



LOOK ON THE FIELDS

ITEMS FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE

With Daily Scripture Readings

1ST

Matthew 1

BOTSWANA Pop. 2.4 Mil. UK 8 Gaborone

For many years Hazel has held a Sunday school in the Old Naledi district of Gaborone. It would be one of the poorer areas of the city but we have some good friends there. A dear lady allows us to use her yard every Saturday morning to teach the boys and girls. One of her adult neighbours who also attends the Sunday school has a granddaughter called Yame. The little girl's story is a tragic one: she suffers from recurrent pharyngeal growths that require laser treatment under general anaesthetic every few weeks. She has had multiple surgeries but remains a sweet and affectionate little girl with a very hoarse voice! Please pray for Yame.

A new childcare centre has been opened in the same area allowing single mothers to seek work. The carers and children meet in a tin hut and had an old carpet for seating and one football to share among them. We visited them recently and now they have some chairs, tables, and toys. Life is hard in Old Naledi.

C. 1982 1/12/21 CLARK & HAZEL LOGAN

2ND

Matthew 2

N. Ireland Pop. 1.8 Mil. Tandragee, Co. Armagh

I am not long finished at Kilwaughter (Larne) with David Strahan. We had gospel meetings indoors in Kilwaughter Village Hall. The venue was perfect for meetings and there was a steady flow of local community interest. We are taught our weakness again and again, yet recent news of salvation there has given us fresh courage to hold on to the Lord of the Harvest for promised blessing on His word. It is not easy to leave others who are evidently stirred up and still not saved.

Our three little ones are growing up quickly with Lloyd and Ella Rose in P1 and P2. Charlotte is still at home. We would love to see the new generation all saved and going on. I remember Mr. Ferguson coming out of the Saturday night meetings and stopping with a group of us as boys and saying, 'our hope for years to come'. God is able and is still at work.

The Covid journey has been most unusual and has been a time of testing in many ways. How precious to join with Moses in Psalm 90 and find our refuge in the One who *has been our dwelling place through all generations*.

C. 2019 1/12/21 RAYMOND & LOUISA KIRKPATRICK

3RD

Matthew 3

PANAMA Pop. 4.2 Mil. UK 4

The year 2021 is ending on a very different note than how it started for us here in Panama. Thankfully in November we were able to return to the hall for all the assembly meetings, apart from the Friday night young people's class, which is still by Zoom until the new year.

The assembly is much smaller now due to the pandemic, as we lost four couples who were left without employment and needed to move elsewhere to find work. Thankfully all those that had to leave us, left with letters of commendation to fellowship in other assemblies in at least two different countries as well as Panama. We miss them very much and all that they contributed to the assembly here but are thankful that they are now a blessing to other assemblies. The Lord called home another sister, and two elderly saints are not able to gather any more because of frail health, one is 86 and the other is 94. Though we are just a small group, we are encouraged to see some new people attending with interest.

We continue preaching the gospel in the open air as well as at the hall on Sunday evenings. Recently we have noticed in the areas of the open air a couple of ladies make a point to sit out on their patios at the time of the preaching. They have gladly received gospel tracts, texts and calendars and we pray that the "good seed" will find "good ground".

Slowly we are restarting the outreaches we had before the pandemic. Upon revisiting one area, we were pleased to see 18 children attend the Bible Class after having not had one for over 18 months. This work continues and a couple of new mothers have brought along their children in the last couple of weeks.

Sadly, we have not received permission to return to the orphanage as we had expected. It seems that there have been some issues there, apart from Covid-19 restrictions, so we continue to pray that we will be able to return to that work, which started over ten years ago.

C. 2006 14/12/21 BYRNE & LOIS FORESHEW

4TH

Matthew 4

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Chitokoloki

Please continue to remember Dr Chibwe and his family in prayer, as they are a great blessing to both the spiritual work and the medical work.

Dr Chibwe is a Zambian surgeon who has been with us for two years now. He is a wonderful brother and a good help in the local assembly, where he is able to give very encouraging and mature ministry. Please pray that the hand of the Lord might be upon him in a mighty way, as I believe that God could use him greatly to bless His people and the work here. He is from the Lunda tribe and he speaks the local language fluently. His wife is a teacher at the local school. They have two young children and one of them hopes to start at Sakeji Boarding School in January.

For a Zambian family to transition from the town back to life in the bush often means more sacrifice than for a missionary coming here from overseas. In addition, there are two young men who have come with Dr Chibwe, Wana Kennedy and Robias. They are both male nurses and also very capable in the gospel and in ministry. We value prayer that the Lord might use them to bring blessing to the Chitokoloki area, where there is much spiritual need.

C. 1991 20/12/21 DAVID & LORRAINE McADAM

5TH

Matthew 5:1-20

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Chitokoloki

Despite the Coronavirus challenges, the work of the hospital has continued much as normal, despite a slight cutback on elective surgery. We have done around 1,300 surgical procedures so far this year and our waiting list for most surgery is only one or two weeks, which I am sure the NHS would be very happy with!

Probably around half of our missionaries here at Chitokoloki have had Coronavirus. We thank the Lord that all are doing fine and while at the time the infection was unpleasant, God has brought good out of the situation. They have greater freedom in working with Covid patients as they no longer need to worry about getting it! In contrast, the rest of us are trying to protect ourselves as much as possible and avoid any high-risk consultations.

