



# 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.*

1<sup>ST</sup>

Isaiah 47

### PANAMA Pop. 4.2 Mil. UK 4

Panama has lifted restrictions quite a bit; one unexpected outcome was that our Christmas cards started coming through! Apart from masks, the empty alcohol gel dispenser at the shop entrance and the broken thermometer, you would hardly know there is a pandemic. On the other hand, the people with cardboard signs requesting work have multiplied and there is nowhere near the traffic that there used to be, as people simply can't afford to put petrol in their car.

We have been able to meet since March. After not breaking bread for exactly one year, it was really nice to get back! It is hard however to get used to a return to meetings when half of the assembly that were part of it in early 2020 are no longer able to gather locally. Really hard. One sister passed away, with another two now too elderly to get out. The 2 families who migrated to the USA are doing well. Some will remember David who was here by himself for a year. He was able to go to Venezuela with Mayra's passport and we are so thankful they have been reunited. While they would like to remain in Panama, there are no visa options available to them. The current government is increasingly hostile to foreigners, particularly Venezuelans. We are thankful that what seems impossible to man is possible to God. The fourth family who are to leave us, are moving to Chiriqui and will be in fellowship with the assembly in Dolega. We are glad that all left/are leaving with good testimonies, but we really miss them. It's been hard on our children too, as they have so few good friends and it felt like they all left at the same time.

C. 2006 1/7/21 BYRNE & LOIS FORESHEW

2<sup>ND</sup>

Isaiah 48

### PANAMA Pop. 4.2 Mil. UK 4

While we feel we are about the only ones that follow the rules on gatherings, we continue to only meet on Sundays to break bread and on Wednesdays for prayer and bible study. Young people's and two ministry/Gospel meetings carry on via Zoom. The open-air meetings have been nice as people have stopped to listen, or at least turned down their music! One couple have shown an interest so maybe that will lead somewhere. He has been to the house with lots of questions and quite regularly comes onto the Zoom meeting.

We have asked permission to return to the orphanage. However, it's been a little discouraging that, while parties and football matches proceed, they won't give us the go ahead for a Bible Class. Sometimes we wonder what more we have to do after 10 years of trying to build relationships and helping out wherever we can; it's as if we never existed.

A couple of Tuesday nights ago, we learned that Mariceña's nephew, 29, had died. He hadn't felt well the previous day but continued with the planned birthday party for his young child. He told a cousin, Damaris, that once the child's party was over, he would walk with her to get 2 cases of beer. He fell in the bathroom during the party and a neighbour nurse offered to take him to the hospital in her car. By the time they got to the end of the street he had passed away. To avoid problems, she unloaded him onto the street in front of a corner shop. Both the man's mother and Damaris have been under the preaching of the Gospel. Please pray for both and the rest of the family.

C. 2006 1/7/21 BYRNE & LOIS FORESHEW

3<sup>RD</sup>

Isaiah 49

### BOTSWANA Pop. 2.4 Mil. UK 8 Gaborone

Thank you for praying about my Residence Permit situation. I have just heard that I have been given an extension of 5 years. Prince, the agent who has helped me through these 16 months has been invaluable. The unusual delay was due to Covid related problems. I am so grateful to God for this answer to prayer.

We are just in the middle of a spike of Covid cases. Thank you for praying for us, as we also had the virus. We are doing all we can to help those who are now going down with Covid. Hospitals are full and chemist supplies are depleting. For months we have prayed for doctors and nurses.....let us keep on praying! We have wonderful Christian doctors and nurses here in Botswana and thank God for them and the care we received. We are humbled and praise Him for such kindness. Thank you for your fellowship and love in Him.

C. 1990 19/7/21

JOY GRIFFITHS

4<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 50:1 to 51:8

### N. IRELAND Pop. 4.8 Mil. UK 16 Ballymena

The gradual lifting of 'lock-down' restrictions have seen a welcome shift away from 'on-line' ministry and gospel, back to a little travelling again in the Lord's work, and actual 'in-person' activity. A planned further trip to the south west of Ireland had been postponed since my last visit to Connaught Province in November 20. Now that both cross border movement (and camping) restrictions have been lifted, I was able to take a caravan and join up with brother Jonathan Goodwin (from Collooney Assembly) and base ourselves in Tipperary, so that we could move into some of the main towns in Munster Province for the first time. An area of great need and little assembly, or public testimony. We travelled extensively from early morning to late in the evening: Over 1,500 miles, 54 open air meetings in 26 towns, over 600 VIA magazines distributed and 40-50 N.T. packs handed out.

We cannot mention individual names in public, but towns where we had very meaningful conversations with some in real spiritual need included: Waterford, Mallow, Cork City, Skibbereen, Ballydehob, Listowel, Tralee, Cobh and Castlebar. Prayer for souls reached in those locations will be known by the Lord as to who the 'seekers' for truth are. We were greatly encouraged by liberty, favour, good weather, and an increasing 'ear' among the student generation for real 'truth'. Pray for the gospel in Eire, there are many believers in tiny unconnected groups, who are deeply encouraged to hear the gospel being preached on their home streets.

