

Look on the Fields

May 2023

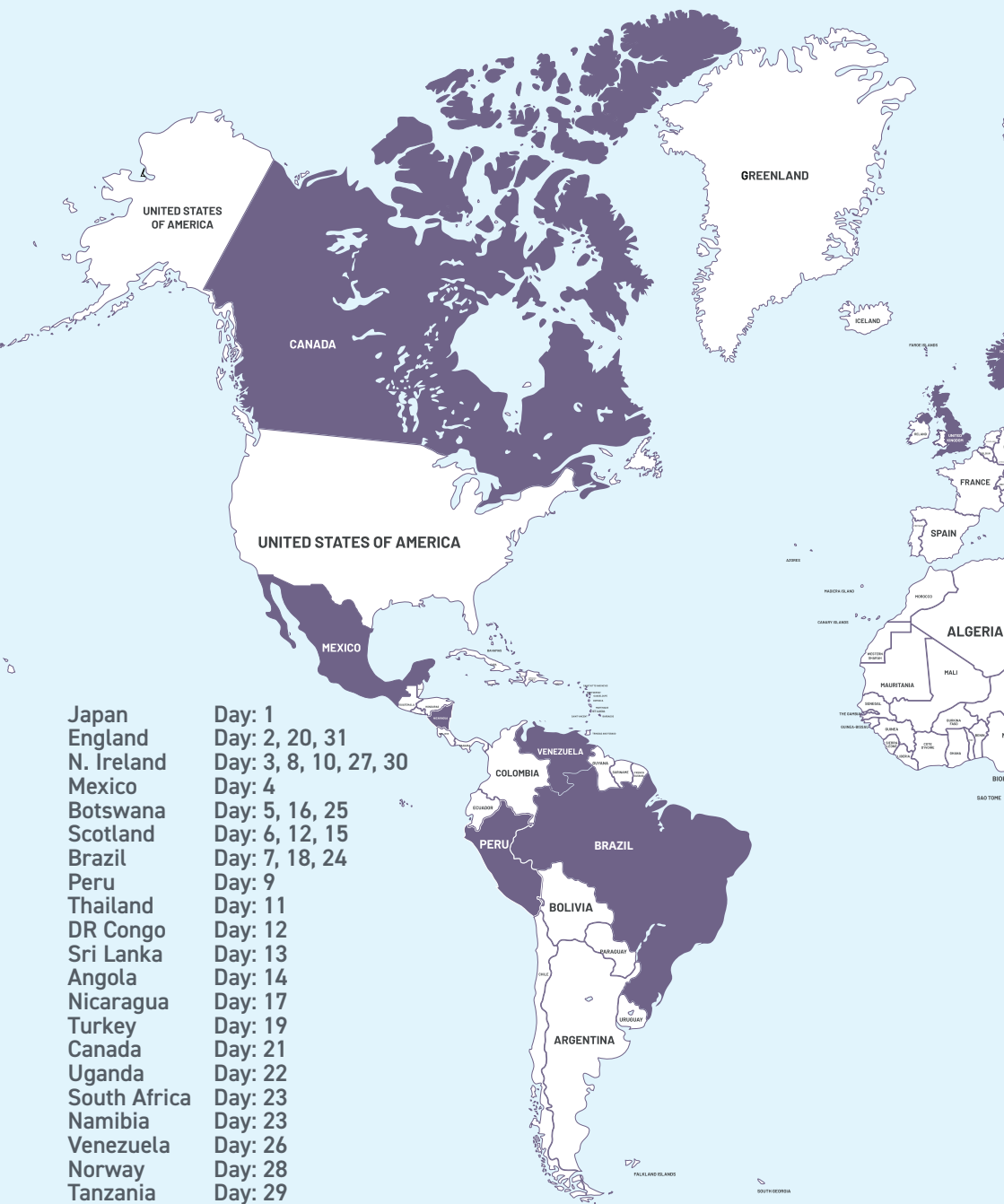


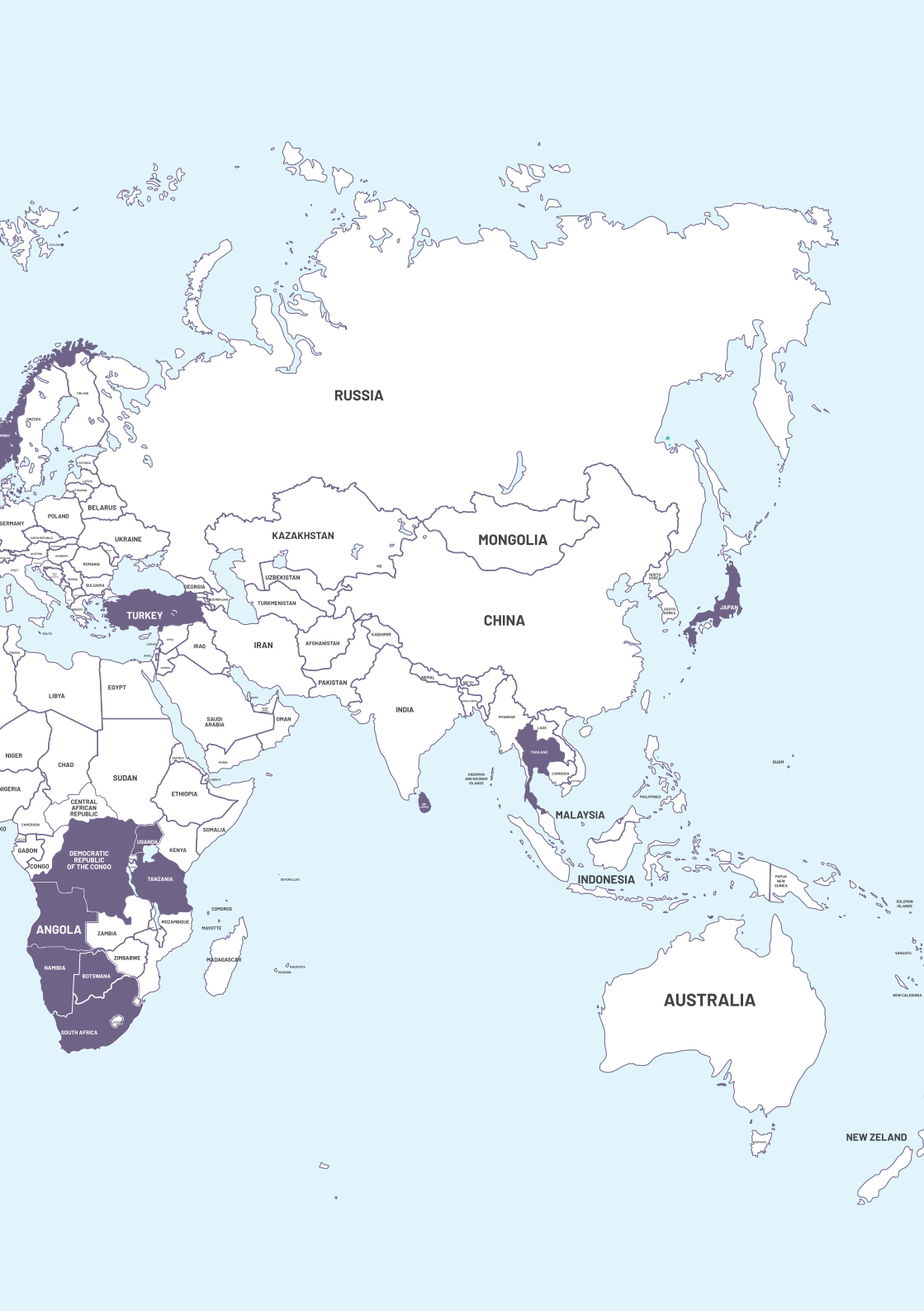
ITEMS FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE
With Daily Scripture Readings



**LORD'S
WORK TRUST**
STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE GOSPEL

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





Monday 1st

JAPAN



1 Chron 7-8

Tokyo

I was able to visit Japan in early January, visiting assemblies in Tokyo, Kawasaki and Yokohama. The borders had been greatly restricted during the pandemic, preventing me from visiting for over three years. Such strict measures were successful in dampening the effect of the pandemic and the assemblies were not affected unduly. In fact, I do not know of any believer who was seriously ill or died as a result of the virus. Apart from some brief closures in Tokyo, the breaking of bread continued as normal throughout the country. However, special gospel meetings were not conducted, and regular conferences were either cancelled or restricted in duration. Of course, masks are still always worn in all the meetings, but this is part of their culture anyway.

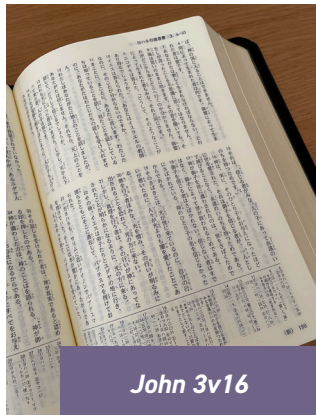
It was a joy to visit the assembly in Fuchu, Tokyo, where the Curries laboured for many years, and where we started over 21 years ago. They have remained steadfast, and recently some young brethren have moved to the area for work. These are keen in the study of the Scriptures and appreciated the ministry concerning the Biblical Covenants.



Visiting the Assembly in Fuchu, Japan

In anticipation of my visit, the assembly published in the paper that a foreigner would be preaching the Gospel on Sunday afternoon. Four visitors came in from the community. They give out thousands of invitations for their meetings with little response, so this was a delightful result. The Gospel is not easily received in Japan and much patience is required. Yet, the power of God is still seen in salvation as in any other country.

A new translation of the Bible has been recently adopted by the assembly believers. I am encouraged because it seems to be superior to the one used over the past 40 years. While John 3:16 has not changed one character (yes, I checked when I obtained my new Bible!) there are many Old Testament passages that have been corrected. It will be hard for older believers to change to the new translation, but it is rapidly gaining popularity for public use.



John 3v16

In the will of the Lord, I am to visit Japan again in September for two conferences in the Tokyo area as well as ministry and Gospel meetings in other cities. I value prayer that souls might be reached, and the saints edified through the preached Word.

