



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

Psalms 60 & 61

MEXICO Pop. 126 Mil. UK 4 Writing from USA

Our family has spent the past two years in Michigan, USA, in order to pursue therapy for our youngest son August. He has a neurological disorder, for which we were able to find help in the city of Jackson, where my wife Hannah is from. It has been difficult to return to Mexico since we moved here; firstly, due to immigration rules and then because of the Covid situation. However, we had the privilege of taking our whole family back to Guadalajara for the month of January 2021 in order to assist again in the work there.

After a short drive to Chicago and an easy flight to Guadalajara, one of the believers (Ricardo) picked us up at the airport. We did not realize how much we missed living here until we arrived! A few days ago we went to see the last house we lived in, and shed a few tears as we reminisced about our previous life in Mexico. However, with the past behind us, we enjoyed our stay immensely and had the opportunity to make new memories in this current phase of service.

The restrictions in Mexico are much the same as those in other Western countries but thankfully the weather is much better, so we are able to meet outdoors and with larger groups for gospel and ministry. On the first Lord's day, there was a bigger group than normal, so we met in Ricardo's large Mexican patio. Some watched the broadcast on Zoom but most of the assembly was present and even some that have not been able to come for a long time. With one exception, we are grateful that no other believers have contracted the virus. Octavio was quite impaired for a while but thankfully did not require hospitalization and has almost made a full recovery.
C. 2011 (Can) 23/2/21 JONATHAN & HANNAH SEED

2ND

Psalms 62 & 63

MEXICO Pop. 126 Mil. UK 4 Writing from USA

The believers in Guadalajara, Mexico, broke bread for the first time on November 29, 2015 and we left on November 12, 2018. Since that time, they have continued to grow (though very slowly) and have kept very busy with gospel work despite their limitations before and during the pandemic. Every Lord's day they preach the gospel in two different locations. One meeting takes place in the home of some contacts (Armando and Fabiola) and the other outside the city at the home of Fernando, a believer who was recently baptized. They rotate between these two locations each week and, during our visit to Mexico in January, we were able to visit the small village on 4 separate occasions. Most of the believers would come along as well for the meal and the outdoor gospel meeting. It was a great time of fellowship and gospel activity, and we are thankful that Fernando's family is showing interest in the gospel, and would like us to continue coming to teach them more from the Word of God.

During our return to Mexico, we were reminded again of the 'idiosyncrasies' of travel there, when an hour and a half long ride

took almost 5 hours due to traffic and accidents along the road. These are the peculiarities of life in Mexico that one must simply accept. Despite the crawl along the highway, we had a great time of fellowship with the believers who were in the vehicle with us.

C. 2011 (Can) 23/2/21 JONATHAN & HANNAH SEED

3RD

Psalms 64 & 65

SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Ayrshire

The restrictions imposed over the past year have halted many preaching engagements at home and further afield, but we are thankful that over this time, 'Hope by the Roadside' has continued to grow. Hope by the Roadside began in May 2016 and now has billboards and trailers displaying God's word in Scotland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Our brother Denis Noon, from the Motorway Text Trust, is now in his nineties and had been praying for someone to continue this work. We have gladly agreed to assume responsibility in April, when we will take on the 3 sites in England, two of which are 40 foot long lorry trailers. We are very excited about this further development of the work. We also pay tribute to the faithful endeavours of our dear brother Denis over such a long time.

All billboards and trailers display God's word and have details of the Hope by the Roadside website, which contains Gospel messages and the option to request a Bible and literature. The purpose of Hope by the Roadside is to simply display God's word to the masses and leave the results with the Lord. Last year we heard about a young boy from Kilmarnock, with no Christian background, who was travelling near Glasgow on the M77 motorway. On seeing the billboard, he learned John 14:6 and recited it to a Christian visiting his school assembly. How encouraging! Please pray for the many souls seeing God's word as they travel every day.

23/2/21

PAUL & RACHEL JENKINSON

4TH

Psalms 66 & 67

SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Ayrshire

We have been travelling regularly to Uganda for 7 years to support the small assemblies in teaching and gospel work. Hope by the Roadside first displayed God's word there in 2018 and we currently have 8 double sided billboards throughout Uganda. In November 2019 we began a ministry with motorbike taxis known as 'Boda boda's'. We purchased high visibility vests, had a Bible verse printed on the back and distributed them to Boda boda riders, trusting that they will be of both physical and spiritual blessing to the riders and their passengers. We have 1,500 more of these vests and plan to distribute them on my visits over the next three years, God willing.

We are also working with a missionary couple, Josh & Keri Kaye, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Late January, the first Bible verse billboard went up in Lubumbashi and we are working to secure several more sites. They also have high visibility vests with the Bible verse in French for outreach with the motorbike taxis in DRC. 'The entrance of thy words giveth light' (Ps 119:130).