C. 2004 1/7/21

DAVID & HELEN MCKILLEN

5<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 51:9-23

**WALES Pop. 3.1 Mil. Pembrokeshire**

Progress on the renovation of the chapel we bought in Tenby has been slow but steady. If only contractors would turn up when they said they would! However, at the formal visit from the buildings inspector, he has indicated he is happy that we have met all the requirements and we will be given an occupation certificate which will allow us to use the premises. We are grateful to the Lord for this news! I have submitted the relevant certificate – electricity installation, boiler and plumbing, fire alarm system and lift commission – and we await his certificate.

We are hoping and praying that we will be able to open the chapel for our meetings by the end of this month. We are still meeting online at the moment, and very grateful for Zoom. The upstairs room in the chapel will be large enough to allow us to do social distancing as we ought. We have now carpeted it properly and put in the glass infills necessary to protect the windows. I have also applied to the council for a formal inspection to allow us to operate the cafe part of the bookshop. Again, we hope to be up and running by the end of the month.

The food bank which we run from a room at the back of the chapel continues to be busy. We have had a number of people in looking for food parcels, and that has given us opportunity to make contact with them. We hope this will result in them visiting us more regularly and possibly coming to our meetings.

1/7/21

IAN & REBECCA REES

6<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 52:1-12

**ALBANIA Pop. 3 Mil. UK 4 Tirana**

At the moment, beside the regular weekly engagements, I am busy with the proof reading of a book that we plan to publish soon. It deals with the differences between Israel and the Church, the importance of the subject on the interpreting framework of the Scriptures and the mistakes that the confusion of their places has produced during the centuries.

The kids have just finished school and are enjoying the summer break. We plan to spend some weeks in Northern Ireland and as always, the kids are looking forward to seeing their grandparents and extended family on the Irish side. We are pleased and thankful for their interest in spiritual matters and academically they all have made good progress this year also.

C. 2008 7/7/21

ENRIS & SYLVIA NASE

7<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12

**VENEZUELA Pop. 28.5 Mil. UK 7 Writing from N Ireland**

We are glad to be channels whereby the Christians in Venezuela are encouraged to receive a little practical aid to help them with the necessities of life. Many large boxes of good quality used shoes and clothing have been sent during our time at home over the past three years. The saints appreciate it all so much, as their wages are so small, and they would never be able to afford these things now. We have a team of brethren out there who are involved trying to distribute the aid systematically throughout the country among the Christians in fellowship.

Most of you will be already aware that we have been residing

temporarily in Northern Ireland since 2018 when I had to leave Venezuela due to health problems that arose after I got some tropical viruses. I still struggle with post-viral chronic fatigue and fibromyalgia, but I am thankful for all the improvement seen during this time of convalescence. I am glad my health improved sufficiently to allow me to share in three weeks drive-in Gospel Meetings in Bleary with Mr David Gilliland during the month of May.

We feel the Lord has allowed us to be here, especially to help with the work of sending aid to His dear people in Venezuela. It is something we never thought we would be involved in, but the Lord's ways are past finding out. However, we are aware that this is just a secondary occupation for us while we are here. We still have our home in Venezuela and we are waiting upon the Lord as to our future service. Our son Jonathan (18) hopes to enter university here in October, God willing. Your prayers for us as a family are valued.

C. 2003 1/7/21

STEPHEN & HELEN REDPATH

8<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 54

**ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Loloma**

Regarding our relocation to the United States due to our children's future and the care of Joy's mother, we are very thankful to confirm that Tim's visa process is complete and so he can now enter the States. We have therefore booked our flights from Lusaka on the 30th of September, so God willing we will arrive in the States on the 1st of October. We therefore value prayer for help and wisdom to complete the many things to be done before we leave. As mentioned previously, in the will of the Lord, Tim plans to return once or twice per year to Loloma in order to keep in touch with the work there and to assist as needed, as it is still very much on our hearts.

In terms of preparations for our leaving and handing over various responsibilities, the Lord has undertaken and raised up fellow believers to help in most areas. Thankfully, this covers the Loloma Mission Hospital, the bookshop and airstrip, the village for the elderly, assembly visitation, village outreach work and the boarding school at Kayombo.

We are still looking for the Lord's guidance in terms of some of the other responsibilities, such as:

- who Joy should hand over her Tuesday afternoon bible study to. She has a large group of young teenaged ladies who come, often 60-80, so a very valuable opportunity.
- Overseeing the maintenance work.
- Looking after the mission accounts.
- Overseeing the Nursery School.

In the will of the Lord even though we will be elsewhere for some years, our hearts are still in Zambia and so we will continue to assist as much as we are able with the various aspects of the work here.

We are thankful that the immigration permit application for the Andersons has been submitted, so God willing, are looking forward to them joining us at Loloma in the near future. The time that we will be able to spend with them is running down, so appreciate wisdom in using it correctly. We are sure that they will also appreciate your prayers as they settle into a new way of life, and the different opportunities that the Lord will provide for them here in His harvest field.

C. 1997 12/7/21

TIMOTHY & JOY BEER

9<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 55:1 to 56:8

**SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Moray**

We trust that saints continue to be conscious of the presence of the Lord during these prolonged days of uncertainty. We have had a few 'false dawns' as to when restrictions are finally going to be lifted.

