



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

Isaiah 10:6-34

AUSTRALIA Pop 25 Mil. Queensland

We are thankful, that the work of God continues in spite of many in the world being shut down over Covid. This year, we have been able to make 3 trips to Melbourne, including the Easter Conference with the Nunawading Assembly. On one of those trips, we assisted Brother Roger Fraser transfer his elderly and incapacitated father from a nursing home in Toowoomba to a care home in Melbourne. It was a delicate process and a long drive. It is much better that he is only around the corner from them now.

On our way back North, we stopped in Forbes, NSW, to visit a family there. They used to be in the assembly there, but left and went away, so it was nice to catch up, share a meal and pray with them. It was good to stop in and enjoy a visit with the assembly in Gurley, NSW. We especially appreciated listening to their prayer meeting, hearing some of the young men praying for local farmers they are witnessing to and even one of the boys in fellowship praying for his school bus driver to be saved!

We continue to pray for the many isolated Christians in the outback towns and desire to encourage them in the Lord. Our time south was also profitable, and we were not only able to visit a number of assemblies for ministry, but also various homes. We feel that personal visitation is often a neglected work, so it was good to take time to do that. It is in these times, that we really get to know one another and are able to open up about the realities of life.

C. 9/6/21 CLIVE & RACHAEL BARBER

2ND

Isaiah 11 & 12

AUSTRALIA Pop 25 Mil. Queensland

We have just returned from Adelaide, where I had with me our 4 oldest boys. We went there for a gospel campaign and proved the help of God as we preached nightly. I was sharing in the preaching with Bryan Stewart. We attempted to raise the tent there, but after council rejection and various COVID restrictions, we decided the hall would be better. We were encouraged to see a response to the invitations, with various folk coming in who were unknown to us. A local Christian man who was not attending anywhere, came every night and was in attendance on the Lord's Day and has expressed a desire to be part of the assembly. Another lady in her 60's named Una, came nearly every night and we believe the Lord is dealing with her. She has a Lutheran background, but no knowledge of salvation.

The gospel billboards continue in the main cities of Australia, and we are thankful for an open door in this work. Please continue to pray that the Word of God will speak to people in these closing

days of the dispensation. Surely the coming of the Lord draws near!

We continue to have Zoom meetings in various parts of the world. This has really opened a door that we never envisaged. It is amazing to see how the Word of the Lord is not bound and even in these difficult days of lockdown for so many, there is opportunity for the Gospel to be proclaimed and the Word of God taught.

We look to the Lord to guide and bless our path. In July, I hope to be in Tasmania for visits to Assemblies there for ministry. Other things are pencilled in as the year progresses, but our plans are subject to His will.

C. 9/6/21 CLIVE & RACHAEL BARBER

3RD

Isaiah 13

ARGENTINA Pop. 45 Mil. UK 6 Parana

Last Friday it was announced that religious services can be recommenced. As assemblies, we had begun to meet again in mid-January but later suspended until now. In the three months 'window' it was a joy to travel the 160 miles to Concordia; I shared the weekend there with Nelson, who is a national worker commended from Paraná.

We had a baptismal service on the Sunday. The brother who owned the portable swimming pool unfortunately moved and took it with him. Not a problem. Johan, who was being baptised, had one not in use, so brought it along on the Saturday. It was a case of 'bring your own baptistry'.

Growth is very slow in Concordia but those baptised over the past two years include three couples who decided that now, as believers, they should no longer live in common-law relationships. Each were married and later baptised, and added to the fellowship of the assembly. We often talk about the 'happy couple' but on these occasions their joy was the joy of obedience and testimony to their relatives. Please join us in prayer for workers with a teaching gift to live and work in that area.

C. 1974 17/6/21 JIM BURNETT

4TH

Isaiah 14

ARGENTINA Pop. 45 Mil. UK 6 Parana

During that 'window' for meeting, I had a short series in the North Assembly in Paraná. Heber and Fiona Gallito, who were involved in the establishment of this new Assembly, have seen the Lord's hand in blessing. There is a special atmosphere about a first-generation assembly and it is a real joy to teach the believers. Of the number present, limited to 30, we worked out that 22 were under 30 years of age.

I have also been able to help several times in the young assembly in Encarnación, Paraguay, which meets in a home in very cramped conditions. The restrictions of the Covid pandemic have not deterred the believers from making excellent progress in the building of a hall. Recent pictures could be from Nehemiah's day with all involved; children carrying bricks, women handing those up to the men who are building. It is a privilege to have fellowship with them in this project. I have taken Zoom meetings there, but long to visit them again as well as the assemblies in Posadas on the Argentine side of the River Paraná.

The Province of Santa Fe has the highest percentage of Covid cases in the country. My daughter Anne lives there in the City of Rosario; of the six adults in the family five contracted the illness, including my daughter Anne. All are now recovered and my grandson Brian is now back working as a doctor in ICU. A

national worker Gustavo Sanchez and his wife Christina also in Rosario were both hospitalised with the virus. His wife Christina had other health issues and was called home to be with the Lord. She would be aged about fifty five. It was so sad for Gustavo. No goodbyes, no meeting or funeral; just a burial. He is now at home with some oxygen support. He says he doesn't need a thing; only prayers. His son and daughter and his assembly are supporting him in every possible way.

C. 1974 17/6/21

JIM BURNETT

5TH

Isaiah 15 & 16

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Bellerive-Sur-Allier

In contrast to the everchanging circumstances of life in 2021, our all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving LORD is unchanging. We may feel hemmed in. He opens doors which no-one can close. He is greater than we can imagine, but every glimpse of his greatness should incite us to 'rejoice and be glad'.

