zambia are among the worst in Africa and sadly many of our fellow believers struggle to meet their basic needs.



Helping these believers domestically and spiritually is a service we are honoured to be a part of.

Please pray:

- That balancing the material with the spiritual will be done with wisdom and understanding.
- That we will be fair in our support, giving no cause for grievance from those we cannot afford to help.
- That all monies will be invested wisely and accurately accounted for.
- That the support we provide to assemblies will encourage the saints and strengthen their witness.
- That the children on the orphan programme will advance both spiritually and academically.
- That the farmers will have a good harvest in 2023.
- That Eddie Kasongo and Mwewa Mwindula, the two brethren who have dedicated their lives to the work, will be preserved. Both are elders in their respective assemblies, both have young families, and both have sizeable responsibilities.

God's mercy endures forever, and through His provision we trust that all beneficiaries will acknowledge His hand in blessing.

**Saturday 4th**

## VENEZUELA



Deut 29-31

## San Carlos

In the assembly of Barrancas, the year started off with a month of prayer meetings in light of the various needs in the assembly and surroundings.

In Guamito, one of the neighboring assemblies, the work among needy children has grown. One of the Christian couples had been praying to adopt a child but the Lord unexplainably closed that door. We had been helping them to add another room to their one-room house in order to fulfill one of the legal requirements for adoption. The room is now being used to help many children in the area that come from difficult economic and home situations.

These children cannot access free public schooling because they don't have resources for uniforms or school supplies. A Bible class is, of course, included with the secular education, as well as a meal. Word got around that this sister was helping children and even the local school called her and asked her to help some specific children. We have also been able to purchase uniforms and school supplies for a number of them to attend formal schooling. God changed the original plan, but He is being glorified and the gospel is being progressed.

We continue to be very thankful for the opportunity to help the children we have in our home. A couple of days ago, we took them all out for an ice-cream cone. Six-year-old Monica, the latest addition, was overly excited: "It's the first time I've eaten an ice-cream!" she told us. This touched our hearts and made us happy to be able to give her some of the small joys in life such as ice cream!

Several months ago, the Lord made possible the purchase of the neighboring property for the construction of the hall in Betania, Barinas. This is one project that Allan never got the privilege to finish. He had started it a couple of times but there was many setbacks and impediments, like the economic crisis and the gas crisis – then everything closed due to the pandemic. Since he passed, we had been praying about buying the neighboring house so the Christians could gather while the hall was being built. Later, we planned to convert it to be used for a parking lot, kitchen facilities for conference time, and also lodgings for visitors. The construction has started under clear indication



*Alan was called home  
March 2022*





*Meeting at the Assembly of Betania*

of the Lord's guidance, despite our reluctance to take on this project when our civil engineer is no longer with us.

Sadly, the legal paperwork for the school has been placed on hold as there have been many obstacles. One of the authorities in charge of the inspection has been completely unreasonable and very confrontational, demanding explanations as to why we took care of children that were not biologically our own. She accepted none of our explanations and threatened to file a formal complaint and was even mentioning jail time! Needless to say, it was an alarming experience! We immediately started seeking legal counsel with the appropriate authorities and other legal experts. They assured us that there was no legal basis for her threats. However, they did advise us to obtain a formal solution with the corresponding authorities of the area in order to have something to show in situations like these.

The authorities whose jurisdiction we come under came this week and did an inspection and were very pleased with what they saw. Pray that this matter may be resolved soon.

The national conferences were held again in December after not having them since 2019. It was a joy to be able to gather with many Christians across the country and hear the word of God. Today there was another all-day ministry in the assembly of Betania. There were around 220 in attendance. It is encouraging to see the brethren trying to incorporate more in-state ministry meetings to help those who are financially unable to travel out of the state due to the current economic difficulties in Venezuela. Your continued prayers are much appreciated.



We had a busy start to 2023. I had the privilege of joining a group on a trip to Poland to help in Bible teaching, evangelism, children's work and relief work for Ukraine. It was an honour to visit the different assemblies, to meet the saints and to help in the work. The Roman Catholic Church has a firm hold on Poland, and the "Jehovah's Witnesses" have a foothold as well, with the result that there are more JW's in Poland than evangelical



Christians. Pray the assemblies will know God's power and blessing in their witness so that the gospel will prosper, and assembly testimony thrive.

On my return I was straight into a series of gospel meetings with David Williamson and the assembly at Broomhedge. We had a very encouraging couple of weeks. There were good gospel opportunities during the door-to-door work, and we were delighted to see a good number of unbelievers in each night. We are praying we will yet hear of some being saved.

David and I continue to work in the Roman Catholic estates in Belfast. This is a work that is very much on our hearts. There are many people in these estates who are interested in hearing the gospel. We need wisdom to know how best to follow-up with the contacts we have made and would value prayer in that regard.

Lord willing, the next few months will be taken up largely with helping various assemblies in gospel campaigns. David and I start in the gospel with the assembly at Kingsmoss on 12th March, then we have gospel meetings planned in April in Dundonald. I intend being with the Ahoghill assembly in May, then I join Jonathan Black for gospel meetings in Bicester in June. David and I are looking forward to being back in Bangor for the two weeks of open-air meetings in July.

In all these efforts we recognise our need of God, so please do "pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified" (2 Thess. 3:1).



Monday 6th

## WALES



Josh 1-5

## Tenby

The little assembly in Tenby, in south Pembrokeshire, was planted in 2014, after preaching on Lord's Day evenings in the Community Centre for a number of years. We were able to buy a former chapel, once a Presbyterian property, in the centre of town just before lockdown. The chapel closed down thirty years ago and was then turned into a child-play centre. We installed a mezzanine floor which gave us a meeting room upstairs and room for a coffee shop downstairs, which is our main point of contact in the town. It, and the bookshop, is open five days a week and provides soup, sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee free to all who come in. It has become very popular in the town, and we regularly have every seat full with many residents coming in for lunch or coffee several times a week. There are texts on the walls, hymns are played over the speakers and books and Bibles available for people to read. We also run a food bank from the back of the chapel, which is proving very popular, and host a Community Fridge where food from local supermarkets is provided free. Contacts made through the Coffee Shop have resulted



*The Old Chapel*

in some bringing their children to our family service, which is combined with a Sunday School, on Sunday mornings. Several from the town have also attended our meetings. Over three Christmas-orientated gatherings upstairs we had over sixty people attend who have no connection to the assembly at all, and they heard a brief gospel message. One lady, who attends the coffee shop several days a week, recently asked me if we married people upstairs. When I asked why she said, 'Because I know I am living in sin'. Her partner, she tells us, recently asked her, 'Are you becoming a Christian?' 'Why do you ask?' she replied. 'Because you have been singing hymns in the kitchen all evening', he replied. Please pray for her.



*The Upper Room*

We have also recently started a men's breakfast on a Saturday morning. Our first one saw six men from the town attend, in addition to our own brothers, and they listened to

a testimony about how one of the brothers was saved. We printed 2,000 calendars at the end of last year and most homes in Tenby had one through the door, along with a tract on the faith of our late Queen. We pray these will provide a quiet witness through the whole year.

Our weekday Bible reading has been turned into a gospel evening. The format is a discussion – a question and answer session – following on from a presentation of fundamental doctrine. The first evening was spent discussing the nature of God – eternal, spirit-being, invisible though present everywhere, creator, sustainer, all-knowing, all seeing, all-hearing to whom we must all one day give account. Several very deep questions were asked by one man in particular, who attended with his wife. Subjects to be studied in the next few weeks are the holiness of God, the sinfulness of man, God's verdict upon mankind, the only man who never sinned, his death for sinners upon the cross and our response to that. Please pray that more will attend these evenings and that the studies will result in some being saved.

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IAN & REBECCA REES

6/2/23

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**Tuesday 7th**



Josh 6-8

**NEW ZEALAND**

**Auckland**

We seek to continue to labour with God's help in 2023, preaching the gospel and ministering God's word.

For the last 2-3 months, we have been serving mostly at home in Auckland due to a number of people in our local assembly having to attend to family crises overseas.