The gospel goes forth each day over the intercom system. There have been some professions of faith at the hospital in recent weeks, mostly as a result of faithful visitation work by one of the sisters. It has been encouraging to see another young brother, also a nurse, preaching the gospel in the open air to the waiting patients. We thank God that the virus difficulties are not hindering the gospel outreach.

We value your continued prayerful intercession for the work in these parts in what continue to be challenging days for everyone. We also continue to appreciate God's innumerable blessings and thank Him for His care and allowing us to continue in His work despite the difficulties.

C. 1991 20/12/21 DAVID & LORRAINE McADAM

6TH

Matthew 5:21-48

NORWAY Pop. 5.4 Mil. UK 5 Skien

Just a few lines in relation to Jennifer's health situation. Recently she had a number of MRI scans, one on her spine, kidneys, head and brain. Yesterday afternoon we received by phone the results of these from the consultant who has been responsible for Jennifer from the day her cancer was confirmed. We are thankful to report at this stage that the consultant was pleased with the results, confirming that the present treatment of radiotherapy lumbar punctures is working and having the desired effect. A further consultation to discuss the way ahead and what further treatment Jennifer will still require.

Your regular interest and prayers have been a great encouragement to us, and we thank the Lord daily for you all and the love you have shown us throughout Jennifer's illness.

C. 1982 20/11/21 NAT & JENNIFER RODGERS

7TH

Matthew 6:1-18

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Santa Maria

I returned to our field of labour in Brazil almost four weeks ago. We have been warmly welcomed by the workers here and by the Brazilian believers. Many have gone through times of trial because of the pandemic, but all are happy to see conditions improve and meetings being held once more. To date, I have visited seven assemblies here in the interior of the Rio Grande do Sul. Most are small, and many really appreciate any spiritual help that we can give them. Many believers miss personal visits in their homes, as this has been impossible due to the virus. I am happy to be here and try to do whatever I can to encourage and strengthen them in these difficult times.

The believers here in Santa Maria have appreciated the help of a couple who have moved here to be with their family. The lady is a daughter of the late Ronnie Watterson, and her husband Mauricio has good ability in both ministry and in the Gospel. Their two sons and daughters in law have been in fellowship here over the past seven years. We are so thankful to have them, along with some other young folk, and to see their interest in seeking to help in the work locally. We value prayer for their preservation.

Later this week, I plan to travel over to Osorio, where we were preaching just as lockdown started. The assembly there only recommenced their breaking of bread at the end of September past, and the first Gospel Meeting was held the third weekend of November. Their problem lies in having a small hall, which can be filled to capacity regularly. A few weeks ago, nine believers obeyed the Lord in baptism there, and were received into fellowship the following Lord's Day. The same morning, a brother who had been under discipline, was also received back into fellowship. This has been a great joy. We trust that all will go on well and be a help to the testimony.

Being alone in the field isn't easy. If the way is open, Christine plans to join me here for three and a half weeks in January, in between her monthly treatment. I look forward to having her company and look to the Lord to show me how long I should stay after her return. A permanent return to live here is just impossible in the current circumstances, but the Lord knows why this all has happened. We must bow to His will and remember "As for God, His way is perfect".

C. 1988 7/12/21 JOHN & CHRISTINE McCANN

8TH

Matthew 6:19 to 7:6

ENGLAND Pop. 56 Mil. Birmingham

Please keep Martyn in your prayers. He is an ex-Muslim, now going by this name. He was put in touch with us recently and, having spoken of Christ as his Saviour to his wife back in May, his wife divorced him. He continues to be threatened and bullied by her family as a consequence. He is a lovely guy, is keen to learn from the Word of God, and has been along to our midweek meeting for the last few weeks. Pray for his spiritual, emotional and mental needs, and that he will appreciate that the Lord alone is his refuge.

Personally, with some local saints, we continue distributing Seed Sower texts weekly. We started this in Autumn 2020 and over that time we have covered a substantial part of Rubery, Frankley and Northfield, and have been encouraged by 51 Bible requests. As part of a follow-up, we held an 8-week Zoom Bible study course entitled 'New to the New Testament'. While we didn't have any new contacts join on the Zoom calls, the sessions were widely watched on Facebook and YouTube. We pray this will yet bear fruit in salvation.

We have now returned to holding regular open airs in Birmingham city centre, Solihull and Moseley. These are all difficult places for the Gospel, with wealth, pride and human wisdom making for an apathetic response. However, we have had a number of good conversations in Moseley, though none of these have as yet made their way up the hill on a Lord's Day to the Gospel meeting. Nevertheless, we are getting a number of unsaved in for the Gospel most weeks. Pray for Sarah & Ruby, Emily, David, Pamela & Karl, that the Lord would work mightily and that we would see some breakthrough in these souls. At the beginning of September in Solihull, I was greatly encouraged as some of the younger believers who came with me (Paul, Peter & Noah) took a turn at preaching, Noah for the first time. A month later I met Weedy. He is from Belfast, was on the run and at an end of himself. We spoke frankly for quite some time. He knew he was a sinner, and I had the joy of pointing him to the Saviour. He didn't want to pray with me then, but I urged him to get right with God, and then to get right with the authorities.

9/12/21

ANDREW & JANELLE MULLAN

SOUTH AFRICA Pop. 58 Mil. UK 7 Durbanville

As we come to the end of another very difficult year, we are reminded of the need to have 'our eyes on Him', and it has been our salvation in the past two years. Losing my husband Hans last year to cancer and my mother, Charlotte Elliott (91) this year after full time care for six months, we have been cast on the Lord to trust and 'not be afraid'.