23/2/21

PAUL & RACHEL JENKINSON

5TH

Psalm 68

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40

In June 2020, SHAREAfrica delivered a boat to the assembly at Chanyanya (by Kafue river), about 40 miles from the capital of Lusaka. The boat and engine were donated with a dual purpose; to be used for fishing during the week, and to ferry people from a nearby island at weekends. It would provide employment for three young believers, as well as raise funds to help the assembly meet

various needs, including supporting the elderly and vulnerable saints.

Most men in Chanyanya are fishermen, who came with their families from the north of Zambia when fishing stocks there became depleted. Life is tough for these people, yet they remain positive as they try to make a living, risking their lives fishing in small canoes in a vast, fast flowing river.

When our brother Eddie Kasongo, from the Chawama assembly in Lusaka, and others revisited the believers at Chanyanya in January, the fishing season had closed due to the heavy rains. However, they were encouraged by what they found. The boat and engine were being stored safely and were in good condition. The income from the boat has been used to bring electricity into the Chanyanya Hall and secure connection to the main grid. The assembly can continue to use this boat to further help and support the lives of believers and others in their community.

Adapted extract from SHAREAfrica Newsletter (February 2020)

6TH

Psalm 69

WALES Pop. 3.1 Mil. Cardiff

We are disappointed at not being able to do many of the activities that we would have been involved in, but for the pandemic. We had been looking forward to using the Bible Experience exhibition in a few places and seeing a good number of school pupils attend and learn about the life of the Lord Jesus, but this has had to be cancelled. Prison sessions are not allowed and Religious Education lessons in schools are also not possible. Opportunities on the streets have been extremely limited and of course outreach from the Hall has been curtailed too. It would be all too easy to close the shutters and lockdown through lockdown! However, praise God for huge opportunities in difficult times. There is so much to do for our Saviour.

Each week, a Bible Story poem is written and posted on YouTube and WhatsApp, and also emailed to various people up and down the country. A Bible story video is also produced each week to accompany the poem. We are also grateful for the help of some in our assembly, who produce 'fun sheets' at four levels to go along with them. DVDs of the poems and Bible stories continue to be sent out by 542day here in Wales, reaching as far afield as Botswana and the West Indies! A request came from a man called Naveen in India, and he has now received several consignments. He has been using them in a church and a school. They are played to many people trying to learn English as a second language. As they do, they are also learning about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How amazing! It is wonderful to receive messages of thanks on how these are being used in various places and in ways we would never have thought of. We have also been doing a weekly Zoom children's meeting, with an average attendance of about 30 each night.

25/1/21

STUART & BETHAN SCAMMELL

7TH

Psalms 70 & 71

WALES Pop. 3.1 Mil. Cardiff

Over the past few months, we have been doing Christianity Explored with a young lady called Stacey, who contacted us asking about Christianity. We had put the course on PowerPoint, making it suitable for Zoom. On completion of this course, she was very keen to do another and we used a course developed by Gareth Edwards in Perth called 'Christianity under the Microscope'. It was wonderful for Bethan to receive a message from Stacey telling her how she had trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour. Pray for Stacey as she continues to undertake more courses and learn about the Saviour she now loves. We continue to work with others on Zoom as individuals and in small groups to learn more about the Christian life.

In a remarkable way, the Lord has answered our prayers and provided us with an exhibition trailer. We have used the trailer for drive in preaching when this was possible. It is also being fitted out for use at agricultural shows and various other outdoor opportunities when these become available.

25/1/21

STUART & BETHAN SCAMMELL

8TH

Psalm 72

WALES Pop. 3.1 Mil. Cardiff

Although direct school work has been limited, one school allowed access, saying that Stuart was 'part of the school community'. He taught his 'Scroll through the Bible' curriculum and was asked for further lessons. One of the teaching assistants at the school, Paul, had some very open conversations and showed a real interest in Christianity. Some of the Christian teachers have been praying for him and he has promised to come to the assembly at Bethesda after lockdown. He revealed to Stuart that his brother had become a Christian and was praying that the Lord would bring someone across Paul's path with the Gospel. Please pray for Paul.

Many of the Bible courses and other material are available online at www.scrollthroughthebible.com. If we can help further in any way, please get in touch. Your prayerful support is valued.

25/1/21

STUART & BETHAN SCAMMELL

9TH

Psalm 73

NEPAL Pop. 29 Mil. Writing from N Ireland

It is with great joy that we share the news of Mr Mahesh Rai coming to the Lord. His wife Maya and the assembly at Damak had been praying for him for years. He started attending gospel meetings and, although initially cold, his interest started increasing. He finally came to know that Christ died for him, and trusted the Lord on 8th February. Please also pray for Maya's sister Chandra who is on the verge of salvation. Chandra's daughter Prashansa is already a believer.

