

# Look on the Fields

February 2025

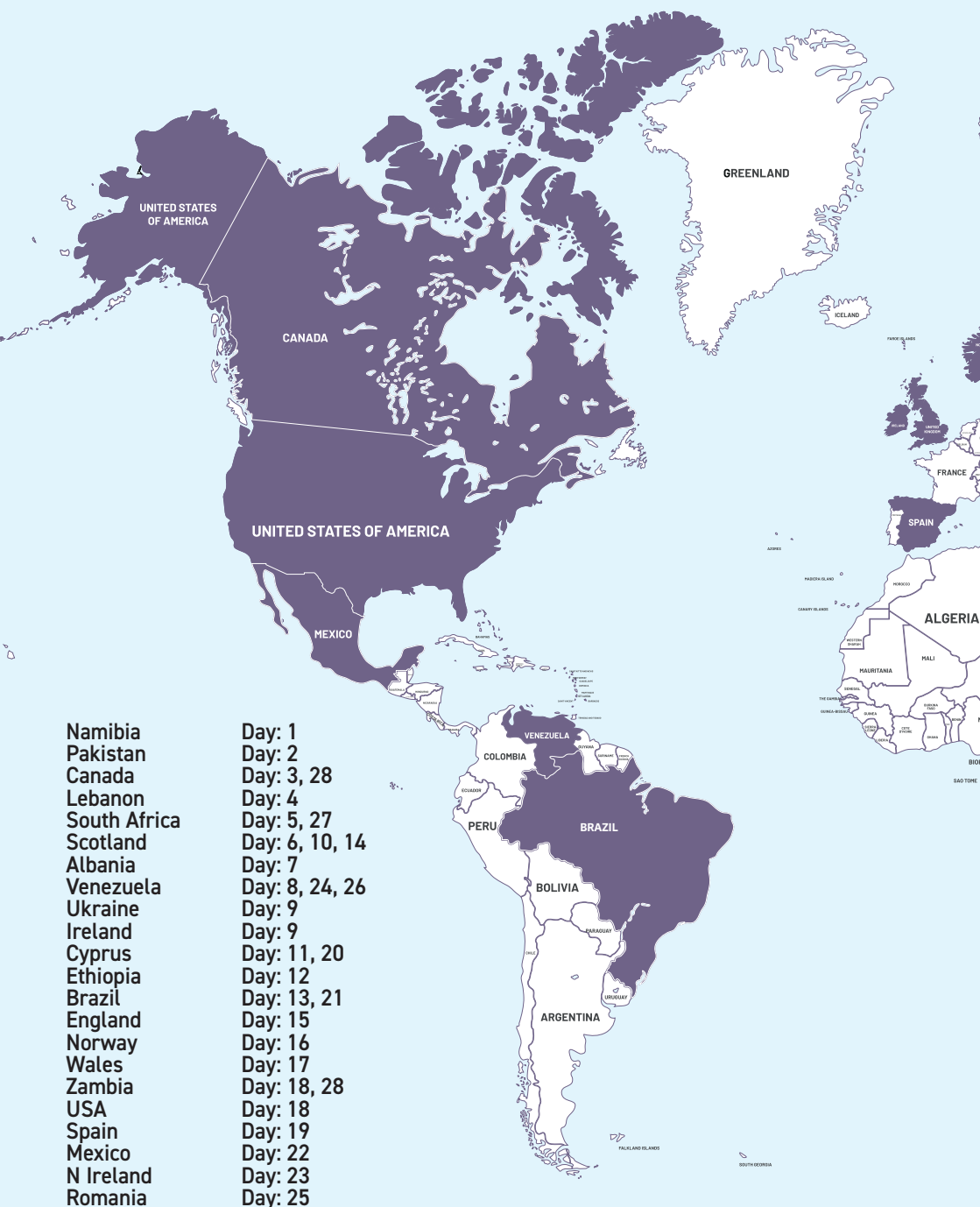


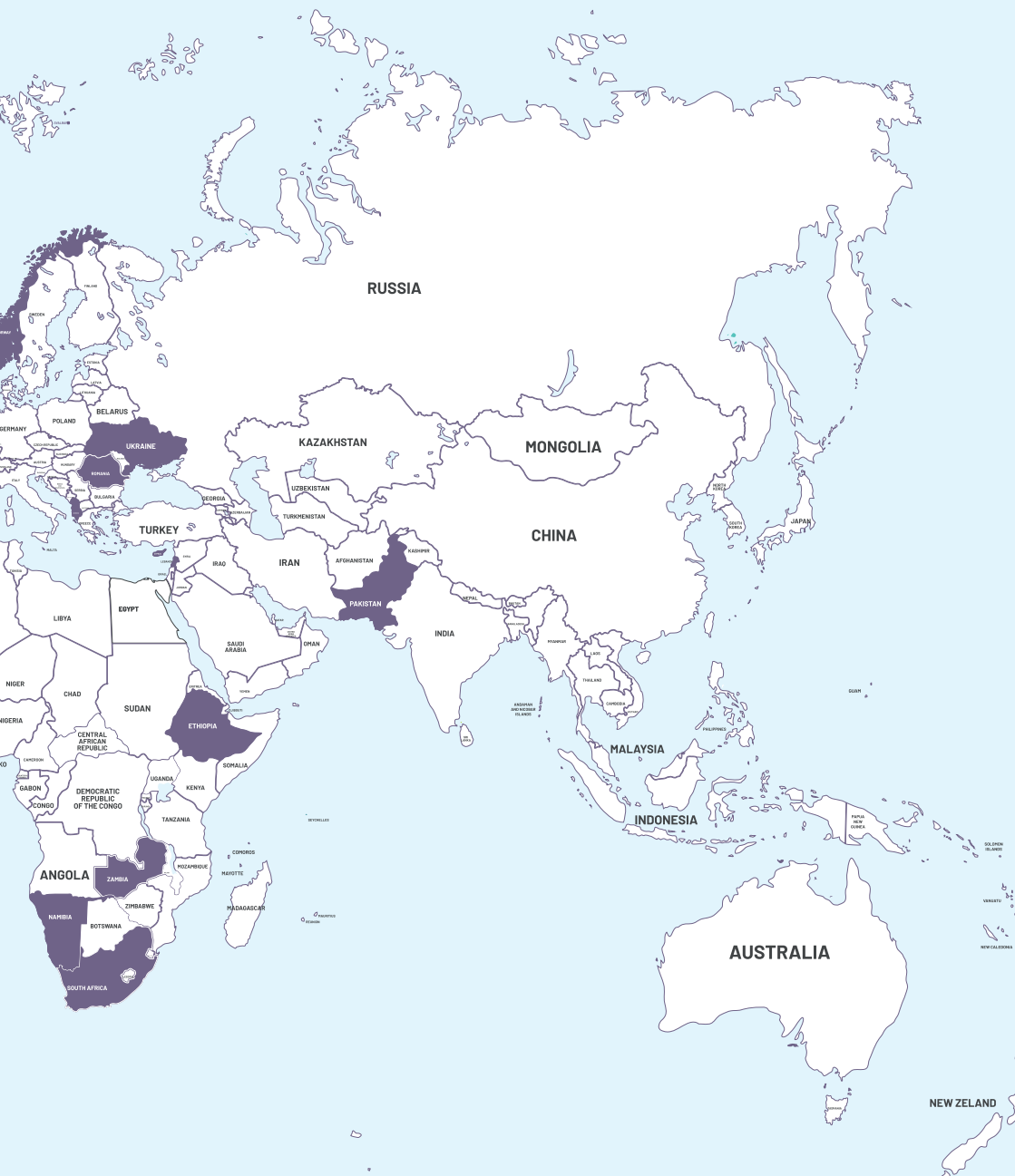
ITEMS FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE  
With Daily Scripture Readings



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

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





Reports in this edition are from countries shaded on the map.



Saturday 1st

NAMIBIA



Lev 8-10

Writing from Zambia



In the midst of discouragement and disappointment in regards to visa applications for Namibia, the Lord has blessed and has been most gracious concerning the work going on in the country.

We entered Namibia in mid-October with no issues and left the country late November. We had three separate outreaches planned, the first being in a northern town called Oshakati. This area is mostly populated by Oshiwambo people who speak Oshikwanyama or Oshingdona. This tribe has slowly migrated into Namibia from Angola. Ericsson and Selma travelled north to join us and brought the literature for distribution. We were met there by a group from the UK. They were most helpful and uplifting to us for the ten days they were with us. Text distribution went on in the morning even with temperatures reaching 55 Celsius. In the afternoon we travelled west into the bush to Selma's mother's homestead. Gospel meetings were held there with many relatives and neighbours coming and hearing the good news. Selma's auntie came who is completely blind. She was sceptical, but when she heard that "all have sinned, including the preachers", you could see her face change and become more willing to listen. There are people in Namibia that say they are "a man of God" and with this title they can do what they like and claim no sin. Through the emphasis placed on the fact that all have sinned, Selma's auntie saw that the message of the gospel was different. We needed to





find protection from the hot sun, so we made a tent with a large tarp between a tree and our vehicle. The Two Roads chart in Oshikwanyama was set up as well. The gospel was well received, and we leave the rest with the Lord.