Regular trips were made to the Northern Province where there is a very small assembly at Waipapa functioning faithfully for the Lord's glory. It is a 6-hour return trip. During mid-January, with some of the locals in our own assembly returned, we were able to visit this little assembly for a series of ministry meetings. These meetings were well-attended by other believers in the area and further away, which more than doubled their numbers.

We have now traveled to the South Island of New Zealand for ministry and gospel meetings for the month of February. The Gospel work in this country is becoming increasingly difficult, with a hardness developing towards the preaching of the gospel.

Thank God for the power of the Gospel that is able to penetrate the darkest corners of the reprobate mind, and also the so-called "enlightened" minds of those who have been exposed to the gospel over the long period of time. We give God all thanks for the liberty to preach the gospel in our country.

We look to the Lord for help from above as we enter 2023 and we depend on your continued prayers for the Lord's work in New Zealand.

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MARIUS & YVETTE MINNAAR

3/2/23

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While abroad recently visiting our daughter and her family, I was hospitalised due to a thrombosis in my leg. They discovered two clots in my leg and one in my lungs, accounting for my breathlessness. I was put on blood thinners which brought me into the 'safe zone', as one doctor put it. Any one of the three blood clots could have been fatal, or left me greatly handicapped, but the Lord in His goodness preserved me without any serious after-effects, for which we are immensely thankful. I'm feeling well now and enjoying being back out on the streets, even though the temperatures are just a few degrees above zero!

### **Some recent contacts from street preaching:**

**DURHAM – 25 NOVEMBER 2022** Unusually, it was an uneventful time on the bridge today, although a good number of tracts were given out and there was a lot of people out and about. Once home, I went out for a short walk and bumped into Andrew Robson, a boy I taught 30 years ago when he was 10. Amazing that I could still remember his name! I did manage to direct the conversation towards spiritual matters. I asked if he ever thought about "What happens after death?" – "Is there a heaven and a hell?" To my surprise he admitted thinking about these issues an awful lot. I was able to share the Gospel with him and encouraged him to read the Gideon New Testament he'd been given in his first year at the high school. I also told him that our home was ever open to him should he wish to discuss these matters further.

**SOUTH SHIELDS – 3 DECEMBER 2022** Two months ago, I received a call from a lady named Sarah (70s). She'd received a tract from us some weeks earlier and was now asking if we'd pray for her as she had an operation impending. I couldn't remember meeting her, but I assured her I would make it known to the assembly and we'd pray for her. This we duly did. She called twice more before the operation and again I assured her she was in our prayers. Today as we were setting up the board, a lady approached us and handed me a large white envelope. It was Sarah with her man-friend Patrick. She'd come to thank us for praying for her! The operation had gone well but they'd found cancer! She has a consultation next week to determine what further treatment she needs. We pray that the Spirit of God may speak to Sarah and that she may be challenged by the Gospel.

**SUNDERLAND – 5 JANUARY 2023** I spent 30 minutes talking with James, a Mechanical Engineering student. He said at times he felt there must be a Creator-God, but then evolution would dominate his thinking and so dispel any notion of a Creator. He was in a conflict. He mentioned Thomas Huxley's argument when debating Archbishop Samuel Wilberforce in 1860. Huxley said if he had six monkeys that would live forever, six typewriters that never would wear out, and an unlimited supply of paper and ink, and given an infinite amount of time, these monkeys could eventually type the works of Shakespeare. I told him about researchers at Plymouth University who, in 2003, left six monkeys alone with a computer for a month. The result was a colossal, smelly mess. The primates attacked the computer and failed to produce a single word. I was able to share the Gospel with him and he accepted a copy of my booklet AMAZING GRACE. He gave me a firm handshake and said how much he'd enjoyed chatting with me.

Thursday 9th

## SCOTLAND



Josh 12-14

## Ayrshire and southwest

In John 6 a disciple approaches the Lord Jesus with provisions which, in and of themselves, are inadequate. As he does so, he asks "but what are these, among so many?". Although spoken in a different context, these words emphasise our reliance upon the Lord Jesus in any and every aspect of our service for Him. They are also words which are often on my mind as we travel across the southwest of Scotland and see so many towns and villages without any established gospel witness.

The approach we have taken is to try and cover these areas regularly with literature (some hand-delivered, others through Royal Mail) and with open-air preaching. With that in mind I am out on a Friday of each week preaching in the open-air. This takes place in Dumfries and Irvine on alternate weeks. I have also been trying to cover Lockerbie, Annan and Moffat, something that I hope, by the time of publication, we will have managed



*Open-air Stand*

to cover regularly once a month on a different day.

At the invitation of a couple of brethren who live in the Strathaven area, we had some meetings in my portable hall in May of last year. Since then we have had a few visits to preach in Strathaven town centre, and brother Derek who accompanies me is keen for this to continue as he has a real burden for the area. We have also had numerous series of Gospel meetings across the region over the last 12 months and that is the plan again this year, Lord willing. We have meetings planned for April in a hall in Muirkirk with Ian Robertson who runs a food bank every Friday in the village and who has had several series there over the years, both in the school and in portable halls. I expect there will be more series as the year progresses and the Lord lays places on our hearts.

We are aided in this work by the portable hall which I have. This allows us to pitch up and continue for some weeks as

permission and interest allows. We hope to erect a shed this year in the yard at our

house, which will be used to store the hall as well as the seats etc which are required for it. This will hopefully help keep it in good order for many years to come.

There is always plenty to do locally too and we are kept busy with preaching and teaching and the children's work. Christina, with some sisters from the Cumnock assembly, runs a toddler's group in our hall on a Monday morning and this started again at the beginning of the new school term. This is an invaluable opportunity to make contacts with these women and already we are finding conversations taking place about spiritual things. One woman, who also has a son in our Daniel's class, has started sending him along to our children's work as a result. These various activities, as well as the regular preaching and teaching opportunities that we are given by assemblies around us form the backbone of the work and we are thankful to have so many opportunities to make the Lord Jesus known.

C.2019

CRAIG & CHRISTINA MACKIE

2/2/23

**Friday 10th**

**SCOTLAND**



Josh 15-16

**Aberdeen**

Since leaving full-time paid employment in October 2018 I have, by God's grace and calling, been able to develop the connection between the local assembly and schools in the area. Previous to this time the Lord had provided many opportunities for school work but He gave me a burden to move from one sphere of service to this new work.

After developing a course entitled 'Explore the Essentials' I have had the great privilege, since February 2019, of teaching this in 8-9 local primary schools to Upper stage pupils (8-11 years old).

Through a series of 24 lessons delivered in 2 blocks of 12 x 45-60 minute classroom lessons, over a two-year period, second level (P5-P7) pupils are taught in a lively and engaging manner a variety of lessons that will enable them to 'explore the essentials' covering all the Experiences and Outcomes in the Christianity section of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence. This means that each child in the schools I visit receives 12-13 lessons from the Old Testament and also 12-13 lessons from the New Testament. It truly is an amazing privilege to be able to serve the Lord in this area of ministry and to be able to, on a weekly basis, teach young children what the Bible teaches.

As we work through the Old Testament we look at the major events (Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel) and the main characters (Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David and Daniel), but always seek to show how the scriptures point to the Lord Jesus. In the New Testament block we consider the birth, life, teaching, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus before looking at some of his followers.

It would be true to say that, due to societal pressure, many young children are biblically ignorant but the Lord has opened a door in Aberdeen so that approximately 700+ children can receive, on an annual basis, 24-26 lessons from His word.

It is a delight and privilege to be involved in His work. Please pray that doors of opportunity might remain open and even that some more will be opened. Pray also that these young children will receive the word and come to trust in Him, whom all scripture speaks of.

PAUL & GRACE COXALL

6/2/23



## NEPAL



## Writing from N Ireland

It was thrilling to finally arrive at **Peltamari**, having heard so much about it over the last few months. The gospel meetings held by Dinesh, Jiwan and others had been fruitful and souls had been saved. One thing I think I have learned over the years is that when God is moving in a district, that is the time to keep preaching. When I said I was returning, they said right away 'you must come to Peltamari' and so we started for a short series.