On May 3rd, the measure limiting travel to a 6 mile radius around home was lifted. The following weekend, we were in Le Chambon-surLignon, 125 miles away. It was literally exhilarating to be 'on the road again' and very encouraging to see how the local church in that place has weathered the Covid storm and is going on well.

A subject for prayer for Le Chambon: the transition as a younger generation of leaders takes on responsibility. We have just returned from a visit to Figeac. The little fellowship there has suffered through the pandemic and is at present greatly diminished in number and struggling (there were 11 people on Sunday morning, plus ourselves). Please remember particularly Pascal who has invested so much time and effort to keep the witness in Figeac alive since the departure of Ronnie and Heather Skene. Pray for the two remaining young couples, that the Lord may show them what part each can play in the future of the fellowship. Please intercede with us for this small nucleus as they persevere in a very fragile situation. The Lord who builds his church is able to rebuild in Figeac.

C. 1976 24/6/21

BOB & LENORE SOUZA

6TH

Isaiah 17 & 18

SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Perth

Obviously, series of meetings have been non-existent except by using the Zoom medium, and that has allowed me to be fairly busy. However, on 2nd May, Craig Munro and I restarted Drive-in meetings at Lochore Meadows Country Park after being shut down when Fife was moved into Tier 3 in mid November. God has been gracious, and there have been good attendances with nice numbers of local people coming to hear the Word. Some of these are regular and interested, and a couple of weeks ago we had the joy of hearing of a lady professing to be saved in her own home. She had attended from Day 1 of last season, and Craig and Hannah have had quite a bit of contact with her. We thank God for such encouragements.

An application for Drive-ins at Perth was ignored by the Council, but arrangements have been made for three consecutive nights on a farmer's land south of Glenluce, 16-18 June God willing. Invitations under the Scotland Needs the Gospel label are being mailed to 35,000 homes in Dumfries and Galloway so hopefully that will stir interest in advance of the meetings.

Craig and I have promised to help with the Highland Outreach Week arranged by the Culloden assembly for the first week of August God willing, but as with last year, these meetings will

have to be online with ministry each morning and Gospel in the evening. With social distancing still in place, the hall is too small for the event. Local believers will be using the afternoons for evangelism. Prayer is valued. Thereafter we hope to have tent meetings in Craig's back garden as we have done many times before.

7/6/21

JACK & LILLIAN HAY

7TH

Isaiah 19 & 20

SRI LANKA Pop. 21 Mil. Writing from Scotland

The past year has brought many changes. One of my main disappointments has been the inability to visit the beloved saints in Sri Lanka. However, we try to keep abreast of what is happening, but like everywhere else, COVID-19 has severely hampered normal Gospel outreach. There have been various lockdowns over the period, and a number of very large food distributions have been undertaken. One is ongoing at the moment.

The past few weeks have been particularly difficult for the believers as the Indian variant has swept the island. They are more or less imprisoned in their homes, and the lockdown is stringently enforced by the military. To add to their woes, at the end of last week there were torrential rains, and the homes of many believers were inundated.

Over the months though, building work has gone on here and there. A completely refurbished hall was completed at Jaffna. An extension has been added at Alamkulam in the east. (When we first went there we preached in a banana-leaf construction!). A fine building for the new assembly at Kurunagela is nearing completion, with a bit of electrical and plumbing work etc. to be done when funds are available. Ground to build a meeting hall has been purchased at Palchchenai in the east, so all in all, the believers have vision and are in expectation of getting into top gear again when restrictions are lifted.

A number of us from the West have been helping with ministry on Zoom, Wednesdays (Sinhala interpretation) and Saturdays (Tamil interpretation). There can be up to 60 devices logged on with an estimated audience of 160. Trust that the spiritual feeding will help sustain the saints in emergency conditions. Do pray for Sri Lanka.

7/6/21

JACK & LILLIAN HAY

8TH

Isaiah 21:1 to 22:14

UGANDA Pop. 44.3 Mil. Writing from Scotland

Stephen and Cassie were a lovely Christian couple that served the Lord among the street children in Kampala, the capital of Uganda. They were expecting their second child when Cassie contracted Covid and things grew serious very quickly. They placed her in ICU and then performed an emergency caesarean section. Sadly, Cassie was taken home to be with the Lord yesterday, leaving Stephen, their little girl and a newborn baby!

I have met them on numerous occasions and we were planning to work together as we took the Ugandan Bible Exhibition among the street kids. They were enthusiastic about this proposed venture and had a structure and plan all ready! Cassie's work is now over and she is at home with her Saviour. Please pray for Stephen and the little family that is left!

27/6/21

PAUL & RACHEL JENKINSON

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Nantes

The French government is currently heading in the direction of life going back to normal with various restrictions being lifted or at least lightened. This is also reflected in church life and we are thankful to be able to hold some events which draw bigger numbers. We also feel more comfortable with inviting people to our home. Our news beneath reflects this trend, for which we are most thankful!

This coming Sunday we are having a new event, called 'Open House'. Several families from the church have agreed to receive a group of brothers and sisters for a shared meal and afternoon together at their home. Please join us in praying that this will be a time of blessing for all, whether hosts or guests.