C. 2001 (Canada)

ELTON & RUTH FAIRFIELD

23/3/23

Tuesday 2nd

ENGLAND



1 Chron 9-11

Grantham

Emma and I were content in 2007 – I was milking cows and enjoying working as a herdsman; Emma was happy with our two young children. However, following a couple of visits from the Ayrshire Bible Exhibition over the previous 3 years, an opportunity to visit 3 or 4 schools had arisen. The local village school was easy to get to during my breakfast break but the ones in Grantham - 14 miles away - were always a little more concerning as to whether I would arrive on time!

The Lord gradually laid on our heart that there was more that could be done if time was available. I had been doing some home study for bookkeeping (accounts) and, through a variety of circumstances, we eventually submitted to the Lord's prompting to leave the farm. I studied to complete the bookkeeping qualifications over the next 3 months before becoming self-employed. The Lord provided a handful of clients – and gradually more schools.

The Lord has since opened the door to 17 schools in Grantham, as well as some in Peterborough through contacts that the assembly there has built up over many years. These visits are generally for school assemblies (or 'Collective Worship' as church schools describe them), but the Lord has also given opportunity for Bible clubs and the occasional RE lesson as well.

I am often asked if I can preach the gospel. The short answer is no, but I can *teach* the scriptures that are able to make wise unto salvation. The collective worship policy of a church school would say something like, 'The purpose of these visits is to educate, not evangelize'. I am quite happy educating as ultimately it is the Holy Spirit that does the converting! My aim is threefold:

1. Teach Bible stories / verses.
2. Teach Biblical principles and perspectives.
3. Leave the children with a sense that the Bible is something to be excited about.

Another way in which we encourage a knowledge of the scriptures is through assisting the schools to give out children's Bibles (usually between Easter and the end of the school year). With the support of the assembly in Grantham and the charity 'Bible's for Children', we provide a number of the schools with children's Bibles for the Year 2 children (age 6/7) and some request a Bible for those who are leaving. It is so encouraging when children tell us that they have been reading the stories in Bibles that they have previously been provided with – sometimes a few years earlier.

Please pray for the continuation of the open door into schools both here, and in many other places in the UK, that the entrance of God's Word would bring much blessing to the upcoming generation.

MICHAEL & EMMA BUCKERIDGE

24/3/23



Faith House Eventide Home opened in 1961 with 12 residents. The original building is listed, constructed in 1727, and known as Ballyfinaghy House. The objective of the trustees for the Home then, and still today, is to provide comfortable accommodation, in

Fatih House



a Christian atmosphere, for elderly people, especially those who are of the 'household of faith'. Many developments have taken place since the Home first opened and today there is accommodation for 32 residents in the Residential wing and 35 patients in the Nursing wing. An extensive programme of new-build and refurbishment is ongoing to provide modern accommodation fit for purpose in the 21st century. In the last 6 years, a suite was added comprising 11 bedrooms all to the latest standards for nursing care and 19 bedrooms refurbished to a similar standard for residential care. These developments have been made possible by the generous provision of the Lord through His people, as the Home depends on gift income for capital works. There are also 6 apartments on the site for those who are capable of independent living; presently some are available.

The Home has a strong spiritual ethos, which reflects the atmosphere that would have been characteristic of the individual homes of the Residents before taking up residence in Faith House. This ethos is evidenced by the display of Scriptural texts throughout the Home, a reverence for God, and facilitating spiritual activities. These spiritual activities include morning prayer meetings, hymn singing, and services addressed by volunteers, missionaries, and bible teachers. Such activities are organised both on a regular basis and on an impromptu basis in addition to other therapeutic and social activities. A number of these activities are broadcast on the audio system throughout the home for the benefit of those Residents confined to their rooms. It is customary to thank God publicly for the food at mealtimes.

Faith House, in common with the health and care sector, faces many challenges. The recent pandemic followed by the energy crisis have added to the ongoing challenges of staff recruitment and increasing regulatory pressures. It is with much thankfulness to God that there were no cases of Covid during the worst phase of the pandemic and those cases that have arisen since vaccination became available have been relatively mild. Staff "went the extra mile" to mitigate the worst effects of "lockdown". Facebook

was used to keep relatives informed of activities in the Home, and Facetime was used for one-to-one conversations between residents and relatives.

Volunteers were an integral part of Faith House right from the start, and today their help is much appreciated: - visiting residents, conducting musical events, speaking at the meetings, leading the prayer meetings, helping with activities, operating a tuck shop etc.

Looking to the future, in the will of the Lord, plans have been drawn up to complete the refurbishment of the Residential wing and to provide additional bedrooms that would enable modernisation of another block of rooms or possibly a dementia facility. The present board of trustees feel the heavy responsibility of maintaining standards of accommodation, of care, and of spiritual support befitting a home that is operated for the glory of God. They value the prayers and support of His people.

And the King shall answer and say unto them, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." (Matthew 25:40)

Update on Faith House Eventide Home

23/3/23

Thursday 4th

MEXICO



1 Chron 15-17

Xalapa

Last night we concluded a short three-week series of gospel meetings in the hall here in Xalapa. Timothy (Stevenson) preached each night, while I preached every other night. This was necessary as we are still spending a lot of time with Spanish classes/homework, and a 25-minute gospel message takes 5-6 hours to prepare! Two other local brethren preached on the remaining nights. While the numbers were not large on any given night, we were encouraged that eighteen people came for the first time. We have also been greatly encouraged to hear of the salvation of a forty-year-old man. His wife, who came occasionally on Lord's Days, began to attend during the final week, and our prayer is that we will soon hear of her salvation too. Another lady, in difficult circumstances and with poor health, came consistently and listened well. We were also encouraged to see some of the Mexican students from our university come and hear the gospel. These young people are studying for their language degrees and they take us for speaking practice as part of their degree. While having to learn Spanish has been a challenge, it has at least given us opportunities of coming into contact with such individuals that we would not otherwise have met.

C.2022

SAMUEL & RUTH CHESNEY

13/3/23



The literature work based at Serowe was begun by our brother and sister Jim and Irene Legge, who served the Lord in Botswana for around fifty years. The work is continued



Mike, Lebo & Sabs

by brother Seabenyane Dichabeng (Sabs) and a team of willing volunteer workers from the Serowe assembly. They willingly give of their time to co-ordinate the distribution of Bible lessons to the schools within the large village of Serowe and throughout the wider area. Much of the burden is shared by our sister Lebogang Puso (Lebo) who has been fully involved in the work for the past twenty years.

The lessons follow a three-year scheme for children between ten and twelve years of age and are provided throughout the school year. Over the course of the year, each child will receive over twenty lessons, so that over the three years, sixty lessons will be completed. A total of around 50,000 lessons are provided free-of-charge to a total of 37 primary schools each year – reaching around 4,000 children with the gospel week after week. We can thank God for the continuing open door in schools throughout the country and pray for His blessing upon the seed that is sown in this way.

In addition to this, lessons are provided to a number of prisons in Botswana. The depot at Serowe also provides many items of literature in Setswana for use throughout the country by the six assemblies and the believers. Brother Seabenyane is also engaged in gospel outreach in surrounding villages where there are still many opportunities for the spread of the gospel.

Saturday 6th

SCOTLAND



1 Chron 22-24

Perth

LOCAL

2022 marked our 50th year in full-time service, and the assembly at Perth very kindly acknowledged that at the end of a meeting that coincided with our 54th wedding anniversary. They provided a lovely cake for the occasion!

I had promised to help with one or two local activities in December, but a bout of the flu hampered that. However, I was well enough to conduct a Gospel Meeting in Comrie on Christmas Eve when over 50 from the neighbourhood were present plus children. Gordon McCracken spoke a word to the children, and I preached to the adults.



A lady was baptised in Perth on 5th March. The family had been contacted by Adrian Ferguson for the Sunday School work, and she had then attended various Gospel activities before eventually professing faith in Christ at the end of a Gospel series that Gareth Edwards and I had in Perth quite some time ago. The hall was well filled for the baptism.

A secular magazine is distributed monthly to 6000 homes in our area, and in their April edition they will kindly incorporate an Easter Gospel message from me as they have done before.

A neighbour died very suddenly and I was asked to take the funeral service. Many were present and they saw the difference from the normal type of service, but we trust that impressions for eternity may have been made.

MINISTRY

My first ministry series for 2023 was in Ballyvaddy where they had asked me to speak on prophetic themes. The hall was packed every night, and it was particularly encouraging to see good numbers of children, teenagers, and unsaved people too. Some of these would be hearing these truths for the first time. At the end of January, I was in Colooney, Co. Sligo, an isolated assembly who were very faithful in their attendance. Good numbers of townspeople came also. On a couple of the days, I was able to help Jonathan Goodwin with some street preaching. He works part time so that he can devote time to that aspect of evangelism.

In February I had to cancel two series of meetings plus a long weekend due to a health issue. In the goodness of God, I am feeling much better now, but they are still doing a little bit of investigating. Prayer is valued.

God willing, I hope to be in Vancouver for a couple of weeks over the Easter period, incorporating the Easter conference.

GOSPEL

Craig Munro and I have been conducting a Gospel series in Linwood. The Royal Mail let us down badly in that tens of thousands of invitations that should have gone out throughout Renfrewshire were not delivered as promised. However, healthy numbers of unsaved people have heard the Word, ranging from some with addictions to very respectable religious sinners. We trust that the Seed sown will bear fruit. God willing Craig and I hope to return to New Stevenston in May and Alasdair Baijal will be involved in that as well. Prayer would be appreciated.

C. 1972

JACK & LILLIAN HAY

15/3/23

Sunday 7th

BRAZIL



1 Chron 25-26

Writing from N Ireland

I have just arrived back to Northern Ireland from Brazil. The most of my time while there was spent in the town of Candelária helping brother Noel Fleck in a series of gospel meetings in the hall. We didn't hear of anyone getting saved, but the meetings were encouraging in many ways, with over forty unsaved that attended during the six weeks. Some came for the first time; one was a woman called Rose, around forty years of age. She lives in a very remote location about half an hour from the town on rough dirt roads. Each night she listened with good attention, and we trust that the



word spoken will prove to be a blessing in her salvation. A brother from the Santa Cruz assembly faithfully brought her and a couple of others from that area to the meetings. A number of the believer's relatives also attended regularly, among them a young man in his late twenties called Raí. For some time he hadn't been coming to meetings, but thankfully he came fairly well during the series. We pray that God will yet work in his life as we think of the tremendous need for young men like him to maintain assembly testimony.

