



LOOK ON THE FIELDS

ITEMS FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE

With Daily Scripture Readings

*Note : The Look on the Fields is currently only available electronically.
We hope to refresh the publication and recommence printing soon.*

1ST

Psalm 17

UKRAINE Pop. 44 Mil. UK 4 Lutsk

The Lutsk assembly never stopped meeting throughout 2020. We continue as normal - one loaf and one cup - we do not wear gloves or masks - each believer takes his/her own portion and we sing at all meetings. God has not only preserved us but multiplied our numbers. On average we would have over 80 children in our Sunday school and over 60 attending our Lord's Day Gospel meeting. God is faithful! We are presently distributing 44,000 calendars which we printed in Lutsk. Government restrictions have increased as we write but thankfully travel is possible between the UK and Ukraine and the orphanage renovation work is on-going. More information is available at www.opendoorlutsk.com. Rhoda and I really appreciate your prayers.

C. 1993 30/12/20 TIMOTHY & RHODA SLOAN

2ND

Psalm 18:1-29

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Sombrio

We are presently going from house to house in our area distributing calendars and gospel tracts in the hope of reaching souls. Even in these difficult days that we are facing, the Lord is with us in this work. Each Thursday we have a Gospel meeting in a rural area called Sante Fe. This is held in a barn belonging to fellow believers Elton and Marcia who live on the farm. Last Thursday a good number came to listen. Pray that the Lord will bless them. We were encouraged when three ladies and a young boy came for the first time, the result of the door-to-door visitation. The Lord showed that He is working and that contacting the local people in this way is worthwhile. Of course, the local visitation has to be done with care and respect due to the problems of the ongoing pandemic. However, some receive us well and even want to have a conversation, while others only receive the tracts. We ask that in your prayers you might mention the name of our daughter Isabel, that she might take advantage of these meetings and the present online meetings, and soon be saved.

C. (Brazil) 9/1/21 JOEL & ALINE MATOS

3RD

Psalm 18:30-50

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Santa Cruz do Sul

During the pandemic we have been able to have a Gospel meeting twice a week in Venancio Aires, about 15 miles from where we live. There is a man named Carlos who we have known for over 20 years; now he has cancer and has returned with some family members to hear the gospel. Recently, brother Lindsay Carswell and I finished an 'online' series of meetings. During the ten weeks of meetings, a number of the relatives of believers and others 'attended' each night. We heard of the salvation of three people, including a young man who is related to one of the believers. At the beginning of the pandemic his grandmother died one day and his father the next. His mother professed to be saved in the first 'online' series last year. Two ladies, also relatives of believers, who have both known the gospel for more than 50 years professed salvation too. May the Lord bless His word. We hope that the good seed sown will still bear more fruit.

C. (Brazil) 11/1/21 ROBERTO & MIRIAM PLOIA

INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Chennai

Vimala, my daughter, and her father when he was living, used to visit a very poor village about 50 miles from Chennai. After he died, the family have tried to do something to give the Gospel to that village. A local church has now been established and help was given to erect a building, which opened a few months ago. Most in the village are very old and poor, with many sleeping on cardboard on the mud floor in their small hut houses. Recently Vimala along with my other daughter Tanya went to the village and gathered all the ladies together. They had bought and taken 100 cotton sarees to distribute to them. When they saw the new colourful sarees they cried and hugged it to themselves. This is the first time they had ever been given a gift and they collectively began thanking the Lord. Even although I am 82 years old, I would like to work in a village like that - really doing something for desperate people.