I was able to have a short conversation with one of my long-standing contacts recently. I haven't seen him very often in recent months, but it was good to remind him of his need of salvation. We spoke about Sheila's mum, Cathie, who stayed across from his mum before she moved away. As I highlighted the brief time between Cathie's diagnosis and her passing, he commented on the suddenness of it all. I reminded him of the need to be ready. He is only too well aware of life's uncertainty, both in his own life experience and the many of his acquaintances who have died suddenly. We continue to pray that the Spirit will use the scriptures quoted over many years, as well as the recent conversation to bring about conviction and salvation. I also had a brief conversation with a lady to whom I gave a Bible last year. Although there wasn't much spiritual content to our conversation, we pray that through the fresh contact, the Spirit will remind her of previous conversations and the Bible lying in her home.

As a family we continue to value your prayers. As mentioned earlier Sheila's mum was called home at the end of May. It was less than a week before this that our eldest daughter, Eunice was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had her surgery last week to remove the lump and will commence chemotherapy in a few weeks time. We not only ask for prayer for her physical condition, but also that through this difficult experience she might be restored to the Lord and that her husband will be drawn to the Lord for salvation.

9/7/21

AINSLIE &amp; SHELIA PATERSON

10<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 56:9 to 57:21

**ZIMBABWE Pop. 15 Mil. UK 7 Bulawayo**

Food distributions to the needy here in Bulawayo continue, as we have police permission to do so. We distribute to different recipients each week so that we do not have a large gathering at the church.

As covid restrictions have now been eased, I am able to go to an evening home Bible study, at which I have been asked to go through the book of Revelation with them. We have animated participation and discussions going through the text. It looks like we might be taking some time to get through the book. My son Drew, who went through a covid infection in January, has recovered well.

I am glad for the opportunity to continue teaching at the college. In the middle of March we were able to hold exams. The college still does not hold normal classes, as teaching is still conducted through the internet. This is in part because most of the students come from other places around the country. The college is not able to offer accommodation to them at this time, though it is hoped that they will do so in the future.

The main covid restriction still in force is the need to wear a mask in public places. Restaurants were allowed to open for a while but are now closed again as we go through renewed restrictions. Churches are now closed, after having been allowed to have 50 attend. Land borders are restricted. Special permission is required, such as for medical reasons, when travelling by road over the border.

C. 1976 5/7/21

DERYCK JONES

11<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 58

**ALBANIA Pop. 3 Mil. UK 4 Shkoder**

We are thankful for 3 baptisms that took place in July. We are also hoping to have more baptisms in September.

It is good to see the Lord working to convict and give the desire to new believers to be obedient to our Lord. Please pray for them as they start to serve in the life of the local church community.

Please also pray for the re-start of the children's outreach in September. We also had developed a good work with the mums pre-covid, so we pray that this work will continue and grow as we begin again.

C. 1997 8/7/21

COLIN &amp; ELIDA STEPHEN

12<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 59

**SOUTH AFRICA Pop. 58 Mil. UK 7 George**

All praise and glory to our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ, may we keep our hearts and focus fixed on Him. We are grateful for 13 years here in the work of the Lord in George and 21 years fulltime; the Lord is faithful! We are thankful, until 2 weeks ago, for the continued gatherings for the breaking of bread, prayer and Bible study, before stricter lockdown was implemented. No gatherings are allowed at present, but this will be reassessed after two weeks. Sadly, a sister in the assembly lost her brother to Covid and an elderly brother, Graham Davis, who has been in George now for about 9 years, went into hospital in the afternoon and went to be with his Lord, that evening, also as a result of the virus. His grandson, Matthew (13), stayed with him and his wife. He is also in fellowship in the assembly. Please pray for him as this is a huge shock for him.

We are so thankful for a young sister who was coming into fellowship, but then lockdown was implemented. Please pray for her family with many difficulties. Her husband is unsaved, she has three children, the oldest is adopted out of a drug den, where her mum died. Sadly, her two brothers are also involved in drugs and stay on the same plot. This is a cause of great concern for her, with the little ones and her elderly mum. Please pray that the Lord will open a way for her to get out of this situation.

Please also continue to remember our family in prayer.

C. 2000 (SA)

12/7/21

ROBIN &amp; MARY ROSSOUW

13<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 60

**N. Ireland Pop. 1.8 Mil. Ballyclare**

As well having Drive-in meetings in various places, I have recently been engaged in door-to-door visitation in a town beside us. Please pray for Johnny, who, after an interesting conversation, confirmed that he was not a Christian. He then took the Gospel card I was handing out. I also came across two workmen, who both took my Gospel card. I gave £5 to one of them and said 'that's a gift, get yourselves some sandwiches'. They thanked me very much, and immediately I had their attention. I told them that I had received a much greater gift and that they could also receive it, then proceeded to tell them of God's unspeakable gift. One was very interested. He said he would put the card up in his van and read it. His name is Niall. The other was David. Please remember both in your prayers.

I have also been trying to renovate a little hall in the South near where we used to live. It is about a 200 mile round trip. Once restrictions are lifted, we hope to use it for meetings. Last Friday, as I was painting the outside of the hall, a man stopped to chat. The first thing he said was, 'is it right that if I die not saved, I

will be in Hell?'. As you can imagine, this led to a private Gospel meeting leaning on the wall outside the hall. He has offered to come and help me, and wants to come to the meetings when they start; his name is Raymond. He is 46 and used to come to Gospel meetings that we had almost thirty years ago. Recently I have spoken to his father and his two uncles. Perhaps God is working!