Later this month we look forward to three baptisms. One is Mélina, a fifteen year old girl from a Christian family. Her family moved to Nantes from Corsica last summer and it's been great to see them getting involved in the Beaujoire assembly. The second person is a young man, married to a girl from a Christian family, and he has come to faith thanks to his connections with this family. Gerry has been preparing for Benjamin's baptism with him and he is impressed by Benjamin's understanding of the Gospel and its implications on his life. The third person is Alexis, aged around forty, from a more complicated background on several fronts. Despite all the challenges, he believes and knows he wants to be baptised. Please pray for Alexis, particularly that he will grasp the importance of being surrounded by a church family.

Gerry and the other elders are busy visiting many members of the church, to talk through with them the proposed expansion of the assembly into new areas, where it is hoped new testimonies will be established in due course. We do indeed ask for prayer for Gerry along with Lionel, Timothée and Thomas, as they spend time in these visits.

C. 1985/88 8/6/21 GERRY & DOROTHY SEED

VENEZUELA Pop. 28.5 Mil. UK 7 Los Altos

As some, but not all may know, our fourteen-year-old granddaughter Hannah Griffin had surgery on Tuesday, 27th April. She is Jeff and (our daughter) Yuni's daughter; they live in San Diego, Valencia. The surgeon, with his team, inserted two bars into her back, then using titanium screws they went vertebrae by vertebrae straightening her spine. By God's mercies, a very capable team, and the prayers of so many, she came through very well and is here at home making steady progress. To all of you who prayed for Hannah we send our sincere thanks. The doctors say it will take about eight months for her to heal fully, God willing, so please continue to pray.

We mentioned in our last letter Pedro and Lois Malave, who are commended workers; Lois is also our daughter. They brought us, with their three children, to Caracas to be present for the surgery, then after she was safely through the operation, returned home to Los Altos, in the north eastern Sucre State. Pedro has been going up with others for several weeks now to preach in Piñantal, high up in the mountains, where normal vehicles cannot go. He gets a lift up in an old four-wheel-drive jeep, and a lift back on an old motorbike! There is no electricity, no phone coverage, and no communication at all with Lois and the children. Dear brethren, if you could see how many are attending the meetings you would scarcely believe it! God is working quite mightily and there are now a good few believers there; I would love you to see photos of

the meetings with believers and many unsaved. It is also difficult for Lois and the children with pandemic conditions and violence prevalent. Please also remember them in prayer. Thank you again for thinking of us here in Venezuela.

C. 1977 8/6/21 NOEL & ANN McKEOWN

DEM. REP. OF CONGO 86 Mil. UK 3 Lubumbashi

On my return to DRC, and after 10 days of self-isolation, I was glad to get out and about in Lubumbashi once again. I was touched to receive a warm welcome from deaf children at Ephphata School and was presented with a bunch of roses by 3 girls who "signed" their speech in unison! The school is the home of the Deaf Christian Fellowship, and it is another source of encouragement to see current and past students from the school, including the carpenters mentioned below, continuing to grow in their faith. I am delighted to say that metal roofing sheets were put onto the new carpentry workshop at the deaf school last month. You may remember this workshop is being built to help deaf young men who have qualified as carpenters but who will benefit from extra support and working in a more sheltered environment. We are so thankful to the Lord that the building is almost complete.

Thankfully, the security situation in Lubumbashi has improved and to date I have not heard any gunfire at night.

Although armed robbery has decreased, robberies still occur and the school for deaf children was recently a target once again. Thieves broke windows and door locks to steal 4 computers (one which belonged to the school director) and 3 treadle sewing machines. This is very disappointing for the school and happened despite the presence of the night guard employed from a private security firm, who apparently did not even hear the windows and locks being smashed!

Schools, which had closed because of Covid restrictions, reopened earlier in the year to the relief of parents, and the happiness of staff and students. The children will continue lessons during July to make up some of the teaching time lost.

C. 1985 2/6/21 RACHEL NEWBY

DEM. REP. OF CONGO 86 Mil. UK 3 Lubumbashi

One sad and very unusual incident last month was the death and funeral of a bright 17-year-old Christian girl, who was related to a Restawhile worker, and who died after a short illness. The same day she died her mother was also taken to hospital where she gave birth to a baby girl.

Another recent sad incident was the death of the wife of one of the workers at the Papillon Clinic. You may remember a couple of years ago hearing of George's son (who had mental health issues) who went out one night, was mistaken for a burglar and was beaten to death by a vigilante group. This is another blow to the family. Please pray that both these families will know the Lord's comfort and presence with them in their grief.

A patient who stayed briefly at the Papillon Clinic is Daniella, a baby born near Katoka and brought here with her parents by Mary and Sandy, missionaries at Katoka. The baby, only a few weeks old, had a protrusion of brain tissue into a large swelling on the back of her head. The decision was made to transfer the baby to a hospital in Zambia for possible surgery. The operation was performed successfully at the end of May for which we praise and thank the Lord, but complications are apparently common

with this type of surgery and so your prayers for a permanent successful outcome are appreciated.

Thank you once again for sharing in the work through your on-going prayers.

C. 1985 2/6/21

RACHEL NEWBY

13TH

Isaiah 27

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Hanches

We praise God that after nearly a year without meetings in person, Rambouillet assembly began meeting on Sunday mornings in new premises 4 months ago. Due to covid restrictions, the first meeting was not how we had envisaged it! We are currently operating a hybrid system, with some physically in the premises and others on Zoom; however, God willing, Zoom will end soon. Despite a few hiccups we are grateful that the system has worked well. What a blessing to meet in such beautiful new premises!