Ever since her own salvation, sister Maya has been very concerned about the souls of others. She opened her house in her native village of Peltimari for weekly gospel meetings. The believers from the Damak assembly have been faithfully preaching the gospel in that village for some time. Even during the pandemic, after a brief closure, they carefully and prayerfully started gospel meetings again. Manju and her sister Smriti will soon be leaving to return to university. They are currently attending the gospel meetings in Peltimari every Friday night but are not yet saved. Please pray for them and this new work at Peltimari, in Nepal.

21/2/21

CHARLES DAVIDSON

10TH

Psalms 74 & 75

ALBANIA Pop. 3 Mil. UK 4 Gjirokaster Tribute to Marijan Nijhof

In February 1994, Marijan Nijhof went to live in Albania. After spending time learning the language in the capital Tirana, Marijan moved to Gjirokaster. She started giving Bible studies to women living there, and soon became aware of the serious and hopeless condition of Albanian girls who are expecting children. This led Marijan to open a house in which a loving, caring attitude prevailed to shelter these girls with their babies. The idea of starting a children's home was born.

In October 1996 a house was bought and a few months later 'The Hiding Place' was established. In November 1999, another house was built. Over the years, many children have grown up in the two houses of The Hiding Place. Some are now married, a few have been

able to go back to their own mothers, while others have been adopted or remain in the Home.

After almost 30 years of faithful and loving service, our dear sister Marijan Nijhof went to her heavenly home on 15 January. After an intense struggle with sickness, her brave fight was over and she was in the presence of her Lord and Saviour. During those final few difficult months physically, she remained in good spirits, and was keen to witness to others about her beliefs, trust and love for the Lord Jesus. She has left behind a great legacy at The Hiding Place. She was a good and faithful servant, with an amazing love and devotion to the most vulnerable. She was also a wonderful example of a follower of the Lord Jesus.

Continue to remember in prayer the ongoing work of The Hiding Place, the children currently being cared for, and the believers who lovingly work there.

11TH

Psalms 76 & 77

VENEZUELA Pop. 28.5 Mil. UK 7 Tucupita

When my dear wife, Veronica, was diagnosed with leukaemia nearly a year ago, we had just returned from a very enjoyable visit to Northern Ireland. Our desire and plans were to get back to Tucupita, to continue with the spread of the gospel, and also the care of the believers in that new needy area of the Lord's work in Venezuela. But we didn't realise that our Lord had different purposes for us. We spent six months in Tijuana, Mexico, where she received chemotherapy and other alternative treatments. In December her health deteriorated quite fast, until on January 11th, the Lord delivered her from her affliction and took her to be with Him, which is far better. I feel so indebted to the Lord, as we never felt alone in the trial.

Now with this great loss, I continue looking to the Lord for guidance and strength. We plan, God willing, to return with my 3 young boys to Tucupita, where there is much to be done. Veronica was a genuine help-meet to me, not only in the family sphere, but also in the service of the Lord. She had endeared herself to the Warao Tribe and a good number are now saved as a result of her labours in bringing them to hear the gospel, and helping them also in their great material necessities.

Another sad note for the family was the death of my mother-in-law, just 18 days after my wife Veronica. Although very respectful of the gospel, we are unaware of any confession of Christ. She had come to help care for her daughter over the last few months. Shortly after Veronica's funeral, under a great depression, she got infected with Covid. Her last 5 days were spent alone in the hospital. We hope that during this time she got salvation. Please pray for Veronica's 3 sisters, Virginia, Vanessa and Victoria, who are not saved. The Lord has spoken to them loudly. Brethren, pray for us!

C. 2014 (Ven) 2/2/21 WILLIAM TURKINGTON

12TH

Psalms 78:1-31

WALES Pop. 3.1 Mil. Pembrokeshire

The renovations of the Old Chapel in Tenby have continued over the last year. It is a Grade II listed building, which means we have had to meet fairly stringent requirements. We have now divided the chapel into three parts. The main hall downstairs is a Coffee Shop and Christian Bookshop. The intention is to provide coffee and simple meals free of charge to those who come in, providing them with Christian magazines, booklets and tracts for them to read. The bookshop has both new books and second-hand books available for sale.

Having installed a mezzanine floor, we have a lift and stair access to the meeting room upstairs. Attached to the rear of the chapel is a school building. One of the rooms is dedicated to a Food Bank and we are able to provide tins, packets of food, fresh vegetables and

fruit, bread and toiletries to those who are in need of them. Upstairs in this school building is another large meeting room and kitchen. We have carried over the trading licences from the previous owners, so that we have a fully-fitted industrial kitchen to prepare the meals. It is our hope to provide a free lunch in the coffee shop once a week for those who are elderly and in need, as well as snacks in the school room for youngsters one evening.