Alfie Gregg and I visited a village in the West coast of Bonnie Scotland recently. The folks were more than friendly and glad to see us again. A number brought me in and said if we had meetings they would come. We trust that the restrictions will soon be lifted and that meetings will be possible. God is able!

C. 1991 7/7/21 TERRY & CHERYL TOPLEY

14<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 61

**ARGENTINA Pop. 45 Mil. UK 5 Parana**

We thank God for each one of you who uphold us in prayer.

We've not been able to hold our Bible Study groups since the beginning of May and can only currently fill the hall to 30% of the capacity (when allowed - some weeks yes, some weeks no!). So, we transmit the meetings by Facebook as well. We thank the Lord we were able to have the baptisms and our assembly Anniversary before the new regulations were imposed.

Julían and Valentina's baby was born premature on 7th June weighing 2.25kg but seems to have no brain damage and is coming on. They asked me to thank everyone for praying for them.

In the last few months, we've seen many friends struggle through Covid19; some have gone to be with the Lord. The most affected by the new variety seems to be young men (30-40 range). Marcelo, the director of our online radio, was in hospital for over a fortnight and he was in optimum physical health (he works in the Army).

We plan to start the School for Growth this month. Pray for this new challenge, and that believers will enrol to know more of God and His Word.

In Estación Parera we continue with the soup kitchen. We would ask you to pray for us as we seek guidance in helping with the ongoing changes and challenges in the assembly. Also, remember Heber as he writes a daily devotional (El canto del Gallo) that is really for the spiritual growth of our own assembly and at least one programme for the radio/tv a week. Both have quite a wide reach now.

C. 1999 8/7/21 HEBER & FIONA GALLITO

15<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 62:1 to 63:14

**N. Ireland Pop. 1.8 Mil. Magherafelt**

Much as I would like to report how busy I am and how well things are going, unfortunately I can't. Along with brother Leslie Craig we continue to preach each Sunday in the drive in meeting at Magherafelt unless asked elsewhere, at which point other brethren step in for us. Our numbers, while not very large, are reasonable and we continue to be encouraged with the few unsaved that come, as well as through the interest shown by other believers. Neighbours are standing out sometimes and people walk by, so you hope they hear something. Locally, the assembly have appreciated our continuing presence over these past months of restricted movement and it is my joy to help at home in all of the assembly meetings. It is good to at least feel a little useful somewhere. Sadly, a couple of weeks ago we laid to rest our dear brother Sammy Redfern, age 65, after his difficult battle with cancer. A valued member of Magherafelt assembly, whom we have missed during his illness and continue to miss very much.

The last two weeks of April I was privileged to lead two weeks of Bible readings with the Clonkeen assembly in their hall in Randalstown. These were on John 13-15. Participation was good and I felt we had a profitable time. Yesterday, July 12th, I was one of three speakers at Dunmullan drive in ministry meeting, which was in place of their normal conference in the tent beside their hall. A reasonable number were present and brethren Elton Fairfield and Colin Hutchinson shared in the ministry.

Due to the continuing uneasiness over Covid, I decided to pull together a list of postal addresses in my local country area and am distributing some literature by post. You hope that in 'sowing seed' someone may respond.

C. 2003 14/7/21 AARON & EUNICE COLGAN

16<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 63:15 to 64:12

**ARMENIA Pop. 32 Mil. UK 4 Writing from Ireland**

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the Camp youth work is going ahead this year in Stepanavan, Northern Armenia. At present the brethren are up there preparing the site, as repairs were required. The old timber bridge crossing the stream had to be replaced and some fencing had also rotted over the years.

The camps commence on the 12th of this month and continue until the 31<sup>st</sup>, God willing, 3 weeks of three different age groups of children. They hope then to bring some of the elderly saints from Yerevan and Divin to the site for a few days break. I was there for that in the past and it was a very profitable exercise.

Your prayer support for this work, the ongoing impact of God's Word in the lives of these children, and for Armenia generally is valued.

9/7/21

WENDALL WEBB

17<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 65

**IRELAND Pop. 4.8 Mil. UK 16 Kilmeedy**

Due to covid-19, there have been no events or shows to attend since the National Ploughing Championships in September 2019. We continue to pray for the many people who have received literature over the years and give thanks for the two reply cards received in the post recently from people requesting more information and literature. Please pray with us that we will see the restart of shows and events in 2022 to enable us to attend and distribute literature and John 3:16 bags, God willing.

We have been accepted to have a stand at the Balmoral Show in Belfast from the 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of September this year. Please pray as we prepare to attend this show to share the gospel with the Gospel Literature Ireland stand.

C. 2006 15/7/21 ANDREW & GILLIAN SHANKS

18<sup>TH</sup>

Isaiah 66

**MEXICO Pop. 126 Mil. UK 4 Cancun Qta. Roo**

In keeping with the local government guidelines for public gatherings, the assembly continues to gather for its regular meetings. We meet for the Breaking of Bread each Sunday morning and the Gospel meeting on Sunday evening. We have two mid-week meetings, Tuesday and Thursday, which include prayer and ministry. We are still unable to have Sunday school at the hall but we have a virtual class via Zoom each Sunday afternoon.