As we have moved in and out of the Covid waves, and are now in the 4th wave here in South Africa, we have found ourselves in unprecedented circumstances as far as the work is concerned. We have had restricted access in the prisons due to the lock down; only 'under 55's' are allowed access. I am hoping that I will be able to recommence in the New Year, God willing. At a recent meeting for Service Providers and Spiritual Workers, we were told that we had lost 45 Wardens here in the Western Cape due to Covid. This is a huge loss. We wonder if they had trusted the Lord! There were fewer deaths amongst offenders. The isolation for the prisoners has been hard and there is a deep spiritual hunger.

In September I had a bad fall and fractured my ankle in two places. I had surgery, and three months later I am still on crutches but seeing the surgeon and having X-rays tomorrow, so hoping for good news. This has meant that I could not drive and was unable to maintain sessions in the Rehabs and Training Centre. However, my sister Grace has generously taken all my sessions and has enjoyed it very much. I am so grateful for her very willing help. All in all, we are looking forward to a new year in the Lord's will and a new start.

I had a call from Makhaya, an ex-offender who lived with us for a year in 2005 after his release. It appears that he is doing better spiritually. It is always disappointing when they fall back and fall prey to circumstances and bad company. So I was encouraged to hear his testimony. Another ex-offender called a few weeks ago. He has been out of prison for many years and is faithfully walking with the Lord. They have four children of their own but have had to adopt their sisters three children as she succumbed to covid and there is no father! There is much sorrow and hardship. I am so thankful that they steadfastly follow the Lord.

Thank you for your prayer for us and for the work that the Lord has called us to.

C. 1997 6/12/21 RUTH VAN STORMBROEK

ALBANIA Pop. 3 Mil. UK 4 Tirana

Living the "new normal" that has resulted from the on-going pandemic has shown us the vulnerability of life, the imminence of eternity and the emergency of embracing God's remedy of salvation through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we converse with others, we are acutely aware of these realities, but saddened by the all too often refusal of God's free gift of salvation and eternal life.

At the beginning of September we had our annual three day retreat with the assembly. Having missed it last year due to restrictions, it was a particular joy on this occasion. Together we studied four prominent themes from Luke's Gospel: "The Lord Jesus and Salvation", "The Lord's devotion to God", "The Lord's devotion to others" and "The Lord and thereafter". Specific time set aside like this enriches our fellowship with one another and presents opportunity, away from the daily grind, for mutual encouragement.

Thankfully we have few restrictions at present so the work among the children, the teenagers and the youth, as well as the smaller group and one-to-one Bible studies continue. The youth work has

been particularly encouraging over the last few months, with new additions joining as university students get back to class. One young couple in their 20's has been dedicating more of their time to helping with this work which has been a blessing. Our desire would be to see them largely responsible for this in the near future.

Street work on Saturday mornings has seen a growing response from individual believers following our focused teaching sessions on the importance of evangelism. Providing opportunity and practical experience is helping those with a desire grow in confidence as they witness for the Saviour. Tracts and other Christian literature are freely distributed, but our main aim is not how many we hand out, rather meaningful conversations for eternity. Several contacts from this work have attended on a Sunday and we pray that the seed sown will bear much fruit.

The children are all doing well in the Children's Home at The Hiding Place, Gjirokaster. Although we are at full capacity, we continue to receive regular requests from Social Services to accommodate others. In fact, one of the judges in Gjirokaster in a recent ruling suggested sending all of her cases to us! We are delighted that the testimony of the Home is such that it is regarded so highly, yet perplexed for the many children who find themselves at the mercy of the Court.

C. 2008 10/12/21 ENRIS & SYLVIA NASE

ALBANIA Pop. 3 Mil. UK 4 Tirana

November is the month when the Tirana National Book Fair takes place. It is a very large family orientated event that occurs yearly, presenting a unique opportunity to present the Gospel, and is visited by thousands of people from both Albania and the neighbouring Balkan countries. We have tried to be present at this event each year since moving to Albania in 2008, although a few years we were prevented from doing so by the organisers. Generally, we are the only Bible believing Christian stall present among many secular and Islamic ones, but we see it as a wonderful opportunity to share the hope of the Gospel with many. In fact, I still meet regularly with a young practising Muslim man I met a couple of years ago at the book fair to discuss the Bible and faith. He visited us again at the stall this year, bringing his wife and family along also. A new book with a number of great articles explaining the need for a Saviour and the way of salvation was printed just in time for the fair. We were able to give out many copies of it together with hundreds of 2022 calendars and other Christian literature. Please pray that the many meaningful conversations had will be used by the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of genuine seekers.

The number of palliative patients attending the ABC Christian clinic over the last few months has increased dramatically despite being down to one local nurse in this department, the other having left with her young family for Belgium. The medical student and physical therapy student classes have recommenced, as well as CPR classes for local schools. Advocacy work with hearing impaired children is progressing as cochlear implants are now being inserted in Albania! Regular visits to an orphanage in Elbasan are ongoing as is the daily work of General Practice at the Health Centre.

We continue to visit the assembly in Librazhd each week. It is small and they appreciate any help we can give, especially with ministry. It is a Muslim town with much to discourage. In October we were able to have a short series of special Gospel meetings when the believers invited non-Christian relatives and friends, of which a few attended. There is a real need among the assemblies

for Bible teachers and other full-time workers. Many believers continue to emigrate, and it gets more and more difficult for those left behind to continue and remain encouraged. Before the summer we were invited to take a number of seminars for a group of young believers on apologetics. Defending the faith with an intentional aim of presenting Christ in our society today is a must for the young whose faith is challenged by both secular and Islamic worldviews. It was a joy to spend time with an enthusiastic and engaged group eager to learn.