Alan was present at the first morning meeting in the new building in February. A few days later, however, he was strongly advised by his haematologist not to attend again until further notice. Due to chemotherapy treatment in 2013 Alan has a damaged immune system for which he receives fortnightly antibody replacement treatment. He received both vaccine doses but his body did not produce Covid antibodies. Last Saturday he received a third dose and will have a test in about a month's time to see if this one has worked.

With infection rates dropping and the number of people vaccinated increasing, we are now receiving people in our garden and we were physically present at the last 2 Sunday morning meetings. Our work has continued during our prolonged lockdown; most of our activities are still on Zoom (several Bibles studies, the young ladies group, marriage preparation, prayer, leaders and future leaders meetings, etc.) and there are so many other things that we can do at home. However, it is not the same as having a regular face to face contact with everyone.

We are very encouraged by the number of under 40 year olds who are taking on more responsibilities locally in the assembly. Thank you for your interest in and prayers for our work for the Lord in France.

C. 1982

ALAN & VALERIE KYLE

14TH

Isaiah 28

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Chitokoloki Hospital

Last month my heart sank when a man walked in with a massive tumour filling his mouth! He had been to many other hospitals including the biggest one in the capital. These are very difficult and dangerous cases to operate on and each surgery can take most of the day. I sent an email to an American maxilla-facial surgeon who has come here a couple of times before to operate on them and has given me advice on how to operate on them also. Amazingly I discovered he was in Africa and although way up in Togo, he offered to fly down and operate in a couple of weeks! It is often wonderful to see how God works in such matters because a few days later a lady came to us with her head and face wrapped up hiding an absolutely massive tumour of her jaw. Then a few days later a boy of 10 arrives with another tumour on the whole right side of his face. Then another missionary to the south of us sent up a young woman with a severe facial deformity.

In all we had 5 cases and when Tim arrived with his wife Huyen, they operated on all of these cases over a hectic four day period. Fortunately, Dr Gayle Wallace was also here to do the anaesthetics, a major challenge in these cases.

Although Covid has been a growing problem here recently, we have much to give God thanks for. Please continue to pray for the work at Chitokoloki and the preservation of all the dedicated staff. Please also pray for the many opportunities of sharing the Gospel message appropriately with patients, and the interesting discussions that often ensue.

C. 1991 1/6/21

DAVID & LORRAINE McADAM

15TH

Isaiah 29

IRELAND Pop. 4.8 Mil. UK 16 Cootehill

It has been a difficult year for Christian outreach work, but we have tried to keep in touch with people by phone calls, letter writing, and door-step visits. Thankfully, this past couple of weeks I have been able to get out again and visit in some homes.

We are planning a number of things over the next months, God willing, and would value your prayers.

PBS are having another 'STEP Weekend' (Sharing Truth: Encouraging Practice) of Bible Teaching for young believers from 18-20th June. We have been doing three of these weekends each year since 2013. The past year they have had to be done via Zoom, but we will be able to have around 50-60 young believers meeting 'socially distanced' from all over Ireland. We will be doing an overview of the Gospel of John.

We have not been able to have our PBS Summer Camp at Avoca again this year, but we are planning to have a Junior and Senior Camp under canvas in the field at the side of Gareth and Margaret's house. We will have to limit each camp to 24. We would value your prayers. Junior Camp commences 18th July and Senior Camp the week commencing 1st August.

We are also planning to have our Drum Bible Activity Week for children during the week commencing 16th August. This is usually well attended, and we would not be able to have it in our hall, so it looks like we will be getting a marquee and having it in a field – and praying for good weather!

All of these are subject to changes in the regulations and also to God's will. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance.

C. 1992 7/6/21

NOEL & LIZA McMEEKIN

16TH

Isaiah 30

SOUTH AFRICA Pop. 58 Mil. UK 7 Durbanville

Although it is the beginning of Winter here, and the mornings and evenings are getting colder, we are having beautiful days after much rain. We are so thankful for the latter as we had severe drought for several years and were days away from Day Zero when our taps would run dry. But thanks to our dear Lord and Saviour, the rain came just in time!

I continue to go to Kensington Treatment Centre (KTC) where Hans and I started working in 1993 amongst the men and women who are trapped in substance abuse. This is a State facility. Some have served prison sentences, some are awaiting trial, some have been given suspended sentences as it is a first offence and linked to drug abuse. Most of them receive a New Testament very willingly and we work through 8 lessons before they are discharged in the 9th week! Hardly enough time for rehabilitation. So we trust the Lord for the work of His Holy Spirit in their hearts.

The work in Wamakers Training Centre in Wellington continues and I have the privilege of teaching there with each new intake.

I have not returned to the prisons yet because of Covid. I have in a very particular way entrusted that part of the work to the

Lord and wait for His timing. I am in frequent contact with ex-offenders who accepted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour whilst in prison and who have been out for many years. One of them lost his wife to Covid just before Christmas. She was a Godly woman. I miss her weekly messages of encouragement to me, after Hans passed away! After years of caring for her husband in prison and having the privilege of leading him to the Lord, she was the one who encouraged me! How wonderful!

My Mum, Mrs Charlotte Elliott, wife of late Ken Elliott, went to be with the Lord on the 29 March. Us four girls had shared the task of caring for her with some nursing help. It is the end of a long chapter. I came with them as an only child to Africa in January 1957. The family was extended to 9 children! Your continued prayers are really appreciated.