At the beginning of May, we enjoyed the visit of my parents, Sidney & Ruth Turkington (Battle Creek, Michigan). Dad's help was appreciated with preaching and teaching at the different

meetings. At the beginning of June, we enjoyed a short visit from Jason & Shelley Wahls (Zacatecas, Mexico). The believers were encouraged by his teaching. The regular Sunday night Gospel meeting has been well attended by some unsaved. Two couples have started attending and are listening well to the gospel. Tourists continue to arrive in Cancun, which is helpful for the economy. Hotels are allowed 50% occupancy. Recently, there has been a daily increase of local COVID-19 cases. The local government has not issued a total lockdown yet. Vaccines are now being administered to most age groups.

The believers are doing well and attending the meetings with consistency. Several have been sick with the virus but have recovered, thankfully. We continue to pray for the family members of the believers who are still not saved. As a family, we are keeping well. We are currently in Zacatecas visiting Jason and Shelley, helping with a two-week Gospel series. The cooler temperatures are very enjoyable.

C. 2019 (Ven) 13/7/21 TIMOTHY & AMY TURKINGTON

19<sup>TH</sup>

Micah 1 & 2

**SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Perth**

Last month I produced a new edition of our community magazine, "The Signpost" which we've now distributed to around 4,000 local homes. I've also just put together another edition for distribution in some of the local villages over the coming weeks. As is usually the case, a few people have made contact as a result of the distribution, which is always encouraging.

We've also recently been able to recommence our summer football outreach after being unable to run it last year. So far we've had 15-20 lads attending each week who are in their 20s and 30s. They listen well to the Gospel every Tuesday evening and we continue to pray for a breakthrough in salvation!

Our weekly soup kitchens on Monday evenings and Tuesday afternoons also continue, with about 25 people attending each week at the moment. Attention to the Gospel is usually very good and some of the folk have also been joining us at the Hall on Sundays recently. We have been able to recommence our Youth Café on Friday afternoons too. We run this using my trailer at a local park. A couple of years ago we had loads of local kids coming along to it, but as we were unable to run it last year, it has really been like starting from scratch again.

Since mid May we've been running an outreach called 'Good News in the Garden' on Sunday afternoons. We set out tables and chairs in the garden area of the Hall and serve tea and coffee before sharing two short Gospel messages. The format seems to be working well and we've had about 40 different people along so far. What has been particularly encouraging is that along with existing contacts, a good number of those attending had never been to the Hall before, and several others have only attended very infrequently in the past. Your prayerful interest in the ongoing work in Perth and surrounding areas is appreciated.

C. 2015 1/7/21 GARETH EDWARDS

20<sup>TH</sup>

Micah 3:1 to 4:8

**UKRAINE Pop. 44 Mil. UK 4 Lviv**

Although there are still many restrictions in Lviv due to Covid, we are delighted that all 8 orphanages that we are involved with have opened up again for the preaching of the Gospel. We are so encouraged at the welcome by management, staff and children and the attention to the Word of God and the willingness to repeat and learn the Scriptures of Truth.

Also, we have been visiting in the villages of the Carpathian mountains, and recently had over 30 at the open air meeting, which was conducted at a bus shelter. Interestingly, we were there for one hour and not one car or bus passed by. You can imagine this is the 'back of beyond'. Our contact in Holavetsk village, Natalia, recently buried her sister Ira. She was only 56 and had in the past 10 years listened to the Gospel many times - we must leave her with the Lord.

C. 2010 6/7/21 EDMUND & AGNES JOHNSTON

21<sup>ST</sup>

Micah 4:9 to 5:15

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

We left Scotland 48 years ago on this very date (29th June 1973), to come to France. As we look back over all these years, our hearts are so full of praise for the goodness, kindness and faithfulness of our great God.

The outreach and praise gathering on Saturday 26th went really well and a big 'thank you' to all those who prayed for this. We had a lovely time of praise and worship and again several unsaved were present. We even had the privilege of praying with some of them who are really seeking. Members of the assembly continue to follow them up and maintain contact with them and we pray for their conversion.

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, a new venture will be starting, that of a get together for couples called 'Open Hearts'. A young couple in the church, just over two years married, had a burden about this and suggested it. Different aspects of marriage will be spoken about and experienced couples from the church will handle the different subjects. The first session 'The foundations of marriage' will be dealt with by a couple with 30 years of marriage experience. It will be open to everybody, and there may be some non-Christians there too. Please pray for this venture as these things are very important, especially in today's society.

On a personal note, you may remember us mentioning the fact that we were intending coming over to Scotland this summer. We have decided to cancel this trip as we feel that there are still too many restrictions in place in order to make the travelling worthwhile.

We are of course a bit disappointed, but we really felt that this was the right thing for us at this time.

We thank you again for your prayers and practical fellowship with us in the work here. We greatly appreciate this.

C. 1973 2/7/21 GRAHAM & ALISON BLACK

22<sup>ND</sup>

Micah 6

**SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Forres**

Life has been strange in many ways for us during the pandemic, and the last couple of months have been particularly eventful.