Some others came who were troubled at the Santi Choke gospel meetings but had not got salvation. The first one we knew who had got saved was a 16-year girl from Gangtok. She had only come with her mother (another lady recently saved) for a holiday. Through the simple remark during the meeting that "God is real" she was troubled about her sin and had no peace until the next day when she trusted Him as her Saviour. Although we were there just a few days, God moved, and many were saved. Due to the number that were saved in the last meetings, and those being saved in the present meetings, it was decided to have ministry meetings for young believers at 12:30 each day. When you are speaking to those who are only saved a day or two, brought up in heathenism, it takes a lot of effort to keep it simple, so that they can comprehend what their Lord expects from them.

The meetings at **Dhulabari** where very large, where almost 100% of the audience within the hall were unsaved. It was again a time of blessing and encouragement for us all as we continue to pray for a mother and son confessing faith in the Lord Jesus. We also pray for growth in the assembly, which is positioned in such a prominent city as you enter Nepal from India. I think it is worth remembering the fact that the believers in Nepal meet usually at 7 am to remember the Lord due to having to go to work and children to school afterwards, as Sunday is not observed at all.

Please pray for the many gospel opportunities in Nepal, especially those who have heard it recently. Also give God thanks for the large numbers being saved and pray for their preservation and progress.



Peltamari



Children's meeting



Sunday 12th

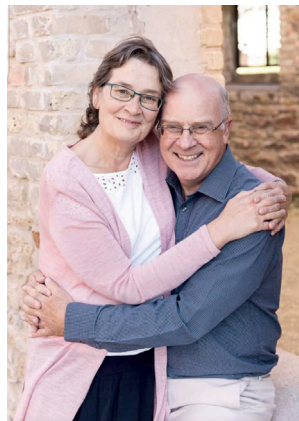
CANADA



Josh 20-22

Portage la Prairie

The shipment of 5674 BibleTime Booklets to St. Lucia was delayed once again unfortunately. However, they arrived the day before the schools broke for their Christmas break. Thankfully, they were kindly delivered by the Goulds in early January. Please *pray* that young hearts will be spoken to as they are used in the R.E. lessons. We are just about to set out for another visit to St. Lucia (5th – 23rd February) God willing this coming weekend. Please *pray* for three specific undertakings, that God would bless His Word. First, I've been asked to give ministry in two series of meetings in Forestiere and Micoud. Secondly, we hope we will be able to take a school assembly in many of the 20 schools who received the booklets. (PHOTO shows how typically these are held outside.) Thirdly we're praying that there will also be opportunities once again to share with our brother, John Honore, in his work as Port Chaplain, as he sets up a literature table in the mess room and seeks to reach those serving on the cruise ships that dock in Castries.



At the beginning of the year, we received the good news that the Caribbean Radio Lighthouse mission station in Antigua had decided to begin using the Anchorpoint Radio program. God willing, it will air every Thursday evening at 7.30 pm, starting March 2nd. Please *pray* for the 23 islands that will be able to hear this Gospel program. Please join us in thanking the Lord for this answer to prayer.

This means that all 9 Manitoba stations, plus this one in the West Indies, now broadcast both COMPASS POINT and Anchorpoint Radio programs. In January, as I wrote to thank Golden West for renewing their contract for COMPASS POINT to air on four of their stations, I asked if they would consider four more stations. Two more in Winnipeg, Manitoba and two in Alberta. Please join us in *praying* for new doors to open if it's His will. The two in Alberta are both Christian stations, as is one of the two in Manitoba.



Open-air meeting

After a break due to the pandemic, we're looking forward to returning to the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair in Brandon from March 27th to April 1st, D.V. We're hoping to advertise the two radio programs along with our main theme of the 'Water of Life'. John's Gospels will be freely offered along with poster texts and other Gospel literature. Please

*pray* for all the preparations, for the needed personnel and for God's daily help and presence throughout this outreach, that we are sharing with our eldest daughter Helen and her husband, Mike Knox. Thank you for your *prayers*, they are much appreciated and much needed!

C.2000

PETE & ELAINE SMITH

2/2/23

Monday 13th



Josh 23-24

HONG KONG

The Spring Festival CNY (Chinese New Year) has come and gone. We have waited therefore to be free to give you as our dear friends who support us in the Lord's work, **something of a reply to the oft asked question, how do we see future days of service here in China?** Thankfully we have been given blessed good health and strength, so health is not a current determining factor.

The thought therefore of leaving China as we enter our 60th year here is a somewhat enormous issue for us to face. Any such movement and change of course in action undertaken demands of us a very clear understanding of GOD's will. An important consideration in this is that of knowing as to what this society here deserves of us. To be of use and profit in any field of service to GOD and others is the only real reason to actually continue in that place.

The Lord's permission to any change of course necessitates His direct signal and power to move. Knowing His will as to what, when and how in this is a matter of great importance for us. The Holy Spirit sets the direction and seal for the way to go.

To "self-audit" we believe is essential in this. As believers we walk and live by faith **in all things**, conscious that we must needs consistently cultivate our own wee garden also and not look too much over the fence into other gardens to consider what other gardeners may be doing!! Doing silly, foolish things can lead us into doing downright stupid things of non-faith.

The blessed lifting of virus controls gave us here an open opportunity to fulfill a promise to visit brethren and friends in Korea. We found many hungering and thirsting for the Light, life and liberty that is ours in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. It was an exceptionally blessed and fruitful week there.

We now covet therefore your prayers to know, His good, acceptable and perfect will at this time.

C. 1975 (Aust)

JOHN & KAREN SHORT

3/2/23

**Tuesday 14th**

**SCOTLAND**



Judg 1-3

**Aberdeenshire**

We are so grateful to our Mighty God that He has answered the prayers of His saints and we have been able to return to most of the schools visited before the Covid lockdowns. It was interesting to note the lack of knowledge of Christianity that the pupils displayed after two years of no input. We are so grateful that the word of God is now being presented again. Please pray that His Word will not return to Him void!



### **PRIMARY SCHOOL VISITS**

Regular visits have started again to the 12 primary schools I visited pre-Covid. There are up to 8 infant classes per day. Staff and pupils have appreciated the visits. Recently, one head teacher said she appreciated my input as she didn't really know the Christmas story! Please pray that the Lord will continue to work in the hearts of a number of teachers who are interested in spiritual things. Continued prayer would also be appreciated for my voice which feels the effect of all the singing and talking.

### **BIBLE ALIVE (7 week overview of the bible)**

This starts from Monday 16th January – Friday 17th March (D.V.). 350 Primary 6 (aged 10) pupils in 8 different schools will participate in the Bible overview. Please pray for good attention and that the pupils will understand and remember the narrative as I build the story each week. Please pray for one particular teacher who has been through a lot of heartache and is bringing her pupils for the first time.

### **BIBLE EXHIBITION**

In May last year the 2022 Bible Exhibition saw around 250 pupils attending. We were grateful for the support of the saints in Inverurie Gospel Hall who joined in sharing the glorious message of the LORD JESUS life, miracles, death and resurrection. Pupils and staff enjoyed the exhibition and we are looking to the LORD to bless it again this year in May (D.V.) Please pray that pupils and teachers would come to know the Lord Jesus as a result.

### **SCHOOL SCRIPTURE UNION GROUPS**

It is such a blessing to be able to lead 3 local groups at lunch times and after school.

**SU GROUP 1** - The weekly primary age SU group in **WOODSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL** saw a record number of 25 pupils who are from a wide variety of spiritual backgrounds. I am delighted that a young Muslim lad continues to attend each week. Please pray that the

entrance of God's Word will give light to his soul as the gospel is explained each week to the children. The pupils listen well to the stories and look forward to receiving their verse cards every week. Please pray that the scriptures committed to memory will lead them to salvation.