The second outreach was in Otjiwarongo, a town in the middle of the country. Josh and Keri Kaye joined us here and we had four nights of gospel meetings in a C.E.F. (Child Evangelism Fellowship) building. Many who are connected to the building attended. Josh and Keri met a man in town called Donald and had a good opportunity to speak with him. He came to the gospel meeting. He is very confused about salvation, work, prosperity and church membership, but a long talk was had which was helpful and contact info was exchanged. Also, after the meeting I was able to converse (through translation) with a woman who is a Damara speaker. She had come to all the meetings and wanted to be saved. She wanted us to lay our hands on her, do a prayer and then tell her she was saved. When this didn't happen, she was disappointed, but I had her read many scriptures in her own language to teach her the truth of the gospel. The woman that translated this conversation is named Patricia. Patricia has the keys to the C.E.F. building and was primarily responsible for the open invitation to preach the gospel there. She is very open and eager to hear the true gospel spoken, but also seems to be open to hearing others speak things contrary to God's word under the name of Christendom. There is much error and confusion. Pray that it would be clear to Patricia and others in this community that salvation is through faith in the finished work of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ alone. Pray they would not be led by men, but that they would continuously refer to the scriptures for truth.

The third outreach was in Swakopmund. Most of our time for the past two years has been focused here. We have seen drastic differences on how we have been accepted. Ones that call themselves prophets, apostles and men of God have actively been against us, but we have also seen the power of God moving and working. When you are in the thick of things and among the people you can feel the oppression and suffocation from the Devil. Being strangled and tangled with witchcraft, the people have been blinded. That is why there is such a radical change seen right from the onset of salvation, for example Ericsson and Selma. The spiritual growth that we have seen in these two is wonderful and has caused us to rejoice greatly. We were able to have two weeks of gospel meetings in the morning in a different part of the shantytown and many came out repeatedly. Please pray for a man named Moses who has professed salvation. Ericsson and Moses are doing a bible study working through David Newell's 'Letters to a New Believer' which has been very helpful. In the afternoon we had children's meetings near Ericsson's house and around one hundred children attended. Please pray for Ericsson and Selma as they are the ones continuously on the ground in their community. Please pray for Elias, their neighbour, who has heard the gospel many times, and has just recently come to the truth that he is a sinner bound for hell. He is quite conflicted due to complicated family circumstances. We pray that he would look away from his circumstances and be led to accept the salvation offered to him through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. After a long four day drive, we made it back safely to Loloma, Zambia.

## PAKISTAN



## Writing from England

I had a really good visit to Pakistan. It was short (6 days in the country) because the security authorities made that a stipulation of my visit. There is a great interest in the scriptures and the things of the Lord. We were well protected but had to report our whereabouts every two hours.



Meetings took place in Sohail's house each morning (40 plus men came / elders and evangelists) and we were allowed to visit villages/towns in the afternoons as long as there was a majority Christian population in the area. Some days we had 50 or so in the audience and some days we had 250/300. The conditions are often very basic and extreme poverty is very evident.

On the final day over 200 believers met in the street in the city of A where we were based. Each end of the street was cordoned off to provide a degree of safety and privacy. It was a real joy to see their enthusiasm for meeting and listening to the word of God.



It was thrilling and encouraging to meet the believers again. Many souls are saved regularly. When I arrived home Sohail told me of two Hindu ladies who had professed faith in Christ after the meeting in PP on the Saturday afternoon. In addition to this seventy people were saved over a two-week period. The Lord is blessing despite the danger of being a Christian in this country.

We, and the saints in this region of Pakistan, really appreciate your prayer support and interest in this work for the Lord.

Monday 3rd

CANADA



Lev 14-15

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Last night was our annual community carol service and we are thankful that a large number of visitors came into the hall, all of whom came downstairs afterwards for some food and conversation. We sang ten carols with good lyrical references to the Saviour, taking time to explain the history of the song's composition or commenting on the Biblical background to the lyrics. Everyone also heard a 15-minute gospel message on the meaning of the name "Immanuel."



In Oct-Nov, Brody Thibodeau joined Matthew for 2½ weeks of gospel preaching in the hall. The numbers attending weren't large, but there were visitors each night and we rejoiced to hear a young man, for whom the gospel is entirely new, tell us of his trusting Christ.

We continue reading through Luke's Gospel with the ESL (English as a Second Language) Bible class. Since the summer, the numbers attending have dipped slightly, but there are still over ten regularly attending and two ladies in particular are asking very good questions. Sometimes we feel like they are making great strides in their understanding of the gospel, yet other times the spiritual blindness of the human heart is very evident.



We had hoped to start a weekly children's work in a local community centre this autumn, following on from our summer Vacation Bible School, but unfortunately, we were unable to secure the space. We were also unsuccessful in getting a room for the winter, so we plan to start a weekly children's meeting in the Gospel Hall at the end of January. Please pray that children from the summer work and from the immediate neighbourhood will attend.

Without the children's meeting we had planned for one night a week in the autumn, we had some time to start up a "College & Careers" group. We have met a couple of times a month to read and discuss a Christian book together with a group of about twenty 18-30 year old Christians. We pray the Lord will use times like this for their spiritual preservation and growth, and their development of good Christian friendships as well.

C.2005 (CAN)

MATTHEW & ESTHER CAIN

10/12/24



**LEBANON****Tyre**

The ceasefire is a relief for everyone, but of course some wonder if it will continue in the context of the constantly changing situation in our surrounding countries. The violations in the South continue across many villages and towns. Even here in Beirut, we hear the drone at low altitude not infrequently, so people are not really getting the chance to move beyond it.



I have made two visits to Tyre and the destruction is devastating for so many. Issues with lack of water and electricity remain but most schools will resume next week with the families who have managed to return. Our school is scheduled to start on Monday so please do pray for the safe return of teachers and families. I will not be able to attend school every day until work has been completed on my house, but will go down as able and support everyone online at other times.

Seeing the reality of the damage to my home in Tyre was very difficult. Enough to say there is significant damage - windows, doors, carpets, blinds, walls, the kitchen and other household goods are damaged and need to be replaced. We were able to tidy up the broken glass and put plastic sheets in the space where most windows and doors were. The front door is held closed but also needs to be replaced urgently. There is a delay in availability of all these things so it's not possible to do things quickly. There is a process to be followed regarding compensation for repairs and as my landlady is very sick in the States, she is not able to be directly involved.

Several of our teachers are also in difficult situations but are trying to find ways to be able to continue their work in school as they deal with the aftermath of the war.

As for me, I am continuing with the relief project here in Beirut, although the next stage will probably be the last for now. So far, we have distributed 200 blankets, food portions, hygiene supplies and Arabic New Testaments to refugees from the suburbs of Beirut and the South. I purchased another 200 this weekend so we can distribute them and then hopefully I'll be able to shift the focus back to the South. It has been a real blessing for me to have local support in distributing and storing everything.

Please pray for believers here, many of whom are tired and surrounded by darkness and destruction. The contrast here is great - Beirut is preparing for Christmas with trees, lights and special events while the South is struggling to start the long process of recovery.



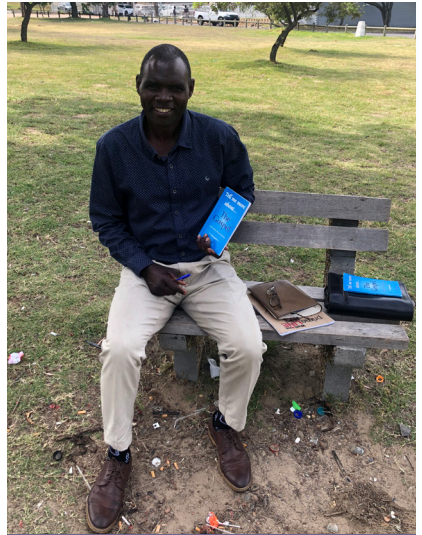
At the end of November and into December we spent a few days in the town of George in the southern Cape where Joy's sister and her husband (Mary and Robin Rossouw) work full time for the Lord. I had been invited to speak at the prize giving of the Afrikaans correspondence Bible school. Over two hundred children and parents gathered for the occasion. Various activities had been arranged for the afternoon and afterwards the children sat very quietly to listen to the message of Christ the Light of the World. I was also responsible to preach at the regular Lord's Day gospel meeting. Robin and Mary do very well in bringing many people to the meetings and taking them home afterwards.

We had a morning at the TB hospital in George where I had been asked to speak to the patients. The local assembly has had an outreach there for many years. The patients who were able came together in the library to listen to the message. Afterwards we went into two of the wards to speak with the patients who were too ill to attend the service. We spoke personally to those who were awake, leaving something to read and a snack for them all. I was also invited to have a ministry meeting with the local assembly.

Since returning home to Cape Town I have been fulfilling speaking engagements locally. Yesterday I was responsible for the message at the Sunday School prize giving of the assembly at Bellville. It was very encouraging to see so many in the hall, some for the first time. A retired Anglican clergyman and his wife (who are the grandparents of two of the Sunday School children) were in attendance. Their daughter and her husband are in fellowship but as far as we know her parents are not born again and are not used to a clear gospel presentation.