I also spent two weekends with the little assembly in Três Passos. They have been carrying on a gospel work in a neighbouring town called Braga, where a few people attend showing an interest in salvation. I had been there for the first time just over a year ago and it was good to see some still attending with a desire to be saved. Please pray that there will be blessing in Braga soon. God willing, I plan to return to Brazil in May to spend a few weeks with the assembly there in Três Passos.

C. 2014

JOHN & ROSEMARY DAVISON

22/3/23

Monday 8th

N IRELAND



1 Chron 27-29

Dromore

I commenced the year 2023 in Scotland where I had the privilege of speaking at the New Year's Conference in High Parks, Hamilton, along with Ian Jackson and Sinclair Banks. It was an enjoyable weekend and especially encouraging on the Monday, to see so many young believers hear the Word of God. We do pray that these young people will be preserved and used of God in days to come, for His glory.

Here in Northern Ireland, from the end of May 2020, amidst all the restrictions, the Stormont Government gave their permission for Drive-In Gospel meetings. This outreach has been most effective and many people did come to hear the good news of the Gospel and some were saved. A number of assemblies are still continuing their Drive-Ins even through the winter months as they are aware that there are souls listening to the Gospel who would not come into the Gospel Halls just as readily. Many assemblies who did move their Gospel meetings back into the Gospel Hall for the winter, will come out again for Drive-Ins in the spring and summer dv. Each Sunday because of the different times of meetings I am often able to preach the Gospel at both Drive-Ins and Gospel meetings held in halls. Later in the summer I hope to have several weeks of Drive-In meetings dv, and I would value your prayers for blessing in salvation.

During January and February this year, I had three weeks of Gospel meetings with the assembly at Antrim. The meetings were well publicised throughout the ever growing town, with thousands of invitations given out, endeavouring to reach each home. Banners were also put up at strategic locations announcing the Gospel meetings. Sadly, the response was disappointing but through contacts that the believers had we were encouraged to see some unsaved attend a few times. We give thanks to God that the meetings were marked with a sense of the Lord's presence, and help was given to preach the Gospel each night. The assembly worked hard advertising, supporting and praying. We look to the Lord to give the increase.

Over the years I have had a burden to visit saints: whether in hospital, care homes or in their own homes. Many dear believers sometimes feel forgotten about and need a little encouragement. We all should have shepherd hearts to care for one another. We think of the words of our blessed Lord in John 15 v 12 "This is my commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you".

Presently I am having a week of ministry with the assembly at Cookstown and plan further ministry meetings with various assemblies.

C.1978

ROLAND & JENNIFER PICKERING

24/3/23

*This is my commandment that ye love one
another as I have loved you* John 15:12

Tuesday 9th

PERU



2 Chron 1-5

Lima

Perú seems to pass from one crisis to another. Politically the situation is very unstable, with the former president, Pedro Castillo in prison. Civil unrest has left over 60 dead and mass riots continued for a number of weeks. We are thankful that the situation seems to have calmed at present. The effect of a cyclone off the coast has left huge areas underwater and many landslides. Chosica, where we formerly had 2 Sunday Schools has been very badly affected with flash floods. The main road into our own town of Santa Clara collapsed, leaving us unable to visit other districts. This has also meant the postponement of our children's works as many are held in the open-air or halls etc without roofs. Lima was simply not designed for rain!

Before our furlough to the UK in December, we completed our 5 prize-givings in Jicamarca, Alto Prialé, Las Americas, Pamplona Alta and El Cinco. We are very thankful

to have a total of over 350 children and adults across these 5 works. Each received a Bible text and a prize for their attendance. It was a lot of work to coordinate, but many expressed their appreciation to us for teaching their children the Word of God. We would love to see these children and adults saved



Jicamarca Prizegiving

for eternity and their lives transformed and preserved in such a sinful society.

We made a trip of 8 weeks to Great Britain. This was our first furlough home after five and a half years and we greatly enjoyed the fellowship. It was good to see our parents again – they are getting older and have health issues. Please pray for their preservation and most importantly their salvation. We visited Scotland, England, Wales and then had one month of meetings in Ulster. The interest amongst the saints in the work in Perú was very encouraging. We felt it was a good opportunity



Gospel Hall Prialé

for our 3 children to see so many believers and assemblies and to appreciate that there is more to the work of the Lord than just their parents!

We are very happy to be back at home in Perú! We were able to re-enter the country without any difficulty and we have much to thank the Lord for. Many of our contacts have been in touch, waiting for the meetings to begin again on our return. David and Joy have settled back into their local schools and before commencing our usual round of meetings, I took the opportunity to visit the assembly in La Arena, Piura, which is around 18 hours north of Lima. They had 2 days of conference and it was good to renew fellowship with the believers there. Once the rains are finished, we hope to begin the market and open-air work again. How good is the God we adore.

C. 2017

CHRIS & MICHELLE BERESFORD

24/3/23

*'It was good to see our parents again.
Please pray for their salvation'*

Chris & Michelle Beresford

Wednesday 10th

N. IRELAND



2 Chron 6-8

Magherafelt

The gospel series concluded on Sunday past at Altnamackan near Newtownhamilton after seven weeks. It was a privilege to share with brother David Gilliland and the Newtownhamilton assembly. The meetings were encouraging, with steady attendance. Good numbers of local people attended over the nights with some returning regularly, and there was hardly a night right up to the end that we didn't see new faces in the audience. Also, there were a number of young people from Christian homes present nightly. People listened really well and there was help to preach, yet, the sad thing is, as far as we know no one has got saved. After seven weeks it's discouraging as well as humbling and heart searching. Still, we have to leave it there. In God's mercy these folk will have opportunities again and perhaps seed sown at this time will yield fruit at some future time. God willing, we have brother Dan Gillies staying with us next week while in Magherafelt for ministry. We are looking forward to his visit. His subject is 'Christ our Example'. Then I'm in Enniskillen for four nights of ministry and on May 7th with the Bedminster assembly Bristol for the Lord's Day and the following Monday to Thursday in ministry.

Your continued prayers are very much appreciated.

C. 2003

AARON & EUNICE COLGAN

28/3/23

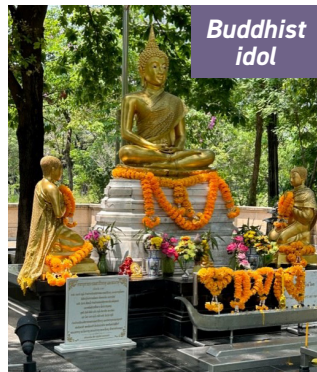


THAILAND

Bangkok

Thailand is a Buddhist country of over 70 million people with 10 million of them living in Bangkok. 95% of the population are Theravada Buddhists, while the largest minority group is Muslim. In contrast to the Mahayana Buddhism of Japan, Buddhism in Thailand is mixed up with Animism and Hinduism, and is a central part of life for the average Thai person. Buddhist priests in their orange robes are regularly seen walking the streets, especially in the early morning, and the animistic Spirit Houses and Hindu temples, which are everywhere, are never without worshippers.

Yet in spite of the darkness of Buddhism, the Lord is working here and over the last number of years many Thais have come to know Him. In the area of Bangkok where we live, there are at least 6 churches where the gospel is faithfully preached, and each of them would have over 100 in fellowship. The believers we meet with rent a large room in the Ambassador hotel near our house, and each week around 150 break bread, and a number of non-Christians are regularly present. However, the main outreach work of the church is carried out during the week when the believers meet in small house groups to study the scriptures and share the gospel with their family and friends. Nui attends two of these groups each week, and over the last few months they have had the joy of seeing a number brought to know Christ and baptized. We value your prayer for these house groups that the Lord would continue to build up His people, many of whom are only young believers, and that many more might come to know Him.



Buddhist idol

On Thursday nights, Nui and I meet with a group to read the scriptures in English. At present we are going through the gospel of Luke. The elders have talked to us about this English group and the vision they have for 2023 and beyond. If the Lord leads, they are thinking of starting an English work among university students in our part of Bangkok. How this would develop and take shape we are not yet sure but would value your prayer that the Lord would lead and guide.



English meeting

Pray also for a number of Japanese men living in Bangkok that I meet with, usually in coffee shops in the area. Some of them have received a Bible in Japanese. Pray that this year we might be able to contact more Japanese people and be able to share the gospel with them.

Friday 12th

DR CONGO/ SCOTLAND



2 Chron 13-17

Bridge of Weir

At the end of last year we placed an order for a large quantity of solar powered MP3 players that are preloaded with the full Bible in the Bemba language. There is no end to practical needs in Congo, but our priority is, and must always be, the distribution and proclamation of the Word.

The work in Congo continues to provide many encouragements as well as occasional disappointments. We were

delighted to support a small group of new believers to build a very humble hall to gather in, in what is a very remote area. During a time of conflict four years ago, they came as unsaved refugees to Luanza and heard the gospel while there. One young man was relentless in his efforts to get evangelists from the Luanza assembly to come and work in his rural village, and his faith has been richly rewarded. I was there in November and although there is a lot of work to do in terms of seeing them mature spiritually, it is always refreshing to see new life.



We currently have 168 on the register at the school. These are from the Batembo tribe who have been violent in the past but are living peaceably at the time being. Again, evangelists from the assembly in Luanza share the gospel with them every Lord's Day. The children also hear the gospel every day as well as being fed before their formal classes begin.

In recent months I have been involved in a few different weeks and weekends of Bible teaching and have felt the Lord's help in that. I visit Barlinnie prison (Glasgow) all day every Tuesday and sometimes on Thursday mornings. We see around 35 men every Tuesday and have 3 hours of solid Bible study split over two groups. On an average week I'll have 2 or 3 Bible studies on the outside with prisoners who have been released.