Throughout the last six months, the activities of the Christian Missions Charitable Trust (CMCT) have changed so much with the different lockdowns. There is a lot of fear around with the number of Coronavirus cases rising again. We need your prayers for ongoing protection. We had to close down all our Rallies because of the virus. Pray that the children will not forget what they have learnt. Praise God that we have restarted the soup kitchens. Our staff are able to visit the Centres and give a cooked meal to all those attending. We cannot gather them together in groups yet due to social distancing rules. Pray that the staff (currently around 340) will keep well and avoid contracting the virus. We have had four cases so far and pray that we will not get any more. We would value your continued prayers for wisdom and guidance for the senior management - especially for Mr Philip, Mr Ezekiel, Mr Aaron Moses and myself. Mr Daniel, our Medical Superintendent, was a valued member of this team but was called home on Friday 8th January, a few days before heart surgery. Mr Varghese spoke at his funeral and CMCT put on a tea for everyone afterwards. Please pray for Daniel's wife, Agnes and his daughter, Sally. It is not going to be easy for them and they need much prayer.

C. 1964 (N Zealand) 13/1/21 COLLEEN REDIT

5TH

Psalms 20 & 21

SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Ayrshire

There is no doubt that 2020 was not the year that any of us had in mind. Many plans were made, cancelled, and remade. Prior to the most recent lockdown, we commenced a weekly open-air work in Dumfries and a literature table in Cumnock every second week. This work was encouraging as a number of Bibles were requested and sent out since we commenced. Pray that the Lord will bless the seed already sown. We also prepared and printed a small 8-page magazine entitled 'HOPE', which went out to 135,000 homes in Ayrshire via Royal Mail's Door-to-Door service. We also preached for nine consecutive Sundays of Drive-in Gospel Meetings, held in a large carpark in the village of New Cumnock. These were well attended and encouraging. Obviously most of this has had to stop now during tightened pandemic restrictions. We were able to send out a second edition of HOPE, along with calendars in New Cumnock and Symington. This week we launch an advertising campaign on Facebook offering a free Bible to people across Dumfriesshire mainly. We are also making tentative plans for the 'relaunch' of pioneer work in Southwest Scotland, looking at areas that we would like to visit when restrictions are eased. We can only pray that the vaccination programme sees a rapid roll-out and that soon we are able to work with the freedom we enjoyed only 10 months ago.

C. 2019 8/1/21 CRAIG & CHRISTINA MACKIE

6TH

Psalm 22

N. IRELAND Pop. 1.8 Mil. Newtownabbey

2020 has certainly reminded us how dependent we all really are on the Lord for His protection and blessing every day. While we are all praying that 2021 will be different, the Lord knows what is best and there are many positives that we can take from the year that is past. One major encouragement has been to see how the Gospel has continued to spread, both online and in drive-in meetings. For those of us who travel quite a bit, it has been good to spend more time with

the family than we would otherwise have done. Much of December was taken up with calendar distribution in Ardoyne, in fellowship my local assembly. I have also been busy with Ministry and Gospel meetings on Zoom. I am also recording a number of Gospel videos and preaching the Gospel in the Open-Air. Articles for magazines and websites also keep me busy. At this time these avenues of service are absolutely vital for the spread of God's word. Prayer would be very much valued for the Lord's blessing on these activities.

11/1/21

DAVID & JENNIE WILLIAMSON

7TH

Psalms 23 & 24

ARGENTINA Pop. 45 Mil. UK 5 Parana

We have a 5 minute slot on our son Ivan's weekly radio program. The owner has offered us a daily slot, which is a great opportunity but takes time to prepare. Someone asked if we had videos so Ivan is producing a collection of different hymns with a gospel punch which will go out each Sunday in Mar del Plata. We have been trying to show the love of Christ to our neighbours through solidarity actions. Since last April we have helped and supported three soup kitchens, blessing more than 450 people twice a week. We have also distributed food parcels (or 'love bags' as they are known) to about 50 families once a month. We have also helped a family repair their humble home, which was falling apart.

Due to the virus, our normal outreach among groups of people was not possible. Instead, we developed and presented 'Evandemic', an evangelical response to the pandemic. This has been transmitted widely on social media, reaching far more than our own area; people in many other areas of Argentina as well as Costa Rica and Uruguay listen in. A young woman in Canada was saved through an aunt in the USA who received it from Costa Rica. God works in amazing ways! During the pandemic the devil hit us with some losses: a family left the assembly due to personal problems. Claudia, one of the first believers, went to be with the Lord after a long and painful illness. Also, many young believers began to waiver in their faith. We ask the Lord for strength, wisdom and also to send other workers into His harvest.