I have started personal Bible studies with a man, named Wilson from Malawi. He is a believer but doesn't have much Bible knowledge yet. He wants to have a better understanding of the Scriptures. We are using Bert Cargill's 'Tell Me More About the Gospel'. I have known him for a few years and he receives quite a number of Precious Seed magazines for himself and others on a quarterly basis.

Please pray for those who have heard the Word recently that they will give attention to what they have heard and come to a personal knowledge of the Saviour.



Wilson

Thursday 6th

SCOTLAND



Lev 22-23

Perth

Recently, I've spent a bit of time revamping our website – perthgospelhall.com. I also compiled four of the short evangelistic Bible study courses I've produced and ran over the years, into a little book which is now available on Amazon for wider use (search for "Let's Talk Christianity").

In early December I arranged for a distribution of Gospel literature with an offer of a free Bible to go into around 54,000 homes across Perthshire via Royal Mail. 40 people from across the district got in touch requesting a Bible. I also produced a new edition of our Gospel community magazine, The Signpost, which has been hand delivered to about 3,500 homes around the Hall.

As always, Christmas has brought lots of opportunities for reaching out with the Gospel. Gillian helped organise a ladies' Christmas Craft Evening which around 30 women from the community attended. Our Christmas Community Lunch also brought in around 30 locals, while our first ever Men's Breakfast Outreach was attended by 12 men, some of whom had never been in the Hall before.

We participated in our local community 'Christmas Light Switch On' event by running children's activities. This gave us the opportunity to speak to many people and give out prize bags with literature to over 100 children, as well as calendars and invitations to many adults. We also had a unique opportunity to hold a short carol service in a hotel housing over 100 asylum seekers from many different African and Middle Eastern countries. It was slightly chaotic due to the number of languages spoken, but the Gospel was shared and many listened and read Bible verses in their own languages. I was also able to share the Gospel in one local Care Home and in a Christmas Service we organise each year in the nearby village of Bridge of Earn.

The ongoing work with the two weekly soup kitchens continues to



*Service in hotel for asylum seekers*



*Royal Mail Distribution*



*Men's Breakfast*



bring us into contact with new people on a regular basis and it's been encouraging to see some of these folks attending other activities and services at the Hall in recent months.

In 2025, God willing, the goal will be the same – to find new ways of reaching new audiences with the Gospel!

C. 2015

GARETH & GILLIAN EDWARDS

16/12/24

**Friday 7th**

**ALBANIA**

**The Assembly**



Lev 24-25

**Tirana**

Our Saturday morning street ministry continues with some of the young men assisting. While I've been training them to handle challenging situations, it is not always easy. In one town, the local mosque sent their "men" to our stall to deter the local people approaching. Pray that the Lord will remove any fear and embolden us to serve faithfully.

At the end of August, we held our annual retreat. Brother Michael McKillen shared God's Word, providing much-needed encouragement and challenge for the believers. In October we rejoiced in baptising F. She came in contact with us last year and her initial curiosity gradually grew into a deep interest in spiritual matters with her regularly attending our Sunday Gospel meeting. In May she shared the wonderful news that she had come to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Her mum, sister and a friend were in attendance, so we pray that the Lord will bless further with salvation.

Mid-November, we participated in the Tirana International Book Fair. This event, which attracts thousands of families, showcases books primarily in the Albanian language. We have been attending the fair since 2009, and this year, we had some of our most fruitful conversations yet, engaging people from diverse backgrounds - Muslims, Catholics, Orthodox, atheists, deists, agnostics, and even a young man seriously exploring Hinduism. These encounters provided wonderful opportunities to challenge beliefs and share the glorious message that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15). Please remember in prayer one young Muslim woman. Despite her beliefs being challenged, she continued to show a genuine interest, conversing with us for well over an hour and listening intently to the answers given. We trust that the Lord will open her heart, as well as the hearts of many others, like a Lydia of old, to the light of the Gospel. Remember also two young men who stopped by and talked for more than two hours about the Scriptures, the Lord Jesus and the true Church of God. People obtain so much information through the internet and believe it as fact without comparing it with the truth of the Word of God.

At the Book Fair, we also presented a newly translated and printed book by our dear brother Peter Hedley, which emphasises the importance and necessity of the new birth. The book was distributed freely, especially to those of the Catholic and Orthodox faith. We trust that by reading it they will be enlightened and turn to Christ for salvation.

Emigration is becoming a national plague with thousands of people, mainly the young, leaving the country. Many villages and small towns are now facing the threat of abandonment. Another family from our assembly has taken the decision to relocate to Germany after New Year. Their presence and contribution will be sorely missed.

## Training program

The number of students on the online Bible training program has grown to 20. In addition to the online meetings, we gather in person monthly for a time of prayer and mutual encouragement. Most of the students are in their early twenties, and it's a joy to witness their hunger to study God's Word in more depth. In an era of enormous confusion, it is vital to prepare our youth to hold forth the Word of life.

Please remember in prayer an old friend of mine who lives abroad. He has been an atheist for many years and severed all contact with me after I got saved. However, he very unexpectedly contacted me a few years ago and we are having regular discussions about faith, the uniqueness of Christ and the Gospel via Zoom. He has moved from a position of atheism to now considering his stand in front of a holy and righteous God. It would be a real joy to see him saved!

## Family

In September Luke moved to Dublin where he is studying medicine at Trinity College. The Lord has been faithful and the local believers have been very welcoming to him. We continue to pray that he will seek and know much of the Lord's guidance in this new chapter of his life. Benjamin and Esther remain in their respective studies at school and we are grateful for a number of faithful Christian teachers who have had a positive influence on them. Your on-going prayers for the work here in Albania and for our family are cherished.

C. 2008

ENRIS & SYLVIA NASE

4/12/24

## Saturday 8th

### VENEZUELA



Lev 26-27

### La Cruz de Taratara

We are deeply grateful to our Father for His grace shown in calling us to His work to serve in the gospel of His Son. Likewise, we appreciate the intercessions that His people make to this end.

At present we endeavour to occupy ourselves in the mountains of the State of Falcon, specifically in a town called La Cruz de Taratara. We believe the Lord has called us to labour there. There is a small hall which was built years ago by Mr. Bruce Cumming and other workers. There are a few believers there as a result of the preaching of the gospel in times past, who persevere notwithstanding the difficulties and the absence of meetings for several years. The only one in fellowship, a sister aged 91, went to be with the Lord this year, leaving a good testimony amongst her family. We visit that family regularly and preach the gospel, trusting the Lord will do His work in them. We pray that the Lord will establish an assembly there for His glory. We have a children's class in the hall and preach the gospel. We try to reach neighbouring areas and preach in the open air. Recently we preached to a group of policemen, whose commander asked us to take them the message. They listened attentively and asked us to return.

We express our deep gratitude to the believers for your prayers and interest in the Lord's Work in Venezuela. The work is great and extensive, and we request that you continue to pray for us. We also are praying for you. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen" (2 Cor 13:14)

C. (Ven)

MARIO & REBECA VARGAS

16/12/24



Again, this year we designed and printed 10,000 Ukrainian Gospel calendars for 2025. We selected four pictures of cities in Ukraine with four suitable Gospel verses. We were able to send 3,000 to the soldiers in Kharkiv, Ukraine and 2,000 went to an assembly in Poland who are taking them across to different parts of Ukraine. The remaining 5,000 are for distribution throughout Ireland with the help of other believers, distributing to Skibbereen, Galway and Sligo.



*Wounded Ukrainian soldiers receiving Gospel Calendars in Kharkiv, Ukraine*

In mid-November we spent a few days in Bray, Wicklow, Arklow and Dublin sharing the Gospel calendars and spending time with the refugees in various Ukrainian hubs. We would ask for prayer that the Word of God would be richly blessed by the Lord to the salvation of souls. The last weekend in November we visited Tullamore, Mullingar, Athlone, and Foxford, Co. Mayo. Tullamore has 64 purpose-built homes for the refugees, and we had the joy of ringing each door bell and giving the calendar and two hygiene packs into each home which were kindly supplied by the sisters of Cardy assembly. This exercise brought a lot of joy and happiness from the recipients, and we were able to exchange greetings and short conversations on each doorstep. We sincerely pray that people of Ukraine will see something of the love and care of God for them and their families. Many people asked us the question "why are you giving us presents?" - one lady offered to pay, and we quickly explained all is from a loving and giving God!

In Foxford we visited Valentina and her son, Stanislav (23) from Ivano Frankivsk, who we had personal contact with for many years when they came to the Gospel meetings. They are being hosted in a small cottage beside a very large bungalow. When we arrived, they had prepared for us Borsch, Veroniki and roast potatoes with coffee and cookies to finish. We were delighted on the two-hour journey home to Mullingar, where we were staying, that we had absolutely no "indigestion" which for Agnes and I was a first after eating Ukrainian cuisine!