Brother Sam Matthews, a full-time personal worker and evangelist, who had been in the assembly in Forres for 76 years, was called home at the beginning of May. In clearing out his house and removing a bookcase, I tripped over a planter and fell awkwardly, breaking my left arm in two places. I had surgery the following day to fix the bones with titanium plates, but my stay in hospital meant I missed Sam's funeral. Two days before I was due to get my plaster and stitches removed, one of our sisters, Cathie Kerr, was called Home. She was the paternal granny to our daughter-in-law Rachel, and a very consistent and faithful sister. With Cathie's funeral past, I turned my attention to a month's backlog of correspondence - but then word came that a dear sister

from Northern Ireland, Jennie Deyermund, had been called home and had left instructions for me to speak at her burial! The C-19 restrictions meant that my only option was to go over and back on the ferry – a four-day round trip – to avoid travelling on the Lord's Day and missing the meetings.

Meanwhile, after several months of preparation with the help of my son Andrew, I am using a purpose built studio in a room of the Gospel Hall to record sessions of consecutive ministry in video format. We plan to 'go live' in the near future, God willing. The format of each video will allow the addition of foreign language sub-titles provided by local brethren in many regions of India, as well as in Sri Lanka and Burma. There are also believers with whom we have contact in the west of Scotland who have no assembly connections, and no assembly in that region with which they can meet. They are keen to be taught, but planned meetings last year had to be cancelled. By means of the video series, and with the help of the Lord, the work of teaching the saints in various regions of Asia, as well as in the west of Scotland and elsewhere, can continue.

13/7/21

PHIL & RACHEL COULSON

23<sup>RD</sup>

Micah 7

### INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Gantok

Gantok is the capital of the mountainous northern Indian state of Sikkim. From November to March, the state of Sikkim was more or less open, and we were again gathering physically. However, at the beginning of April when the disastrous second wave in India began, the lockdown was restarted and we have been under varying degrees of lockdown ever since. Sikkim is reportedly the worst hit state in India right now, with the highest positivity rate and the lowest recovery rate. Sikkim has lost a lot of young people between their 20s-50s to Covid-19.

However, one of the biggest worries for us has been the abrupt suspension of the gospel work that we had started in Jorethang, South Sikkim. Due to intra-district travel being banned, this work could not continue. Contacts from there continue to attend meetings online but we are sorry that we cannot have physical contact, which is so important in a new work. The assembly has been praying about commending brother Peter Gurung, a visually challenged brother, to this work. Brother Peter has been one of the most evangelistic witnesses of the Lord for decades. Although originally from Sikkim, he was living with his wife in South India until his wife went to be with the Lord two years ago. He is presently staying with us and has been a huge help in the ministry.

Of the four converts during the Covid pandemic, two are doing very well – Sahil and Anil, both from Chinje. A young girl, Punam, works in the police department. Brother Sanjay is in touch with her but we have not been able to meet her. She is apparently doing well. Unfortunately, Saroj, a drug addict had terrible withdrawal symptoms and went back into substance abuse. His biggest issue is a complete lack of family support. He is literally homeless as none of his family members can manage him.

8/7/21 Forwarded by CHARLES DAVIDSON (N Ireland)

24<sup>TH</sup>

Nahum 1

### INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Gantok

We are currently developing a campsite/conference centre at Chinje, on the plot of land where the assembly gathers. In the past, we rented different Christian school facilities for camps and conferences but now it has become more difficult to do so.

This campsite will be a huge blessing as it is our own and designed

according to our need. We are developing a small children's playground on the site, which, despite being incomplete, is already attracting many local children. The sisters are hopeful that when things open up, a more vibrant Sunday school work will be possible in the village, with children coming for a short time of play and then staying for a lesson. Interestingly, although Sikkim is considered to be a more developed state in India, there is no children's playground in the state.

Despite being in lockdown we have been able to hire welders and a local brother is doing the masonry work. Another brother from Gangtok, a plumber, has been doing the plumbing work voluntarily. Apart from the skilled labourers, in recent weeks as things have opened a little, a number of believers from Gangtok and Chinje have volunteered. Some believers sponsor a meal and with a team of close to 30 working on these days, a lot of the manual labour has been accomplished.

Our Zoom meetings during this lockdown have been better attended. The number of participants have gone up from 25 or so to 35. Also, many of our gospel contacts from Nezi (Darjeeling) and Jiwan's father's native village have been attending. Interestingly, the brother of Omprakash, one of our elders, called Deomani, a school teacher, has been regularly attending the meetings, including the ministry meetings. Something is happening to him because he was never interested in the past. Yogesh Pradhan, another Nezi contact who has alcohol issues, has been attending gospel meetings regularly as well. We all have much to be encouraged by and also much to pray for in the work of the Lord in Sikkim and West Bengal.

8/7/21 Forwarded by CHARLES DAVIDSON (N Ireland)

25<sup>TH</sup>

Nahum 2 & 3

### BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Pirassununga

Yesterday the final draft of 'Exodus', from the 'What the Bible Teaches' Ritchie Commentaries, was approved in Portuguese. We are confident that, barring any unexpected problems, we should be distributing this book before the end of July. We thank the Lord for another volume published.

Here in Pirassununga we are still under restrictions due to COVID. Until the 15th of July, at least, no gatherings in private houses are allowed, but we can still meet in the Hall (observing limited hours, limited seating, use of masks, etc.). Vaccination is slowly progressing; Elen and I had our first dose of the Oxford vaccine a couple of weeks ago.

Yesterday someone stole the external electrical wiring from the Hall - just a few metres of copper wire, which were probably sold to recyclers to buy a small quantity of drugs. It's just a minor annoyance to us and easily fixed, but it highlights the terrible effects of sin in our society.