C. 1997 3/6/21 RUTH VAN STORMBROEK

17TH

Isaiah 31 & 32

ETHIOPIA Pop. 112 Mil. UK 4 Writing from Scotland

About two weeks ago, some of the brethren from Addis were in a place called Bali. The road for the last 15 miles is very rough. The brethren have not gone into this area often as it is controlled by a very militant group of Muslims. Last year, a young Imam from this area, who had been responsible for looking after 5 mosques, trusted the Saviour. Not surprisingly, he had to leave his village and live elsewhere. He says he has lost everything, but he has a peace in his heart! His wife has also become a Christian, for which we praise God. He is praying that there may be an assembly raised up in the Muslim village where he is now staying. Amazingly, there are 12 assemblies in the area around Bali. When the brethren arrived at the first assembly, about 500 believers were there to listen to the Scriptures. Quite remarkable!

Some brethren visited Kafa recently, where there are now 3 assemblies. Over sixty believers are soon to be baptised, which is a cause for rejoicing. This work has only been going for a very few years.

The elections, which had been delayed, are now taking place in three weeks. Pray that there will be no problems at this time. Elections are always a bit more complicated due to the tribal situation in the country.

C. 1969 1/6/21 ROBERT REVIE

18TH

Isaiah 33

ENGLAND Pop. 56 Mil. London

We have been encouraged by one unsaved couple who have regularly joined our Sunday Zoom meetings at Tottenham during Covid. The man previously was unwilling to attend meetings in person. The man's sister died suddenly in May and he asked us to take the funeral. It was a good opportunity to share the Word of God with 40 unsaved mourners in person, as the Covid restrictions had just been removed. The deceased was one of our local contacts. Her son, who was originally unkeen for spiritual input at the funeral, shared with Naomi his thoughts on the gospel afterwards. He seemed surprised that his family were attending meetings and had spiritual interest. Please do pray for this family circle. We give thanks for the increasing exposure and openness to the Word.

Covid makes regular contact with the homeless harder. As many would not comply with social distancing rules, we had to stop street soup kitchen efforts or anything that would draw people close together. Many of this demographic are clinically vulnerable. However, the government's attempt to provide accommodation in the first and third lockdowns meant that the men were dispersed across London. Individual contact then became possible as many

reconnected with us by phone or social media, including some who were previously on the residential programme. Now that the restrictions are lifting, we are also meeting with individuals in parks and the garden. Please pray for those who had their mortality impressed upon them by Covid.

We have been surprised at the number of applications to come onto the residential programme during the last 18 months. Some even envisaged giving up accommodation to join us as they needed support, not just a roof. We are unable to run this at present as Covid has impacted the building progress. We are keen to restart this as soon as possible and would value prayers as we continue with the renovations needed.

C. 2013 6/6/21 JOE & NAOMI WYATT

19TH

Isaiah 34 & 35

LEBANON Pop. 6.8 Mil.

The number of new Covid cases and virus-related deaths have significantly reduced in recent weeks. The vaccination programme did make some progress but there are many people who have still not been offered or accepted this. Just over 5% of the population has been fully vaccinated. Everything is open in Lebanon at present and many are living as if the pandemic is over. Given the situation in the healthcare system, it will be devastating for the country if cases start to rise again.

The political deadlock continues and there is no hope of a government being formed any time soon. Aid from outside the country is dependent on a new government and reforms so everything continues to slide downwards. Local currency has continued to lose its value. Supermarket prices change continuously and there is a limit to how long basic commodities can continue to be subsidized. There are petrol shortages and pharmacies are also massively affected by the situation and many medications are not available.

Many School staff have indicated that they will be leaving Lebanon before the next academic year. This means many new staff will need to be appointed.

I would ask you to pray for a member of school staff who has struggled to manage a difficult home situation in addition to all the pandemic, social and personal pressures. There is limited access to mental health support in Lebanon and still a great deal of stigma associated with it. In addition, there is a shortage of suitable medications when it is required. Pray for peace despite the economic and political uncertainty. Pray for believers to remain hopeful and faithful in these challenging times. Finally, please pray that we would have continued opportunities to share the Good News in these days.

24/6/21

ANDREA SMITH

20TH

Isaiah 36:1 to 37:7

SRI LANKA Pop. 21 Mil. Colombo

Sri Lanka is in the midst of yet another lockdown. The virus-related restrictions have resulted in approximately one million people being driven into poverty within the island. They are earning less than the poverty threshold of US\$ 3.20 (£2.30) per day. In fact, many of them are unable to leave their homes due to very strictly enforced controls on the movement of people to prevent the spread of the virus. Most daily paid workers have already exhausted any savings that they may have had. As the country struggles financially, food prices are rising at an astronomical 9% a month. The government has banned most foreign imports to try and save the currency. Large numbers of

believers are caught up in this crisis. Having lost their jobs, they are unable to afford to purchase food and this is continuing to bring misery to their lives.

There are several believers who are working in the fishing industry, mainly on the East Coast of the island. Since the advent of the pandemic, the fishing industry has been decimated. Fishermen usually sell their fish to traders who bring the fish to a large fish market on the outskirts of Colombo. During the lockdowns, these traders are unable to travel to the fishing villages across the country. As a result, the fishermen do not have a way of selling their fish. All the brothers who are fishermen are currently unemployed and their boats are not in use.