12/1/21

IAN & REBECCA REES

13TH

Psalms 78:32-72

WALES Pop. 3.1 Mil. Pembrokeshire

In our renovated chapel building in Tenby, the meeting room is upstairs. As a consequence, we are calling the assembly 'The Upper Room'. This is the part of the building that still needs major work. We still need to secondary-glaze the original stained glass windows so that no-one falls through them (!), as well as installing nine hanging lights from the magnificent original ceiling. We can then carpet the floor and purchase chairs to sit on in the assembly meetings. We also need to complete a staircase for the new fire exit.

We are thrilled to have such wonderful premises from which to preach and reach out to the community around us. The meetings have continued every week online via Zoom. We have a little Sunday school with children and love to hear them sing every Sunday morning at our Lighthouse Family Service.

We are thankful for your prayerful and practical interest in this work over the last few years.

12/1/21

IAN & REBECCA REES

14TH

Psalms 79 & 80

ANGOLA Pop. 32 Mil. UK 4 Camundambala

In Angola, the majority of the population are living hand to mouth, one day at a time. Although the Government has been pushing the message 'Stay at Home', it is an impossibility for most people, as they would literally starve to death. Consequently, they have had no choice but to just get on with life.

At the height of the pandemic, the Lord's people provided funds for those suffering because of the restrictions placed on lives in those early days. This enabled us to do a lot to help those around us cope with the economic hit that they took as the cost of living soared. More recently, we have been able to get on with some of the other activities the Lord has placed into our hands to do for Him. The Primary school has just reopened to all pupils and together with the teachers, they are starting to get back into a more normal routine.

We are thankful that the Government has allowed churches to open four times a week, for a maximum of 2 hours each service, together with social distancing and hand washing. This has enabled us to have the weekly Breaking of Bread meeting followed by a Gospel meeting or Bible teaching on alternate Sundays. There is also the prayer meeting on Saturdays at 4.30pm. We are pleased to see increased numbers in attendance, with between 30-50 believers present at the prayer meeting.

C. 1993 24/2/21

BRIAN & DEBBIE HOWDEN

15TH

Psalms 81 & 82

ANGOLA Pop. 32 Mil. UK 4 Camundambala

With over 40 young people in the weekly bible classes, we would value your prayers that they will go on strongly for the Lord, and be preserved both morally and spiritually. It is encouraging to see the progress of so many.

The Lord has mightily blessed the assembly over the past two years and the three elders are really stretched in their oversight of the assembly. I continue to refuse to be an elder, determined to see the work move forward in the hands of local brethren. This means that they will make decisions that I don't necessarily agree with, but I firmly believe this is the way forward, away from dependence on the missionary to set the tone of the assembly. It is a joy to hear the young people in Bible class speak well of their elders as they recognise that the elders are very encouraging to the young believers. This past week they publicly announced that three young men who have been in Bible class for almost five years will now be given the responsibility of preaching the Gospel. We are greatly encouraged by this, and have every confidence that the Gospel they preach is Christ-centred and Biblically based. We now have ten men in the assembly who are faithfully preaching the Gospel.

Another positive development over the past two years or more is that the assembly has seen two young men (Filipe and Bigelo) really being raised up by the Lord to serve Him. They have a love for His Word and His people and are a great blessing to the assembly. We know these two young men very well - they fulfil the scriptural qualifications necessary and they have a heart for the work. So we praise the Lord for this encouragement.

C. 1993 24/2/21 BRIAN & DEBBIE HOWDEN

16TH

Psalms 83 & 84

ANGOLA Pop. 32 Mil. UK 4 Camundambala

During the past year, the Angolan Literature Fund has provided us with a huge amount of literature. Thankfully, with the Government lifting restrictions a little, the Emmaus Book room has reopened and this literature is getting into the population of Saurimo and beyond.

The printing work here in Saurimo is going well. All supplies are sent to us via container, which allows us to keep on top of the needs of the Emmaus work here and in the surrounding provinces. The printing work is run each day by Angolan believers, so we would be thankful if you could remember Paula and Bigelo in the Emmaus office, and Jacob and Chichi in the printing work in your prayers. They are an important part of the work here and we rely on them very much.

We would also value prayer for the situation nationally. Since the 1980s, the Government has required all churches to be registered and to have a declaration of faith. They also require that every 'denomination' have a spokesman to represent that church group to the Government. This requirement in the context of the Bible has always been a little fraught for the local assemblies, as you can imagine.

Things have run relatively well for many years, but this all depends on the spirituality and convictions of the person who represents the assemblies to the Government. There is now a small but determined group of believers who want to change the original declaration of faith. They have succeeded in doing this without the agreement of the majority and presented it to the Government. This new declaration, among other things, removes the principle of autonomy of each local church. It puts authority into the hands of a Pastor/President who is nominated in every church, province, and ultimately one who is over all the assemblies.