In the last six months I have been given the opportunity to start a gospel-based Bible study in one of the drink and drug rehabs in Glasgow. That runs every Monday afternoon. Residents are nearly always sceptical to begin with but as we work through John's Gospel some begin to see the relevance of Christ's ministry to their own brokenness.

Amongst all the other spheres of service and encouragements it was a joy to see our son Isaac being baptised recently. Some of his school friends came along as well as one of their mums. Please do remember us as a family as we continue to serve the Lord both in Congo and in Scotland.

C. 2013

JAMIE & MARILYN McILREE

14/3/23

Saturday 13th

SRI LANKA



2 Chron 18-20

Colombo

Sri Lanka is currently witnessing a new wave of protest as the people's economic hardships increase. Last year, citizens took to the streets in large scale mass protest and ousted the Rajapakse family from power. However, the shortages of food, medicine, fuel and power in varying degrees is continuing and bringing people back to the streets. Over the last few months, many families have



Mass protest in the capital Colombo

been forced to reduce their food intake drastically. Soaring prices have kept meat, fish and other food items out of reach for many, raising concerns among doctors over nutrition level in the country. With inflation persistently staying at over 50%, international humanitarian organisations have warned that the country is facing a devastating hunger crisis. As a result of this, there has been a mass exodus of people leaving the country to seek greener pastures. During the last year, well over one million people out of a population of 22 million have left Sri Lanka. People smugglers are taking advantage of the situation and getting people to invest their money into dangerous schemes to leave the country, including trying to flee the country at night by hazardous boat journeys to try and enter other countries as refugees. This situation is having a tremendous impact on many assemblies across the island as several believers have already left the country and many more are planning on leaving.

At the end of December 2022, several Sunday School end-of-year programs were arranged. Parents and relations were invited to these gospel outreach meetings. It was noticed this year that larger numbers were present than in previous years. Our Hall in Colombo was completely full all the way back to the last bench in the Hall. Tables with various gospel literature were placed in the Hall and there was a great interest in them. After the meeting in Colombo, we had over 50 sign-ups for our Bible correspondence courses just in that one evening. Brothers from our assembly have also been continuing to visit believers in remote areas/assemblies. Gospel meetings have also been held in the North, the East and the Central provinces of the island. Last week, brothers from our assembly spent an entire week in the Jaffna Peninsula spreading the gospel, teaching and encouraging believers.

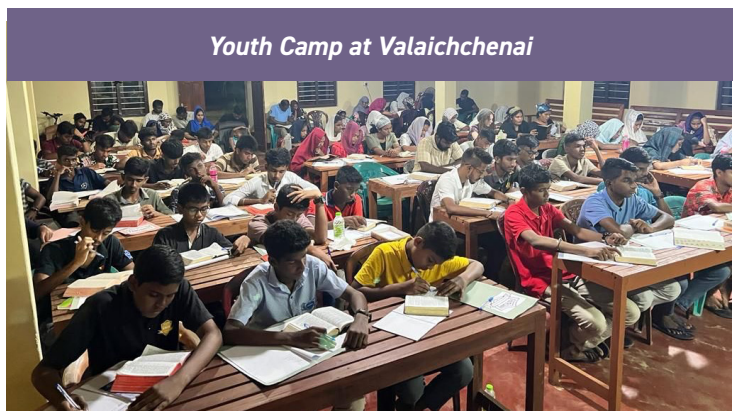
We have also been distributing help to those in need at this time all across the island. Those that we have been helping have been very grateful for the practical help that has been shown to them by the Christians.

Mrs Indu Athukorela is in her early sixties and is a midwife in the small village of Pannala, about two and a half hours drive North of Colombo. Indu has been in fellowship in our assembly for the last fifteen years. Indu and her husband were Buddhists and

fully involved in the activities of their local temple. In 2007, Indu met a couple from our assembly who invited her to gospel meetings at Bethesda Gospel Hall. The gospel had a deep impact on Indu and she repented of her sins and put her trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and was soon received into assembly fellowship. Indu has continued steadfastly since then despite facing numerous difficulties. Her husband is the Secretary of the Buddhist Association in their village and her two sons are also involved in the temple work. Indu has faced much opposition and has suffered severe persecution over the years as a result of her becoming a Christian.

One such example of the persecution she faces happened recently in February 2023. Indu's mother-in-law passed away and the funeral was held in the family home. Buddhist priests were invited to perform the funeral rituals in the home as the entire family are Buddhists. Indu refused to take part in the buddhist rituals. Her husband came up to her and exerted much pressure on her to join the rituals. He said it would bring great shame to him if she did not take part. Her two sons also pleaded with their mother to join in and the chief priest from the local temple also tried to persuade Indu to join the funeral rituals. However, Indu resisted all pressure and courageously told them of her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and spoke about the one true God that she worships. After the funeral, once everyone had left the home, her husband assaulted her and has prevented Indu from leaving the home except to go to work at the local hospital. Indu has not been able to attend any of the assembly meetings as she is prevented from leaving the home and further her family has taken her phone away from her and prevented her from keeping in touch with her Christian friends. Occasionally, she is able to borrow a phone from a colleague at work and is able to secretly call us and keep us updated. Indu remains upbeat and tells us that when she "considers Him that endured", what she is going through does not amount to much! This week, she told us that her husband has warned her that if she ever goes to the assembly or meets Christians again, there will be another funeral in the family. Please remember in your prayers Indu and several others who are similarly facing persecution at this time.

Two months ago, we organised a Youth Camp for those between the ages of fifteen to twenty-five years old. Approximately eighty youths and twenty adults gathered together for five days in Valaichchenai. There were 3x60 minute sessions per day of Bible teaching. Many of the young believers left at the end of the week commenting on how they had been encouraged through the Scriptures.



Sunday 14th



2 Chron 21-24

ANGOLA

Camundambala

We are coming to the end of the rainy season here in Angola. The last few rains of the season are always heavy, and the days are incredibly hot and humid. Jonathan Meek (Ely assembly) has been with us now for 5 weeks doing an incredible amount of practical work in the house that we are building for one of the key workers we have. We are so thankful for his skills and his willingness to give of his time to serve the Lord. It has enabled us to get near enough completed on all the internal work of the house as he has done the electrics, plumbing, false ceilings and tiling. Importantly he has worked closely with Horano who has learnt new skills and good work ethic from Jonathan. We will miss him greatly when he returns home.

Camundambala Assembly



The assembly work continues, with good attendance on Sundays. We would like to see more commitment to the assembly prayer meeting on Saturday afternoons, but nonetheless we are thankful to the Lord for the many encouragements we are seeing. This past week has seen the re-commencement of 5 weekly Bible studies, and we continue to look to the Lord for His help as we seek to build up these young men and prepare a solid foundation for years to come.

Sunday school is going well; the little children come in the mornings and the older ones in the afternoons. The young men who run this work are all in Bible class so it is good to see them taking up responsibilities and prepared to serve the Lord. We would value continued prayers for the assembly here at Camundambala, for spiritual growth and the development of local gift.

We've had another leper come for treatment recently. He's probably the worst case we've seen for a little while now. Unfortunately he left it very late to seek medical help so he's going to be here for quite sometime. We are constantly reminded of the immense poverty that surrounds us and we have just added another sister from a neighbouring village to our list of monthly food support. She has been abandoned by her husband and left with the children.



Container packed for shipping

She herself has a severe disability, and it is so tragic to see her trying to hoe the little patch of ground outside her hut to grow something to eat. Although so poor she has a tremendous testimony.

We would appreciate prayer for a container that has recently been loaded and is ready to ship. It is mainly supplies for the printing work, Portuguese Bibles, various Bible commentaries, Sunday school material and tracts along with lots of other things. The last container in November was unfortunately opened by Customs in Luanda, so we would appreciate prayer that this one will pass through without any issues.

C. 1993

BRIAN & DEBBIE HOWDEN

10/3/23

Monday 15th

SCOTLAND



2 Chron 25-28

Luthermuir

Almost seven years ago whilst conducting gospel tent meetings in the village of Axbridge, Somerset along with Paul Thomas, my son-in-law, we contacted Kelly who attended quite a few of the meetings. It was the first time she had ever heard the gospel. Then eighteen months ago her interest revived and she came along to a series of gospel meetings we had in the neighbouring village of Cheddar in their community hall. Paul and Rebecca, who also live in Axbridge, began bible studies with her in their home and she then began to attend the weekly gospel meeting in Bedminster, Bristol. In November last year, on her way home from a gospel meeting she trusted the Lord in her car. We were very happy to be with the assembly for her baptism. A large company gathered to witness it and some of her friends and relatives attended. God willing, Paul and I are hoping to have another gospel series this September in the Axbridge village hall.

At the beginning of the year Gwen and I both had covid and I had to cancel a couple of meetings. After that I had a cataract operation which set me back a week or two. I have been back across on the coast, currently in St. Cyrus, visiting with the latest edition of "Good News" published by the local assembly at Luthermuir.

God willing, I will be with the assembly at Magharafelt, N.I. for ministry meetings and then we leave for Seoul, South Korea for six nights in the gospel and five sessions of ministry over their conference weekend.

On 21st May we return to Glenluce in Dumfries and Galloway for two weeks in the gospel with the assembly there. This will be the third series we have had with them over the past eighteen months. The little company are very gospel minded and they have had much to encourage them of late. One or two have been saved and baptised, a couple received into fellowship and another couple baptised and observing on a Lord's Day morning. Prayer is valued for the above labours.

It is now 51 years since being commended to the grace of God for the work of the Lord and we can only but raise our 'Ebenezer' and say "Hitherto has the Lord helped us". Gwen will be coming with me to South Korea and also Glenluce. Our family are very good at looking after her mum, who is 95, in her absence.