On several occasions during the last year, the Lord has enabled us to provide food for families that have been in great need. Through a known contact, we were able to obtain a curfew pass for one of the brothers in the assembly who has a large truck. As a result, we have been able to send food to believers in the Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern provinces of the island. The food is delivered to local assemblies in the various areas and the local brethren have diligently distributed these supplies to all those in need. A typical food parcel contains 5Kg of rice, 5Kg of flour, 2Kg of dhal, sugar, tea, milk powder, noodles, canned fish, soya, soap, toothpaste, oil and some other dry rations. There have been many difficulties in this venture to help those in need, but the Lord has undertaken on every occasion to help remove the road blocks. This month we are again planning to distribute food to help all the families in need among the assemblies in the island.

7/6/21 BETHESDA GOSPEL HALL, COLOMBO

21ST

Isaiah 37:8-38

SRI LANKA Pop. 21 Mil. Colombo

There have been blessings in several areas across the island. In the village of Hakirilla, a young lady (21 years old) by the name of Ganesha Malshani, was marvellously saved last month. She has been regularly visiting the home of Harsha and Lalanthi. They have been sharing the gospel with her. They live in a very remote village in the centre of the Island, and they have been doing a tremendous outreach work in their village, including house to house tract distribution, despite much opposition. They have also been inviting acquaintances in the village to their home for meals, and then taking the opportunity to present the gospel. One of those contacts was Ganesha, and to the great joy of everyone, she repented of her sins and put her trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Similarly, we have heard reports of one soul being saved in the village of Badureliya in Southern Sri Lanka, and two souls being saved in the village of Vaddavan in Eastern Sri Lanka during the month of May. Please continue to pray for all the assemblies and the full-time workers as they diligently continue to spread the gospel, despite all the current restrictions.

The literature work is also flourishing and continuing to grow. Despite the restrictions in people's movements, we are continuing to get numerous requests for the assembly literature that we produce. We have had requests for 430 Sinhala and Tamil Bibles during the month of May alone, which is very encouraging. We value your prayers for the ongoing work here in Sri Lanka.

7/6/21 BETHESDA GOSPEL HALL, COLOMBO

22ND

Isaiah 38 & 39

IRELAND Pop. 4.8 Mil. UK 16 Gorey

Covid restrictions were finally lifted, albeit partially, in May. We are thankful that our building enables us to get everyone seated despite the distancing requirements and that the vast majority of the assembly are delighted to be able to be together again.

However, not all have weathered the last number of months well spiritually. Pray that the Lord would enable and restore.

Back in 2006 we began our first evangelistic Bible study around our kitchen table. Fifteen years later we have been back at the same table doing further studies but this time via computer. The 'Bible for Beginners' course ran for just over a year online, and finally concluded in May. It has been remarkable to see how the Lord has worked. On Tuesday evenings, we had up to 24 people join with us - a mixture of unsaved, backslidden and some young in the faith. We would appreciate **prayer** especially for:

- K, who professed faith during lockdown. She was so keen to come along on Sundays when lockdown lifted, and was greatly helped when she did. She is quite isolated as a believer and her shift patterns may make regular Sunday attendance challenging.
- Pray too for a young lad, K, who joined us online from Scotland. He has also joined some of our other online Bible studies, youth events, and Sunday meetings. He has no background in the gospel but has shown a great level of interest.
- Pray for B, who has had much exposure to the Bible for about 2 years but has only in the past few months began to reach out to talk a little more about spiritual matters.
- Pray also for S, who trusted Christ last year and was baptised with three others in May. He is a very sincere young man but faces several intense and challenging issues.
- Back in March it was a joy to be able to baptise L. She has been coming to studies and meetings for some time. A number of the ladies from the assembly have invested much time and care in her, and we were thrilled when she asked to be baptised. She is demonstrating a real heart to continue learning from the Word, practicing what she hears, and seeking ways to help practically among the other Christians.
- Pray for J, whose sister-in-law is in fellowship here. He is in his late 50's and has only a few months to live. He has been asking questions about the forgiveness of sins. Pray also for P, his brother, as he faces this tragedy, that he may come into the good of the salvation his wife knows so well.

C. 2003 6/6/21 MICHAEL & SHIRLEY McKILLEN

23RD

Isaiah 40

IRELAND Pop. 4.8 Mil. UK 16 Gorey

After five months of lockdown, it was particularly uplifting for us, as an assembly, to see E, S, G and M baptised at the end of May. E's parents have both come to know Christ over the last six years, so it was lovely to see someone from the next generation obeying the Lord. We got to know M and G last year. Both are young in the faith, with wonderful stories of salvation to tell, and a real desire to share the good news with others. A number of people commented how lovely it was to see a husband and wife baptised together. It is indeed the first time in 16 years here that we have seen that happen. Pray that all four of these young Believers might grow in grace and a knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We were glad that both S and G's parents came to see them being baptised. We also had a young Muslim lady attend, having been brought along by her flatmate. Naturally, all that she saw and heard was very new to her. She told her friend afterwards that she wanted to come back. Join with us in praying for a work of grace in her life.

Another encouragement during lockdown has been the development of a men's Bible study group. It started with three men last year and now there are six or seven who meet informally for two hours every Friday night to simply work through scripture together.

On the family front, Shirley's dad had made a small degree of recovery after falling and being hospitalised earlier this year. However, at the time of writing, we have just heard that he has fallen once more and has again been admitted to hospital. Michael's father also faces major health challenges. We deeply appreciate all those in Bangor and Ballymena who help and care. Thanks again for your continued interest and prayers.