Clearly, anyone who accepts that the Bible is the only rule of faith and practice will abhor anything like this. The assemblies have overwhelmingly rejected this new declaration of faith but there is a major struggle underway and sadly it is causing division and strife. Please pray for us. Encouragingly, there are plenty of local believers who are steadfastly holding to the Scriptures and don't need a missionary to fight their battles.

C. 1993 24/2/21 BRIAN & DEBBIE HOWDEN

17TH

Psalms 85 & 86

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Pirassununga

We are currently correcting and typesetting the Portuguese translation of the commentary on Exodus in the 'What the Bible Teaches' series. We are also preparing a few hundred parcels of the latest 'Glory' book from Assembly Testimony, along with our quarterly magazine for posting.

Here in Pirassununga we continue to be able to meet twice a week, with some restrictions. In the neighbouring town of Porto Ferreira, they have brought their meetings forward, as all activities must be over before 8pm. We travel every Tuesday to help them with their mid-week meetings. These are certainly difficult times, but we are thankful for all the Lord has allowed us to experience, and for His help. We have seen the Lord take a few of His people home in the last months, although none due to COVID. Quite a few believers have contracted the virus, but the Lord has preserved us all. Infection is on the rise again here, but vaccination has begun, so we expect better days ahead, in the Lord's will.

We value your prayers, that the Lord may preserve His people and His assemblies in the region during the crisis, and that soon we may be back to normal activities, according to His will.

C. 1998 2/2/21 WILLIAM & ELEN WATTERSON

18TH

Psalms 87 & 88

ZAMBIA Pop. 18Mil. UK 40 Writing from Scotland

The dear folks in Mambilima are living under the same restrictions as we are in Scotland, as they have COVID virus too! Around thirty folks are infected at Mambilima, most being cared for in their own homes. The medical facilities are totally inadequate to treat such patients. The hospital has been busy with many malaria cases, this being the wet season. The hospital has also been busy with building repairs. A terrific storm in January destroyed part of the administration block roof, then the roof of the stores and kitchen have had the rusted old tin removed, and termite eaten trusses replaced. The floor of the outpatients department now has tiles and a new coat of paint.

The Gospel is preached every morning over the tannoy and reaches every part of the hospital. Mr Mbita, the hospital administrator, is helped by doctors provided by the government. Mr Mbita also does a great work with the young folks in the assembly. He would covet your prayers.

Both the primary and secondary schools are in full swing again after a period of lockdown. The high school is making full use of the new assembly hall and dining room.

Mr Evans, headteacher, and his new deputy Mr Chisanga are fully committed to serving the Lord at the school, and their influence is known over the whole province. The previous deputy head, Mr Manda Chibwe, has been promoted as headteacher to the largest school in the district. He will be a blessing there and a great influence for the Lord. There is great liberty to preach the Word.

Many thanks for all your love and prayers. We are both blessed beyond measure, and give thanks that the joy of the Lord is our strength!

C. 1996/74 10/2/21 ROBERT & MARGARET MUIR

19TH

Psalms 89:1-18

MEXICO Pop. 126 Mil. UK 4 Writing from USA

During our recent trip to Guadalajara, Mexico, a brother from the assembly (Max) returned from a visit to Argentina with his wife and three children. Max moved to Mexico twelve years ago as a single man in search of a new life. We met him four years ago when we

lived down the street from their house. He professed to be saved that same year and is now in fellowship, and one of the most zealous evangelists I have ever met. He was able to take some calendars and texts with him and seems to have spoken to everyone he met in Argentina about Christ. We were very happy to see them again and continue to pray for his wife Andrea, who professed two years ago, though has refused to leave the Catholic Church.

We used the first week to visit as many of the believers as possible. It was great to see them face to face. Though we have been in constant virtual contact with them since we left, there is no substitute for a physical visit in the home of a fellow believer. Whether general counsel or even for an exhortation, 'a word fitly spoken' (Prov 25:11) is much better received in the flesh. The second and third weeks were spent giving teaching on the person of Christ in Hebrews. We spent various nights looking at 7 pictures of Christ throughout the epistle. We were very glad to have helped in the gospel and teaching of the young believers and we trust they were strengthened by our visit.

C. 2011(Can) 23/2/21 JONATHAN & HANNAH SEED

20TH

Psalms 89:19-52

MEXICO Pop. 126 Mil. UK 4 Writing from USA

The other task we had during our recent trip back to Mexico was to meet with a speech therapist and discuss the possibility of continuing our son August's physical/speech therapy/schooling in Guadalajara. We were not able to find something immediately available for him, but the therapist we spoke to gave us great counsel with respect to future options. Considering this information, we are leaving the possibility of returning to live in Guadalajara with the Lord.