C. 1999 31/12/20

HEBER & FIONA GALLITO

8TH

Psalms 25

SOUTH AFRICA Pop. 58 Mil. UK 7 Umtentweni

As in other parts of the world, the Covid-19 pandemic has entered the second wave of infections in our beautiful country of South Africa. In our area, hospitals have run out of beds, including ICU beds. Being summer, the beaches are often crowded. Everyone, but especially the youth, seem determined to ignore government restrictions regarding social distancing. A spirit of deviance is evident on every hand.

Visiting an elderly man last Friday, it was a joy to spend time reading from the book of Acts. He has a very poor level of health, suffering from Parkinson's disease. While we cannot have Gospel meetings at the moment, it is good to be able to take other opportunities to bring God's word to individuals. This particular man is deeply ensnared by Masonic teachings. Pray that we might have wisdom in how we contact individuals and that we might not contract or spread the virus in the process.

C. 1968 13/12/20

PAUL & DOROTHY GRIEVE

9TH

Psalms 26 & 27

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Kabompo

The rainy season is with us, resulting in the Zambezi river rising fast and the local rapids being covered with water. The maize in the fields is growing well too. We look to the Lord for a good harvest. After counting, I discovered that I attend to 156 chronic patients locally. This ministry takes quite a bit of time and travel. Sadly, some of my patients died last year, including Mr Isaiah, a nice old man who told me he was a believer. We are grateful for the opportunity to talk to all of them about the Lord.

The government recently mandated Covid testing at all hospitals in Zambia. We have now undertaken hundreds of tests at Chitokoloki, with 42 positive results; all are asymptomatic except for three or four

with coughs. Some of these are (or were) patients in the hospital, others were patients' carers. An old lady I took home in my truck has tested positive, so I have been exposed somewhat. I had a 'rapid test' done this morning and the result was negative, for which I am thankful. As a result, I have put on hold the English class I was going to start up again this week until I finish quarantining. We would value your prayers that nobody at Chitokoloki comes down with a serious case of Covid. Pray that the doctors and nurses will have wisdom when making necessary decisions regarding patient care. Pray that we will not forget that ultimately God is in control.

C. (USA) 11/1/21

DOROTHY WOODSIDE

10TH

Psalms 28 & 29

N. IRELAND Pop. 1.8 Mil. Magherafelt

Drive in gospel meetings through the summer months in a cattle yard in Draperstown, cattle collection yard outside Cavan town, and a primary school carpark in Lisbellaw all had encouraging outcomes. Perhaps the most encouraging was the 3 weeks of meetings outside Castlepollard. We are thankful to the many local folk who came to brother Patrick Bower's farmyard, where I was joined by Timothy Stevenson before his return to Mexico. We had new faces almost every night and ask you to continue to pray for blessing.

During November we organised 35 more 6 feet x 4 feet scripture texts to be displayed outside essential service providers (such as supermarkets) throughout the Republic of Ireland. Some photographs show large socially distanced queues facing the words of 1 John 5:13 'that ye may know...and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God'. Bible requests have also resulted from these texts. Not all outcomes are positive. Two nights ago I received an abusive call from a man very annoyed over a scripture text displayed in a train station (1 Peter 2:24). The upside is that this particular text was posted almost a year ago, and is still on display. How many times he must have read it! We pray that it will continue to speak to him and yet result in his salvation.

When the South of Ireland re-opened briefly at the start of last month, it allowed us to complete a more awkward than normal distribution of calendars around the nursing homes, hospitals, and prisons. Approximately 500 venues were visited and we have been most encouraged with how these weeks have gone, with very few refusals. We look to the Lord that we may meet many in heaven that have been impacted by His word. Many helped during these efforts, and little could be accomplished without their support in planning, supplying, packaging and distributing Covid conscious calendar packs across the land.