## SCOTLAND

## Luthermuir

Toward the end of September, we returned to the village of Port William in the south west of Scotland for a further two weeks of gospel meetings in the Portable Hall. This hall came about as the result of the exercise of two brethren with a burden for the Lord's work in Dumfries and Galloway County and has been in use for a few years. This is the third consecutive year that we have been involved in this outreach. The assemblies in Glenluce and Newtonstewart support the meetings well and it was encouraging to see unsaved from in and around the village attending.

I visited door-to-door in the mornings and afternoons and had some good opportunities to speak to people on spiritual matters. One lady came to the hall as a result. One young farmer came almost nightly and listened well to the preaching. His wife is a believer, but he needs salvation. While visiting, I had a long chat with a lady who has listened to the preaching of the gospel through the internet and has been reading and studying the scriptures as a result. I felt she was possibly a believer but lacking assurance, so I revisited her with a booklet "Safe, Sure and Happy" by our brother Jack Hay. Our brother Craig Munro has also spoken to this woman in the past. She said she would have liked to have come to the hall but has a phobia of being in enclosed places. I was encouraged to hear that she managed to attend an outreach monthly gospel meeting from Newtonstewart assembly in Whauphill village, last month. Do pray for (M), she seems a very genuine lady.

During November/December we returned to Shetland for two weeks for our annual spell of labour there. This involves a 12-15 hour ferry sailing from Aberdeen to Lerwick on sometimes rough seas. However, it means we can take our car. So far, over the years, we have managed not to be sick, but you get little sleep. It was good to be among the dear saints once again. We break bread at Selivoe, out on the west of the island, where there is only one dear brother and a handful of faithful sisters (the photo is of their isolated hall). Our main exercise is to help the assembly by visiting the west of Shetland with calendars, tracts and a notice of the meetings I'm having in different assemblies (both gospel and bible teaching), namely Scalloway, Sound and Brae. We visit mornings and afternoons and cover most of the west, with its many tiny villages and scattered crofts. We have got to know many people and are invited into some homes, where we sometimes get opportunity to share the gospel. Do pray for Alan and Wilma, a couple who have become dear friends and with whom we speak often of the gospel. Also, for Maurice, an elderly man with whom we have often spoken and there are others. It is a very busy time and we covered 850 miles on our journeys around the island. If you counted the sheep, you would soon fall asleep for there are simply thousands of them!



After the New Year, we shall be mainly in our local area and then in March, DV, we are expected in Botswana for almost four weeks, ministry and gospel, which includes the Serowe Easter Conference meetings. Then we go straight to Seoul, S.Korea for some gospel meetings with the Gangseo assembly leading up to their annual conference meetings.

The prayers of the saints are much needed and appreciated.

# CYPRUS



## Limassol

Please keep Diane in your prayers, the former cleaner of our complex who lost her husband earlier this year. Pray she finds time to come to the assembly as promised; there have been several obstacles, but we trust the Lord will make a way. Remember the other neighbours who normally receive a calendar/devotional at this time of year.

The response online continues to be encouraging. Dr. Seema Patel, a Hindu biologist in Canada has been reading most of my writings. Recently, she ordered my book "Surrounded by Beauty" from Amazon and published a positive review on the writer's platform we use, highlighting various quotes she found helpful. Please pray that God's Word will be sown in her heart to produce the fruit of salvation.

Also keep regular readers Dennett, Krasi, Shanti, Anne, Omar and Faheem in your prayers. The topics of the articles vary, but on one of the apologetic articles, a reader commented: "I love this evidence-based process you've shared and will definitely be saving/sharing it for those who need this evidence. Thank you!"

Earlier this year, a school friend's sister in N. Ireland received a copy of "Surrounded by Beauty" the day she was diagnosed with cancer. She was most grateful for the book and is now open to Christianity, having also received a New Testament. After treatment, she is cancer-free; please pray for her salvation.

Due to the positive feedback from "Surrounded by Beauty", I am currently compiling another edition of devotions with photos of Cyprus for publication on Amazon. Prayer would be valued for clarity of thought and suitable photographs.

A sister in the Limassol Assembly has offered to translate "Open Our Eyes" into Greek by Easter. I have forwarded a Macedonian abridged draft to a linguist in Macedonia to proofread and correct. Please pray that this little book on Christianity will bless future readers.



Wednesday 12th

## ETHIOPIA



Num 7-8

## Writing from Scotland

It was a real joy to be back in Ethiopia during October and November. This was one of the busiest and most tiring trips that I have made to Ethiopia.

In April we were at a Bible exhibition conducted by the Ethiopian Bible Society. During the four days that we were there we had many requests for the BES (Bible Education Services) booklets, but we completely ran out of them. However, a new consignment had just arrived and after much negotiation they were finally released to us. This was on the last Friday that I was in Ethiopia.



*Ethiopian Bible Conference*

We had Graeme Paterson with us in April, and he wondered if we had ever thought of teaching the Bible in the schools. We met a brother at the Bible Exhibition who had been applying to the Government for 7 years to teach Bible in the schools. He had just heard that permission had been given to go into 800 schools in Addis Ababa to teach the Bible.

Graeme also mentioned about a Bible Exhibition and when I came home, I made a start to produce one similar to the Ayrshire Bible exhibition. We were greatly helped by Brian Chalmers, and we began to translate this exhibition into Amharic. After a lot of change and correction, we finally had 18 pull up banners completed near the end of my recent visit. We were invited to display our exhibition to a school of about 400 pupils, a week before I returned home.



*Evangelists at Ginchi*

We also translated 'Discipleship Explained' into Amharic & Oromia. They were printed locally and the brethren received them on the 1st of December.



Stephen Grant was in Ethiopia with us for ten days and he taught 300 evangelists, for three days, on subjects relating to the Gospel. It was a very exhausting time.

There is going to be a camp during the first week in February and I will be in Ethiopia (DV) for my last visit. I am so thankful to have had good health for many years, but I feel that after 57 years, most of which time was spent in Ethiopia, and after much prayer, it is time to pass the baton on to younger men. I am so glad for the practical and prayerful support during these years, and I believe that this support will continue for such a needy country.



C. 1969

ROBERT REVIE

9/12/24

**Thursday 13th**

**BRAZIL**



Num 9-11

**Lagoa Dourada**

Another year is ending and so it is time once more to prepare for the distribution of calendars in the neighbourhood. This week the assembly made up the packages containing a calendar, a Bible verse, a tract and a little leaflet called "what church is this?" explaining what we believe and how we meet without being part of a denomination. We get many questions asking about this so decided to include this leaflet this year. These will be distributed in the villages of Melos, Diamante, Bandeirinhas and Arame and some handed out to contacts we have in the town of Lagoa Dourada. We would appreciate prayer for this that they may be received with open hearts, and we may get new contacts.

We would mention a dear brother, Dirceu, in his mid-40's. His wife is unsaved and a very devout catholic. They have 2 children, and she refuses to let the children come to meetings with him. He is a very steadfast brother who never complains, but life is not easy for him.

Last month we mentioned we would be travelling to see a doctor in another state to see if he could give clarity on Marco's recurrent infections. After some tests he diagnosed him with gastroesophageal reflux, that is sending gastric fluid to his lungs and causing the infections. He has started treatment for this. While there, we visited the small assembly of Porto Ferreira where there are 8 in fellowship. We would appreciate your prayers for this assembly.

C. 1998 (Brazil)

MARCO & JANICE GEBARA

4/12/24



**Sri Lanka**

When I last wrote, I was about to go to Sri Lanka for my thirtieth visit. Craig Munro was to accompany me, but an unexpected family bereavement hindered that, and at very short notice Eric Baijal was able to rearrange his business commitments and go with me. That was greatly appreciated. A presidential election campaign hindered any large gatherings in the east, so our activities were concentrated on Colombo, allowing us enough time to cover the whole of 1 Thessalonians in the teaching. The saints there were in good heart and seemed to appreciate getting more time than normal from the visiting preachers! One night, visits were made to



*Saturday morning children's work in Colombo*

two new assemblies within striking distance of Colombo, Yatiyanthota and Badureliya. At the first, 70 gathered for a Gospel Meeting, and at the second it was literally standing room only for some teaching. There is a fine new hall in both places. God willing Eric and I will return to the island at the end of January and into February, probably just when you are reading this, so please pray.

**Edinburgh**

When I got home, Alan Summers and I were involved in the inaugural Edinburgh Bible Readings. The assemblies at Mayfield and Gorgie co-operated in arranging these meetings. Obviously, it was an unknown quantity, but we were all encouraged by attendances and interest and the feeling is that in the Lord's good will it should become a fixture, commencing on the Monday after the first Saturday of September (which this

year will be the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025). It was gratifying to see younger men taking part helpfully in the Bible Readings.

## U.K. Travels

Since then, I have visited quite a few places for ministry. What was impressive four weeks in a row was to see very large numbers of younger believers gathering at conferences at Peterhead, Perth, Crosshouse and Kilmarnock. One of the brethren in Peterhead remarked that while the conference had always been big, in recent years the demographics have changed dramatically which augers well for the future if the Lord be not come.