Our children are all well and at school in Northern Ireland. Further changes in their educational curricula here resulted in Benjamin and Esther moving back to join Luke this semester and Sylvia has been supporting their transition.

C. 2008 10/12/21 ENRIS & SYLVIA NASE

12TH

Matthew 9:18-38

SPAIN Pop. 46.5 Mil. UK 8 Soria

Thank you all so much for praying for us during this past year and standing with us in the battle for souls. It has been a really weird year, with covid conditioning almost all of our activities. Thankfully, the Lord and His Gospel is not bound and we are so grateful to see Him working in so many lives and bringing people close to Himself in spite of all the restrictions. Praise God, He is sovereign!

Helen has been trying to get some more Bible study groups started with women who have immigrated from various countries. Getting everyone together is a challenge. Please pray for wisdom and help with this important work.

These past few months have seen a constant stream of new people coming along in need of help. All get literature in their own language, and many have started coming along on Sunday mornings as a result. We have struck up a friendship with one of several Afghan families who have come to reside in Soria. We are praying for help and discretion as we befriend them and seek to bless them to His glory.

Please remember Senorita Antonia, a dear old sister who is now 86 but still as zealous for the Lord as ever despite some serious health issues. Several sisters meet regularly in her house to pray for the work of the Lord here in Spain. What an example she is to us all.

C. 1983 5/12/21 JESUS & HELEN ORTIZ

13TH

Matthew 10:1-25

SRI LANKA Pop. 21 Mil. Colombo

For many years now, the believers in Valaichchenai operate a large farm in their area. In this farm, they grow fruits, vegetables and they rear cattle. This farm has proved to be a real blessing during the lockdown. Many children from the village around the farm have been visiting the farm every day to play football and cricket. Because schools across the island have been closed for months on end, the children have been stuck at home with a lot of free time. The believers in Valaichchenai started organizing a structured program for the children who were visiting the farm and for two hours every day, they are able to play games and they are taught a story from the Bible. This program proved to be very popular. The children were enjoying this program so much that they began to bring their friends as well, and soon a large number of children were gathering every day. The believers provided them with a snack and a drink, and the gospel was presented to these children who are all from either a Hindu or Muslim background. Please pray that the seed that has been planted in these children at a young age may bear fruit in the future.

Last week, we received the joyful news that six female believers who had been saved in the last few months, were baptized by the Ralodai assembly in Eastern Sri Lanka. One sister was aged 72 but the others were between 16 and 18 years old. The Ralodai assembly was established around eight years ago. Initially, it was a preaching point. One of the believers in that area opened his home and visiting brothers were able to preach the gospel from his home. Later on, as souls were saved and the numbers grew, an assembly was established in that home. Some years later, a small hall for the assembly to gather was built in Ralodai. This assembly has continued to prosper as the believers have been diligently presenting the gospel in their village and beyond.

Your prayerful interest towards the believers in Sri Lanka is greatly appreciated.

13/12/21 BETHESDA GOSPEL HALL, COLOMBO

14TH

Matthew 10:26 to 11:1

BOTSWANA Pop. 2.4 Mil. UK 8 Palapye

Following the ending of the State of Emergency at the end of September, some of the COVID-19 regulations were relaxed and we immediately increased the number of assembly meetings and recommenced the Children's Work. We have been greatly encouraged to see up to 240 children coming week by week to our Wednesday Children's Meeting. This has been a real answer to prayer. The social distancing rule still applies, so we cannot accommodate the 400 - 500 children we were getting (before Coronavirus) in the Sunday School classrooms, so we have decided to have 2 weekly Children's Meetings at the start of the new school year in January, God willing. Standards 4 & 5 will come on Wednesday and Standards 6 & 7 will attend each Friday.

We will manage social distancing however for our Bible Class (an extension to the Sunday School for Secondary School students). In previous years, we have had up to 150 students each January/February so we have put extra benches in our large hall to ensure that we can accommodate them all easily.

In addition, we have started weekly outreach meetings in 2 locations: one on the other side of town here in Palapye and one in a village outside Palapye - both in the yards of believers in fellowship here. It has been good to see local people attending those meetings, as well as relatives of the believers. The support of the believers in this outreach work has been uplifting.

We have been greatly helped in the weekly Bible Reading each Saturday as well as the Gospel Meeting each Lord's Day. The Sunday evening Prayer Meeting and Ministry Meeting has also been encouraging, with the Lord's help being experienced week by week. Prayer would be valued that we might soon be able to get access into the schools again to preach and teach the Word of God and that the restrictions will be lifted so that the Sunday School can be restarted.

Christine and I continue to go over to the Serowe Assembly each Thursday evening for their Prayer Meeting and Ministry Meeting. We have commenced studies in the book of Judges and once again, much help has been given.

C. 1991 17/12/21 COLIN & CHRISTINE RAGGETT

15TH

Matthew 11:2-30

NEW ZEALAND Pop. 4.9 Mil. Tauranga

After another year of uncertainty, the one constant we have is the faithfulness of God as we end this year with a song of praise to God. He is faithful and His keeping power is the same as it has ever been.