We continue with the daily text messages via WhatsApp, to try and help all the believers in our region. Please pray for the nine assemblies here, that this present experience might strengthen us all.  
C. 1998 1/7/21 BILL & ELEN WATTERSON

26<sup>TH</sup>

Habakkuk 1

### VENEZUELA Pop. 28.5 Mil. UK 7 Writing from N Ireland

The two main non-spiritual needs in Venezuela continues to be food and medicine. Thankfully these are now available in the country, but sadly, at a price that most are not able to afford.

The Lord has been most gracious to His people in Venezuela in that he has touched the hearts of many of His dear people to

contribute to their needs. Since the beginning of this year, we have been able to help many families from about 150 assemblies in many areas of the country. We are thankful to the Lord for good and responsible brethren in Venezuela from different areas, who are willing to buy food and medicine to be distributed to the believers. There are several doctors in assembly fellowship who are helping regarding which medicines should be purchased and how they are to be used by those Christians who have Covid. Our son Samuel has helped with the distribution, as he is in Venezuela and is aware of the areas where there is the greatest need. Each family will receive a good supply of the basic food items plus a chicken, one kilo of meat and a tray of eggs. These are things that for most are a luxury as they are not able to afford them.

The situation in the country continues to deteriorate. Please continue to pray for Venezuela. A change is urgently needed and only God in His sovereign will knows how to bring it about.

We have been saddened to know of several dear believers who have been taken home to glory as the result of the pandemic. This past week, three members of the assembly at San Fernando passed away. One of these was a good sister who we have known for more than 50 years. She was one of the first to get saved when the work commenced there.

Our desire is to return to Venezuela, but presently it is not possible, nor would it be wise. We are thankful for the measure of health we enjoy and look to the Lord, in His will, to open the way for us to be back in our beloved Venezuela. We continue to appreciate your prayer for us.

C. 1968 9/7/21

UEL & RAY USSHER

27<sup>TH</sup>

Habakkuk 2

**NEPAL Pop. 29 Mil. Aiyabari**

*Tribute to our dear sister Karkimaya Limbu*

*Called Home : 10 July 2021*

The heart wrenching news of our dear sister, Karkimaya Limbu's homecall yesterday has caused deep pain in our hearts. Like Mary of Bethany in the New Testament, she was known for her passionate interest in the Word of God. I remember seeing her seated in the front rows at meetings, with her eyes glued to the speaker. It can be said about her, that she was never tired of listening to the Word of God.

She was also a believer filled with a genuine deep love for the people of God. When any conference ended, as the believers began to make their way back to their homes, she would stand at the gate weeping, her heart saddened by the fact that it would be some time before they could meet again. The void felt in the Aiyabari assembly and amongst us will never be filled.

She was one of the believers who had trusted the Lord during the time of the monarchy in Nepal. She had been through the worst persecution of the day at the hands of the administration and society. During those days, one could be jailed or even beheaded for their Christian faith. Many of her contemporary male believers were jailed at that time. Many Christian families were chased out of their homes in Furketaar and the persecutors would destroy their harvest and slaughter their goats and pigs and distribute them among themselves. Karkimaya had to live in caves with other saints for several weeks. Her husband, Bhaktabadur was beaten up and one of their daughter's, Neha, was literally thrown into the fire. By God's grace, she was miraculously preserved. When the persecution became unbearable, many Christian families left

the hill village of Furketaar and settled in a small village in the plains of Aiyabari.

The Lord, in His grace, established the first assembly in Furketaar among those who had stayed back, and in due course of time, another assembly was planted in Aiyabari.

Sister Karkimaya was one of the most prominent believers who laboured with the saints there. She was known for her simple faith and complete devotion to God's Word. During the early days of her Christian life, brother Raghu had preached from the parable of the 10 virgins. After the ministry was finished, she went home and lit her oil lamp and waited for the Lord to come the whole night! Later on, when she was teased by other believers, she realized that the teaching had to be taken figuratively. She was embarrassed but in her simple faith and humility, she never felt shy to share the story with other believers. She always said, 'You need to teach us the Word patiently because our level of understanding is very poor'.

The homecall of our dear sister has grieved our hearts beyond words. I personally remember many joyous hours spent gathered around brother Bhim's traditional fireplace, when our conversation would go late into the night. Brother Bhim, his wife (sister Chandrawati) and sister Karkimaya and I would talk and talk and talk. It makes me weep to write this out – but what a hope we have that one day, very soon, we will be gathered – not around Brother Bhim's fireplace, but on the banks of the Jasper Sea. Sister Karkimaya is survived by her husband, Bhaktabadur and daughters Neha, Esther and Kabita and son, Dinesh.

11/7/21

CHARLES DAVIDSON (N Ireland)

28<sup>TH</sup>

Habakkuk 3

**N. Ireland Pop. 1.8 Mil. Belfast**

We are living in very strange and uncertain times; however, we can say with the Psalmist 'our times are in Thy hands'. Although so many are isolating, yet with the benefit of modern technology, we can all keep in touch one way or another.

Indeed, in recent months when I have been unable to make my usual visits to Galway and Donegal in Southern Ireland due to Covid and health issues, I have kept in touch by telephone and WhatsApp. Some are isolated believers and others are not yet saved but interested.