It was a privilege to have been able to visit Guadalajara in these difficult days, even just for a month. We were able to tell saved and unsaved alike of our Saviour, and for this reason our trip was a blessing and marked by fragrance. Please pray that the loveliness of Christ will continue to be declared far and wide in the land of Mexico. Remember also the small assembly in Guadalajara in your prayers.

C. 2011(Can) 23/2/21 JONATHAN & HANNAH SEED

21ST

Psalms 90 & 91

THAILAND Pop. 69 Mil. UK 8 Phuket

We thank the Lord that all our meetings are now back to normal, although some outreach activities have had to be stopped. Over the past few months, people who are not Christians have been coming to meetings and some have professed to trust in the Lord Jesus. One of the brothers is meeting with them and teaching them about salvation, baptism and the Lord's Supper. In the will of the Lord, some may be baptised soon.

I keep busy teaching the Word and visiting some of the elderly believers. As we have a number of assemblies here in Phuket, I minister the Word each Lord's day. I also teach during the week, either at meetings in the assemblies or to some small groups that come to our home. On Wednesday afternoons I have the privilege of undertaking Bible teaching with believers from the Sea Gypsy community. There are two assemblies among this group of believers. All other meetings in the country are in Thai, but with the Sea Gypsies we use two languages, both Thai and Orak Lawoi, which is their own language. The New Testament has been translated into Orak Lawoi, together with small portions of the Old Testament. They also have their own hymn book, and all our singing is in their language. Few people in this tribe enjoy reading, but we encourage those who are Christians to read the Bible personally and regularly – and also to others who are not as able or as interested to read it. Your fellowship in prayer is much appreciated.

C. 1959/62 24/2/21 PETER & PEGGY FERRY

22ND

Psalms 92 & 93

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Tres Passos

In the goodness of God we have been able to resume the usual assembly meetings – Bible Reading on a Saturday evening, Breaking of Bread and Gospel Meeting on Lord's Day and a midweek meeting, presently studying the life of Abraham. All are conducted with the necessary precautions of distancing, the use of facemasks and hand gel. We are more thankful than ever for the privilege of gathering in assembly capacity with the Lord's presence in our midst and hope the situation does not worsen again. So far the assembly members have all been kept safe from the virus.

We are glad to have a few unsaved in the gospel meeting each week and are deeply burdened that we might soon have the joy of seeing the hand of God in salvation. Rather than being softened by the pandemic, here folks in general seem to be hardened. Dona Classi has been listening to the gospel for years and knows she needs to be saved. Valdetar and Priscila, the young couple with whom we made contact about a year ago, come to the gospel meeting each Lord's Day with their two little boys. They say that they like to be at the meeting and have learned a lot. Please pray that they, along with the others who attend, may be awakened by the Spirit of God and brought to Christ for salvation. Another gospel series is in progress by Zoom, hosted by the Porto Alegre assembly, also ministry each Friday night.

C. 1988 5/2/21 GREGG & ELIZABETH BUCHANAN

23RD

Psalms 94 & 95

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Bouc-Bel-Air

A young man of 26 was baptised at the end of January. He gave a very clear testimony of how the Lord reached out to him and saved him. Many people were watching on Zoom of course because of the restrictions, including his parents and other members of his family. Like most French people, he is from a traditional Catholic background and was baptised as a baby. However, he was also very clear as to why he was now being baptised as an adult. Please remember this young man and his unsaved family.

Due to the current curfew restrictions, we must be indoors by 18h. Consequently, midweek meetings are all on Zoom. We are able to continue online with literacy classes for Arab women. Although only one couple attend our Alpha course each week, they are very keen indeed. In addition, we are providing some marriage counselling to a young Catholic couple - and evangelising to them at the same time!

We are still before the Lord about the future of the Voice of the Gospel ministry, and also the future of the associated property. We would appreciate your prayers for guidance on this matter.

C. 1973 3/2/21 GRAHAM & ALISON BLACK

24TH

Psalms 96, 97 & 98

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Santarem

Tribute to our dear brother Samuel Davidson

Samuel Davidson was commended, with his wife Ann, in August 1979, to the Lord's work in Brazil by Central Gospel Hall, Bangor, Northern Ireland. They first lived in Sao Paulo, and in 1982, they moved to Santarem, in the northern state of Para province.

Working from Santarem, they travelled by boat to the many islands and tributaries of the Amazon River. Many assemblies were planted and continue to the present time. The Bible bookshop in Santarem was formed as an integral part of the work; it continues to be busy, with about 1,000 Bibles being bought every year. Samuel was hardworking, faithful, consistent and much loved and respected by all who knew him. Unexpectedly, Samuel went to be with the Lord on 25th January. He died in ICU from cardiac arrest, induced by

Covid-19. He is survived by his wife Ann, siblings Olive, Roger and Heather, daughter Wendy (in N Ireland) and sons Drew (Sao Paulo) and Roni (Santarem).