We had hoped to travel back to Los Angeles and Colombia last year. That was not possible again this year and it does not look too likely for 2022. However, the Lord opened up opportunities for ministry at retreats, camps and conferences that have taken us to the South Island twice and to the very north of New Zealand twice. As well, there have been ministry trips in between to other North Island cities. No matter where you go there are people wanting teaching and encouragement from the Word of God.

We continue to keep busy here in Tauranga and elsewhere. Our assembly has been encouraged by a recent baptism, the fruit of the outreaches in a nearby park. Covid related problems have been devastating for many, so we have tried to engage in a ministry of encouragement.

There are many church connections with Columbia. With the Lord's help, we have been able to help some needy Columbian believers living in Columbia through the Colombian Workers' Fund. People losing jobs and churches not being able to meet in person have caused all sorts of difficulties.

Meanwhile we keep busy serving Him who said, "occupy till I come." Maranatha! Even so, come Lord Jesus.

21/12/21 RICHARD & NANCYE YARRALL

16TH

Matthew 12:1-21

PHILIPPINES Pop. 107 Mil. Manila

The Covid situation in the Philippines has improved. Out of four levels of severity, we currently sit at level two. We must still wear masks everywhere and any form of assembling together remains at 50% - but we rejoice that we can once again meet face to face.

For Jingle, it has been a year of caring for her family. Her mother, who underwent major surgery to remove a large tumour, followed by chemotherapy, has just been pronounced cancer free. She also looked after her twin sister, who had major surgery earlier in the year. Finally, I spent many weeks in hospital during September and October due to a persistent antibiotic resistant infection. She also continues some Bible studies with several groups of young ladies. The Lord has continued to bless her, and she does it all with joy and a smile on her face!

I continue to teach the Scriptures a few times each week and mentor the young men that the Lord has entrusted into my care. I have also made two trips to the island of Borocay with Domini, a beloved brother in the Lord. The island is closed to foreign tourists and the situation there is quite bad, with many church members unemployed and thrown into poverty. Both visits were very encouraging though, as we witnessed their enthusiasm in the Gospel and eagerness to reach out to others, both practically and spiritually.

I am taking some wise advice and travelling back to the UK for a couple of months to recover and get some further medical help. Pray for Jingle as she remains in Manila to look after her family. We are both grateful for your prayerful interest in the work here in the Philippines.

C. 2000 3/12/21 JONATHAN & JINGLE BRADFORD

17TH

Matthew 12:22-50

TANZANIA Pop. 58 Mil. UK 6 Dar-es-Salam

Last week was the end of the nursery school term, which culminated in the Christmas Nativity and the Class Two Graduation on Friday. Both are highlights on the calendar, giving

us opportunities to share the gospel with their families through the children. This year was no exception, with good attendance seen and the children participating well. Their hard work learning scripture verses and songs based on the Christmas story paid off as these were interwoven with the younger children acting out the main scenes in the nativity story. It is a beautiful story full of meaning which demands a response.

The Graduation is an event requested by the parents which gives the children a reason, poor as they are, to dress up in their finery and celebrate their two years with us at Watoto Wa Thamani (WWT) Day Care Centre. The children leaving us this year to start Primary School in January 2022 have made remarkable progress and most of them have not missed a day in 2021, with 7 of them having full attendance for the past two years. Specioza had done a good job with them, supported by assistant carers Mama Alfred and Mama Vialeth. It was lovely to hear them read out their own handwritten sentences about what they had enjoyed at WWT and what they would miss. The morning was rounded off with the presentation of an Attendance Certificate, a Kiswahili Bible story Book and lots of Tanzanian snacks, fruit juice, fizzy drinks and water. Each child has been given a good educational foundation from which to launch their learning in the Government schools. But far more important than this, is the foundation of Bible stories, verses, and choruses which they have learnt - this should give us fuel for prayer that what they have learned may have an eternal impact upon their little souls. We hope to keep contact with them through Friday Kids' Club which many of them attend each week.

C. 2002 6/12/21 STEPHEN & GILL DAVIES

18TH

Matthew 13:1-23

DENMARK Pop. 5.8 Mil. Esbjerg

Here in Esbjerg, on the coast of West Jutland, our assembly meeting room is located in a small business complex. We are flanked, cheek-by-jowl on one side by a pub and on the other by a driving instructor's premises, so a broad spectrum of people pass by on the pavement each day. To obtain a driving license in Denmark, attendance at Highway Code and first aid lectures is compulsory. Thus, a number of young people tend to congregate just outside from time to time as they wait to get in for lectures.

We have a computer screen mounted in the window displaying a dias show of seasonal pictures with appropriate, superimposed, scripture texts. At this time of year, for example, we choose verses relative to the Incarnation. This does not necessarily translate into increased attendance at our meetings but our presence is nevertheless a witness in a very secular society.

Meanwhile we continue with our weekly meetings in spite of limited manpower resources and increasing Corona restrictions once again. We are so thankful for the faithful nucleus of believers who shoulder most of the responsibilities. Most growth here is achieved through personal contact, and we are encouraged to see some younger folk present recently in spite of the challenges.

Our primary prayer for all these days is what the Lord prayed for Peter, "That thy faith fail not". In some parts of the non-English speaking world believers don't have access to the same wealth of Christian literature and fellowship that is available in English. Carol and I continue to try to help, support and encourage individuals wherever we can. Your continued prayers are much appreciated.