**SU GROUP 2** - There are now 2 **DYCE ACADEMY** SU groups each week due to staggered lunch times.

**The S1-3 GROUP** have a shockingly poor knowledge of the Bible and it has been a privilege (and a challenge!) to capture their interest and turn them towards the Lord Jesus. Some have church connections but have not yet really grasped the importance of Salvation.

**SU GROUP 3** - The **S4-6 GROUP** has 3 regular members, one of whom is my daughter Jessica. Again, some attendees are ignorant of the Bible, but they are open to hearing about the Lord and it was especially encouraging to hear Jessica explaining how to be saved to one of the pupils who attended the group.

During 2022 we held **TWO HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUBS** at Inverurie Gospel Hall; one for the Queen's jubilee and another with a seaside theme. Please pray that the LORD will lead us as we prepare for 2023, God willing.

It was a real encouragement to receive a message from a young man (who was saved one year I was Padre at the Aberdeen Christian Youth Camp) asking me to perform the ceremony at his wedding in August 2023. Please pray that the Lord will continue to bless Nathan and his fiancé Cara as they make preparations. We are thankful to the Lord that He has blessed them both.

Thank you so much for your continued prayerful support and interest this year.

GRAEME & FIONA SMITH

2/2/23

**Wednesday 15th**

**AUSTRALIA**



Judg 4-6

**Queensland**

Our dear brethren Bryan Stewart and Clive Barber have just concluded two weeks Gospel Meetings in the tent in Tasmania. They also had the Bible Exhibition during the day, when people from far and near came to visit. One man drove over two hours to see the Exhibition. His interest was so great that Bryan gave him a USB containing 37 messages and 2 books, so he has plenty of material to listen to and to read. It was too far for him to travel to the meetings. Clive and Bryan had to guard the tent, as they had young vandals who came to cause trouble during the night. One night they destroyed a banner and Bryan had to call the police.

C.1991

OLIVE McDOWELL

1/2/23

Thursday 16th

## BRAZIL



Judg 7-8

## Sapucaia

We had very interesting and instructive Bible Readings in Porto Alegre on the 28th, 29th and 30th of December 2022. In the five meetings arranged by the brethren, we profitably studied the five chapters of 1 Thessalonians.

Since then we have been visiting local assemblies in the Greater Porto Alegre area helping in their regular meetings. Of course, we continue with our gospel meeting in the room at the back of our home every Saturday night in Sapucaia do Sul. Presently, we are having very encouraging meetings as some of our neighbours are in the habit of attending and bringing others.

Beth and I continue to help as much as possible in the small assembly in São Leopoldo that meets in a hall about 6 miles north of us. As we seem to be passing through a lean time, we appeal to you for your prayers.

This week, we rented a disused shop in Canoas with a view to commencing a series of gospel meetings next week with our brother Carlinhos from the assembly in Fátima, Cachoeirinha. Although there is no assembly in Canoas, there are about ten believers in assembly fellowship scattered throughout that large town of 350,000 people, including Carlinhos, which is very helpful. Please pray that the gospel may be faithfully proclaimed to the glory of God, as well as to the blessing of the unsaved.



A 3 hour ministry meeting has been arranged for Capivari on the 11th of February, God willing. This assembly has seen better days, because, for the last 15 years or more, it has been like the boat on the stormy waters of the Sea of Galilee (John 6:16-21). We long for the day when those saints will "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Phil.1:27).

The brethren of the Assembly in Porto Alegre have arranged their conference for Good Friday (7th of April). The chapter under discussion in the Bible Reading session will be Colossians 3. Please remember that day in your prayers.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers, but please continue to pray for us and for the work of the Lord in Brazil.



Friday 17th

## VENEZUELA



Judg 9-10

San Carlos

At the beginning of another year many are hoping things will improve locally and worldwide. But the Lord's people have another outlook: we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He has promised, 'Surely I come quickly', and our hearts respond joyfully, 'Even so, come, Lord Jesus'.



Last month, it was a real joy for us to be with our brother William at the formation of the assembly in Tucupita in eastern Venezuela, where he has laboured for years. After the baptism of six believers, including William's eldest son Matthew, the new assembly started with 25 members, quite a few of them of indigenous descent. The beautiful new hall is a credit to the gospel. The absence of William's late wife Verónica, who laboured with him in the gospel, was felt by all.

The Lord blessed the brethren's exercise to restart the year-end conference in Puerto Cabello after the pandemic, granting a truly enjoyable time considering the Scriptures. Notwithstanding the country's economic crisis, the Lord provided abundantly, enabling us to feed around 1500 during the three days. The simultaneous conference in Maracay was likewise blessed, as also in Maracaibo at the beginning of the year.

We spent the last week of the year in El Baul helping the saints with Bible readings on basic assembly truths. The last night we had a well-attended gospel meeting and the baptism of a sister. The interest in El Pao has kept up, encouraging us to make a greater effort there this year, God willing.



An effort is made to bring the handful of new believers on Lord's Day to the assembly meetings in Tinaco, and even some unsaved ask to come.

At present we are far from home in El Tigrito, where a Christian doctor is seeking to help our daughter Helen with her health problems. We are staying at the home of Elena's sister and her husband and trying to catch up on literature work and help the local testimony here.

We appreciate your continued prayers for Venezuela.



**Saturday 18th**



Judg 11-13

## ALBANIA

**Gjirokaster**

Things seem to have gone back to their normal routine and even though there were some cases of COVID 19 around, we have started to live our lives more freely again. After a long time of home schooling, everything is now back in its place. This transition proved difficult for some children.

In Autumn, school started in the second week of September. Three of the children started in the first grade, Samoel, Jetmir and Sijon; Ambra started nursery. It was a bit hard for our teacher to work with so many children, including some of them with learning difficulties, but we did it! In general, the children have enjoyed good health, but



*A visit to Logos Hope*

some of them, especially the two little ones and Ola, have had a fever several times during this year. We are thankful to God that we were able to look after them in the home without the need to go to the hospital. We have continued our routine check-ups for the children that have permanent illness; Izabela seems to be better with her epilepsy. For Ajla, the heart paediatrician said that she has improved but until she is two years old, she couldn't say anything more specific. So, we must wait until next September, praying that she will not need heart surgery.

We are delighted that after a worrying wait, the Albanian Adoption Committee has approved the request of a Christian family to adopt Izabela (Bela). They have 2 little girls of 7 and 5 years, both adopted children. They have come and spent some time with Bela at the Hiding Place. We are immensely grateful to God in the way the things went for Izabela. Continue to pray for Bela and her new family.

The Albanian Adoption Committee has approved a couple as Elidon's adoptive parents. The couple are Albanian, and they don't have their own children. They have come to meet him, and our little boy enjoyed their presence and is identifying them as his "mom" and "dad".

We have started the court case for "The declaration of abandonment of Miri". Pray for him as it is difficult to speak with him when it comes to adoption because he doesn't want to leave the home. May God persuade him and open his heart and get rid of his fears and doubts.

We are thankful to GOD for all the things He has been doing at the Hiding Place, the way He has led us during this year and for all His care, protection provision and love. We are thankful to each one of you dear friends for your care and prayerful support! Let us share with you some stories and give you some prayer points:

- Continue to pray for our children's health, especially for Ajla, Izabela and Xhediola.

- We are grateful that we can still share the gospel with the children, read the Bible daily, pray together and learn more about the Lord Jesus.
- Our social worker, who is a Christian, organises the daily Bible reading. Pray that they accept Christ and know Him better. He is the only one who can heal their wounds and fill their hearts with compassion, hope and love.
- Pray for the Christian staff to grow in knowing God and to live their lives with the aim to please Him. Pray that God will give us wisdom, peace and the ability to do this work well. Pray for the staff that have still to accept Christ.

## THE HIDING PLACE

1/2/23

**Sunday 19th**

**UNITED STATES**



Judg 14-17

**New Jersey**

It amazes and humbles me how the Lord uses assemblies and individuals to share in the care of widows. I also find it amazing how the Lord sent the prophet Elijah in a time of famine to be cared for by a widow. She didn't think she could do it, but the Lord saw to it that the barrel of meal did not fail. "Great is His faithfulness".