DAN & GWEN GILLIES

22/3/23

Tuesday 16th

BOTSWANA



2 Chron 29-31

Gaborone

For many years the gospel has been proclaimed in the villages of Mochudi and Rasesa, and God has blessed by saving a number of adult women. They do their best to travel in to Gaborone on Sunday mornings to remember the Lord with us - a journey of at least an hour by public transport. To encourage them further, we travel out to Mochudi and meet in Mma Cherika's yard every Tuesday afternoon for Bible teaching. As you can see, we prefer the shady gable end of the house! At present there are six ladies,



Bible Teaching

all in assembly fellowship, who gather with six of their unsaved friends. We sing a little and also learn gospel verses before studying the Word together.

The local chief of the Morema ward lives next door. He has always been friendly. His longtime partner was saved many years ago but she was tragically killed in a road accident when visiting her daughter who was in hospital dying of AIDS. The sad result was a double funeral in Mochudi. Over the years, the chief has accepted gospel literature from us and picture texts which he has affixed to the wall in his tribal office. A few weeks ago he asked to see me after the ladies' Bible study. He had just been discharged from hospital with a diagnosis of lung cancer. He had a special request for a pair of spectacles so that he could read better, and also some red grapes. We were only too pleased to oblige in both respects and we visit him briefly each week to read and pray with him. His physical condition is deteriorating. Please pray for him.



Local chief

Wednesday 17th

NICARAGUA



2 Chron 32-33

Managua

At the end of January, the assembly in Managua worked diligently for 8 nights. The brothers took turns preaching the Gospel each night with Mark. Many invited and brought friends, family, and colleagues out. The Christians divided into teams and were responsible for making and serving a light supper after the Gospel meeting. We pray for the people that heard the Gospel and need the Lord Jesus. Most nights there were over 100 in attendance. God willing, we hope to have a mini-series like this a few times a year.



Starting Feb 12th, Isaiah Frazier and I shared in 4 weeks of gospel meetings in Garnavillo Iowa. It was wonderful to come alongside the believers and labour together in the gospel. The local Church in Garnavillo is very blessed to have so many families and committed couples who love the Lord. We continue to pray that the family circles will be complete in Christ. As parents we deeply desire that our children would have an authentic relationship with Christ, and that their lives would be lived conscious of eternity! We also appreciated getting to know several folks from the community. Each Saturday, Mark appreciated being with the Hispanic believers in Postville! Mark and Ike were in Nicaragua 20 years ago at the beginning of gospel work in Carazo in 2003.

At the end of February, the assembly rejoiced to start the Sunday School classes again. We met with several of the believers for a short teaching workshop. We are excited to see the children return each Sunday to learn about the greatness of our God and his wonderful plan of salvation.

We have enjoyed visits from both of our parents this year and also Mark's sister and husband. We are thankful that they were able to come again after several years. Please pray for our daughter Elisabeth (11) who suffered an accidental fall while at school. She had a concussion and hurt her neck. She is undergoing care for her neck for several weeks. We are reminded of the Lord's gentle care of us through trials and tribulation.

Thursday 18th

BRAZIL



2 Chron 34-36

Piracicaba

We have been encouraged by the work here in Piracicaba. We are presently meeting in a building which was once a creche for young children many years ago. We make use of the facilities (kitchen and classrooms) as we serve two meals before or after the meetings on a Sunday (breakfast and supper) as the building is on the edge of various shanty areas and poor families. We get between 10 and 20 children/young people coming along every Sunday and we hope to start a work midweek in order to help some of these children with their reading/writing and maybe maths as well. Many of them don't get help from parents who either don't have time, are single parents or have drug/alcohol problems. We are privileged to have a good number of young people who help out in the work and are keen to reach out in evangelism.



We would ask you to pray for a young mother in one of the assemblies here who has cancer. Her name is Sophie. She has had lots of radiotherapy and chemotherapy but unfortunately the cancer is spreading, and she has had to take morphine to help with the pain. Despite all this her testimony and faith are strong. It has been very difficult for her husband and 3-year-old daughter. We know she is in the Lord's hands but it is a very difficult time for the whole family and the little assembly.



Sunday School in the main hall

Andrew also helps out on a regular basis with a short Gospel message on a local weekly TV programme. This is run by a local assembly and they have many people writing or phoning in to request prayer or more information.

We would value prayer for Andrew's health which hasn't been good recently. He is having treatment and has also undergone some recent tests.

Future plans:

Continue helping the work in and around Piracicaba. There are 7 assemblies in the city of around 500,000. Many have felt the effects of the pandemic, with believers passing away, moving to various denominations or simply losing interest.



TURKEY

THE SOMETIMES FORGOTTEN LAND OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

It is hard to imagine that one of the most extensively evangelised parts of the world in the years following the birth of the church is now one of the most spiritually barren and least evangelised areas today. As we read our New Testament, we are familiar with the names of ancient cities like Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. Across the Lycus valley from Laodicea was Colossae and Hierapolis. All these cities in the first century had churches. The Roman province of Galatia, where Paul and his colleagues spent so much of their time in Gospel effort, heard the Gospel and churches were established in the Galatian cities of Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. One could go on... Today the geographical location of every one of these places is Turkey, one of the least evangelised countries in our modern world.

The current population of Turkey stands at 83.5 million. The number of Turkish believers who have come from Islam to find salvation and eternal hope in Christ, is between 7,000-9,000 people, making up a tiny minority in this country which has a majority Muslim population of 99%.

One of the centres of the recent earthquakes was Antakya, the Biblical Syrian Antioch where Paul and his colleagues were commended to the work of the Lord as they set out to take the Gospel to Cyprus and some of the cities already mentioned above (Acts 13:1-3). There is an assembly in Antakya today. We are grateful to God that none of the believers there were lost in



*The remains of the
Antakya assembly building*

the earthquakes. The building in which they met was completely destroyed. However, this building had already become too small for their needs and they had a vision to build a Christian Centre in Antakya that would replace their old building. The new building would provide a new hall to worship in, but also much more. A community café for outreach and other facilities had been planned.

After the earthquake struck it was a relief to see that although surrounding buildings had collapsed, the foundations of the new building had not moved. The believers had insisted that the building be constructed according to the strict building regulations, unlike so many other buildings in the area, and their structure stood firm. This building is currently, even in its unfinished state, being used as a centre for the believers to store and distribute aid, water, medical supplies and food to those who have nothing. It stands as a testimony to the Lord Jesus. Please pray for this work. We are reminded of the words of the Lord in His parable of the two builders: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24).

Continuing on the theme of good foundations, the church in Turkey is still in its first generation. I and others had been burdened by the lack of Biblical resources in the Turkish language. For many years there was little available. My Turkish colleague and I have a Christian publishing ministry and we have been involved in the translation and publication of vital Biblical resources, Bible commentaries and evangelistic literature. It is essential that a first generation church is well taught and grounded in the faith. Just as a building must have a good foundation, so must a believer and so must an assembly. One of our recent publications is "Leading with Love" by Alexander Strauch. In a culture where the prevailing leadership model is leaders viewing themselves as sultans and despots, Strauch teaches the necessity for elders to practice Christlike servant leadership in the local church. This is a vital Biblical and countercultural resource.

My Turkish colleague and I have written a book on Christian ethics. We felt that this was essential because so many Muslim people look at the west and its godless behaviour, think it is "Christian" and therefore think that Christianity is devoid of ethical teaching. Our book is simply called "Ethics: According to the Bible." We also wrote a Bible commentary on the Acts of the Apostles. In this commentary we have made much of the fact that many of the places mentioned and events that are described took place in what is now Turkey. This illustrates powerfully that the Christian faith is not European or foreign but originally Middle Eastern: after spilling out from Jerusalem and Judea, quickly spread through what is now Turkey. Turkish people have often been surprised that the Christian faith originally took root in their country. Discussing such facts can lead to opportunities for further conversations about faith and to show that the Christian faith is not a foreign import. Please pray for our publishing ministry as we work to equip the believers with resources to build them up in their faith.

Please pray for the country of Turkey. Although the constitution of the country allows for freedom of religious belief and expression, this does not always filter down. It is not uncommon for believers to experience discrimination, slander and outright persecution. However, the church in Turkey is growing and maturing. Please pray for protection, safety and boldness to share the Gospel. Please pray that this often forgotten 'holy land of the New Testament' might one day resound once more with the Gospel.

Saturday 20th

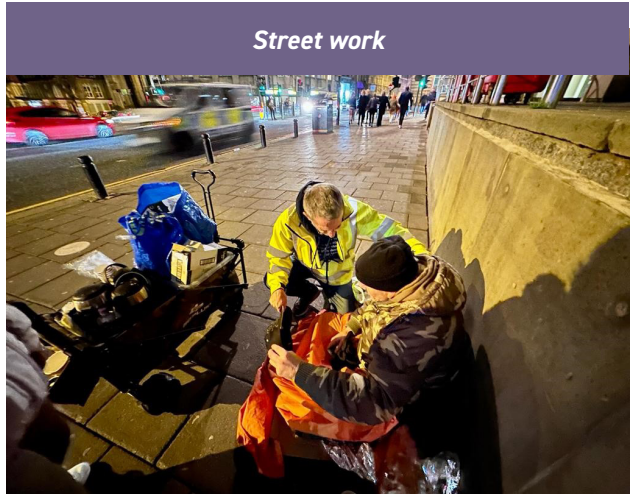
ENGLAND



Ezra 4-7

Tyne & Wear

The street/homeless work forms the backbone of the work as it has for many years. We have for the last three years adopted a much more mobile approach to the work and this has proved most encouraging. The quality of the gospel contacts is much better in this way, although finding other believers who can accompany me regularly on a Saturday night is proving a challenge. We encounter many street folks regularly and some are attending to hear the gospel on a Sunday afternoon.