Please pray for all the family, but especially our dear sister Ann, who also lost her elderly father (Mr Jack Finegan) about the same time. Remember Ann's mum Eleanor, who along with Jack were commended to the Lord's work in Zambia in 1946, and served the Lord with her husband in Dimalata for 62 years. We also remember Ann's brother, John Finegan, who currently serves the Lord in Malawi.

25TH

Psalms 99, 100 & 101

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Katoka

We continue to praise the Lord for health and strength, and for continuing Covid free in this area of Lualaba Province. We are also grateful for the safe arrival of supplies from Lubumbashi, including the delivery of the new printing of our Chokwe Hymn book. We are thankful that the Lord overruled in a difficult matter involving three assemblies. The outcome not only became amicable but satisfactory too. We also appreciate the prayerful and practical support for Zango, our nurse. We met up with him but sadly, he felt that his brother and three sons were not ready to meet up with him yet. He had a good time with his parents and has decided to continue to live at Dilolo Gare (frontier town near the Angolan border) at present. He has been well received in the assembly there, so we can only accept this decision and continue to pray that eventually there will be a true healing with all members of the family. Zango's attitude in view of all that happened is amazing and we are very thankful.

Please pray for Kashala, a lady who has terminal cancer, that she will know the peace of God's presence in these days. Pray also that the schools will soon be allowed to reopen, which in turn will allow us to restart the Sunday School activities.

C. 1965 1/2/21

MARY RATTER

26TH

Psalm 102

ENGLAND Pop. 56 Mil

The inability to witness in schools as normal continues to be a particular sadness, adding further mental health pressure and concern. Open air work is also not as easy, as we cannot currently give out tracts or talk to people normally. As the government has allowed, we have had our meetings on a Sunday and our prayer and bible reading on a Thursday. We currently have 11 in fellowship, although due to age, only 8 are able to get out. We give thanks to God for His faithfulness and His care.

We are grateful that Alan is able to do online Bible studies with a number of asylum seekers. We are also able to send out Bibles all over the UK via our website. We have been doing this for 15 years and we pray that God will bless His Word.

Alan recently took the graveside funeral of a dear brother in Christ who was in fellowship for over 50 years with the assembly in Redcar. His daughter and 4 of the grandchildren are not saved. Remember them in your prayers. Also remember the brother's wife, who is sorrowing, but not as others that have no hope.

24/1/21

ALAN & PAULINE BARBER

27TH

Psalm 103

PHILIPPINES Pop. 107 Mil. Manila

Not too long after we returned to the Philippines, I went to see Cesar, an excellent doctor and one of the men I disciple. In many ways, he is to me as Luke was to Paul during his missionary journeys. He immediately scheduled me for surgery to deal with the large mass growing on the side of my head. The surgery went well and was a complete success. The scar has healed and thankfully, the hair is growing back! Cesar also arranged for an MRI on my ankle. This will not be so easy to fix, as it requires reconstructive surgery to deal with the ligaments that have been completely torn away.

Jingle continues to look after her elderly mother, who has responded well to her chemotherapy. The tests and treatments are time consuming and require many hours driving through very heavy traffic. Still, she does it all with joy and also manages to find time to run Bible studies for a number of ladies on Zoom and care for the groups of women she is discipling. Looking after me and keeping me organised is her hardest task!

As well as our regular discipleship work, I have been privileged to do several radio interviews. On Thursdays I will be involved in teaching a new Bible study for businessmen and on Tuesdays we continue to work our way through Daniel with our mixed group.

We are grateful for all your faithful prayers and support over almost 30 years of service in the Philippines. We are very thankful to the Lord, who has guided and helped, as well as drawing many to Himself during this time.

C. 1992/1998 7/2/21 JONATHAN & JINGLE BRADFORD

28TH

Psalm 104

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Zambezi

I am still in Zambezi, waiting for the very strict South African lockdown to be lifted. As a result, I am enjoying preaching in Luvale once again, both ministering the Word and spreading the gospel in local assemblies.

In Malawi and Mozambique, hunger continues to plague many areas, and will do so until they reap the new crop possibly in April. The Lord has enabled me, through the kindness of the saints, to help some of the believers in greatest need. Another cyclone hit Mozambique recently, but it seems to have missed the province where most of the blind Christians are located, for which we praise the Lord. In Malawi, one of the evangelists was witnessing in a local market to a witchdoctor – Mateyu – last week. Afterwards he said he wanted to burn his charms and follow Christ. Pray that he may put into practice what he said.