C. 2017 14/1/21

PAUL/LINDA KISSICK

11TH

Psalms 30

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Novo Hamburgo

At the later stages of the journey of life, the year end can have a solemnity to it. The 'sandglass' indicates that time is running out – the Judgement Seat of Christ will reveal all!

As with so many of our brethren engaged in the work, we press on as we can and are thankful for the opportunities to keep the gospel before the people. Online Zoom meetings have been a blessing and there has been news of some being saved as they listened to these messages. Instead of our usual conferences, we have also had Zoom meetings for Bible teaching which have been 'well attended'. So we take courage that the Lord can bless even in difficult circumstances. An example is the recent conversion of an old lady, who is the mother of one of our commended national workers, Sr Claudio. Her husband was saved in 1966 and all through the years his wife attended meetings. She was even happy to extend hospitality to missionaries in their labours. Wonderfully, during a recent series of drive-in Gospel meetings, Sr Claudio's mum trusted Christ. Her marvellous conversion reminds us never to give up, either labouring for souls, or praying for them!

C. 1967 30/12/20

TOM & DOROTHY MATTHEWS

12TH

Psalm 31

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Writing from Scotland

News from Mambilima is encouraging. They are all geared up for Covid-19 but so far have been spared. However, it was good to see two members of hospital staff in full protective clothing complete with Perspex masks standing in the village market spreading the word about the disease. There was a bad storm in the area which did structural damage to some property at the mission but especially in the village. We have been able to give some help. We give God thanks the work is going forward, the Gospel is preached, and souls are trusting the Saviour. As for ourselves, we do what we can within the restriction limits. We feel our limitations.

C. 1996/74 9/1/21 ROBERT & MARGARET MUIR

13TH

Psalms 32 & 33

In memory of Betty Hastings**Called Home to Heaven on 27 December 2020, aged 92**

Betty was born in Newarthill, Scotland to John and Margaret Waugh, and is predeceased by Robert, George and Jackie, her beloved twin, and by her husband Willie. Betty came to know the Lord at a young age and felt the call of God to go as a missionary to Africa. She met and was married to Willie Hastings of Prestwick, Ayrshire. Soon after their marriage they prepared for missionary service in Angola. For Betty this involved taking a course in tropical medicine and homeopathy in London. They then spent six months in the Algarve area of Portugal learning Portuguese. They would both become accomplished linguists. In 1952, in her early twenties, she accompanied Willie to Angola, commended by the Annbank and Glenburn assemblies.

Betty served with Willie in five locations there: Cazombo, Cavungu, Boma, Luso and Biula, learning Luvale and Chokwe during this time. Betty was able to help many of the local women by administering homeopathic remedies. She brought a number of women to the Lord in the context of helping them physically. Betty also taught the local ladies to read, write and knit, and helped to deliver babies. After this fruitful season in Angola, civil war broke out and the family were in the last train to Lobito before the bombing began.

Willie and Betty then served in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, a particularly fulfilling time for Betty. We were all together as a family in a small home and went to excellent schools. Betty learned Shona and ministered to many women through her embroidery and knitting. Following the civil war, Willie and Betty spent their final years in the Cape. Betty served with Willie in assemblies all over the Cape peninsula. The ladies particularly enjoyed Betty's gentle spirit and her many home-making gifts that we as a family so enjoyed. She was also an amazing cook and baker.

Betty was a quintessential lady, a mother of noble character, gentleness and discernment. Her children, Greta, Ross, John and Joy, her 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, are immensely proud of her. We thank the Lord Jesus for her faithful, sacrificial life lived in His name and power.

A loving tribute from Betty's family**14TH**

Psalm 34

LEBANON Pop. 6.9 Mil. Tyre

Lebanon has now declared a state of emergency regarding the spread of the virus. Restrictions were lifted over the festive period due to the economic situation. That has led to a significant rise in the number of cases. Hospitals are at full capacity and many are being sent home due to the lack of beds. We are back in a period of lockdown and will not be allowed to leave the house for 10 days. Even supermarkets will be closed so it is being taken very seriously. In the past week, two of my close friends here lost a parent to the virus.