## USA

A short visit to the States was mainly for the Hatboro/Bryn Mawr conference in Pennsylvania. Again, attendances and interest were good, and then I had a couple of nights at Midland Park before returning home.

Travel will be less extensive during December and January, but the local believers are happy to involve me in giving some help. For example, I was speaking at the Sunday School in Perth recently which I really enjoyed. God willing, we will have the usual Christmas Eve Gospel Meeting in Comrie and a mail shot has gone out to thousands of homes. A secular magazine has also carried a Christmas message from me. Prayer is valued.

C. 1972

JACK & LILLIAN HAY

9/12/24

**Saturday 15th**

**ENGLAND**



Num 15-16

**London**

We had the privilege on 14th December to run our annual Christmas outreach event in a local park café in south Tottenham. The owner is a Palestinian Muslim whose personal circumstances have recently challenged him about what he believes. He shared this with Joe over coffee ten days before the event which was a good opportunity



to share the Scriptures with him. This in turn gave us more liberty during the carol singing and we were able to read selective verses between carols and point out the prophecies fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ's birth. There are many Jews in South Tottenham

and we know some were in the audience, and remained for the duration of the 45 minute carol service. They also took a book on the prophecies of the Messiah in English and Hebrew. The café was the busiest we have ever seen it for the carols. After they left a new crowd with younger children



arrived and we once again had a good number to run the table quiz and engage the families with the nativity story. Aside from five familiar faces, everyone else who attended was unknown to us and the believers serving alongside us, and we are glad that the seed sown was distributed wider afield this year!

The next day, one of the attendees, Shaun, came along once again to the Hall to the All-Age Service. Please do pray for those who heard the word of God read, sung and explained, and for the café owner as we continue to have regular contact with him. The gospel literature stand remains, at the owner's request, on the front counter until mid-January.

One of our long-term marginalised contacts has recently allowed us to visit him at his flat. This is a big step and coincides with his recent diagnosis of cirrhosis of the liver. Please pray for Ray, who has heard the gospel many times but rarely is willing to ponder his soul.

I've had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with Solomon, a local man who I met while he was begging on the High Road. Unbeknown to me, he also begs at stations intermittently and had been contacted at a local station by another new believer in the assembly, who himself was saved from a background of addiction. Over a series of discussions with both of us individually, he finally came along to the Hall to a few meetings. He is keen for one-to-one sessions to discuss the word of God and asks really good questions. It has been my privilege to do Bible studies with him. He is really searching and feeling the bondage of addiction: he struggles with substances and recently has also been made homeless which results in travelling between shelters. (These factors often complicate meeting up with people regularly.) Solomon has been fascinated to hear directly from our new brother how that the gospel radically changed his life and gave him freedom in Christ. We pray for Solomon that his interest will not wane, but will lead to salvation.



Sunday 16th

## NORWAY



Num 17-20

Vigra

Norway: a land of apparent wealth, yet spiritual dearth. We have worked here in church planting alongside secular employment since 2011. On 31st October 2024, James completed his final day as a Computer Programmer. The Lord granted him numerous opportunities to share his faith with all his colleagues and we are so thankful for open hearts to listen.

As a family we desire prayer for both breakthroughs in the Gospel, and for believers who dare to trust God and step outside the established Lutheran State Church. Norwegians are predominantly secular and materialistic. There are very few places in the country where God's Word is taught clearly and consistently. The greatest challenge we face is the Norwegian scepticism to anything outside what is already established and traditional. Currently, there are two families and several singles who meet each Lord's Day at 10 a.m. to study the Word of God. We meet on Wednesday evenings to pray for one hour. The group is praying for revival and are very burdened about the lost around them - be it in the workplaces or in the neighbourhoods. The Bible study group has gone verse-by-verse through 1st & 2nd Timothy, Colossians, Galatians, and is currently in 1 Corinthians 13. The core group all have clear professions, share the gospel and are baptised (as adults, which is almost unheard of in Norway). They gladly received the teaching of 1 Corinthians 1-13, which is also very rare in Norway.

Please pray for wisdom in child-raising in a very secular, state-raised society. Pray for God's Word to grip the hearts of Norwegians to the extent that they are willing to accept rejection from their closest family members and friends. Pray they would embrace fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ above conforming to the traditional norm.

A point of thanksgiving to the Lord is the receptivity of those who gather weekly to hear the Word in the Attwood home and their positive responsiveness to the Word. Pray for us to be wise stewards of their time each day, with needs and opportunities on every side. Let us not settle for good, but rather do that which is best.

Thank you again for your interest in the Lord's work here in Norway. We are so encouraged to know that others are praying for the establishment of a New Testament patterned assembly in this region; where God can be worshiped, His Word honoured and His saints built up in their faith.



serving the Lord in  
**NORWAY**

Pray for: Home Bibel studies, Discipleship,  
Evangelism, Church Planting and Bibel teaching



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Monday 17th

WALES



Num 21-23

Cardiff

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. To many it may be a commercial time, or time for frivolity, but to an evangelist, it is a time of opportunity. Back in August Stuart wrote this year's Christmas book and Feyi started illustrating it shortly afterwards. This year we kindly had 35,000 books printed for us and they have all now been delivered to those using them. We even had to turn down many requests.

In Bethesda Cardiff, we have started our extensive building work. This meant that we were not able to invite the schools in for the Bible Experience as usual, however we were thrilled as all the schools we visit accepted our special Christmas assembly. Thirteen Christmas assemblies were performed for the pupils and both the teachers and children listened well.



Stuart was able to go into a local school to take 'Christmas lessons'. He was asked to answer a question for Year 4 pupils 'What is the most important part of the Christmas story for us today?' and for Year 1 pupils 'Why do we give presents at Christmas time?'. With 90 pupils in each year group this is a huge opportunity to explain, with wisdom, that God sent His Son to be our Saviour! Stuart also had time with all the four and five year-olds explaining the Christmas story using giant Christmas cards, this was very enjoyable.

The governor of HMP Usk, invited Emmaus UK (of which Stuart is a trustee) into the prison for a celebration. He had noticed that a number of prisoners had completed a large number of courses. He was impressed by the difference these had made and wanted this celebrated. This was a very enjoyable day. Three trustees and a long serving marker attended. There was an opportunity to talk to the inmates about courses as they returned from education and work. Those that had completed the courses got to meet their marker who takes time to write to them with each course, which they appreciate. A service was held in the prison chapel, which was well attended, and



the Gospel was preached. It was a very good day and knowing that the prison authorities are positive about these Biblical courses is good as they will be allowed in for some time to come.

The weather in Wales has been particularly wet. This obviously impacts on the homeless people that we seek to work among. Due to the building work at Bethesda, we are using the new store on the side of our house for the supplies. In the lead up to Christmas we had extra homeless runs and many local believers contributed by wrapping Christmas gifts for them. Most of these are chocolate bars. Those receiving them are grateful, and as they are not used to being given gifts, some get emotional. This provides us with a lovely opportunity to present the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



STUART & BETHAN SCAMMELL

9/12/24

**Tuesday 18th**

**ZAMBIA/USA**



Num 24-26

**York, USA**

As a family we have much to thank the Lord for in His ongoing love and faithfulness to us, despite the many challenges of our temporary lives here on earth. Recently Joy and I were blessed to visit some of the Lord's servants in Chad, Tanzania and Zambia. We feel greatly privileged to be part of the CMMI Missionary Care Team and we value your prayers for us as we seek to be an encouragement to these dear servants of the Lord in their work for Him. May we be faithful in our role of praying intelligently for them and keeping in touch with them.



*With the Tanzanian Missionaries*

## **Chad**

Initially we travelled to Ndjamena (capital of Chad), to visit Jim Roberts a talented linguist who in his 34 years in Africa has served mostly in Chad. The country is lacking in development, but we were thankful to see something of what the Lord is doing there. Islam dominates the central and northern parts of the country, and Christianity the south.



Out of the 130 languages in the country, 15 have the complete Bible and 28 the New Testament, with translation work in progress in several other languages. It is estimated there are 2,000 assemblies in the country, and they are working together to evangelise some of their unreached people groups. We thank the Lord for 200 Chadian missionaries evangelising the central southern part of the country with very basic support from the local assemblies. The ongoing war in neighbouring Sudan has caused many Sudanese to flee to Chad, and so over 15 refugee camps have been set up on the Eastern side of Chad. Prayer is appreciated for the Lord to send believers to share the gospel with these refugees.



*Chadian Village Tea drinking*

## **Tanzania**

Tanzania seems much more like Zambia, apart from the very obvious Muslim presence throughout the country. We were able to visit 3 missionary couples in Kigoma (west side). They are working well as a team, impacting that area through the different ministries that God has given them. Harry and Ruth Johnson have spent almost all their lives in Africa, so God has used



*Tanzania village Emmaus work*

them to have a big impact for His Kingdom in Burundi and more recently Tanzania. One of their sons Luke and his wife Gina visit and encourage the assemblies in the surrounding areas of Kigoma. Together with 2 elders in the Kigoma assembly they have run a small Bible School for 9 years to ground believers in the truths of God's Word. Among other opportunities in evangelism, John and Jennifer Kinlaw have a ministry with Emmaus courses in village areas, and a Book shop that despite opposition is making an impact in a majority Muslim area on the outskirts of Kigoma.