The annual Pennsauken-Barrington Conference was held with prayer & ministry on the evening of January 6, 2023 followed by two days of ministry at a school near Pennsauken Gospel Hall on the subject of Affirming our Foundations. The topics were: Confidence in God's Word; Commitment to God's Assembly; Conformity to God's Son. The speakers were David Petterson, Dan Shutt and Peter Ramsay. It was a very profitable and challenging conference. The many Christians who attended were so glad to be together under the sound of the ministry and gospel after three years not being able to do so at a conference. The fellowship was sweet. There were a lot of young people there and we pray that they were spiritually helped and encouraged to study their Bibles and grow in the things of the Lord.

The Pennsauken assembly is an active assembly in the gospel, especially among the Spanish speaking people. A young man of 16 who lived in a trailer park in Camden, was recently stabbed to death trying to protect his cousin. That young man had attended Sunday School when 11 years old and our Mexican sister, Johanna had a serious talk with him about salvation then. Some from the assembly were able to visit the grieving family and attend the funeral service, where they were able to speak a word in the gospel. We pray that this tragedy will result in fruit in salvation.

As for myself, I am so grateful to the Lord that I was able to attend all the conference meetings. I am still able to drive locally for shopping and meetings, as well as live independently with the Lord's help. We widows who live alone, keep in touch with one another and seek to encourage one another as old age brings many challenges. My neighbours, not believers, are most kind and often share something they have made with me, and sometimes I share soup that I have made with them. How I would love to win them for Christ.

## ETHIOPIA



I have been in Ethiopia for the last three weeks. Paul Jenkinson (Scotland) came from Uganda, planning to stay for ten days on his way back to the UK. Sadly, Paul was not feeling well, and as a result had to return home early and he was hospitalised as he was suffering from some abdominal problems. Do pray that Paul might make a full recovery.



On my first Sunday I was at an assembly called Ginchi number 4. There are now 5 assemblies in Ginchi, a relatively small town and all are a reasonable size. 30 years ago, there was only one assembly with 18 members! Assembly number 4 was in rented premises last October, but through the kindness of the Lord's people in the UK, they were able to buy a piece of ground. They then told the other 4 assemblies that they were hoping to build a hall, so all the other assemblies went to help in the erection of this new hall. It wasn't long before the believers were meeting in this new hall and when we were there recently, the hall was full and we had a very profitable time. Many of these people come from a background of Satan worship, mixed with a bit of the Ethiopian Orthodox church, which sadly is full of idolatry. We are grateful to the Lord that many have been delivered from this mixture.

On the second Saturday we attended an assembly north of Addis called Kela. They were having classes, using the Bible Education services booklets and there were well over 100 children with many different age groups and teachers to teach the lessons.

This week we have been at a camp with 100 young teenagers from 11 assemblies. All of these young people have never been to a camp before, so for all of them it was a completely new experience. The subjects given for this camp was the difference between Israel and the New Testament church, the universal church and the formation of a New Testament Church. After the teaching they were divided into a number of groups, where there were many questions on these subjects. It was a most profitable and enjoyable time.

On Saturday I had a meeting with the evangelists from in and around the capital. 30 years ago, there were 12 evangelists in Ethiopia; today there are 386! The brethren saw 16 assemblies commenced two years ago and 10 last year. Understandably, they are so encouraged at what the Lord is doing in Ethiopia.

On my third Sunday we were at Waleso, a town 100 kms from Addis. They commenced an assembly two years ago and there are now 60 in fellowship. Last year they had one side of the roof completed but this year the roof is now complete and they will start soon on the walls.



After a two year civil war, which cost so much, there is now a great increase in the cost of living for those who are already quite poor, so in different ways we seek to help those with financial problems.

I appreciate your prayers while I am here for the three months, when I will try and get around as many assemblies as I can.

C. 1969

ROBERT REVIE

6/2/23

**Tuesday 21st**

**INDIA**



Judg 20-21

**Narsapur**

Our centenary is at hand. Dr Ian Burness, Mr Stephen Shaw and Raju M Koshy will be arriving on 1st February 2023. Activities include the unveiling of a centenary monument, along with a centenary thanksgiving service on 3rd February 2023. We have already held various centenary activities, including a workers' conference and encouraging ministry visits. All have been blessed times of fellowship.

A team from Bethesda visited a small Muslim village called Vemsoor on 15th of January. A Muslim widow named Bibi was the first convert. Through her witness, an assembly



*Bethesda Leprosy Hospital*

was planted. Brother Raj Kumar and his wife are ministering in and around the village faithfully. In 2006 a hall was constructed, and believers continue to gather in this hall. The same day, we were thrilled that four young believers were baptised, and God's Word was preached. Around 80 believers gathered and listened attentively.

Rejoicing in the Lord, we returned home. This village is in Telangana State, which is around 200 kilometres from Narsapur.

Indeed, the harvest is plentiful. We are so grateful that our Heavenly Father is meeting our needs on a daily basis. Please praise the Lord with us.

**BETHESDA (LEPROSY) HOSPITAL**

19/1/23



During this past year I have been concentrating on personal visitation around the area. As a result of this, I have been invited into many homes and had the opportunity to read the scriptures and pray with some of these dear souls. A lady that I have stood and spoken with on the doorstep from time to time, had often mentioned about coming to the hall. She mentioned on one occasion about getting a Bible, which I was only too happy to provide. We were delighted to see her coming to the Christmas Meeting, with two friends. Along with one of those friends she was back to the gospel meeting two weeks ago. We continue in prayer.

It is interesting to hear a few of those who are older saying that when I read the scriptures, it brings back memories of early days when they learned some of these in Sunday School. How thankful we are that the Word that we preach is the Living Word that abideth for ever. I had a good conversation with a man who showed me his late wife's Bible. She had inserted a note with the reference to 2 Timothy 3:15-17, which I read and made some comments on, being "wise unto salvation".

The man that I have visited for many years (I will have made reference to him previously) and who has struggles with addictions, told me just before Christmas that he is undergoing tests for bowel cancer. I went to see him last week, but he was evidently under the influence of something, so meaningful conversation was not possible. Please pray for him.

I was recently asked to participate in a funeral for a lady who first came to the Sunday School in the 1950s. Although she lived in Livingston, I was able to contact her when I was there some years ago for some gospel meetings. She since attended Almondvale Gospel Hall fairly regularly. I continue to visit her two remaining sisters here in the Forres area. We continue to remember these dear souls in prayer.

Once again, the latter half of December was spent in calendar distribution. I was able to stand out on the street and offer the calendar to passers-by. It was encouraging to see a few being taken, as well as engaging in some brief conversations. As in former years I went round the various shops and businesses in the centre of the town; we know of at least five of these that have had the calendar on display over the past year. Of those that I visit personally, it was good to hear of the calendar being used throughout the year. Some spoke of it hanging in their living room, another has it beside his computer. One man told me of it hanging above his bed; this has been its place for the past 18 years. Perhaps settling down at night the last thing to meet his gaze is the Word of God! We pray that the Spirit will use the scripture to bring conviction, repentance, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

I plan, God willing to continue in these personal visits in the coming weeks. I also have a few believers who are associated with various denominations that I visit and enjoy some fellowship through our common bond of faith in Christ. Some of these have very little fellowship with believers outside their church attendance.



Thursday 23rd

BRAZIL

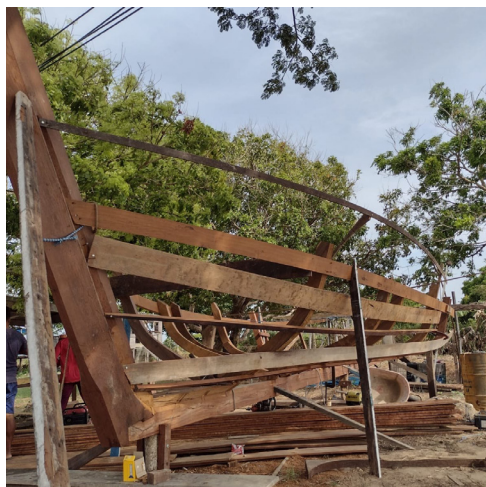


1 Sam 1-3

Santarém

We praise God for his grace and care in another new year.