The economic and political situation continues to deteriorate. The devaluation of the local currency has pushed many into poverty. Some essentials such as fuel and flour are subsidised, but it is not clear how long this can continue. Following the explosion last August, the government resigned. Two Prime Minister-Designates have since tried to form a government but have each failed to do so,

despite efforts over many months. Any aid for Lebanon is dependent on reforms by the new government so Lebanon remains on the edge.

In the days following the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon finally got the world's attention. Aid was flown in from many parts of the world. It was a privilege to be able to be part of this process of identifying families and passing on support.

Work at the Lebanese Evangelical School in Tyre (LEST) has been a challenge. Financial support has enabled many families to continue at our school. Teaching has been a mixture of blended (attending school several days a week) and online learning. At the moment we are entirely online until the lockdown potentially ends in February. We often have poor internet connections, which makes learning even more difficult, even if it is the safest option.

Pray for continued peace, despite the many economic and political challenges. Pray for continued opportunities to share the Good News in these days. Pray that our students would remain safe and that God will bless them with salvation. Finally, pray that God will send Godly believers to come and get involved in Lebanon.

11/1/21

ANDREA SMITH

15TH

Psalms 35 & 36

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Nantes

In mid-January our new daughter-in-law, Anaëlle, will be baptised. Circumstances prevent us from inviting as many as we would like. However, the main thing is that Anaëlle wants to obey the Lord and we are so thankful for that. We do value your prayers for her and Matthew as they set out on married life together. Please also pray for Anaëlle's family, some of whom may come to the baptism. She comes from a background of no religion at all really, or at the most a vaguely Catholic family tradition. They are not opposed to her faith, but it's all new to them and they no doubt ask questions, even if we haven't heard them yet.

Recently we have been confronted with some complicated pastoral situations which have demanded much time, prayer and patience on the part of the elders. One family have had numerous meetings with the elders and yet the conflict between them and others in the assembly remains unresolved. Another sister has been in a deep, dark depression since last summer. She is willing to see us regularly, but so far she refuses to see any improvement in her situation. We leave her at the end of each visit with a feeling of helplessness. How wonderful if we could fix all that is crooked, but only God can do that.

All is not doom and gloom! The Lord renews us day after day and we are thankful for individuals who are making good progress and whose lives we seek to influence in good ways. Thanks for your prayers.

C. 1985/88 6/1/21 GERRY & DOROTHY SEED

16TH

Psalm 37

IRELAND Pop. 4.8 Mil. UK 16 Writing from N Ireland

In recent months when I have been unable to make my usual visits to Galway and Donegal in Ireland due to Covid restrictions and health issues, I have been able to keep in contact with many dear friends by telephone and social media. Some are isolated believers and others are not yet saved but interested. We have been greatly encouraged recently to hear a dear lady whom we have known for over 30 years and who has attended many meetings, including our monthly Gospel meeting in Creeslough, Co. Donegal, tell us on the phone that she has trusted Christ as her Saviour. Also, a young man who we had lost touch with, and who had done the Postal Sunday School lessons with us for a number of years told me on the phone three months ago that he was now saved – and it was evident that he was enjoying salvation! It encourages us to keep sowing the Good Seed; in due season, we shall reap!

As many will know, my activities in the work of the Lord have been greatly restricted, especially during the last two years due to health issues. Recently I spent over a month in hospital having major cancer surgery. It is good to be home and making a little progress, albeit slowly. We have much for which to praise the Lord and look to Him each day for the much needed grace.

C. 1966 14/1/21

SAM & JEAN PATTERSON

17TH

Psalms 38 & 39

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

Just before the Covid-19 pandemic started, we were able to visit India for two weeks. We visited the assembly in the Banduph slum in Mumbai. It has been two years since we were last able to be there and it is encouraging to see more have been saved and are now in fellowship. The small hall was so full, we had to step over folks to get to the front. We were told by the evangelist who labours there that, despite the persecution from militant groups that operate there, many of the Hindu neighbours are now sending their children to the Sunday School – and some have been saved! The assembly continues to grow for which we praise the Lord.