C. 2003 6/6/21 MICHAEL & SHIRLEY McKILLEN

24TH

Isaiah 41:1-20

SPAIN Pop. 46.5 Mil. UK 8 Madrid

Over the last two weekends, we have had day trips to Navafria, a round trip of 170 miles to the other side of the Guadarrama mountains to the north of Madrid. Firstly, it was to see believers from the Ephesus Bible training project complete their courses. The second weekend visit was to meet up with other brethren involved in trying to purchase the building, to secure the venue for ongoing Bible training in the future. Pray with us, with thanksgiving for the steps already taken, and for wisdom in those yet to be taken for the advance of the Kingdom.

After consulting with a number of people connected with our ministry, we feel that the Lord has confirmed that it is time for us to move from the assembly at Alcalá to the assembly meeting in Vallecas. Whilst naturally disappointed, perhaps because some were thinking that after 25 years in the local church at Alcalá, we were set to be there for the rest of our days. The Lord has not finished with any of us yet, until He calls us home. But principally we feel an onward call to give greater priority to our responsibility to put in place successors to the Bible teaching work we do. We believe that the assembly at Vallecas, being in the centre of Madrid, is more closely associated with this work and are in contact with people who may also be able to help run the teaching, archives and publications connected with CEFB (Centro Evangélico de Formación Bíblica).

Both of us are in our 65th year! We are grateful to the Lord for a good measure of continued health and strength. Our move, God willing, will happen in September. Your prayers for this new challenge will be appreciated.

C. 1985 23/6/21 KEN & ALISON BARRETT

25TH

Isaiah 41:21 to 42:21

VENEZUELA Pop. 28.5 Mil. UK 7 Los Altos

After returning from Caracas following the major back surgery our niece Hannah Griffiths successfully underwent (see earlier article by Mr Noel McKeown), we joined gospel meetings in Piñantal. We are working alongside the Santa Fe and Zurita assemblies, alternating one week each. We had been praying for these meetings for a few months. Piñantal is a very remote area, and the roads to reach it are very bad. Very few vehicles can travel there due to the difficult terrain. Last week we went in a truck, alongside 2 donkeys and 2 mules that were being taken for selling. The Lord has allowed the local school to be loaned to us both for preaching and as lodgings, as there still aren't classes in schools in Venezuela.

Piñantal is a community bordering the Turimiquire dam, where people live off their crops. There is no phone signal, water is carried from the river in buckets and problems are solved with machetes! It is a very primitive way of living, even by our standards. We had previously visited a couple of times, but not for a series of meetings. Since the meetings began, many have shown an interest. The little school has 70 chairs and on occasion some have to stand as there isn't enough room; our group varies between 7 and 10 people, so the majority are locals.

Undoubtedly, living among these people during the week and sharing and helping in their daily activities creates a bond which breaks barriers and helps attendance. We have been very encouraged and found joy in this exercise, as the Lord, in his grace, has blessed the effort. Argenis (42), was the first to say he had been saved. A few days later Carlos (36), who had been attending every night, came to ask us if an illiterate man could go to heaven! That same night, he says he received the Lord as Saviour. Some others have professed, and we feel peace that God is working. The community itself now talks of the need for a site to build a little hall. We ask for your prayers for Piñantal. The meetings continue, we have been able to evangelize every house, and many nights we are happy to see a new face arriving to listen. It hasn't been easy being away from home without communication. Lois has the responsibility at home these days and it's not easy, but the Lord has kept us, and we continue to trust in Him. John is about to finish his first term at university. Alexa is wrapping up her final year of high school and presents her final project next week. Little Bethany is finishing up at primary; thankfully they are all better students than their father!

C. 2018 (Ven) 4/6/21 PEDRO & LOIS MALAVE

26TH

Isaiah 42:22 to 43:10

MALAWI Pop. 19 Mil. Writing from N Ireland

I have just returned from a most encouraging visit to Malawi, my first since February 2020. The main reasons for this trip were to help Anna (Vallance) get settled into her new home and environment, to look at the project site at Saidi for the first time and to meet and encourage many of SALT's partners in the work in Malawi.

As we travelled to Lilongwe, we used the opportunity to make a day-visit to the refugee camp at Dzaleka. It was a real thrill to watch the excitement of a brand-new borehole being drilled to provide a much-needed clean water supply at the School and Orphan-care campus run by Christian Orphan Organisation in Malawi (COOM). This borehole was generously funded by a SALT donor, for which we praise the Lord. It was a very special joy to leave 800 Swahili Bible Time children's lessons with Brother William Iyango, who heads the school and orphan-care work at Dzaleka. We plan to use the Swahili work to pilot Postal Bible School type ministry in the camp, with a view to rolling out more widely once the Chichewa translation is available.

C. 2003 23/6/21 STEPHEN & GAIL HARPER

27TH

Isaiah 43:11 to 44:5

MALAWI Pop. 19 Mil. Writing from N Ireland

A significant portion of my recent trip to Malawi was spent at the new development site at Saidi, just a short distance from where we made our home for so many years. Brother Goodson has been working hard in the locality, and it was a delight to sit down to a traditional lunch in his simple home on the site, with the Village Headman of Saidi, the Group Village Headman and representatives of several neighbouring villages all present. They were warm and welcoming, and we look forward to developing neighbourly relations with them.

Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom to effectively reach our community there. The most recent acquisition brings the total area to around 7.5 acres. It was great for me to see the land personally; walking the perimeter and the contours of the site helped give a better sense of its potential use. While at Saidi, work was begun on drilling a borehole to provide a clean water supply at the site. Storage and office accommodation for the translation and literature distribution work are top priorities, so we initiated a

project to build a loading bay and 18m x 14m concrete hard stand for three 40ft containers, one of which will be converted as office space. The whole area will be roofed and enclosed to double up as a secure temporary space for garaging vehicles. Our next priority is to continue with fencing the boundary and providing some additional security fencing and lighting to prevent opportunistic thieving.

Thereafter, the next phase will entail provision of suitable facilities for Gospel preaching and other community outreach.

In the meantime, Anna Vallance and Wati are making plans for a 3-day training seminar to roll out a pilot "Postal Bible School" (we're still thinking about a good local name) using Swahili Bible Time children's lessons at the Dzaleka camp. These are exciting times for the work in Malawi. With thanks again, for all your prayerful interest.

C. 2003 23/6/21

STEPHEN & GAIL HARPER

28TH

Isaiah 44:6-23

SRI LANKA Pop. 21 Mil. Writing from Scotland

Gerard is a full-time worker and an integral part of the Lord's work in Sri Lanka. He is also the brother who mainly drives visiting speakers around the island – an often dangerous but very valuable role, particularly before the pandemic struck. On Tuesday 15th June, Gerard was at the Bethesda Gospel Hall when he lost vision in one eye. He was taken to hospital and they told him a blood vessel had ruptured. By the following day, he had lost vision in both eyes. On Tuesday 22nd they successfully operated on Gerard's right eye. He is not allowed to use the right eye for approximately two weeks, returning to the hospital every few days for a check up. After two weeks they plan to operate on Gerard's left eye and perform another vitrectomy. Gerard and his family would appreciate your prayers, with the hope that, God willing, his sight will be restored again.

23/6/21

JACK & LILLIAN HAY

29TH

Isaiah 44:24 to 45:8

ROMANIA Pop. 19.5 Mil. UK 4 Ploiesti

Our work with the cancer patients staying next door keeps us very busy. We currently have Vasile, Elizabeta (a Hungarian speaker who does not know much Romanian!), Angela and Stefan. Please continue to pray for the valuable times we have with these dear folks as they pass through difficult times with fear and often pain as well. Pray for the opportunities we get to testify to them about the Lord.

It has been a year since Jenny was diagnosed with diabetes and she began all the clinical testing and injections and change of diet. We give thanks to the Lord that she is now feeling so much better and has higher energy levels, is sleeping better and has lost several kilogrammes as well! Thank you all for your prayers. We have had both of our Covid vaccinations now and are looking forward to the time when we can get back to visit friends and family in the UK. We have submitted our residency permit applications (following the Brexit situation) and have to wait until 11th July for them. Please pray that there will be no complications with the renewals.

C. 1992 21/6/21

TIM & JENNY GOODING

30TH

Isaiah 45:9-25

NEPAL Pop. 29.2 Mil. Writing from N Ireland

The believers at Dhulabari are continuing in their search to find a suitable site for a separate building for the assembly to meet. Two young couples have professed salvation recently, for which we give God thanks. However, with no background in the Christian Faith and due to the ongoing lockdown situation,

they are receiving little biblical teaching. They really need to be supported by our prayers at this time.

An 11 year old girl, Sweetina Tamang, also professed to be saved last week, which is wonderful news. Her aunt Chandra was instrumental in leading her to the Lord with her testimony and conversations. Pray that many more will come to Christ through the influence of saved relatives.

Nepal is currently ruled by a caretaker government. Fresh elections have been called, as the previous administration lost support and the confidence of the electorate. The country is in crisis, with schools also closed and examinations cancelled. Local assemblies are continuing to break bread, but all other meetings have been stopped until the lockdown is over.

4/6/21

CHARLES DAVIDSON (N Ireland)

31ST

Isaiah 46

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Vitoria

Once again, the distribution of vaccinations in Brazil has been greatly reduced. Just over 20% of the population has received the first vaccination and, under 9% the second dose. In some parts there is a shortage of oxygen and medications for the extremely ill.

On previous occasions we have mentioned Hebertr and his battle with cancer. Recently doctors discovered a number of tumors on his brain. At the moment he is having ten sessions of radiotherapy, one per day. He suffers from terrific headaches, but his faith is so vibrant. Please continue to pray for Hebertr, Roberta his wife and their two young children.

Katia, wife of our friend and fellow-worker, Jabesmar, is due to have a further consultation as a result of doctors finding a tumor. The waiting time is hard to endure. They have been in the thick of the battle. Our own daughter-in-law, Marisaura, should know the results of a recent biopsy soon. One well known brother from Petrópolis has Covid19 and is fighting for his life. One young Brazilian brother who serves the Lord in Bolivia, has recovered from Covid19, but now has pneumonia and his condition is serious. So many of the Lord's dear people are currently facing deep trials.

Dr. Jayro Gonçalves and his wife Urandy died within a few days of each other due to Covid 19. For many years he was chief advocate with Mercedes Benz, Brazil and had a company car with chauffeur at his disposal. Many times, on returning from work he would tell the chauffeur to stop outside some shanty town and would walk in until he found a strategic spot, preach the Gospel, and walk back to the car to complete his journey. He had a passion for souls and in his wide travels, led many to the Lord. I had the joy of sharing in conferences with him in many places. He was a remarkable brother.

C.1966 1/6/21 WALTER & ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

C=Date of Commendation

UK=Missionaries (approx.)

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