**Assemblies:** By the grace of God, the eighteen assemblies move forward, some with a reduced number of brothers, due to the move of some to the city, and others who are with the Lord. However, the others continue with a good number of faithful brothers serving in fellowship. Some young brothers in the assemblies are interested in working to advance the gospel and are accompanying us on some trips. Pray for these. There are three weekly gospel meeting points: Macurá (riverside community), Oriximiná (town) and Juá (neighborhood in Santarém). Please continue to pray for the spiritual growth of the assemblies, as well as the salvation of souls in the various gospel meetings.



Boat being built



Boat finished

*To advance the gospel,  
a boat is very useful*

**The Boat:** Samuel Davidson's generation worked tirelessly to advance the gospel. A boat was useful for them, as it is very useful in our generation today, where 95% of our movement is by water. We are grateful to the Lord for His provision of our new boat, which is useful for our visits to the assemblies that are in the area of the Amazon River. It is also useful for us to advance the gospel on two other tributary rivers; Arapiuns and Tapajós, where there are still no assemblies.

Since August 2022 we have been going up the Arapiuns river (11 hours going up river)

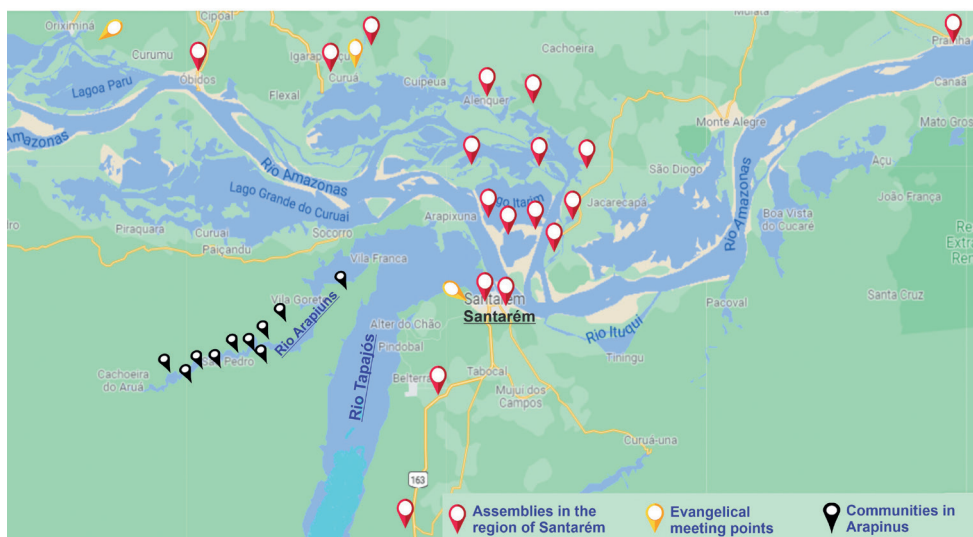


every month, each trip is between 7 to 8 days. More than a dozen communities and schools are visited. Bible reading is done in schools, Bibles and evangelistic material (Bible time) are distributed to children, adolescents, teachers and parents. Each month, gospel meetings are held in the communities, and are always held in the home of a local resident. The gospel is also announced once a week on a forest radio station, which reaches more than 35 communities.

In Belterra (25 miles to the south), we distribute Bibles and evangelistic material (Bible hour) to more than 4800 students. Mojuí (22 miles to the south) also expressed interest in biblical literature in schools this year. My wife (Deborah) helps me in the preparation of materials and Bible lessons for the schools.

We are also working on over eighty streamlined Bible courses on Christian living and assembly principles written by Samuel Davidson, which are shared in print, colour, and digital.

Please pray for these students and for the spread of the gospel in the Arapiuns region.



Friday 24th

N. IRELAND



1 Sam 4-8

Newtownabbey

Our door-to-door evangelism in North and West Belfast was very encouraging in 2022 as Paul McCauley and I managed to cover several large housing estates (Turf Lodge, New Lodge, Ballymurphy, New Barnsley, Ardoyne) and enjoy many good conversations, making some new contacts. This work continues any time our schedule of other activities lessens.

This year commenced with Bible teaching commitments in various assemblies.

On 22nd January, Paul McCauley and I commenced two weeks of Gospel meetings in Broomhedge Gospel Hall in Northern Ireland. We have been encouraged by the numbers attending including some locals and look to the Lord for His blessing.



On 4th February I travel to Hildenborough in Kent for one week of Gospel meetings with the local assembly there. This assembly, celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, has arranged for the distribution of 36,000 invitations to hear the Gospel. Prayer would be valued for the seed sown.

On 16th February I intend to travel with Marshall and Jean Howe to Kathmandu in Nepal via India for a couple of weeks to encourage the local assemblies there. The visit will involve a mix of teaching, Gospel preaching, and personal encouragement.

After my return Paul McCauley and I commence Gospel meetings in association with Kingsmoss Gospel Hall which will take us up to Easter. After Easter we hope to commence Gospel meetings in Dundonald Gospel Hall for some weeks and, immediately after that, I have been asked by brother Stephen Harper to travel to Malawi for a Bible teaching conference where we hope to teach foundational Gospel doctrine along with teaching about the local Church and Dispensations. Much of our teaching will be drawn from the Roman epistle.

Needless to say, the next few months are quite busy and I would greatly appreciate prayer for the following:

1. Spiritual freshness. A busy schedule can sometimes lead to a dry spirit. Please pray for the Lord to minister the needed help in this regard.
2. Fruit in our Gospel labours. Please pray for the salvation of souls in Broomhedge, Hildenborough, Kingsmoss, and Dundonald.
3. Blessing for God's people. As we teach the word at home and abroad the goal is the spiritual edification, exhortation, and comfort of God's children. Please do pray for this at home, in Nepal, and in Malawi.
4. The blessing of my family. The Lord has blessed me with my wife Jennie and two children, Anna and Caleb. Please pray that, especially as I travel, they may know His hand upon them for good in all things.
5. The ongoing door to door work in Belfast. We would dearly love to see souls saved and small assemblies strengthened in Belfast; please pray to this end.

DAVID & JENNIE WILLIAMSON

7/2/23

**Saturday 25th**

**ENGLAND**



1 Sam 9-12

**London**

Last February, we had our first Children's Special back in the hall since the pandemic began. A total of 47 different children came during the week and sometimes around 5-6 mothers were sitting at the back listening to the message. John Aston came to help share in the meetings which was much appreciated. Two of the children made a card and wrote inside thanking the team for the songs they learnt, the games they enjoyed and that we taught them more about Jesus so that they can put their trust in Him.

**South Norwood Festival:** We were able to book at stall again at the South Norwood festival in July which is the biggest festival in the area. We arrange an earlier Breaking of Bread and then spend the whole Sunday in outreach. It is encouraging to see most of the assembly believers taking turns to help during the day. Every year we have enjoyed good weather from the Lord and this year thousands visited and the believers were able to distribute a good amount of literature.

**Grange - Picnic in the park:** In September, Clifton Hall was able to put up at stall at another festival in Grange Woods. This is up the road from the hall and a number of the visitors know where we are. This festival had less stall holders present due to the Queen's death but numbers of parents and children attending the event appeared to be the same as last year. This festival is geared more towards families and children.



**Visits to India:** We were able to visit India twice in 2022, the first being a visit in January for the wedding of Ellen's brother Timothy. There were many covid restrictions and most assemblies were still meeting on Zoom. We were only able to meet a few of the believers at the wedding but our second visit in November was different with restrictions removed. It was a joy to see the saints again in Mumbai and Gujarat. A visit was made to the assembly in the Bhandup slum. The assembly continues to see souls saved. A newly saved woman was so thrilled at the change the Lord has made in her life. Brother Shaji Samuel who labours there has also been instrumental in the planting of several other assemblies in a tribal area in the hill station of Munnar and another assembly testimony in Bangalore amongst north Indian labourers who migrated south for work. He and his wife travel extensively around the country amongst the several assemblies they have established, strengthening the believers. A visit was also made to renew fellowship with the saints in Anand Gujarat who are going on well. The work remains hard, with the anti-conversion laws making it hard to preach the gospel. However, a work amongst children in a nearby village has recommenced and is going on well.