The assembly at Borivali West, Mumbai where Ellen's family attends have been at the forefront in using technology to reach out with the gospel during the pandemic. Unsaved who would never normally attend the hall have been listening to the Word of God on Zoom, and this is encouraging.

In England, we had two encouraging series of children's meetings in Wallington. The second was conducted via Zoom. Please pray for Mr Patel, a Hindu man who attended the first series with his children and listened to the gospel. Though he said he would not be there for the prizegiving, he turned up, saying he took the day off work so he would not miss it. He has continued to show much interest in the gospel.

10/1/21

NITISH & ELLEN PATEL

18TH

Psalms 40 & 41

N. IRELAND Pop. 1.8 Mil. Bushmills

The past year has undoubtedly been highly unusual to say the least, with no schools to visit or series of meetings to take. Thankfully we have adapted to such mediums as Zoom and more writing to carry the work forward. We would appreciate prayer for the setting up of a YouTube channel for young people that is titled 'Gospel Gems'. We are presently uploading 20-minute messages based on the 'Bible Alphabet'. We have also added a short ten minute 'Truth for Tot's' series. Since the beginning of the year we have commenced digitising and illustrating a series of cassette tapes called 'The Children's Talking Bible'. These were originally produced in 1992 and provide an excellent overview of the Bible. As there are 28 forty-five minute sides, this is no small task! We trust the results will be used by the Lord for His glory and the blessing of sinners.

We have also almost completed a new children's book titled 'Tails on the Wing'. Biblical lessons have been drawn from wildlife and birds in particular, with Gospel applications made.

15/1/21

ROBERT & KAREN PLANT

19TH

Psalms 42 & 43

ENGLAND Pop. 56 Mil. Tyne & Wear

As you can imagine, this awful virus has had an adverse effect on the open air work that a number of us seek to do in four local town centres – Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham and South Shields. However, we realise that these things are all under the control of 'the Most High God, who ruleth in the kingdom of men'. Please continue to pray for the many contacts we have made in these areas, especially over the last few months when restrictions allowed us to talk to people more regularly on the street.

Isabelle was an old lady who appeared with her shopping trolley. She had been brought up a Catholic but admitted questioning some of its teachings. We talked a while about Isaiah 53 and she asked me to write it down on a piece of paper so she could read it again at home. Andrew is a photography student that we met who called himself an agnostic but was very open to the Gospel. He accepted a John's Gospel. Remember Ann-Marie, a German lady in her late sixties. She told us she was a Lutheran but admitted that she fluctuated between believing and doubting. I told her how good it was that Martin Luther rediscovered the grand truth of 'justification by faith'. I also told her that my wife was brought up in the Lutheran Church in Norway. She accepted some literature with a measure of interest.

I have recently produced a booklet entitled 'Amazing Grace' for use on the streets. Pray that the Lord will bless the many contacts who read it.

12/1/21

IAN/ BITTEN CAMPBELL

20TH

Psalm 44

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Kitwe

As we reflect on the last year at the Renewed Hope Children's Village (REHOCH) in Kitwe, Zambia, we have seen many answered prayers of God's faithfulness. The children are being well cared for and supported, with 14 orphans under shelter. Over 300 orphans and vulnerable children are being sponsored in various school grades. We have now been able to extend the school (REHOCH Christian Academy) to accommodate upper grades. A further block of four classrooms is being constructed. We are grateful that the orphanage is now connected to the main electricity supply (a challenging and costly task in Zambia). We will be able to do many things that were not possible with solar power alone. The opening of the School Tuckshop (called 'Ebenezer') has helped the children and the community at large as they no longer have to travel long distances to purchase essential requirements. We praise the Lord that two of our girls, Helen and Kamwengo were baptised on Christmas day.