## **Zambia**

Firstly, we visited Jason and Anna Speichinger and Mark and Joanne Grattan in Lusaka. They are both busy in a Missionary Flight Service maintaining and flying small aircraft,



also being involved in children's work in the local area and mentoring young people from the assembly at Great East Road. We then visited Patrick and Sherry Coleman who have served the Lord in Luanshya for many years. God has given them many opportunities to evangelise, teach, and mentor through that area together with some practical ways to connect with different people with the desire to see them brought into God's kingdom. One current challenge is the huge increase in gambling, due to a lot of advertising and ease of availability through phone apps and social media. The recent drought has brought increased poverty, meaning it is easy for many people to be seduced by the deceptive promises of monetary gain to relieve their suffering.

## **Loloma**

Being just 9 hours' drive from our African home at Loloma, we were thankful to spend the last 6 days of our trip there. It was special to catch up with the missionaries who were present, the believers in the assembly, the team at hospital, those at the elderly village, and others we have worked with over the years. It was refreshing to be back in an environment of such freedom for the gospel. Zambia is suffering from the results of the drought, meaning a lack of food and electricity, and rising prices for everything. Please pray for good rains this season as so far they have been very sporadic.



*Loloma Hospital Staff Devotion*

In our home area of York, USA, we are thankful for opportunities to serve the Lord in the local assembly and visit others nearby. Please continue to pray for three weekly children's school programs that we are involved in together with others from the assembly. We are thankful for such opportunities to introduce these children to our wonderful Saviour and Lord.

As, God willing, we move into the coming year, we would appreciate prayer for wisdom and guidance in our missionary care role. Initially we were allocated the continent of Africa, but recently we have been asked to also take on most of the continent of Asia. This includes more difficult areas where much opposition to the gospel is experienced. Therefore, contact with missionaries is much more difficult and at times impossible. We praise God for the reality that we are simply servants, the work is His and despite the spiritual opposition He is building His church. Matthew 16:18.

Wednesday 19th

## SPAIN



Num 27-29

## Seville

By the Lord's grace we are in our 38th year of service in Spain, first in the northern area, and now in the Seville area, where we are ministering to a small assembly, seeking to build up and strengthen the testimony. In addition to the labours in the assembly, much of our work is now focused on writing, translating, publishing and distributing Christian literature.

We carry on the work by faith, and do not sell books but provide them freely as the Lord supplies, and He does. Books go regularly to Hispanic countries like Cuba, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Chile, and occasionally to Panama, Costa Rica, Peru, Venezuela and Argentina. There is a fairly large Hispanic population in the USA now, and we work with a print-on-demand outfit in that country to print and deliver books locally. There are over 100 titles now in print, mostly in Spanish, but also a few in English.

Please uphold in prayer the book ministry. We appreciate prayers for ourselves as between the two of us we, the aged, do the translating, writing, book layout and pre-press preparations, and the distribution – packaging and shipping.

Carl recently completed a book on 2 Thessalonians and is currently in the midst of the task of writing a four-volume expository commentary on Romans (in Spanish), which we trust will help many. The first two volumes are in print, and we are preparing the third for printing. Carl is writing the fourth and final volume, advancing slowly but surely, and grateful for the Lord's help in it all.

Additionally, we prepare and send out a monthly mini-magazine in Spanish (12 pages) -- "EN ESTO PENSAD" (think on these things). A few are printed copies that we mail, but most are sent by email in PDF format.

We are not too far from Gibraltar and enjoy fellowship from time to time with the believers there. Carl maintains their assembly website as well as the one for the Seville assembly, and several blogs in Spanish and English.

In the assembly, it has been a struggle to restore the normal schedule of



*Carl and Ruth*



*Hall*

meetings after the pandemic. People became accustomed to not attending except on Sunday morning, and it is proving difficult to get them to come out. We have the mid-week prayer and ministry meeting again, but attendance is low. Our gospel meeting began again this past year, the first Sunday of each month, and even so, we must encourage people continually to come out. We hope to get it back on a weekly basis. Your prayers are appreciated for this matter. We have been encouraged of late by the coming of a married couple, who have professed faith and are soon to be baptised. Carl is meeting and studying personally with another brother, Gregorio, to better prepare him for ministry in the assembly.



*Book Table*

We do appreciate your prayers for all these areas of ministry, and for us, as we carry on. When we came to Spain we were in our 30's, and now are in our 70's, and grateful to the Lord for health and strength to continue to serve Him, as we await the trumpet and the shout.

C. 1981

CARL & RUTH KNOTT

5/12/24

**Thursday 20th**

**CYPRUS**



Num 30-31

**Limassol**

We are thankful that the war(s) going on just a few hundred kilometres away has so far, had little direct impact on life here. The suffering and hopelessness are a poignant reminder of the great need for the hope of the gospel.

### **Local Church**

We continue to appreciate the care and fellowship of the assembly which meets in the school, and seek to help and encourage wherever we can. Michael has continued with the Tuesday Night Bible Teaching, looking at the early chapters of Revelation. Pray that we would 'hear what the Spirit has to say to the churches'. Please pray for this little fellowship of about 35 believers: that we will better learn how to follow the Lord, love one another, and effectively reach the communities around us.

### **Kids Bible Club**

In September was started our assembly Kids Club on a weekly basis (previously fortnightly). This has gone well with 35-60 children coming each week and we have been encouraged in gaining a number of new 'non Logos' children. Please pray for salvation and for the message to impact parents as well. Whilst the club is running there is also a 'Pathfinders' group for teens.

In September we launched an Evangelistic Bible Study, on Friday nights at the same time as the Kids Club, thus allowing parents either somewhere to leave their children while attending the study or something to do while their children were at the club. We were astounded whenever about 20 people showed up on the first night. As ever, we had a very mixed group of people - from many nations and world views. Interestingly, our biggest cohort was Chinese. Sadly, the level of English of those attending (and the even lower level of Chinese of the presenter!) made it difficult to make meaningful progress. Please pray as we look at the possibility of using translators and relaunching a specific study for Chinese. Although numbers disappointingly faded somewhat as the course continued, we were still encouraged by what the Lord did.

R, a Syrian Muslim who has attended previous studies, returned every night. She was incredibly attentive and visibly moved on the night we studied the crucifixion. Please pray for a clear profession of faith. C, from Cameroon, had recently connected with a few other Christians in the city and then started meeting with our colleague, Caroline Webb, before coming on Fridays. Through these connections she heard the gospel and trusted Christ. She has been transformed into a bright and enthusiastic believer and was baptised in late October. Pray that she will continue to mature and be used to reach her family and colleagues.

### **Logos School**

We are thankful to the Lord that staffing vacancies in the school were filled this year. Shirley continues to volunteer in the Maths Dept for 15-20 hours per week yet allowing her a little more time for other ministries. There are so many opportunities to share the Word with the 300+ students every day. Michael continues to take senior assembly every Wednesday and we both do several junior assemblies each month. The Wednesday afternoon TAG Club is a help to young teenage believers, whilst the Impact Clubs aim to engage both believers and non-believers, in the two senior years of the school, with staff, each other and the Bible. Earlier in the year we took most of the 3 senior years to the mountains for a retreat. Paul, a former teacher, spoke to the students on the subject of 'Be the Change'. We also continue to be involved with some pastoral care, teaching on challenging moral questions and a youth leadership training course.

The school faces fresh and substantial challenges. Adjacent lands, currently rented by the school, are being put up for sale. This is an excellent, though extremely expensive, opportunity, for the school to finally own the space it needs in order to meet government regulations. However, failure to obtain these will present fundamentally complex issues for the work. Pray for the Lord's wisdom and provision.

### **Family**

In September Erin left Cyprus to study Physiotherapy in Londonderry, N. Ireland. She has settled in well and often gets to spend time with her siblings at weekends. Joel is enjoying a placement year with Spirit AeroSystems in Belfast. Beth continues her work at the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit in Belfast. In November she also fulfilled a lifelong dream by getting to visit Japan!



## BRAZIL



## Foz du Iguacu

Happenings this year: Times of joy and some not so enjoyable. Joy in baptising Luan and seeing him grow with desire to serve His Saviour. He has a gift of preaching and has already preached three times now. We have had the pleasure of having 'grown-up' visitors, including a young lady that we knew since we came to Foz. Marlene was in fellowship for a number of years and then all of a sudden stopped attending. Now, she is coming with Luis (husband) sometimes to the gospel meeting and sometimes to the prayer meeting.

Denise has taught some English to kids since February. Unfortunately, the numbers of children have dropped from 12 to 8 at the most, so please pray for this area of the Lord's work. Our prayers are that the Christmas Carols programme will bring more in so that they see our joy and love for the Lord and them, and that they will have a desire to return. We pray for their salvation.