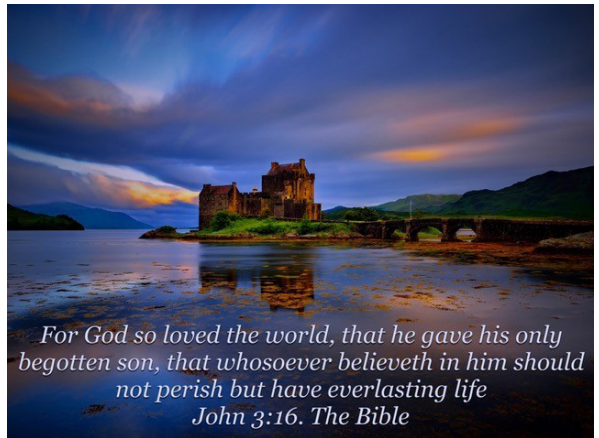
Pray especially for Jason. He attended the assembly many years ago, made a profession and even expressed a desire to be baptised. The enemy however ensnared him with drug addiction, and he now begs on the streets of the city to supply his habit. Every night we pray with him, and he always promises to come back to hear the word of God. After many broken promises, he finally arrived at the hall to hear the gospel last Lord's Day. He says he knows he needs to get back to the things of the Lord, but his addiction and circle of 'friends' make that the most difficult thing for him to do. Please pray for Jason.

Pray also for Kyle. He attended all the meetings of the assembly for many months and was a real "mystery man" who would not give us any real details of his life (even his surname). Please forgive my suspicious nature, but that always raises concerns in my mind. I discovered that he was living in supported accommodation and attending a Christian activity centre during the day. When Kyle learned that I knew this he immediately disappeared! Last Saturday I found him living homeless on the streets of Newcastle. He attended the gospel meeting last Lord's Day and has always demonstrated that he has had some sort of Christian background. Please pray that we might have wisdom as we seek to help this complicated character. Please pray for Kyle.

Another recent contact is Brian. About a year ago he was homeless and being housed by the local authority in the Hotel Express directly opposite the hall. We contacted him through our visits to the hotel and he began attending all the meetings. He has shown a growing understanding of the gospel and last Thursday made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus. He already is requesting baptism. Angela (his girlfriend) is attending with him but is becoming more difficult as Brian shows increasing interest and commitment. Please pray that this will not hinder him from going on with the Lord. Pray for Brian and Angela.

In January we began a Monday morning drop-in at the Gospel Hall. This has proved

a most beneficial addition to the outreach activity of the hall. For many years Ronny (a man I first contacted in prison and was saved and baptised some years ago) came regularly to the hall with great enthusiasm. He became involved with a woman who was JW and we had not seen him for three years despite many attempts to contact him. On the day that the drop-in started, I was walking in the street where Ronny lived, and I asked the Lord to allow me to contact him again, even though we didn't know that he still resided there. To my surprise (and as a rebuke to my little faith) immediately I turned the corner and met Ronny and his girlfriend (Esther). They were at first reluctant, but Ronny came to the drop-in later that day. He has not missed a gospel meeting or drop-in since then. Esther also is now attending the drop-in and has said she has broken her links with the JW's. Please pray for Ronny's recovery and the conversion of Esther. There are several of our homeless friends who also attend the drop in, and we are greatly encouraged by the Lord.



Likewise, prison work is giving great cause for rejoicing and praise to the Lord. Cell visitation is opening wonderful gospel opportunities for conversation, literature distribution and Emmaus course participation.

Please pray for M. a young man who has shown an extraordinary interest in bible study. His written answers in the bible study courses are full of insight and understanding and the Lord is obviously dealing with him. His obstacle seems to be that he is unfairly being imprisoned and can't understand why the Lord would allow this to happen. The Tuesday Bible class is always oversubscribed, and the men are more serious-minded than many who have previously sat under the sound of the gospel.

I have a free hand to take visitors into the prison with me and a local brother now comes every Tuesday. He also has custom-written two bible study courses which are perfectly suited for men in prison. These have proved very popular, and the Lord is evidently blessing this work.

A few years ago, I was able to have a Bible exhibition in the prison for a week. Many of the prisoners came through the exhibition and heard the gospel. I now have an agreement in principle for this to happen again later this year. Please pray that will happen very soon.

The family here has been facing some challenges over the last few months. Janet, by the Lord's grace, has finished her radiotherapy for her cancer and is recovering her strength slowly. Janet's father passed away suddenly, and her mother continues to be frail and in need of care.



CANADA

Portage la Prairie

We are truly thankful for your **prayers** over recent months. Our three weeks visit to St. Lucia was probably the most encouraging of the nine trips I have made. Interest by surrounding assemblies in both the 5 day and 3-day series of ministry meetings, was excellent, which was a real encouragement to the hosting assembly. It was good to visit several cruise ships again with John Honore and to have 10 school assemblies. God willing, I am returning on my own for another visit in May (6th-28th D.V) with the focus on visiting new schools to promote the free BibleTime Booklets. We would love to see the number doubled to 40 schools. **Prayer** would be appreciated for open doors and also for what the Lord will have for me to do in the evenings. There is the possibility of a Gospel series at this time. As we found last year, it can be very hot at this time, so please **pray** too for the needed strength.

We are having a Gospel Booth once again in the Royal Manitoba Fair, Brandon, after a three year break due to covid. Mike Knox is sharing the responsibilities with me, and has a lovely booth design, based on John 7:37 and the theme of 'Thirst'. We will be giving away John's Gospels, as well as tracts, texts (for the children) and something brand new this year: a colourful two-sided card, that advertises the times of the two radio programs on the nine Manitoba radio stations. They have been designed to match two new pop-up banners that advertise COMPASS POINT and Anchorpoint Radio. We are hoping this will also stimulate good conversations and lead to some feedback, as well as new listeners. The Fair runs for 6 days. We have a team of 13 helpers manning the booth with Mike and I. Please **pray** for those who accept the free literature and radio information cards.

Elaine keeps as busy as ever with the regular Postal Bible School (PBS) work. In recent weeks we have been seeking to implement a new Safeguarding Policy. As you can imagine it has been very stressful and to be honest quite discouraging, as a number of teachers have resigned since they saw the policy! **Pray** for unity to be maintained and for the Lord's will to be done. Above all, that the work will not suffer as a whole, as we experience this difficult and challenging period.

In closing, please continue to remember in **prayer**, the need of preparing and recording a new set of seven COMPASS POINT radio programs each week. It's been a struggle at times, with me visiting my mum for 12 days in January and then our time in the West Indies. I will need to get 6 weeks ahead before May 6th, so please **pray** I will be able to find the time and have the fresh thoughts and ideas needed to meet the deadlines.

Thanks so much for continuing to intercede on our behalf. It is needed more than ever at this present time!

UGANDA**Writing from England**

I was in Uganda in January, and we were encouraged to see the believers' enthusiasm there, despite their poverty and simple lifestyle. My initial contact was with brother Sanya from Musoto, Mbale, in the Eastern Region of Uganda. Sanya was the pastor of a church when I first met him (online) in 2019. Over some time, he could see from scripture that leadership in a local church was entrusted to elders, so he now takes that position along with three



other men. As well as caring for the saints in Musoto, there are three different groups of believers Sanya and two of his fellow elders are seeking to help. They are in Butebo, Kwappa and Sakia. Please pray for Sanya, Alysious and Johnston as they travel from place-to-place preaching and teaching. Much of their teaching involves helping people learn what the scripture says about church doctrine and practice. It can be challenging for believers to accept that what they have traditionally been taught about apostles, prophets, pastors, the charismatic gifts, and the role of men and women in the church is wrong and needs to be corrected. Pray for wisdom and courage to stand for the truth.

Since 2021 Sanya and I have hosted a weekly program on Ugandan local radio. This is on a Wednesday afternoon from 6-7 pm (Ugandan time - 3-4 pm GMT). People phone in with questions most weeks. It is encouraging to hear of souls regularly getting in touch to say they have repented and put faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray that this door will remain open. To date, we have worked our way through Mark's Gospel and Romans. We are currently looking at the Gospel of John.

We are kept busy locally in the Liverpool area. Our regular weekly work is based around the assembly in Huyton, preaching in schools, preaching on the streets, weekly Bible Studies with believers in Uganda, China and Pakistan and posting online Bible Teaching and Gospel material. The weekly online gospel messages are promoted through Facebook and other social media channels. A significant number of people listen each week. Bible Teaching audio and video are produced weekly and available online and through various WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger groups. We get quite a bit of abuse for preaching online, so I conclude that the Lord must be speaking to some of these dear folks. Please pay for a man called Peter B, who has been giving us quite a lot of online abuse recently.

Please pray for Carole's work with Syrian, Yemeni and Sri Lankan women and their families. Language barriers are often overcome through kindness! The children interpret and are instrumental in bringing their parents to hear the gospel – there were two mothers and seven children at our most recent Community Gospel Tea. It would be a significant breakthrough to see some of these souls saved.

Tuesday 23rd

SOUTH AFRICA/ NAMIBIA



Neh 6-7

Cape Town

Since we were commended in 2001, we have been working mainly in South Africa, plus some visits to Namibia.

Thankfully in South Africa there are many open doors for the Word. We thank the Lord for the liberty we have to take His Word to many places. Most of our activities are of an evangelistic nature including open air preaching, literature distribution, radio work, children's work, preaching at a feeding scheme, lunch time preaching at a factory and home Bible studies. Over the years it has been so good to see souls won for Christ and to see the spiritual progress of those who are going on well. Sadly, not all have made the progress that we would love to see.



Children happy to receive literature

This month it was a privilege to be involved in a "Seed Sowers" outreach in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. Believers from five countries came together to distribute literature and preach the Gospel. We had a lovely time of fellowship together. As well as the literature distribution we had many personal conversations, preached in the open air, preached at school assemblies and had a Holiday Bible Club for four days. The numbers built up each day until we had over 800 children on the last day. It is so encouraging to see some progress in the work in Namibia. Last year a contact was made in the coastal town of Swakopmund. At that point the person was not trusting Christ as Saviour. But when some of the believers visited him again ahead of the main group arriving in Windhoek he gave a clear testimony that he is now trusting Christ alone for salvation. He has invited the believers to come back to his home to have Gospel meetings. We visited a young lady who wanted us to speak to her grandmother. When we came back to see the grandmother she listened as we explained the Gospel clearly. In the end she said that she understood and that she wanted to go into her room to be alone with the Lord and to receive Him as her Saviour. We thank the Lord for these encouragements in Namibia and we look to Him that soon we will see permanent testimony established there. Steven and Stephanie Anderson, commended from USA and currently working in Zambia are in the process of moving full time to Namibia. The process is taking quite some time, but we look to the Lord that He would make the way open.