31/12/20

ANNIE SHEBA

21ST

Psalms 45 & 46

SPAIN Pop. 46.5 Mil. UK 8 Madrid

We are grateful to the Lord for His continued faithfulness. Publication work during confinements, with all its related limitations, meant that we were able to produce three books, as well as translating a conference we held on 'Ecology and the Gospel'. Work has also been done on developing web page content.

The assembly in Alcalá has mainly been able to meet on a Sunday since the lifting of the first 'state of alarm'. Sadly, a group left recently due to Covid concerns. Please pray for the painful recovery, made slower by ongoing meeting restrictions. We have limited open air evangelism to our Thursday evening activities.

Our health, in general, is good. Alison did not apply for her bus pass because she cycles everywhere! I am a bit lame on my feet, with other tests confirming that I am not as young as I used to be! However, we have much to be thankful for and appreciate your continued prayerful interest in the work of the Lord in Spain.

C. 1985 2/1/21

KEN & ALISON BARRETT

22ND

Psalms 47 & 48

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Sao Joaquim da Barra

It has been a time of giving thanks, for things that maybe before went forgotten. We are relatively calm here at the moment, although increasing cases of Covid-19 are being reported in the larger, densely populated cities. We had elections last month and all seemed to go well.

Here in Sao Joaquim, the assembly meetings are slowly recommencing, but with a limited number of people. We have also been gathering some children on a Saturday and it was a 'breath of fresh air' for them to be together, although sitting apart as required.

The assembly in Igarapova have continued with the construction of their new building. There are still a few things to be done before they are able to meet in the hall, but the pictures of it look good. We used to pass there on our way back from Sacramento, and met with them for the Gospel meeting on the Sunday evening. Happy memories!

I am feeling a bit better now and over the worst of all the changes in the last year, especially since Dad's homecall (James Crawford).

12/12/20

MARGARET CRAWFORD

23RD

Psalms 49 & 50

ANGOLA Pop. 32 Mil. UK 4 Camundambala

Updates kindly provided by JOHN FENN on behalf of the Angolan Literature Fund

A container was sent to Brian and Debbie Howden in Angola in early November 2020. It travelled by ship to the port at Luanda, the capital. Initially the very tightly packed 20 foot container was going to be opened for inspection – then probably put loosely in a 40 foot container for onward travel. This would have been a disaster,

as travelling over 600 miles on poor roads covered in deep potholes would probably have damaged a lot of the content. However, God overruled and the container was released without being opened or emptied. It eventually left the port just after Christmas and arrived in Camundambala after a three day journey from Luanda. Many of the young men from the assembly helped with the hard work of unloading the container.

The delivery includes 10,000 Chokwe Bibles, Portuguese Hymn books, 4,500 John's Gospels, pallets of study books from Brazil and pallets of paper and consumables for the Print Rooms in Saurimo and Luanda. As well as building materials not available locally, the container also included some large Scripture texts to go on the walls of the local assemblies, a new project that will be beneficial to all who read them. The local saints have been rejoicing at the arrival of the container and all this material. We give thanks to the Lord for answered prayer regarding its safe transportation. Please continue to pray for Brian and Debbie, the ongoing work in Angola and all the dear believers there.

24TH

Psalm 51

INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Narsapur

The Lord's promise to Bethesda for the year 2021 is Matthew 4:4 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'. The Lord is faithful and, God willing, we will celebrate Bethesda's centenary year in 2023. How good is the God we adore!

We were able to conduct three meetings for 116 home based AIDS patients. They received rations, spiritual nurture, fellowship and medical care, followed by a good meal that Bethesda provided. Please pray for all these brothers and sisters who stay in their homes but are part of Bethesda's outreach.

In view of the changing situation with Covid-19 and increasing infection rates, it may be the case that more children will stay in their own village community in the future.

We pray for wisdom and help as we continue to embark on simple, God honouring programs during 2021. We also are considering renovating some of the older buildings and pray for guidance regarding this project.

5/1/21

BETHESDA (LEPROSY) HOSPITAL

25TH

Psalms 52, 53 & 54

ROMANIA Pop. 19.5 Mil. UK 4 Cluj

One thing we do have is a sure and certain hope that our God is still on His throne and in control, having known before us what was coming and how it will all end. So we face 2021 knowing that our Heavenly Father is in charge and right beside us!