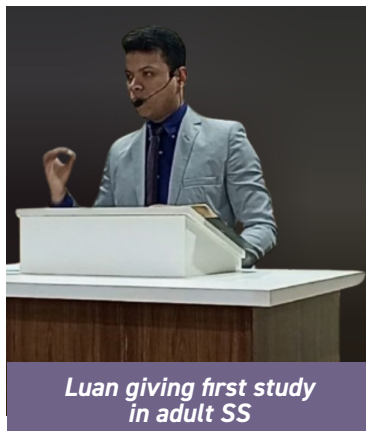
Healthwise we are coping, feeling the strain of not getting any younger. On 23rd we fly down to Vitoria, to Denise's family, to spend time with her mother as she is getting worse. We shall be there until 17th of January and will try and get a few days of rest. Cilse and her grandson Emanuel are going with us, to give them a break from normal routine life. They have never been to the seaside or flown before. They will return on 6th of January and will need your prayers that all goes well on their return journey. They will stay with Denise's relatives.

A few months ago, Carlos Pedro and his wife Cleonice joined our fellowship. They were full time workers, but left and went into an evangelical movement, wanting to work with young people and children in the town of Medianeira. When his health was failing, he was not wanted anymore, and realised he was in a wrong place. They knew us from years ago and desired fellowship, but the enemy is attacking as he has health problems and needs our prayers. He is currently in hospital in Cascavel. Please pray with us, as I am sure they could be an answer to prayer for children's work.

There is a big need for a work among married couples. It is evident from wives talking to Denise regarding problems at home that there is a lot of sadness in marriages.

In the new year, David goes into his last year of university, after which he then needs to settle down and find a place of employment, so please pray for him.

1 Peter 1 v 7 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." The times are hard but He knows our needs and His promise is true, "I come quickly". Praise His Wonderful Name.



*Luan giving first study  
in adult SS*

Saturday 22nd

## MEXICO



Num 34-36

## Zapopan

The country of Mexico is rich in culture and natural resources, but poor in a true knowledge of God, which is evident by the violence and organised crime that is rampant.

On a recent trip through the centre of Mexico, Barbara and I stopped to visit a family of believers in Celaya, Guanajuato. That very day 13 people were killed in sporadic shootouts in the city. In the middle of November, we travelled by vehicle from Laredo to our home in Zapopan. The first part of that highway is called the "Highway of death." We thank the Lord for His preserving care as we travel through the land.



The Lord has made it abundantly clear in the last few months that He has called us to take the Word of God to the people, even though it might be "in season and out of season" Throughout this year we have spoken the Word in various cities at Christian Educators Conventions, graduations, funerals, as well as the regular assembly meetings and conferences. Since the pandemic we are still using the internet to take the Word of God to others. Barb has four weekly Bible studies with ladies in four different cities via FaceTime chat. Paul teaches a Bible class to university students three times a week, also via Zoom.

Our son and daughter-in-law, Nicolas and Fabiola Thiessen, began a children's work in the area where Fabiola grew up. They have a children's meeting each Friday and have contacted some new families. This has resulted in more children coming to the Sunday school on the Lord's Day. We pray these young ones will be saved.

We have just taken delivery of 125,000 calendars to be delivered in Guadalajara and shipped to other workers all over Mexico. The people are interested in receiving the new calendar each year. So much so that we received phone calls asking for them. We have had visitors at the hall as a result of the calendar distribution. The assembly in Zapopan will deliver 10,000 and we pray that the seed will grow.



The last weekend in November, the assembly in Hermosillo had a weekend of ministry where our topic was an exercise program for the Christian. It was very encouraging to

see a good number of believers at the meetings and we were glad to welcome folks that came for the first time. We are praying for several professing different religions that listened to the gospel.

C. 1993(CAN)

PAUL & BARBARA THIESSEN

5/12/24

**Sunday 23rd**



Deut 1-2

**N. IRELAND**

**Dromore**

After having been at Kilmarnock in August, I returned to Scotland again in September for more Gospel meetings. This time I was with the Assembly at Kirkmuirhill in Lanarkshire. Their conference was held on the Saturday before the meetings commenced and I shared in the ministry with our brethren Sinclair Banks and Stuart MacDonald. It turned out to be a very warm but enjoyable day, when quite a good number of the Lord's people were gathered.

The following day, I commenced two weeks of Gospel meetings which were very encouraging as the Lord gave help to make known the good news of salvation. Each evening before the preaching, there was a time of prayer followed by about 10 minutes of singing. This was uplifting as many of the old-time hymns were sung. Every night bar one, there were unsaved present: many of whom were brought along by sisters from the Assembly. For believers in the locality to have a testimony and an interest in bringing people is such a great encouragement for any preacher. They will have their reward! On the doors in visitation, some brethren came with us to invite the folks from the village. Their help and fellowship in this work was much appreciated. We know from a little experience that not everyone is keen to knock doors and try to engage with people in relation to spiritual things. Most people were willing to take the invitation, and some promises were made which did not always materialise. However the Lord was good and after the meetings were over, we were overjoyed to hear of a young man getting saved on the last night. He has since been baptised. In all of this, we give thanks to our God.

On coming back home, I had four nights of ministry with the Assembly in Ardmore, speaking on different references to the name of Jesus in the Epistle to the Hebrews. It was a profitable time with the believers there and I felt that the saints were helped.

Then on 29th September, I started more Gospel meetings with the Assembly at Ballynaloob, County Antrim. Two or three times a year they have a 'Friends and Neighbours meeting' when people in the community get a special invitation and supper is served at the close. So, the meetings began with one of these special occasions, when many unsaved attended, some of whom had never been in the Gospel Hall before, including some dear Roman Catholic people. It was a great evening when souls were challenged with the claims of Christ in the Gospel. As the meetings continued, it proved difficult to get these people to come back again but thankfully, a few did return. In all of this we 'cast our bread upon the waters', knowing that 'it will return after many days' Ecc 11 v 1.

From there, just like last year around this time, I went to Strabane for a few weeks in the Gospel. Once again, there was a good interest in this 95% Nationalist town where the Assembly closed a few years ago. So, we keep on sowing the seed and can never tell where it may fall. We are still looking to the Lord for a harvest in Strabane.

C. 1978

ROLAND & JENNIFER PICKERING

16/12/24

Monday 24th

VENEZUELA



Deut 3-4

Los Altos



*Estado Sucre State and some of the places where there are assemblies and outreach works*

The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. Luke 10:2

The work of the Lord in northeastern Venezuela began in mid-20th century. Faithful men, including Mr. Williams, Mr. Walmsley, Mr. Noel Mckeown and also native workers, endured the hardships of a poor region to bring the gospel to those in complete ignorance. Some sowed, others watered, but the increase has come from our God. Currently, there are seven assemblies and many outreach works, and we pray, in the will of the Lord, to see new lampstands.

In the mountainous area of Turimiquire, in the town of Piñantal, we preached the gospel for the first time in early 2021. The Lord gave us the joy of seeing several profess faith in Christ; the gospel was changing lives in the middle of a village living in deep darkness.

Among the first to believe was Mr. Carlos Hernández; his wife and five children had left him due to his addiction to alcohol. He told us he felt ruined, but the gospel filled him with hope, and one night he came to say he wanted to be born again. Currently, his family has returned home, his wife Yuli and son Carlos are in fellowship with him in Zurita (the closest assembly), and they are a great help in Piñantal. This year, his younger son, José, professed, but they still have three daughters who are not saved, and we ask for your prayers for them.



*Some of the believers from Pinantal*



There is now a Hall in Piñantal and there are thirteen believers in fellowship. Others, although they haven't been baptised, are living lives that testify to what the Lord has done in them. Mr. Oliver, from Piñantal said: "The Gospel has changed this village; it has done a lot of good". He is still not saved.

Sucré State has nearly 12,000km<sup>2</sup> and a population of just over one million people. In its capital, Cumaná, there are a few believers who currently use the house of a faithful brother for their weekly meetings and are in fellowship in the assembly of Santa Fe (45 minutes away).

The smallest assembly is in Guiria, seven hours away, at the northeasternmost point of the state. This year we managed to spend a week with them and reach Macuro, where Christopher Columbus arrived in 1498, but where the gospel had never been preached. There is no road access, so we reached it by boat. They have no electricity; the 700 people who live there rely on a generator. We distributed tracts and a Bible verse to every house and preached in several parts of the village to very receptive people. We pray that the word planted will bear fruit and that the Lord allows us to return.

C. 2018 (Ven)

PEDRO & LOIS MALAVE

16/12/24

**Tuesday 25th**

**ROMANIA**



Deut 5-8

**Writing from England**

### **Casa Simeon – Care Home**

The awful conditions referred to in our last letter that brought about stricter controls in the care sector in Romania have not adversely affected Casa Simeon. By your prayers the three vacancies for residents that have existed all summer (now increased to four as another resident was taken to be with the Lord recently) are still available, as the local authorities have not imposed on the home any unbelievers that are on their waiting list. However, news has come that a sister from a nearby village assembly that Titi and Alina visited recently to tell of the work in the care home, and whose daughters have come from Austria to assess her needs, have completed the admin for her to be received into Casa Simeon so one of the vacancies has been filled. Praise the Lord!