1/12/21

RAYMOND & CAROL McCULLAGH

19TH

Matthew 13:24-43

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Loloma

Greetings from Loloma mission. This month the mission has welcomed around 20 male medical students into its care from the nursing school in Chavuma. It is a great time for these students to get 'on the job' training, and be able to use the skills they have learned in the classroom in a real setting. One of the conditions of working at Loloma is that they must be present for Monday and Friday devotions. This is a great opportunity to preach the gospel and encourage them in the things of the Lord.

The village work has been rewarding in many ways. This past Monday I had an unusually large number of children available to talk to in the villages because of the school term being finished until next year. It was wonderful to be able to have an impromptu Sunday School meeting in every village I visited. Talking with a young teenager after the message was given, he had many questions about salvation, eternity and who Christ truly was. There are so many false teachers out here that many people get confused. Leaflets and tracts are handed out after the message is given.

The missionaries here have written literature in the local languages on the subjects of grace, salvation, the cross and the sabbath. It is a great privilege to have Tuesdays open for young people to come to the house and learn the scriptures. We have been going through the book of Romans and are in chapter 3 at the moment. The ages range from 14 to 19 and we see about 18 or so come regularly. Some come to learn more about the scriptures and some come for the cookies and lemonade but all hear about their need of a Saviour and the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am in the middle of painting an Egypt to Canaan chart in Lunda, one of the local languages here. I was able to ship a large canvas before leaving the USA for Zambia – with this in mind. I hope to teach from it during the Christmas conference in Chipanda, as well as the New Year's conference here at Loloma. As we continue to settle into life in Zambia, your continued prayers for us as a family would be valued. Our four children are William (8), Winston (6), Philip (4) and Victoria (6 months).

C.2020 (USA) 10/12/21

STEVEN & STEPHANNIE ANDERSON

20TH

Matthew 13:44 to 14:13

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

Wherever you are in the world, and whatever Covid restrictions you are living under, there is still so much to thank God for. Thank you very much for accompanying me through 2021 with your prayers and messages, which have encouraged me and helped with the work in which I am privileged to have a part.

Restawhile has had a few more visitors staying in recent months, but mainly because of Covid it remains quite a tough time for us. The supply of Covid vaccine in Lubumbashi has been erratic, but people are extremely vaccine-hesitant. I was told less than 2% of people in this area are vaccinated. Personally, I have not heard of or seen any evidence of a public health campaign to encourage vaccination – even if one knew where to go to receive it.

Ephphatha School continues to educate many deaf children and 202 registered for the new school year, of which 32 are new children. A carpentry workshop has been built gradually over the last 18 months for deaf carpenters trained at the school. Isazu gave up his teaching job to manage the workshop. The carpenters can use the workbenches and tools, under Isazu's supervision, to work on personal or joint orders. We were thrilled when the workshop received its first order of 100 desks and benches for a new school.

The Papillon Centre continues to meet the medical needs of local people and helps many patients spiritually too. Very sadly, a nurse

who was injured in a motor-bike taxi accident a few months ago, died suddenly last week. Mbamba, a gentle Christian man, will be sadly missed and leaves 8 children, 4 of whom are still in full-time education. Please pray for this family.

C. 1985 17/12/21

RACHEL NEWBY

21ST

Matthew 14:14-36

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

The assembly planted at Kamilombe is progressing and over 25 people were baptised in the nearby river a month or so ago. An offering in-kind was organised to help needy people in the church and village. They ended up with a small mountain of donations ranging from sacks of charcoal and flour to a live guineafowl, who had to be rescued from underneath the growing pile of 2nd hand clothes!

Several years ago, Luapula School, which has 3 classrooms and 760 pupils, was promised more classrooms by a mining company. There are hopeful signs that this may actually happen in 2022! Kansalamba School, another 3-classroom village school has been supervised by Tumbwe, the director of Luapula School. Over 300 children who would have had to walk several miles to school each day are now being educated nearer home. We thank God for the gift of a new school, furnished with desks and blackboards, which is wonderful!

Kyungu continues prison visiting and takes food as often as possible. No repairs have yet been made to the dormitories that were destroyed in fires started during an attack on the prison by militiamen about a year ago. Sleeping conditions are dire for the 1,800 inmates. However, God is at work! Thirty prisoners are following weekly Bible study classes after requesting baptism.

Today I was surprised by the good attendance at a funeral for an elderly Christian lady. I soon found out why she was succeeded by 111 children, grand, great-grand and great, great grandchildren!

May the Lord bless you abundantly and fill you with hope and anticipation for 2022.

C. 1985 17/12/21

RACHEL NEWBY

22ND

Matthew 15:1-28

INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Narsapur

In His grace, the work among leprosy and HIV patients in Bethesda is going on for His glory. On 3 December, a Christmas program was conducted for all HIV/AIDS patients. Around one hundred HIV/AIDS patients and eighteen HIV/AIDS children attended. Dr Martin Emerald, who is working at Bethesda, chaired the program. The hospital provides free medical treatment for all these patients. Mr K Satyanarayana, the Chairman, shared the gospel message from John 11, emphasising the importance of receiving Christ as their personal Saviour. A professional counsellor, Miss Alicia, gave therapeutic counselling and demonstrated some activities. These activities would help these friends to face various challenges in their lives. Bethesda children performed activities like action songs, biographies of great missionaries, memory verses etc. These friends then received gifts of new clothes. As Bethesda continues this ministry every month, these friends (men, women and children) also receive groceries, like rice, lentils, cooking oil, soap, toothpaste etc.