**BRAZIL****Santa Maria**

I returned home from Brazil last Monday, after spending over six months on our field of labour. It was a privilege to be able to help in the work in Santa Maria, and indeed throughout the assemblies in the Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina. All feel keenly the loss of our esteemed fellow workers Tom and Dorothy Matthews. Prayer is also valued for Harry and Beth Wilson, who are both well into their nineties, and have health problems. We owe so much to these dear believers who laid a good foundation and laboured so faithfully over so many years.

We continue to value prayer for Christine. She keeps fairly well, and during the months I was there, was able to visit twice in between her monthly treatments. Her time spent there was much appreciated by the believers and without these visits, I would not have been able to remain there for as long.

In my last report, I mentioned a series that was underway with Roberto Ploia in the town of Osorio. This continued until the week before Christmas and despite a wave of covid infections, interest was sustained until the end. The brethren invited me to return, when possible, for a week of Bible Readings with the assembly, and these were held three weeks ago. Four neighbouring assemblies joined along with those who have recently been saved in the new work in Praia Rei do Peixe, and the assembly was encouraged to have the hall filled each night. We took up 2nd and 3rd John and the epistle of Jude, and many expressed appreciation for the teaching given. We thank God to see some who recently have been baptised and added to the fellowship in Osorio, who are making progress spiritually. Osorio very much needs to see such raised up by God, to shepherd the flock. Sr Alecio Freitas, for many years was useful in this way, but is now 92 years of age. He was the first to be saved in Osorio, when my late Uncle first preached the Gospel there, around 70 years ago. After the end of year Bible Readings, hosted by the Porto Alegre assembly, we started some meetings in a large housing estate about a mile from the Gospel Hall here in Santa Maria. These houses were built within the past five years, and since their construction, I tried to locate a suitable building to rent. Until now, this had proven impossible, but earlier in 2022, a man who lives in this area, began attending meetings in the Gospel Hall. He is a school teacher and was contacted by some of our young brethren. His two daughters have attended the Sunday School in the hall, and show a reverence for the word of God. It was a real answer to prayer, when he offered his garage for meetings, as it was exactly what we needed. During the five weeks there, around 12 different people came in for the first time to hear the Gospel, and a number attended various meetings. Our brethren plan to carry on a regular Gospel Meeting in this home during coming months. One lady who has attended meetings in the hall, who lives in the area, told us she is seeking for salvation. Please pray for Dona Vera.

The children's work continues to encourage. Our young brethren and sisters keep active and use their cars to bring children to the hall. Some are from very sad homes, where drugs and sin create havoc. One such case is a girl of sixteen. Stephanie has come regularly to Sunday School and to Gospel Meetings in the hall. Her own mother and father are dead, and she is cared for by her grandparents who are extremely poor. Sadly, she gave birth to a little baby within the past year but continues to come to the hall. We long to see her saved and freed from this sad life. During the last three weeks before leaving Brazil, I was able to visit seven different assemblies, helping in ministry, Bible Readings and in the Gospel. Please continue to remember the work of God in our field of labour. I plan to visit again later this year, as the Lord opens up the way.

Thursday 25th

BOTSWANA



Neh 10-11

Francistown

Two weeks ago, a short series of nightly Gospel meetings was held at the Gospel Hall in Francistown, with the preaching by local brethren. Between 40 and 50 attended each evening, with some visitors present, both adults and children. The attendance was encouraging, and we continue in prayer for the salvation of precious souls. The various Sunday Schools commenced in January. Here in Tati Siding, around 90 children are attending, which is as high a number as we have seen on a regular basis. They divide for 2 classes, with the possibility now of a third. Some of those living near to us come with us on Sunday morning to Francistown. Over the years we have seen some profess faith in Christ, with 3 older boys now in fellowship.



Good interest continues by about 60 adults at the Centre for Illegal Immigrants in the Way of Righteousness Bible lessons. Marking and handling the lessons takes quite a bit of time, but the good seed is being sown. One man wrote a little message in his lesson recently thanking us for the lessons, and for showing him the door of salvation. We are therefore encouraged by this appreciation. Others are believers and enjoy the lessons as they await their next move.

The Lord's Work Fund here in Botswana is enabled by the generosity of believers, both locally and in other countries, to support some Gospel activities within Botswana and also help some who have particular need. In May it will be 3 years since the commencement of the Fund. We assist with some of the administration. We also continue to help the Francistown Assembly with some practical matters. The book-room is a resource that we access to provide Bibles and literature for individual use or distribution.

In late October John's mother was called home and we were able to travel as a family for her funeral and visit a few places as well. It was good to be able to visit the UK as a family again after 7 years, although in very sad circumstances and during a period of cold weather. We were delighted that after our return, Thomas and James were baptised on 2 April. Thomas has also indicated his desire to be in assembly fellowship.

Onty's father is now much weaker than previously, finding it very difficult to walk and in need of a wheelchair. We very much appreciate your prayers for us as a family and for the work of the Lord here.

Friday 26th

VENEZUELA



Neh 12-13

Los Altos

At the end of 2022 we returned to our home here in Los Altos, and immediately commenced gospel meetings with our local brethren, as Pedro Malave – our son-in-law, was in San Pedrito and then San Pedro. He was able to join us for the final week. What struck us about these meetings, was that quite a number of unsaved attended, most of them adults who never go to a meeting in the hall. It was great to have them hearing the gospel message. The results we leave with God.

The photo shows a young couple on their motorbike, Julio & Marby, with their two children. An excellent couple in fellowship, who are teachers in a State school. Their wages are \$11 per month! That is \$22 for a family of four.



Julio & Marby with their two children

It is important to mention our sister Elena Figuera, who is 82 and virtually never misses a meeting. A very simple sister, she for years joined us in tract distribution and inviting people to meetings. She was gifted and exercised to do this, and she saw many attend meetings. As she usually arrives early, one evening we decided to ask her to tell us how she was saved. At 35 years of age in May 1973, a great national preacher Don Jose Naranjo, visited their home, gave Elena a tract, quoting John 3:16. He insisted that the young Elena go to the meeting; she went, taking her mother Sra. Vicenta – they had never been to a gospel meeting before! They both got saved, and went full of joy telling Elena's brother Chuo, who also got saved that night. Chuo was a great elder, who sadly was taken from us at the beginning of the Covid pandemic, when even doctors did not understand it. Their mother Vicenta died, in Christ, a very old and faithful sister.

Then we helped in meetings in a house of mourning; it was a very different case. Our dear brother Ezequiel Figuera, at almost 90, after a difficult illness, was taken home to heaven; he was a faithful brother. He and his now widow, Sra. Albertina, were founding members of the assembly, and amongst the first saved here in Los Altos. Their home was open for hospitality for decades; it was there that visiting preachers stayed; the assembly helped with the food, as they were poor people. Those meetings went on for three weeks, again with good attendance. After this we joined the meetings in San Pedrito for a few weeks. We had the happy news of a young woman, Yamilet Diaz, mother of two children, trusting the Saviour.



Hall in Pinantal

Pinañtal, is a village way up in the Sucre State mountains and is a few miles below the large reservoir that provides water to the state capital Cumana, and the large island of Margarita. The road up is almost indescribable as it is so bad. One must sleep rough as it were, so as a result the brethren go a week at a time, with three groups taking turns, some from Zurita – the nearest assembly, some from Los Altos, and others too. God has been working for some years now. Pedro took me and others and while it is not easy, the great majority make us very welcome, even the unsaved. Several were interviewed for baptism when we were there, and others the following week. As it is so isolated the pandemic did not interfere with the work up there – and souls were getting saved. Last Friday, a brother took us up for the baptisms when nine obeyed the Lord – four brethren and five sisters, including one couple: the first baptisms in the unfinished hall – no anteroom or bathroom! Then yesterday we went to the Breaking of Bread in Zurita, where the nine were received into fellowship. After the Lord's Supper we had an extended ministry meeting. It was difficult to keep back tears, such was the joy!

We value your prayers for the land of Venezuela, in all its need.

C. 1977

NOEL & ANNE McKEOWN

28/3/23

Saturday 27th

N. IRELAND



Esther 1-4

Newtownabbey

Paul McCauley and I continue our door-to-door work together in West and North Belfast. Our prayer is continually for the Lord to bless this work to the salvation of souls and upbuilding of assemblies in the city.

Over the past few months I have been kept busy with Bible teaching in various assemblies and a couple of weeks of Gospel meetings in Broomhedge. In early February I went to Hildenborough assembly in Kent for a couple of nights of ministry and a week of Gospel preaching. The assembly were encouraged by some local people attending these meetings. The door-to-door work was tough but the Lord did open some good conversations. We were glad to have a few local Christians from different church backgrounds who came as well. They were glad to hear the Gospel preached and some expressed the intention of bringing their children along to the little Sunday-school in the hall.

Over the past few weeks I have been in India and Nepal (with Marshall and Jean Howe) visiting believers and local assemblies in Delhi, Varanasi, and Kathmandu. This was an exceedingly busy period with a lot of Bible teaching publicly, from house to house, and in a large university in Varanasi. It was most encouraging to meet a number of evangelists and see how the work in these lands is growing – out of the 23 assemblies I heard referred to when I was there, 20 had been planted within the past 20 years. The believers, and especially those who evangelise, are persecuted in many ways and prayer for them would be greatly valued. Also, prayer for wisdom for me, that I might be of some spiritual benefit when I go on visits such as this, would be deeply appreciated.

I start another series of Gospel meetings with Paul McCauley in Kingsmoss Gospel Hall and we would appreciate prayers for the three weeks we intend to be with this assembly.

DAVID & JENNIE WILLIAMSON

13/3/23



NORWAY

Skien

Today the greatest spiritual challenges in Norway are postmodernism, materialism, religious indifference, relativism, and nominal church membership among the country's population of about 6 million people. Theological liberalism as in most of modern Europe, is also widespread in Norway.

Norway's oil and gas industry and stable economy attract and connect people, especially as a result of the present war in Ukraine.