**Wembley:** The hall there appears abandoned with little going on. Tragically, the two individuals who closed down the work continue their hold on this place and the trustees appear to be unable or unwilling to act. We continue to meet the children online and at a local park. We continue to cry to the Lord like the Psalmist, "My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long?" (Psalms 6:3). We do not know when we shall be able to recommence fully our outreach to the Gujarati people again.

**Moslem seeking the Lord:** We were very encouraged when a Moslem who lives nearby told us he has been reading the Bible every day. We were able to get a Bible study course for him in his language and he seems to be genuinely seeking the Lord. One Lord's Day he was able to get time off work to observe our morning meeting at Clifton. Name withheld for his safety. Please pray for his salvation. We thank all who pray for us and the work of the Lord.

NITISH & ELLEN PATEL

12/1/23

**Sunday 26th**



1 Sam 13-14

**ROMANIA**

**Gilau, Cluj**

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your prayerful interest throughout the last year.

With help from our friends in the UK, we were able to source gifts and pack 150 children's Christmas gift bags in November. 30 were given to a brother in the next village who works with gypsy families there, 70 were taken by our friends Lucian & Rodica up into the mountains to remote families with whom they have contact, and 50 went up to our friend Dr. Adi in Sighet, from where they were then taken into Ukraine and given to children in need there. Jenny had 2 of her Bible Story Colouring books translated into the Ukrainian language and each bag had one in it. They were so well received that they have requested more and so we have just had another 100 printed which we shall take up to the border soon.

In 2022 we had 56 patients and some with husbands, wives, or children as carers for them, stay in Casa Luca. Each one received a Bible in either the Romanian or Hungarian language, together with a plant pot with the verse from John 3:16 on it. Jenny grows small house plants for them to take home and encourages each of them to read the verse whenever they water the plant! Please pray with us for these dear ones as they have gone back to their homes having completed their treatment for cancer. Some we see periodically as they come back to Cluj for post treatment check-ups and stay with us one night. Others keep in contact via social media or telephone calls. It has thrilled us to hear that at least two ladies who stayed with us last year have been saved. Elena was baptized in December, and the other lady, Raluca, has asked to be baptized here in Gilau! Praise God for His love and grace to these two new believers.

Last year we wrote about our proposal to convert the Dental Surgery building and the old schoolroom into 3 apartments which we could rent out to help sustain Casa Luca. It was very difficult to find an architect who was willing to take on this project as the building's use has to be changed to residential. However, we found one and she has drawn up the plans which have now been submitted to the local council for their approval. Please pray that it will be approved quickly so that we can get on with the alterations in the spring. We are so grateful for Nicu, who does so much of the paperwork and chasing around. Currently, we are also renewing some documents and adding some new members to our 'foundation', as we are required by law. In their wisdom, the local council have also renamed and numbered all the streets in Gilau, which is adding extra work to the already complicated paperwork!

C. 2002

TIM & JENNY GOODING

30/1/23



## SCOTLAND

## Perth

Last year brought several interesting new opportunities for the communication of the Gospel.

- **Community Lunches** – we've been running a monthly community lunch since March 2022 which has brought us into contact with quite a number of people from the neighbourhood who we hadn't previously met. We usually get 30-40 people from the community along and always have a 10 minute Gospel message.
- **Soup Kitchens** – Numbers have been down a little since the pandemic, but a decent crowd still hear the Gospel on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Over the years hundreds have been reached with this work and it continues to provide some great opportunities.
- **Perth Prison** – in October 2022 I was invited in to be interviewed by a group of prisoners on their prison radio station. I now have an opportunity to send in short "pause for thought" messages every other week for them to play on the station. Some of these messages are also converted into short videos for use on our social media channels.
- **Scone Outreach** – in the lead up to Christmas we booked a community hall for 6 Sunday evenings in a nearby village called Scone. It has a population of about 8,000 people and no evangelical witness. We were particularly encouraged at the response to a Christmas service which was attended by around 50 people from the village. Due to the interest we are continuing to preach every Sunday evening.
 
- **Scottish Parliament** – I had a very unusual opportunity to share the Gospel briefly at the Scottish Parliament's weekly "Time of Reflection" in early December. The video has now been viewed about 10,000 times on YouTube – please pray that the message might touch the hearts of many, including those who heard in Parliament.
 
- **Christmas Events** – as well as the Christmas service in Scone, we also held a Carol service in a community hall in the village of Bridge of Earn which about 25 locals attended, and an outdoor Carols by Candlelight event at the Gospel Hall in Perth. Sadly the snow and rain meant we had to move it inside and also affected the numbers but we still had around 45 local people in attendance. Several thousand calendars were also distributed in various villages.

In 2023 I hope to continue to focus my attention on Gospel opportunities in and around Perth. Your prayers are much needed and greatly appreciated.



Tuesday 28th

## MEXICO



1 Sam 17-18

## Cancun Qta. Roo

### Sunday School work:

We have our weekly Bible class with children and young people on Sunday at midday. It has been a source of encouragement to us over the years as we have had a good number attend from the area surrounding the hall. Once a year, in August, we have a week of special Bible classes with good attendance.

*Prayer Requests: For more young people to attend the weekly class. A number that have attended in the past have recently lost interest. Also, for the families represented by each one that attends, that it may result in blessing in salvation.*

### 2023 Calendar distribution:

In December of 2022, we began distributing 10,000 calendars to the areas around the hall and other areas of the city. It has been uplifting for us to see the believers getting involved and giving calendars to their family members, neighbours and other contacts. Another area where we found an open door was in the public junior high and high schools. They have two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. As one group was leaving and the other was coming, we were able to distribute a large number of calendars to the students, parents and teachers. The reception was very encouraging.

### Prayer Request:

*For those who have received a calendar, that they may place it in a visible spot in their home, and that the word will speak to each heart.*

### Assembly:

By the grace of God, the assembly was planted three years ago. We continue to look to the Lord for His mercy, care and blessing.

*Prayer requests: For the spiritual preservation of the assembly and the development of spiritual gifts among the believers.*

### Plans for 2023:

Last year we had over eleven weeks of gospel meetings throughout the year. Looking ahead to this year, we plan to continue on with this exercise as well as our regular weekly meetings, special series of ministry meetings, home visits, children's work and distribution of literature.

*Prayer requests: For more souls to be saved and for other open doors for the gospel in this city.*



Wednesday 29th

1 Sam 19-20

## BRAZIL



Vitoria

These have been very challenging weeks as we, as an assembly, have worked our way through Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Walter is responsible for the next lesson, the passage in question, Romans 8.14-25. So often it is possible to try and do the Lord's work in a carnal manner and without the aid and action of the Spirit of God.

We were reminded of a story of a salesman that knocked on the door of an old lady who lived on the periphery of a small village. The salesman introduced himself and announced he was selling vacuum cleaners. He asked if he might come into her living room and give a demonstration. The old lady had no objection. The salesman left the room for a minute and came back with a handful of dirt and threw it on the living room floor. He then put his hand up the chimney and brought down some soot. Then he said: "If this Hoover does not lift every grain of dirt and soot, I will eat the stuff with a spoon." The old lady with a grin said: "You can start right now and eat. Here we have no electricity!" Sometimes we think we are capable of doing divine service without divine help; we do not have the Spirit's power behind us.



We had a great family reunion in São Paulo. The Lord gave us excellent weather and we were able to visit interesting spots. On Sunday were able to visit the assembly in Bosque. It was many years since we last visited, so it was a great thrill to meet up with old friends.