A delicious Christmas special lunch was arranged for all these friends as a part of this fellowship with them. Patients who travelled from distance were also given travelling fares.

We appreciate your continuous prayers for these humble friends. A few widows in this project have been continuing the battle with this disease for many years. Children continue to face humiliation in schools, sometimes from their own family members and society. Bethesda loves them and receives them warmly, providing medical care and encouraging them in various ways to lead dignified lives.

It is also a wonderful opportunity to present the Lord Jesus to them, both in our lives and through the Scriptures.

22/12/21 BETHESDA (LEPROSY) HOSPITAL

23RD

Matthew 15:29 to 16:12

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Foz du Iguacu

The situation here in our part of Brazil seems to be getting better, for which we give thanks to our Lord, for His safe keeping during this trying period.

We do give thanks that we are now being allowed to have children at meetings, along with other activities online for them. It is so good to see their desire to learn Bible texts and sing choruses. We are looking to see what more we can do within our situation locally, in being able to spread the gospel. Please pray for wisdom in making the right decisions.

Health wise we are all well, thanks to our Lord and Saviour. We have now had both our vaccination jabs. Jeff has just had his left knee crushed between his car and another, so is having to walk with a stick.

Please pray for David as he decides what he is going to study at university – and where. He passed his entrance exam in Vitoria, where Denise's family are, and has just completed his national exam.

The situation regarding the borders is that Argentina is now open but with restrictions. This means that we should be able to go to Argentina, God willing, in the near future. The situation near the border is very bad economically. The saints there are suffering, with many unable to find employment. Please continue to pray for us and the work of the Lord we are engaged in.

C. 1980 20/12/21 JEFF & DENISE WATSON

24TH

Matthew 16:13 to 17:13

ANGOLA Pop. 32 Mil. UK 4 Writing from Canada

We want to ask you to pray with us again for God's blessing. I am booked to fly to Angola the day after Christmas. The flights have been changed multiple times due to the continuing uncertainty and the new Covid variant. However, the Lord appears to have left the door open to travel, and delaying the trip may not make it any easier. Remember Elizabeth and the family as they remain behind in Vancouver.

It will be a relatively short trip, during which I hope to have time with Brian and Debbie Howden in Camandumbala. I will also connect with Teofilo and some other Angolan friends in the Saurimo area, God willing. The rest of the time will be spent in Biula, where I hope to have teaching meetings with the believers, work in the clinic, and look at getting a couple of local projects organised. One of these projects is arranging a new roof on one of the old houses on the mission property. We also hope to find within Biula a suitable location and person to operate a hammer mill for processing manioc root into flour.

We continue to appreciate your ongoing prayerful interest.

C. 2012 (Can) 15/12/21

SAMUEL & ELIZABETH SIMONE-GINDELE

(An email on 24/12 confirmed that unfortunately Samuel was unable to travel as originally planned)

25TH

Matthew 17:14 to 18:14

INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Chennai

We are very happy that this year we have been able to have 12 new children into the Hostel and we praise God for the children

He has brought us, many from very sad backgrounds. They come from nothing into an environment where they are loved, clothed, fed and educated. Even after a few weeks, the change in them is dramatic. Please pray for these children.

The weather in India is quite chilly, which is really unusual for us. Because we are so used to the heat we feel the difference. We have even used up all our supply of cardigans – for adults and children!

I would appreciate your continued prayers, that I may be relatively free from pain. I also would value your prayers for my family – Vimala, Miriam, Tanya and Thabitha. We praise God that Vimala is much better now, although in need of plenty of rest.

C. 1964 (New Zealand) 13/12/21 COLEEN REDIT

26TH

Matthew 18:15-35

SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Fife

I was visiting the village of Auchtertool for a second time when Covid caused a complete lockdown eighteen months or so ago. At the end of October, with the situation now improved, I went back to where I left off those many months ago, going door to door with Via magazines and gospel tracts. I was able to speak to two ladies who were working in their garden. This morning, while picking up a spare part for my strimmer, the assistant thanked me for the tract 'From Heaven to Earth' by Robert E. Surgenor. A brother in my youthful days used to pray for the 'silent messengers' he gave out regularly in the locality. We too can do the same!

News of four deaths in Trinidad have reached us. The first was Antoinette, the wife of brother Richard Trotman. They both fellowshipped at La Brea. She was the eldest married daughter of Learie Telesford, a local commended brother with whom we served in the gospel. The second was Deen, the husband of Mearl Gangadeen, a sister in fellowship at Jeringham Junction. The third was Janet, the wife of Michael Aimable; they both fellowshipped at Sangre Grande. The fourth was Mrs Guan, a former neighbour when we lived in Guaico.

Do continue to remember us in prayer, and those believers who have lost loved ones in recent times in the West Indies.

C. 1967 1/12/21 JOHN & MARGARET WRIGHT

27TH

Matthew 19:1-15

WALES Pop. 3.1 Mil. Maesteg

With so little travelling in these unusual days, the opportunity to spend time locally and give consecutive Bible teaching has been a joy. We keep in close contact through a fortnightly leaflet updating recipients of various items for prayer, and also containing a short message. This is given to all who attend or have attended our meetings, including saved and unsaved. We also continue with a widespread distribution of the tract 'Hope beyond Coronavirus' and the 'Good News' paper.