In South Africa, there have been a lot of COVID related deaths in Ocean View, where the assembly which I usually meet with and seek to help, is situated. Sadly, three in one family died on the same day a few weeks ago – all unsaved as far as we know. Understandably, many families are deeply distressed. They are like sheep without a shepherd, not knowing what to do, or where to turn. Gospel meetings of course can no longer be held, but some are using more personal means (but still complying with the regulations) to reach out in the gospel. Please pray for Arvey, a broken man, who heard the gospel a few days ago and is burdened and wants to be saved. What a joy if salvation emerges from lockdown, just as it did in Acts 16.

C.1958 (USA) 8/2/21

DAVID CROUDACE

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Bellerive-Sur-Allier
Lenore keeps in touch by email with a lot of younger women, near and far. Please pray with us that these contacts will effectively strengthen and encourage, in times like these.

I help out in Bible teaching in the assembly here in Vichy, and in other nearby assemblies in the Massif central area. We long for the day when we will be able to move around freely again and to meet face to face. In the meantime, although Zoom is not my favourite medium, it is one effective way of serving in our present circumstances.

After reading and correcting 444 proposed contributions for the 2022 edition of the '*Meditations quotidiennes*' calendar, I have also been doing some translation work for a Christian radio station. These scripts are short presentations of books of the Bible, which are then broadcast with the aim of encouraging listeners to discover the Word of God for themselves. Pray for this work.

Finally, please also remember Madame B, aged 88. She was refused her Covid injection because of previous allergic reactions. She is very agitated and afraid of dying, but would prefer to wait until we are all vaccinated before we visit her again. We pray that she will open the Gospel of John we left with her, and that the Lord will touch her heart.

C. 1976 8/2/21

BOB & LENORE SOUZA

BOLIVIA Pop. 11.5 Mil. UK 2 Cochabamba

I was happy when I learned that our brother Robert Revie is in Ethiopia for three months. Katia, one of the girls from our assembly, finally left in January and is now working in Bingham Academy, a Christian school in Addis Ababa. I have been in touch with Robert and he confirmed that his family went to the same school many years ago! He will also help her settle in a good local assembly where hopefully she can be encouraged and also be useful.

I phoned one of the girls in prison yesterday. Katherine is the young girl who, with her boyfriend, murdered her twin sister. She previously told me that there was no forgiveness for her for what she had done. However, I never give up on her. She is a lovely girl and I hope that one day she will come to know God's forgiveness.

Covid is rampant again here in Bolivia. Sadly, one of our believers died two weeks ago from the virus, leaving his wife Justina and their three teenage boys. I (Helen) tried to encourage her, mentioning that my own mum was left a young widow. I was only seven when my dad died, with my mum expecting Ann, my young sister. However, mum did a great job and she knew that God was in control. Pray for Justina and her boys. Also, please pray for Ann, who is weak with terminal cancer.

There are many sad cases here. Another is Johnny, a young married believer who has had a brain clot and is in intensive care at the moment. They have two small children and we are having special prayer meetings for him and the family. So many of the medical staff also have Covid, so the care is not good and many good doctors have died. Your prayerful support of use, the work in Bolivia and needy believers here is valued.

C. 1977 10/2/21

MARIO & HELEN PONCE

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Tupi Paulista

In the goodness of God, Claudete and I have been preserved thus far through these strange times of pandemic.

Tupi Paulista is now on red alert regarding Covid and is in a chaotic state. The death rate is rising and the hospital is full! Some patients are being transferred to other hospitals over 200 miles away. The meetings in the hall are still on hold and there is no indication of things returning to normal anytime soon. We are glad that the calendars and Gospels of John are in the homes of many people. The living Word of God will speak for itself.

Thankfully, there are some encouragements. A lady we have known for more than 46 years came to our home just over two weeks ago very distressed and sensing her weight of sin. After about six hours of discussing God's way of salvation, she trusted the Lord as her Saviour. There were tears of repentance and a great sigh of relief. When she left she was jubilant – and so were we! The lady is called Cleusa and would value prayerful support as she faces domestic challenges. She has held quite a prominent position both religiously and socially in a large city about an hour's drive from Tupi. There is much she wants to learn and we look to the Lord for His help and guidance in this matter.

C. 1974 22/2/21

JOHN & CLAUDETE AXFORD

C=Date of Commendation UK=Missionaries (approx.)

Published by:

LORD'S WORK TRUST

42 Beansburn, Kilmarnock KA3 1RL

Tel. 01563 521098 E.Mail: lwtrust@lwtrust.co.uk

www.lordsworktrust-kilmarnock.co.uk

Charity No. SC008740

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Total gifts received during January 2021.

For the Lord's servants (Home and Abroad)	£876,818.61
Expenses towards the work of the Trust	11,147.19
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	<u>£888,455.23</u>

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