The regulations that the authorities have created have made it more difficult to receive residents who have no living relatives. There are three sisters in a care home in a village called Tohanu Nou in the county of Brasov that need accommodation as the care home they are currently in is closing. They are sisters in the Lord, but not in the flesh and all have no living relatives. Besides fees and subsidy issues, when a resident dies, there must be a living relative or responsible person who will sign for the death certificate and will purchase a burying place and arrange the funeral. The individual's assembly can take the responsibility for these things, but as Tohanu Nou is about 330Km from Botoşani this makes arranging such things difficult, if not impossible. Due to these issues, it wouldn't be wise to receive these three sisters. Alina is right on insisting that the regulations are adhered to for it is honouring to the Lord.

## Drought and Hardship

Severe drought throughout Romania has caused a lot of hardship for village folk who have small plots of land to grow vegetables in support of their immediate families, but also extended families in the towns. This has meant that there is a shortage of crops in general.

In the past, village assemblies have been very good to Casa Simeon and provided them with surplus fruit and vegetables. This has been in short supply this year, but we thank the Lord for a brother from N. Ireland who provided 1,000 kg of potatoes for the home. Others have provided produce that can be bought in the shops, such as a monthly supply of processed meat products, a large supply of pellets for the central heating boilers, medical and personal hygiene products for the use of the residents, all of which saves the home having to buy them and we thank the Lord for moving these dear saints to remember the needs of those in care.

There is still no change regarding the problem with the water authority so we ask you to keep on praying that an honest judge will try the case so that Casa Simeon is not unjustly penalised.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to you for your faithful prayers and practical fellowship that has been shown towards the needy saints in Romania.

### Please pray for:

- The Lord's provision of someone to take over the administration of Operation Brotherly Love (OBL).
- Wisdom for Alina as she has so many difficult decisions to make in running the home.
- A resolution to the "Water Problem" and a just and sympathetic judge.
- That the resident vacancies will soon be filled.



*Potatoes*



Wednesday 26th

VENEZUELA



Deut 9-11

San Carlos



*Park in San Carlos school*

My wife and I, after 15 years of directing the school since it's commencement, are not directly involved in it now. But our two daughters, Grace and Sharon, are very much occupied in this service for the Lord. We ask your prayers for the headmistress, Lua Muñoz, who is seriously ill with cancer. In her absence, our daughter Grace is presently responsible for the running of the school. We are grateful to the Lord for the band of dedicated teachers and helpers who don't receive a stipulated salary, but wait upon the Lord to supply their needs. We are also grateful that the installations and buildings of the school can continue to be kept in a God-honouring state of maintenance.

We appreciate your continued prayers for this aspect of the work with its daily challenges, encouragements and also disappointments.



*Personnel San Carlos school*

Caleb's holy aspirations to possess territories notwithstanding the presence of giants and fortified cities, would encourage us. The fact that towns and villages have been under the dominion of Catholicism for centuries shouldn't deter us from preaching the gospel, which is still the power of God unto salvation.

We have started visiting the town of Macapo, which has been a stronghold of Rome and where no assembly work has been done for many years. A couple in fellowship

who live not too far away have numerous family connections and many friends there. We have been able to take some of these friends to the meetings in Monagas where we have been preaching recently, but are praying for an open door right in Macapo. Yesterday an elderly couple told us they would be happy if we had meetings in their back yard, so we ask for your prayers that this will be a start in that town that has been straitly shut up like Jericho.



*San Carlos school*

In El Pao we baptised a middle-aged brother called Mario who promises to be a real help to the little group of believers there. It was encouraging to see so many hearing the gospel that night. Then we had the children's prize giving and an outing for those who attended most faithfully during the year. Manuel, the elderly man with cancer who professed some months ago, seems to have received a new lease of life and is very happy in his new-found faith.

We had a funeral and a wedding, both for the first time in the gospel hall in El Baul. Valerio was a very happy man, his only regret being that he didn't hear the gospel until he was over eighty. But he made the best of the last eight years of his life, supporting the assembly activities with all his strength. He and his wife donated the big piece of ground beside their house where the hall is now almost finished. Many heard the gospel for the first time at his funeral. Many were also impressed with the happy but solemn wedding of Nubian and Johnny. She is a sister who has gone through many trials since trusting Christ, having an invalid daughter from her unsaved days. He is a God-fearing widower from Tinaco, who has now become a member of the assembly in El Baul. We are confident that together they will be a real asset to the testimony there.

We had the joy of being at the establishment of a new assembly in El Tostao, a suburb of Barquisimeto, the fifth largest city in the country. The original assembly in the centre of the city, which laboured for many years to see this golden candlestick formed, feel the loss of over half of its members. But it's encouraging to see what God hath wrought, and we pray for many other outreach works in the country where an assembly is in view.



*New assembly in El Tostao with visiting preachers*



Thursday 27th

## SOUTH AFRICA



Deut 12-14

George

**Please pray for the Afrikaans Bible correspondence.** We are deeply thankful to the Lord for His mercy and help in safely transporting the children and adults in two busses to the Pacaltsdorp hall for the Bible correspondence lesson gathering. Interestingly, one of the bus drivers mentioned to us that he had previously attended meetings at the assembly hall. Children and adults came from ten different areas in George. While we were hoping for a better turnout, we are grateful for +250 who attended.



*Children on one of the buses*

Brother Rodney Brown shared the Word, focusing on the theme of "light," with the theme verse being John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life". We are also thankful for the children who were able to recite this verse and for the young teens who have completed up to 170 Bible lessons.



*Afrikaans Bible correspondence get together*

We are grateful for the helpers throughout the year, including Sr. Katie, Keyshia, Christiano, Abronecia, and Susan, who assist with collecting lessons. Please keep Abronecia, a 16-year-old young lady, in your prayers as she undergoes a back operation at Groote Schuur next year.

**Please continue to pray for the TB hospital staff and patients.** We are grateful for another opportunity to minister at the TB hospital. Brother Rodney Brown once again shared the Word with the patients. Some of these patients will soon be going home for the festive season, where they may face various temptations that could harm their health. We pray that, as they heard the Word and received literature, many will find refuge in our Saviour, the



*Abronecia*

Lord Jesus Christ. Additionally, we were blessed with more opportunities to talk and pray with patients in the sick wards.

Many patients at this TB hospital come from surrounding towns to receive treatment. We heard today of quite a few who will have to stay over this festive time as their families are far away. Another lady, a relative of a sister in the assembly, is semi-comatose but showed a reaction and mouthed words as we spoke to her.



*TB Hospital*

**Please pray for the assembly in Pacaltsdorp, George.** Please pray for a young sister who was previously put out of fellowship. Due to a difficult situation, we previously required a police escort to bring her home. She returned to the area after some time, but her son, who has been faithfully attending meetings alone, has been a source of encouragement. We are thankful for answered prayers as she has since returned home. Please pray that she may fully commit to following our Lord Jesus and not turn back.

C. 2000 (SA)

ROBIN & MARY ROSSOUW

16/12/24

**Friday 28th**

**ZAMBIA/CANADA**



Deut 15-18

**Writing from  
Canada**

As we look back on 2024, we are amazed at the goodness of God to us throughout the year. With travel between and within two continents, despite the many kilometers traversed, He has kept us safe along the way. We have continued to spend time in Canada and Zambia as our kids attend college in Canada. We were very blessed that Alexandra and Mackenzie were able to be independent enough for Rhonda to take three trips to Zambia. This is the first year since our “temporary return to Canada” in 2021 that she has been able to return to Zambia with me.



The time in Zambia was very busy, but very rewarding as well. We continued in the village outreach as well as the Sunday afternoon English gospel meetings and were thrilled to see the number of people coming out to both. Please pray that folks who hear the message will see their great need and trust the Saviour.



Sadly, many in Zambia believe themselves to be “Christians” and therefore “enjoy the sermon” but never feel a need to apply it to their lives. We rejoiced to see six young ladies follow the Lord in baptism in Chitokoloki. So many times, folks profess to be saved but never go on for the Master!

The Bible study in Zambezi (about 45 min away) was very rewarding, with some saying they had never heard of some of the truths we were discussing. We covered aspects of Noah's ark in the study, and we were shocked to learn that they saw the rainbow as a negative thing, because the rain had stopped. There was also some belief about evil at the end of the rainbow. We had the joy of telling them of the promise of God and how the rainbow was to remind us of HIM, He would never again destroy the earth with a flood.



Lastly, please pray we will find food for the elderly in our area, suffering through another year of drought.

On the Canadian front, Shawn shared a two-week gospel series in a tent here in Ontario, Canada in July, and the Lord blessed in the salvation of at least two young lives.

As we approach the end of 2024, we can't help but realise how quickly it has passed and pray that the Lord of the harvest will permit “one more year” as in the parable of Luke 13:8-9: And he answered him, “Sir, let it alone this year also...Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”

We will close with the words of the queen of Sheba, “but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me...” 1 Kings 10:7. She spoke of Solomon but we speak of the One greater than Solomon, the King of Kings.





C=Date of Commendation

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