Paul has conducted twenty-three funerals this year and always feels a sense of responsibility speaking at such important occasions in family life. It was a particular privilege to speak at the funerals of two highly respected servants of God in Cardiff. John Baker was a well-known and well-travelled evangelist. He was also an expert in personal evangelism and door to door work. Peter Conolly was active in running camps, doing hospital visitation and the organising of the missionary conferences in Cardiff. Both are deeply missed, and we wonder who will take the place of such devoted disciples of the Lord Jesus?

4/12/21

PAUL & ALISON YOUNG

28TH

Matthew 19:16 to 20:16

MEXICO Pop. 126 Mil. UK 4 Merida, Yucatan

The last quarter of this year has been filled with a lot of work, changes, new challenges and expectations.

In October, we arrived at the house that we have rented to live in the city of Mérida. After working on organising things at home for a couple of weeks, we then began the work of evangelisation, visits to contacts and preaching the gospel outdoors in squares and streets near our house. There is also a virtual bible class for children and young people on Saturdays.

This Sunday, while we were visiting a 74-year-old woman who was reading her bible, she was able to understand what Jesus did on the Cross for her sins and she received Him as her Saviour; her name is Reina Reynoso. It is a great encouragement to see the hand of God in the salvation of a thirsty soul. Please pray for this dear sister.

As we continue to evangelize, we are praying that we find a place to rent, so that we can begin a gospel series at the beginning of January, God willing.

Beloved, we are the product of God's Grace and to Him we give the Glory.

C. 2014 (Ven) 7/12/21 ANDERSON & MARIU HERNANDEZ

29TH

Matthew 20:17-34

MIDDLE EAST Emmaus Courses

In Nazareth, the Covid restrictions began to loosen here in September, although the new Covid variant is causing some concern. We ask you to pray that the permit for the work on the new property will be granted soon. The delays are frustrating – and expensive, as the prices of raw materials have soared in the meantime.

The Lord gave us a lesson in praying with faith recently when we had 30,000 shekels (just over £7,000) stolen from the office. The police did not seem interested to help and so we could only pray that the thief would repent and return it – our faith was definitely mustard seed size. A few days later, we found a small package on the steps of the office with a note of apology asking for forgiveness, along with the money inside! The Lord is mighty!

In spite of the dire economic and political situation in Lebanon, Emmaus have printed and are distributing 4,000 copies of our gospel booklet 'The Journey of your Life' (Final Destiny by William MacDonald). Pray that they may reach many broken and troubled people in that country, who are looking for hope in their desperate situation.

3/12/21

GEORGE & ROS KHALIL

30TH

Matthew 21:1-32

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Meyzieu

I had a busy preaching schedule in November, preaching a number of times on Sundays and midweek in different assemblies in the east of France. Some of the local churches visited are encouraged and encouraging, whereas one or two are very low on numbers. One of them needs to move to other premises, but the problem is where to move to? Rents are high and for many churches, it is impossible to envisage buying property. Other churches have been going through difficulties and we were able to listen and to pray with them that the Lord may intervene with the necessary grace, wisdom and help.

Two of Brigitte's aunts – both in their late eighties – attended an evangelical service for the very first time three weeks ago. They both live an hour's drive from us, and really enjoyed the warm welcome, singing and message. May the Lord continue to speak to these two dear ladies – Micheline and Jacqueline.

Brigitte has been encouraged by people ordering Emmaus courses,

even though numbers are down from 2020 and especially 2019. However, it is good to see those with an interest in studying the Word of God. We really want to get people into the Bible and to get the Bible into people! A very well-known book shop chain in France recently published its sales figures, which confirmed that the bestselling book in one of their Parisian shops in September was the Bible!

C. 1980/84 6/12/21 DAVID & BRIGITTE SUTHERLAND

31ST

Matthew 21:33 to 22:14

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Vitoria

Most assemblies have felt the impact of Covid19. Even after assemblies recommenced public services, numbers have fallen and the interest of some in serving the Lord has been lost, or at least reduced. Lost enthusiasm in building God's Church is evident in so many towns.

The Lord Jesus intimated that He would build His church, and we are reassured that Covid19 has not interrupted His work. Why should it stop our efforts? It might interrupt our meeting together in halls, but it does not mean that we stop working on 'the building'.

It is wonderful to belong to the Body of Christ. The closeness, considerateness and cooperation between the members is precious to see and grateful to experience. So many of our friends and colleagues have been called to experience severe trials. Cássio and his wife serve the Lord in the North of Brazil, a very primitive and difficult place to work. Over recent years, Cássio has had to deal with cancer. This will be his fifth period of treatment. Doctors recently discovered a tumor near to his spine. His wife is pregnant, and this adds to their concern.

Cátia, wife of our colleague Jabesmar, has now completed her chemotherapy treatment, but is now having daily radiotherapy treatment that will continue for at least five weeks.

Salvador Ítalo, São Paulo, a dear brother in Christ and colleague, has been hospitalized several times to deal with cancer. For several weeks now, he has enjoyed better health and we trust this will continue.

Our daughter-in-law, Marisaura had her thyroid removed, but in her recent encounter with the specialist she was told she did not need to have hormone treatment. Her neck wound is healing nicely.

Elizabeth and I have been trying to find further ways to serve the Lord. We found that expanding our distribution of literature has been a blessing. Monthly, we post a leaflet in the postal boxes of the building where we live and also in many places around Walter's office. Order has been made for calendars to interest the same people. Pray for God's blessing on His Word.

C. 1966 3/12/21 WALTER & ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

C=Date of Commendation

UK=Missionaries (approx.)

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