We have had the joy of traveling, preaching and teaching in most of the Scandinavian countries, the exception being Finland. Denmark, Sweden and Norway along with the Faroe Islands have a common language known as Scandinavisk whereby we can easily communicate with each other, a real blessing indeed! Although the work has generally been uphill with little response, we have counted it all joy to be able to encourage many of the Lord's people in their service for God.

Assembly life generally in Scandinavia is weak, not because of lack of teaching, but traditions passed on from previous generations are indeed hard to change! God in His kindness has opened many doors for us to speak of the Lord Jesus. It is always a thrill to communicate the Word of God, especially with young people from various parts of Norway and Scandinavia at various camps and special events. Although our service for the Lord has changed due to Jennifer's serious illness, we are grateful to see some results from our labours here in Norway.

God is raising up a new generation of faithful believers, especially young men with the ability to teach and preach, who are hungry for the Word and passionate about the gospel. Their desire is to help existing local churches, ministry to younger Christians, and strengthen struggling companies of believers through systematic Bible studies.

Over 25 years ago Nat was invited to commence Bible studies in the local top security prison every week. Using Emmaus Bible Courses and various other literature, a good number of inmates came to personal faith in the Saviour. Today we know of some who are in full-time Christian work, others totally involved in local churches. We count it a great joy to be a small link in a large chain of blessing, helping these inmates find the Saviour and redirect their lives.

You are aware that Jennifer has been living for some time with incurable cancer. Having travelled extensively in Scandinavia for 40 years, we are now limited in our travels. As a consequence, our ministry has changed and God is bringing many to us at home that most likely never would have crossed our paths. As we continue to witness, please continue to pray for all who it has been a joy, challenge and delight to meet, especially the many saints in Scandinavia who love and serve the Lord.

Monday 29th

TANZANIA



Job 1-4

Dar-es-Salam

A great deal has happened over the past two months. Just after our last update, dear Gladness, our cook at Watoto wa Thamani (WWT), was received into the Lord's presence after deteriorating rapidly following her fight with breast cancer, which had spread to other parts of her body. Although preferring to be at home, exhausted, she finally asked to be taken to hospital where she could be given stronger pain relief. After taking her there on a mattress in the back of our vehicle, within hours of receiving medication, she fell asleep and woke up in heaven. She was strong in her faith and unafraid of death, for her life was hid in Christ in God. She was only 45 years old but there's far more before her than there was behind her! Isn't it great to be a Christian?



We are pleased to say that Baba Norine's leg, previously broken and poorly treated, is now healing nicely, and earlier this month he discarded his crutches and is now walking unaided. We found some antibiotics to deal with internal swelling at the top of the titanium steel rod in his leg which is helping reduce the pain in his knee and increase his mobility. It will be some time before he is able to work. His wife is supporting the family by travelling each day into the city and working in a local shop for a pittance. He is so very grateful for help and prayer, is regularly attending the Sunday meetings, and listens intently to the gospel message. Please pray for a spiritual breakthrough for this man and his wife from a Muslim background. They are parents of twins in WWT Class Two.

On the day of Gladness's funeral, Baba Angel came to WWT asking for help. The needs of folks around us can become exhausting, and as Gill was about to turn him away, she asked what his problem was. The shocking sight of a food bag strung around his waist, collecting the waste from an open 'colostomy', prompted Gill to ask more about the situation. Back in July 2022 he'd had an emergency operation for a twisted bowel in one hospital which didn't go well so he had an immediate follow-up operation in another leaving him with a colostomy bag! Now he needed the colostomy to be reversed but couldn't have it done as he hadn't paid for the previous operations! We didn't know him, but seeing his condition and the state he was in, we felt we should help and clear his debt. We gave him 'Ultimate Questions' (in Kiswahili) to read and invited him to the gospel meeting. However, he couldn't have the reversal until this had been paid for in advance - never, ever complain about the NHS! So, we paid for it, to which various additional expenses were added by the hospital. However, this operation didn't go well either and 2 days later he was back in theatre as his bowel had been put back twisted. This further increased the hospital costs - yes, having to pay for a failed operation and a follow up! We stood our ground and refused to pay everything so, after Baba Angel

had sat on the ward for a week taking up a bed, he negotiated, and they halved the cost. Once paid last Friday, he was discharged and was at the gospel meeting on Sunday. He has some months ahead of him before he can work again, but we pray that on hearing the gospel, he might be saved too – another from a Muslim background. The love of God can break through!



Gill has been back in the UK since the beginning of March to care for her mum who was poorly. It's always difficult to know what to do in such circumstances, with being so far away, but with her deteriorating health and Gill's prayer asking the Lord to allow her to be with her mum when she passed into the Lord's presence (as she was with her dad), Gill flew back to help her sister Clare to care for their mum. After 10 days of being there, Gill's mum went peacefully to heaven to be with her Lord and Saviour whom she loved. Another child of God safely gathered; another 'prayer warrior' taken – we trust others will step up and fill the gap of keeping the Lord's work before Him in prayer. Stephen returns this weekend for the funeral and to spend time with the family.

We are thankful for your interest, prayers and practical support as we serve the Lord in the place in which He has placed us.

Tuesday 30th



Job 5-7

N IRELAND

Cullybackey

Missionary Container Service in Northern Ireland was first set up in January 1990 following discussions between the late Mr Charlie Geddis, Loloma, Zambia, and Mr John Harkness, Co Antrim. The purpose of the Container Service was to collect donations of practical items such as clothes, toiletries, food, powdered milk, medical equipment and supplies, tools, building supplies, bedding, school desks, chairs, sewing machines, bicycles, toys, books etc. from donors in Northern Ireland and UK mainland and arrange the shipping of the donations in containers from our warehouse to Musenga, Zambia, for further distribution to the appropriate mission stations. It has always been important that donors have been in contact with the missionaries to confirm what items are best suited to the needs of the work where the Lord has placed them. This communication is much simpler today than it would have been in the 1990's.



Loading in Cullybackey

In 2007 we were incorporated as a Trust and renamed: Missionary Container Service Trust. None of the Trustees receive any remuneration from the Trust. In recent years, the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland required a re-registration and this was achieved in October 2018.

From its inception, the principle of working the Container Service has been that goods supplied by participating assemblies and individuals are brought to our warehouse in Cullybackey, Co Antrim, where the parcels are weighed, numbered and stored until loading. The details are then added to the shipping manifesto prior to loading. There is a cost per kilo charged for shipping the goods to Zambia and this charge is met by the assemblies and individuals involved. It is important to present the goods in boxes of suitable quality and strength using good quality tape and making sure that the boxes are filled full, but not over-filled. The Mission Station and name of the missionary is clearly marked on each box.

We ship on average 3 or 4 x 40ft high cube containers each year. These goods are always very much appreciated by those of our brothers and sisters serving the Lord in Zambia. For many years we have very much appreciated the tireless and invaluable work of Phil Grove, Chingola, who has assisted the sometimes difficult passage of the containers through Customs Clearing etc at the border between Tanzania and Zambia and latterly between Namibia and Zambia. During the last few years this work has been ably continued by Phil Cole with other missionaries assisting as required. We are presently collecting for Container No 185.

By the grace of God, as Trustees, we say to donors and recipients, in the words of the apostle Paul: 'For we are labourers together with God' (1Cor3v9).

**THE TRUSTEES OF MISSIONARY
CONTAINER SERVICE TRUST**

27/3/23

Wednesday 31st

ENGLAND



Job 8-10

London

Having spent the best part of 11 years running an indoor market Bible stall, and visiting agricultural shows and street events, we were led more recently into food bank work. Lockdown was spent volunteering with a large local authority food bank operating in Fleetwood: a great training ground for what the Lord had in mind for us to do! Our exercise was that although at the height of the pandemic, 1000 food parcels were being delivered weekly, opportunity to share the gospel was not included, or permitted.

A verse that spoke to our hearts and is now the foremost purpose of our food bank run from Cleveleys assembly (registered charity "Christian Care & Share") is 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' Luke 4v4.

Late last year Christine became very ill with a serious digestive problem. In January she spent 4 nights in hospital after the problem worsened, and after many tests, things are finally settling down, although her energy levels are low. We value prayer for her full restoration.

All this put much more pressure on the food bank work, so we have now taken on 4 other volunteers. These new helpers are not believers, so do pray for them, as they are exposed to the gospel and the witness of the lives of the believers from the assembly they work with. Pray for volunteer Roy, whose wife Lindsey expressed interest in them attending the gospel meeting again, as they did some years ago.

Apart from the practical effort involved in sourcing food for up to 65 people (some of it free from supermarket donations) packing, splitting, labelling and complying with regulations, our constant vision is to take time to share the gospel. Each food parcel has a tract or similar enclosed, free Bibles are available, and often people who collect sit over a coffee and share their burdens. Some ask for prayer.

Opportunity over Christmas last year was taken to host a buffet lunch in a hotel near flats, in an area where people with addictions live in abject poverty. Seven came and listened to a short gospel message, before food was served. It was good to sit with these folks and share, listening to their concerns, showing them the love of Christ. Pray especially for weekly contact with 6 of them, who call to collect from the assembly, especially Jay, who confessed he was far from God, having once been baptised in a Baptist church.

Some of the food bank clients have been along to gospel meetings at the Cleveleys assembly. Please pray for a work to be done for the glory of God and the salvation of precious souls, and for further opportunities to share the gospel with individuals.



C=Date of Commendation

Published by:
LORD'S WORK TRUST
42 Beansburn, Kilmarnock KA3 1RL
Tel. 01563 521098 E.Mail: lwtrust@lwtrust.co.uk
www.lordsworktrust-kilmarnock.co.uk
Charity No. SC008740

Alistair Buchan (Aberdeen)	Stephen Trimble (Ballykeel)
David Grant (Kilmarnock)	Raymond McNair (Glengormley)
Andrew Grieve (Belfast)	Alastair Sinclair (Crosshouse)
Kevin Oh (London)	Gordon Stewart (Wallingford)

Secretary: Leonard Currie (Kinross)

Total gifts received during March 2023.

Total: £1,851,380.36