We have been greatly encouraged during the past twelve months to hear of a dear lady whom we have known for over thirty years and who has attended many meetings, including our monthly gospel meeting in Creeslough, tell us that she has trusted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour. The change is evident, and we were delighted to meet her last week.

Also, a young man that we had lost touch with, and who had done the Postal Sunday School lessons with us for a number of years, told me on the phone that he was now saved. It was obvious that he was now enjoying salvation. Indeed, a few weeks ago he married a fine Christian young lady. It encourages us to keep on sowing the Good Seed; in due season we shall reap!

It has now been six months since my last major surgery for bowel cancer. I'm very pleased to be feeling better and my energy has increased somewhat in recent weeks. We have much for which to praise the Lord, and look to Him each day for much needed grace.

C. 1966 5/7/21

SAM & JOAN PATERSON

**ANGOLA Pop. 32 Mil. UK 4 Writing from Canada**

My heart was cheered by a thought that a young brother in our assembly shared recently. He was tracing the theme of waters through the Bible and observed that God does not usually lift His people out of the danger but takes them through the waters. Many times I have heard believers praying to God to remove a difficulty, and I have prayed them myself, but the testimony of God's Word is that He often chooses to take us through difficulties and reveal His power and love to us 'in the waters'. Christ's prayer on our behalf captures this truth powerfully: "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them..." (John 17:15). We can all rejoice that we have a God who walks with us through the challenges of life.

It is encouraging to see some travel restrictions being eased, so I am embarking on another adventure. We would appreciate prayer as I have booked a return trip to Angola for 11<sup>th</sup> July for 5 weeks. Our visas for Angola have expired, but we found a reliable source of information that indicates the expired visas will be honoured until the end of July this year, so we plan to push ahead while the door is open. Once in Angola, I am not certain whether I will be restricted to the capital city of Luanda, or if I will be allowed to drive to Biula where our home is. The principal point of this trip is to renew visas for Elizabeth and myself for the next year. The yearly visa renewals are always a difficult process and may be especially so at this time, so we ask for your prayers about this matter. There are a lot of uncertainties in this trip so pray that Elizabeth and I will not become anxious about the many 'what ifs' that are out of our control!

We have just passed the one year point since our arrival back in Canada from Angola. We thank the Lord for all He has done for us. Our family has transitioned well and continues to adapt to life in Canada.

Pray for God's working in and through us in coming weeks, for Elizabeth and the children staying in Canada, and myself returning to Angola shortly.

C.2012 (Can) 2/7/21 SAM & ELIZABETH SIMONE-GINDELE

**N. Ireland Pop. 1.8 Mil. Belfast Postal Bible School**

The work of the Belfast Postal Bible School has continued again this year both in schools and by post. Our postal students are all very consistent in completing their lessons, with a faithful team marking these every month.

The work in the schools has been encouraging, with almost 2,200 pupils in 9 schools in the Belfast and Larne areas of N Ireland continuing to use the lessons every month. During lockdown some of the larger schools included the Bibletime booklets in their home school packs. All children received a book or pen at the beginning of June for lessons completed during the school year.

We are encouraged as we try to expand the work in the schools, contacting more primary schools in the Belfast area in recent weeks. We would request prayer that the schools contacted will take up the offer of this free resource for the coming academic year and that through the Bibletime lessons, many teachers and pupils will hear about the Lord Jesus Christ and trust Him as their Saviour.

We have been uplifted in recent months to remember that the

'Word of God is not bound' (2 Tim 2 v 9) and that 'My Word shall not return to me void' (Isaiah 55 v 11). While the door is open in primary schools presently to spread the Word of God, may we be faithful in sowing the seed and watering it with our prayers, knowing that it is 'God that giveth the increase' (1 Cor 3 v 7).

1/7/21

BRIAN & JANET WILKINSON

**BELGIUM Pop. 11.5 Mil. UK 1 Assebroek**

Thank you for your prayers during the last few months. Like everywhere else, we are adapting to life with less covid restrictions. It is nice to be able to meet in person at church again. Thank you too to those of you who asked about how I am because of the recent flooding in Belgium and elsewhere. I am quite a distance away from the flooded area and have not been affected. It must be an awful time for those who have been.

Yesterday, I spoke to a woman I have discipleship conversations with regularly. When she became a believer about 30 years ago, all she was taught was that her sins were forgiven. She was not taught how the Lord changes us as He sanctifies us. During our conversation, she was thanking the Lord that His work in our lives is much more extensive and life-giving than she had ever realised.

Last week, I was deeply touched as I met with a young woman who rebelled against her Christian upbringing when she was a teenager. She has recently started to pray and listen to the Bible again. Please pray for her to truly come through to know the Lord.

Please keep praying for the times I meet with many other individual women who have asked for help with depression, addictions, and abuse.

Recently, I was asked to help and mentor some sisters in Canada and Sweden. The woman in Sweden is learning about how to help others. Sweden is known to be the most secular nation in the world. It would be phenomenal to see something set up to help people grow in the Lord and see their lives changed.

Thank you for your faithful prayers for the Lord's work over many years. I truly appreciate them.

C. 1999 19/7/21

ANNE DRYBURGH

C=Date of Commendation

UK=Missionaries (approx.)

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