During December and into January we just had one lady staying with us in Casa Luca. Mariana finished her treatment on 5th January and has gone home. Please remember her in your prayers that she will read the Bible we gave her and think on the verse of scripture printed on the flowerpot. Another young man, Vasile, joined us last week for a three week stay. He is easy to talk to and so we look for opportunities to turn conversations around to more spiritual things.

At the Cluj assembly, we enjoyed listening to the children quote their verses and sing carols in a programme they had prepared for us. We thank the Lord for the good number of young families we have. Many of them are former students who came to Cluj to study at the university. We pray that the Lord will bless them.

The weather has turned much colder now (-12° C) and we have had some snow. This has enabled us to try out the snow blower we bought last year. It seems to be working well! We appreciate all your prayers.

C. 2002 10/1/20

TIM & JENNY GOODING

26TH

Psalm 55

CANADA Pop. 37 Mil. Portage la Prairie

We decided to approach a native radio station again to see if they would lower their price, and if they were willing for Anchorpoint to be aired on a Sunday evening at 6pm, rather than in the morning. A very favourable response was received and after asking if we would commit to 52 weeks, they gave the go ahead! Prairie Bible Services (PBS) will receive the contract next week and, God willing, NCI

FM will begin broadcasting on February 7th. Our sister Betty Kew, who labours primarily among the native folk, has kindly agreed to do the follow-up with any contacts that are made. Please pray that this opening on a radio network that covers Manitoba, will prove a real blessing on many reserves and to many lost souls. We are also waiting to hear about an opportunity with CJ Radio. Please pray that the way may yet open up, if this is the Lord's will.

A new series of online children's meetings commenced on 18th January. About 70 families (from local assemblies and PBS contacts) received invites. God willing, we plan to run these for 11 weeks until the week before Easter. Pray that all will go well technically and that God's Word may speak to many and that some young soul will trust the Saviour. Our son-in-law David has kindly agreed to help us again, which we greatly appreciate.

C. 2000 16/1/21

PETE & ELAINE SMITH

27TH

Psalms 56 & 57

ALBANIA Pop. 3 Mil. UK 4 Shkoder

On the first and last week in December we officiated at the marriages of two of our young men from the assembly. They are both in their mid-20's and we hope and pray that now as couples they may continue to be a blessing to the assembly as they were as singles. Prior to the weddings, we were meeting with both couples for a few months for pre-marriage discussions. It is our desire that our young people are well prepared to live their lives together honouring the Lord, despite the pressure from surrounding non Christian family members.

We are currently working on the layout of the 'Determined to believe?' by brother John Lennox – a great theological book! We hope to have it ready for printing in a few weeks, and then to make it available to the assemblies and Christians around the country.

C. 2008 6/1/21

ENRI & SYLVIA NASE

28TH

Psalms 58 & 59

ENGLAND Pop. 56 Mil. Lancashire

Recently, Christine's dear mum, Clarice, was called home after a number of weeks in hospital. We rejoice that at 87 years old she accepted Christ as her Saviour. Please pray especially for the salvation of Christine's 2 brothers (Malcolm & Lloyd) and their families, as many opportunities present themselves to witness.

We are broadcasting pre-recorded gospel messages weekly on the internet locally (via Facebook) with a free Gospel calendar offer and free Bibles also advertised. It is amazing to see good numbers of people listening in on a weekly basis. It has been good to see more recent contacts keeping in touch.

The Cleveleys assembly now has 7 in fellowship, with 3 unable to gather for health reasons. Currently we not meeting due to the vulnerability of older saints but continue a conference call phone fellowship three times a week.

9/1/21

NEAL & CHRISTINE HARTRIDGE

C=Date of Commendation

UK=Missionaries (approx.)

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For the Lord's servants (Home and Abroad) £672,708.34

Expenses towards the work of the Trust 10,316.21

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