It was a great joy to meet up with Anna Penna (nee Maxwell) and our colleague Gavin Aitken from USA. Anna is standing beside Elizabeth in the picture and Gavin just a little behind me. Anna is still driving her car and looks well for her years. She has been a great help in the assembly, doing counseling work. She wrote for years for a magazine for Christian woman. Gavin and I go back a long time. Although never living in the same town, on many occasions we have shared platforms.

In the Photograph you will find Stephen's family on the right-hand side (Stephen, his wife Eliane, Daniel and his wife Izabella and João Gabriel). On the left side are Mark, Marisaura, Andrew and his girlfriend Vitória and Arthur and his beau, Laura. You can imagine the fun and talks we had together. It was good to be there.

The camp we built in Ituiutaba, with the Lord's help, was invaded by a gang and they managed to strip the buildings of all electrical wiring. Please pray for this situation as they have announced a camp that coincides with Carnival. This takes place early in February.

I continue to write books for publication and have just finished twelve chapters on the twelve appearances of the Lord after His resurrection. I have already commenced

another that deals with mentions of the rock - water, honey, fire, iron etc. from the rock. Sometimes the Lord leads us to hard places but always gives us help to face them and to come through them victoriously.

Recently, I have been busy doing medicals, and the result shows that somewhere in the past I had a slight stroke. The heart surgeries have left brain scars and these result in forgetfulness. Despite Elizabeth's battle against pain, she is still the stay of the house.

We will soon be at home with the Lord with no more troubles and trials. We are walking down life's hill arm in arm and the Lord is waiting for us at the bottom.

C.1966 WALTER & ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

3/2/23

Thursday 30th

WALES



1 Sam 21-24

Cardiff

We look back over 2022 and see God's hand of blessing upon us once again, He truly is a good God. We continue to be astounded by the direction God gives to us, His provision and support. As we face 2023, we know we can rely upon Him in the challenges and know that He will provide opportunities to help others for His glory.

Stuart continues to have open doors to the local schools to take assemblies, there is generally a good attitude to visitors coming in and he is well received. Just last week Stuart was in two schools with over 700 pupils in each.



We previously mentioned about the possibility of purchasing a horse box to use in the homeless work. The Lord has wonderfully provided the money for this and yesterday we were able to pick it up and take it to Oxfordshire where it will be sign written, displaying a verse and the web addresses we use. We hope to be able to start using it sometime in February. This will increase the workers safety and enable us to bring more supplies to these needy people.

The prison work continues at HMP Cardiff and HMP Usk. Stuart enjoys leading the Bible class in HMP Usk and it is great to see believers making such good progress. CE continues in HMP Cardiff and during the latest course Acts 17 v 31 was read to the inmates. They were then asked how they felt about standing before The Lord Jesus as their judge. The first prisoner scratched his head and said that he was daunted, the next said that he knew the judgement would be guilty, then after a pause said that over it would be written forgiven, because he had repented and trusted in Jesus Christ as his Saviour. Stuart has enjoyed watching him begin to grow over the past few weeks. At HMP Usk, Stuart

has been able to write a short article for the weekly prison newsletter; this goes into each cell. A good number of prisoners have continued to do the Emmaus courses that Stuart takes in. Many men in prison struggle with addiction. Stuart had an old Sunday School friend come into HMP Cardiff and although surprised to see him, it was wonderful to share the gospel with him and pray with him too. He is seeking a Christian rehab, pray that he will get there and overcome his drug problem and find the Saviour.

The street and homeless works are a vital part of fulfilling the commission. Stuart continues to meet some ex-offenders who are now struggling on the streets. The needs among the homeless are greater than ever. It has been exacerbated by the very cold weather.

On the normal 'homeless runs', we are able to have two walking groups that take rucksacks of supplies and pump flasks through the town centre. The hot drinks, pot noodles, rolls and clothes are gratefully received along with sleeping bags and blankets when we have them. We are so grateful to all who donate these, and this very often facilitates Gospel conversations. The third group continue to take the trailer to the hostels and work out of this to distribute supplies and literature. The atmosphere can be strained, with relationships between those in the homeless community often dictated to by drugs and ongoing feuds. There are so many opportunities to tell of our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ and to give out literature. Please pray for these desperate people who face challenges that we will know very little about.

As the resources we have increase, storage has become an increasingly important issue. We have books, and equipment to store along with John 3 v 16 bags. We continue to use the Heath Gospel Hall for some storage and the exhibition is in our loft space. We are extremely grateful for the storage we have but are looking to the Lord for something more suitable and permanent. We also have an order going in for another 35,000 John 3:16 bags and we are making the storage issue an urgent matter for prayer.

Thank you for your prayers for us, these are greatly appreciated.



**INDIA****Siliguri (NE India)**

The beginning of this year as usual brought both joyful and sorrowful news. Brother Matthew Philip from Kerala had gone to Pokhara, Nepal to serve the Lord around 45 years ago. Those were the days when the gospel could not be preached openly and gatherings of Christians was difficult. He died of cancer in Kerala on January 11, 2023. Five brethren from Pokhara attended the funeral and returned to Nepal via Mumbai. On 15th January, three of them decided to take a plane from Kathmandu to Pokhara which crashed just before landing, leaving no survivors. Please pray for their families at this sad time.

On the other hand, there were good tidings from different assemblies in Nepal and in the eastern Himalayan regions. Some of them reached out to new places with the gospel. All this assured us that in all situations, the Lord is in control and His sovereign grace rules. At this juncture we are conscious of your continued prayer support for the ministry in this region and we thank you for this.

Our visits to assemblies in other parts were at different intervals and we trust this was to mutual encouragement.

**Thanksgiving:**

I visited Gangtok, Ranchi [Jharkhand], Aiyabari & Dharan in Nepal to minister the Word.

During my visit to Ranchi, for three days we had Bible study meetings held at brother David's house. The assembly is growing and we were encouraged to see the interest in new believers to learn the Scriptures. Brother Rajender from Dhanbad also shared the responsibility of ministering the Word.

In Dharan, the young believers in the assembly were especially eager to learn.

The believers from different assemblies in the plains were also present, both in the Dharan and Aiyabari meetings.

Visiting Gangtok always brings back early memories, and it is an encouragement to see how the Lord has blessed a small beginning. I had the joy of meeting some of the old saints and especially enjoyed the hospitality of Jiwan & Rachel.

**Belgachi & Amjamni:**

The saints here are in desperate need of help. We have been praying that the Lord will send His servant to live in this area and continue the ministry.

Jonathan and Deepak continue to visit the believers here and help them spiritually.

Gulabi, a young sister, is taking care of Sunday school and teaching the children. Please pray that the Lord will bless this work and continue to keep her faithful.

In the month of October, we had three days fellowship meeting at Salbari to encourage the believers of Amjamni and Belgachi. Believers from Jharkhand, Dooars region and from nearby assemblies participated. About 175 attended the meetings. Twelve evangelists serving the Lord among these people took the responsibility of ministering.



This is the first time that we had such large attendees and the presence of servants of God together.

**Camps:** We are prayerfully looking forward to resume the Bible camps this year.

**Salbari Assembly:**

Aryan's mother is saved and she attends the meetings regularly. She needs much prayer to grow in the Lord. We are praying for the salvation of his father and other family members as well. Aryan has moved to Thane and is enjoying the fellowship with Bethesda Assembly.

**Ashakendra School:**

Though we had discipline and adjustment problems among the students during the last year due to the pandemic, things are becoming normal and interest in learning has increased. The teachers are also giving their best to help the students.

We had the school annual sports day in December. More than 400 invitees were there. Kiran preached the gospel. We are grateful to God for continuing to give us this open door. Please pray that some souls will be blessed with salvation.

**Translators:** Since professional translators' charges are very high, we are in desperate need of English/Nepali translators to further our literature work.

**Prayer matters:**

- Continuation of open doors for the Gospel both in the field and school.
- Samdhan Nepali magazine to recommence.
- Helping the assemblies in different areas of Nepal, including Kathmandu.



We earnestly request you to remember these matters in your prayers.



C=Date of Commendation

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